



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

Editor: Ken Mettler, Kbmett@hotmail.com, 125 N. Blanding Woods Rd., St. Croix Falls, WI 540245

Barbershop Harmony Society, 110 7th Avenue N., Nashville, TN 37203-3704 www.barbershop.org

Land-O-Lakes District - LOL home page: www.loldistrict.org

1,000 Lakes Division - Probe Member

<http://indianhead.groupanizer.com>

June, 2012 - Vol. 55, Issue 6

Events Calendar:

- *June 3 óVLQ Interfaith Caregivers @ Catholic Church Balsam Lake 7 PM
- *June 10 óChurch Sing- Frederic, WI area
- * June 22 óSing at the Overlook in St Croix Falls
- * June 23 óTalent Show in Milltown Bering Park -2 PM (summer uniform)
- * July 1-8 óInternational Convention in Portland, OR
- * July 12th óMill Pond Park, Osceola, WI -7 PM (summer uniform)
- * August 7 óMusic in the Park, Luck WI -6:30 PM (summer uniform)
- *August 11 óThreshing Days in Almelund, MN
- * August 12 óBarbershoppers sing National Anthem at the Metrodome
(Twins vs. Tampa Bay Rays; Gather @ 11 AM, game @ Noon)
- *Aug 19 óChurch Sing- Minnesota Churches
- *Aug 19 óChorus Social after church sing @ Archie Lessard's home.
- *Oct 13 óAmery High School- 54th Harvest of Harmony- 2 PM & 7:30 PM
- *Oct 26 & 27 óDistrict Contest, Rochester, MN

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



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organization always striving for excellence.

Pay more attention to TV!

OK, no. Stop watching so much television. Sing. Garden. Golf. Bake some bread. Build a house. Read a novel. That is my official proclamation.

BUT when you do watch the occasional bit of quality programming, take a close look. Notice a scene with very little action, with no cutting away to different camera angles ó a shot where the camera seems to hold still. I say "seems" to hold still because a TV camera is rarely entirely static. You will likely find the focus is slowly closing in on the subject. Sometimes this is so subtle you have to watch the image progress on the edges of the screen in order to catch it. Why not just let the camera sit there? Why move it if no one will notice?

Well, the audience does notice. Ken Burns uses a dramatic version of this technique in his documentaries, making the camera pan past those still shots of Civil War soldiers. Even an almost imperceptible motion lends energy to an otherwise still image. In the same way, when we hold onto a note, good singers do not just sit there. They make motion. The volume and intensity of the note changes, the singer's body and stance remains energized.

Do this. And then shut off the tube and go outside.

Kaptain Karl, Assistant Director

Performance News

We have a full schedule! This is what we practice for. Church sing outs, singing in Milltown, St Croix Falls (**learn Lida Rose**), Osceola and Luck!!! Arrangements have been made for the VLQ or quartet or both to sing at the Threshing Days in Almelund, MN on Saturday, August 11th. This will be like the Home and Garden Show in Amery. We will roam around the food court area. Let's get an old time costume for this one. We have the potential to make a big splash here. Check your calendars for this date. Then the next day August 12th, you can relax and attend the Twins game and sing with a couple hundred fellow barbershoppers. Let Archie know if you want tickets. The next Sunday is a church sing out. Then we will finish that day with a gathering at Archie's home. Learning tracks are up. Learn the music and get off the paper ASAP. We need to know the music so our directors/coaches can polish us. When you practice, practice the big breath before each phrase and to push on the end of the phrase to keep the energy going. Sing tall on your vowel sounds. When you practice ó "Smile the while, you are singing." Light up that face and share with the audience the fun we are having (if you are not

ormers that sing barbershop harmony and have fun

If you need a CD for the learning tracks, let Karl or me know.

Promotion at Luck Community Ed Spring Expo in Luck, WI on Thursday, May 24th, Chariot (with Kaptain Karl filling in on lead) entertained at least 40 people and distributed over 50 Indianhead Chorus brochures to the visitors of this first of its kind event by Luck Community Ed. The expo was followed by the 2nd Annual National Honor Society Talent contest. Thanks to Dan, Harley and Larry for stepping up to help promote the chorus on short notice. Oh, the winner of the talent contest played Scott Joplin's Mapleleaf Rag while hanging from his knees suspended above the keyboard.

Dan Valentine, Performance Coordinator

Recruiting Tips: Preservation Through Recruitment

I am most proud and honored to give you my recruitment tactics. I hope that they will help someone else. They are, in no particular order:

I maintain a list of good prospects and keep calling. It is now a list of 25 men. I am also at present trying to sponsor a member into the Pinehurst, NC chapter.

I am always upbeat to prospects, stressing fun, fellowship, enjoyment of singing well, and of course the health benefits that singing provides.

I arrange to pick up guests at their homes and of course return them. This eliminates a lot of broken promises.

I carry "Come Join Us in Song" cards at all times. In my truck, and car I have society brochures and how the enclosed picture to give to prospects.

I always send a thank you note to every first-time guest. I send to all chapter guests, not just my own -it works! I do hope this can be of some help.

Sam Williamson, Grove City, PA

Mean What You Sing: Church Sing-out special

Nothing touches the human heart deeper than music. This is never more true than when a group sings heartily for the Lord. Many a cold heart on skid row has melted as the strains of some old hymn lingered in steamy streets and sleazy alleys surrounding a gospel mission. When congregations sing the praises of the King, even the demonic hosts stand at attention. "The powers of darkness fear when this sweet chant they hear, May Jesus Christ be praised!"

Such moving melodies hold out a warm welcome to strangers, comfort to the broken, refreshment to the lonely, and affirmation to the discouraged. Great church music inspires and instructs, blesses and relieves.

rolific hymnist of all time, realized the value of
or a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's
praise. There is nothing to compare to that sound; Nothing!

But have you noticed the fly in our melodic ointment? It is not a lack of beauty or harmony, nor is it insufficient volume or intensity. It is, plain and simple, the presence of words with an absence of meaning. We sing well, but we fail to heed the message hidden behind the bars.

Stop and think. There's a line in "Take My Life and Let It Be" that always makes me pause as the words stick in my throat: "Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold." Imagine! Not even "a mite"! We all sing that with such ease, yet I have known few who wouldn't withhold something, including me.

Think of each song or hymn as something given to God, a statement of your commitment. Picture the results of this commitment as you sing it with gusto. Then, after the song has ended, apply it with the same gusto.

God not only loves a cheerful giver, He honors a sincere singer. This Sunday put yourself into the lyrics of each hymn, considering them your own personal credo. See what a difference it makes.

Live with Intention

Walk to the edge.
Listen hard. Laugh. Play with abandon.
Practice wellness.
Continue to learn.
Choose with no regret.
Appreciate your friends.
Lead or follow a leader.
Do what you love.
Live as if this is all there is.

Life Begins When You Do by Mary Anne Radmacher

It's up to you to make choices that work best for you. It really is all within your point of view. Regret is a matter of perspective. If you like who you are NOW, it follows that you can embrace, without regret, all the choices that led you here.

act me- they do not define me.

Challenges mold me- they do not make me.

Praise may encourage me- it is my own vision that inspires me.

Successes may spur me on but it is my own reward that satisfies me.

Pain may permeate but my heart and hope prevail.

Criticism and pettiness may knock but the lock is on my side of the door.

Abundance may pave the road but it is generosity that lights the way.

As long as I'm breathin'- I'm livin'.

My way. Beginning every fresh moment- now!

THE BIRTH OF THE SONG 'PRECIOUS LORD'

Back in 1932, I was 32 years old and a fairly new husband. My wife, Nettie and I were living in a little apartment on Chicago's south side. One hot August afternoon I had to go to St. Louis, where I was to be the featured soloist at a large revival meeting. I didn't want to go. Nettie was in the last month of pregnancy with our first child, but a lot of people were expecting me in St. Louis. I kissed Nettie good-bye, clattered downstairs to our Model A and, in a fresh Lake Michigan breeze, chugged out of Chicago on Route 66.

However, outside the city, I discovered that in my anxiety at leaving, I had forgotten my music case. I wheeled around and headed back. I found Nettie sleeping peacefully. I hesitated by her bed; something was strongly telling me to stay. But eager to get on my way, and not wanting to disturb Nettie, I shrugged off the feeling and quietly slipped out of the room with my music.

The next night, in the steaming St. Louis heat, the crowd called on me to sing again and again. When I finally sat down, a messenger boy ran up with a Western Union telegram. I ripped open the envelope. Pasted on the yellow sheet were the words: YOUR WIFE JUST DIED.

People were happily singing and clapping around me, but I could hardly keep from crying out. I rushed to a phone and called home. All I could hear on the other end was 'Nettie is dead. Nettie is dead'. When I got back, I learned that Nettie had given birth to a boy. I swung between grief and joy. Yet that same night, the baby died. I buried Nettie and our little boy together, in the same casket. Then I fell apart.

For days I closeted myself. I felt that God had done me an injustice. I didn't want to serve Him anymore or write gospel songs. I just wanted to go back to that jazz world I once knew so well. But then, as I hunched alone in that dark apartment those first sad days, I thought back to the afternoon I went to St. Louis. Something kept telling me to stay with Nettie. Was that something God? Oh, if I had paid more attention to Him that day, I would have stayed and been with Nettie when she died.

ten more closely to Him. But still I was lost in grief. Everyone was kind to me, especially one friend. The following Saturday evening he took me up to Malone's Poro College, a neighborhood music school. It was quiet; the late evening sun crept through the curtained windows. I sat down at the piano, and my hands began to browse over the keys.

Something happened to me then. I felt at peace. I felt as though I could reach out and touch God. I found myself playing a melody, once into my head that just seemed to fall into place:

'Precious Lord, take my hand,
Lead me on let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak,
I am worn, through the storm,
Through the night lead me on to the light,
Take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.'

The Lord gave me these words and melody, He also healed my spirit. I learned that when we are in our deepest grief, when we feel farthest from God, this is when He is closest, and when we are most open to His restoring power. And so I go on living for God willingly and joyfully, until that day comes when He will take me and gently lead me home.

-Tommy Dorsey-

For those too young to know who he is, Tommy Dorsey was a band leader in the Thirties and Forties. Did you know that Tommy Dorsey wrote this song? What a wonderful story of how God CAN heal the brokenhearted! Beautiful, isn't it?

"Flight 1234," the control tower advised, "turn right 45 degrees for noise abatement."
"Roger," the pilot responded, "but we're at 35,000 feet. How much noise can we make up here?"
"Sir," the radar man replied, "have you ever heard the noise a 727 makes when it hits a 747?"

Don't Go To Bed....

I've heard it said, don't go to bed
while hanging onto sorrow,
you may not have the chance to laugh
with those you love tomorrow.

you may regret your actions
once you've lost your self control.

When you've lost your temper
and you've said some hurtful things,
think about the heartache
that your actions sometime bring.

You'll never get those moments back,
such precious time to waste,
and all because of things you said
in anger and in haste.

So if you're loving someone
and your pride has settled in,
you may not ever have the chance
to say to them again...

"I love you and I miss you
and although we don't agree,
I'll try to see your point of view,
please do the same for me." Author, not well known

DAILY THOUGHT: SOME PEOPLE ARE LIKE SLINKIES - NOT REALLY GOOD FOR ANYTHING BUT THEY BRING A SMILE TO YOUR FACE WHEN PUSHED DOWN THE STAIRS

A new chorus prospect was brought in to sing one evening. In one corner, he sees a group of elderly men laughing hysterically. Interested, he watches them while the older member gets his music. One of the men shouts out "63!" and the entire group bursts out laughing. The new fellow is totally baffled by the behavior of them. "74!", again a chorus of guffaws rings out. The old member comes back to where the men sat staring, and the new fellow asks "What are those elderly men doing." The old fellow smirks, and says, "Oh, those guys. They've been in here so long, they just number their jokes." Meanwhile another one calls out "2!". Nobody laughs. The new member leans over and asks, "What happened?" To this the old member replied, "Some people just can't tell a joke."

***The (E.E.A.) Employment Enjoyment Agency has
openings for these positions:***

takes control of a song, delivers a message from the and believable, have expressive face and hands. Must

not forget lyrics!

BASS, Personality ~ Willing and able to support a lead, keeping him grounded. Must not punch phrases but flow with the lead. Once in a great while he may solo with ðbm, bm, bm, bmö

TENOR, Personality ~ Soft, shining characteristics which help brighten the lead. Must add a feminine touch to the sound of the ensemble, without overdoing it!

BARI, Personality ~ Usually bi-polar! His dual nature serves to enhance the bass with his low notes, to complement lead and tenor in his high notes and round out the overall sound. He must be resilient enough to stomach disparaging comments about his demanding role. These remarks usually stem from jealousy among the other three parts.

REMUNERATION ~ The priceless reward is the ecstasy of singing barbershop harmony; and the joy of pleasing an audience. On the job training is available.

Mo Trudel, Membership VP Englewood, Florida

Here's how to use the head voice, or, falsetto. - -Jim DeBussman

The effective use of the Head Voice/Falsetto as a singer in Barbershop is essential for all four parts. It's imperative a singer knows how to allow their chest voice and head voice/falsetto to work for them in a positive way. They must also be aware of the part of their voice that connects those two voices called the Passaggio, or the passage; more commonly known as their ðbreak.ö *"To be able to sing from the very top of one's range to the very bottom without any noticeable change in quality or break/flip is the optimum any singer should want. This can be done by understanding the importance of keeping your "head" voice in your voice throughout your range."* óQuote-- Jim Henry ó Bass in Crossroads Quartet

Please help me, I have a problem.

Years ago when I was doing a counselor training course, one of the instructors made the statement, "Whatever bothers you is your problem!"

"Hmmm," I thought to myself, "that's an interesting concept—never thought of that before."

At the time I was going through a rough situation personally and was in despair about it. During the course of the training, I explained to my counselor about my predicament and he said, "That must make you angry."

"No," I replied, "I'm just hurt." And he left me with the thought, "That must make you angry!"

Shortly after that I went for a long walk, thinking about, "That must make you angry." Then the truth hit me like a bolt of lightning! "Whew," I admitted to myself, "I am angry—very angry!"

erson whom I felt had hurt me so badly, but I was
erms with my feelings (which I had learned to bury
solve them.

What others do to me may or may not be a problem, but how I react and feel is always my responsibility. However, to the degree that I overreact, that is always my problem.

It is true; whatever bothers me is my problem. This can be a hard pill to swallow, but until we accept this reality, we will continue to blame others for our feelings and possibly never resolve our hurts/anger or impaired relationships.

Now, I'm thankful for the people in my life who confront me with truth and reality. They have been angels in disguise. As soon as we all recognize them as such we can use their insights to help us become a better, healthier, and more loving and accepting person.

Go For It!

In his fine little book *Fully Human, Fully Alive*, author John Powell relates an experience of a friend who was vacationing in the Bahamas. The friend was sightseeing when he noticed a crowd gathered toward the end of a pier. He walked down to investigate the commotion. Powell says:

. . . he discovered that the object of all the attention was a young man making the last-minute preparations for a solo journey around the world in a homemade boat. Without exception everyone on the pier was pessimistic. All were actively volunteering to tell the ambitious sailor all the things that could possibly go wrong. . . .

When my friend heard all these discouraging warnings to the adventurous young man, he felt an irresistible desire to offer some optimism and encouragement. As the little craft began drifting away from the pier towards the horizon, my friend . . . kept shouting: "BON VOYAGE! You're really something! We're with you. We're proud of you!"

How few are those who see beyond the danger . . . who say to those on the edge of some venture, "Go for it!" Funny, isn't it? I suppose it's related to one's inner ability to imagine, to envision, to be enraptured by the unseen, all the hazards and hardships notwithstanding.

How glad I am that certain visionaries refused to listen to the crowd on the pier. I'm glad . . .

- that Edison didn't give up on the light bulb
- that Michelangelo kept painting



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and "yes" to frightened Jews

Almost every day---certainly every week---we encounter people who are in their own homemade boat, thinking seriously about setting forth. The ocean of possibilities is enormously inviting, yet terribly threatening. Urge them on! Dare to say what they need to hear the most, "Go for it!" Then pray like mad. How much could be accomplished if only there were brave souls on the end of the pier smiling and affirming.

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 í715-483-9202
- VP Music: Gary Noren í715-483-9566
- 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 íí 715-268-2685
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- Archie Lessardí í 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 í ..715-472-2080

Other functions

- Young Men in Harmony: Jon Bussí715-410-7324
- Birthday/Anniversary cards: LeRoy Browní í ..715-857-5422
- 2012 Show Chair: Archie Lessardí í í í ..í ...651-462-4664
- Librarian:
- Performance Coordinator: Dan Valentine.í .í .715-472-2080