



Canton Ohio



January 2004

Squawker

Chapter Motto
Enrich & Grow"

Hall of Fame Chorus

EDITORS: Dave & Barb Richards 6029 Hanna Rd Ravenna OH 44266-8534 Squawker Volume 5 Issue 3 January 18, 2004

PVP, BE IS HOF BOTY!

By: Barb Richards

Sounds like a chemical formula, doesn't it? Well, the chemistry was right on Saturday evening, January 10, as my favorite barbershopper and life companion, **Dave Richards**, became the Canton Chapter's Barbershopper of the Year. Since becoming a member of the Hall of Fame Chorus in 1996, Dave has always worked hard, lending his many talents to the hobby he loves so much and the Chapter that is such an important part of our lives. In a chapter that is brimming with enthusiasm and hard workers, being singled out as the BOTY is indeed an honor.

In the final words of his truly impromptu acceptance speech, Dave said, "I love barbershopping, and I love my Chapter." All of you who know Dave know how sincerely those words were spoken, and I, most of all, know how heartfelt they were.

Together, Dave and I will continue to support the Canton Chapter and the Hall of Fame Chorus in any way we can, and we're both grateful to be part of such a wonderful barbershop family!

In addition to the BOTY festivities Saturday night, we had a wonderful dinner at Rolando's in Canton, followed by encouraging words for the coming year by Chapter President **Phil Downey**, recruitment reminders from **Larry**

White, and finally, some singing by the Hall of Fame Chorus and our newest Chapter quartet, Twilight, consisting of **Joe Fraley**, Eric Offenburg, **Ernie Jackson**, and **Mark Stock**. We welcomed special guests Karen Middaugh and Peggy Middaugh, and John and Alice Nowell. The evening's events flowed in the capable hands of Man-in-Charge and MC **Joe Fraley**. Later, there was music and dancing led by our favorite DJ, Eric Offenburg, who did his usual fantastic job.

If this year's BOTY banquet and celebration was any indication of things to come, this will be an exciting year for the Canton Chapter! Our new CD, our new director, and all the fantastic performances in the past year have given us the momentum to burst into 2004 and make it the best year the Hall of Fame Chorus has ever had! Join us in our great barbershop journey!



Twilight performing at the BOTY.

These guys also performed at the guest night on Jan 7th.

Squawker Deadline March 6, 2004



Some Party go-ers at the BOTY



Out-going BOTY present plaque to 2003 BOTY

2003 Chapter Board

President.....Phil Downey
Past PresidentJesse Pittman
PVP Dave Richards
Music VP Jerry Hughes
VP Chapter Development Larry White
Treasurer Jake Mandator
Secretary.....Jake Mandator
Board Members At Large:
Chorus Manager..... Joe Fraley
Uniform Chairman..... Dan Hughes
PR Officer Don Shoop
Harmony Foundation George Macli

SINGING VALENTINES

Gentlemen, your chance for instant fame is coming fast. Singing Valentines are your chance to make money for the chapter, make people very happy & have more fun than you've ever had barbershopping.

My experience doing it has been only once with Akron. We really weren't organized very well and didn't quite know what we were doing. We got a couple quartets together. Each one traveled together, which made practice easy. We got the

jobs mostly from flyers placed on cars and maybe some advertising here and there. No one thought it would work, except us.

Off we went from job to job, being constantly amazed at how much fun it was. Every job was more fun than the last, and the money rolled in. Some people wanted us to come to places of business to surprise their sweetie, and surprised they were. Everyone there was surprised, but the valentine was the one most dazzled. Most people don't have much exposure to our music, so they are quite shocked at how good pole cat songs can sound, especially when delivered this way and unexpectedly. One of the groups wanted to buy tickets to the annual show they liked us so well. Of course having cd's along will be a great way to sell them, along with giving out show info.

You might end up singing anyplace. We stopped at a friends business and he handed us 40 bucks. Off we went to sing to his wife, totally unannounced. Another quartet ended up singing to someone who was at a meeting of about 300 people. Another sang one on the stage of the Carousel Dinner Theatre in Akron. That's the fun part, going wherever they send you.

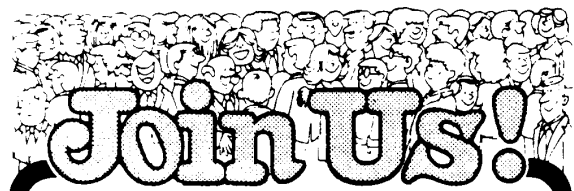
This year, Valentine's Day is Saturday: so lots of guys can hopefully get together and have some real fun. There will be lots of people who want Singing Valentines done at a work place, probably on Friday. It's a great opportunity to have a great time if you can make it both days, one day or partial days.

Once again, this is a great opportunity for any 4 guys to get together and enjoy instant fame, appreciation and applause - applause, for every valentine done. You can't get that good on the annual show!

See Don Shoop or Joe Fraley to sign up for your instant chance for fame -appreciation- and applause. SINGING VALENTINES!

Even see Phil, Phil knows everything.

Larry Steele



We're having lots of fun!

HOF Calendar of Events

Aurora Cabarets	Jan 24 & 31
HOF Cabaret	February 21
Annual Show	April 3
Invitational & Novice Quartet contest ..	April 7
Guest Night.....	April 14
Preliminary Contest	April 16-18
Lady's Night.....	May 8
Annual Picnic	July 18
Division Contest.....	September 17-18
District Contest	October 15-17
Amish Door.....	October 30
Chapter Board Meeting... 1 st Tuesday @ 7 PM	
MAC Meeting	2 nd Wednesday @ 6 PM

Attention Bulletin Recipients!

If your mailing address has changed, please write to
 Dave Richards / 6029 Hanna Rd / Ravenna OH
 44266-8534 / e-mail drichards1@neo.rr.com or
 Call: 330-296-6644

Here is the order of songs for our April show:

Chorus

McNamara's Band

If There's Never Been An Ireland

My Wild Irish Rose (Don Gray)

Quartet • Twilight

It's the Same Old Shillelagh

Chorus

That's An Irish Lullaby

Audience Sing-a-long

When Irish Eyes Are Smiling

Sweet Rosie O'Grady

Harrigan

Chorus

Finian's Rainbow Medley

I'll take You Home Again Kathleen

VLQ

Clancy Lowered The Boom

Chorus

Danny Boy

I'm Looking Over A Four Leaf Clover

I'll Be Seeing You

Irish Blessing

Russ McQuate



BIRTHDAYS

Chet Alflen	February 01
Don Isler.....	February 01
Bob Daum	February 05
Dwayne DeLong	February 05
Gib Reiman	February 11
Frank Pittman.....	February 14
John Barcus	February 17
Dave Richards	February 17
Robert Steinturth.....	February 17
George Hildreth.....	February 21
Lance Heilmann	February 22
Bill Ray	February 26
Jim Smith	March 09
Joe Fraley	March 10
Don Anderson	March 12
Scott Eversdyke	March 13
Tom Duplaga	March 14
Jim Hastings	March 18

ANNIVERSARIES

Charlotte & Jack Merzweiler	February 14
Barb & Dave Richards	February 17
Pat & Gib Reiman	March 04
Marjorie & Don Shoop	March 11
Marlene & Don Anderson	March 29

Avoid a premature delivery at contests

Perform your best on stage, not in the warm-up room!

Updated: 9/23/03 1:42 PM

By Kevin Keller, Music judge and Cheers!
 Baritone

"You should have heard us in the warm-up room. Our contest set was awesome!"

May I never hear those words again. It breaks my heart to hear quartets and choruses utter them. As a chorus and quartet performer, here is a vital lesson I've learned about putting your best effort on stage in competition.

Enjoy all your regular routines and rituals on contest day ...

There is an electricity, an energy, a magic that occurs when you go to contest. From the moment you arrive, the energy builds. The butterflies shake the dust off their wings and begin their stretching exercises. The rest of the world's trials and tribulations are set aside for that six minutes on stage. You go through some preliminary meetings, chit-chat, etc. That's all fine and good. It gets all the butterflies fully awake and ready for action.

Then, finally, there's the meeting of the singers hotel rooms for quartets and ballrooms for choruses. You sing through the songs. "Holy cow, we've never sung it that well!" Well ... of course! After all, you've been practicing, and more important, you're focused on the task at hand. The moment is now. All this singing and practicing is productive. Tweaks here and there. More focus. The excitement builds, the anticipation!

Then rehearsal is over. "Gosh, if we could sing like this all the time!" Time to put on the duds, put on the makeup. Energy is beginning to heighten. Looking sharp. Butterflies have been put into stage alert. The group reassembles. You begin "The Pattern", walking from room to room, the photos, the trips in cars/vans/buses, all which increase your adrenaline and sense of the magnitude of the event. The electricity heightens. You anticipate that magical moment when you want to unleash your very best to a hungry crowd of family, friends, and judges.

... but don't you dare do this!

You're directed to your warm-up room. All systems go, and then it kicks in: You're feeling a little nervous. You haven't sung a note in 15-20 minutes or more, and you wonder if it's there? "Let's run a set, guys!" And that performance of your contest set is absolutely the pinnacle of your barbershop career. Everything is working, even the stuff that normally gives you problems is magical. What fun, you don't want it to end. Whoops and high-fives all around. "Cool, let's get the show on the road!"

And with that backstage performance, all of the hours of pent-up energy, excitement, and magic is gone and unrecoverable in time for the stage. Only the butterflies remain.

There's one person you'll need to disappoint, however

I've yet to figure out why singers and directors are obsessed with putting on a performance right before they go on stage. Not all do, and they are usually the ones that have learned from experience! The worst story is, "Our host wanted

to see and hear the contest set." Sure, that host is a wonderful person who, bless his heart, doesn't get to see the contest. But given the choice of a disappointed host and the performance of my lifetime in front of thousands of people, or a thrilled host and a disappointing performance, I'll take the former.

Here's what to do in the warm-up room

When I walk choruses and quartets through the pattern, as well as in any of my quartets, we sing the intro of each song, and then the intro of the first song once again. This is our "making sure the voice works" reality check, which provides the assurance that each of us needs. Do nothing more. Keep the lid on the pot and let it simmer. Let it cook. The rest of the time, focus on the positive reinforcement of the journey and your love for each other.

When I directed a chorus in district competition one year, several members were somewhat nervous about how little we were singing, as we got closer to going on stage. Obviously, they had previously sung up until the stage. My response was, "You'll be awesome. You sound great right now. We're ready." And they were. They sang to their potential because they wanted to unleash what was inside them, and I didn't let them do so until they were on stage. In the warm-up room, I wouldn't even let them stand on the risers.

Trust the members of your group

You've sung each of the songs 1,537 times, you've got the notes and words pretty well down. If you don't have it now, nothing will help! Trust that when you go on stage, the guys in your group will do their jobs. Trust that they feel the same way about your level of preparation. Trust that when you open your mouth, a sound will come out. Trust that if the changes you worked on don't happen, the judges wouldn't know the difference, the fact is, they won't know whether you'd practiced it differently! Trust that your "muscle" memory and the habits established in rehearsal will carry you.

Bank on that trust and get caught in "the zone"

Now that you're trusting that things will go right, choose to be captured in that magical moment and ride it for all its worth. Trust that the excitement, energy and magic will control the butterflies and get them "flying in formation." In that magical moment that you're actually on stage, choose to be caught up in the moment with your fellow singers. You're trusting the technical details will be taken care of by your

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subconscious mind while you consciously remain caught up in the emotion of the song and the performance, that's the "zone" that many experienced performers talk about. Trust that you and members of your group know each other well enough to take advantage of that special opportunity.

With this approach, my trust has never failed me, or anybody with whom I've walked through the pattern. Save your magic for the stage! May no one say, "You should have heard us in the warm-up room!"

awesome and as you can see from another article here, they are getting around.

BROUGHT A GUEST LATELY????



Our Guests!

The evening was topped off, with refreshments provided by Barb Richards, Karen Middaugh and Karen's sister Sandy. Thank you ladies for all of your hard work to make sure we had a great time!

Annual Show (April 3, 4) Music Schedule

Song	Intro Date	Off Paper Date
If There'd Never Been	Off	Off
McNamara's Band	Off	Off
4 Leaf Clover	Off	Off
Kathleen	Off	Off
Finian's Rainbow	Off	Off
Danny Boy	Off	Off
Irish Lullabye	Off	1/21
Gray Irish Rose	2/4	2/25



Are you going to Louisville? It will be a great time. If you've never been to International this is a great opportunity. You'll be glad you went!

Membership Committee Success

On January 7th our Membership Team had its first guest night for 2004. It was a very successful event. The focus of the evening was on bringing back alumni whom we haven't seen in a while. We had several alumni with us as well as a number of new prospects for membership. On January 14th four of those prospects returned for a second visit.

The evening included a performance by our newest chapter quartet, Twilight. They were

Ask Yourself:
What kind of a chapter would my chapter BE
If all of its members were just like ME?





SQUAWKER
Hall of Fame Chorus

CANTON, OHIO CHAPTER — S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., INC.

**Your January 2004
Hall Of Fame
Squawker
Has Just Arrived!!!**

Canton HOF Squawker
Dave & Barb Richards
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Ravenna OH 44266-8534