

# FROM THE EDGE

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



Vol. VII, No. 10

<http://www.spebsqsafwd.org/wmac/>

November, 2006

## From the President:

## Bob Koons



We had a great attendance at practice on October 24 including several guests, and also a good turnout for BOD meeting.

It's encouraging

to me to see attendance improving. I'm also encouraged by the diversity in our Christmas program, reaching out to audiences who will really appreciate our music. Frankly, I have thought in the past that we had better acceptance in the "break room" at Wal Mart when we were warming up then we had out on the floor.

We are into November and the Christmas

season, followed very soon by Valentines, then the convention in April. We've got our work cut out for us to get ready for this all the while working on our 2007 show music. Get ready guys, one of these days **Doc** will be handing us the dreaded "off-the-paper" schedule.

The pursuit of our singing hobby takes some time and dedication. I encourage all to prioritize enough time in your busy schedules to continue to improve our performances.

In Harmony,

**Bob K**

(Editors note: See the "Calendar of Events" on page 6 for the Christmas Event Schedule.)

Being old is not a function of the years you've been on the planet but rather, how you feel and act.

Here are some suggestions from **Dale Dauten, the "Corporate Curmudgeon"**, a writer in Albuquerque, on how not to be old:

"No one is old when planting flowers.

No one is old when singing.

No one is old when trying an experiment.

No one is old when riding a bike.

And his favorite: No one is old when telling a joke."

We like his favorite, for sure, but we like the one about singing better.

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**Contributed by Doc Dockendorf**

## From the Director: Doc Dockendorf



This month's article is from a Master Class presented by Dr. Greg Lyne at the Indianapolis Convention in 1977. Greg led the Masters of Harmony to

many International Gold Medals, and is currently directing the new Voices In Harmony Chorus from the Bay Area, California Chapter, who finished second at the FWD Fall Convention. This man knows what he is talking about, and we can learn a lot from his Ten Steps article. Lets try it.

### **“Ten Steps to a Better Singing and Performing Chorus**

#### **Singers Posture**

Always sing with the outside foot slightly in front of the inside, weight comfortably forward, chest comfortably up in a proud position, shoulders resting comfortably down and a little back, head in line with the body. Stand tall. Controlled relaxation is the goal, an attitude of readiness for anything. Everything in perfect equipoise!

#### **Active Face**

Always sing with an involved face. Lift the cheek muscles a little, raise and lift the upper lip a little, energize the eyes a lot, get involved facially, no tortured looks, just energize the facial muscles.

### **Vowels That Look Right**

Make an “oh” vowel look like an “oh”, an “oo” like an “oo”, etc. Keep all of the vowels vertical – not horizontal. Notice that a slight animation of the upper lip (a “lift” off the teeth” can contribute to increased resonance.

### **In-Line Singing**

Make all the vowels sound similar to each other. That is, no single vowel should “Pop” out at the listener. They should all have a similar character. While an “ah” is certainly distinct from an “oh” or an “ee”, it should not be vastly different in the way it is placed, vocally, or in its inherent placement, and a consistent approach to the musical line. At its best there should be an uninterrupted resonance (ring) throughout the entire vocal line, through the full range of word sounds and pitches.

### **Focused Singing**

The sound is simply focused into a resonant point, about where the point of the unicorn’s horn would be. Start by holding hands wide, shoulder high, and sing a unison pitch while slowly bringing the palms together in front of you. Listen to the “focusing” of the sound. Feel the tone placed behind the eyes or a little higher. Tongue position is critical.

(From the Director, continued page 5)

**From the Membership VP Ron LaMar**

**Health Alert**



**Ron** and his wife are on vacation so he was unable to submit an article this month.

However, Ron organized the very successful “Membership Night” held October 10.

Please read about this event in another article in this issue.



**Y**ou know if you have a wound or sore on your skin, and you can feel a sore in your mouth, or even a toothache, and you can generally take care of obvious things of that nature. But what about inside the body?

Answer: Get a colonoscopy. For peace of mind and your general health, find out if there is something going on inside. Polyps found at an early stage can be easily and painlessly removed; as in my case, three were removed and found to be okay.

Every three years or so, you too can achieve this peace of mind!

Submitted by **Bill Hartzell**

**FWD, White Mountains Arizona Chapter:  
High Country Chorus**

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**HIGH COUNTRY CHORUS GUEST  
NIGHT**

**U**nder the excellent leadership and planning of our Membership VP, **Ron LaMar**, October 10<sup>th</sup> was the date for the High Country Chorus annual guest night, and as usual, this year’s event was a social and recruiting success. We welcomed six potential new singers to the event, and they experienced the thrill of barbershop for the first time. Also, many of our wives attended.

As is our tradition, Assistant Director **Jim Murphy** started the night off by leading us in “The Old Songs” and “Down Our Way”. Assistant Director **Alan Beste** then gave a brief, and entertaining description of the history of Barbershop and how it is differentiated from other forms of choral singing. To demonstrate barbershop, The **Pine Tones** quartet then sang, “I’ll Be a Song (Continued on next page)

And Dance Man Again”. The chorus sang “Shenandoah”, under the direction of **Alan**, and “I Love That Old Barbershop Style”, under **Doc’s** direction. **Doc** then introduced a new song, “Tell Me Why”, that, while it had a familiar melody, had not been sung by the chorus as an arrangement, putting members and guests on an equal footing. After going thru each of the parts and singing it in the chairs, the entire chorus, including guests, went to the risers to perform the song for our wives. It was obvious that the guests really added to the sound and fullness of the chorus, and we all expressed the hope that the guests would return on future Tuesday nights.

“**The Mountain Belles**” chorus who are the prospective Sweet Adeline Chapter that meets in the church sanctuary then entertained us. Our good friend, **Jeannie Sonne**, ably directed the gals and we all were pleased with the progress they are making as a chorus under her leadership.

We then, once again, invited all of our guests to

join us on the risers as we sang four polecats to close the formal singing portion of the evening. At this point, refreshments were served, and some tag singing and woodshedding was heard in the hall. **Jim Murphy** closed the evening by directing us all in “Keep the Whole World Singing”

Since our guest night, we have had three attendees express interest in joining our chapter. These are **Ron Monette, Lead, Joe Stone, Bass, and Dan Rowles, Tenor**, all excellent singers.

Make sure that you thank **Ron** for the great job he did in putting this evening together.

**Submitted by Doc Dockendorf**



Photos by Jackie Dockendorf

(From the Director, from page 2)

The tongue should be relaxed with the tip touching the lower gum ridge. Tongue tension is counter-productive.

### **Know The Characteristics of Your Part**

Using a car analogy, the Bass is the engine; smooth, velvet, powerful, unrelenting in its supply of effortless masculine power. The Baris are the transmission; shifting from gear to gear in a smooth effortless motion. The Leads are, of course, the drivers. They are in control of both the speed and direction of this well constructed machine. And the Tenors are, well, how about the paint job? Brilliant yellow, fire engine red?

Of course any descriptive approach to part characteristics, like foundation from the Basses, dignity from the Baris, personality from the Leads, sparkle from the Tenors works very well.

### **Bring the Whole Singer**

Bring all that you have to offer to every experience in life, including the rehearsal. Be in the moment, be attentive, be alert, be energetic, contribute to the whole. "Be all that you can be."

### **Expect to Grow**

Expect every rehearsal to bring personal and corporate growth. Come with the expectation of learning. Come expecting the musical leadership to have something to teach you. Treat time spent, not gaining new knowledge

as time wasted. Mean to improve.

### **"I'm Talking To You"**

Not to the man behind you, not to the man on either side, not to the man in front, but to you. Every comment is meant for you. Be prepared to change instantly when the musical leader asks for a change. Don't think he means someone else. He means you! Do it now! Only you can change the way the chorus performs.

### **Look, Act, Be Successful**

When you're a little down, your back or feet hurt, or you wish you were somewhere else, try acting the way you'd like to feel. Stand up straight, smile, elevate your chest, look someone in the eye. If you look successful and act successful, success will follow. Take charge of your experience and make it something wonderful!"

### **Doc**

## **November Birthdays**

Nov 10

Nov 20

Nov 24

Doc Dockendorf

Bill White

Ron LaMar

**Official November Census Number  
From the Barbershop Harmony Society  
Web Page**

**31**

**Invite your neighbor to come and sing with us!**

*FROM THE EDGE* Nov. 2006

Calendar of Events			
Date	Event	Time	Comments / Location
Nov. 14, 2006	Music Committee Meeting	6 PM	Practice Hall
Nov. 28, 2006	Chapter Board Meeting	5:30 PM	Practice Hall
Nov. 18,&19, 2006	COTS		Southern California
Nov. 21, 2006	Christmas Performance	6:30 PM	Aspen Pond
Dec. 16, 2006	Christmas Performance	12 PM	Show Low Senior Center
Dec. 16, 2006	Christmas Performance	1:30 PM	Walmart
Dec. 19, 2006	Christmas Performance	7 PM	Snowflake, LDS Chapel, Main St.
Dec. 26, 2006	No Rehearsal this evening!		
Jan. 21-28, 2007	Int'l Mid-Winter Convention		Albuquerque, NM
Jan. 13, 2007	Chapter Officer Installation Dinner	6PM Social 7PM Dinner	Torreon Club House
Mar. 24, 2007	Chorus Workshop	8:30 AM to 5 PM	Practice Hall Lunch will be provided
April 27-29, 2007	AZ/SN/SU Div. Convention		

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