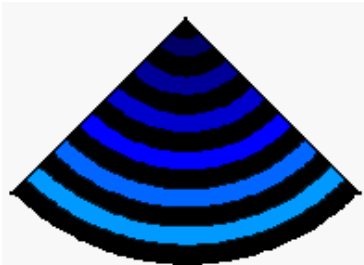


The monthly chapter newsletter of the Alexandria Harmonizers



The Echo

November 2003

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How the Harmonizers became, and will remain, great!

To inspire oneself to greatness, it is always useful to contemplate the greatness of others.

But this month, instead, we contemplate the greatness of...us.

How did the Harmonizers become great? And perhaps more importantly, what does that tell us about how the Harmonizers can remain great and grow to even greater, um, greatness?

Leading us in examining these questions this month are the members of "Sam's Club", a group of close friends of the late Wilbur Sparks, a Society-wide barbershop idol and a personal inspiration to all who knew him (including his successor as editor of the Echo).

Combined, they have several centuries of barbershop experience under their collective belt; they watched and helped the Harmonizers achieve greatness over five decades, so who better to reflect on the elements of our success?

As you read their shared wisdom, ask yourself how you can continue and expand on their legacy we now enjoy and celebrate!

A recent example of Harmonizer greatness:



the chorus's win at M-AD District Competition.

Long-term
exemplars of
greatness:

the members
of Sam's Club!





Always a Harmonizer

by Dick Hall

I have been asked to write a few lines about my barbershop experience with the Alexandria Harmonizers. So here goes...I sang my first barbershop around 1948 or '49. I didn't become a member of a barbershop chapter until the spring of 1965, when I was lucky enough to find the Alexandria Harmonizers. My life has not been the same since. I have experienced all the joys and heartaches of being a Harmonizer for the last 39 years.

When I joined the chapter, Oz Newgard had taken over as director from Dr. Bud Arburg. Assistant directors were Bob Adams, Don Brasted, Wilbur Sparks, J.R. Madison, and Scott Werner. Our membership was between 90 and 95 (I can't be sure, the earliest complete directory I have is 1968, and there were 95 men then). The chapter president was Connie Vogler, the AVP was John Adams, the PVP was Ted Fitch. Chapter quartets were the No-Va Chords (Adams, Werner, Rodda, and Craig), the Sea Sharps (Kinsinger *DC chapter*, Anklowitz, Madison, and Wetzl), The Count-Down Four (Rose, Stone, George, and Jordan), the Virginia Hams (Graves, Bennett, Crickenburger, and Schmidt), the Nightcaps (Fedel, Reed, Roberson *Arlington*, and Johnson *Arlington*).

In 1966 I competed in my first barbershop contest. It was a Southern Division contest held in Norfolk, on May 29. The Harmonizers finished sixth. In 1967 at Southern Division, we finished second, went to District and finished eight. We bounced around in the middle of the pack until 1977, when we won the Division, and the District. Boy!! Were we in high cotton now! We were going to International. From here on is pretty much common knowledge.

Well, if we were going to International, we needed some bucks. So we had a meeting on how to raise the money that would be needed to go first class.

Jack Pitzerr came up with the idea of selling cheese. We could get it fresh from Wisconsin and sell it to our friends and neighbors. I just casually asked Jack how much cheese he thought we should order. He said he thought we should start with a ton. After I regained my breath, I said "JACK that's 2000 lbs. of cheese". Jack said he thought we could sell it easily. I repeated, "that's 2000 lbs. of cheese". Well, we ordered it and the rest is history. We ended up selling about 1/2 million dollars worth of cheese over a 20 year span.



One memorable event was when we got our first truck. We no longer had to haul risers in pick-ups, or station wagons. Now we could move all our stuff at the same time. Miles Reynolds became the caretaker of the truck. He got it licensed, put in a CB radio, racks to hold the risers, and storage for the PA system. He also had the responsibility of finding and scheduling qualified drivers. This truck carried the Harmonizer logo all over the country. The truck was well recognized by barbershoppers everywhere.

I was elected to the Board during John Adams tour as president. This was interesting, since it was the inner operations of the chapter. Unless you have



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served on the Board, you don't know what it takes to run an operation as large as ours. There are budget problems, personnel problems, scheduling problems, and there used to be the continuing problem with the Board Of Education (getting the school for our shows), and the most important of all was how to get better, and still make it a fun hobby. As you can tell from the medal count, we finally found the way. Now the challenge was to keep it that way.

I also served in the toughest job in the chapter twice, that is, program VP. The reason that I say this is the toughest job is because there is no let-up. You are constantly planning the next meeting or event. Every thing must be coordinated with the Chapter President, the MVP, the quartet promotion guy, the Rec center people, and any others whowere to be involved in the program.

As I sit here writing this, I look at my bookcase and see loose leaf binders with sheet music numbering from 1 to 498 and think "Wow! Over the years I have sung every one of those songs. Some just for fun, and some for shows, and some for competition.

I have had the privilege of knowing some really wonderful people, too many to list. I can say that I have hundreds of friends, and consider each as close as a brother. That is the greatest thing about being a Harmonizer, you are one of a brotherhood that lasts for life. Oh, sure, sometimes someone does something that doesn't sit well with the group, but he is still a brother and we all still love him just the same. Just because you leave the chapter, the brotherhood does not stop; it goes with you for life. Once a Harmonizer, always a Harmonizer.

Caught by the Harmonet

by Bob Caldwell



A number of Harmonizers are participants in an email exchange group aptly called the 'Harmonet'. Some 2500+ barbershop singers, male and female alike, are members. Each year during International week the Harmonetters usually find a time for a gathering. This year during the break between the two quartet contest sessions on Wednesday the group gathered in the food court downstairs and across the street from the HQ hotel. Where there are barbershoppers there will be singing as indicated by this picture.

Pictured are Bob Caldwell (Encore! lead), Patrick McAlexander (9 years old son of Harmonetter Ann McAlexander), Mike Barclay (from California), and Bob Sutton (Mercury tenor). Incidentally, you might have seen Patrick pictured Singing With The Champs in one of the candid photos of the Montreal edition of our Society Harmonizer mag. Photo credits to Patrick's mother, Ann.



Time to Market

by Austin Cotton

What will it take to keep the Harmonizers great? I have just one word: TTM, Time to Market. In our case, we could say time to Market Square. How long does it take from the moment a vision is formed until we can put it on stage?



The most obvious TTM is the length of time to learn a new song, from the time it is introduced to when we are able to do a great job performing it. The chapter leadership provides a number of ways to teach us the song but the bottom line is that each individual on the risers must learn it for themselves. The quicker we learn it, the more fun we will have. A short learning time means less time spent in rehearsal teaching and more time refining it.

TTM also has other meanings for people on the risers. When Richard says, “stretch”, how long does it take for us to make that a part of our habits? When Gary gives us an inspiration for the emotion of a song, how long before it consistently appears from each singer on stage?

The performance level of the chorus is really like the weakest link in the chain principle. In order for the chorus to sing a song, stretch, or emote effectively, everyone has to do it. So the individual with the longest TTM determines the effective TTM of the whole chorus.

Leadership

by Nelson Sublett

What made the Harmonizers what they are today? That’s a hard question to answer because there are so many things! First and foremost was the leadership that we had. Many men dedicated their time and energy to the Chapter and the Society. They lead us not only in organizing chapter business, but perhaps more important in teaching us to sing better and with feeling. Beyond even that, we took contemporary music and performed it in the barbershop style in a fashion that entertained and made us appealing to the general public, not just a ‘barbershop audience’, all the while keeping the integrity of the barbershop sound.

Moral Health

by Eligius Wolicki

Shortly after I joined the Alexandria Harmonizers in 1969, I remember being impressed by the friendliness of all the members and by the innocence and moral healthfulness of the SPEBSQSA culture. Of course, by the end of the 1960s, the rest of American culture had become so barbaric that nothing was forbidden and innocence and moral standards were no longer honored. In these circumstances, I remember talking with Wilbur Sparks about the good influence the Harmonizers were having in the Alexandria community and how desirable that influence was. In considering why the Harmonizers became great, I have come to believe that a large part of the reason has been the inspiring behavior of the Harmonizers in all that they did. I mean to say that an organization that has an outstanding moral character and purpose and is energetically pursuing its goals is building on such a solid foundation that it must prosper. And the Harmonizers are such an organization.



The 2nd Annual Wilbur Sparks Memorial Put-Together Contest

by Jeremy Richardson

Well, gang, it's that time of year again...when barberpole cats are practiced with more urgency, when George Azzam sings all parts (including bass), when parodies are crafted on beverage napkins over a few beers, when pies are prepared for unsuspecting quartet members, and when Roger Day begins his annual search for the perfect quartet. Yes, that's right, it's time for the Put-Together Contest!

As most of you know, Wilbur started the put-together tradition some 30 years ago. (Does anyone know the year the first contest was held?) Wilbur's idea was to get non-quartet singing members involved in the quartet experience. I remember he would carry around a small scrap of paper on which he would scribble the names of the guys in each quartet. On one section of the paper would be a list of guys who wanted to sing but weren't in a quartet, and he would always put these guys in quartets as well. This earned him the nickname "Dr. Put."

We will also continue Wilbur's tradition of having an outside quartet visit the chapter to judge the contest. This year's judging quartet will remain a secret, but I can assure you that you won't want to miss their appearance! The "rules" of the contest are quite simple—in fact, there are only two! They are:



- 1) If more than two members of a put-together quartet are members of ANY registered quartet, only one may sing the same part he sings in the registered quartet—all others must sing a part different from the one they sing in the registered quartet.
- 2) Anyone is eligible to enter the contest, with the obvious exception of the judging panel. In the spirit of a true put-together contest, entries will be accepted up until the start of the contest.

And, of course, most importantly, the purpose is to have fun!

Last year's winners were Loading Dock 4 (Scipio Garling, Chad Hoseth, Bruce Roehm, and Mike Ahmadi). Aptly named, they formed on the loading dock of the Schlessinger Center between the afternoon and evening performances of the fall show. Also in the spirit of the put-together contest, they formed only four days prior to the contest!

Entry forms will be available at the chapter meetings, but they are only provided for your convenience. You can also enter simply by e-mailing the information to me. I need to know the four members of the put-together entry, the parts they sing in any registered quartets, and the name of the quartet. You can e-mail this to me at ljeremyrichardson@yahoo.com. If you want to sing but can't find three other guys, let me know and I will "put" people together, just as Wilbur was famous for doing. Please sign up as soon as possible, so that I can get an idea of how many entries we will have in the contest. The draw will take place on Tuesday, November 4.

This is a great Harmonizer tradition, and one of my favorite events of the year. Please sign up, and ask your riser-mate, who has never done it before, to sing with you!



Mike's Ten Commandments

by Mike Everard

The Alexandria Harmonizers are now 55 years old (1948-2003). There are many reasons why the Chapter has continued to grow in greatness. We have seen dedicated folks who held themselves to a high standard and got the job done, turning out a quality product year after year. One has to review the past so you can re-energize the future. We have great written histories along with some time-tested traditions to help lead the way.

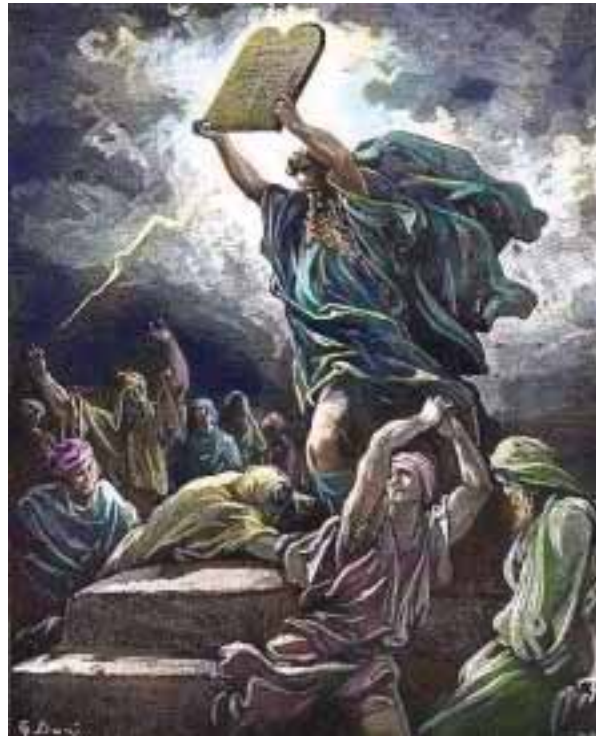
As a new musical and administrative era unfolds, I wish to put forth ten ideas that the Harmonizers need to consider to go and grow and continue on the road to greatness.

The Chapter leadership needs to read the Code of Regulations and change the Code to bring back the position of Show Chairman for clear leadership in regard to the Spring Tonic and Fall Extravaganza.

Sell out three shows or drop back to two shows on Saturday only and save money on quartet fees and overhead expenses.

Reconstitute the Finance Committee with people who are willing to say “no” to overspending.

Introduce the concept of OPM—Other People’s Money—as a foundation of successful Chapter fundraising. Selling to one another doesn’t count!



Stop wasting money on PR videos that don’t come into reality. Stop wasting money on show costumes used only a few times.

Put together a Harmonizer Quartet Show offering as an alternative for a show request that the Chorus cannot accept, with the revenue going to the Chapter.

Require selling tickets and programs ads as part of being a Harmonizer in good standing and as part of the right to sing with the Chorus in public, along with musical qualifications.

Give the Long Range Planning Committee the projects and assignments that are truly long range, freeing the Board to conduct monthly business, and make sure the LRPC actually makes long-range plans.

Increase membership through the clever use of a quartet called “Tuesday Knights” whose job is to snag a guest and make him feel great.

Stop talking about “family” and start acting like one. Make Board proceedings available to all members. Help each other to enjoy our hobby. If there’s a problem, work it out, solve it for the good of the group. We used to “sweep up after one another”. We need less talk of the process and more productive results.



Harmonizers Greatness In Review (The contributions of Recognition and Support)

by Jack McKendree (Member 1968 – Date)

When the Harmonizers were asked to do their first Masters Class for a Society audience (July 1996) they produced a carefully laid out presentation of how they achieved greatness. I recommend it for reading even today, seven years later, by any Harmonizer, new member or old, and would gladly provide a copy.

There is one section of the Masters Class presentation, called “Chapter Life and Administration”, which forms the basis for these remarks. How did we become great? We thought of ourselves as having a life together. We are a family. Each of us is worthy of recognition and support! In fact, we have thrived on it. We have even appealed to our audience as “our fans” – and have invited them to our open rehearsals to give us feedback. We wanted to get better. That’s how it began.

For a long time, before we won at District level, we told prospective members we were a family that we hoped they would enjoy. We worked to make singing in the chorus great, singing in quartet(s) great, performing free concerts for Alexandria worthy groups, including singouts at three hospitals, just great. We entered the Society contests for champion chapter with gusto (and have six banners to show for it). We gave each member recognition in whatever area he chose to contribute of himself and we gave him support if we saw he could use it. We helped each other generously as comrades in harmony. Our goal was to make possible a great barbershopping experience for each man – no man left behind!

Many details of that 1996 Masters Plan have changed and we have new members and new leadership today. Some things, such as recognition and support, as you think of when you think of family values, should not be lost sight of. These helped us become great over the years and will help us

continue to grow if we nurture them. What’s more, these are features which belong to every member, not just to administration, not just to musical leadership, and not just to competitive achievements. Every member can contribute to our continued greatness!

Let’s look at four aspects of our great life in this Chapter: Fellowship, Family, Community, Contests and Shows and then let’s recall examples of *Recognition* and *Support* which have helped our Chapter grow and become great.

Fellowship

For most of our history, *Chapter meetings* had built-in time for socializing. We hung out before rehearsal and also afterwards for a half hour or so. Breaks were around 20 minutes.

Buddy assignments to new members sometimes used that time to introduce the man around. Buddies made sure the man got his music, understood what he needed to do to qualify for membership, and gave him support. Gino’s restaurant was a popular spot for about 20 guys after meetings to have a late supper and do some more singing.

Afterglows were part of almost all shows. It was quite common to go to a pizza parlor after a Singout for some tags and fellowship (I remember Ben



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Recognition and Support

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Collins would call ahead to the pizza place to make sure there would be room for us when we arrived and that the place would stay open long enough.) Typically the chorus would sing a number led by Scott Werner for the enjoyment of the other patrons. A more elaborate afterglow followed the Spring Tonic, of course, and that included both chorus and show quartets.



Chorus Retreat The only extra rehearsals scheduled during the year were for the Tonic and for contest. Overnight retreats, with special coaches, were introduced as part of International competition (to the best of my recollection). It was along about this time that coaches were sometimes invited to become members of

the Alexandria Harmonizers. There was plenty of time to get to know men at a retreat, to sing, to bowl or play games, etc.

Chapter Quartet Contests Wilbur Sparks, the first Dr. Put, introduced Put Together Quartet Contests as a means of encouraging quartet formation when he saw that chorus competition preparation was putting pressure on chapter meetings to squeeze out informal quartet time.



It proved to be a great way to meet singers and have a good time. Relationships begun during a Put Together activity often carried on in longer friendships.

Another possible opportunity for fellowship comes to mind: Class Reunions. Each year's new members form an incoming class with their own bandana until they enter competition on stage. They could have a fellowship time as a smaller group. Or perhaps those who have gone to Harmony College (ever) might enjoy a little reminiscing together.

Family

Harmonettes were not only boosters and fund raisers, they were our wives and sweethearts involved with our hobby. They understood when we had received new music how we needed to practice at home and they were able to be very generous with our time which that took. They really supported us and appreciated the improvement as show time approached! Later, as we climbed the competition ladder, our Harmonettes developed tokens of good luck and of their love to keep in our pockets when we appeared on stage.



Family Picnic was a great time to see sons and daughters of singers and

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Recognition and Support

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enjoy their antics. It was also a time when Chapter leaders could let down their hair a bit and just hang out with the guys. Some of the men would later bring young sons who had been to a picnic to watch rehearsals and acquire a taste for good barber-shop sounds.



International Celebration A very nice variation on the family picnic idea was the celebration upon our return from International Competitions. For 16 years, the celebrations were picnics in the backyard of the Geis family. This was the time to sprawl in their living room together to watch (and watch again) the chorus video taken during competition.

Presidents' Ball This was a night for adults (no kids) to dress up and go out on the town. We had a dance orchestra and a dinner with table service, many times in the Officers' Club at Bolling AFB. Tuxedos or dark business suits were the order of the day. Recognition of service to the Chapter was made with awards in person (all the Chapter awards). Other recognition, more informal, occurred in the half hour



slide show set up by Chuck Botts. This was distinctly a marrieds event, favoring the interests of the ladies, but including singles as well.

Opportunities to recognize the contributions of couples and even families to the Harmonizer Spirit could be increased. Besides the Wilbur and Ibianne Sparks Award given annually, there might be notice given in the *Echo* of wedding anniversaries (25th; 50th) and major extended family gatherings. Weddings and births are important events for our members and for Harmonizer support to be offered.

Community

The Alexandria Harmonizers are an adult recreational activity of the City of Alexandria. We are provided with the free use of the Durant Recreational Center and receive grants from the Commission on the Arts. In return, we are able to give back to the community not only with three free shows a year (Ft. Ward Park in July, Market Square in August, Lee Center in December) but also as we are inspired to do something great in the pursuit of community service.

Christmas Show In December we sponsor a show in T.C. Williams High School Auditorium which features local Alexandria musical talent in a holiday setting. The Harmonizers normally sing only one song for which they are not paid; they pay expenses, if any, not covered by ticket sales.



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Recognition and Support

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Hospital Singing One of the ways that men in the Chapter delight to give back to the community is to tour the city's hospitals with Christmas carols. Currently only the Alexandria Hospital accepts the offer. As many as three in a season have done so in the past.



We should consider the value to our community of the Young Men in Harmony Program, value not just to music in the schools but to the growth of performing arts in the area. The youth aspect of our Christmas Show may be a suitable promotion for the Alexandria Harmonizers to the community as a whole.

Contests and Shows

Singing is what we are all about. Performing well for audiences and receiving their applause is a treat for each of us. Getting better at our craft and learning from the craftsmanship of fellow barbershoppers in competition is a challenge that has certain rewards and spurs us on to greatness.

In true teamwork efforts, we seek to help each other outdo himself in many ways. We have off-site section rehearsals, often every month. There are off-site quadrant rehearsals to teach and drill stage moves so that we don't have to think about them while we are singing. We have studio sessions and emotional workshops to focus on emotional content while doing moves

and singing. Individuals attend vocal production seminars to learn how to improve their sound so they can blend in better with their section in the chorus. Video tapes are available showing clusters of men who their expressions, their bodies, and their movements synchronize or relate to those near them. When a man appears not quite able to qualify, we offer one on one help.



The emphasis in our evaluations is on removing fear of criticism and instilling self confidence to reach for greater accomplishment. We are family!

Recognition and Support

Having reviewed Chapter Life let us see how Recognition and Support adds to Family in moving the Alexandria Chapter to greatness.

This is an all volunteer organization. Only two or three people actually get paid for what they do (our music leadership and certain admin tasks for our shows). Members draw encouragement and inspiration from knowledge of their service well done and from recognition of that service. For many at one time or another in their life in the Chapter there is the benefit of seeing how others do something difficult – a kind of role model. They then get a

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What People Think While Directing the Harmonizers

"I'll scare them into obeying!"



"Your souls are MINE!"



"Need...heart...medicine!"



"I WILL hit you, buddy!"



"Wh...why don't I hear the trumpets?"



"Wherefor art thou Juliet?"



"Danger, Will Robinson!"



"If only DELASUSQEHUDMAC could see me now!!"





Recognition and Support

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chance to try it for themselves (one good example of which is standing up front and leading). This has great value in developing skills which are transferable to job and professional settings. Other examples are more particular to the chapter.

Recognition

Chapter leadership has long honored the value of recognition. For member service in the past year we have awards and citations from the Board of Directors and from the President. They have been presented with proper dignity on a special occasion such as the Presidents' Ball.

Nomination for Office – Nominees presented for election have appeared in a list published to the entire Chapter and have stood before the membership at the Annual Meeting.

Recognition for service rendered – Following a major event calling for special efforts (such as a show or a contest), the chairman asks each member who worked on the team to stand and be recognized for his specific service.



Certificates for Contest Participation – Harmonizers who medaled in past years have enjoyed a certificate with their name imprinted and signed by the Society President and the Chairman of Judges (very suitable for framing with their chorus photograph; these are not Society documents but Chapter documents which Society officers signed as a courtesy during Harmony College week).

Rah Rah for Quartets – Before competing chapter quartets make an appearance before the membership as part of the Chapter Meeting Program (and, in some cases, receive a financial contribution toward expenses) Noncompeting Chapter quartets also appear as part of Meeting Program, ideally each quartet at least once during the year.



Announcements before the Chapter – A kind of recognition takes place when a man stands before the Chapter and announces his plans for an upcoming event or recruits help for his event. This is an important way for members to learn who is doing the work of the chapter.

Picture Board – Every member has a head and shoulders photograph taken and mounted on the picture board. Those with a current officer position have captions to designate the office.

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Recognition and Support

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(The last two have suffered from lack of resources; loss of announcement time and temporary loss of meeting place.)

Support

“I may not know how to define great support but I know it when I see it!” What are the sorts of support special to making this Chapter great? Consider again Fellowship, Family, and Leadership.

Fellowship

Some part of our repertoire has always included songs easy to harmonize – to sing in a pickup quartet or to learn for the chorus singouts, especially in church settings. These have been in addition to the Society standard songs, the Barberpole Cat series.



The evaluation activity, especially Listeners of personal tapes, often introduces an aspect of fellowship. We are expecting to extend this to small groups (squads) who share the listening duties among themselves (see below on Contests).

Family

Our Chapter communications have been very good at promoting a family knowledge of members. The monthly *Echo* has long reported on recognitions given, introduction of new members, latest activities of quartets, coverage of conventions, and insights into the history of the Chapter. The *Echo* as well as the weekly Harmogram, both of which are distributed via email, have proved to be a boon to communicating with members who are out of town. Many men who leave the area retain their memberships in order to keep in touch and then resume two or three years later upon their return.



Arguably an aspect of our family view of ourselves is the low key financial support often found to enable members to compete at remote destinations.

Leadership

There are some 90 elected and appointed positions on the Chapter organization charts. It can become confusing if duties are not assigned to individuals. The main responsibility for training of officers has come from 100% attendance at COTS (Chapter Operations Training Seminar). Otherwise on the job training by outgoing officers is the rule of the day. For this we begin with the annual offsite in October shortly after election of officers for the following year takes place. Here, incoming officers take part in planning

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Recognition and Support

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for the next year while getting the best thoughts of the “old hands” who are changing out. A major tool for the transition is the Chapter Code which offers structure and proven procedures which need to be read thoroughly and applied (or updated if needed).

The Alexandria Chapter has often been applauded for the active participation of members at the District and International levels. A record of such activities is kept current in each year’s Chapter Directory. Anyone who is interested can contact currently active members in administration or in judging. This potential for adding great service is probably not well understood generally.



Contests

To minimize the burden on the members of a variety of helps, we develop and print qualification standards well in advance of a qualification event. We schedule time in chapter meetings (and announce it in advance) when uninterrupted run through of qualification songs will be performed so that singers can record on tape and make that tape available to their listener (and to themselves later). Listeners have check sheets for each song to speed up making their comments and to make their printed comments available quickly. Our leadership should consider how best to publicize these tools and make sure they are available. The plan for introducing squads for



teaching and for evaluation, announced early in the year, should be implemented.

Summary

We have the idea that the Alexandria Harmonizers have grown over the years and have a reputation within the Society for greatness. We are one of those chapters who have successfully promoted family values in giving recognition and support to Fellowship, Family, Community, Contests and Shows. Since 1996, when we offered a “Masters Plan” after winning our third gold medal, there have been many changes in the membership and the leadership and in details of our operations. We believe that Recognition and Support are features about which every member can learn from the past and every generation of leadership can use to sustain greatness.



Above and Beyond

by Dick Whitehouse

I am currently in my 49th year as a member of the SPEBSQSA, Inc. and of that time, all but nine years have been as a member of the Alexandria Harmonizers. I started as a Harmonizer and sang with the chorus until my job relocated me to Johnstown, Pennsylvania, in 1957 and then to Rochester, New York, in 1964. I returned to the Harmonizers in the fall of 1966 and have been an active member ever since.

As I reflect back on the wonderful experience of being a Harmonizer, I can attempt to identify the things that have made this chapter so successful and so unique. Perhaps the most important factor is the people we have drawn into our family. And this sense of family has been the catalyst that has fused this body into one of the strongest and most successful chapters in the Society, not only in the contest venue, but in the administrative field as well. This family feeling has been greatly enhanced by the contributions and love offered to the chapter by our own "Harmonettes."

Early on, the involvement of dedicated men such as Dean Snyder, Wilbur Sparks, Harold "Bud" Arberg, Hal Shultz and many others, well documented, serving the chapter and the Mid-Atlantic District, got this chapter off to a strong start. In more recent years, this superb dedication has continued. It is not uncommon to find the core of any successful organization to be its people in leadership positions. I believe we have been fortunate to be blessed with many leaders who were then, or had been, members of our Armed Forces. Their leadership skills brought the chapter many unique administrative skills that were also adopted by other chapters and by the Society.

For example, I think of the thirty years that Bill Cody gave endless time and talents to the Harmonizers, the judging system, quarteting and the So-

ciety International Board. Royall and Geri Geis who served many years to improve the image and audiences of the Chorus.

Right from the start, the Harmonizers have benefited from extremely talented musical directors including our renowned "Bud" Arberg, Oz Newgard, John Hohl and our very successful Scott Werner. I could go on naming individuals who have served "above and beyond" what is required to be a member in good standing, whether it be a chapter officer or one who gives tirelessly to see that the risers arrive and are set up properly, the communications are in the members' folders, the e-mail is properly monitored and delivered, etc, etc.

I want to also mention the wonderful quartets this chapter has produced and is still producing. The involvement by these foursomes within the chapter and their performances in contests and on shows throughout the area, reflect credit on every member of the chapter.

I hope each of you will reflect on what all of these "forebears" have given to this chapter and appreciate what every member brings to the chapter meetings to enhance the enjoyment of this wonderful hobby...this wonderful "way of life."





Keep it fun!

by Carolyn Hall

How did the Harmonizers get to be great...and how to keep the greatness going? This certainly takes a lot of thought and yet the answers seem to be simple. We have one of (if not the best) cadre of singers in the Society along with a top-notch administration. Of course, we like to think that the chapter has one of the best support systems around.

From helping to haul risers and set up for shows (I know, because I did some of this with my husband, a station wagon, and four sections of risers – in the old days!) to raising funds for the Chapter to help with contest expenses, equipment needed, etc. We do these things out of love.

There have been Harmonizer family members taking part in some of the Annual shows, helping with sales (Barbershop Store, Cheese, tapes, etc. for the visiting Quartets), working backstage, being handy with needle and thread, and others duties as needed. Kudos to a special lady who has been in charge of Show Ushers for years and is still taking care of this while undergoing Radiation – Marjorie Harner.

There are a few of us who remember the lean years before a “Win” seemed to be the only way to finish. From the Harmonizers’ 1st District win to send us on the way to our first International, to their 6th place finish in 2003, all of our guys have been winners! As Harmonettes President I made this speech a time or two – Whether you come in 1st or 21st, you won this place. Nobody gave it to you!

The Harmonizers are a ‘family’ and support group for each other. Many times we have given assistance of various kinds – financial, moral, etc. Dick & I have said of our church that we didn’t know how people function through the tough times without the church family. This holds true with

our Chapter also. Some of you may have noticed that Dick shakes as many hands as possible because we never know when this contact may be our last.

Is there anything, which needs changing to keep the greatness going? The old saying is “If it ain’t broke, don’t fix it!” Life is not always smooth sailing and you can’t win them all – enough of the cliches – right? As we all begin a new chapter in our Barbershop lives, we must have patience and perseverance. But – please remember to keep it FUN! We will continue to give our love and encouragement to each chapter member.

Written with input from Peggy Wagner, Marge Wagovich and Susan Williams-Johnson.



“But I am stretching, Daddy!”

Here’s to Morgan Lewellen and a bright future for her and all the Harmonizer family!