



C-U Re-CHORDer

April 2007

Andy Isbell, editor

rechorder@illinistatesmen.org

There'll be a change in the weather

Spring is here, and that means the weather is changing. Just when I was getting used to wearing shorts again, it seems like winter is back this week. Something in the air has been driving my sinuses crazy and has been making it a challenge to sing well. I guess I'll just have to take it easy and hope it clears up before contest weekend.

There are also changes coming in this bulletin. My entry in the Illinois BETY (Bulletin Editor of the Year) contest came back yesterday. The evaluations show that I'm doing many things well, but there are many things that I can do better. It's very similar to the chorus competition coming up this month. We hope the judges will tell us we're doing many things well. Even better for us, they will tell us things we can do to improve our performance in the future. So, you should notice some changes in the bulletin over the next couple of months as I attempt to incorporate my evaluators' suggestions.

In addition to articles about contest, this issue includes information on our barbershop judging system, follow-ups on last month's activities, suggestions for increasing our membership, an opportunity to help the Illinois District, and more.

The scoop on Contest

As of this writing we haven't reached the entry deadline for spring contest. Consequently, our on-stage time is still unknown. We will meet to warmup at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday April 21st near the top of the escalator at the Pere Marquette Hotel.

This is the first convention under our new system. The chorus contest is scheduled to begin at 11:00. Judging evaluations will be held immediately after the chorus contest. All chorus members are encouraged to attend the evaluation.

Uniform for contest is the black tux, red shirt, black shoes and black socks. At this point we don't know if we'll have time to change after we warm up, so please come dressed and ready to compete. Bloomington sings before us, so we may have to be creative to get our dual members into our picture.

The Word from the Prez

THE HABIT OF PROACTIVITY
By Kevin Swartz

We hit the ground running this year. January, February, and March have been months jam-packed with Barbershop activity. So far we have delivered Singing Valentines, been featured in the News-Gazette, staged a successful show at Krannert, appeared on the local news, answered phones for the WILL pledge drive, performed in Tuscola, and hosted numerous guests during the entire month of March. The Illini Statesmen have been making a positive impact in this community.

I'm still receiving compliments and comments from various sources letting me know they've seen us.

Name recognition, getting our organization out into the public over and over again, has been paying off, and will continue to pay off into the future. It's part of being proactive. We can choose to take the initiative and act, or we can just sit back and be acted upon. Both options will definitely have a result. However, taking the initiative allows us the opportunity to shape and control those results in a positive way.

In his book, *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, Stephen Covey states that "...the most basic habit of a highly effective person in any environment [is] the habit of proactivity." He goes on to say, "Businesses, community groups, organizations of every kind—including families—can be proactive. They can combine the creativity and resourcefulness of proactive individuals to create a proactive culture with the organization. The organization does not have to be at the mercy of the environment; it can take the initiative to accomplish the shared values and purposes of the individuals involved." Also, "The difference between people who exercise initiative and those who don't is literally the difference between night and day. I'm not talking about a 25 to 50 percent difference in effectiveness; I'm talking about a 5000-plus percent difference, particularly if they are smart, aware, and sensitive to others."

We are on the right track. We may make some errors along the way. But, I'm ok with making mistakes as long as we're moving forward in the right direction.

Keep up the good work.

March Madness recap

By Matt Carlen

Well gentlemen, let me congratulate all of you on an amazing month of "membership madness." It was truly a group effort. Even if you did not bring a guest, please realize that you made an amazing impression just by being there and doing what you do. Each one of us has a purpose and a "job" within this chapter. I feel that over the last month each of you has done it to a T. More importantly is the fact that the last month was a lot of fun. New things started and new people were exposed to the joys of singing Barbershop. That should be something brought to the forefront of our purpose as a chapter. I like to think that we are reaching out and doing it rather well.

So thanks for a great month. It was something new, and I feel as though it was a great success because of all of you.

It is important to note that as we move forward, please bring the same intensity to rehearsal as we did throughout March. With contest around the corner I don't think that will be a problem!

WE GET MAIL!

April 2, 2007

Dear Mr. Swartz,

I recently saw the article in the News-Gazette regarding your organization, the Illini Statesmen Barbershop Chorus. I was delighted to read about the history of your organization. It's a testament to the unique qualities of barbershop music and to the skill in your chorus that the Statesmen have survived for over 60 years. Congratulations on your 60th anniversary. I appreciate you being able to bring together people from all backgrounds into an activity that you can all enjoy.

Please pass this letter along to the rest of the Statesmen, along with my congratulations.

If you ever have any questions, concerns or comments please feel free to write, call or come into my office anytime.

Sincerely,

Michael Frerichs
State Senator
52nd District



The Prairie Blend quartet along with Matt Carlen and Jordan Brotherton did a Youth In Harmony

presentation at Centennial High School in Champaign last week. They had a great time demonstrating and explaining the barbershop style. Matt especially enjoyed teaching tags to the girls' choir.

Prairie Blend also appeared on the Decatur Chordsmen's show last month. I wasn't able to attend, but one of our church members did, and he gave them a rave review.

In other news, a foursome billing themselves as the Naturals will be singing as part of the Naturalization Ceremonies April 13 at the US District Courthouse in Urbana. Hugo Feugen, Richard Hofstrand, Ken Steinsultz and Andy Isbell will be welcoming 120 people as they become new citizens that day.

Statesmen sportin' the Green

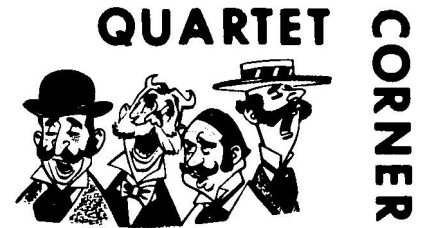
By Kevin Swartz

The Illini Statesmen were all decked out in black tuxes and green shirts as we performed for the Douglas County Museum on Saturday night, March 17th. (The wearin' of the green was our "unofficial" way of celebrating St. Patrick's Day.) The folks in Tuscola gave us a warm welcome as we performed several of our "favorites" for a sell-out crowd. Part of our performance included "Stars Fell on Alabama", "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy", and "Tiger Rag". Halfway through our set, the quartet, Prairie Blend, stepped forward to entertain the audience with such gems as "They All Laughed" and "Recipe For Love". Overall it was a fun time as we got to entertain a familiar audience with the Illini Statesmen sound, and the Douglas County Museum was able to bring in much needed donations to help pay for their utility expenses.

New C & J Handbook Posted

An updated Contest and Judging Manual is now online at www.barbershop.org/CJHandbook. Or go to barbershop.org and click on Compete. If you'd like to know more about what we're being judged on at contest, check this out. It's now in PDF format and should be more easily searchable.

While the rules section has been maintained all along, the other sections needed some updating and those changes are all now incorporated into the new document. Earlier versions of the Handbook should not be used.



Simple steps to grow your chapter

What you can personally do to make your chapter more attractive to potential members

By Byron Meyers, Sr.

Chairman, Society Membership Committee

Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony. – Mahatma Gandhi

Do you think that growth in your chapter will lead to happiness? Do you say that growth in your chapter will lead to success? Do you do that which will cause growth in your chapter, thus leading to happiness?

Sounds great, but I think we will all agree, the shortest word is the biggest challenge: Do. What can each of us do to help cause growth in our chapters. Here are some ideas:

Keep a positive attitude about your chapter. Look for the things that are unique to your chapter and then tell others about them.

- Take pride in what your chapter can offer a prospective member. Regardless of the type of chapter you may have, there are things unique to it that are positive in the eyes of a prospect.
- Think about what your chapter can offer folks in your community that no other group can. Start talking that up to guys you meet.
- Make up your mind that you will work hard at singing better, so the guest next to you will want to join. Gaining a new member is better done by creating a desire to join before asking the question, "Want to join?"
- Help make your chapter membership plan a success. It truly is not the other guys' job in your chapter to do "membership things." We all must participate in making the plan a success.
- Try to be the guy who challenges any degree of apathy that may exist in your chapter.
- Meet with some other guys whom you know feel as you do about your chapter's need to grow. Talk about the need for new voices in weak sections in the chorus, the need for new leadership to get things done in the life of your chapter.
- Maintain a positive attitude toward chapter growth. Think about the happiness you can bring to new people, the fun of being around new personalities with new ideas and new synergies. Focus on guys in your community who would bring new energy to your chapter.
- Help your chapter make a decision to grow. Many chapters have had success simply because they made a "group decision" to grow. Want some inspiration? Look to Beatrice, Neb., a town of approximately

12,000 that had a chapter of around 50 guys. They made a group decision to grow. In one year, they grew to more than 100! Why? The membership bought into the plan and they were focused on the goal. Their growth came from some fun and unusual ways to get attention and meet prospects. (See The Harmonizer, March/April 2006, page 14.)

- Recognize that we not only need some younger members, but we also need singers of any age. Break into teams of two or more to go after younger guys, newly married guys, mid-50s guys- solid 60s guys and super 70s-plus guys.
- We all know you can not depend exclusively on your circle of friends to supply you with new contacts. Start asking people you don't know, because there a lot more of them. Make it fun! Wear a badge, button or something musical. Then use an opening line like, "I'm trying to find other singers. Who do you know that might like to sing?"
- Finally, establish a personal goal of recruiting one new member this year or one each quarter. Five this year? Do that, and you get your dues paid for 2008. Bring what you think, what you say and what you do into harmony and we will grow.

Why do we have to sing on the risers?

Editorial/Craft by Clare McCreary

Borrowed from **Scoops & Swipes**, St. Petersburg, FL chapter bulletin, **Clare F. McCreary**, Editor

Two main reasons for always singing on the risers are physical and mental reasons. It is very difficult to sing with energy and support when sitting. Only the most highly trained singers can do it. Sitting is a relaxed position, slumped in the middle, leaning back on the chair-back. Even in the "sitting singing position," forward on the edge of the chair, straight back, neck and head erect, it is difficult to breathe correctly and maintain the support that you need. You may start out in the "singing position" but soon relax into the slouch. It is difficult to "perform" in a sitting position - very little incentive. Hard to get the mind in gear.

Humans tend to be creatures of habit. Athletes have a saying, "You play the way you practice." So too in singing, you perform the way you practice. The only time we sit and sing is while learning notes and working out the fine points. When you are on the risers, you are in performance mode - always! The sound is so much better, the energy level is so much higher, it is no wonder that the directors don't want to let you sit.

You practice that way - you perform that way.

2007 Music Man of Note Program

Earn a Music Man of Note for each new member you recruit and add to your Man of Note collection.

Who do you know that would like to earn a Music Man of Note this year? Of course it is you! Get your name in that hat now. The earlier you do, the more opportunities you have to have your name drawn!

- For each Man of Note, your name is entered into a drawing held monthly for 2 tickets to a 2008 International Convention, either Midwinter or the Nashville International Convention.
- Earn credit(s) toward the 2007 100% Club dues discount program.
- Gain Society, District and local publicity
- Experience the joy of sharing this hobby with another person.

Contact Charlie Davenport with any questions.

CDavenport@barbershop.org

2007 Officers

President, Kevin Swartz
 Marketing & PR Vice President, Paul Stansberry
 Music Vice President, Andy Isbell
 Membership Vice President, Jordan Brotherton
 Program Vice President, Matt Carlen
 Secretary, Dave Sutton
 Treasurer, Denny Mulvany
 Immediate Past President, Vern Knapp
 District Delegate, Hugo Feugen
 Chorus Director, Lee Reifsteck

April Birthday

11th Brian Conrad

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 Andy Isbell, Editor
 4645 E Baker Woods Ln
 Decatur, IL 62521

Illinois District Seeks Volunteers For Audio Archiving Assistance

The Illinois District of the Barbershop Harmony Society is seeking volunteers that would be willing to help to preserve, catalog and archive the audio recordings in its historical library.

The District's desire is, in part, to transfer such recordings to permanent, fully reliable, backed-up, digital storage. The District is adamant to preserve such recordings in the highest appropriate quality level, and to do this task once. The flexibilities of distribution of digital media will allow the District to make effective use of such archival materials, for the optimal good throughout the BHS and for potential future members.

Experienced volunteers will donate their time, talent, experience and in some cases, use of their audio equipment. Volunteers should have a finely tuned ear for barbershop, at least some experience with using digital recording equipment, e.g., audio-purposed computers or other digital recorders, and an appreciation of common pitfalls that can inhibit the preservation of signal quality throughout such a conversion process. Training in library cataloguing will also be highly valued.

Please contact Bob Squires at bobsingslead@aol.com, (815) 609-8644.



20-22 APR Spring Contest/Convention, Peoria
 1-8 JUL International Convention, Denver