

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

Packerland Division – Land O Lakes District

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LOL Harmony Brigade Experience



David Speidel is a Harmony Brigade enthusiast, and decided to bring the experience to the Land O Lakes District. The first time out was a scaled-down version of the full Brigade. Maybe just a Platoon. Whatever, it worked to get the initial kinks worked out and to get a few of us introduced to the idea. We also got to participate in some fine quartetting.

The Harmony Brigade is run in a few states across the country, most recently in North Carolina. People came from twenty-five different states to participate. They need at least eighty-five singers, but this year there were nearly twice that. There certainly is a demand for this kind of thing.

To get into the Harmony Brigade, you must be recommended by a current member. He will certify that you are a good quartet singer, and you send in your \$85 to register. This all happens about six months ahead of time. The Brigade folks then send you a book of ten or eleven songs to learn, along with learning CDs. You are expected to learn your part solid and off paper, for all ten songs, and come ready to sing with three other guys on the other parts. They will audition you at the start, and make you sing your part alone, to see if you know it. No slackers, no leaners here. The full Brigade lasts for a weekend, with lots of random quartets singing the songs. The weekend culminates in a large quartet contest. Quartets are matched up by drawing names from four buckets, and the song they will sing is also randomly assigned. Then you and your new quartet are shoved directly onto the stage to perform. May the best quartet win!

No wonder their motto is Extreme Quartetting.

The LOL Brigade was held as part of the recent Leadership Academy (formerly COTS) in Menomonie. All four of us from Regal Blend participated, and we all had a fun and educational time. There were only four songs to learn for this scaled-back "Harmony Platoon," because we only had about a month to learn them.

Friday evening we met and sang through all four songs as a group. There were about thirty men in the group, led by David Speidel and Gary Jacobsen. Then we were matched up in random quartets and sent off to sing the songs and see how it went.

My first random quartet was quite good. We all knew the songs pretty well, and we had some awfully nice sounds going. The Bass was from the Commodores, but had never sung in a quartet before. He came to get some quartetting experience, and boy he sure did. Smiles all around.

My second random quartet wasn't quite as good. A couple of the guys didn't know all the songs, so we had to spend some time working on the parts.

I could tell that the full Brigade would have been quite an awesome experience, since everyone there would know their parts, and probably know them well.

Friday evening we were assigned into random octets and assigned a random song out of the hat to perform for the rest of the group. Of course, our octet picked my least favorite song, but the other Lead and I managed to cover each other's weak spots and our group came out in fine shape.

Saturday morning we met to warm up and sing through the four songs as a group again. We set up some stage placements and planned for the Saturday night performance as a group. Then we were assigned into random quartets again and sent off to pick a song to sing for the quartet contest at noon.

Ron Moe and I managed to get assigned together, and we decided to go for our strength: we sang "Puttin' On The Ritz," a Bass solo that Ron had down pretty well.

The other songs in our packet were "Steppin' Out With My Baby," "Wrap Your Troubles In Dreams," and "My Honey's Loving Arms." Some of these songs are common to all the other Harmony Brigades around the country.

The quartet contest was judged by Doug Miller and Judd Orff, who were kind enough to volunteer their time. Being certified judges, they also made some good comments on our performances.

Andy and Norm managed to get into a different quartet together, along

with Larry and Paul Kamo, a father and son from Thunder Bay, Ontario. We hung out with them later and found them to be fun, intelligent, and interesting guys. Paul couldn't seem to stop needling Norm, and Norm never let up on Paul.

We found time to get Regal Blend together to see how the Brigade songs went. We found that we had managed to make a good start on all four songs, without practicing them together at all.

But anyway: we had a great time singing in different quartets throughout the Harmony Brigade experience at LOL. There are plans in the works to do this again next year. Maybe not a full Brigade yet, but expanded perhaps to eight songs. Registration will start in the summer, so that we have a fighting chance to learn our parts.

I wasn't so sure how it would work out, but I would definitely do this again. I highly recommend it to anyone who can hold his own in a quartet, or who wants to try singing in a quartet. The songs are good, the arrangements are top notch, and the camaraderie is real.

*Submitted by
Joe Larson*



Northern Gateway Song List

From Director Morrissey



Gentlemen, it's time to update all of your music folders and remember to thank Jim Kruziki for getting those folders as far along as they are at this point.

Our Director, Kevin, has supplied us with a list of songs that should appear in your current folder and the list should be fairly self explanatory.

Please attend to this as soon as possible and if you have trouble finding a copy, start by looking at home. Then ask Nate or Jim or Kevin where a copy might be found.

Here's the list:

New Literature

Annie's Song
Riders in the Sky
Sioux City Sue
West of the Great Divide
Yona From Arizona
Cowboy Medley

Current Literature (Show/Contest)

Trolley Song
California Here I Come
Melancholy Baby
Tumbling Tumbleweeds

Continued Literature

After You've Gone
Swingin' on a Star
Star-Spangled Banner
As Time Goes By
I'll Fly Away
Sweet Hour of Prayer
Hello Mary Lou

Bye, Bye, Love
In My Room
Irish Lullabye
Over the Rainbow
Hushabye Mountain

Pole Cats

My Wild Irish Rose
Heart of My Heart
Sweet and Lovely
Down our Way
Honey—Little "Lize Medley
Let Me Call You
Sweetheart
Down Mobile
Down By the Old Mill
Stream

In anticipation of a future joint performance with the Appleton Fox Valleyaires, consider these. Music may be forthcoming.

Appleton Chorus

Jingle, Jangle, Jingle
Deep in the Heart of Texas
Cool Water
Wahoo
Ragtime Cowboy Joy
Happy Trails
If the Lord be Willin"

Additionally, these are the songs that may be common:

After You've Gone
(Society, Don Gray arrangement)
Star Spangled Banner
Sweet Hour of Prayer - will be learning. Jim Clancy arrangement
Hello Mary Lou
Sweet and Lovely or any of the pole cats.

THE BASIC ELEMENTS OF SUCCESS

In a previous article, we discussed the definition of success. We found out that success means different things to

different people. If you are a football player, there are certain expectations of you to make the team. If you are a business person, there are certain criteria that need to be met to remain in business and then to make the business grow. Likewise, in nearly every field of endeavor, there are levels that need to be achieved to be ranked as successful or not.

William James, the nineteenth century philosopher said: "The deepest principle in human nature is the craving to be appreciated." This is perhaps the real reason that people place so much value on achievement in their chosen field. Recognition and appreciation are certainly strong motivators for most people and play a significant role, but the real motivator is loving what you do, and wanting to be the very best you can be.

There are a great many of us that want to enjoy the benefits of success without expending the effort it takes to make it happen. We think that somehow we are entitled to success simply because we are good people, or we come from the right family, or sometimes, just because we are us. Unfortunately, that is very unlikely to happen and if it does, it is going to be short lived because if you didn't have to work to get there, you won't work to keep it, either.

If you study why some people are successful and others not, the ones that are successful almost always share a few common traits.

The first and most important quality of successful people is that they believe they can succeed. Dolly Parton, arguably one of the most successful entertainers and business women in show business today, stated in a recent interview "...there wasn't ever a time I thought I wasn't going to make it." This, from a woman who was one of seven children and who grew up in the Appalachian Mountains with the absolute minimum of advantages. Attitude is the key. Napoleon Hill and W. Clement Stone in their book, Success through a Positive Mental Attitude, state "What the mind of man can conceive and believe, the mind can achieve." And, of course, one of my favorites, Henry Ford, said, "If you think you can or if you think you can't, either way you are probably right."

The next, absolutely essential criteria for success is.., oh no!.., WORK. Rick Pitino, former basketball coach of the National Champion Kentucky Blue Devils, and now the head basketball coach of the University of Louisville says, "Hard work is the basic building block of every kind of achievement." There is absolutely no substitute for hard work. Peter Vidmar, a gold medal winner in the Olympic

Games had this to say about what it takes to be a winner. "There are only two things I had to do to win Olympic gold: Train when I wanted to, and train when I didn't."

The fact of the matter is that success has to be earned. No amount of wishing or hoping will do the trick. Vince Lombardi said, "The dictionary is the only place where success comes before work." The Green Bay Packers under Lombardi in the 1960's were proof of the concept, and that effort created a legacy that prevails some 40 years later.

But there are other things unique to successful people. Successful people are enthusiastic people. They are excited about what they are doing. These are the people who see the glass as half full rather than half empty. They see opportunity for success where others see the probability of failure. They believe that you don't have to get it right every time, you just have to start. They don't wait for all the conditions to be just right, they just get moving. Ben Franklin once said, "All mankind is divided into three classes: Those that are immovable, those that are movable, and those that move." Someone once said, "Everyone who got where they are, had to begin where they were." You have to get going.

Another trait of successful people is that they are persistent. Thomas Edison once said, "Many of life's failures are people who

did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up." Certainly, a man who tried hundreds of different approaches to make the incandescent light bulb all of which were failures, until the last one, is certainly acquainted with persistence. Another example of persistence is that of Col. Harlan Sanders, the founder of Kentucky Fried Chicken. Col. Sanders lived out of his car for nearly a year and approached over 1000 different restaurant owners before he was able to sell his brand of fried chicken with its secret blend of 11 herbs and spices. Persistence pays off.

There are times when no matter what we do, things don't seem to work out the way we think they should. In these situations it is often difficult to not blame someone else or some outside circumstances for the problems that we have. More times than not, if we are really honest, we find that it's probably something that we did or didn't do ourselves that lead to our disappointment. The blame game seldom gets us anywhere. The important thing is to re-access our situation and try again. A good plan, belief in yourself, the willingness to work hard, being enthusiastic about what you are doing and sticking with it, will bring the results you are expecting.

So you see, you can be a success. To quote Rick Pitino once again, "Success is not a lucky break. It's not a divine right. It's not an accident of birth. Success is a choice."

Submitted by
Marshall Lysne



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.



Northern Gateway Chapter Officers 2010

President

Marshall Lysne

Secretary

George Pesanka

Treasurer

Bill Jenkins

VP Membership

Nate Peplinski

VP Program

Boleslaw Kochanowski

VP Music

David Peplinski

VP House

Gene Moss

VP Marketing & PR

Jack Edgerton

At Large

*Norm Barnard
Bob Prosch*

Past President

Pete Leahy

Director

Kevin Morrissey

Leadership Thoughts

Slightly over a year ago last fall, I was approached by the nominating committee of our chapter and asked if I would be interested in running for President of the chapter. My first reaction was surprise and a sense of humbleness followed quickly by apprehension and concern. I had not served as an officer or even a committee member of this chapter since the first or second year I was a member.

After recovering somewhat from the shock of being asked and then conferring with some of the current and past officers I turned down the nomination opting to become a member of the board at large.

It wasn't that I was unaccustomed to leadership roles as I have had several leadership experiences in the past, but I was not ready to be in a leadership position of this organization without some background experience as to what, how and who made this chapter tick. As it turned out, the year on the Board of Directors, participation in the Leadership Academy and the tutelage of our then president Peter Leahy has been a significant help in 'getting the feel' of the chapter operation.

When you sit in the chairs at chorus practice you are generally aware of the situation at hand. You arrived at practice, the lights were on, the heat or air conditioning were on and functioning, the music was in the folders and someone was there to get the practice started on time. There was a plan for the evening, not only with the songs we were to practice but what was to occur with the 'program' (which may or may not have been a part of the 'business' meeting). There may or may not have been sectional rehearsals and there may or may not have been choreographic exercises or other special practice or instruction. These things just did not happen

by themselves. Every activity that occurs on any given night is all planned by someone. So it is with the every other activity that the chorus does, from contest to Valentines, someone is in charge and sees to it that those activities get done.

Back in the recesses of my mind I knew that these things had to be happening but I never really gave it much thought. Now, of course, things are a lot more clear and I am very appreciative of the efforts of the chapter members who have agreed to take on all the behind the scene jobs so the rest of us can enjoy and evening of singing. The reason I am telling you this is so that you will give some thought to helping your elected representatives to do the job to which they have been called. So here is how you can be of help.

First, please be on time, no actually, early, for practice. Practice starts at 7:30 PM. Not 7:35 or 7:40; but 7:30! In my mind there is really no excuse for being late except for work or an emergency. This rest is a matter of habit. You may have to eat supper ten minutes early, or you may have to skip five minutes of the 6:00 PM news or adjust any number of other things that will allow you to be to practice on time. Second, be attentive while practice is going on. There is a time for fellowship and good times; the middle of practice is not one of those times. You can come early and talk, or

stay after and join the group in the recreation room down stairs or just sit up stairs and enjoy each others company. If we do just those two things, our practice will be much more efficient and we will be able to accomplish what needs to be done without having to run late because of the constant repeats that have to be done if we are not paying attention or if we disrupt practice by coming in late.

The Northern Gateway Chorus is a fraternal organization of men who come together to exercise their love of singing. In a sense it is a hobby. But it is more than something one pursues strictly for amusement. There is included in this activity an element that is intrinsic to every human endeavor and that is the desire to improve. But improvement doesn't just happen, improvement happens because of effort that is expended to allow it to occur.

I am aware that there are really two competing opinions as to what a chapter meeting means to different members. To some it is simply a social gathering where members come to commiserate with friends and sing a few songs to while away a pleasant evening. To others, it is a time to work hard and polish our skills so as to impress the judges at contest and increase our ranking and prestige in our division and district. In my mind, there has to be a melding of the two purposes, so that not only do we have

a good time but also sharpen our skills through increased awareness and practice of good vocal technique, thereby singing with a certain amount of respectable finesse.

To be sure this is a tightrope walk that is rife with pitfalls. But in my heart, I believe that everybody wants to do well. Not just well but really well. When we were children and someone asked us what we wanted to be when we grew up, did anyone actually say, they wanted to be average! "Oh..., I want to be an average fireman." Or "I want to be an average accountant or doctor or husband." It is true that through limitations of time, talent, effort, circumstance or any number of life's other twists we may have actually ended up being average, but I am pretty sure that was not our initial intent. So why should it be now? Why settle for the best of the worst and the worst of the best, when we could be so much more? Does wanting to be good at something actually mean we can no longer have fun?

Sometimes that is true, but the fun part comes in the joy of learning to do something you never thought yourself capable of doing, and doing it well. That is the joy of accomplishment. This accomplishment does not necessarily have to be affirmed by a certain panel of judges at a contest, although that is often quite enlightening

enlightening as well as frustrating, but it can also be affirmed by the applause of an appreciative audience or simply by the satisfaction in knowing that one has performed to the best of his ability.

I believe that Kevin, our musical director, and all the members of the Board of Directors are intent on meeting the needs of all members. We hope that the selection of songs chosen, the organization and variety of activities during our rehearsal time and the opportunity to enhance our singing skills as well as have an opportunity for socialization will help bind us together into one cohesive collective of enthusiastic Barbershop Singers.

It is my desire that you will find 2010 to be a year of progress, fun and accomplishment in the life of the Northern Gateway Chorus. Let's enjoy making beautiful music together.

Marshall Lysne

President
Northern Gateway Chorus

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 6 John Hofmann
January 11 Mary Peplinski
January 13 Debbie Labandz
January 19 Charles Long
January 19 Dale Thompson
January 20 Marshall Lysne
January 30 David Quick

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

January 29 Ed and Marilyn
Christopherson
January 30 Dan and Mildred
Schobert

2009 END OF YEAR FINANCIAL UPDATE



Submitted by
Bill Jenkins
Treasurer

The year 2009 was a good year financially for our chapter. Although revenues overall were down, our expenses also decreased. At the end of the year, we showed a net surplus of \$6074, primarily due to our hosting the Packerland Division contest (\$3954) and because of increased performance fees (\$2195). We made money in all of our fundraising events as follows: show, \$7173; rent, \$3980; pizza sale, \$1461; and Valentines, \$1012. The area of concern lies in our biggest money maker, our annual show. Ticket sales and sponsorships were both down from previous years. The health of our chapter depends primarily on this one event, and we need to do a better job of getting out and reaching

the public, selling tickets to fill the theater and adding more sponsorships to support our show. This will be even more important for this year's show, as our guest quartet is "Storm Front", a 2008 BHS International Finalist. We need to be able to fill the theater for this special event. Bill Jenkins, treasurer

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

February 2 Dan Schobert
February 4 John White
February 7 Meta Krause
February 9 Kira Morrissey
February 13 Judy Kauffman
February 18 Janice Moe
February 20 Nate Peplinski
February 22 Pat Edgerton
February 25 Anna
Kochanowski
February 25 Mike Porrey

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

February 12 John and
Wanda Lay
February 14 John and
Stephanie White



PLAN FOR FUTURE EVENTS

February 12 – (Friday) Singing Valentines

February 18 –(Thursday) Board Meeting at Harmony House

April 30 – May 2 LOL Spring Convention at Mankato, MN

May 15 – (Saturday) Packerland Division Contest, Oshkosh, WI

**October 2 – (Saturday) Harvest of Harmony – Annual Show
Featuring Storm Front**

October 22 – 24 LOL Fall Convention, Fargo ND

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

