

FROM THE EDGE

*A periodic Newsletter of
the High Country Barbershop Chorus,
White Mountains Arizona Chapter*



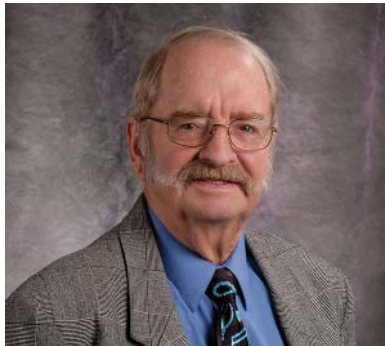
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April, 2006

From the President: **Bob Koons**

As I write this letter, we are preparing for our all day coaching session to get ready for Division 5 competition next month. An entire day practicing two songs - this takes patience and dedication. But these are the qualities we need to develop the best sound.



I think of the competition as the friendliest competition in which I have ever been involved. It's not like a sporting event where you must have a winner and a loser. No one has the "I can beat you" attitude like at St. Olaf. We are only trying to beat our score from last year, and remember, we're gunnin' for that "most improved" trophy again. We will do our best on stage

and then sit back in awe as we watch "The Pride of Phoenix".

We are well behind the Director's "Learning Schedule" to "get off the paper". As our focus is now on the convention, we probably won't catch up until after April 22. We will have our summer guys back with us, and maybe Bill Sachak, as we head down the home stretch towards our summer show. We have lost some good men but we still have a great chorus and I'm sure our "College Days" show will be our best yet.

Bob K

Chorus Evaluation Survey

The BOD is still reviewing the "Chorus Evaluation Survey" which we initiated last December.

I know, it has taken too long, but because of recent events, we need to address some of these conflict issues. I want all members to know that, at least as long as I have the chair, your board will take serious consideration of any complaints, concerns or discomfort experienced by any of our members.

Bob K

April Birthdays

April 12	Alan Johnson
April 11	Bob McDonald
April 13	Mick Mitchke

Let's get to 40 active members in 2006!

From the Director: Doc Dockendorf



Well, this is the month when we travel each year to our Az/SoNev/SoUtah Divisional Convention in Phoenix. It is the one chance each year that we get to “rub elbows” and, more appropriately, “vocal chords” with our

fellow Barbershoppers. Since we appeared in our new tuxedos last year, we are not going to surprise anyone that we are wearing them again this year, so, while we will look great, it will be primarily up to our singing that will make an impression on the audience. I have requested once again, that we are allowed to sing first, so that you all may see and enjoy most of the other choruses, to see how we compare and to learn what it takes to go to the next level. I would like this yearly adventure to be a fun experience for you.

So, when you are at the convention, take the opportunity to sing one of the “Polecats” with three other guys, and see how much fun it is to do. By the way, don’t wait to be asked to sing, you be the one that asks, and the other guys will appreciate it very much. Of course, if you were able to attend the District Convention, or even better, the International Convention in Indianapolis, it would be even more of an eye-opener for you. If I am not mistaken, only **Ron LaMar** attended both of these conventions the past year. Since the District Convention will be in Phoenix in the fall of 2007, we would really like to qualify for that convention next year, so we can attend that one as a chorus.

Also, remember that we are singing at president **Bob Koon’s** church on Sunday morning following the convention. We will be singing Hush,

The Lord’s Prayer, and When There’s Love at Home. We need as many of you that can do it to participate. Bob will be putting in a lot of time this year as your President, and this is something you can do to repay him for his efforts.

In case you had not heard, the chorus is sponsoring three scholarships to Harmony University (formerly Harmony College) this coming August. This is a great opportunity for you, and in case you are unsure of it, ask **Everett Peterson**, who attended last year. It will only cost your personal time, because travel, and the week’s room and board, are all paid for by the chapter. The school is being returned to Missouri Western State University again next year, from The Ohio State University last year, where those of us that attended found out how big that campus is. One of the treats that you will get at MWSU, is the ice cream you get every night you are there. We missed that at OSU last year. Classes at the school vary, and you can select those courses of interest to you, like, “How to be a great Lead” (or bari or tenor or bass), “Tune it or Die”, “Music Theory”, “Physics of Sound”, or you can opt to sing in the chorus, which entertains on Saturday night. You will be rubbing elbows with the cream of the Society singers, arrangers and teachers. You will not regret going, I can guarantee you that.

Progress on our show music has been pretty slow. I would like to remind you that learning this music is primarily up to you. You will not have enough time to learn all the music solely at chorus rehearsal, although we will be spending more and more time on it as we near the show. In May, we will be going through all the music each and every rehearsal night. Also, we will be working on the Western songs which we will be singing on The Day of the Great American Cowboy show on July 22, the week after our show, “College Days.”

DOC

From the Membership VP - Dan Lewis

ASK!

Now is the best time to recruit to our chorus. Every week we hear Doc saying, "we need more basses". True as this is, we also need more baritones, leads and tenors. Well, maybe not too many more tenors....



Everyone in our chorus is involved in other activities. Be it church, bowling, chambers, or other music groups whether here or in the valley. You do not have to be involved in music at that activity. You do need to be aware of people around you, though. Listen to those guys near you when singing the national anthem, a hymn in church, are they humming when they are browsing in your store? Well, when you get a moment, ask them if they do any singing. Please don't do it during the pastor's sermon (unless it is very dull).

Ask them if they have ever heard of barbershop singing. Ask them if they like singing. Ask them if they would like to have the most legal fun outside of marriage. Ask them to visit us; no charge, no commitment. If you can't drive them to rehearsal, ask them to come with their wife to see what it is all about. Remember, having the spouse involved is important, at least for permission.

Maybe you know this person and feel they are too busy. Well, who in our chorus is not busy? If they like it, time will be made and it will be all the better for it.

Dan

From - Bob Lawson



As the chorus is going through a difficult time, I think it is appropriate to share this story. Perhaps it will help us remember why we work so hard with our hobby, and why it is worth it.

Remember: we never really know who we are singing to, or what impact we are going to make on them.

"My name is Earl. My wife Liz and I attended your cowboy show in 2005 thanks to our friends Larry and Jan. I had the most fun I have had in a long time. In fact, Liz stated that she hadn't seen me smile that big for a long time. You see, I have cancer, and good times and good feelings are few and far between for me.

"Liz and I often talk about the show and the music with Larry and Jan. Needless to say, you made a great impact on me. Fast forward to February, 2006. The cancer has progressed, and the doctor tells me that I don't have long left. As my family gathers for their final good-byes, they invite *Crook's Trail* to come and minister to me in my final hours with some cowboy music.

"On Sunday, March the 5th, they walk in the door and start to sing and I join them in song. That night was very memorable to me and to my family. In fact, I woke up singing on Monday morning, and sang throughout the day. Tuesday morning, I went to my final reward... with a song in my heart."

Bob

FROM THE EDGE Apr., 2006

Calendar of Events			
Date	Event	Time	Comments / Location
April 11, 2006	Music Committee Meeting	06:00 PM	Practice Hall
April 21- 22, 2006	Divisional Convention		Ramada Plaza, 12027 N 28th Dr Phoenix
April 23, 2006	Desert Cross Lutheran Church, Tempe, AZ	10:45 AM	Warm up, 10:15 AM
April 25, 2006	Chapter Board Meeting	05:30 PM	Practice Hall
May 13, 2006	Woolford Road Cleanup	8:30 AM	Behind WME Theatre, Show Low
May 13, 2006	Road Cleanup Party	06:00 PM	The Dockendorf's
July 4, 2006	City of Show Low Parade	TBD	TBD
July 12, 13, 14, 2006	Show Rehearsals	07:00 PM	BRHS
July 15, 2006	Annual Barbershop Harmony Show	2 PM, 7 PM	BRHS
July 22, 2006	White Mountains Round Up	01:30 PM	BRHS

*High Country Barbershop Chorus
c/o Jerry Schrunk, Newsletter Editor
PO Box 3897
Show Low, AZ 85902*