



Canton Ohio



January/February
2007

Squawker

Chapter Motto
"We Enrich Lives Through
Sinaina"

Hall of Fame Chorus

EDITORS: Dave & Barb Richards 6029 Hanna Rd Ravenna OH 44266-8534 Squawker Volume 8 Issue 1 January 7, 2007

JOHN BARCUS CHOSEN AS 2006 BOTY

I have never seen John Barcus without words until last night when he was announced as our Barbershopper of the Year for 2006. John is often quite outspoken at our board meetings but he was utterly left speechless by the surprise of receiving this wonderful honor from his peers.

Congratulations, Mr. Extravaganza!

The honor is well deserved. The next two articles detail a project that John chaired and it was a huge success.

Exciting things are happening in the Hall of Fame Chorus! On Wednesday, October 4th, R.D. Mathey and James Estes visited and spent the evening coaching the chorus and sharing their barbershop expertise. That was great, but there's more! On Thursday, October 5th, R.D. and James, hosted by John Barcus, hosted a clinic at McKinley High School and introduced the Men's Choir there to barbershop harmony. After an entire day of being saturated with our music, including some choreography by Rita Zwick, and singing by college quartet Four Way Stop, those boys were EXCITED!

In fact, the young men and the director were so impressed with barbershop singing and the members of the Hall of Fame Chorus who were on hand to help out, that they invited the chorus to sing at their Fall Concert on Tuesday, October 10. Some of us spent a good bit of the weekend on the phone, rallying the chorus to get out there and support these young men, and there was a great turnout of HOF members. The choir, along with our chorus, sang the two songs that they had learned, and they were all really into it and really enjoying themselves!

We can all agree that time marches on, and not only does our chapter need new members, we need **young** new members. However, we will not infiltrate the high schools with the purpose of recruiting; we will show them what barbershop is (and isn't), teach them a song or two and a few tags, and let the rest take care of itself. Our goal

2007 Chapter Board

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VP Chapter Development	Dick Dudash
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.....	John Barcus
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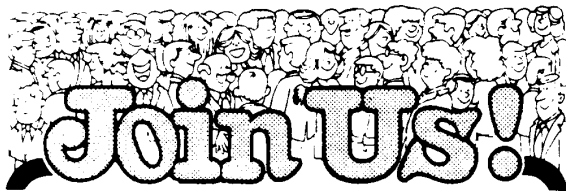
BARBERSHOP BUG BITES AT MCKINLEY H.S!

is simply to plant the seeds and hope that they take root; to teach them that music is one of our greatest gifts, and should be a part of their lives, now and always.

Any chapter that has ever had a program like this can attest to its success. Young singers love barbershop once they are introduced to it. It's a Win-Win situation—they win because they can be truly enthusiastic about our music, and we win the great feeling of having shared our beloved barbershop harmony with others. It's excitement for them, warm fuzzies for us, and the hope that the Barbershop Harmony Society will live on for many generations to come.

Squawker Deadline February 28, 2007

We're having lots of fun!



HOF Calendar of Events
(Mark Your Calendars)

- Aurora Cabaret.....Jan 27
- Annual Sow..... March 24
- Spring Pre-lims.....April 20-21
- International.....July 1-8
- Gospel Show August 17 ?
- Western Divisionals Sept 15
- Eastern Divisionals Sept 8
- District Contest October 19-21
- Amish Door..... October 27
- BOTY Dinner..... Jan ??, 2008
- Chapter Board Meeting....2nd Monday @ 7 PM
- MAC Meeting 2nd 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

VOCAL MUSIC WORKSHOP

By: Don Anderson

What a great day. We had great Instructors and staff, and we had great students of music.

Dr. R.D. Mathey Directs.

From the very beginning, at 8 a.m. on October 5,

2006, it was evident that this was not going to be an ordinary school day at McKinley Sr. High School, in the Umstadd PA Hall. Nearly 130 well prepared, finely tuned, and ready to sing students from both McKinley and Timken Senior High Schools, were treated to the four part harmony sounds of the Sweet Adeline quartet, "Abstract". This was followed by the introduction of the workshop clinicians; Dr. R. D. Mathey, Director Emeritus of Choral Activities at Bowling Green State University. Dr. Mathey has over thirty years of vocal teaching experience. Mr. James Estes, Barbershop Harmony Society Music Educator, in charge of the Youth in Harmony/College Development program, and local choreographer Ms Rita Zwick, who has staged various high schools show programs for over twenty years. Each instructor had a specific role to play in developing a total musical performance from the students, at the end of the days activities. The current Barbershop men's college international quartet representatives, "Four Way Stop", closed the introductions with a song, and the students were now "hooked" on four part barbershop harmony.

Mr. James Estes conducted a vocal warm up for the group, utilizing universal voice warming techniques, and singing exercises. Dr. Mathey then taught a version of "Swing Down Chariot" that had the entire house on its feet. The students were then dismissed, to attend

breakout sessions to learn and rehearse several songs, for showcasing on stage during

profit organization, aimed at expanding the economic, entertainment and educational influence of the arts in Stark County. Thanks also go to the eighteen volunteers from the Hall of Fame Chorus who helped serve lunch, and sometimes lend their voice, in the learning process for the students. Most congratulation belongs to the Workshop Director Mr. John Barcus, of the Hall of Fame Chorus. His tireless efforts in organizing the school, arranging for the clinicians, enlisting the staff of volunteers, and selling the entire concept to local school staff was exemplary. We can hardly wait to see what is in store for next year.

Hall of Fame men sing with the students.

THANKS TO ALL FOR A JOB WELL DONE

Editor's Note: On Tuesday October 10, the Hall of Fame Chorus was invited to sing in the McKinley High School Music program. The excitement and enthusiasm generated by the all-day workshop and the excellent staff had not abated one iota. What a thrill it was for us to sing on stage for a live audience with the kids and afterward we were asked to perform for them. The kids made us old guys feel like rock stars, they were so excited and supportive. Truly, we are looking forward to next year's clinic/workshop. We are hoping to garner a larger grant to have an even bigger program. (Notice I didn't say better -- How could it be?)

"Showtime". The 88 girls learned "Let Tonight be the Night", and "Sentimental Journey", while the 42 boys were busy practicing, "Hello Mary Lou", and "The Lion Sleeps Tonight". Both groups of students were also busy learning, "America the Beautiful" and the "Overlay", for the shows finale. Ms. Rita Zwick introduced some fancy footwork to the ladies for their numbers, and some great movements for the men to use in "selling" their two song package.



Four Way Stop Impresses the Students

After lunch, both groups of students spent nearly an hour polishing the song packages, then it was time for the "show." The audience was made up of fellow students, teachers, friends and family of the

students. All were anxious to see the results of the days work, and they were not disappointed. The show was fantastic, to say the least, with every student lending their voice, causing the audience to applaud and making the instructors proud.

The day ended at 2:30 p.m., with some very tired, but satisfied students, clinicians and volunteer staff. The Workshop was made possible by a grant from "Arts in Stark", a non-



BIRTHDAYS

John Tasseff	January 02
Virgil Hiller.....	January 10
Mike Miller.....	January 11
Ernie Jackson	January 13
George Macli.....	January 17
Don Isler.....	February 01
Bob Daum.....	February 05
Dwayne DeLong	February 05
Stan Wallace.....	February 06
Frank Pittman.....	February 14
Dave Richards	February 17
John Barcus.....	February 17

Robert Steinturth February 17
 Lance Heilmann February 22
 Bill Ray February 26
 Jim Smith..... March 09

ANNIVERSARIES

Charlotte & Jack Merzweiler February 14
 Barb & Dave Richards..... February 17
 Marjorie & Don Shoop..... March 11

If I've missed your anniversary, please write it down and give it to me; so I can include it in the future. I usually check birthdays on the society's Members only page, however it was down for an indeterminate time as I put this Squawker together. I would like to have all anniversary dates and I can only get them from **YOU**.

FIRST CHORUS CHAMP SUBJECT OF PBS STATION "EXTRA"

Singing Capitol Chorus on the air

The Society's first chorus champion, the Singing Capitol Chorus of Washington, D.C., is featured in "Still Singing," a mini-documentary now streaming on WETA's website: <http://www.weta.org/tv/extras.php>

WETA is the PBS station in the Greater Washington, D.C., area

Joseph Grimme, 25, created the film as part of his thesis for a master of fine arts degree at American University. It tells the tale of the Singing Capital Chorus' win of the first ever international gold medal from the perspective of four men "Still Singing." Staff member Colleen Theobald helped Joe with licensing issues.

One of the chorus members is also a member of WETA's community board and helped Joe get the film into the right hands. First airings were Nov. 11 & 12. It is a part of the public television station's "Extra" series used to fill time between programs and is expected to air several more times.

Joe has been a member of the Society for five years, but has been singing barbershop for 10 years.

KEEP IT SPARKLING

Let's keep it sparkling!

By Jim Kissack, chairman, SPEBSQSA Ethics Committee

Sometimes, as we go along enjoying this most wonderful of hobbies, we can get lost in that enjoyment and, in an effort to be as entertaining as we can be when we are performing, we might utilize some inappropriate material or lyrics. Upon reflection afterward, we might think to ourselves "Maybe that joke or those words might have been inappropriate, and might have been better left unsaid. I hope I didn't offend anyone." Our audiences, because of the reputation we have created for ourselves, have come to expect us to be squeaky clean in our presentations. I am sure many of us at one time or another have been in an audience attending a show and have heard something from the stage that made us cringe. I have, and when that happens I expect to get calls or letters. And I do. Then I must remind people that someone was offended by what they did. I hate having to do that. Maybe not something really terrible or intended to offend, but maybe a little "blue," and we know we can't please every single person, but we must give it our very best shot to try to do so. They expect it. In some cases it may be so inappropriate that the Ethics Committee, in the performance of its duties, must take action. Doesn't happen often, but it does happen.

Canon 2 of the Society's Code of Ethics states: "We shall deport ourselves and conduct the Society's functions in such manner as to reflect credit upon the Society and its membership." A publication by the Society, written in 1956 and revised in 1967, interpreted each of the canons of the Code of Ethics. In spite of its age, those interpretations are still apropos today. Quoting from that publication concerning Canon 2: "Acceptance of our Society by the public is largely dependent upon the manner in which we conduct ourselves, both individually and collectively. It is our good fortune that the type of entertainment which our Society provides makes it unnecessary for us to stoop to the use of smut or inferences of any nature to hold the public interest, whether in our bulletins, song lyrics, in our Chapter meetings or in public performances. Our members have such a superabundance of ability to supply good, clean entertainment

without resorting to questionable subjects or actions that we have found it advisable to take as our guide, 'If there's even the slightest doubt of its complete acceptability to any and everyone, use something else.'" There is more, but those words fit the subject of this article.

It is always wise to keep in mind during occasions when in the public eye as a representative of the Barbershop Harmony Society (such as in quartet performances, MC presentations, etc.), that if there is a chance that what you do or say might offend anyone, then don't do it or don't say it. Another rule of thumb when making appearances while in the public Barbershop arena is to assume one's mother, wife, daughter and granddaughter view, and would be proud of, what one does or says, and would not be offended or embarrassed by it, either for themselves or for anyone else. That way, it would be highly improbable that any offense might be taken. It is one of the highlights of my life listening to and watching the very best form of entertainment in this world. Thanks for giving me that opportunity and for reading this item.

LET'S "KEEP IT SPARKLING"
Jim Kissack, Chair, Society Ethics Committee

Come out of the woodwork and get into the woodshed

Sing by ear and have fun harmonizing without a printed page -- try woodshedding!

By Steve Shannon (Vice-President, AHSOW)
and Terry Clarke (Director, AHSOW; Bass, 1980
International Champions Boston Common)

As proven, proficient quartet singers, you know how much fun it is to be with other men of like talents and abilities. Imagine if there were a special subset of our Society that would:

- recruit only the finest quartet-harmony singers; and
- provide special forums for experimental harmonization; and
- conduct harmony seminars for "regular" Barbershoppers; and

- preserve and encourage the best of Barbershopping; and
- challenge quartet men to become even better; and
- maintain private singing rooms at division, district and international conventions ... just for members.

The name of this group is AHSOW -- the Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodshedders, Inc. The group has more than 1,400 members. Founded at the 1977 SPEBSQSA international convention, AHSOW originated from the vision of Barbershoppers who remembered that our Society began as an "ear-singing" organization. Thanks to AHSOW's co-founders and members, authentic woodshedding has again caught on as a favorite activity for Barbershoppers.

Woodshedding consists of an individual bass, bari and tenor harmonizing to a lead's melody without reference to any written arrangement. Intensely pleasurable for the four singers involved, woodshedding is meant for their ears only, and not for an audience.

The idea of woodshedding is to discover appropriate ringing chords rather than to "sing songs." Thus, the best "woodshed" melodies strongly imply many barbershop 7ths and are readily harmonizable. Woodshedders are free to pitch songs where the singing is comfortable.

Authentic woodshedding is a chance to practice and expand upon some personal musical capabilities that you may not realize you have, and an opportunity to discover a Barbershop arrangement all your own.

You're invited to join the club. AHSOW is the new home for great singers. See <http://www.ahsow.org> or contact Toban Dvoretzky, AHSOW president, for details.

Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodshedders, Inc...



Are you signed up for singing Valentines? The day is coming sooner than you think!

