



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

*This magazine is winner of 4<sup>th</sup> place in the Electronic International Bulletin Contest.*

***Volume 53, Number 1, January, 2010***

### **Barbershop wish list for 2010:**

This list was submitted by various barbershoppers:

1. I would like to see less talking; more singing.

One way to do this is to have the Directors or Music Committee write a paragraph for each song, defining the way we should present it (who is talking, to whom, what is the mood, etc.). We spend a lot of time discussing this, but I would rather see it dictated. Several years ago, Mark directed us at contest. He wrote a story about the song we were going to do, setting the mood. It was wonderful.

2. More quartetting! (Several members suggested this.)

3. More member profiles in Smoke Signal from membership dept.

### **Check out these Upcoming Events for barbershopping!**

January 8-9 – COTS School at Stout Campus in Menomonie, WI

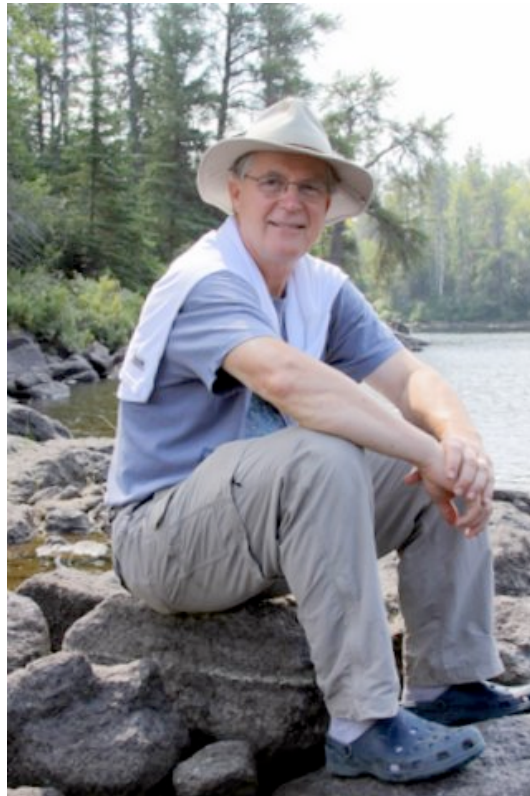
January 16 – Youth In Harmony day at Osceola High School  
with concert at 4:30 PM

January 23 – Ladies' Night Installation of officers at Woodlands in  
Grantsburg

June 17-20 – Youth In Harmony Camp in LaCrosse, WI

April 30-May 2 – 10,000 Lakes Division Contest in Mankato, MN

October 9 – Harvest of Harmony at Unity School  
with "Four Man Fishin' Tackle Choir"



We want to welcome Gary Noren as the newest member of our chorus. Gary resides in St. Croix Falls, also his birthplace, with his wife Martha Harding. Gary has sung in many choirs, starting at White Bear High School and at First Lutheran in White Bear Lake. He played football and hockey at Concordia College in Moorhead and thereby missed an opportunity to sing with the legendary Paul J. Christiansen. He sang for many years at Immanuel Lutheran in Almelund, MN and for about a dozen years with the Masterworks Chorale at Augsburg College. Repertoire there included only sacred pieces (e.g. the Mozart, Durufle, and Berlioz Requiems), so Gary is thoroughly enjoying the lively Barbershopping.

Marty and Gary live a stone's throw from the St. Croix River, adjacent to Interstate Park. This gives them many unique opportunities to play in and around the river - like cross country skiing and canoeing on New Year's Day a few years ago. Gary's a Friend of Wild River State Park, the Sunrise River, and Interstate Park. Currently working on waste reduction in area schools, He has also been a math teacher and lifelong environmental educator. He currently serves on the Board of the new St. Croix River Association.

## **It's a Brand New Year!**

Here we are in 2010 and it's a brand new year. With this New Year, I am anointed with the responsibility of being the Indianhead Chorus' president. I take the responsibility seriously, and I am honored to serve the chapter in this capacity. In advance, I'd like to thank you for your support as we do our work, and enjoy our hobby, in the coming year. I have an experienced board to work with, and I know they'll appreciate your support as well.

My first official act is to acknowledge my predecessor for the great job he has done. Archie has been president for the last 6 years. I'm pretty sure no one in our chapter has ever had that kind of run before. And Archie has done it very well. His leadership and attention to detail are exemplary. Many of our successes can be traced to his efforts. Thank you, Archie, from me and the whole chapter for your great work.

Though we haven't had any official goals set by the board, and I don't go to officer training for another week or so, I do know what one of our main goals will be in the upcoming year. That is membership. I was just going through some membership information the other day, and it became obvious that we have to do some recruiting, especially for our lead section. Our lead numbers have dwindled recently, and we need to bolster them. We obviously want members of all types, but we need to seriously look at getting some more numbers in the lead section. Each of us needs to accept some of that responsibility.

Mark your calendars for January 23rd. We'll be having our annual Ladies' night / Installation of officers that night. This year we'll be at Woodlands on Hwy 70 in Grantsburg. I'd like to see all of you and your significant others there!

***Mark Nelson, president***

## **It has been a privilege!**

The first of the year is with us and everything starts anew. This is my last article as president of our chorus as Mark now takes over that job. I want everyone to know that I had a great time the last few years and I want to thank everyone for the privilege of being able to serve.

There have been so many chorus members who have helped make our group successful it's impossible to remember them all. The Indianhead Chorus should be proud of its commitment to excellence in singing Barbershop Harmony. I am proud to be part of it.

Let's keep ringing those chords with a smile on our faces and joy in our hearts!  
*Thank You,*

***Archie Lessard***

### **How are we doing financially?**

Operating fund.....	<b>\$5,103.54</b>
Performance fund....	<b>1,000.00</b>
YIH fund....	<b>6,644.56</b>
Uniform fund.....	<b>4,140.33</b>
Equipment fund	<b>1,000.00</b>
Quartet fund.....	<b>6000.00</b>
Social fund.....	<b>946.02</b>
Total of all funds.....	<b>24,834.45</b>
Committed funds....	<b>800.00</b>
Uncommitted funds...	<b>4,303.54</b>

Larry Fisk, Treasurer

### **Our Officers for 2010**

President: Mark Nelson .....	715-483-3152
Sec/Treas: Larry Fisk .....	715-327-8091
VP Marketing & PR & Bulletin editor: Ken Mettler.....	715-483-9202
VP Music: Steve Osero.....	715-268-8146
VP Membership: Clint Gjerde .....	715-483-3152
Asst. Music Dir. & Webmaster: Karl Wicklund.....	715-268-2685
Music Director: Steve Swenson.....	715-483-9797
Members at Lg.: Larry Durand .....	715-263-2201
Roger Johnson.....	715-825-4393
John Roeber.....	715-472-6164

~~~~~other functions~~~~~  
*Young Men in Harmony: Jon Buss.....715-246-3074*  
*Birthday/Anniversary cards: LeRoy Brown.....715-857-5422*  
*Chapter Historian: Gary Merchant.....715-646-9396*  
*2010 Show Chair: Ken Mettler.....715-483-9202*  
*Librarian: John Roeber .....*715-472-6164  
*Performance Coordinator: Dan Valentine.....715-472-2164*

### **Who received the Spark Plug award?**

November's Spark Plug award winner was Mark Nelson, our Show Chairman for 2009. Mark chose Archie Lessard as December's Spark Plug award winner because of his years of service to the chorus as our president. Thanks, Archie, for all you have done!

## 2009 Show income

|                       |    |           |
|-----------------------|----|-----------|
| <b>Income:</b>        |    |           |
| <b>Ticket Sales</b>   | \$ | 7,909.00  |
| <b>Sponsor Ads</b>    | \$ | 7,670.00  |
| <b>Total Income</b>   | \$ | 15,579.00 |
| <b>Total Expenses</b> | \$ | 7,786.81  |

**Net Profit:**                      \$        **7,792.19**

### *Take a Minute for the Minutes.*

Uniforms: New shirts are ordered and should be here before the end of the year.

2010 Show: Ken has a contract for “Four Men Fishin’ Tackle Choir” for next year’s show.

Music: Steve Osero has the new recording equipment and the new song that will be presented is already recorded.

Membership: Gary Noren, from St Croix Falls, is our newest member. Welcome, Gary!

***Larry Fisk**, Secretary*

### *"Gate Boarding"*

At the airport for a recent trip, I settled down to wait for the boarding announcement at Gate 35. Then I heard the voice on the public address system saying, "We apologize for the inconvenience, but Delta Flight 570 will board from Gate 41."

So Barb and I picked up our luggage and carried it over to Gate 41. Not ten minutes later the public address voice told us that Flight 570 would in fact be boarding from Gate 35.

So, again, we gathered our carry-on luggage and returned to the original gate. Just as we were settling down, the public address voice spoke again: "Thank you for participating in Delta's physical fitness program."

## 2010 PRIORITIES

As we begin a new year, I've been thinking about the priority of music in our lives. Life is a lot like a coin; you can spend it any way you wish, but you can spend it only once. Choosing one thing over all the rest throughout life is a difficult thing to do. This is especially true when the choices are so many and the possibilities are so close. Monday nights can be spent in a thousand ways. For me, I've chosen barbershop. Once I made that commitment, I tell people I'm not available on Monday nights because I'm singing.

Maybe people could say I'm a slave to music. Well, let me tell you, everyone is a slave to something. I've chosen something I love. What are you a slave to? An image, a name you're trying to live up to? a job? some stuff? a person? Let me give you a tip. If you cannot let it go, it's a priority to you. Think about the passions that control you.

Life places before us hundreds of possibilities. Some are bad. Many are good. A few are great. But each of us must decide, "What is my choice? What motivates me most?" In other words, "What's first, second, third, etc.?" My faith and my family are actually a higher priority than my music, but even then, they seldom take me away from the one night I've dedicated to our special hobby.

### **Life's Little Things are Important!**

Chances are you've been bitten by a mosquito, an ant, a gnat, a bee or a wasp, but have you ever been bitten by a lion or an elephant? Not too likely.

The point is that it's usually the little things in life that get under our skin and upset our apple cart more often than the biggies.

It's also the little things that make a big difference to the quality of our life. A simple thank you, a kindly word, a word of encouragement, a telephone call, a note, an email, a greeting card, a smile, a word of appreciation, a flower, and so on.

Why not determine to do something kind every day for someone, and especially for your loved ones as well as to friends and work mates. As someone else said, "When we deserve love the least is when we need it the most!"

Do something nice. Do it today. Do it all year.

## My one ¢ worth is free today.

(I don't have enough sense for two) –Anonymous

As I stood there on the risers and looked around at what was going on, it occurred to me that something was amiss.

Something had been nagging at me, and I was getting a little frustrated.

I pondered this, and it came to me: Everyone was giving their version of 100% (or so). The only problem was that the "100%" was being split between the need for good vocal quality with the sound that Steve is seeking, and the movements that are required; and some of us were taking another portion for something unrelated. Some people would give 75% to the moves, but then give only 25% to the music; others would give 75% to the music and 25% to the moves.

Don't get me wrong, there are people out there that can squeeze more than 100% when they want to; but that is a very small portion of the chorus. Just think what happens if you only give 50%, and then you have to split that between everything you need to do. Can you imagine performing with 20%?

When Steve wanted more vocal stuff, we would give more energy to that; however, that would take away from the other part; and when Steve wanted more moves, we would do just the opposite.

So the question becomes, *"How do you give 200%, 100% to each?"* You may say that 100% is all the energy I can give, and you would be right. I will tell you my philosophy, and how I attempt to solve this little problem. What I try to do is give 100% to the music. I think constantly about what Steve wants here and there. All my own energy is taken up doing that. Then, as if by magic, the music gives me back 100% emotional energy that I can use for the performance.

I am not talking about just moves. I am talking about the total emotional energy of the song.

When the performance makes sense and has meaning, it becomes an extension of the music.

When it becomes an extension of the music, it enhances the music, and the music, in turn, becomes an extension of the performance. So, what you have to do in your own minds is *NOT* think, *"Okay, get ready to do this move, get ready to do that move,..."*; rather, what you must do is make the move an automatic extension of the music. What does this mean? How do you make the moves an automatic extension of the music? I think the #1 problem some people have is that they get lost in their own voice. They are singing without listening to everything else that is going on around them. Guilty! When you listen and really get into all four parts of the music, the music takes care of the emotional energy. Believe me, when you have a song that is written well, that energy comes easily – but nonetheless you have to hear it; you have to be able to understand what the music is trying to convey. The next problem I can see is that people are not letting the music move them; instead they are moving themselves. The moves seem to become the primary focus, rather than the music. The moves we have been given do make sense; in my opinion they are natural reactions to the music. So, if the moves are supposed to be reactions to the music, then the music should become the initial primary focus. In particular, I can really see this problem when we are supposed to be adlibbing. We are thinking about, *"Okay I need to be moving from this point in the song to this point,"* rather than thinking about what moves the music is telling us to do. I see people flailing their arms willy-nilly, with no apparent thought process. It is like someone said a few weeks ago – saying "No" but nodding your head "Yes" – the moves have no meaning. I think that if you really listen to what you are singing and understand what moves the music is trying to convey, the moves will become more natural and thus will look more natural; right now, they look stiff and unbelievable.

There are probably more thoughts in my little head, but these are the only ones that really showed themselves this week. Let's see if we can really surprise Steve tonight.

## **"Remuss Starr"**

An amateur genealogical researcher discovered that his great-great uncle, Remus Starr, a fellow lacking in character, was hanged for horse stealing and train robbery in Montana in 1889. The only known photograph of Remus shows him standing on the gallows. On the back of the picture is this inscription:

"Remus Starr; horse thief; sent to Montana Territorial Prison 1885, escaped 1887; robbed the Montana Flyer six times. Caught by Pinkerton detectives. Convicted and hanged 1889."

In a Family History subsequently written by the researcher, Remus's picture is cropped so that all that's seen is a head shot. The accompanying biographical sketch is as follows:

"Remus Starr was a famous cowboy in the Montana Territory. His business empire grew to include acquisition of valuable equestrian assets and intimate dealings with the Montana railroad. Beginning in 1885, he devoted several years of his life to service at a government facility, finally taking leave to resume his dealings with the railroad. In 1887, he was a key player in a vital investigation run by the renowned Pinkerton Detective Agency. In 1889, Remus passed away during an important civic function held in his honor when the platform upon which he was standing collapsed."

## ***DIAPER spelled backward is REPAID - Think about it...***

### **\*Aerobic Dismay\***

Concerned about fitness in my middle 40s, I enrolled in an aerobics class. To my dismay I walked into a room filled with much younger women and decided to combat my nervousness with humor.

"I'm here to do my postnatal exercises," I told the instructor.

She gave me an appraising look. "How old is your baby?"

"Twenty-six," I replied.

### **Range Cancelled**

At one Army base, the annual trip to the rifle range had been canceled for the second year in a row, but the semi-annual physical fitness test was still on as planned.

One soldier mused, "Does it bother anyone else that the Army doesn't seem to care how well we can shoot, but they are extremely interested in how fast we can run?"



### **"Jury Excuse"**

"Please, Your Honor, I'd like to be excused from jury duty," pleaded an anxious-looking man.

"Why should I excuse you?" asked the judge.

"You see, I owe a man fifty dollars, and he's leaving in a few hours for a post abroad. He'll be there for years and I want to catch him before he leaves, for it may be my last chance to repay him."

"Excused," stated the judge coldly. "We don't want anyone on the jury who can lie like that."

### **Clothing Return**

While in college I worked as a salesman in a clothing store. I noticed that people had no shame about returning items that obviously had been worn. One rainy morning I walked in and found a discolored blazer hanging on the rack with other returns.

"People return the most filthy, nasty things," I commented to my supervisor, Mr. Galager, who was standing nearby.

Eyebrow raised, he said, "That's my jacket!"

### **How to Win in a Lost Argument:**

Let's face it, some people can be very difficult to live with and/or get along with. Here's an interesting tip giving one way to resolve a quarrel: According to Ludwig Bemelmans in *The Best of Bits & Pieces*, "A book issued by the Army years ago gave all manner of advice to noncommissioned officers. It even tells how to make men who have quarreled become friends again. The men are put to washing the same window, one outside, the other inside. Looking at each other, they soon have to laugh and all is forgotten. It works; I have tried it. "

So the next time you have a quarrel with your spouse, try washing the windows! Admittedly, this would be easier said than done. In a quarrel always aim for a "win-win" outcome.

### **Consider speaking voice training.**

There is often a discrepancy between singing voice and speaking voice. Even a trained singer may demonstrate excellent technique during sung performance, but exhibit abusive speaking habits, undermining vocal functioning. Here's a tip to ensure healthy balance of the entire voice: regardless of whether speaking or singing, singers may benefit from speaking voice training from an acting coach or a speech-language pathologist. (The Milton J. Dance, Jr. Head & Neck Rehabilitation Center)

We consistently and unconsciously speak in our low voice range. Our vocal cords get very well developed in producing the sounds in that range. Do your voice a favor by varying your speaking voice. Consciously try to speak in a voice about **one-fifth higher** than you might normally speak. (Gordon Billows, Notes4U)

### **All I Need to Know about Life I Learned From a Snowman.**

- It's okay if you're a little bottom heavy.
- Hold your ground, even when the heat is on.
- Wearing white is always appropriate.
- Winter is the best of the four seasons.
- It takes a few extra rolls to make a good midsection.
- There's nothing better than a foul weather friend.
- We're all made up of mostly water.
- You know you've made it when they write a song about you.
- Accessorize! Accessorize! Accessorize!
- Avoid yellow snow.
- Don't get too much sun.
- It's embarrassing when you can't look down and see your feet.
- It's fun to hang out in your front yard.
- Always put your best foot forward.
- There's no stopping you once you're on a roll.

## "Transcribing Confusion"

We were thoroughly confused. While transcribing medical audiotapes, my co-worker came upon the following garbled diagnosis: "This man has pholenfrometry."

Knowing nothing about that particular condition, she double-checked with Doctor Mike Wilson. After listening to the tape, he shook his head.

"This man," he said, translating for her, "has fallen from a tree."

## There is polecat help on line.

Want to learn various parts to our Polecat songs, the anthems, our theme song, and more? Here is Lyle's Learning Lounge, where you can get the music (PDF), listen to each voice part and hear a chorus or quartet (like Keepsake's version of *Sweet Roses of Morn*) sing the 4 parts together. This site is a great learning tool for those who can't read music well or just want to learn their music faster.

<http://www.evg.org/~megacity/LearningLounge/SpruceGrove.html>

## *Watch for these consolidations in 2010:*

- 1.) Hale Business Systems, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Fuller Brush, and W R. Grace Co. Will merge and become: **Hale, Mary, Fuller, Grace.**
- 2.) Polygram Records, Warner Bros., and Zesta Crackers join forces and become: **Poly, Warner Cracker.**
- 3.) 3M will merge with Goodyear and become: **MMMGood.**
4. ZippoManufacturing, AudiMotors, Dofasco, and Dakota Mining will merge and become: **ZipAudiDoDa**
5. FedEx is expected to join its competitor, UPS, and become: **FedUP.**
6. Fairchild Electronics and Honeywell Computers will become: **Fairwell Honeychild.**
7. Grey Poupon and Docker Pants are expected to become: **PouponPants.**
8. Knotts Berry Farm and the National Organization of Women will become: **Knott NOW!**

## **Websites for you:**

**Worldwide Activity** - The Barbershop Harmony Society has affiliate barbershop organizations in Australia, Great Britain, Finland, New Zealand, Germany, Ireland, South Africa, Sweden, and The Netherlands. There are also barbershop singers in Denmark, Israel, Japan, Saudi Arabia, and parts of the former Soviet Union. Here are two links that will introduce you to barbershoppers in Australia and Great Britain. I will include other affiliates in future Notes. Enjoy your journey to Australia and Great Britain.

AAMBS (Australian Association of Men's Barbershop Singers)

<http://www.aambs.org.au/>

BABS (British Association of Barbershop Singers)

<http://www.singbarbershop.com/>

**Our Chorus Mission Statement:** *"The Indianhead Chorus is a fraternity of men drawn together by a love of singing four-part, close acappella harmony music known as barbershop. We are committed to: 1-Improving the vocal and visual level of performance, 2-Growing the chapter, and, 3-Sharing our music with an ever-growing audience."*

## **Let's eat!** (Monday night lunch schedule):

*Jan. 3- LeRoy Brown, 10-Gary Noren, 17-Larry Durand, 24-Tom Fedje, 31-Larry Fisk, Feb. 7-Steve Osero, 14-Gene Jerumzek, 21-Gerald Johnson, 28- Roger Johnson, Mar. 7- Archie Lessard, 14-Cliff Manwiller, 21- Ken Mettler, 28-Duane Morris, April 4-Loren Nelson, 11-Mark Nelson, 18- Jon Buss, 25- Clint Gjerde, May 2-Darrel Peteron, 9-Gary Peterson,, 16- Paul Peterson, 23-Neil Pickard, 30-Earl Hillstad, June 6-John Roeber, 13-Harley Schafer, 20-Duane Stone, 27-Steve Swenson, July 4-Dan Valentine, 11-Rick VanArnum, 18-Fred Weber, 25-Karl Wicklund, Aug. 1- Churk Williamson, 8-John Hertog, 15-Pete Rupp, 22-Al Stocker, 29-Kent Muschinske*

Thanks for reading to the end, *or, did you start here?*

All information in our bulletin was placed here by the editor, who is very thankful for each one who contributed an article. If an article does not have a name attached to it, you can assume it is something that the editor snuck in. It is OK if you think it is "filler" for the newsletter, as long as you read it before dismissing it altogether.

Today is Friday, January 1, 2010! This is a New Year's Day Extra!

## **Make the New Year Count!**

Wishing all our *Smoke Signal* readers a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. Obviously, the past is behind us. We can't undo it even if we wanted to, but we can start the New Year with hope and purpose; keeping in mind the words of Minnie Haskins who said, "And I said to the one who stood at the gate of the year, 'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the Unknown.' And he replied, 'Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'"

I couldn't think of a better way to start the New Year and, with God's help, "Let this coming year be better than all the others. Vow to do some of the things you've always wanted to do but couldn't find the time. Call up a forgotten friend. Drop an old grudge, and replace it with some pleasant memories. Vow not to make a promise you don't think you can keep. Walk tall, and smile more. You'll look ten years younger. Don't be afraid to say, 'I love you.' Say it again. They are the sweetest words in the world." -Ann Landers.