

# *The Smoke Signal*

All the News that's Phit to Print from  
**The Polk-Burnett County Chapter**  
Home of the *Indianhead Chorus*

of the



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

Chapter web site: [www.indianheadchorus.com](http://www.indianheadchorus.com)

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

1,000 lakes Division

## *Volume 8, Issue 2 – February, 2012*

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### Upcoming Events:

\***Singing Valentines** ótell everyone about Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> SVs!

\***Spring Contest** in Mankato area óMarch 31

\***International Convention** July 1-8, 2012 in Portland, OR

\***Barbershoppers sing at the Metrodome:** Plan ahead to sing the National Anthem for the Minnesota Twins. The date is Sunday, August 12. The Twins will be playing the Tampa Bay Rays. Gather about 11 am as the game start is noon.



Jan. 28, 2012-We sing for the gals on LadiesøNight

## **2012 Planning Meeting**

On January 26<sup>th</sup>, the 2012 chorus board met at my house for a review of 2011 and some strategic planning for 2012. A lot of really good discussion took place. I've tried to boil it down to where we left for the night, and that summary is below. Please feel free to contact any board member to discuss your thoughts. Together, we'll make it better.

Thanks,

**Mark Nelson**, President

After much discussion without adequately delineating the 2012 goals, Mark is proposing the following draft to be modified and approved at the board meetings in February and March:

### **2012 Chorus Goals**

#### **Membership:**

- Continue supplying business cards. Members who need them or use them up . please let Harvey know. (Harvey)
- Keep up with the guest books (refinements are currently underway). (John R)
- Keep the new member packet current. Assign every new member a mentor. (Harvey)
- Monitor the Society's membership theme (Operation Harold Hill) for usefulness. (Harvey and Mark)

#### **Marketing:**

- Get the show posters out electronically early again this year (July). (Ken???)
- Pursue a show opportunity at two very large events in our area for exposure (Ken):
  - Almelund Threshing Show on August 10-12.
  - Osceola Wings And Wheels on September 8.
- Do another show during our slower time . Christmas to February (Dan)
- Pursue more electronic media (Karl)

#### **Music Committee:**

- Meet monthly after rehearsal (Gary)
- Engage the membership with more directed feedback (Gary)

Mark's comment:

The chapter owes a debt of gratitude to the board members for their commitment to growing the Indianhead Barbershop Chorus. While neither our plans nor actions are perfect, our intent is sincere in attempting to meeting the mission and vision of our chapter. This is not easy work, but with the efforts of the board and the support of our chapter members, we can be very successful for years to come.

## **Get that music organized!**

I am a compulsive alphabetizer. If I'm at a thrift shop, and see the book rack in disarray, it requires an act of will for me to not spend 15 minutes organizing it. Getting my music punched and lined up in my folder is a nice little bit of 'me' time. Judging from the state of many of our music folders (and from the looks I get in the book aisle), I am in the minority. (As in so many things.... *\*sigh\**)

But here's the thing. Digging around trying to find a sheet of music holds up the show. It can be an especial frustration for the section if everyone is waiting on one or two guys. Sure it's ten seconds here, two minutes there, but here are a few suggestions that might make things run just a bit more smoothly.

- Organize your music. Alphabetical order is great. If that's not your cup of tea, John Roeber has put together the guest folders with numbered tabs and a table of contents. Takes a little time to set up, but once it's done, you're off to the races. Talk to John if you want any help.

- Every night, Steve and I write an agenda on the white board - use it. Once in a while we don't make it through every last piece of business, but if you locate the listed songs at the beginning of the night, that would be a big help.

- Also, we're in the season of introducing music. If you've missed a few rehearsals check with one of your buddies to see if there's music we should have. It's no fun to dig around in your folder for a song only to discover that you never got it.

The Steve and I (and Gary, and John, and Dan and, well, doggone it, everyone) are working to make Monday nights more productive, more efficient, and more fun. This is one little way you can help with that goal.

Keep making music!

***Karl Wicklund***, Assistant Director

### **2012 Show Tunes:**

Don't Blame Me - ballad

Heart - up tune

Let's Get Away From It All - up tune

If You Knew Susie - up tune

It's Only a Paper Moon - easy listening

That Old Quartet of Mine - ballad

When the Red Red Robin Goes Bob Bobbinø Along - up tune

Other possibilities include: How Great Thou Art & Fun in Just One Lifetime

## **2012 Repertoire Songs:**

Toot Toot Tootsie  
Coney Island Baby  
California, Here I Come  
The Little Boy  
Home on the Range  
I Don't Know Why  
Sweet Mae  
There Goes My Heart  
Railroad Rag  
A Son of the Sea

## **Youth In Harmony Reflections**

Thanks to Ken Bester, the only student to attend the Youth in Harmony class at the Leadership Academy in River Falls, Wis. We had a great discussion about YIH and what are we trying to do. The Society has a stated vision and mission for all of us, which is a good one. What Ken brought to the class was his experience at work with Kimberly Clark. Here is the layout that we came up with. Each chapter can apply these to the chapter goals as well.

**OBJECTIVE:** To increase and/or sustain the LOL District membership. This is the long range objective.[5,10,20, and 30 years out]

**GOALS:** To increase the number of youth to be exposed to the barbershop style of music. If we accomplish this through our youth activities, it will help to achieve our long term objective.

**STRATEGIES:** Create connections with youth in multiple areas. Schools ó churches- community organizations[e.g. ymca, boys/girls clubs, big brother, big sister] Inner city programs, summer sports, etc. ó bars [young people hangouts]- -Karaoke]-4H clubs-fairs-theatre groups.- Leverage social media to access BBS: Pandora, you tube, Itunes, tag master, smart phones, and facebook. This is a contact sport and we need to be involved with youth everywhere, if we are going to achieve our goals and objectives.

**INITIATIVES:** Festivals/ one day workshops- Camps of various kinds for girls and boys- Youth ensembles-Scholarships for individual students or school curriculums in your area. Joint shows [high school choirs, college choirs, quartets, octets, etc.] Fundraising for local schools music educators. Mentoring in various ways. Quartet competition. Octet competition. Chorus competition.

**MEASUREMENT:** The number of youth that participate in each activity sponsored by each chapter of this LOL District and the BBS Harmony Society. This way, we are accountable for our goals.

It would be great if those reading this article would share this with their chapter and send me any and all suggestions to add to this list. All ideas are welcome.

Our one day festival in St. Croix Falls, Wis. on Sat.[Jan 14th] was a huge success. We exposed 27 boys and 73 girls to the BBS style. We had a great audience for the show. Our clinicians and quartets were fantastic in their performance and working with the youth. I challenge everyone to try one- it is fun and invigorating. The BBS Harmony Foundation pays \$15.00 per evaluation and your District will add \$5.00 per evaluation for a first time workshop, submitted to me. Your passion for youth will guide you. GO FOR IT!!!! I love this organization and I want all youth to experience the joy of singing our style of music.

***Jon Buss***, Youth in Harmony Director

TODAY IS THE OLDEST YOU'VE EVER BEEN, YET THE YOUNGEST YOU'LL EVER BE AGAIN, SO ENJOY THIS DAY WHILE IT LASTS.

***Love is insanity with a collaborator.***

### ***The Zen of Sarcasm***

1. Do not walk ahead of me for I may not follow. Do not walk behind me for I may not lead. Do not walk beside me either. Just pretty much leave me alone.
2. The journey of a thousand miles begins with a broken fan belt and leaky tire.
3. It is always darkest before dawn. So if you're going to steal your neighbor's newspaper, that's the time to do it.
4. Always remember that you're unique. Just like everyone else.
5. If you think nobody cares if you're alive, try missing a couple of car payments.
6. Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.
7. If at first you don't succeed, skydiving is probably not for you.
8. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach him how to fish, and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day.
9. If you lend someone \$20 and never see that person again, it was probably a wise investment.
10. Everyone is normal until you get to know them.
11. The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back in your pocket.
12. A closed mouth gathers no foot.
13. There are two theories to arguing with women. Neither one works.
14. Generally speaking, you aren't learning much when your lips are moving.

***Golf is a game invented by the same people who think music comes out of a bagpipe.***

Whatever you do, when you stop by the auto-wrecking yard, don't park your small car in a spot marked 'Compact.'

A true Irishman considers anyone who won't come around to his point of view to be hopelessly stubborn.

## ***International Championship Quartets***

<u>1939 - The Bartlettville Barflies</u>	<u>1973 - Dealer's Choice</u>
<u>1940 - The Flat Foot Four</u>	<u>1974 - The Regents</u>
<u>1941 - The Chordbusters</u>	<u>1975 - Happiness Emporium</u>
<u>1942 - The Elastic Four</u>	<u>1976 - The Insiders</u>
<u>1943 - The Four Harmonizers</u>	<u>1977 - Most Happy Fellows</u>
<u>1944 - The Harmony Halls</u>	<u>1978 - Bluegrass Student Union</u>
<u>1945 - The Misfits</u>	<u>1979 - Grandma's Boys</u>
<u>1946 - The Garden State Quartet</u>	<u>1980 - The Boston Common</u>
<u>1947 - The Doctors of Harmony</u>	<u>1981 - Chicago News</u>
<u>1948 - The Pittsburgers</u>	<u>1982 - Classic Collection</u>
<u>1949 - The Mid-States Four</u>	<u>1983 - Side Street Ramblers</u>
<u>1950 - The Buffalo Bills</u>	<u>1984 - The Rapsallions</u>
<u>1951 - The Schmitt Brothers</u>	<u>1985 - The New Tradition</u>
<u>1952 - The Four Teens</u>	<u>1986 - Rural Route 4</u>
<u>1953 - The Vikings</u>	<u>1987 - Interstate Rivals</u>
<u>1954 - The Orphans</u>	<u>1988 - Chiefs of Staff</u>
<u>1955 - The Four Hearsmen</u>	<u>1989 - Second Edition</u>
<u>1956 - The Confederates</u>	<u>1990 - Acoustix</u>
<u>1957 - Lads of Enchantment</u>	<u>1991 - The Ritz</u>
<u>1958 - The Gaynotes</u>	<u>1992 - Keepsake</u>
<u>1959 - The Four Pitchikers</u>	<u>1993 - The Gas House Gang</u>
<u>1960 - The Evans Quartet</u>	<u>1994 - Joker's Wild</u>
<u>1961 - Suntones</u>	<u>1995 - Marquis</u>
<u>1962 - The Gala Lads</u>	<u>1996 - Nightlife</u>
<u>1963 - The Town and Country Four</u>	<u>1997 - Yesteryear</u>
<u>1964 - The Sidewinders</u>	<u>1998 - Revival</u>
<u>1965 - The Four Renegades</u>	<u>1999 - FRED</u>
<u>1966 - The Auto Towners</u>	<u>2000 - PLATINUM</u>
<u>1967 - The Four Statesmen</u>	<u>2001 - Michigan Jake</u>
<u>1968 - The Western Continentals</u>	<u>2002 - Four Voices</u>
<u>1969 - Mark IV</u>	<u>2003 - Power Play</u>
<u>1970 - Oriole Four</u>	<u>2004 - Gotcha!</u>
<u>1971 - The Gentlemen's Agreement</u>	<u>2005 - Realtime</u>
<u>1972 - Golden Staters</u>	<u>2006 - Vocal Spectrum</u>

Ok, here's a quiz: Starting with 2007, who are the international champs? I give you a start. Max Q was 2007. Memorize this list and you will be a hit at any barbershop party!

## ***I've nothing more to say!***

**Mildred, the church gossip and self-appointed monitor of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose into other people's business. Several members did not approve of her extra-curricular activities, but they feared her enough to maintain their silence. She made a mistake, however, when she accused George, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his old pickup parked in front of the town's only bar one afternoon.**

**She emphatically told George and several others that everyone seeing it there would know what he was doing. George, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just turned and walked away. He didn't explain, defend or deny. He said nothing. Later that evening, George quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred's house...walked home....and left it there all night. Don't you just love ole George?**

## ***A thankful spirit is a healthy spirit!***

As the twists and turns of life lead to feelings of being out of control, sometimes our attitude is all that we have control over...the following reflection may help you develop a thankful attitude. Sometimes life is all about how we look at it!

I am thankful for...

- \*the mess to clean after a party because it means I have been surrounded by friends.
- \*the taxes I pay because it means that I am employed.
- \*a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning and gutters that need fixing because it means I have a home.
- \*my shadow who watches me work because it means I am out in the sunshine.
- \*the spot I find at the far end of the parking lot because it means I am capable of walking.
- \*all of the complaining I hear about our government because it means we have freedom of speech.
- \*my huge heating bill because it means I am warm.
- \*the lady behind me in church who sings off-key because it means that I can hear.
- \*the alarm that goes off early in the morning hours because it means that I am alive.
- \*the piles of laundry and ironing because it means my loved ones are nearby.
- \*weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day because it means I have been productive.

## ***If Life is a Game... These are the Rules***

by Chérie Carter Scott

You are enrolled in a full-time informal school called "life." Each day in this school you will have the opportunity to learn lessons. You may like the lessons or hate them, but you have designed them as part of your curriculum.

Why are you here? What is your purpose? Humans have sought to discover the meaning of life for a very long time. The meaning of life is different for every individual.

Each person has his or her own purpose and distinct path, unique and separate from anyone else's. As you travel your life path, you will be presented with numerous lessons that you will need to learn in order to fulfill that purpose. The lessons you are presented with are specific to you; learning these lessons is the key to discovering and fulfilling the meaning and relevance of your own life.

Once you have learned the basic lessons taught to you by your own body, you are ready for a more advanced teacher: the universe. You will be presented with lessons in every circumstance that surfaces in your life. When you experience pain, you learn a lesson. When you feel joy, you learn a different lesson. For every action or event, there is an accompanying lesson that must be learned.

As you travel through your lifetime, you may encounter challenging lessons that others don't have to face, while others spend years struggling with challenges that you don't need to deal with. You may never know why you are blessed with a wonderful marriage, while your friends suffer through bitter arguments and painful divorces, just as you cannot be sure why you struggle financially while your peers enjoy abundance. The only thing you can count on for certain is that you will be presented with all the lessons that you specifically need to learn; whether you choose to learn them or not is entirely up to you.

The challenge of Rule Two, therefore, is that sometimes your path will lead you into a life that is radically different from others. Don't compare your path to those around you and focus on the disparity between their lessons and yours. You need to remember that you will only be faced with lessons that you are capable of learning and are specific to your own growth.

If you are able to rise to this challenge, you can unravel the mystery of your purpose and actually live it. You cease being a victim of fate or circumstance and become empowered - life no longer just "happens to you." When you are working toward fulfilling your true purpose, you discover astonishing gifts within yourself that you may have never known you have. This process may not be easy, but the rewards are well worth the struggle.



## **Anagrams:**

**PRESBYTERIAN:** When you rearrange the letters: **BEST IN PRAYER**  
**ASTRONOMER:** When you rearrange the letters: **MOON STARER**  
**DESPERATION:** When you rearrange the letters: **A ROPE ENDS IT**  
**THE EYES:** When you rearrange the letters: **THEY SEE**  
**GEORGE BUSH:** When you rearrange the letters: **HE BUGS GORE**  
**THE MORSE CODE :** When you rearrange the letters: **HERE COME DOTS**  
**DORMITORY:** When you rearrange the letters: **DIRTY ROOM**  
**SLOT MACHINES:** When you rearrange the letters: **CASH LOST IN ME**  
**ANIMOSITY:** When you rearrange the letters: **IS NO AMITY**  
**ELECTION RESULTS :** When you rearrange the letters: **LIES - LET'S RECOUNT**  
**SNOOZE ALARMS :** When you rearrange the letters: **ALAS ! NO MORE Z'S**  
**A DECIMAL POINT :** When you rearrange the letters: **I'M A DOT IN PLACE**  
**THE EARTHQUAKES:** When you rearrange the letters: **THAT QUEER SHAKE**  
**ELEVEN PLUS TWO:** When you rearrange the letters: **TWELVE PLUS ONE**  
**AND FOR THE GRAND FINALE:**  
**MOTHER-IN-LAW:** When you rearrange the letters: **WOMAN HITLER**

## **Ladies' Night was good a good evening!**

On January 28, 2012, the Indianhead Barbershop Chorus had its annual "Ladiesø Night" which was held at the Village Pizzeria in Dresser, WI. The men take this night to give a big "thank-you" for their gals who support them throughout the year in their hobby of practicing every Monday night and singing at concerts. After a good meal was enjoyed by all, the new officers were installed by Tyler Smith, representing the Land-O-Lakes District.

Those installed were:

President: Mark Nelson

Secretary/Treasurer: Larry Fisk

VP Marketing & PR: Ken Mettler

VP Music: Gary Noren

VP Membership: Harvey Sandahl

Asst. Music Director: Karl Wicklund

Music Director: Steve Swenson

Members at Lg.: Alan Salmela, Archie Lessard and Dan Valentine

The guest performers for the evening were the "Very Large Quartet", the "Chariot" and "Bright Knights" quartets, and the whole Indianhead Chorus. President Mark Nelson presented honorariums to Directors Steve Swenson and Karl Wicklund. Dan Valentine was the MC for the evening's events and presented John Roeber with the Spark Plug award for his good work with the VLQ.

That evening was also the unveiling of the new Barbershopper of the Year. Steve Osero, last year's recipient of that award, made the presentation. He said, "This year's Barbershopper of the year is a fellow who is there every week at practice. He is involved in the leadership of the chapter. He sings in a quartet. He sells more tickets than anyone, and he is also a district leader in the Barbershop Harmony Society. This year's Barbershopper of the Year is Ken Mettler." Ken is pictured in the middle of the photo here. On the Left is Steve Osero, and on the right is Tyler Smith.



### **The Italian Tomato Garden**

An old Italian lived alone in New Jersey. He wanted to plant his annual tomato garden, but it was very difficult work, as the ground was hard.

His only son, Vincent, who used to help him, was in prison. The old man wrote a letter to his son and described his predicament:

Dear Vincent, I am feeling pretty sad, because it looks like I won't be able to plant my tomato garden this year. I'm just getting too old to be digging up a garden plot. I know if you were here my troubles would be over. I know you would be happy to dig the plot for me, like in the old days. Love, Papa

A few days later he received a letter from his son.

Dear Pop, Don't dig up that garden. That's where the bodies are buried. Love, Vinnie

At 4 a.m. the next morning, FBI agents and local police arrived and dug up the entire area without finding any bodies. They apologized to the old man and left. That same day the old man received another letter from his son.

Dear Pop, Go ahead and plant the tomatoes now. That's the best I could do under the circumstances. Love you, Vinnie