



BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

All the News that's Phit to Print from  
The Polk-Burnett County Chapter



## The Smoke Signal

Chapter sings Monday nights, 7:30 pm in the lower level of the Polk County Government Center at the NE corner of "I" and "46" — [www.indianheadchorus.com](http://www.indianheadchorus.com)

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Barbershop Harmony Society, 110 7th Avenue N., Nashville, TN 37203-3704 [www.barbershop.org](http://www.barbershop.org)

Land-O-Lakes District - LOL home page: [www.loldistrict.org](http://www.loldistrict.org)

1,000 Lakes Division - Probe Member

### *Our fifty-fifth year - Issue 4 - April, 2012*

#### *Some Great Opportunities:*

- \* April 22 óSing at United Pioneer Home in Luck -:30pm
- \* June 22 óSing at the Overlook in St Croix Falls
- \* June 23 óTalent Show in Milltown Bering Park-2 PM
- \* July 1-8 óInternational Convention in Portland, OR
- \* July 12th óMill Pond Park Osceola WI - PM
- \* August 7 óMusic in the Park, Luck WI 6:00 PM
- \* August 12 óBarbershoppers sing National Anthem at the Metrodome  
(Twins vs. Tampa Bay Rays; Gather @ 11 AM, game @ Noon)
- \* Oct 13 óAmery High School- 54th Harvest of Harmony- 2PM & 7:30 PM

*Our Chorus Mission: The Indianhead Chorus is a fraternity of men drawn together by a love of singing, performing, and promoting four-part close a cappella harmony music known as barbershop.*

*Our Chorus Vision: The Indianhead Chorus vision is to be a dynamic, high quality barbershop singing organization always striving for excellence.*

## **CONGRATS!**

Congratulations to the chorus members who went to contest on Saturday and qualified for District contest in the fall. Well done, gentlemen. Special thanks to all of you who put in the effort. Also, congratulations to the VLQ on your performance.

We have a special event coming up. On Thursday, April 26th, we have received an invitation to attend the Hilltop (Great Northern Union) practice in Richfield. This is really an opportunity to see how the "other half" lives - or at least how they practice. While we have no aspirations of becoming an international barbershop powerhouse, I'm sure that each of us will learn something more about singing as a stronger chorus. Each of you is invited. If you can make it, it will undoubtedly be an interesting and educational evening. We'll work together to carpool and make it a night to remember.

Meanwhile, Dan's been busy creating a wonderful schedule for our chapter. We've got sing-outs planned at the United Pioneer Home in Luck, and at Osceola, St. Croix Falls, Milltown and the Luck Park. We'll also work in church sing-outs in June and August. We've got some great opportunities to show our talents and share our hobby over the coming months.

*Thanks again to all.*

**Mark Nelson**, President

## **THE LIST**

A simple thing you can do to improve our rehearsals, is take a minute *beforehand* to get your music ready. Each Monday night, Steve or I write a list on the board. It is a list of song titles. These are songs we intend\* to work on that night, in order. Sure, it only takes a minute (or two, or three) to dig the sheets out, but while you're doing that, your friends are waiting. Be kind and be fair ó be prepared!

\*the directors reserve the right to revise this list on the fly, as the need arises.

**Kaptain Karl (Wicklund)**, Assistant Director

defender of the poor  
champion of the oppressed  
advocate of the innocent

[www.kaptainkarl.com](http://www.kaptainkarl.com)

## *VLQ News*

Wow, what an experience! Like John R said, you took a huge step performing on a contest stage. Performing at a contest is a nerve racking experience and our nerves got the best of us. If you look at the VLQ results Triple Q posted a better score than the choruses! What's up with that?

What does the future hold for the Polk County VLQ? I don't know and that is something that needs to be discussed. It was fun practicing for contest. We have moves for Railroad Rag and Red Head Mama. Did we make Indianhead Chorus history by being the first VLQ to perform on a contest stage? We all agree that the VLQ makes us better chorus members and stronger singers. It was a fun ride. Let's do it again!

## *Dan Valentine*

### *Pulling Together* -unknown

The greatest accomplishments in life are not achieved by individuals alone, but by proactive people pulling together for a common good. Look behind every winner and you will find a great coach. Look out in front of every superstar and you will see a positive role model. Look alongside every great achiever and you will find caring people offering encouragement, support and able assistance.

Rising to this level of interdependent thinking can be challenging and difficult. Looking beyond oneself, asking for help or accepting help can feel risky. But people are not given life to simply take from one another.

We are here to give. Our mission in life is to offer our gifts to benefit one another, to create mutual gain in the world. This is called teamwork - a win/win mindset stemming from a genuine commitment to the rules that allow it to happen.

1. Put the Team First
2. Communicate Openly and Candidly
3. Be Part of the Solution, Not the Problem
4. Respect Diversity
5. Ask and Encourage the Right Questions
6. Use a Rational Problem-Solving Process
7. Build Trust with Integrity and Example
8. Commit to Excellence
9. Promote Interdependent Thinking
10. Pull the Weeds

According to Samuel Johnson, "Self-confidence is the first requisite to great undertakings."

Lacking self-confidence is par for the course for most of us because we all struggle with this to some degree. So how do we overcome?

First, we need to build on our successes and not our failures ... and on what we can do, not on what we can't do! For instance, I may be a terrible bricklayer but that doesn't make me a terrible or bad person.

Second, more importantly, building up our self-confidence needs to come from within ... that is, building up my belief in myself. This comes mostly from being open, honest and transparent with at least one or two trusted friends to whom I reveal my total selfwarts and all. As they love and accept me as I am, little by little I learn to love and accept myself as I am. And as we grow in a healthy self-love, it is amazing how our self-confidence increases.

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*While at the mall, I saw an elderly couple holding hands while they were walking. As they approached, I commented on how romantic it was.*

*He replied, "We have been holding hands when we go out in public for over thirty years. I have to. If I let go, she shops."*

Lawyers should never ask a Mississippi grandma a question if they aren't prepared for the answer.

In a trial, a Southern small-town prosecuting attorney called his first witness, a grandmotherly, elderly woman to the stand. He approached her and asked, 'Mrs. Jones, do you know me?' She responded, 'Why, yes, I do know you, Mr. Williams. I've known you since you were a boy, and frankly, you've been a big disappointment to me. You lie, you cheat on your wife, and you manipulate people and talk about them behind their backs. You think you're a big shot when you haven't the brains to realize you'll never amount to anything more than a two-bit paper pusher. Yes, I know you.'

The lawyer was stunned. Not knowing what else to do, he pointed across the room and asked, 'Mrs. Jones, do you know the defense attorney?'

She again replied, 'Why yes, I do. I've known Mr. Bradley since he was a youngster, too. He's lazy, bigoted, and he has a drinking problem. He can't build a normal relationship with anyone, and his law practice is one of the worst in the entire state. Not to mention he cheated on his wife with three different women. One of them was your wife. Yes, I know him.'

The defense attorney nearly died.

The judge asked both counselors to approach the bench and, in a very quiet voice, said, 'If either of you idiots asks her if she knows me, I'll send you both to the electric chair.'

Ask me about my vow of silence!

### **A JUMPER CABLE WALKS INTO A BAR.**

THE BARTENDER SAYS, "I'LL SERVE YOU BUT DON'T START ANYTHING."

A Golfer walks into the pro shop at the local course and asks the golf pro if they sell ball markers.

The golf pro says, "Yes, they are just \$1.00 each."

The guy gives the golf pro a dollar and says he'll take one.

The golf pro opens the register, puts the dollar in the tray and with a big smile hands the guy a quarter.

TWO ANTENNAES MET ON A ROOF, FELL IN LOVE AND GOT MARRIED.  
THE CEREMONY WASN'T MUCH, BUT THE RECEPTION WAS EXCELLENT.

### ***Don't let mistakes get you down.***

Many years ago, in much younger days, I used to work in construction. On a construction site in which I was in charge I made what to me was a whopping error and was scared to death to tell my boss. Fortunately for me when I did tell him, he simply said, "Ken, the man who never made a mistake, never made anything!"

What a relief it was to know my "error" was forgiven! Then we set about to correct my mistake.

I think it was Robert Schuller who said, "A high jumper never knows how high he can jump until he reaches a failure point." That's a good point, for we too will never know how high we can reach in fulfilling our personal goals until we also reach a failure point.

In fact, we probably learn a lot more through our failures than we do through our successes. The important thing when we fail is to get up, learn from our mistake, and go on to achieve better things. As another has said, "Not failure, but low aim is crime."

I appreciate the words of the poet who said,  
I would rather stumble a thousand times  
Attempting to reach a goal,  
Than to sit in a crowd  
In my weather-proof shroud,  
A shriveled and self-satisfied soul.  
I would rather be doing and daring  
All of my error-filled days,  
Than watching and waiting, and dying  
Snug in my perfect ways.  
I would rather wonder and blunder,  
Stumbling blindly ahead,  
Than for safety's sake  
Lest I make a mistake  
Be sure, be safe, be dead. -Author Unknown

Sweat: Workman's Condensation

Laughter is a tranquilizer with no side effects.

Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says  
No crap, really? Ya think?

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Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers

Now that's taking things a bit far!

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Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over  
What a guy!

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Miners Refuse to Work after Death  
No-good-for-nothing' lazy so-and-so's!

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Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant  
See if that works any better than a fair trial!

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War Dims Hope for Peace  
I can see where it might have that effect!

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If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile  
Ya think?!

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Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures  
Who would have thought!

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Enfield ( London ) Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide  
They may be on to something!

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Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges  
You mean there's something stronger than duct tape?

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Man Struck By Lightning: Faces Battery Charge  
He probably IS the battery charge!

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New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group  
Weren't they fat enough?!

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Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft  
That's what he gets for eating those beans!

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Kids Make Nutritious Snacks  
Do they taste like chicken?

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Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half  
Chainsaw Massacre all over again!

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Hospitals are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors  
Boy, are they tall!

\*\*\*\*\*

And the winner is....

Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead  
Did I read that right?

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## **Houdini's Secret**

Erich Weiss was a remarkable man. By the time of his death he was famous around the world. Never heard of him, huh?

Maybe this will help. He was born of Hungarian-Jewish parentage at Appleton, Wisconsin, in 1874. He became the highest-paid entertainer of his day. That still doesn't help much, does it? This will.

When he finally got his act together, Weiss adopted a stage name: Harry Houdini . . . the master showman, a distinguished flyer, a mystifying magician, and---most of all---an unsurpassed escapologist.

On March 10, 1904, the London *Daily Illustrated Mirror* challenged Houdini to escape from a special pair of handcuffs they had prepared. Are you ready? There were six locks on each cuff and nine tumblers on each lock. Seven days later, 4,000 spectators gathered in the London Hippodrome to witness the outcome of the audacious challenge which Houdini had accepted.

At precisely 3:15 p.m., the manacled showman stepped into an empty cabinet which came up to his waist. Kneeling down, he was out of sight for a full twenty minutes. He stood up smiling as the crowd applauded, thinking he was free. But he was not. He asked for more light. They came on brighter as he knelt down out of sight. Fifteen minutes later he stood to his feet. Applause broke out---again, premature. He was still handcuffed. Said he just needed to flex his knees.

Down into the cabinet again went the magician. Twenty minutes passed slowly for the murmuring crowd before Houdini stood to his feet with a broad smile. Loud applause quickly stopped as the audience saw he was not yet free. Because the bright lights made the heat so intense, he leaped from the cabinet and twisted his manacled hands in front of him until he could reach a pocket knife in his vest. Opening the knife with his teeth, he held its handle in his mouth and bent forward to such a degree that the tail of his coat fell over his head. He grasped the coat, pulled it over his head, then proceeded to slash it to

ribbons with the knife between his teeth. Throwing aside the strips of his heavy coat, he jumped back into the box as the audience roared its approval and cheered him on.

Down went Houdini, but this time for only ten minutes. With a dramatic flourish, he jumped from the box---wrists free---waving the bulky handcuffs over his head in triumph. Pandemonium exploded in London. Once again the showman had achieved the incredible---almost the *impossible*.

Afterwards, Houdini was interviewed. Everyone wanted to know why he had to interrupt the process of his escape as often as he did. With a twinkle in his eyes, the magician freely admitted that he really didn't *have* to interrupt the process. He repeatedly explained that his ability to escape was based on knowledge.

"My brain is the key that sets me free!" he often declared. Then why did he keep standing up before he was loose? He confessed it was because he wanted the audience's applause to keep up his enthusiasm!

Enthusiasm is powerful stuff. And it isn't important only to magicians and performers but also to ordinary folks like you and me.

Back to our story... Houdini later admitted that he stopped repeatedly to address the crowd because he needed their applause to keep up his enthusiasm!

Two things set Houdini free: (1) his *knowledge* of what he knew to be true and (2) the cultivation of his own *enthusiasm*.

What an essential role enthusiasm plays in our lives! In many ways, it is the key ingredient that frees us from the cramping, dark, overheated confinement of a task. When the odds are against us, the hours are long, and the end is not yet in view, enthusiasm rescues us from the temptation to quit---or run away---or complain. It takes the grit and grind out of boredom. It calls in fresh troops when the battle gets long and the body gets weary.

Athletes feed on it. Salesmen are motivated by it. Teachers count on it. Students fail without it. Leadership demands it. Projects are completed because of it. Ralph Waldo Emerson's motto is as true today as the day he wrote it:

Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.

Few characteristics are more contagious, more magnetic. I'm convinced that one of the reasons God gives us so many personal promises in His Word is to stir up our enthusiasm---to build a bonfire in the steam-room of our souls.

Houdini had it right: Knowledge is essential---but knowledge without enthusiasm is like a tire without air . . . like a pool without water . . . like a bed without sheets . . . like a "thank you" without a smile. Remove enthusiasm from a church service on Sunday and you have



the makings of a memorial service at a mortuary on a Monday. Remove enthusiasm from the daily whirl of family activities and you've made a grinding mill out of a merry-go-round. Enthusiasm acts as the oil on Saturdays in our home when it's cleanup day and the family machine needs a boost.

Definition: Hot barbershop singer: 1 % talent, 2 % determination, 97 % hot air!

### **Free advertising in Smoke Signal:**

- For sale: an antique desk suitable for lady with thick legs and large drawers.
- Now is your chance to have your ears pierced and get an extra pair to take home, too.
- Dog for sale: eats anything and is fond of children.
- Dinner Special -- Turkey \$2.35; Chicken or Beef \$2.25; Children \$2.00.
- Auto Repair Service. Free pick-up and delivery. Try us once, you'll never go anywhere again.

*The key to success is sincerity. Once you can fake that, you've got it made.*

### **Here are six terrific truths about time:**

**First:** *Nobody can manage time.* But you can manage those things that take up your time.

**Second:** *Time is expensive.* As a matter of fact, 80 percent of our day is spent on those things or those people that only bring us two percent of our results.

**Third:** *Time is perishable.* It cannot be saved for later use.

**Fourth:** *Time is measurable.* Everybody has the same amount of time...pauper or king. It is not how much time you have; it is how much you use.

**Fifth:** *Time is irreplaceable.* We never make back time once it is gone.

**Sixth:** *Time is a priority.* You have enough time for anything in the world, so long as it ranks high enough among your priorities.

### TEXTING FOR SENIORS

*Teens have theirs (LOL, OMG, TTYL, etc.). Not to be outdone by these little SNK (snotty nosed kids), now seniors have their own texting codes!*

ATD - At the Doctor's

BFF - Best Friends Funeral

BTW - Bring the Wheelchair

BYOT - Bring Your Own Teeth

CBM - Covered by Medicare

CUATSC - See You at the Senior Center

DWI - Driving While Incontinent

FWBB - Friend with Beta Blockers

FWIW - Forgot Where I Was

FYI - Found Your Insulin

GGPBL - Gotta Go, Pacemaker Battery Low

GHA - Got Heartburn Again

HGBM - Had Good Bowel Movement  
 IMHO - Is My Hearing-Aid On?  
 LMDO - Laughing My Dentures Out  
 LOL - Living on Lipitor  
 LWO - Lawrence Welk's On  
 OMMR - On My Massage Recliner  
 OMSG - Oh My! Sorry, Gas  
 ROFL..CGU - Rolling on the Floor Laughing...Can't get Up!  
 TOT - Texting on Toilet  
 TTYL - Talk to You Louder  
 WAITT - Who Am I Talking To?  
 WTFA - Wet the Furniture Again  
 WTP - Where're the Prunes  
 WWNO - Walker Wheels Need Oil  
 Hope these help!  
 GGLKI - Gotta Go, Laxative Kicking in!  
 SYL-WIC---See you later, wife is calling

### **Our Officers for 2012**

President: Mark Nelson í í í í í í í í í í í í í í ..715-483-3152  
 Sec/Treas: Larry Fisk í í í í í í í í í í í í í í ..í 715-327-8091  
 VP Marketing & PR & Bulletin editor: Ken Mettlerí í í .....715-483-9202  
 VP Music: Gary Noren í .....715-483-9566  
 VP Membership: Harvey Sandahl í í í í í í í í í í í 651-226-9687  
 Asst. Music Dir. & Webmaster: Karl Wicklund.í í í . ...í 715-268-2685  
 Music Director: Steve Swensoní í í í í í í í .í í .í .715-483-9797  
 Members at Lg.: Alan Salmelaí í í í í í í í í í í ....715-472-4018  
                   Archie Lessardí í í í í í í .í í í í .651-462-4664  
                   Dan Valentineí í í í í í í í .í í í ..715-472-2080

#### Other functions

*Young Men in Harmony: Jon Buss.....715-410-7324*  
*Birthday/Anniversary cards: LeRoy Brown.....715-857-5422*  
*2012 Show Chair: Archie Lessard.....651-462-4664*  
*Librarian: John Roeber .....715-472-6164*  
*Performance Coordinator: Dan Valentine.....715-472-2080*

### **Take a minute for the minutes!**

Sunshine committee: Clint Gjerde has agreed to take over the Sunshine VP position.  
 Plans to visit the GNU practice has been postponed until after contest.  
 Performances: Dan had a listing of locked in performances for the summer.  
 A motion was made to set a price of \$300.00 for a full page sponsor ad in the show programs. Motion 2<sup>nd</sup> and Carried.  
 A motion was made that the chorus would donate \$100.00 plus what ever is collected through donations to the Harmony Foundation for the parade of checks. Motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> and carried.

Lunch list:

**by date**

|             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| 3/5/12      | Fisk, Larry      |
| 3/12/12     | Gjerde, Clint    |
| 3/19/12     | Johnson, Gerald  |
| 1/2/00      | Johnson, Roger   |
| 4/2/12      | Koerper, John    |
| 4/9/12      | Lessard, Archie  |
| 4/16/12     | Manwiller, Cliff |
| 4/23/12     | Mettler, Ken     |
| 4/30/12     | Morris, Duane    |
| 5/7/12      | Nelson, Mark     |
| 5/14/12     | Noren, Gary      |
| 5/21/12     | Osero, Steve     |
| 5-29 (Tues) | Pederson, Paul   |

**by name**

|          |                  |
|----------|------------------|
| 11/26/12 | Fisk, Larry      |
| 3/12/12  | Gjerde, Clint    |
| 12/3/12  | Gjerde, Clint    |
| 6/18/12  | Hillestad, Earl  |
| 3/19/12  | Johnson, Gerald  |
| 12/10/12 | Johnson, Gerald  |
| 1/2/00   | Johnson, Roger   |
| 12/17/12 | Johnson, Roger   |
| 4/2/12   | Koerper, John    |
| 4/9/12   | Lessard, Archie  |
| 4/16/12  | Manwiller, Cliff |
| 4/23/12  | Mettler, Ken     |
| 4/30/12  | Morris, Duane    |