



C-U Re-CHORDer

December 7, 2006
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Winter Wonderland

Well, it's been interesting weather the last couple of weeks. Pleasant mid-60's turned to rain, ice and snow last Thursday, forcing us to cancel rehearsal and leaving many people across the state without power for several days. Decatur got some of the worst ice, and quite a few are still without power. It reminds me of the terrible ice storm we had in C-U on Valentine's Day 1990. Fortunately, we weren't delivering singing Valentines back then.

Speaking of Singing Valentines (how's that for a clever transition?) it's not too early to start planning our Singing Valentines program for next year. We should have the flyers ready to be distributed around the first of the year. This may be the best thing we do all year to promote a positive image of barbershop singing and the Illini Statesmen in our community. It's also our biggest moneymaker of the year and we need everyone to help.

Speaking of moneymakers (aha, another clever transition) we did well on our ad sales for the Illini Statesmen Yearbook for 2007. Thanks to everyone that put in the effort to sell ads, and to Kevin and Paul for all the hard work they've put into organizing this. Kevin is working on finalizing the layout, and I'm sure it will be a fabulous way to celebrate our 60th year as a chorus.

Speaking of our 60th Anniversary (how do I do it?) we're planning a fun weekend for our Krannert Show. We're hoping to have several guys come back to sing in a reunion chorus with us, and we have tentative commitments from a couple of our old quartets to sing on the show. We'll be dragging out some old music to represent the many years that the Illini Statesmen have been performing.

Also in this issue, information on the upcoming Illinois District Academy of Harmony (IDAH), and the International Convention in Denver next summer (registration costs for both go up after this month) the continuation of the 100% Club, and a report on the Illinois District House of Delegates meeting.

See you on Thursday night!

2007 Yearbook A SUCCESS

by Kevin Swartz

We've now reached the cutoff point for receiving commitments for ad sales. Once the dust has settled and the accounting is done we should have over \$4000 in contributions. This is FANTASTIC! Not only have we exceeded our expenses (goal #1), but we will have a significant amount left over. Thanks to all the Statesmen for their support, help, and encouragement. Best of all, Barbershop Harmony awareness has been increased in our community because of this project.

But, now that ad sales are done, we move on to the next big hurdle, producing the actual Yearbook. Work is in steady progress for making the book a reality. We hope to complete the graphic design portion sometime in the next two weeks. Then, it's off to the printers. We should have a finished project sometime in the first part of January 2007.

We have learned much over the past several weeks, and will learn even more over the next several weeks. All of this is very encouraging to us, because we have laid a solid foundation for our 2008 Yearbook. All we have learned, we will be able to apply to next year. So, again, **THANK YOU!**

Upcoming Events

7 DEC Christmas Caroling
14 DEC Christmas Caroling
2-3 FEB 2007 IDAH, Peoria
13-14 FEB 2007 Singing Valentines
25 FEB 2007 Krannert Show
20-22 APR 2007 Spring Contest, Peoria
1-8 JULY 2007 International Contest, Denver

December Birthday

1st Dick Hofstrand
10th Paul Stansberry
18th Dave Sutton

House of Delegates Report

by Hugo Feugen, reporting from Zurich

On Saturday morning, November 18th, the IL District Board met with its House of Delegates (HOD), in part to decide whether the District would move to a committee-proposed new format for the chorus contest. This proposal had been formulated and disseminated through the District for the last several months.

Other business at the HOD meeting included an announcement that "Kenosha" is to become "Nashville," as a new headquarters building has been purchased in the southern recording capital. That building, holding a total of roughly 18,000 square feet on two floors, will undergo significant renovation and be available for occupancy in 2008, even though some further remodeling will continue after the main offices get moved.

One of the highlights to be completed before the 2008 Nashville International Competition is a History of Barbershop Museum to be housed in the new building. As a virtualized extension of "Sing With the Champs" the museum is set to contain interactive exhibits, such as one which would allow a man to fill in any selectedly-missing parts for Champion Quartets singing one or more of their hits. It would be as if you were standing among them in rehearsal or even on stage. (That could be fun, eh?)

After an otherwise fairly standard House of Delegates meeting, at which not many weighty issues were discussed, President Wil Thorndike moved toward decision about the chorus contest proposal.

The committee to decide what should be proposed was appointed about a year ago by the District Board, and the proposal's main author was committee chairman Jay Giallombardo, with help from Bob Squires.

Similar to the method used for "discussion" of the proposal in place of the Fall Contest Saturday Morning Anything Goes (SMAG Fest) competition, it was asserted that questions of clarification would be entertained, but encouraged that there be no other type of comment.

This sentiment would not hold sway with a couple of the delegates who desired to speak, at least one of whom asserted that the Board was in the process of doing a great injustice, not only for ramrodding

through a proposed change that the chapters were not in favor of (which turned out to be somewhat true), but in the process, the Board had availed itself of little input from others and ignored alleged facts that suggested a chorus contest conducted as proposed would have a dampening and detrimental effect on Chapter Chorus competitions, that instead of fostering increased participation among choruses at contest, there was likely to be less true competition participation, at nonetheless greater expense and hardship. Placing Jay Giallombardo on the board in place of otherwise proposal-dissenting Terry Ludwig was cited as evidence the board was moving to accept the proposal, read "stacking the deck."

The final vote (after removing the president's affirmative vote, uncalled-for excepting the case of a tie) was 18-16, sufficient for passage of the proposal, though if, for example, two voters (Delegates, Board Members, and Past Presidents) had changed from "for" to "against", the proposal would not have been accepted.

A large majority of the Board and Past Presidents voted "for" the proposal, and a majority of the Delegates present voted "against," though any realization or voicing of such a comment or its implications found no place before the meeting adjourned.

The overriding change of the proposal is that if a chorus wishes to compete at all, it must do so in the spring, at which "The District Chorus Champion" will be decided. Other than the honor and trophy, such champion does not automatically represent the District at International, as has been the case with past District Chorus Champions. Any chorus receiving a score of 50 or better in the spring contest is eligible, but not obligated, to compete in the fall, where the winner will be the designated as the District's chorus representative for International. If a chorus is to qualify for International on the basis of points, it will also be on the basis of the fall score alone.

To avoid the implied large rehearsal effort in competing twice in one year, in combination with having their sights on

qualifying for International, the Bloomington Chapter is strongly considering sending a 20-man subset chorus of "ringers" to the spring contest just to get Bloomington's name as a qualifier for the fall. Such subset chorus would simply do a couple of chorus repertoire songs at virtually no rehearsal expense while Bloomington's focus and choreographic polish would be reserved for the fall appearance.

In reverse fashion, typical IL District small chorus, perhaps one such as the Illini Statesmen, may choose to focus on the Spring Contest, until such time that it may feel it has a chance to qualify for International, presumably on the basis of points, as it would be unlikely that a small chorus would ever be able to out-tally all four of the Districts large choruses (New Tradition, Brotherhood of Harmony, West Towns, and Bloomington's Sound of Illinois).

One problem with focusing on a spring contest for Champaign would presumably be the fact that preparation for such contest would almost certainly take time away from preparation for the Annual Spring Show. This proposal may lead to the anomaly that Champaign may appear to beat Bloomington in the spring, only to score lower than Bloomington in the fall, if the Statesmen compete at all in the fall. And so on and so forth.

As chapter choruses set their sights disparately on the spring or fall contests, strange things could happen. A chorus that qualifies in spring and wishes to compete in the fall with little chance to qualify for International could use its fall appearance simply to entertain, blowing off any pretense of a good score. Such a chorus may, within these new rules, purposely disqualify itself in terms of score, to sing a doo-wop song, or perform some other songs that would otherwise not be considered "contestable." All variations of these (wacky?) ideas were supposedly considered in the proposed change, and are to be welcomed, at least until the next proposal for a revised chorus competition might be passed by the IL District House of Delegates.

Denver 2007

The Barbershop Harmony Society International convention is THE place to sharpen your barbershop harmony skills. With contests, classes, concerts and chances to sing, this annual event provides dozens of ways to enjoy and enliven your barbershop life.

Come to compete

Choruses and quartets from around the world vie for gold, silver and bronze medals at the convention. We hope you are in one of the exceptional groups who have earned a place on the international competitive stage. But if you are not, the next best thing is to hear these men whose talent and training have brought them to the pinnacle of the barbershop world. Join your friends and barbershop colleagues for these contests:

- International Quartet Championship showcasing 50 of the best barbershop quartets
- International Chorus Championship with 30 of the world's top choruses
- Bank of America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest

Let us show you

It's always showtime at the annual convention. This year, four entertaining shows have been assembled for convention participants. Three favorites are back, along with a new benefit concert that will wow you.

- The Harmony Foundation Presents, a benefit for the charitable arm of the Barbershop Harmony Society which raises funds to further music education in the close harmony style. This year's show features Take 6, Vocal Spectrum, OC Times, and the Westminster Chorus.
- The Association of International Champions Show featuring the greatest quartets of all time
- The World Harmony Jamboree showcasing the best men's and women's medalists from throughout the world.

The Larry Ajer Tuesday Night Concert benefits the Harmony Foundation and is hosted by the Salem Senate-Aires, perennial International Chorus rep from the Evergreen District.

Keep the Whole World Singing

The Society's motto is nowhere better practiced than at the annual convention. We've created several venues for you to join in the singing. And, you'll find plenty of serendipitous opportunities to unite

voices with others. No hotel lobby, restaurant waiting area, or street corner is safe from four-part harmony when Barbershoppers come to town. Here are just a few samples of where your voice is needed:

- The Gospel Sing, an open invitation for everyone to sing.
- Sing with the Champs, offering the chance to listen to and sing with champion quartets.
- Mixed Harmony Showcase with men and women blending their voices in concert.
- Tag singing until the wee small hours of the morning.
- AHSOW The Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodshedders (AHSOW) was formed in 1977 with its purpose to preserve the skill of woodshedding as an art form within the Barbershop Harmony Society. Today, more than 1,300 AHSOW members have demonstrated their proficiency at discovering and creating harmonies by ear in Barbershop quartets. AHSOW stands ready to welcome all barbershop singers who wish to participate in this fulfilling activity.

Live and learn

Members have the chance to attend Masters Classes and educational seminars throughout the week. Some of the Society's best coaches, top chorus and quartet members and leading instructors will share their insight, tips, experiences and guidance in a variety of subjects.

Rest easy

Your very full days and evenings at the convention will be followed by restful nights at the lovely Adam's Mark hotel in downtown Denver. The newly-renovated guest rooms provide the latest in amenities such as free high speed Internet access and on-command movies. The hotel features complimentary health club with sauna and fitness equipment, heated outdoor pool, coin-operated laundry and dry cleaning service, underground parking, 24-hour room service and many more client conveniences.

Register online!

Watch for updates at www.barbershop.org/denver and purchase registrations online now.

100% Club to Continue through 2007

The recruiting campaign continues!

What's that mean to me?

- Bring in 1 new member – reduce your Society dues by 20% for 2008.
- Bring in more than one reduce your Society dues by 20% for each in 2008
- Bring in 5 or more new members – Reduce your Society dues by 100% for 2008.

Any questions? More info:
www.barbershop.org/theclub

Ask Kevin Dunckel, Stewart Grosser, William Heady, or Christopher Street what it feels like to reach a 100% discount. Or ask one of the 1200 plus other members who will have 20% or more reduced in 2007.

Yes, I can hear you -- “Yeah Charlie, that's easy for you to say! Just go recruit new members. Sure.”

Well, here is something easy for you to say and you can recruit new members too. Try these 8 words. “Who do you know that likes to sing?”

Then wait for them to talk, listen to their questions, answer only their questions and make them ask more. You will get either names of potential singers or a guest out of that conversation. TRY IT! It works.

Other adaptations:

- “Who do you know that loves a cappella music?”
- “Who do you know that would enjoy being with a great bunch of guys?”
- “Who do you know that is a real competitor?”
- “Who do you know that would be qualified to sing with us?”
- “Who do you know that would like to direct a great choral group?”

Go to the street with your “Harold Hill” spirit and talk to people! Ask every women, man or child you meet! WHO DO YOU KNOW? Then be prepared to write down the names and do it all over again.

Think men, think! Any questions? Contact Charlie Davenport
(CDavenport@Barbershop.org)

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Treasurer, Denny Mulvany
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District Delegate, Hugo Feugen
Chorus Director, Lee Reifsteck

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From the Editor's Desk



Information about the Illinois District Academy of Harmony is available online. You can download the IDAH registration form, or register online at the Illinois District site, www.harmonize.ws/ILL

Next month look for information on our Installation Dinner and final details on our Krannert Show/Reunion Chorus weekend.

Thanks to Kevin and Hugo for submitting articles for this month's ReCHORDER.