

FROM THE EDGE

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



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December, 2005

From the President

Well, here it is, my last column as President of the White Mountain High Country Barbershop Chorus. As someone famous once said, "It's been a great ride!" When I came to the White Mountains I would not have dreamed that there would be a Barbershop harmony group here, especially when I was coming from a much bigger community and there was none there. It truly has been a privilege to serve you as your president. I look forward to a long and fruitful relationship with a great bunch of guys. Because of our dedication to the craft of our hobby we are getting a reputation for offering good wholesome entertainment that many places and groups cannot offer.

When we take as our task that we have the opportunity to bring some happiness and maybe a bit of nostalgia into someone's life, we make a difference in the community in which we live. That is why **Doc** is always so intent on our singing as proficiently as we can. I would commend to each of us to come to every rehearsal as though it was a performance. Come expecting great things to happen and usually they will. We can do things to help us sing well like taking care of our voices, making sure we are hydrated well. Like Doc says, "pee white, sing right." Other things we can do to ensure we sing well is to sing the same way all the

time. When we do our warm-up exercises and vowel singing, we should practice the same techniques when we sing our show music or a pole cat song. Most of what I am writing about boils down to mental preparedness. When professional teams lose a game it is more than likely because of mental errors. The same thing is true for us. We need to be ready mentally to sing each song. So, let's practice our hobby and have a great time doing it, but let's do it well.

Thanks for all your support over the last three years and please give the new officers the same or even a better level of support in the coming year.

In harmony,

Bob

Bob Cutlipp



December Birthdays

December 3 - John Welker
December 10 - Jim Porter
December 21 - Keith Gore
December 24 - Charlie Lovett

From the Director

“If Only...”

Recently, the Pine Tones entertained for the White Mountain Women’s Christian Club monthly meeting. The guest motivational speaker was a young lady from New Mexico, by the name of **Terry Maxey**. This lady had problems too lengthy to mention, including, born with only one lung and living with an oxygen tank 24/7, one kidney, one ovary, a misshapen back which had had numerous surgeries to partially correct. She spoke about the many times she said to herself when she was growing up, “If only I had been born with two lungs; if only I was taller; if only I was normal.” She has grown to accept all her maladies through her faith, and has a loving husband and, believe it or not, a beautiful daughter.

As she spoke, I started thinking about how this simple line could be applied in our daily life, to our barbershop hobby, and to us as barbershoppers. I don’t know about you, but I suspect you were like me when you were growing up, and said to yourself, “If only... I: wasn’t so skinny; could run faster; were smarter; were more popular, etc., etc.” These were usually things that we had a minimal control over.

Now, as barbershoppers, I think, “If only I was a better director, a better teacher, more inspirational, perhaps the High Country Chorus would take to heart, what

Doc Dockendorf



I am teaching each week, and there would be no limit to what we, together, could accomplish as singers.” After a performance, or especially after a contest, do you ever think to yourself how you could have done better? “If only... I had studied my music, paid more attention to the vocal exercises, remembered to sing that note higher, made that stage presence move, expressed the song better with my face, memorized the words, and on and on?”

My Vision for 2006 is that each of you will make a resolution, that you will take to heart the weekly vocalization training provided, that you will work on your music at home every week, by listening to your learning CD, by spending time on the two or three songs we are currently working on, by vocalizing every day in the shower, and in the car, spending the time you are shaving or combing your hair in front of the mirror each day by looking at the expression on your face to see what a smile looks like, what a tender loving expression looks and feels like. Think what we could achieve? *Oh the possibilities!!*

“If only....”

Doc

From the Membership VP

Dan Lewis

Who is our best resource for getting new members?

Every Member!

And, each of us needs to ALWAYS have an invitation card(s) within our wallets at all times.

However. WE cannot be everywhere. Think, what is the best time to recruit new members? When we are on stage singing! Whether that is during our show, or doing a performance in a church, in a park, in Wal-Mart, whatever. It is during that time that a guy will think, "wow, I think I would like to do that" or "hey, I can do that". Unfortunately for most people, that warm feeling will fade by the time they reach their car.

What is happening during that key prime time? Well, after the show, most of us are 'whipped' and head for the door, our car and home. Some of us are out there 'pressin' the flesh'. But, even for those of us who are mingling, we are busy, happily accepting kudos, greeting friends, etc., and those guys who really enjoyed us and had those warm thoughts, are moving on.

HOWEVER,

We have a secret weapon. In most of our

performances, we have our supporters; our special others (wives, friends, kids, groupies). They are in the audience. In and among the people who are watching us.

Let us try something new!

When we have family, friends, supporters who will be attending our performance (no matter where), let's supply them with a few invitation cards and maybe a brochure. Ask your people to watch the men around them and see if they notice a guy who is really into the songs, really applauds or maybe is singing along with the words. Then, have your people quietly give the guy a card or brochure and maybe ask them if they would like to stay a minute afterwards to meet you or Doc or Dan or one of the guys.

This is striking while the opportunity is hot! Most guys will appreciate it, as it will be in touch with what he is thinking. This is our secret weapon. Let's use it!

Dan



Chorus Performs:

The High Country Chorus performed at The Church of Our Saviour Episcopal Church on November 4, 2005. The event was a chili dinner which was a huge success.

The chorus was very comfortable in these surroundings, as the church is kind enough to let us use this room for our practice hall.

Here Jim Murphy, assistant director, leads us in a song from our "western package."



Calendar of Events			
Date	Event	Time	Comments / Location
Dec. 13, 2005	Walmart Christmas Performance	7 PM	Red striped vests, Santa hat. Meet 6:30
Dec. 17, 2005	Aspen Pond / Walmart Christmas	11:30 AM / 1 PM	Red striped vests, Santa hat.
Dec. 27, 2005	No Chorus Practice This Tuesday		
Jan. 10, 2006	Music Committee Meeting	6 PM	Practice Hall
Jan. 14, 2006	Officer Installation Dinner	6 PM	Licano's, Show Low East Siders Quartet
Jan. 17, 2006	Chapter Board Meeting	5:30 PM	Practice Hall
Mar. 25, 2006	Chorus Workshop	8:30 - 5	Practice Hall
April 21- 22, 2006	Divisional Convention		To Be Determined (Phoenix Area)

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