

Longmont, Colorado's Barbershop Voice



Join Us Mondays at 7PM at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1303 S. Bross Lane

Mid-Winter contest results are in

from the Tucson Area bulletin

The results are in from the Mid-Winter Convention in Tucson, Arizona and the **HD Chorus** took top honors at the International Youth Chorus Festival. With a score of 2,254 (83.5 average), they are the Plateau AAA Champions and received the highest overall score by a margin of 160 points. Congratulations to Director Alex Rubin and all the young men of the HD Chorus. In other Tucson news, **Rusty Pipes** (JAD) is the new International Seniors Quartet Champion. Next year the Mid-Winter Convention will return to

the Sunshine District, so make plans to attend January 8-13 in Orlando.



South Florida's HD Chorus took first in 2012

Longmont bass **Jack Kinney** traveled south for the convention and gave a glowing review of his weekend to the membership when he

returned. He was especially impressed with the quality of the singing of the groups in the youth chorus contest. "They were unbelievable," he said "when you consider that some of them have been chorus members less than a month. The audience gave them a reception they'll remember for the rest of their lives. The plan is working."

Hey, don't forget

April 14 Longmont spring show

April 20-22 RMD/CSD Convention in Omaha

Harlow is surprise guest on NPR

It isn't often you hear a familiar hometown voice on National Public Radio's morning program (unless you are buddies with a politician or a well known entertainer.) But sure enough, there was the sonorous voice of Longmont bass **John Harlow**. John was in Denver meeting with his other chorus, Mile High, and got a chance to comment on how high school and college age men are getting caught up in a cappella singing and barber-shop in particular. (Jan. 18). *Way to go, John!*



"Now that John's hair is turning white, the ladies in the audience can't resist him."

PVP sought

One of the key jobs in chapter management in Longmont needs to be filled. If you like being in the spotlight and have a few ideas that would round out our weekly meetings, talk it over with one of our board members. Thanks.

"It's been semi-fun being your PVP for the last year. The job has its ups and downs, but mostly ups. I wish I could have brought to the chapter more craft sessions. Some contend that it takes away from our singing time, but I think time spent working on how to sing better makes our singing time much more enjoyable."

Gary Creech, 1985 PVP

On the average, we're 70!

by Gil Norris

Thank goodness we're *not* just an average group of singers. But, if we look at our years of birth, we can do some interesting averaging of our ages.

For instance, from our oldest to our youngest singer, there's a stretch of 50 years, from 33 to 83. This comes from looking at the birth years of all those who are there at the meetings nearly every week. We have more 78 year olds than any other age.

What else can you find out? The most common decade for our members to be born in is the 1940s. Runner-up decade is the 1930s, followed by the 1950s.



The most common years to be born in are 1933, 1941, and 1948 (a 3-way tie). *Congratulations to all 12 of you Longs Peak Choristers whose families welcomed you into one of those auspicious years.*

The most popular month for us to be born was August. In case you were wondering what constitutes a middle aged singer here in Longmont, you guessed it ... it is 70 and the median birth year is 1941. Anyone born after that is *just a kid*.

Last question: what is the trend? Well, we're getting older, and if the trend continues *we will be a chorus of eighty-year-olds in the year 2021.*

“Ooooh, Shine on Meeeee”

by Jerry Brumm (photos by Marcia Brumm)

Bill Sachs, bari from Longs Peak Chorus, traveled to Port Salerno, Florida this January to do some fishing with his brothers, Bernie and Johnnie, and to celebrate Johnnie’s birthday. Port Salerno also happens to be the place where I spend the winter months so Bill contacted me to see if I could find a bass to sing in a quartet with him and his brother, Bernie while they were in Florida. My friend, Errol Millman, from the Martin Mariners Chorus in Stuart, Florida answered the call.

My wife Marcia, Errol and I met Bill and Bernie at the Pirate’s Cove Resort to practice singing a few barberpolecats. The quartet found that they could ring chords quite well with Bernie as tenor, me as lead,



Bill as baritone and Errol as bass. After warming up on the dock next to the fishing boat “Sunday,” we went into the restaurant for lunch and sang a number of songs to Johnnie including Sweet and Lovely, Nellie, and Darkness on the Delta. Johnnie was touched and had to wipe his eyes on several occasions. The meal was finished off with a rendition of Happy Birthday and a delicious chocolate cake.

After lunch, Bill and his brethren went to tour the Jupiter Light House where Johnnie had been stationed when he was in the Coast

Guard. When they reached the top of the lighthouse, they told the guide that they had just sung barbershop at Pirate’s Cove. It just happened that the guide was Howie Gordon who is a tenor from the Mariners Chorus who had just sung in a barbershop quartet contest with Errol Millman and me on the previous day. Bill and his brother Bernie immediately impressed Johnnie into service as lead and they sang with in the lighthouse with Howie. The structure resonated from top to bottom with barbershop chords. On the way down the Sachs brothers sang Danny Boy while Howie sang tenor from the top of the lighthouse. When they reached the bottom, they were greeted with a round of applause from the people waiting for the next tour.



Bill claims that if you ever get a chance, you should definitely sing “Oh, Shine on Me” in a lighthouse.



I'm Looking Over a Four Leaf Clover

From the Internet



"I'm Looking Over a Four Leaf Clover" from our Irish show repertoire is a song from 1927, written by Mort Dixon with music by Harry M. Woods. It was a hit for Art Mooney & His Orchestra in 1948 and was largely popularized by him. For many barbershoppers who were alive in the 1940s (most of us), it was a song that most all of us memorized. It was from that time just before Rock and Roll was born, and somehow it was so easy to sing that we all knew it.

In modern times the song is perhaps most associated with Merrie Melodies cartoons, as it appeared in several of them. The Sons of Ben, the official supporters' group of Major League Soccer's Philadelphia Union, have adopted the song as one of their chants, singing at every home match at the 20 minute, ten second mark, symbolic as the founding year of the Union.

But kids of the forties were soon switching over to the parody version. Who doesn't remember....?

I'm Looking Over My Dead Dog Rover

**I'm looking over my dead dog, Rover,
Who I hit with the power mower
One leg is missing, the other is gone,
A third leg is scattered all over the lawn
No need explaining the one remaining
Is spinning on the car port floor
I'm looking over my dead dog, Rover,
Who I over-looked before!**

**I'm looking over my dead dog, Rover,
Who I hit with the power mower
My dog's not eating, he no longer barks;
He hit the propeller and turned into sparks
No need explaining, there's no dog remaining;
He's a part of the lawn you see
I'm looking over my dead dog, Rover,
Who I sent to Eternity!**

Board Meeting

condensed from secretary Keith Watson's minutes

The January 14 board meeting was called to order by president **Jack Gibbs**. Also present were **Mac McWilliams, Mike Hemphill, Jim Hopper, Bob Plass, Paul West, Bruce Grauberger, Dean Farrier, Dave Waddell, Keith Watson** and **Jim Schoemer**.

The secretary's and treasurer's reports were reviewed and accepted.

M/S/C that the treasurer be authorized to make normal expenditures against the budget without specific board approval. Abnormal or extraordinary expenditures would still need board approval.

M/S/C that the following people be authorized to handle chorus funds: ticket chair, valentine chair, program sales chair, raffle operator.

Discussion followed about filing form 990 with the state, and/or informing District Secretary that it is done. Watson was assigned to follow up on this.

Trifold advertising brochure – 200 were printed and are available for distribution.

Grants – Hopper reported that a Community Cultural Event Grant through the city of Longmont has been submitted. The grant is for \$750.

Plass reported on membership: There are 59 members with 6 overdue to re-register, two of which will be renewing for sure.

Average attendance was 31 for the weeks in December when we were caroling. Highest attendance in December was on the 12th with 36 present; the 5th had 34 present. Only 22 were in attendance on December 19. Plass expressed disappointment that there were not more present for the caroling sessions.

In 2011 we gained two members – Glenn Hayhurst and David Kent, but nine dropped their membership – T. Creech, E. Culbertson, J. Hampton, B. Ledden, B. Lunstrum, C. Morris, B. Moran, M. Moore, and B. Westley.

2012 Show – Show chairman Grauberger gave an update that included the following: He has contacted Brandon Coon, the stagecraft teacher at Skyline HS to see if students could design the stage setup for the show. Moffit School of Dance will provide a group of clog dancers for after intermission. It was agreed to pay \$100 for these dancers.

Mike Hemphill reported songs that three quartets have chosen: Less than Perfect has been invited to choose an Irish song rather than what they chose. Four Keeps will sing "Land Where the Shamrock Grows." Classic Knights will sing "Harrigan."

Hemphill has the list of approved songs for the chorus. (It has been sent to chorus members).

M/S/C that we continue last year's ticket prices -- \$13 in advance, \$15 at the door.

Hopper volunteered to be in charge of advertising in the show program; Watson agreed to help.

Guest quartet The Crew asked for \$1,200 and expenses. We have offered \$1,000 inclusive. M/S/C that we offer \$1,000 + \$50 for food at the afterglow. The board agreed that any changes will require board approval.

PVP – The chapter needs a Program Vice President. John Harlow and Gene Melick were suggested. Schoemer will ask.

Singing Valentines: Price will be \$40 for a quartet with two songs, a rose, and a pair of tickets to the spring show. West will ask Ben Long to prepare the poster.

After a short break we convened for the planning session. for 2012. We set some goals, namely:

Get more new members. Get our membership to 65 by 12/31/12.

Have a balanced budget. Request a small ad hoc committee to work on the budget that we will operate within.

An increased number of paid performances – goal is a total of at least five this year.

Create a culture of more fun singing in free times at chapter meetings (before, during break, and after.)

Improve chorus contest performance. Goal is to win Plateau II and come in at least second in district.

Growth and retention – Plass outlined the Harold Hill program, and there was a consensus that we wanted to adopt the program, and implement it more fully after the spring show.

M/S/C that we authorize Plass to order a supply of \$.99 “I SING” buttons.

Communication – discussion can be summarized as “tell ‘em, tell ‘em, tell ‘em again.” Need to use all forms of communication.

CARA -- Watson described the Chapter Activities Recognition Award program of the district. The main thing we need to do is a thorough reporting of each month’s chapter activities – rehearsals, sing-outs, quartet performances, social events, community service, attendance at Harmony College, District and International Convention. These are all things that we are already doing, but we need to get them reported monthly. Watson will prepare and send the monthly reports, but will need input from quartets and chorus members about activities each month.

Adopt-A-Road – M/S/C that we drop this activity.

Job Responsibility Redundancy – Gibbs provided an information sheet on the way that we can keep and share information. Using this online system

will store information in one central place.

Calendar/Schedule for the year was reviewed:

Feb 3-5 -- RMD Harmony College in Estes Park
Feb 13-14 – Singing Valentines
April 14 -- Spring Show
Apr 20-22 – RMD Joint Spring Convention in Omaha
May-June – possible paid performances
July 4-8 International Contest/Convention in Portland
July 28 (?) – Chautauqua
August 18 – Chapter picnic
Sept 8 – Retreat in Estes Park
Sept 28-29 – Rocky Mountain District Contest and Convention in Albuquerque, NM
October – possible paid performance
Nov 10 (?) -- Officer Training School
Dec 14-15 -- Christmas concerts
Dec 24 -- No meeting

Waddell indicated that after Harmony College he will continue the pre-rehearsal Barberpolecat learning sessions.

A suggestion was made to consider cutting back the rehearsal schedule for Christmas music in order to have more time for other learning such as contest or show numbers.

The meeting was then adjourned.

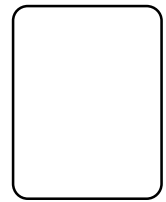
Biffle to head COOTE Committee

by Jim Schoemer

Johnny Biffle is the first volunteer of 2012. Knowing how important the mid-rehearsal break is for the Longmont choristers, he will take over the job of coordinating the **COOTE (Cookie Officer of the Evening)** duties. He takes over for Dick Kitchener who is enjoying a warmer climate for awhile. *Make Johnny look good* by bringing in even more delectable refreshments when he contacts you.



high notes
c/o Gil Norris
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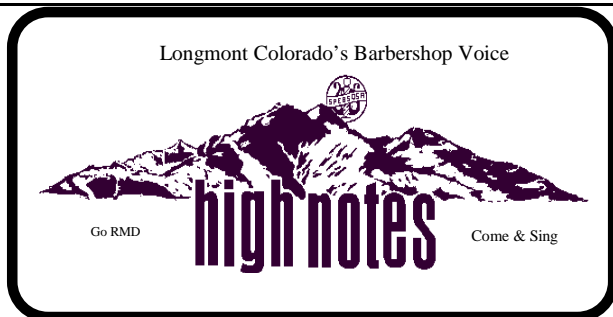


**It's Great to be a
Longmont Barbershopper**

Please deliver to:



Our mission: "We provide each member with enjoyable experiences through continuous improvement in our singing, performing, and entertaining in the barbershop style."



The High Notes is published monthly for the enjoyment of Longmont's barbershoppers and its content may be shared by fellow Barbershop Harmony Society (used to be SPEBSQSA) members. Please send your comments, material for inclusion and other chapter bulletins to the editor:

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