

BARBERSHOP POINTERS

Stevens Point, Wisconsin chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society, Inc.

Meeting every Monday 7:30 P.M.
Harmony House – 3500 Harmony Lane
P.O. Box 482 – 715-344-9052

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Packerland Division – Land O Lakes District

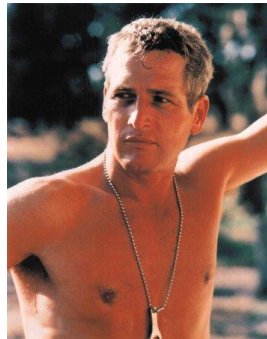


Music Team Report

By Nate Peplinski
Music VP

As we head into the now behind us, our successes as well as the chapter to new

We've had a great run wonderful coaching and now retiring, but many from our hobby. This is team and entire board and stack our successes social experience at the cannot forget about this in our planning and must utilize our resources for the chapter to prosper.



New Year, with significant accomplishments music team is looking to build off our bring in some new ideas to further propel heights.

at contests, and taken advantage of a strong and progressive director who is members feel that something is missing going to be a primary goal of the music this year: expand the scope of what we do in many areas. Our chapter has a unique clubhouse and over 50 years of history. We

There are several key areas in barbershopping. Contest is one venue in which to perform, and at a very high level. The show is our primary fundraiser for the year. Local sing-outs are another good way to earn funds and also extend ourselves into the community. Perpetuating quartetting will help the individuals become better singers and stronger leaders, and this can be very beneficial to the chapter as a whole. Of course, what would this list be without the camaraderie and outright fun of the afterglow—singing tags and old sings while enjoying some popcorn and refreshments with your friends?

All of these are very important to chapter function, and our music team is dedicated to bringing a more social atmosphere to the chapter musical program without sacrificing the integrity of our musical performing.

Of course to accomplish this there is a need for commitment from the members. And the music team is taking it upon itself to not force this commitment unto the members but rather create an atmosphere that motivates the members to be full participants. Here are some ideas the team is discussing how to get done this year:

1. **Establishing a revolving repertoire,** giving members more songs that are more singable. If the members can have the time to be more familiar with the songs, they then can focus more on the advanced singing techniques we have learned and will continue to learn, thus leading to a more polished and enjoyable performance for both the audience and the chorus. Also, singable, likeable, familiar songs will translate well to the downstairs afterglowing to which so many in our chapter are endeared.
2. **Making a conscious effort to do more local sing-outs:** Performing can be a great advertising, recruiting, and training tool. Local sing-outs are also very enjoyable for many and bring in extra money for chapter operations.
3. **Bringing Back the Old Songs:** There are definitely some great old songs out there, and definitely also some that are unique to our chapter's history. Many new members have never even heard of some of these songs, and it will be a good experience for everyone to refresh or introduce classic barbershop songs that may not be relevant to a show theme or even to a general audience, but are simply darn fun to sing

and are good songs that represent the roots of the chapter and society.

The idea is to teach one song per month. We will take 15-20 min. per rehearsal to go over the song, or refresh songs done previously. After four weeks, we'll move on to the next one. This should help to propagate quartetting downstairs on more than just, "Shine On Me" and "My Wild Irish Rose." If you can't learn the song well enough to quartet in just four weeks, then it'll give you something different to study at home! There truly is nothing quite like ringing the chords of "Rose of Tralee" in an intimate foursome.

Here is a list of the songs we will be teaching, and in this order:

1. In My Room
2. Rose of Tralee
3. Whiffenpoof
4. Coney Island Baby/We All Fall
5. Dream a Little Dream of Me
6. Sunshine of Your Smile
7. Wait Til the Sun Shines, Nellie (Carman's arrangement)
8. Makin' Whoopee
9. Bye, Bye Love
10. Little 'Lize (with the patter)
11. Down by the Old Millstream
12. I Really Don't Want to Know

Music for this list will be handed out by the chapter—remember, even if you have the music, it might be a different arrangement!

4. **Tag-a-week ear - training:** Ear-training is one of the most important and underappreciated

methods of improving barbershop singers. Tag singing is a simple and fun tool to help develop a singer's ear for harmonies and tuning.

I will be teaching a very short tag each week, in less than 5 minutes of rehearsal time. The tag will be short enough and simple enough that the chorus can effectively learn it well and it also has to be simple enough for me to memorize all four parts! Ha. This will give members another vehicle for honing their singing and quartet singing skills also. A hard copy will be supplied the *following* week, for those who wish to learn the tag and pass it on, but not on the week I teach it because the point is *ear-training!*

5. **Physical Preparedness:** Many of you might not know that one of our members is a retired physical trainer. Charlie Crandall is a member whose expertise we will look to utilize to maximize the performance and rehearsal efficiency, from a physical standpoint. With so many of our members aging, the bodies need to be manipulated properly to get effective and controlled singing and minimal tiredness and fatigue. We will be applying Charlie's expertise to our rehearsals, our approach to show and contest, and also including tidbits in the newsletter from time to time.

**Newsletter
Crafts and
Clinics:** Some

men learn things differently than others. While it may be pertinent to say that all of us have to learn a certain amount at rehearsal, others will need to study at home or can learn much more efficaciously from printed text. Also, a reminder and a documentation of singing techniques is never a bad

idea outside of the choral rehearsal setting.

Corey Madson is a music major at Concordia University and has access to professional coaching and resources. There are others in the chapter with similar contacts as well. We will be able to utilize these members and their resources to help contribute to the learning and musical progress of the chorus as a whole and of each member.

The music team is also very interested in what the members have to say, so if you guys have any suggestions or questions about anything, feel free to contact me or anyone on the team.



Turning Point

Singing Valentines

*Submitted by
Jack Edgerton*

Valentines Day, February 14, is fast approaching. This has been a good "money maker" for us as well as some much needed exposure in the community. This activity isn't just for those quartets who do the singing presentations. The entire chapter reaps the benefits.

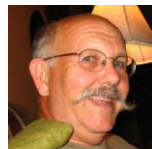
We already have 4 quartets to sing. Anyone else interested? We'll need a fifth man for each of these groups ... I've already heard from George Pesenka and Dan Schobert. Please let me know of your interest ... we need you.

Everyone needs to be involved in the advertising of this event! John White has posters. We can all do something by "word of mouth" as well as by distributing posters.

"Whata ya say?" Let's have our best year ever!!



2007 Barbershopper of the Year



Norm Barnard

"For he's a jolly good fellow, for he's a jolly good fellow, for he's a jolly good fellow, that nobody can deny." Congratulations to Norm Bar(nard)bershopper of the year 2007.

Norm was a driving force during this past Barbershop year. He not only strongly supported our dual membership with the West Allis Chorus, he never missed a rehearsal. He organized the Pampered Chef fundraising campaign which added substantially to the chorus uniform fund. He helped the chorus refine its stage presence. He revived the Barbershop Pointers Newsletter. He performed many times with his quartet, Regal Blend, both in the show and at private venues in the area. Norm is a great example to us all on how to be a fine singer, a

solid chorus member and a great all-around good barbershopper.

Keep up the good work Norm! Thanks for your contributions toward helping us finish as AA Champs and Most Improved Chorus at the district convention. Thank you, Norm, for helping us all to become better performers.

Bill Goerman



2006 Barbershopper of the Year

UNIFORM COMMITTEE SEEKS INPUT

By Jim Kruziki

Are you satisfied with the present chapter uniforms? Do you feel a new look is needed? Should the chapter upgrade our present formal tux attire? Are the red coats appealing as performance wear? Do we need a better informal uniform appearance? Are you willing to help pay some of the cost associated with a uniform upgrade? These are some of the questions I have for singing members and would greatly appreciate your input.

Here's a little history of our current uniforms. The red jackets were originally adopted in the early '80's with grey trousers; the original neckties were replaced with similar striped ties; the trousers were updated to the current black slacks. It currently costs the chapter about \$160 to order a new jacket and slacks; a few ties remain in stock. Our black tuxes were adopted in 1993 and were purchased used from Nedrebro's formal wear and included the used red cummerbunds, bowties, shoes, and new tux shirts at a cost of \$250 per set. Throughout the years, several supplements were added to this outfit: Kelley-green cummerbunds and neckties; blue cummerbunds & ties; and the currently in-use bronze vests and ties. In 1999 we purchased colored shirts worn for several years. Our casual knit shirts with the Northern Gateway logo were purchased in 1999. So do you think it's time for an upgrade? Many alternatives exist,

and our hope is to formulate a plan so that we may maintain an attractive performance uniform, perhaps refresh our informal look, and maybe consider a change in our casual attire. Any change we make will take a major financial commitment from the chapter and individual membership. The Board enacted a local dues increase of \$10 at its January planning meeting. This will bring our local dues amount up to \$20 per member, of which \$15 will be designated for the uniform fund. Formation of a uniform plan is in process, and will be submitted to the Music committee this spring. The timeline I suggested would possibly implement new attire by the fall show and contest; however some serious planning, ideas, and consensus needs to take place before this can happen. Before offering suggestions to the uniform committee, please review your past issues of the Harmonizer for tangible ideas. You may have some specific thoughts if you consider what choruses and quartets wore at past contests. Let's put our heads together to come up with a uniform which will continue the Northern Gateway Chorus appearance as an attractive and well-defined singing group. Please offer your suggestions to me by mid-February so progress may get started. I would appreciate your ideas in writing, or by email to jimkruz@charter.net Pictures are worth a thousand words.

Copyright For Barbershoppers

As performers, we build on other artists' work. We ought to make sure they are getting paid their fair share for their artistry. That's what copyright is all about. Copyright law is a deep and wide subject, and I am not a lawyer. But I did read a book on copyright, and studied several web pages of information, and can pass along what I found. Think of this as a book report, not as legal advice.

The book was by Jay Althouse, titled "Copyright: The Complete Guide for Music Educators." You can get it from the Barbershop Harmony Society. It's well written and easy to follow.

The main web site of interest is from the Harry Fox Agency:

<http://www.harryfox.com>. More on them later.

Althouse's basic rule of thumb is this: if what you are doing deprives the artist of the sale of a CD or of a copy of sheet music, then it is probably not legal. Otherwise you are okay. This is the basis of the Fair Use legal doctrine, where you get to use the CD you purchased or the sheet music you bought, without paying additional royalties to the artist.

Let's look at a few examples.

Let's say you just bought Regal Blend's latest CD. Can you rip MP3 files from that CD onto your computer and play the music for yourself? Yes, you can. You bought the CD, so you aren't depriving the artist of a sale. Copying it to a tape or MP3 for your own personal use is a "fair use" of the original CD.

However, I bet you could find lawyers to argue both sides of that question.

Let's say now that you loved Regal Blend's arrangement of "Santa Cruz in the Sunset" and bought a copy of the sheet music from the arranger so you could sing it with your quartet.

Oops. You should have bought four copies of the sheet music. If you photocopy the sheet music for your quartet you are depriving the arranger or the sheet music publisher of their fair share. Arrangers and publishers will sometimes permit photocopying a certain number of copies when you buy their sheet music, or they might ask for payment after the fact. You need to find out and make sure.

Okay, now you have four copies of the sheet music, all paid for. Can you sing the song yet? Yes, of course you can. That is expected, and I would call it "fair use" of the sheet music.

Can you record your quartet singing this song? That depends.

If you are recording it for your own practice, then yes. Nobody else will hear it, and therefore the artist doesn't lose out on a sale.

It is also okay for you to make your own personal recordings of a

teaching quartet singing a song that the chapter has paid for. Nobody is losing out on a sheet music sale.

What about when your quartet performs in public? Well, if you're getting paid for your performance there should be a share going back to the original artist. And that's what ASCAP, BMI, and other similar organizations handle. If the sponsor of the event is charging admission, they are responsible for these fees. Our chorus pays ASCAP license fees for our annual shows. The individual quartets on our shows don't have to pay.

Can the audience make recordings of our show? No. Since the audience members don't own the CD or the sheet music, this would deprive the composer or arranger of a sale. You may have seen notices to that effect at our Division and District contests.

Can your quartet make recordings of your songs with an eye to selling them?

Well, yes, but this topic gets deep pretty quickly. Let's look at a few possibilities.

If the question is, are you allowed to make recordings of other people's songs, well of course you can. This happens all the time. George Strait's last twenty hits were written by other people. He paid for the rights to sing and publish his own versions. Like George, you just need to pay royalties to the song owners for the use of their songs. The Harry Fox Agency is a large company that coordinates collection and distribution of royalties to the appropriate artists.

The statutory cost is 9.1 cents per song per CD, for songs up to five minutes long. You can go through Harry Fox to license from 25 copies to 2500 copies. They charge \$15 processing fee for each song for the first five songs, and \$13 per song after that. You can take care of the payment easily over the Internet.

How's that add up? If you wanted to publish 250 CDs containing a single song, you would need to send Harry Fox Agency \$37.75. To publish 250 CDs containing ten songs, you would send Harry Fox Agency \$367.50.

You might be able to license fewer than 25 copies of a song, or pay less than \$15 per song, if you skipped Harry Fox and went directly to the song publishers. This could take a while, but it might be worth it.

By the way, this is called a "mechanical licensing" fee. It goes back to the days when player piano roll publishers were making millions while the original composers and artists were getting nothing.

I hear you thinking: "Oh, but we're not going to sell our CD. We're just going to give it away. That means we don't have to pay royalties, right?"

Sorry. There is no difference between making a recording of someone's song for sale and making a recording to give away. If you're making a recording for someone else, that deprives the artist of a sale and you will need to pay royalties.

Word on the street is that Harry Fox has lots of high powered New York lawyers. If you're publishing a CD just give them what they ask for. It's easy enough to do, and then you're all legal.

Copyright violations are a federal crime, with fines from \$500 to \$20000 per infringement. That means you could be liable for up to \$20000 for each page of photocopied sheet music.

If the song you are working with was copyrighted before 1923, it is in the public domain and you don't have to pay mechanical licensing fees to record it. You do have to buy copies of the sheet music if you are using a published arrangement.

As I said before, this is not legal advice. Heck, I don't even play a lawyer on TV. I just read a good book and took a good look at some web sites. If you have any questions about copyright situations, let me know and I'll try to take a stab at them.



Submitted by Joe Larson



Director Search Update

Jack Edgerton *Chairman*

Thank you to all who made the effort to return their chapter survey. There is a lot of good information in them. This will have a bearing on the selection of the new director. Also, that person will want to know "who we are" and "what we want".

Your Director Search committee is making good progress toward our goal. We would like to have a new director in place by early March. To date, we have received a total of five applications. All of these appear to be good candidates. The cutoff for applications is January 31. Formal interviews will begin in early February.

In the interim, we would like to thank Pat Rydberg and John Lay for their direction. They are doing a great job. They deserve our cooperation and our best efforts.

Northern Gateway Chapter Officers 2008

President

David Quick

Music VP

Nate Peplinski

Chapter

Development/Membership

Jack Edgerton

Program VP

Joe Larson

Marketing and PR

John White

House VP

Boleslaw Kochanowski

Secretary

George Pesenka

Treasurer

Bill Jenkins

At Large

*Pat Rydberg
David Peplinski*

Dual Memberships with West Allis

Jack Edgerton Membership VP

The agreement between the Stevens Point and West Allis chapters concerning dual memberships was made as a "one-time" venture. That agreement has technically ended. The Stevens Point Board of Directors voted to confirm this at our Board meeting on January 5, 2008.

What does this mean to each of us individually? The answer is really quite simple. If you are NOT a dual member with West Allis but would like to do so, please contact West Allis Secretary, Jack Thorpe. Jack's number is (262) 782-5726. If you are currently a dual member and would like to continue this relationship, I'm sure that Jack Thorpe would like to know this as well.

However, if you are currently a dual member and wish to discontinue this relationship, you will need to do the following:

Call the Society Headquarters in Nashville. The number is 1-800-876-7464 (SING). Ask for the Membership Department. Tell them that you no longer wish to be dual with West Allis ... you will need your member number (found on your membership card) to do this. **You need to do this ASAP.**

For those of you who have paid the West Allis chapter dues of \$41, here is what you may expect. Renewals of 6/30 have already received their \$41 refund. Renewals of 9/30 will be receiving their \$41 fairly soon. Renewals of 12/31 will receive their \$41 sometime in the future. Renewals of 3/31 have not yet paid their \$41. **You need to contact Nashville RIGHT AWAY!** Otherwise, the \$41 will be added to your renewal billing which will be coming out in another couple of weeks.

Simple ... Right? If not, or if you have other questions, just ask me. If I don't have your answer, I'll get it for you ASAP.

Community Service

Continuing a long standing tradition, the Northern Gateway Chorus provides Christmas entertainment for many nursing homes, assisted living facilities and hospitals during the month of December.

Our list is so long that on several occasions the chorus had to be split into two groups just to get it all done. Here are the facilities to which we had the opportunity of presenting holiday entertainment.

In Waupaca, the King Veterans Home, the Crystal River Nursing Home, Bethany Home and the Angelus Home.

In Stevens Point, St. Mikes Hospital, Convent, Portage County Home, Edgewater Manor, Hi Rise Apartments, Oak Ridge Apartments, Whispering Pines, Maple Ridge and the Stevens Point Care Center.

It is always a pleasure to serve our communities in this fashion and to see the joy it can bring to many faces at that special time of year.



Chapter Mission Statement

The Stevens Point Chapter shall dedicate itself to striving for performance excellence, by continually improving the vocal and visual quality of its musical presentations.

The chapter shall strive to attract the kind of new members who will contribute their energy, talent, and a strong desire for excellence.

The chapter leadership, reflecting the interests of the membership, shall commit itself to maintaining an effective organization that ensures opportunities for improved singing, for quartet participation, and for promoting the Barbershop music style.

CHAPTER VISION

To continue to be a highly respected male choral organization, dedicated to:

- Maintaining the Barbershop tradition
- Pursuing vocal improvement
- Seeking opportunities for community involvement
- Recruiting new members, and retaining current members
- Promoting personal development
- Entertaining our audiences
- Preserving the joy of Barbershop singing



You and your family and friends are invited to a Pampered Chef cooking show fundraiser for the Northern Gateway Chorus!!!

Date: Saturday, February 9, 2008

Time: 11:00 AM until 2:00 PM

Where: Harmony House in Stevens Point

Cost: \$5.00 per person (to cover cost of food, anything left over will go to the chorus)

Please RSVP by Friday, February 8, 2008 to Norm Barnard at 608-547-4787 or normnnet@verizon.net



Up to 30% of product sales will go to the chorus!!!!

Raffle prizes!!!!

Learn several new and easy recipes!!!

A fun time to eat and visit with fellow barbershoppers and friends!!!

Bring a friend receive a free gift!!!!

If you are unable to attend please go to

<https://www.pamperedchef.biz/amandabell> and order products on-line.

Click on **Order Products** at bottom left corner of website.

Organization: **Northern Gateway Chorus**/Host information: **Norm Barnard**

For more information please contact your Pampered Chef consultant
Amanda Bell at 608-572-0731.



PLAN FOR FUTURE EVENTS

February 9 – See the previous page.

Feb 14 (Thur) Valentine's Day

**May 2-4 (Fri-Sun) L'OL Spring International
Pre-lims - La Crosse**

**May 17 (Sat) Packerland Div. 1 - Contest -
Appleton**

**Jul 2- 8(Wed-Tue) International Convention -
Nashville, TN**

**Jul 4th (Fri) Riverfront Renezvous (be sure to
sign up for pizza sales)**

**Oct 4th (Sat) Harvest of Harmony - Stevens
Point**

**Oct 24-26(Fri-Sun) L'OL Fall Contest -
Appleton, WI**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

