



RMD Vocal Expressions

Covering barbershop harmony in Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota, Utah & Wyoming

Vol. 32, No. 1 Published by the Rocky Mountain District Association of Chapters Jan/Feb 2010

THE TIME IS NEAR...
2010 ROCKY MOUNTAIN HARMONY COLLEGE
Dr. Dan Clark, RMD VP Music & Performance



RMHC 2010 VERSION is just around the corner, and a discounted tuition rate is still available until Feb. 1. The faculty is complete, the coaching staff is ready, and the Saturday night show is bound to be a smash!

One of our District's favorite quartets has agreed to join the quartet coaching staff, AND to sing on our Saturday night show: **THE SUMMIT!** Yes, our 2008 district champs, from Albuquerque, will be at the YMCA of the Rockies with us to serve on our quartet coaching staff and to help make our Saturday night "the best show ever." You won't want to miss this opportunity to enjoy **THE SUMMIT** on stage, because it may be your last chance to hear them. With Marco, their great bass, living in Alabama the last couple of years, this excellent foursome has decided they can't maintain the quality they are famous for, and they will be retiring this year. They have a few engagements left, which they plan to meet, and then they are calling it quits.

So don't miss this chance to hear **THE SUMMIT** one more time. Our headline quartet is the International Gold Medal favorite, **OC TIMES**, and of course YOU will be singing on the Saturday night show as a member of the renowned **EVERYMAN CHORUS**.

Rich Knight, lead singer of **The Gas House Gang**, 1993 gold medalists, will be coaching quartets, along with the **OC**

TIMES guys, so your quartet will have access to some really top-notch coaching.

- Here are your classes to choose from:
- Beginning Chorus Directing
Raisha Quinn, dir. of the Grand Junction chorus
 - Presentation for quartet and chorus
John Coffin, Int. Presentation Judge
 - Music Theory for Barbershoppers
Rod Sgrignoli, Int. Music Judge
 - Voice Instruction, Beginning and Advanced
Raisha Quinn
 - Standing Ovation Program (SOP)
Brad Ayers, RMD SOP Chairman
 - Bulletin Editor Seminar
John Elving, Acting District Bulletin Editor
 - Use of the Computer in Your Barbershop Chapter
Woody Woods Professional Computer Consultant
 - **EVERYMAN CHORUS**
Directed by Rod Sgrignoli

Pick your classes and email your choices to me ASAP to help me in assigning rooms for the school.

NEW FACILITIES at the YMCA of the Rockies. Don't miss it!

DAN



**In music one must think
with the heart and feel
with the brain.**
- George Szell

RMD **Vocal Expressions** magazine is published six times yearly. **Two issues are printed for all members: Jan/ Feb and Aug/Sept issues.** Four issues are posted online: March/April, May/June, Oct/Nov (after convention), and Dec. Send all articles, photos, ads, business cards, news, etc. to editor by the requested deadline, please, in ASCII text, jpg, text only, PDF, or Word documents. Original copy is preferred. You can also mail floppy disks or CD's. Non-member subscription price is \$5.00 per year. Member subscription rate is \$3.00 which are paid for by RMD dues. Unless carrying a byline, all articles are by the editor and may or may not reflect the views of the District or the Society.



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RMD Vision Statement
 Enriching lives in the Rocky Mountain District through singing in harmony.
www.RMDsing.org


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RMD EDITOR STEVE JACKSON RECOVERS

Thanks to all of my good friends and fellow barbershoppers for including me in your prayers. I came home Monday, Nov. 14, and am now settling into a daily routine which includes sensible eating and more exercise.

For those of you who were not aware, I went into the emergency room August 9 for two weeks where they gave me another trach (oh boy) to assist in the treatment of COPD and sleep apnea. Then I was sent to ICU for another eight weeks. I was kicked out of the ICU upstairs to a regular room where I caused more havoc (started walking with a walker) for a week. They quickly determined that I had "way too much" energy and promptly sent me packing. I selected Autumn Heights health center for six weeks of rehab (to get my strength and legs back). When I drop another 75-80 pounds, hopefully the trach will be removed.

I have dropped 110 pounds so far (a lot of it was water weight) but still have much to accomplish to reach my goal weight of 200. (Steve has decided he wants to be a former shadow of himself! -Ed Pro Tem.) I am firmly convinced that the Man upstairs heard your prayers and decided, "OK Jackson, NOT YET!"

Thank you very much!

It's GREAT to be a barbershopper



ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The Rocky Mountain District is to be an ever-growing association of SPEBSQSA chapters located within the geographical boundaries of the District. It is the mission of the RMD to lead and support the efforts of local chapters in contributing to the vision of our Society.

The Society's Vision Statement reads, "The Society is to be an ever-growing fraternity of barbershop-style singers, leading the cause of encouraging vocal music in our schools and communities." The RMD's means of working toward this vision is to provide leadership and structure in the following areas:

- Increasing membership through member services at the local and district level.
- Educating and encouraging our members in both quartet and chorus performances in the barbershop style.
- Training, supporting, and coaching leaders in our local chapters.
- Supporting and developing youth outreach on a local and district level.
- Developing chorus directors at the chapter level through local and district workshops.
- Providing district publications and historical records as well as supporting and educating chapters in communications and public relations.
- Providing ongoing district events such as conventions, contests, festivals, etc.
- Providing contests for quartets, choruses, and other ensembles to determine district champions and International contest qualifiers.
- Supporting and educating chapters on developing district financial resources and in the use of good financial practices.
- Administering district charitable and community service initiatives and supporting and educating chapters in their charitable efforts.
- Creating, administering, and coordinating district organizational structures and processes to accomplish the District's goals.

Do you know that when a woman wears a leather dress, a man's heart beats quicker, his throat gets dry, he gets weak in the knees, and he begins to think irrationally?

Ever wonder why?

It's because she smells like a new Truck.



In Memoriam



Walter Owen Herndon, known to friends and family alike as Owen, passed away on January 6, 2010 of heart problems.

Owen was the longtime editor of *Tumbleweeds*, the bulletin of the Colby, Kansas Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

He was not just an editor, but an award winning editor, having won the Bulletin Editor of the Year (BETY) award several times for the Rocky Mountain District. The pinnacle of his career came in 2007 when he was named the winner of the 2006 International Bulletin Contest sponsored by PROBE.

Although Owen considered retiring from his duties as editor, he never really did. Posthumously he is entering this year's judging again with hopes of repeating as International Bulletin Editor for 2010.

Taking the knowledge that he gained over a 20+ year career as an editor, Owen was also a judge for PROBE, judging other's bulletins in the area of Content, and had agreed to do that again this year. (*They will be entered.* –Ed)

Following memoirs written by Owen himself. They probably do more to honestly portray this wonderful man than anything we could write about him.

MY MEMOIRS

By Owen Herndon



My parents named me **Walter Owen Herndon**. My age is almost 78 years. I was born in Scott City, Kansas, September 29, 1930. For the past 58 years or more, I have been self employed full time as an Agricultural Engineer "tiller of the soil" in Lane County, Kansas. My

wife, **Patricia Ann**, or **Pat**, and I have been "city-dwellers" in the wonderful little city of Dighton, Kansas, since May, 2004. We moved into town from our farm home north west of Amy (current population: 4) where we had lived all of our married life and also raised our children.

Pat and I were married in Longview, Texas, July 15, 1960, [and] have been quite "blissfully indulged" now for the past 48 years. We are the parents of two adult children: Our son, **Joel** lives here in rural Lane County, Kansas, and our daughter, **Kendra** and her husband **Nic** live in Reno, Nevada.

My two siblings, **Doris** and **Presley**, and I spent and survived our early childhood years in the old Kentucky 'Kinfolk' –("Hard-Shell Baptist")– community of Amy, Kansas, located 7½ miles west of Dighton, during the Great Depression years (1930-1940). That era has always been defined as the "dirty thirties," or the Western

Kansas "dust bowl years." Our families were poor struggling dirt farmers, and our parents **Walter** and **Thelma (Owen) Herndon** also ran a little country general store and the post office on Main Street in the heart of Amy, Kansas

Those hard times, during the 30's, were very difficult for everyone to cope with. The "big black dirt-blizzards" and the "gross, area-wide rabbit killing drives" will probably never be completely forgotten, but they certainly were not the most fond memories my sister **Doris**, little brother **Presley** and I cherish from our early childhood years. The only social life we knew was attending a lot of revival meetings, going to church services at the Amy Baptist Church twice every Sunday and a Wednesday night prayer meeting every week. We also went to our 4-H Club meetings held at the Amy School House. Doris, Presley and I all acquired our eight year formal grade school educations in the one room ~ one teacher Amy Grade School Dist. #4, in picturesque South Amy, on the south side of Hwy K-96.

I started high-school at Lane County Community High School (Dighton High School) in September, 1944, – during WW II. Before long, my high school nick-name somehow became "Goochie Goo," a name that 'stuck' throughout all of my high school years. Those extra curricular High School activities included: "Football," Band, Men's Glee Club, Mixed Chorus, vocal solos and/or vocal ensembles (*in WKEA league, and district contests all four years*), forensics, class plays, school musicals, Hi-Y (YMCA), and HORNET'S POST, our HS journalism class publication. I graduated from Dighton High School with the class of 1948. Our 60th Anniversary reunion was August 1-2, 2008.

The next year, September, 1948, I went on to college at Ottawa University, a four-year liberal arts Baptist denominational college, at Ottawa, Kansas. While at OU the next two years, 1948-1950, I sang (*tenor*) in the Ottawa University Concert Choir, with a few hours of solo voice training credits, the two years I was there.

The next year, I dropped out of college to help out on the farm for ["a little-while."(?)] During the early part of the Korean War conflict, June 25, 1950 onward, I was re-classified (1-A) and was a prime candidate to be "drafted" into the U.S. Army at any time. I was finally inducted and 'sworn in' at KC, Mo., 06 January 1953, my name was immediately changed to -

"Pvt. Walter O. Herndon U.S. 55-336-585."

As a NEW "GI" Rookie, I was first stationed at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri for eight weeks of Infantry Basic Training, eight weeks of Engineering Basic Training, and five weeks of Technical School. I was in training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. for about six months, then, I got my first (10 day)furlough in mid June, 1953.

After the furlough, I flew from Wichita, Kansas to Augusta, Georgia, where I had orders to report for duty 21 June 1953 in the brand-new, newly organized 299th Signal Installations Company - 377th Signal Battalion, at Camp Gordon, Georgia. At first we thought we were going to be doing extensive field training for two or three months in the Georgia backwoods as a part of [SCUTG] Signal Corps Unit Training Group and then /ship-out/ to Korea as a large combat-ready Signal Corps Installations Group. But, it just didn't happen that way! The Korean War came to an end just barely a month later, the armistice or cease-fire agreement was signed on July 27, 1953.

"Consequently, we lost the golden opportunity of our lifetimes, ~ to enjoy a free one way, all expenses paid, Pacific Ocean Cruise (voyage) to "Far East Asia."

For the remainder of my tour of duty, I continued 'soldiering' over the sands amongst the pines of Camp Gordon for the next 18 months, doing all the things all soldiers always do. However, in

Continued on page 5

MY MEMOIRS *from page 4*

March, 1954, I was advanced from (E-3) PFC to the rank of (E-4) Corporal, and soon after, I received orders to interview for admittance into leadership training school, on the “campus” (?) of the U.S. Army Signal Corps Training Center - NCO Leadership Training School, also at Camp Gordon. My orange and white [Signal Corps colors] **Certificate of Graduation** from the Signal Corps NCO Leadership Training School, dated 25 September 1954, still adorns a wall in my office. Now, 54 years later, I am reminded: “I was militarily trained and qualified to be an NCO LEADER **Hmmm... (?) WONDER WHAT HAPPENED!?**

After serving two years of active duty (1953-1955), and six years in the inactive Army reserves (1955-1961), I was officially, “honorably” discharged from the U.S. Army - 06 January 1961.

Soon after my departure from active military, (06 January 1955), I started back to college on the GI Bill as “a middle-aged JOE COLLEGE” (1) at **Kansas State University**, majoring in Engineering and Architecture – three years, 1955-1958; (2) **Ft. Hays Kansas State University**, Summer school 1958; (3) **LeTourneau Technical Institute of Texas**, Longview, Texas, two years 1958-1960. After all those years as a “professional college student,” I **had to GRADUATE sometime!** I earned a **Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Engineering** from LeTourneau Technical Institute, Longview, Texas, May 27, 1960. **“PRAISE THE LORD!”**

“I was so proud of myself for successfully CRAMMING’ all four years of my collegiate course-work into only twelve years of my life time! [1948-1960].” Quote WOH

During my time in East Texas, my name was always **WALT Herndon**. At Le Tourneau Tech., I was a student member of the Industrial Engineering Society (IES) ; a staff reporter on the TECH YELLOW JACKET bi-weekly student publication; ... and ... I was elected—(by student body vote)—to be the 1959-60 LeTourneau Technical Institute **President of the Student Council** my senior year. When I assumed the Student Council President’s responsibilities in September, 1959, I was pleasantly surprised to learn that one of the extra benefits that “came with the honor” included a full-tuition paid scholarship from the Vice President of LeTourneau Technical Institute, Mrs. R.G. (Evelyn) “Mom” LeTourneau. My thoughts of her gracious-[generous] act of kindness on my behalf were always among my most fond mem-ories of my East Texas “schooling-days.”

Also, during my final two years, I was employed as a blueprint draftsman at the Aeronautical Division of R.G. Le Tourneau Co. Inc., which was located on the LeT off campus-annex, at the East Texas Regional Airport, eight miles SE of Longview, Gregg County, Texas. The class schedules at LeT were unique: The students attended classes on alternating days (MWF or TTS); while one half of the students were in class, the other half worked at the R.G. LeTourneau Co., Trailmobile, or Texas Eastman manufacturing plants, or other similar industrial or technical jobs, thus satisfying the laboratory requirements for all of the industrial courses at LeTourneau Tech.

LeTourneau Technical Institute was renamed LeTourneau College in 1961, when it became a co-educational college; and was again renamed LeTourneau University in 1989. LeTourneau University observed their 60th anniversary in 2006, their motto was “Sixty years of ingenuity. A lifetime of faith.” LeTourneau University is a private non-denominational Christian university with flagship programs in engineering, aeronautical science, business and education. (Our 50th class reunion will be in 2010).

Patricia Ann (London) and I were married July 15, 1960, during

the summer months following my graduation. Pat’s family lived in Longview ~~ and she was a student at Texas Women’s University, Denton, Texas all of the time we were dating. Patricia earned her BA degree in Fashion Illustration/Costume Design, and Art Education (a double major) the following year, in 1961. After we moved back to Kansas, Pat took her teaching block at Ft. Hays KSU and did her practice teaching in Great Bend, KS High School during the fall semester of 1961.

The late **Bob Scott**, Art Instructor at Garden City Community College (GCCC) introduced me to the harmony in the barbershop at Garden City in 1985. A barbershop chapter was being organized and ‘was licensed’ in Garden City—unfortunately, the chorus succumbed to the summer baseball season of 1985 and never recovered. I later became a member of the Colby chapter of SPEBS-QSA February 6, 1986, transferring my unused credit hours from the defunct GC chapter.

For the past 23 years, I have just been “sitting there on my stool” (?) in the lead section of the Tumbleweed chorus, sadly lamenting the fact that I was never considered one of God’s gifted prima-donna singing sensations in the lead section, or even a member of the aristocratic principal political party in power.

My paltry, “tiny tad-bit” of musical experience might include: Musical family; Dighton High School music; Ottawa University Concert Choir, four semesters (with a few voice training class hours); First Baptist Church Choir, Longview, Texas. ~~ About 25 years later, 1983-1990 ~~ I was **indecently** exposed to some really heavy choral music (Ulp!) singing in the Garden City Civic Choral Union and Symphony concerts, conducted by the late **Carroll Anderson**, Vocal Music Director of GCCC—(in conjunction with the GCCC Symphony Orchestra and Concert Choir). The GC Choral Union performances included: Handel’s “Messiah,” Brahm’s “Requiem,” Rossini’s “Stabat Mater” (in Latin), and a few cantatas. But, of course, “that kind of stuff just ‘ain’t barbershop!” (**“It’s OK to sing that way in church, though!”**)

My other activities of interest have been: Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity (K State); Dighton Masonic Lodge; Dighton Rotary Club; various Baptist [and other] Churches.

And, my favorite hobbies, (oh yes): “Bird, squirrel and **‘Girl’** watching” (not necessarily in that order), farming, enjoying break time, visiting (pouring down coffee, stuffing down donuts as a donut eating contestant). Sometimes, ... I might even tell a few fibs (lies), once in awhile, too!

Owen



ROCKY MOUNTAIN HARMONY COLLEGE

February 5-6 at the **YMCA of the Rockies**, just above Estes Park, Colorado, is where you will get together with a hundred or so of your Barbershop Buddies to sing, learn, and enjoy yourselves. You'll be a member of the EVERYMAN CHORUS, directed by Raisha Quinn, the very successful music director of the Grand Junction chorus. You and your hundred or so cohorts will perform on the Saturday night show, entertaining the good people of Estes Park.

Barbershop Classes and instructors include:

- Beginning Directing Raisha Quin
- Music Theory for Barbershoppers Rod Sgrignoli
- Presentation for Quartet and Chorus John Coffin
- Bulletin Editors Seminar John Elving
- Computerizing Your Chapter Woody Woods
- Standing Ovation Program Brad Ayers
- Vocal Production (pending)
- Quartet Coaching Rich Knight, Gas House Gang OC TIMES quartet

• Other coaches will be added as need arises.

GREAT Saturday night show with OC TIMES as headline performer.

GREAT afterglow in Estes Park.

There's still time to get those registrations (available at www.rmddsing.org) in to:

Bob Reed, Registrar
643 Crawford Cr.
Longmont, CO 80501

RMD CHAMPION PASSES

Just received a sad phone call from **Ron Kientz**. His good friend and long-time barbershopper, **Larry Williams**, died this morning. I'm certain many of you don't know Larry, but many old-timers will. Larry was tenor of a popular quartet in the 1970's (**4th Generation**) with Larry on tenor, **Ron Kientz**, lead; **Tom Smith** on bari, and **Blake Robinson** on bass.



A memorial service was held Monday, Dec. 28 at 10:00 a.m. at the Notre Dame Catholic Church, 2190 S. Sheridan Blvd. in Denver. Cards can be sent to his wife and family:

Barbara Williams
6285 W. Long Drive
Littleton, CO 80123

George Davidson
Denver Mile High chapter



1980 Rocky Mountain District Quartet Champions

Colorado Gold

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THIS came in an email:
Q: Who's the patron saint of email?
A: Saint Francis of a CC!

FROM THE TOP RUNG

Woody Woods, District President

Be It Resolved ... To Make A Difference!

The new year starts and we all have the urge to make resolutions concerning our health, our finances, our family. In addition to those, let's make a resolution about our musical growth, our chapter, our district and our Society!

Let's start with the personal musical growth resolution. Do you know what a difference each of us can make by taking an extra 10 minutes each day to work on that one little section of a song that's giving us trouble? That's so much less time that a director has to devote to teaching notes and words. He or she can spend that time making the song more enjoyable to all by working on some phrases and dynamics and the overall musicality. If you've ever had the chance to sing with one of our district champion quartets, or an international champion quartet, you know that you sound so much better with them than with a quartet from your chapter. Why? Because you are singing with men who know the music and are working on musicality and you get caught up in it. Think of how much more enjoyable chapter meetings would be if you worked on musicality rather than notes and words! Another possible resolution is to take advantage of voice lessons when they are offered. It makes singing so much easier if you get some tips.

Next we should focus on our resolution for the chapter. No matter what the District or the Society try to do, it's the chapter and the men in it that make all the difference. If each of us would try to bring just one man to a chapter meeting every month during the year of 2010 who knows what might happen! If half of those men stayed that would more than double the size of the chapter! That makes it much easier on each of us because nobody has to be a hero! We can all sing at an enjoyable level and make a chapter sound that is awesome! One other resolution each of us could make is to support our chapter functions. Why should a sing-out only have half the men at it? That certainly doesn't show the public what our chapters are like and then there are less tickets sold for the annual or Christmas shows, and fewer people hear what we bring to America!

Those two resolutions would be enough for most of us, but some are driven to do more! For those who would like to

become members of the District Board of Directors, send an e-mail to Tony Pranaitis and let him know. The wider spread the officers are throughout the District, the easier it is to get to chapters and learn of the joys and concerns that they may have. This will improve communications from the District to the chapters as well as among the chapters. Who knows? There may be a chapter member in the next closest chapter who would love to sing in a quartet, but can't find the right fit in his own chapter!

I'll leave you with this one thought – please try to make it to the Spring Convention in Rapid City, SD! It's going to be a convention like no other with the Rapid City Chorus 40th Anniversary chapter show, the International Qualification Quartet Finals and a reunion of Gotcha! How could it be any better? If we were all there cheering them on and singing in the hallways and courtyards!

Happy New Year!

Woody

ROCK SOLID BARBERSHOP

RMD SPRING CONVENTION

RAPID CITY, SD

APRIL 23-25, 2010

2009 RMD District Champs

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FOR DIRECTORS...

MUCH IS AVAILABLE

John Elving, VP, Chorus Director Development

How many of you directors know what all is available to you and your chapter to help you become the best director you can possibly be? How about you assistant directors, section leaders, music team members? Let me shed some illumination on some of them.

I'm sure most of you know by now if you have been reading any of the Vocal Expressions for the past four years, at least, about CDWI (Chorus Directors Workshop Intensive). It has always been a great tool for directors and assistant directors who want to work on specific skills of their choosing under the tutelage of experienced trainers in a one day workshop. In the past few years it has expanded so that there are two different CDWIs—CDWI I and CDWI II. CDWI is for those who have successfully completed CDWI I and want even more intense training.

In recent years they have also added a training session called Next Step. This is a training venue where you take all your skills and show how they work in any typical chapter meeting and chorus rehearsal. Although done by video, this is definitely a one-on-one training session on ways to improve not only what you do as a director, but to also improve how your skills can improve your chorus.

Any of these three programs are a win-win for you as a director and the chorus you direct.

For those of you who may be just starting out in the directing field, for those of you who think you might want to be a director, and for those music team and chorus members who even occasionally direct a song, tag, or even Happy Birthday, there is a program just for you. It is called Outstanding In Front (OIF). It will take you through the basics and make you more confident in working with your section or chorus, no matter your prior experience.

The RMD has certified trainers in both CDWI and OIF ready and willing to come to your aid. All are experienced directors and musicians who only want to help you and your chorus become better.

Coming in April, during the RMD Spring Convention held in Rapid City, I would like to have a time when directors and assistant directors can get together for a Directors' Roundtable. This will be a time of sharing successes and failures in such a way that we can help each other out in the week in week out struggles as a director. More will be coming out about this later, but plan to make time for a one to two hour time together the last weekend in April.

How many of you are planning on attending Directors College this year? Last year the RMD had seven directors attend, many of them on scholarship. Scholarships are available from the Society, thanks to the generosity of Harmony Foundation, for any director who has never attended, or for any director who has not attended in the last five years. The window for application is very short and is happening soon,

so you need to get those in. Please contact me if you need any information or applications. I also have all the information on certification, including how you can take some of the classes at home.

The RMD also has three scholarships available to directors who don't qualify for the Society scholarships. These are given on a first come, first served basis, with preference given to those who have never been. To apply for one of these you need to check with me. I will be handling the paperwork needed and disbursement of the scholarships. See my email and phone number elsewhere in this publication.

Are you a person that wants to learn the very basics of directing as a way to find out if you have the necessary skills, personality and will? Rocky Mountain Harmony College in Estes Park (or at least near) has just what you need in the beginning directing class offered. This year Raisha Quinn, director of the Grand Junction Bookcliff Chorus will be teaching this class and anyone is welcome to join her for a time of learning.

If you are a director in need of a position with a chorus, or you know of a chorus who is in need of a director, please contact me. The same is true of anyone needing specialized help with anything you may encounter in directing, chorus development, or just a need for talking things out. There is always someone within our ranks willing to help.

For anything that hasn't been covered here that you think should be discussed, please let me know. If I don't know the answer, I can find someone who does. Let us help where we can. That's what we're here for.

Sing-cerely & Humm-bly,

John Elving



"I'm sorry, Mrs. Bosveld, but having a bass as a spouse does not entitle you to an extra deduction."

ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS

Tony Pranaitis, RMD Nominating Committee

The RMD Nominating Committee welcomes nominations of any men in the District who would be qualified to contribute to the leadership team of the district, particularly for the office of **Executive Vice President** beginning in 2011. This could be a person who has served in District leadership before, or who has established credentials in chapter leadership and would be interested in applying his experience in District service.

The office of **Executive Vice President** (2-year term) prepares a leader to become **District President**, thus giving him the experience necessary to understand the functions and responsibilities of the office of President. It is likely that while serving as **EVP** he would hold an office on the **Operations Team** or on a Committee serving the Ops Team, so he would know first hand how both the Governance and Operations of the District work.

With that in mind, please submit the names of any candidates to Tony Pranaitis at 303-233-6234 or TonyChiro@juno.com and the candidate(s) will be contacted for further inquiry.

Tony

CALLING ALL BULLETIN EDITORS

John Elving, PROBE VP for Bulletin Editors

Calling out to all you chapter bulletin editors—**YOO-HOO!** It's that time of year again when the RMD and PROBE need to have you contact me (leadermanje@gmail.com) to submit your chapter bulletin to be critiqued by the best in the business.

What is he talking about, you say. It is time to submit your bulletins for the annual Bulletin Editor of the Year (BETY) contest. I really shouldn't use that word—contest—here because it is so much more than that. As a matter of fact it is in many ways comparable to taking your chorus to convention. You sing for great audiences and get judged by a certain standard of performance, and, most importantly, get a great and constructive critique as to how to make the chorus better.

So it is with the BETY competition. **ALL** chapter bulletin editors are strongly encouraged to submit their bulletins, whether weekly, monthly or bimonthly. Some of the finest bulletin editors around will go over your bulletins with a fine-toothed comb of sorts and then let you know just how to improve your bulletin for more effective communication to your chapter members, their families and others in your

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR PRO TEM

As I write this story, I know that our much loved editor-in-~~cheap~~ chief is now home and getting ready to get back in the saddle. He is chomping at the bit to get back at what he does best—editing and producing one of the finest bulletins/newsletters/magazines in the Society.

Let me say that it has been my pleasure to TEMPORARILY take his spot during his illness so that you of the RMD could hopefully be kept informed of all the important happenings within the Rocky Mountain District and beyond. I'm just glad that I could help out in some way.

Starting with the next issue, Steve will be in charge again, so send him all your information. It's not that I don't still want to get your bulletins and emails. Just include me in what you send him. He can't publish what he doesn't know about. That's true of anyone who publishes a tome of any kind, whether monthly, bimonthly, quarterly, or weekly. No news means no passing information along.

You will still see articles from me that pertain to PROBE contests and bulletin editing along with articles that pertain to my position as VP for Chorus Director Development. I will also submit articles pertaining to the upcoming Spring Convention being held in Rapid City the last weekend in April. **(BE THERE FOR A GREAT WEEK-END OF ROCK SOLID BARBERSHOP!)**

Thank you for allowing me to serve you for just a little while and to help Steve out. It has been a wonderful few months.

Sing-cereely & Humm-bly,

John Elving

community.

I can attest to the fact that the critiques I received in the past were the most valuable learning/teaching tools I had ever gotten. And that after I had taught journalism in high school! Did I feel like somebody was putting me down for my effort. Au contraire my good friends. It was all constructive and written so as to help in my efforts to inform my barbershop friends.

Entering is very easy. Get your chapter to spring for the PROBE dues for 2009 and 2010 if you aren't already a member. Also get them to spring for the postage to send me your bulletins for judging. Send everything in and I'll take care of it from there.

All the information that is needed to enter your bulletins takes up more space than I have here. If you want to find out more, contact me, or go to the PROBE website (www.harmnize.com/probe). I can get all the information to you immediately, if not sooner. Enter your bulletin today. Just do it!

John

Harmony Foundation presents THIRD ANNUAL YOUTH CHORUS FESTIVAL

Midwinter Convention

Tampa, Florida

Tony Pranaitis, RMD VP Harmony Foundation

The Rocky Mountain District again has two Youth Chorus representatives going to the Midwinter Convention, **52eighty** from Denver and **The 505** from Albuquerque.

Harmony Foundation supports this event, but there are additional costs (mostly travel) that are born by the youth, and many without sufficient financial means are planning to attend "by faith" with the hope of support from the barbershop community.

You can reach either chorus via their websites:
www.the505.org and www.52eightychorus.com

Below is a memo from Mike Davidson, one of the founders of **52eighty** outlining the pressing need that his and each youth chorus faces. Hopefully YOU (every barbershopper reading this article) will consider becoming a Harmony Foundation "Ambassador of Song" (see www.Harmony-Foundation.org) which provides funding for SO MANY of our youth programs, including this festival...and if each of us gives what we can afford to assist the chorus(es) of our choice, together we can provide a life-changing experience for young men singing barbershop harmony and for them to see it performed by the best in the world.

Please read Mike Davidson's words below, and please support the future of barbershop harmony (our youth).

Tony

We are taking a group of 30 guys from the age of 15 all the way up to me (I've hit the age limit of the competition at 30—and this will be my last year) on our trip to Tampa on January 29th. Our average age is 22.1! We are made up of guys from local high schools, some area colleges and universities, and even have a few guys who will be coming from local states like Nebraska and Arizona where they attend college...as well as a few hard working "young" men like myself from the Denver-Metro Area. **52eighty** is made up of struggling students, some young parents supporting kids through pre-school, working our way through tough times, and some of our guys do not have jobs. We have members represented from Sound of the Rockies, the Denver MountainAires and the Longmont Chorus and are really singing well! As you can imagine, getting 30 guys to Tampa, Florida is not easy (or cheap).

We hope that your chapter will consider supporting these fine young singers with a donation to **52eighty**.

You can support us in many ways:

1. Send a check to my home address below. All checks can be made out to the Denver Mile High Chapter and are TAX DEDUCTIBLE as we are a non-profit group.
2. Go to our website and make a donation through PayPal located in the lower half of the homepage.

3. Come to our Fundraiser Concert on Saturday—Jan. 23.
4. If you can't support us financially, email me your words of encouragement and I will send them along to the guys.

I thank you so much for considering a donation to this worthwhile group. We are doing many great things to attract younger members into barbershop. Although not all of our members are society members yet, we have been successful recruiting around 12 new members to the Barbershop Harmony Society over the last year.

I know the last few years have been hard for us all, and it's not an easy time to ask. Please know that even \$1 will help us reach our goal of around \$13,000 to cover the expenses of our trip.

Please call me or email with questions or well wishes for our guys. I will do my best to respond and read your notes of encouragement to our youngsters.

Thank you so much for your support,

Mike Davidson

10185 Park Meadows Drive #314

Lone Tree CO 80124

Cell: 303.720.1866

52eighty - President

BARBERSHOPPERS OF THE YEAR RECOGNIZED BY CHAPTERS

The following people have been recognized as the most valuable person for their local chapter. This makes them the Barbershopper of the Year (BOTY) for 2009. We wish to recognize those people as also being very valuable to the Rocky Mountain District as they help their chapter become better through their individual efforts.

Pikes Peak, Colo.

Charlie Snyder

Denver Mile High, Colo.

Doyle Cline

Longmont, Colo.

Don Chaikin

Montrose, Colo.

David Stannard

Mt. Rushmore, (Rapid City) S.D.

David L'Esperance

Ogallala, Neb

Ed Wallin

*Life is not measured by the number of
breaths we take, but by the number of
moments that take our breath away.*
(anonymous)

ARE YOU BEING SERVED?

Lee Taylor RMD Executive VP

In a recent email stream from **Bill Biffle**, our **International Society President**, he asks for discussion on the topic of customer (member) satisfaction. Are members having so much fun in weekly meetings that they can't wait for the next meeting/rehearsal? Do we have measurement tools to head off member dissatisfaction, or do we rely on exit interviews to gauge member experiences?

Dave Baraff describes some of the consequences of member dissatisfaction. ***"When members are unhappy, they don't recruit new members. There goes the recruiting program. When members are unhappy, they don't sell show tickets. There goes the bank account. When members are unhappy, they don't learn the music. There goes the sound."*** Those are measurements of a sort, but anecdotal, and after the fact. Wouldn't it be better to know what our members think and feel in real time?

How do we assess the mood of our chapters? Effective chapter boards with accessible board members at large make a point of staying in touch with members needs. BMALs (Board Members At Large) represent the chapter management team, while serving as advocates for the membership. If something is lacking in your chapter experience, seek out a board member, rather than grousing in open chapter meetings.

Member surveys are other tools in the kit, and are conducted every year or two in many successful chapters. A suggested survey format is very simple, and parallels the restaurant industry. ***"Would you recommend this establishment to a friend?" "Why or why not?" "Rate your satisfaction level from 1 to 5." "What can we do to make it better?"***

Whose job is it to make me happy? For openers, mine, but I joined the Barbershop Harmony Society to share in the enterprise of making others happy as well. One of the outcomes of that union is my own happiness. Like most barbershoppers, I joined for the music, but stayed for the fellowship. These values are not natural enemies, and a successful chapter should have a mix (and a balance) of both.

Lee



Don't forget those Singing Valentines



Harmony University... August 1-8, 2010 - St. Joseph, MO The PREMIER event for barbershop music education

Be sure to visit the Harmony University page!

Just about everything you need to know about **HU 2010** is online now, such as:

- Specific information on each college:
 - ◆ Harmony College
 - ◆ Quartet College - QUARTETS... we've assembled a tremendous coaching faculty this year... sign up now and take advantage of the "Bring Your Baritone Free" scholarship
 - ◆ Music Educator Tract
 - ◆ Directors College - DIRECTORS... pay careful attention to the DC Scholarship page - dates are slightly different this year and scholarships are limited
 - ◆ Next Generation
- Registration Deadlines - March 15th, Registration prices increase
- Scholarship information
- Class Selection forms - browse courses that will be available
- eXtreme quartetting
- ...MUCH, MUCH MORE

Coming soon online...the 2010 Course Guide which will include class descriptions as well as what fantastic faculty member will be teaching each course.

For any additional information regarding Harmony University, email HarmonyU@barbershop.org.

Society Nominating Committee Seeking Society Board Candidates

Do you have the background and interest for serving on the Society Board, or know someone who does? The Society Nominating Committee is looking for candidates to fill the positions of Society Treasurer and Society Board Member At-Large for 2011.

Forward the name and contact information (e-mail address and telephone number) for a Society Board Member At-Large and/or Treasurer candidate to:

Rob Hopkins, Chairman, Society Nominating Committee

E-mail: rghopkins@verizon.net



MUSIC EDUCATION IN OUR NATION'S SCHOOLS

*From the internet, Montana Jack Fitzpatrick, author
Used by permission*

Yesterday, our local paper the "Missoulian" published a letter from a school board trustee in Libby, MT. I have their permission to share this with you, as a matter of interest to [all Barbershoppers].

MUSIC EDUCATION IN PERIL

Recently, I attended the Montana School Board Association's annual conference. One of the sessions that caught my attention was "Educating the Whole Child through the Arts: Music Programs in Serious Crisis". Having little knowledge of this crisis, I encouraged other board members to attend along with me.

Representatives on the session's panel spanned administrators and educators from the University of Montana, Montana State University, high schools and the Office of Public Instruction. They expressed concern with the shortage of Music Instructors, rigorous educational requirements (five year degree) to become a music teacher and the value of music in a student's curriculum.

The total time commitment is considerable for a music teacher with the expectation of numerous concerts, extra-curricular activities such as pep band and the select choir, as well as competitions on the state and national level. I never realized their season never ends. As your trustee, I feel it is my responsibility to inform the public of this crisis; your support may be needed in the future.. When you have the opportunity, please say thank you to our music teachers, students and all educators alike for what they give to our community.

I have included some comments from seventh and eight grade students during a recent concert at the Memorial Center in answer to the question: "Why is music important in your life?"

- Music lifts up your soul and releases it.
- Music is what moves everyone and without it, life would be pointless.

- Music is important to people's lives because it makes things better when things aren't going right in the world.
 - Music, without it there would be silence, less joy and darker times.
 - Music is important to the world because it helps people feel better and can give them hope.
- Said much better than I ever could.

Signed,

Gary Huntsberger
Trustee, Libby School Board
Libby, Montana

There is much food for thought there for all of us.

Please consider that, in our Youth Chorus Competition last January in Pasadena, CA, the local (Pasadena) Youth Chorus had to scratch because the city decided to abandon the school music program and the young men had no director.

Won't each of you consider, as we look forward to the New Year, how you, personally, can contribute to helping your local middle or high school music educator with their program. Perhaps it is just a phone call or letter of support. Considering the wealth of talent in the membership of the [Society], we should be able to offer some more concrete support to this essential part of our school's curriculum.

Please don't let your local schools become another monument of what used to be.

One Pasadena incident should be enough to scare us all. If your local school music program has already been sacrificed, why not meet with the school principal and offer to donate your time or that of members of your chapter, to have an after school music program.

Blessings, please make that call,

Montana Jack

NEW MEDICAL PLAN

Bill Archambeau, from The Voice of eXperience

Join Barbershop—Live Longer and Healthier.

When you join us we will provide you with physical exercise... on the risers, off the risers. This provides you with your minimum weekly requirement and will add to your life span. Mental alertness to learn words and spots... and retain them for an indefinite period—throw away your Ginkgo Biloba and learn spots. It's better for you and you will remain sharp and clear for years.

Think the note... sing the note... requires mental and physical coordination. Think of the long lasting benefits. Next, the most important... breathing. Think of the vast volumes of air you bring in expanding your lungs and really making them work. Finally exhaling all that hot air – we all know people that are full of it, but not barbershoppers. They got rid of theirs while singing!





There is still plenty of time to support your district representatives to the third annual youth festival. Now we all know that not all of us will be attending the Mid-Winter Convention in Tampa, Florida. That is only one way to support the two choruses vying for the top position from the Rocky Mountain District—**52eighty** and the **505 Chorus**.

How else can we help, you ask. Easier done than said! First, and probably foremost in the minds of many of those young men attending would be financial help.

I was reminded by a friend the other day how these finances work. This man was part of a group that was about \$7,000 behind in the money they needed to operate. All he had to do was tell the guys in the group about the issue. In less than a week, exactly \$7,000 came in the form of everything from \$4 on up. Even a little bit helped achieve that goal.

Don't we all have some change to let loose of? Think of the cost of one foo-foo coffee—\$4, at least. Each of those choruses could use the amount of one coffee from every member of the district.

Another way to support those groups, all of them, is to sign up for the webcast. For a grand total of \$15 you can enjoy the entire youth chorus contest while sitting around in your whatevers watching the show and thinking about the coffee you could have had but decided to donate to our guys. Check out the Society website <www.barbershop.org> to sing up. You can even enjoy it after Mid-Winter is over.

For those who don't know about these two groups, a little history is in order. Both **52eighty** and the **505 Chorus** were formed last year to compete in the Youth Festival in Pasadena. The first time out of the chute they came in second and third respectively. (*Darn upstart kids! –Ed*)



52eighty is Denver's newest men's youth a cappella chorus, made up of some of the most talented young men from the Barbershop Harmony Society and other vocal groups from the Rocky Mountain region. They sing all styles of music from barbershop and vocal jazz to choral and chamber music. This is one group that you will not want to miss out on. Composed of singers all under 30, their average age can be no more than 25, according to the competition's rules... that's the Barbershop Harmony Society's Youth Chorus Competition rules. They are under the direction of two of the finest young directors around: Chris Vaughn and Matt Swann.

Donations to help out can be done by going to their website, www.52eighty.com and clicking on the PayPal button, or by mailing donations made to "Denver Mile High Chapter" and sent to:

Mike Davidson
10181 Park Meadows Dr. #314
Lone Tree, CO 80124



The **505 Chorus** began on August 31, 2008. Four young men, after years of talking about creating a young men's chorus in town, decided that it was time to turn their words into actions. They started out with an interest meeting in which 15 young men attended. They shared laughs, sang tags, and presented everyone with the idea of going to Pasadena, California to compete in the International Youth Barbershop Festival. The support and enthusiasm was so contagious the following week they had a turn out of 22 men.

Under the direction of Ivan Miller and Michael Stokes, the **505 Chorus** is a new and exciting vocal group composed of young male singers from the greater Albuquerque metropolitan area.

Inspired by the current youth resurgence in the Barbershop Harmony Society, the young men of the **505 Chorus** are dedicated to providing each audience with a musical experience that transcends the ordinary and propels them to the extraordinary!

Care to help them out and donate? Go to their website, www.the505.org and click on the PayPal button. It's that easy.

Remember, at least one cup of foo-foo coffee donated by each of us to both of these fine choruses will continue to spread our beloved barbershop music to the next generation who will be taking the reigns of our Society soon! Do it today! It's never too late to give them financial support!

You are Important to your Chapter

You've probably seen the following article. I don't know who originated it, but it is a good reminder that every one of us who is a barbershopper has a vital role to play.

Xvxn though this typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works vxll, xxcxpt for only onx kxy. You'd think that with all the othxr kxys working, onx kxy would hardly bx noticxd. But just onx kxy out of whack sxmxs to ruin thx wholx xffort.

Havx you vxvr said to yoursxlf, "I'm only onx pxrson. No onx will noticx if I don't do my bxst." But it doxs makx a dif-fxrncx, bxcausx to bx xffctive, a family, an organization or a businxs nxxds compltx participation by vxryonx to the bxst of his or hxr ability.

So if You'rx having onx of thosx days whxn you think you just arxn't vxry important and you'rx txmptxd to slack off, rx-mxmbxr this old typxwritxr. You arx a kxy pxrson, and whxn you don't do your bxst, nothing xlsx around you works out thx way it's supposxd to. Happy Barbxrshopping!

GIVE THEM A STANDING OVATION

Brad Ayers, RMD SOP Chairman

Rocky Mountain Harmony College will again hold a **Standing Ovation Program** (SOP) Certification class for those interested in doing this important work for the Rocky Mountain District. Last year we certified five new reviewers bringing the total in the district to eight.

SOP is a Society-supported and promoted program with a mission to assist chapters and quartets in improving performances from the audience point of view. It is voluntary and by invitation of the chapter or quartet in your district. We approach SOP reviews with the perspective learned in the SOP Certification class covering the full spectrum of the audience experience.

Reviewers typically have experience in a broad range of performance areas including show production, singing, performing, and show business management. Even after taking the certification class each reviewer will still naturally bring his own particular strengths to the review.

We respond to a review request with both pre and post event communication which concludes with a briefing tailored to the best fit for the chapter or quartet. This ranges from written reports to meetings with the music team or in many cases with the entire chapter.

Take advantage of the February 5-6, 2010 RMD Harmony College certification class. It is a rewarding and fun experience to do a SOP review that will add a new dimension to your Barbershop Harmony experience. If you cannot attend the Harmony College this year and still want to get involved email me at bayers773@msn.com.

Brad

“Change is hard because people overestimate the value of what they have and underestimate the value of what they may gain by giving it up.”

*-James Belasco and Ralph Stayer
Flight of the Buffalo(1994)*

IT'S RAPID CITY IN APRIL FOR ROCK SOLID BARBERSHOP

Make your plans now for the last weekend in April. That includes plans for your quartet, your small chorus, and your VLQ. Start working on the music you want to sing for the best audience in the world—a barbershop loving audience. It's going to be one great weekend of Rock Solid Barbershop held in the home of the World's Largest Quartet.

Bring your quartet, even if you aren't competing, to sing for the pleasure of others. You can always sing in the lobby of the auditorium before the shows, at intermission, in the auditorium itself (*been there, done that, bought the T-shirt*). Then there's always the afterglow. Sing for anyone and everyone whenever you can!

Speaking of the afterglow, this is one not to miss. Not only will there be great entertainment by many quartets and VLQs, (maybe even a small chorus or two), but it will be a time to pig out. You read it right. This is one afterglow with real food, made by real people connected with the Mt. Rushmore Chapter. No hors d'oeuvres, no veggies and dip, no dried out cheap pizza. Real food for real people held in the newly remodeled Dahl Museum. Talk about high class...

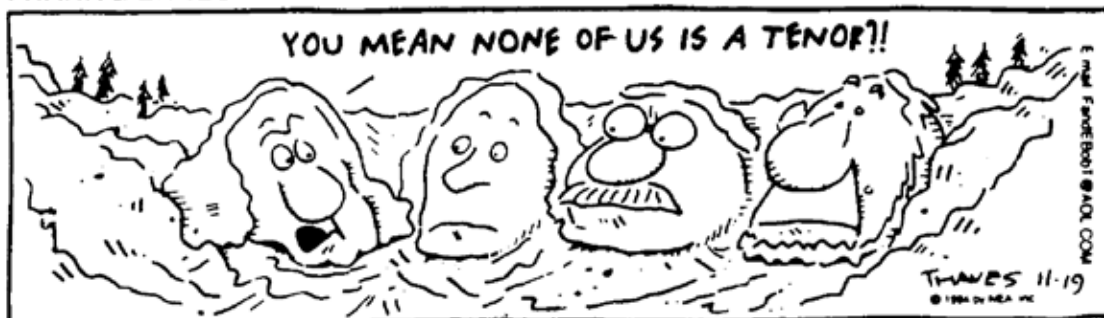
Help the Mt. Rushmore Chapter and the Shrine of Democracy Chorus celebrate their 40th anniversary as a chapter by enjoying their annual show, which will be a part of the evening festivities. And what an evening it will be—the Shrine of Democracy anniversary show, the finals quartet competition, the Show of Champions, and, coming out of retirement for one performance, past International Quartet Champion Gotcha!

However, the best part is where everyone gets to sing, sing, sing! All day, all night, anywhere in town.

Take a narrated city-view tour on the City View Trolley for a paltry \$2 (\$1 for seniors). Get together with friends and travel 20 miles up to Mt. Rushmore. Travel a few more miles to the Crazy Horse monument. Travel the Needles Highway (careful, now). Spend time eating at restaurants featured on the Food Network by Rachel Ray (within walking distance of the headquarters hotel).

There will be plenty to do, so make those travel plans now! It's never too early. And we'll see you in Rapid City!

FRANK & ERNEST by BOB THAVES





2010 Rocky Mountain District Spring Convention

April 23 – 24, 2010

Rapid City, SD.

Hotel: Radisson, 445 Mt. Rushmore Rd.

Contest Venue: Dakota Middle School, 615 Columbus St.

Afterglow: Dahl Arts Center, 713 8th St.

FEATURED PERFORMING GUEST: GOTCHA!



2010 SPRING CONVENTION REGISTRATION

First Name	M. I.	Last Name	
<i>Order by (name as it appears on credit card, e.g. John Q. Smith)</i>			
Mailing Address (Street)			
		()	
City	State	ZIP Code	Daytime Phone
			Handicap
Email address – (required for confirmation)		Chapter Name	
Competing Quartet (If applicable)			
Competing Chorus (if applicable)			

ADDITIONAL REGISTRATIONS *(Name as it should appear on Name Badge)*

	<i>First Name</i>	<i>Last Name</i>	<i>Handicap</i>
REGISTRANT #2			
REGISTRANT #3			
REGISTRANT #4			
REGISTRANT #5			
If more registrants, attach a	separate sheet.		

REGISTRATION ORDER

ALL Competitors are REQUIRED to purchase an All Events Package

Each All Events Package includes: ALL Sessions, Activities, Contests, and Afterglow

1st Early Bird Registration DEADLINE is February 15, 2010

2nd Early Bird Registration DEADLINE is March 15, 2010

<input type="checkbox"/> All Events Package (Adult 1st Early Bird)	\$35.00	x	Qty	=	\$	
<input type="checkbox"/> All Events Package (Adult 2nd Early Bird)	\$55.00	x	Qty	=	\$	
<input type="checkbox"/> All Events Package (Adult after 3-15-10)	\$70.00	x	Qty	=	\$	
<input type="checkbox"/> All Events Package Youth (up to age 18)	\$35.00	x	Qty	=	\$	
Single Event – Adult	\$30.00	x	Qty	=	\$	Specify:
Single Event – Youth (up to age 18)	\$20.00	x	Qty	=	\$	Specify:
GRAND TOTAL FOR ALL EVENTS						\$

Personal Checks, Master Card and VISA are accepted (provide your credit card information below)
(If registering by mail, post-mark by no later than April 15th)



RMD Registrar: Bob Reed

643 Crawford Cir, Longmont, CO 80501

Home 303-651-3196 Cell: 303-931-4800

Email: rgreed1@comcast.net



Master Card

Visa

Account Number

Expiration: MM/YY

/

NEW AND IMPROVED INFORMATION ON LICENSING CHAPTER SHOWS

Dick Stark, RMD Secretary

With a slate of new officers taking over this spring, including a fair number of secretaries, I wanted to take a few paragraphs to review and update the process we need to follow in getting chapter shows authorized. For myself, I am entering my second year as RMD Secretary, and have learned some things along the way that I want to pass on.

In general, performances must be licensed whenever songs other than those in the public domain are performed, and when an admission fee is charged. If you are performing for free as a public service, there is no license required. If your group is a guest on a show hosted by another group that charges admission, that group generally is responsible for licensing.

BMI/SESAC License

The BMI/SESAC license is the clearance that must be procured prior to the performance, and is coordinated through the District Secretary. The application form can be found on the Barbershop Harmony Website, www.barbershop.org. When you get to the Society's homepage, select "**Documents**" from the ring menu at the top, and then, under the heading of Business and Finance, select Chapter Business Documents. From the long list of documents listed alphabetically, click on "**Application for Show Clearance BMI and SESAC License.**" The form will be displayed and can be printed.

Complete the form, indicating the location, date, and number of performances. A table at the bottom of the form gives the rate per performance. Most shows (unless the capacity of the venue exceeds 1,500 seats) will require a fee of \$28 per performance. If you are doing matinee and evening performances, for example, the total fee will be \$56. Have a Chapter Officer sign the form, usually the Secretary.

Mail the form, along with a check for the license made out to the **Barbershop Harmony Society**, to me (Dick Stark, 1424 S. Dover Way, Lakewood CO 80232). I approve the license for the Rocky Mountain District (RMD), and forward three copies and the check to the Society headquarters in Nashville. I return the original license document to the chapter, to the return address the application was mailed from.

Finally, I forward the information on your show to the editors of the **RMDSing** website, where an electronic version of the District Calendar is maintained, and of the **Vocal Expressions** newsletter, where all the shows coming up in the next year or two are posted. Needless to say, if you want people to be aware of your show ahead of time, it behooves you to get me the information early. Some chapters have their shows posted two years ahead of the scheduled date.

The RMD allows chapters to reserve future show dates prior to actually going through the licensing process. Dates can be reserved up to two years out by notifying me in writing (postal mail or email) the date you have an interest in,

the chapter name, and the location of the show. I will then have the show posted in the **Vocal Expressions** and the **RMDSing** website with an asterisk before the date. This will reserve the date until six months prior to the requested date, by which time the BMI/SESAC license must be procured. If that doesn't happen, the date will be shown with 2 asterisks, meaning that the date has been requested but is no longer reserved, and is again available to other local chapters.

To protect chapter shows from internal competition, The Rocky Mountain District has a policy against more than one chapter show on the same day within fifty miles of one another, unless there is prior agreement between the two chapters. In cities with more than one chapter, coordinate with other chapters that may be interested in the date you are considering. If you both decide to use the same date, there must be written concurrence sent with the second BMI/SESAC application from the chapter that first reserved or licensed the date.

ASCAP Payment

There is also an ASCAP fee that must be paid; however this is an annual fee, not show-specific. New in 2010, the Society has provided a form to calculate and accompany the payment. The form is shown below.

The current guidance, while the process and fee amount are under review, is that if a chapter has at least one show during the calendar year, payment, made out to the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS), should be mailed directly to the Society Headquarters in Nashville (attn: Accounting). Since the payment is calculated from the show revenues, it is not due until after the show(s).

In almost all cases, the amount for 2010 is \$219.00 (up from \$215 for 2009). Complete Part A of the form and send it with your check, with a copy of the form to me. Only if gross ticket revenues for the year exceed \$48,667 would a larger amount be required; in this case, fill in section B of the form to calculate the amount. Send the form and check directly to the Barbershop Society Office in Nashville (attn: Accounting), with a copy of the form to me.

As always, if you have questions, shoot me an email (lurongp@msn.com), and we can work out an answer.

Dick



ASCAP REPORTING FORM – FOR THE YEAR 2010

This form is to be completed to comply with the agreement between The Society and The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP). You should submit this form after your performances have taken place; as you will need to know the gross revenue from ticket sales to determine the payment amount. Send all fees to BHS - DO NOT SEND ANY PAYMENTS DIRECTLY TO ASCAP.

If your chapter does not gross more than \$48,667 in ticket sales for all performance(s) during the year of 2010, please fill out **SECTION A** and mail it with a check to the Society for the minimum amount - **\$219.00**. If your Chapter grosses more than \$48,667 in ticket sales for all performance(s) during 2010, please fill out **SECTION B** and submit the appropriate fee using the formula below. Please mail checks and forms to the Society attn: Accounting, and one copy of the form to your District Secretary for their records.

Chapter #:	Chapter Secretary or Treasurer name: (please print)
------------	---

SECTION A

Chapter will not gross more than \$48,667 in ticket sales for all performances during the year 2010.	Is paying the minimum licensing fee of \$219.00 Check # _____
--	--

SECTION B

	Seating Capacity		% applied to Gross Ticket Revenue	
	Low	High		Multiplier
	0	2500	0.45%	0.0045
	2501	5000	0.30%	0.003
	5001	10000	0.25%	0.0025
	10001	25000	0.20%	0.002
	over	25000	0.10%	0.001
		A	B	A X B
	Show Date	Gross Revenue	Multiplier	Fee
Show 1				
Show 2				
Show 3				
Show 4				
Total				

THE SECRETARY'S NOTEPAD

Dick Stark, RMD Secretary



I continue to get questions on the interrelated issues of BMI/SESAC show clearances and chapter reporting requirements, having to do with tax returns, registering corporate status with the secretary of state, and chapter financial reviews.

I'm sure you've heard by now that the Rocky Mountain District House of Delegates, at its 2009 fall meeting in Cheyenne, passed a motion requiring that chapter financial reporting and corporate registration with the Secretary of State be current, as a condition of future show licensing.

I've been pleasantly surprised at how the chapters have stepped up and worked with this policy this fall and winter. Currently, I am holding show applications from only three chapters pending their completion of their reporting. Six chapters have been able to complete their filing and reporting in the last couple months and have their 2010 shows licensed.

When a chapter applies for a BMI/SESAC license, but its reporting is not up-to-date, I have the date entered on the district calendar, with a footnote that the date is reserved pending completion of the application process. Since required submission dates occur at various times throughout the year, chapters will be expected to be current through the date the application is received. For example, if you apply in April for a show the following December, you will need to be current with reports that were due by April. If last year's reports would be the most recent, then they must be in place.

As a reminder, the due dates for our reporting are approaching. The filing date for the **990-N**, the IRS tax form that most of our chapters will be using, is May 15 (the 15th day of the fifth month after the end of the tax year). By that time, you should already have done the chapter financial review for the previous year and updated your registration with the Secretary of State. Please forward copies of these filings to me (Dick Stark, 1424 S. Dover Way, Lakewood CO 80232) by May 15; I will note your submission for the district records, and then forward the forms to the International Office in Nashville.

Your chapter will need a **taxpayer ID** for you to complete the **990-N** form. If you can't find yours from previous submissions, contact me; I can get the number from the International office in Nashville. Other than that, I encourage incoming officers to touch base with previous secretaries and treasurers, who have most likely done these steps in the past, and who can save you a lot of time and heartache if you ask for their help.

Dick



Longmont barbershoppers and their wives started off 2010 with a bang, about a dozen varieties of chili, tables full of salads, side dishes and desserts at the installation of the new officers, the crowning of the new BOTY and the Bonus Bux Auction, all at St. Stephen's meeting hall on January 9.

Harry Hoffman and **Chris Vaughn**, co-BOTYs for the past year, lost no time in conferring the latest BOTY honors on a relatively new barbershopper, **Dan Chaikin**, who moved into the roles of Music VP and 2009 Show Chairman just because he loves all things musical! "I've made music a big part of my life practically forever, but *singing with this chapter is the most fun thing I've ever done.*" sad Dan.



Chris Vaughn, left, and Harry Hoffman surround surprised BOTY winner Dan Chaikin, who showed us his music leadership in 2009.

Jim Cole ran the installation of officers and made each man swear to do all he could to improve the chapter operations during the new year. When he tallied the votes of the members and guests, Jim announced that the new chili champions were **Norma and JR Homan**, who let slip their secret to unforgettable chili. "It's the *fresh rattlesnake meat*," said JR.

When everyone was comfortably full, our favorite auctioneer, lead **O. J. Pratt**, arrived to conduct one of the strangest auctions new members have ever had the privilege of spending their bonus bux at. Going price for many of the classier items on the block was *over one million bux*.



YOUR RMD BOARD AT WORK...

TELECONFERENCE SUMMARY

Dick Stark, RMD Secretary

District Operations Team Teleconferences

As you may know, the Rocky Mountain District Operations Team holds a monthly teleconference to stay abreast of items that arise in between its semi-annual sit-down meetings, which are held in conjunction with the RMD Spring and Fall conventions.

Following are highlights of the last two calls, which will bring you up-to-date since last **Vocal Expressions**.

Summary of Leadership Academy

Lee Taylor reported that the District convened two successful sessions of the Leadership Academy, formerly known as Chapter Officer Training Sessions, one on the west side in Eden, Utah, and one in Denver. A total of forty-five men attended from sixteen of our chapters, which was quite encouraging to the leadership team. Financially, the district essentially broke even on the academy, which also was encouraging.

Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meeting Program

The board discussed this new program, devised and delivered by Chuck Green, which is designed to assist chapters in improving the quality of their chapter meetings. The Society had designated 2009 as the "Year of the Chapter", recognizing that chapter meetings are the place where we succeed or fail in attracting and retaining members. The **Denver MountainAires** chapter volunteered to host a session this spring, when we can arrange for Chuck to be in the district and meet with Program VPs and others on this important subject.

Show Licensing and Chapter Reporting

The board reviewed progress in implementing the House of Delegates' decision that chapter show licensing be contingent on the chapter being up-to-date in the areas of filing tax returns, registrations with the secretary of state, and annual chapter financial reviews. Overall, we are making good progress in getting these important issues taken care of. See the Secretary column and separate article on licensing chapter shows for more on these subjects.

Chorus Director Workshop Intensive and Outstanding in Front

John Elving updated the operations team on these programs, and reported that the Casper and Montrose chapters have expressed interest in scheduling sessions. These

are opportunities for chorus directors, assistant directors, and those interested in directing to gain some good training and share experiences with others in the directing field.

The Denver MountainAires have also expressed interest in hosting a session of the CDWI on the east side of the district.

Rosters Chapter Officer for 2010

The team discussed our progress in getting the new slates of chapter officers posted on the Society's eBiz website. As of the first of the year, 21 of our 33 chapters were current. Board members were assigned to help the remaining chapters get this important job done, so that we have up-to-date contacts in each chapter role.

Directors' Roundtable

Plans are underway to include a **Directors' Roundtable** at the Spring Convention in Rapid City in April. This forum gives directors an opportunity to meet informally to compare notes and learn from one another's experiences. John Elving leadermanje@gmail.com is the contact for the roundtable.

Rocky Mountain Harmony College

Dan Clark reported that plans are pretty well set for the RMHC on the first weekend in February, in Estes Park Colorado. The guest teaching quartet will be International Champion OC Times. The schedule of classes and coaching sessions should be out by the time you read this. Registration forms are available in the Vocal Expressions and on the Rocky Mountain District website www.RMDSing.org.

Rocky Mountain District Spring Convention

Duane Bosveld updated the operations team on the preparations for our spring convention in Rapid City, South Dakota. One of the highlights will be a return performance by the 2004 International Champion Quartet, Gotcha!. The spring prelims, in which quartets have the opportunity to qualify for international competition in July, will be held in conjunction with the Mt Rushmore chapter spring show. Registration forms are now available on the district website www.RMDWing.org. The convention will be the weekend of April 23 – 25.

Dick



FRONT RANGE CHORUS REVIVED FOR CHRISTMAS... HOLIDAY GET TOGETHER

Ron Kientz invited all the front range barbershoppers from Cheyenne to Pueblo to come and sing with members of **Sound of the Rockies** on Dec 19 at 2:00 p.m. Ron revitalized a long-standing tradition of singing carols at Christmas time at Southwest Plaza in Lakewood, Colorado.

Singers arrived at 1:00 pm to warm-up at the northwest corner of Bowles and S. Wadsworth beneath Dick's Sporting Goods. Dark slacks and brightly colored shirts and sweaters gave the gathered chorus a holiday spirited look.

Songs performed (using music.) were *Hark The Herald Angels Sing, Away In The Manger, Lo, How A Rose, Angels We Have Heard On High, It Came Upon A Midnight Clear, Silent Night, God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, O Holy Night, Jingle Bells, Oh Christmas Tree, O Little Town Of Bethlehem, Angels From the Realms Of Glory, Come All Ye Faithful* and *We Wish You A Merry Christmas*.

You might recognize Mike Davidson when he was 7 years old.



Make your plans NOW
to participate in the
SINGING FOR LIFE
Blood Drive and Donor
Recruitment Program

SINGING FOR LIFE
www.barbershop.org/blood

COLBY TUMBLEWEED CHORUS

Owen Herndon's Funeral

The Tumbleweed Chorus had a good representation at Owen Herndon's funeral on Monday January 11, 2010. Our numbers were swelled by the addition of former members Brad Herndon, who served as our director, Ryan Edmundson, Tim Knox, and Rick Deardon. We also had Hays dual members Al Finkbeiner and Gary Horchem, and Topeka dual member Don Kready singing with us.

The members of the chorus were privileged to be a sort of honor guard for Owen as we preceded his casket into the sanctuary at the beginning of the ceremony, and formed a double column through which the coffin and the mourners passed as they left the church.

We sang three numbers, *It is Well With My Soul, The Lord's Prayer* as part of the service, and *Tumblin' Tumbleweeds* to conclude the ceremony. Several of us returned from the cemetery for the gathering after the funeral where we ended with *Keep the Whole World Singing* led by Don Kready.

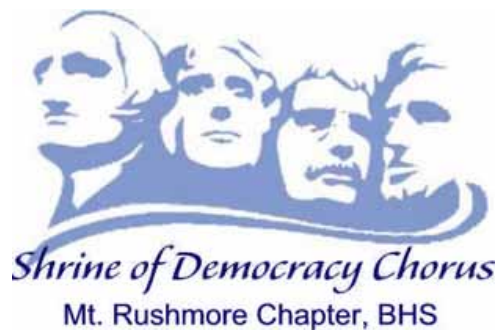
Owen's son Joel had put the finishing touches to Owen's final bulletin and had it printed and ready to handout to chorus members and other interested attendees. It will be available at the chapter meeting Thursday.

Officiating clergyman Reverend Warren Hett read excerpts from Owen's Bulletins as part of his contemplations on Owen's life, and as part of his obituary. Joel had written a touching tribute to his father, also read by Reverend Hett.

All in all it was a fitting "send-off", as several of Owen's friends said to us as they left the church, for our departed colleague and friend. At funerals, I always have the feeling that it is too bad the dearly departed couldn't be there to enjoy the tributes. So it was at Owen's funeral. And as I write this, I regret that Owen won't be able to include this article in his beloved Bulletin, *Tumblin' Tumblewords*.

Steve Ottlem





In a new twist of the Christmas season, the **Shrine of Democracy Chorus** performed three shows on two separate weekends with our sister Barbershop organization, **A Cappella Showcase**.

It is a new twist in that the Mt. Rushmore Chapter usually concentrates on singing our Christmas songs in retirement and convalescent homes in the area instead of larger shows. Why? Take a look at how many Christmas shows are presented in our area within a three week period. All of the elementary, middle and high schools present their Christmas (*sorry, but I refuse to call them "holiday"*) programs, **Dakota Choral Union** (DCU) has their concert, **Black Hills Symphony** has a concert, churches have concerts or Christmas productions, and there are always special concerts and productions that come in to the Civic Center.

With all of that going on, where would we find time to fit another show in people's schedules, let alone ours? However, we did find the time to fit in being a featured performer on the annual **A Cappella Showcase** Christmas show.

All of this came about because we had them as joint performers on our gospel show in April. That format proved to be pretty successful, and they sort of copied it in a much more relaxed format than just standing on risers and singing songs and dancing around. (*They do much more dancing than we do—we stomp!* –Ed)

For our Christmas music we are not used to singing without music, so with black notebooks in hand, we sang our collective heart out. Unfortunately, we didn't get all the music learned that we wanted to. There was one that we started working on that was being done by the ladies, with our help on four-part unison. I guess this gives us at least two new songs to unveil for next year.

It was a pleasure to see and hear **A Cappella Showcase** perform, as it was to hear Peter, Paul and Mary sound alike **Highway 66**. I say that because the tight harmonies sounded very much like what many of us grew up hearing from **PP&M**.

It was a pleasure to be asked to perform with ACS on this Christmas show. We are always looking to increase our audience, and to make people aware that the **Shrine of Democracy Chorus** sings at a high level sure to please the most discriminating ear.



NEWS FROM THE BLACK CANYON

The Montrose Chapter has chosen a theme for their show, which will be presented on March 27, 2010. It is their 35th annual show, and features **The Summit** as their special guest quartet.

Show chairman Don Barnett announced that he has chosen a theme for the show. It is: "Typical Thursday Night Barbershop Chorus Rehearsal." The board decided that such a title might be a little long for a show title (after all, it needs to fit on a poster), so a round-table discussion was initiated to search for one that might reflect the theme. Many suggestions came forward, but it was decided to get the input from the membership. They were told to think out of the box, and offer the show chairman some really fine suggestions.

Let's see what they come up with as they have a meeting of the mind. This could be interesting!



Barbershopper of the Year for the Montrose Black Canyon Chorus is David Stannard.

NORTHERN HILLS CHORUS NEWS—SPEARFISH, SD

In Memorium

Longtime member of the Northern Hills Chapter (Spearfish, SD) Wayne Shuck passed away on December 1, 2009. Although he had faced adversity due to a stroke, as recently as mid-November, Wayne was the sole tenor of the **Northern Hills Barbershop Chorus**. Wayne was a former music teacher who directed the Northern Hills Chapter for a number of years.

Director Nancy Schroeder reports that since taking over the reins in September, 2009 the size of the chorus has increased. When she started as director, there were 6-8 singers each week. By December they were consistently having 12-13 men singing with them. Plans are under way for many of the singers to join the Society and keep this chapter alive.

On October 15, the **Mt. Rushmore Chapter** traveled to Spearfish for an inter-chapter visit. Thirty-three members of the **Shrine of Democracy Chorus** ventured north to help out with a guest night. Along with the 33 members of SOD, there were 14 singers from the Spearfish/Belle Fourche area learning new, and re-learning old Christmas music.



COMMUNITY SERVICE UNDER AN ORANGE COLORED SKY

Saturday, November 7 was a bright and beautiful late autumn Saturday, perfect weather for the semi-annual trash pickup performed by Longs Peak Chorus volunteers under Longmont's Adopt a Road program. Aply organized by Jim Hopper, this year's crew also consisted of Jim Cole, Bob Plass, Dave Waddell and Steve Zimmermann. Our designated stretch of road was a mile of 95th St. on the north side of Highway 66.

After meeting at Daylight Donuts, we split up into two crews, working from opposite ends of the road. When we met in the middle about half an hour later, Dave pulled out his pitch pipe and we sang "Orange Colored Sky" under the crystal clear dome of a Colorado sky.

Then we turned around and worked our way back to our vehicles. It's amazing what you find. Besides ordinary trash (beer cans, soft drink bottles and fast food containers), this year we turned up some interesting items, including a rubber wheel chock, a pair of sneakers and a Camelback water pack. Give some thought to joining the cleanup crew next year. Tidying up our mile of roadside is good for the community, takes only an hour or two out of your Saturday twice a year, and is a lot of fun.



Almost like in the song, everything looked orange to volunteer trash pickers (from left) Steve Zimmermann, Bob Plass, Dave Waddell, Jim Hopper and Jim Cole on their semi-annual trip to beautify the highways around Longmont.

Photo - Dave Waddell

A PARODY (TO THE TUNE OF ORANGE-COLORED SKY.) TO BE SUNG REVERENTLY AT THE MIDPOINT OF ALL LPC TRASH PICKUPS.

"ORANGE-COLORED BAG"
BY ESTEEMED BARBERSHOP
ARRANGER

BILL SACHS

"I was singing a song, minding my business
When out of an orange-colored sky,
"Stash that trash, and all of those cans,"
Yelled Hopper as he walked by.

I was humming a tune, drinking in sunshine
When out of an orange-colored view,
"Wham, bam, just do what you can,"
Pleaded Hopper, "Keep up with the crew."

Refrain (more or less)

One look and Hopper screamed "Litter!
Watch out for scattered glass."

I went into a spin, my long legs caved in.
"Is this it? This won't fit. Can I quit?"

Now I'm limping along, minding my business,
When an orange flash hits me in the eye.
Slash, crash, I'm depositing trash...

*Here comes the tag
sung by the combined chorus.*

...Into an pumpkin-colored, bulging, trash-
filled, pretty darn heavy, orange bag...
Stash, trash, and all of those cans in a bag...
(echo with thunderous flourish)
Stash, trash, and all of those cans in a bag."





DIRECTOR CANDIDATE AUDITION

December has seen the America the Beautiful Chorus auditioning candidates to become the new director of the chorus. By the time this comes out there may be a new director in place. He will have some big shoes to fill in replacing Adam Reimnitz.

Stay tuned to find out who has been chosen!

NEWS FLASH

This just in: A new director has been announced. It is a familiar name in the RMD. (*The editorial staff is wondering where he finds the time!*) Accepting the position of director of the America the Beautiful Chorus is none other than **Jim Clark**, lead of that "sorta funny" quartet Storm Front. All we can say is, "Good Luck, Jim. We'll see around representing the chorus!"

Newly elected (or re-elected) officers for 2010 are:

- President – Gary Hickenlooper
- Immediate Past President – Charles Snyder
- Secretary – Jim Campbell
- Treasurer – Don Knepp
- VP Marketing / PR – Anthony Howell
- VP Music / Performance – Neil Ridenour
- Board Member at Large – Tim Simmons
- Board Member at Large – Arthur Boucher
- Board Member at Large – Howie Vroman
- Events Coordinator – Charlie Snyder
- Assistant Chorus Director – Paul Huff



The time here for the Rexburg, Idaho **Carousel Chorus** (above) to host the annual youth festival. By the time you read this it will be over, and another successful festival will be done and the members of this chapter will be basking in the glow.

Started by the late **Phil Ricks**, this has been one of the largest and most successful youth barbershop festivals anywhere. Phil knew that no matter what anyone thought, a small chapter could have a huge impact on young people.

Festival dates this year are/were January 21 for the high school festival, and January 22-23 for the college festival. Hopefully we will get a great report from the Rexburg Chapter about the success of the festival this year to publish in the next Vocal Expressions.

Thank you members of the **Carousel Chorus** for keeping this wonderful festival going.



COMPELLINGLY ATTRACTIVE CHAPTER MEETINGS

Tony Pranaitis, RMD VP Membership

Are your chapter meetings "compellingly attractive?" Do members and guests alike feel that they "can't wait until the next meeting?" Do they feel that their lives have been enriched at each meeting?

A dedicated barbershopper named Chuck Green has wrestled with these questions and **Compellingly Attractive Chapter Meetings** is the title of his workshop, which will be presented in Denver on May 22. To find out more about Chuck and his workshop, visit www.21stn7th.com (it's about ringing barbershop 7th chords into the 21st century). Chuck is an organizational strategist and his program prepares chapter leaders unlike any current training within the Society. Chuck's mission is for chapters to succeed and prosper, and the BHS believes so strongly in his workshop that it will subsidize \$20 of each barbershopper's tuition (cost to attend is \$75, which includes lunch and \$35 worth of hand-out materials). Chapters should invest at least \$220 to send at least 4 key leaders to Chuck's workshop (at \$55 each, with

the Society paying the other \$20). Who should go? Find out on Chuck's website, or give me a call / Email.

If Denver is too far, consider hosting a workshop in your vicinity. A minimum of 18 attendees is required (can include Sweet Adelines).

Chuck Green's workshop is about the HEART of what we are and what we do. His revolutionary approach to the chapter meeting experience is all about the preservation of barbershop harmony in the lives of men (and women) into the 21st century. Don't wish you hadn't missed this opportunity! Contact Tony Pranaitis at TonyChiro@juno.com or 303-233-6234 to reserve your spaces (we have room for a total of 40, about 25 spaces remain).

Tony



Rocky Mountain District
Vocal Expressions

Steve Jackson, Editor
215 Cheyenne St. Lot 18
Golden, CO 80403

Member of PROBE

Mar./Apr. VE deadline is Feb. 20. Thanks!

RMD Calendar of Events

***Preliminary Clearance**

Dates reserved without BMI license until six months before the event

**** Dates not reserved until BMI license is issued**



RMD Secretary

Dick Stark

303 986-3026

luronp@msn.com

2010

Jan. 26-31

BHS Mid-Winter Convention
Tampa, Fla

Feb. 5-7

Rocky Mountain Harmony College
Estes Park YMCA of the Rockies

March 6

**Denver, CO Mile High Chapter
Sound of the Rockies Show
Gates Concert Hall @ Denver University

March 10

Denver Mountainaires, CO Chapter
Denver Mountainaires Show
Wheatridge High School
Wheatridge, CO

***March 20**

Pocatello, ID Chapter
Idaho Gateway Chorus
Jensen Concert Hall
Idaho State University

***March 27**

Burly, ID Chapter
Snake River Flats Chorus Show
Kine Fine Arts Theater

March 27

Colby, KS Chapter
Tumbleweed Chorus Show
Frahm Theater
Colby College

***March 27**

Montrose, CO Chapter
Black Canyon Chorus Show
Montrose Pavilion

April 17

Grand Junction, CO Chapter
Bookcliff Chorus
Avalon Theater

April 23-25

RMD Spring Convention
Rapid City, SD

May 1

Salt Lake City, UT Chapter
Beehive Statesmen Show
Highland High School

June 28-July 5

International Convention
Philadelphia, PA

Aug. 1-8

Harmony University
St. Joseph, MO

***August 28**

Grand County, CO Chapter
Grand Chorale Show
Middle Park High School
Granby, CO

Sept. 23-26

RMD Fall Convention
Layton, UT

Nov. 12-14

RMD Leadership Seminar

***Dec. 4**

Salt Lake City Chapter
Beehive Statesmen
Highland High School

***Dec 11**

Denver Mile High Chapter
Sound of the Rockies
Christmas Show
Gates Concert Hall @ Denver University

Dec. 11-12

Albuquerque, NM Chapter
New Mexichords Show
St. Johns UMC