



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 3 – March, 2012

### Some Great Opportunities:

- \* March 31 óSpring Contest in Mankato area
- \* April 22 óSing at United Pioneer Home in Luck 2:30pm
- \* June 22 óSing at the Overlook in St Croix Falls
- \* June 23 óTalent Show in Milltown, WI. Bering Park-2 PM
- \* July 1-8 óInternational Convention in Portland, OR
- \* 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.*

I don't know how many of you have seen it, but the documentary titled *American Harmony* was recently on the "Documentary Channel" on the dish. I didn't even know there was a Documentary Channel, but Laurie stumbled across it one night while we were channel surfing. It was pretty interesting in that it followed the paths of four quartets in the 2006 quartet championships that were held in Indianapolis. It gives a pretty interesting look at what it is like behind the scenes at an international competition.

The 2006 competition was extremely close and featured an upset when Vocal Spectrum surprised most everyone by beating future champions Max Q, OC Times and Cross Roads, which were the next 3 champions. Vocal Spectrum had just been a College Quartet champion a few years earlier.

Like all good competitions, the international barbershop quartet competition has its own story lines. A few of us have been to quite a few of them, though it's been a few years for me. They are always entertaining, and the barbershop quality is remarkable. The good news is that Minneapolis will be hosting in 2017. That will be a great opportunity for many of us to see an international competition - whether for the first time or as a repeat visit. Look ahead and block the week of July 4th out on your calendar.

**Mark Nelson**, President

**Music Committee Meeting** Feb. 27, 2012 -Attending: Steve S, Karl, Dan, Gary

1. Rehearsals will be extended 30 minutes (until 10:00 pm) in preparation for our contest on March 31.
2. Steve S will tape our rehearsals in March for immediate audio playback for chorus review.
3. We are looking for someone who is willing and able to videotape our rehearsals.
4. Steve S will provide his contest music notes (from Jim Emery) to Karl or Dan for printing and posting on our Groupanizer website.
5. Reminder to all chorus members: Karl and Steve will be listing the songs we will be rehearsing each evening on the board. It is our responsibility to get all of these songs out of our folders ASAP in order to make our rehearsals more efficient.
6. John Roeber has provided a model for our song folders that the music committee likes. The model we liked is a listing of all our songs in alphabetical order on the front page with numbers (tabbed) associated with each tune. We will likely be moving in that direction in the future.
7. Karl and Steve like the shotgun approach to standing on the risers for our contest. Dan and Gary would like to see this arrangement happen sooner than in previous years so that singers can become more accustomed to this arrangement.
8. Next Music Committee meeting will be April 30th at 9:30 PM.

**Gary Noren**, Music VP

## HOW DO YOU HANDLE CRITICISM?

The fact is those who achieve anything worthwhile in barbershopping or in any other part of life are bound to be the target for the jabs and jibes of jealous, lesser men. Furthermore, the person who, for fear of criticism, tries to please everyone ends up pleasing no one.

"He who fears criticism," declared Thomas Jefferson, "is hopeless. Only those who do things are criticized. The idler is lost sight of in the march of eventsô but the doer is watched and criticized. To hesitate for fear of criticism loses the battle while the doers march on to victory and triumphs.ö

"If your cause is right, be not afraid of criticism: Advocate it, expound it, and, if need be, fight for it. Critics always will be, but to the strong-minded, they are a help rather than a hindrance. As the horse spurts forward when prodded with the spur, so the doers forge ahead under the lash of criticism. Take your part on life's stage and play your part to the end. Stand for that which is good [that which is right]. Be a doer, not a drone. Look the world in the face and let the critics criticize."

Realize that an incessant, negative criticizer with a chip on his/her shoulder is basically an angry person. They have never resolved their hurts from the past and are looking for hooks to hang their anger on. That is, they are projecting their anger and/or failures on to others rather than accepting the responsibility for their own unresolved issues.

On the other hand, when constructive criticism is given, let's accept it in the spirit in which it is given, evaluate it realistically, and make changes where necessary. This is a characteristic of a mature person.

## **GAMES OLD PEOPLE PLAY**

1. Sag, you're It.
2. Hide and go pee.
3. 20 questions shouted into your good ear.
4. Kick the bucket
5. Red Rover, Red Rover, the nurse says Bend Over.
6. Musical recliners.
7. Simon says something incoherent.
8. Pin the Toupee on the bald guy

## are you?

It has been said that there are three kinds of people: Those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who wondered what happened!

Former Australian swimmer, Shane Gould, who won three gold medals in the 1972 Olympics, was considered one of the greatest swimmers of all time. She didn't sit back and watch things happen. She made them happen.

Early in her career, when she was only 14 years of age, a news reporter asked her how she thought she would do in one of her early swim meets in the U.S. She replied, "I have a feeling there will be a world record today." There was!

Shane set a world record in the one-hundred-meter freestyle event and a second in the two-hundred. When asked how she thought she would do in the more punishing four-hundred-meter event she said, "I get stronger every race, and besides í my parents said they'd take me to Disneyland if I win, and we're leaving tomorrow!"

She went to Disneyland with three world records! By the time she was sixteen she had five world records. It is true, she also had talent but she won not only because of this, but because of her preparation, hard work, and her positive self-expectancy.

Only a few are gifted sufficiently to be able to win a gold medal. However, every one of us is gifted in some area and most of us are gifted in several areas. We can all be "gold medal winners" if we are well-trained, are adequately prepared for the task, see and take advantage of every opportunity when it knocks, disallow our fears to control us, believe that with God's help we can achieve what we set out to do, and are prepared to work hard to make it happen.

### **Confucius Says:**

\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

Man who run in front of car get tired.

\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*~\*

Man who run behind car get exhausted.

## What's Up?

Lovers of the English language might enjoy this: How do non-natives ever learn all the nuances of English?

There is a two-letter word that perhaps has more meanings than any other two-letter word, and that word is "UP."

It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list, but when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake UP?

At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP and why are the officers UP for election and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report?

... to brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm  
the kitchen. We lock UP the house and some guys fix UP  
the old car.

At other times the little word has real special meaning. People stir UP trouble, line UP for  
tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses.

To be dressed is one thing but to be dressed UP is special.

And this UP is confusing: A drain must be opened UP because it is stopped UP.

We open UP a store in the morning, but we close it UP at night. We seem to be pretty  
mixed UP about UP!

To be knowledgeable about the proper uses of UP, look the word UP in the dictionary. In  
a desk-sized dictionary, it takes UP almost 1/4 of the page and can add UP to about thirty  
definitions.

If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will  
take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with a hundred or  
more.

When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out we say it is  
clearing UP. When it rains, it wets UP the earth. When it doesn't rain for a while, things  
dry UP.

One could go on and on, but I'll wrap it UP, for now my time is UP, so ... Time to shut  
UP!

## **Maximizing “Relative Importance” for Chapter Growth**

Adapted from Bob Heim, Marketing and Public Relations VP, Nassau Mid-Island Chapter

They're out there at every annual show; happy and excited to be in the auditorium.  
Thrilled by songs they've heard us perform before, delighted by the additions to our  
repertoire. They are sons, daughters, grandchildren, in-laws, aunts and uncles, all  
beaming with a sense of obvious pride. The reason they've come together to join  
in the applause? They are, first and foremost, family, OUR extended families; there to  
support your love of barbershopping.

There to underscore their special affection for you; on hand as first responders in  
answering your call for support. We as a chapter are forever grateful. There is no way to  
minimize this "relative importance" in sustaining chapter growth. And, when they leave,  
what then? Is your responsibility to involve them in our efforts over? Do we forget them  
for another year before calling on them again for support? Not on your life.

There are many, many ways your relatives can continue to help. Let's face it, they are our  
"army," our front-line battlers in our fight to preserve our art form. Let's examine just a  
few of the ways they can step up to the plate and magnify our collective mission:

Let THEM carry a quantity of our flyers soliciting new members for the chapter.

Family and relatives can talk from firsthand experience about the sounds of barbershop;  
the camaraderie, the enjoyment. They are truly persuasive ambassadors of our art.

Your family members and relatives reach friends of all ages - at jobs, at schools, at  
churches and synagogues, at meetings of social and fraternal organizations or at the  
bowling alley. Out on golf courses (all that downtime conversation looking for balls in  
the woods). At your family gatherings, explain what we're doing, how THEY can help.

Your immediate family and relatives can point the way in encouraging friends to find  
out about a local institution serving their community for over 60 years. It's as simple as

them to "check them out" at

Remind them how you stay so young by singing; remind them about the healthful benefits of it all; of those deep breaths. Your relatives can bring up such discussion at gyms, in waiting rooms at the doctor's office, etc.

Give your relatives copies of *The Harmonizer* and *Smoke Signal* to read on buses, subways etc. to spark dialogue about what "dad" does.

Oh, there are so many ways. (I can see you're way ahead of me here.) We would welcome hearing from any of you on how you enlisted others in your family to help and...what they did to maximize "relative importance." THEIR "grains of sand" are enormously important, too, in building our beach for barbershopping. Every day, in every way, they all add up to our success, as well.

### *Life Begins When You Do* -by Mary Anne Radmacher

Nearly everyone postpones one grand thing or a collection of mighty hopes and dreams. Between the quote marks of our lives are phrases like these: "When things slow down...when I finish my degree...when I get certified...as I acquire a deeper knowledge base...when I have kids...when the kids are grown...when I get well...when I marry...when I divorce...when I retire...when I get that promotion, that raise, that job, that house, that whatever the fill-in-the blank is for your specific postponing of life..."

Your Life Begins When You Do.

You may think you are postponing the longing of your soul until life aligns itself with your vision, until elements conspire to be more favorable...but as it happens, life just lolls along at the same remarkable consistent and disinterested cadence. Life is impartial. YOUR personal, subjective life (dreams, satisfactions, contentment, achievements, vision, fullness, passion, aspirations) begins when you begin.

From my teens into adulthood, I said, "I want to be a singer." One day I changed the sentence to, "I am a singer." My view changed. Life began. I looked behind me and saw that I had been accidentally living as a singer. I had been laying down a path that was only now visible to eyes that had begun to see. Beginning my life as a singer made my heart's longing and the small, tentative labors of my hands visible and tangible. I began by opening the door and simply believing that I could live my dream. I began living that dream by seeing that I could.

Your purpose, that thing that among the many to-dos of your days; is what you must do. Embrace the truth of your purpose each minute of your precious life...for how very true it is that life begins when you do.

If you would dream it, BEGIN it. If you have an idea, OPEN it.  
If there is longing, ACKNOWLEDGE it. If there is mission, COMMIT it.  
If there is daring, DO it. If there is love, SPEAK it.  
If there is resource, USE it. If there is abundance, SHARE it.

## *YOUR S WUNDERING mind...*

Protons have mass? I didn't even know they were Catholic.  
They told me I was gullible and I believed them.  
Teach a child to be polite and courteous in the home and, when he grows up, he'll  
never be able to merge his car onto the freeway.  
Experience is the thing you have left when everything else is gone.  
One nice thing about egotists: they don't talk about other people.  
My weight is perfect for my height--which varies.  
I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.  
How can there be self-help "groups"?  
If swimming is so good for your figure, how do you explain whales?  
Show me a man with both feet firmly on the ground, and I'll show you a man who can't  
get his pants off.  
Is it me --or do buffalo wings taste like chicken?  
\*\*\*\*\*

## *I love one-liners!*

Many are like modern proverbs and are like nuggets of gold or pearls of wisdom. Here  
are a few:

"Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there  
except those that sang best." ó William Blake

"Don't be afraid to take a big step if one is indicated; you can't cross a chasm in two small  
jumps." ó David Lloyd George

"I would rather fail in a cause that will ultimately triumph than to triumph in a cause that  
will ultimately fail." ó Jim Elliot

"If you are patient in one moment of anger, you will escape a hundred days of sorrow." ó  
Chinese proverb

"You are wise when you learn from your mistakes. You are wiser still when you learn  
from others' mistakes." ó Rob Acker

"The experience of resistance and frustration is often an indication that you are doing the  
wrong thing." ó Brian Tracy

"Every person is working for him or herself." ó Brian Tracy

"He who never walks except where he sees other men's tracks will make no discoveries."  
ó Unknown

"Success is a marathon, not a sprint." ó Unknown

And, "If it's going to be, it will be up to me." ó Unknown

Nobody is a whole chain. Each one is a link. But take away one link and the chain is broken.

Nobody is a whole team. Each one is a player. But take away one player and the game is forfeited.

Nobody is a whole orchestra. Each one is a musician. But take away one musician and the symphony is incomplete.

Nobody is a whole play. Each one is an actor. But take away one actor and the performance suffers.

Nobody is a whole hospital. Each one is a part of the staff. But take away one person and it isn't long before the patient can tell.

Cars are composed of numerous parts. Each one is connected to and dependent upon the other. Even if a tiny screw comes loose and falls out of the carburetor, it can bring the whole vehicle to a stop.

You guessed it. We need each other. You need someone and someone needs you. Isolated islands we're not. To make this thing called life work, we gotta lean and support. And relate and respond. And give and take. And confess and forgive. And reach out and embrace. And release and rely.

In our chorus, working together is Plan A for survival. And since we're so different (and that's a good thing), acceptance is not an optional luxury. Neither is tolerance; or understanding, or patience. You know all those things you need from others when your humanity crowds out your divinity.

Why? Because each one of us is worth it. Even when we don't act like it or feel like it or deserve it.

Since none of us is a whole, independent, self-sufficient, super-capable, all-powerful hotshot, let's quit acting like we are. Life's lonely enough without our playing that silly role. The game's over. Let's link up.

Here are ten rules to building a great team that anyone can understand:

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





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on

Church feuds are not uncommon, especially among cliques in the congregation. But when the pastor and choir director get into it, stand aside. One week Rev. Jones preached on commitment, and how we should dedicate ourselves to service. The director then led the choir in singing, 'I Shall Not Be Moved.' The next Sunday, he preached on giving and how we should gladly give to the work of the Lord. The choir director then led the song, 'Jesus Paid It All.' The next Sunday, the pastor preached on gossiping and how we should watch our tongues. The hymn was 'I Love to Tell the Story.' Rev. Jones became disgusted over the situation, and the next Sunday he told the congregation he was considering resigning. The choir then sang 'Oh, Why Not Tonight.' When he resigned the next week, he told the church that Jesus had led him there and Jesus was taking him away. The choir then sang, 'What a Friend We Have in Jesus.'

**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*