

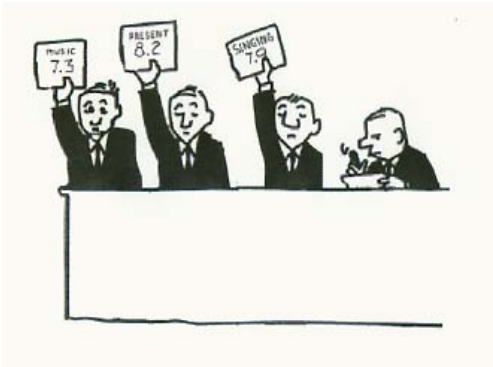
Published monthly by the Appleton, WI Chapter, Land O' Lakes District Of the Society for the preservation and encouragement of Barbershop Singing in America, Inc

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Chapter meeting & rehearsal 7-10 pm
Tuesday, Little Chute Village Hall
108 Main Street
www.foxvalleyaires.com

We're getting better!

First, I want to say how thrilled I was with our scores from Saturday's contest. They were the second highest scores we have ever achieved at the divisional contest since I first joined our chorus for the May 1997 contest. That is the second highest score in 10 years! In addition, we improved upon our score from last fall's district competition by 20 points and this is all despite the fact we took a new song (*Are You From*



Dixie) and we had numerous active members who could not join us on Saturday. You should be very proud of yourselves!

Second, I am excited by the fact that we expect at least six guests at the May 23 rehearsal. Thank you, **Don Derozier**, for your efforts to bring in these guests.

Third, **Dale Lium** from the *Manitowoc Chapter* asked us to perform with them at their "concert in the park" in Manitowoc from 7:00-8:30 on **Tuesday, August 1**. It is a normal rehearsal night so there is no reason we cannot show up in force. We normally practice our joint numbers between 6:15 and 6:50 and follow the performance with a party. Please check your calendars so we can get everyone to fill out the "sign-up sheet" this Tuesday and formally respond to our brothers in the Manitowoc chapter.

Finally, we also plan to perform with the Plymouth chapter at their "concert in the park" on **Thursday, August 17**. This usually follows the same format as the Manitowoc concert. Please check your calendars so everyone can fill out the sign-up sheet.

Thanks again to everyone for your dedication to the **Fox Valleyaires**.

Bill Albrecht

MAIL CALL

Bill - I saw your note to the chorus! **WOW - 10 years** Sure does go fast! **CONGRATULATIONS** - sounds like the chorus is doing better than ever - and no surprise. I am so glad to hear everything is so great in **Appleton!** My cheers to all of you!



I am living in New York now. I just got an apartment here last weekend, and I am currently singing Sivilio in a wonderful production of Pagliacci here in NY. I hope to be at the District convention next fall for *Family Ties* 15th anniversary. **WOW** - now that really went fast!

I hope we can remember at least one song.

Cheers, **Keith Harris**

QUARTET CORNER



We have several quartets in our chapter. With the help of (quartet reporters), I will attempt to have something about their activities in each newsletter. This article will list the quartets and the contact person.

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| Touch of Old | Carl Schumacher |
| One Button Short | Bob Starner |
| GQ4 | Scott Crevier |
| Bag of Tricks | Dan Allen |
| Sultans of Sound | Dick Staedt |
- On May 20, **Bag of Tricks** and **GQ4** competed in the spring competition held in Manitowoc. **GQ4** qualified for the fall convention, which will be held in Rochester in October.



The Appleton, Wis. Fox Valleyaires Chorus meets every Tuesday from 7:00 to 10:00 P.M. at the Village Hall, 108 Main Street, Little Chute, Wis.

The music committee meets at 7:00

P.M. on the first Wednesday of each month.

The board of directors meets at 7:00 P.M. on the second Wednesday of each month. All chapter members are invited to attend.

Harmony for Lunch Bunch meets at 11:45 A.M. every Thursday at Schreiner's Diner, 2437 South Oneida, in Appleton.

June 27, Tuesday: Chicken Chew at South Park in Oshkosh. It would be GREAT to have a huge turnout!

July 2-9: International contest in Indianapolis, In.

July 15, Saturday: Coaching with Bruce O'Dell. Sign up for this exciting Saturday with Bruce.

August 1, Tuesday Evening: Joint sing out with the Manitowoc chapter in Manitowoc. Regular rehearsal night. All active members should make an attempt to there. If you need transportation, there will be car-pooling.

August 17, Thursday night: Inner-chapter activity in Plymouth. This will be an extra night for those of us that go, but it is well worth it. We always have a great time at Plymouth.

September 30, Saturday: Oktoberfest celebration on College Ave.

Oct. 27-29: L O' L District contest in Rochester.

December 7, Thursday: Annual Holiday Dinner Show at Grand Meridian, 2621 Oneida, Appleton. The dinner show is on a Thursday evening instead of the usual Wednesday night show.

January 6, 2007 Saturday: Annual Wives appreciation and BOTY dinner at Grand Meridian, 2621 Oneida, Appleton.

RECRUITMENT TIP #5

OUR OWN "P.A.C."

Submitted by **Don Derozier**

Performing arts centers are identified as community oriented venues in which drama, dance, and music are exhibited before an audience. We take pride in our own Appleton P.A.C. that served so well for a recent barbershop convention. Pride and Pac's go together naturally. There is another type of P.A.C. for our chorus--**Program Awareness Competence!**

The *Fox Valleyaires* has many programs, some unique to our chapter.

--Music education in Mini-HEPs, Youth in Harmony camps, guest quartets and coaching programs, all with chorus sponsorship and scholarships;

--Mentoring opportunities for partnering of new and older barbershoppers;

--An outstanding set of charitable activities;

--A commitment to competition as a measure of musical growth;

--Opportunities for businesses and organizations to be represented by the chorus;

--Consistent out-reach to local communities;

--An annual show and sing-outs to preserve our folk-art;

--Programs for vocal development and performance skills in music, drama, and dance.

Each member of our chorus should be competent in awareness of our programs. That could be a major P.A.C. for recruitment!

Fox Valleyaires Chapter Leaders

www.foxvalleyaires.com

Fox Valleyaires Chorus meets on Tuesdays, at 7:00 PM at Little Chute Village Hall – 101 Main St.

Little Chute, WI 54140 920-725-1485

President: Ken Bester 920-954-8369

Past President: Gerry Dunning 920-731-4203

Secretary: John Scherer 920-739-6687

Treasurer: Tom Vandenberg 920-788-3137

Music & Perf. Kelly Aschebrook 920-232-8935

Program: George Paltzer 920-733-5464

Membership VP: Don Derozier 920-235-7905

Public Relation VP: Ken Felton 920-734-8597

Members at large

Clary Reinhardt 920-725-1485

Rick Helm 920-231-1885

Robert Pautz 920-766-0455

Jerry Wagner 920-735-9764

Dan Allen 920-830-1221

YIH Chair: Richard Staedt 920-734-9495

Music Director: Bill Albrecht 920-231-4645

Asst. Director: Carl Schumacher 920-731-0976

Chorus Manger: Bob Starnar 920-757-6153

Uniforms, Bob Pautz 920-766-0455

Valentine Chair: Dan Allen 920-830-1221

Oktoberfest Chair: John Scherer 920-739-6687

House Comm. Harold Baerenwald 920-733-2179

Bulletin Editor: Clary Reinhardt 920-725-1485

Sunshine Comm. Bill Kutscher 920-725-3855

2005 BOTY: **Bob Pautz**

2005 Frank Wagner Award: **Kelly Aschebrook**

Annual Show Chair: John Micke 920-336-2590

Historian: Will Mackin 920-733-0593

Web Master: Scott Crevier 920-339-9993

Service Chair: Ev Rescheske 920-725-0923

Show Script: Kelly Aschebrook 920-232-8935

Music Committee: Bill Albrecht, Bill Kutscher,

Bill Hortsch, Will Mackin, Dick Staedt, Carl

Schumacher, Kelly Vandehy, Kelly Aschebrook.

JUNE

01 Margaret Ann Randerson

06 Gerry Dunning

19 Paul Reybrock

21 Robert Murray

28 Harold

Baerenwald

July

01 LuAnn Starnar

02 Alex Kuen

10 Nancy Gehring, Guy Bodde

11 Mary Dunning,

17 Elaine Gibson 19 Dale Dorschner

21 Richard Staedt 27 Donna Paltzer

28 John Micke



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

- 6-02-51 Leroy and Blanche Bauman
- 6-15-56 Ken and Millie Brighum
- 6-30-56 Gerry and Mary Dunning
- 6-01-57 Frank and
Marlene Knutzen
- 6-15-57 Clifford
and Irene Lee
- 6-11-53 Ken and
Janet Maves
- 6-23-62 Everett and
Kathy Rescheske
- 6-18-57 John and Joanne VerBockel
- 7-11-59 Dave and Carol Tyink
- 7-29-95 Bill and Kathleen Albrecht



The Top Reasons to Recruit

1. More members mean more tenor singers.
2. More members mean more quartet singers.
3. More members mean more tag singers.
4. More members mean more people to sell show tickets, bigger show audiences, and louder applause for your performance.
5. More members mean more future role models. Imagine being the genius who recruited guys like **Jim Clancy, Dave LaBar, Dave Stevens, and Jim Kline**. Imagine the countless lives your protégés might influence.
6. More members mean more future coaches for your chorus or quartet. The new person you recruit might eventually be the one who brings out your inner champion.
7. The average chapter loses about 11% of its members each year. The average chapter must recruit four new members each year just to replace the members it loses.
8. Operating without a plan to replace these lost members can have a devastating impact on your chapter and your barbershop experience.

KUTSCHER'S KRAFT KORNER # 11

Submitted by **Bill Kutscher**

This article on the barbershop craft will be my last one, as I am running out of material to write about. Nevertheless, I have really enjoyed writing this monthly column and hope that all of you have a better understanding about our barbershop music. I sincerely hope that it will help the average person to improve. Those of you who are looking for more advanced information can find it in the Barbershop manuals and various schools, which are offered periodically. Learning to sing better on an individual basis is bound to improve our chorus.

As a final recap, do you remember everything that has been covered in the past months? In **lesson # 1** we talked

about the ten basic rules for all singers and how to take care of your voice. In **lesson # 2**, we covered the proper breathing techniques, and posture and singing positions. **Lesson # 3** was about voice production and breath support with proper positioning of the mouth. **Lesson # 4** introduced you to the sixteen different vowel sounds and sustaining the vowel in the chord.

Lesson # 5 touched on consonants. Which ones were singable and the technique of syllable connecting. In **lesson # 6**, we learned the basics of reading music and about the lines and spaces within the staff. **Lesson # 7** dealt with accidentals (sharps and flats) and how they came into play. We also learned how to read all the key signatures. **Lesson # 8** covered dynamics and how to read those funny looking musical signs. **Lesson # 9** talked about the musical note values and their relationship to other notes. In **lesson # 10**, we talked about chord structure and how to determine which part has the root, fifth, etc.

In summarizing, here are a few important ideas to remember while singing a song. **(a)** Remember that the words and music of a song are written vertically. Singers must make an effort to connect them horizontally or the sound will come out choppy. **(b)** Remember the singable sounds of words must be given duration and must be properly connected together. **(c)** Sing in a legato fashion by connecting the syllables and make them flow together. You must also remember to use proper diction.

Now that you have all opened the door to **"better singing"**, and understand a little better about what we do; let's all put it into practice every time we sing. No matter if it's just a quartet or in a chorus rehearsal, or at the night of the **"big show"!**

We need to learn how to sing better so we can Keep the Whole World singing!

Choose Hope

For men of faith, the Lord's Prayer nicely summarizes the necessary dependent relationship we have on the Almighty. "Thy will be done on earth" exhorts us to fully rely on God for "daily bread" as well as the coming of the kingdom, "as it is in heaven."

The power of the Lord's Prayer is made known in the restoration of hope for the human condition. However, daily bread and forgiveness are not meant to embalm God's children! They are meant as nourishment for the battle against hopelessness and as driving forces for kingdom building.

Yes, we want sustenance and glory but as dependents, we must defer to the One who grants both in His paternal care.

Barbershop competition is rather like bread to any chorus that uses this medium to measure its growth. Like a child's "How Big am I?" chart on the wall, the opportunity to test one's mettle in vocal joust confirms or disconfirms its maturation.

Choose Hope, continued on page 4

Choose hope, continued from page 3

Sometimes the child is downhearted by the slowness of growing-up. "It's **NOT FAIR** that I can't be as big as ..." So too, a chorus may become impatient with itself for falling short of the desired height. Like the child in question, it feels "It's **NOT FAIR**" when evaluators fail to see the need for sustenance and glory!

Like that child, however, a chorus will learn that "thy will be done" can mean "the rain falls on the just and the unjust alike." What is needed is perseverance, a kind of waiting-in-hope.

The *Fox Valleyaires* returned from competition in Manitowoc tied for second place. Once again, we sounded good in warm-ups. Drilled moves and communicative faces were at the ready. Expectations were high...perhaps too high as we were relying on ourselves for edification.

Later that day, my wife, **Carol**, observed me reflecting on the Lord's Prayer. She did not know that my mood was positive, acceptant of the outcome because the whole event earlier had been placed in His hands. She may have thought me down, dysphoric, melancholy because of the outcome. Quietness sometimes is seen as pensiveness.

Regardless of her perception, she came over to where I was seated, bent to kiss me on the forehead and said, "You (the chorus) brought joy to a lot of people today." Her comment was perfect for my reflection. Is there a better taste of heaven on earth than the joy brought to human hearts through the medium of music? I don't think so.

Yes, we scored lower than first place. But we brought joy to a lot of people in Manitowoc. That is the heart of our vision and mission statements, here "on earth as it is in heaven".

Don Derozier

NOTABLES

Submitted by **Don Derozier**

Donald O. Gehring entered the ethnic and religious sub-culture of German-Lutheran immigrants on 2/25/1933. Appleton happened to have the nearest birthing facility or he might have been born on the farm! In a real sense, he was born into farm work by "salt-of-the-earth" Wisconsinites who daily face the elements to survive and provide.

Don is bashful, a word he uses to describe his social style. As a lad, his circle of friends was limited to other farm kids who shared chores and play whenever possible. He recalls once horsing around in the barn with a cousin. He tried to walk a beam, fell some 18 feet to the floor and sustained three cracked vertebrae and a probable concussion. After a period of observation, he and his headache went back to the routines of farm life.

As a teenager, **Don** attended Seymour High School, agriculture track program, and became connected to the Farm Bureau Youth Group where Friday night dances provided

respite from rural isolation. Still "bashful", he met **Nancy**, now his bride of 50 years. Proper courting included dancing that was taught in school as part of Phys-Ed. Of course, the music was of the Polka genre.

He was drafted into the Army in 1956. **Don** served as a welder and mechanic in Ft. Bliss, TX. Radio Controlled Aerial Targets, when fired upon or crash-landed needed maintenance that his unit provided. Once discharged, he served in the Active Reserves and Inactive (Stand-by) Reserves to complete a six-year hitch common to "peace-time" veterans.

Don married his best friend, **Nancy**, and settled on the family estate, a farm dating to its original purchase from the U.S. Government in 1858. He is the 5th generation to live in this house. An icon of deeply rooted values of hard work and faith, the place is neat, clean, and maintained with the care of a steward of God's goodness.

An earlier published interview with **Don** focused upon what the man did. As he moves farther into semi-retirement, it seems fitting to take a closer look at who the man is.

Don is faithful. Dedication to wife and family merely reflects his certainty about salvation that is nested in Christian beliefs. **Don is earthy.** He loves a good joke, especially one that has a surprise ending, and he loves creation. As part of it all, he readily laughs at himself (although he admits to a certain 'high pressure valve' that may release steam when he is overstressed) even as he takes seriously the honor due the Lord and duty to family and country.

Don is strong. Burly hands fit for a roust-a-bout signal years of strenuous, muscle building work. Signs of injury further indicate the dangers of moving machinery and the inevitable clean up after animal care.

Don is appreciative. He savors the night a week out for a dance or for chorus rehearsal. His love for Barber-shop grew after **Ev Van Handel** from the former *Kau-Chute Chorus* invited him to help forget the pain of a serious foot injury **Don** had sustained. "It (ringing chords) makes me feel good," and "I like to get away (from his duties) each week." For 40 years, he has been stepping from harmony with nature into harmony with music. Records show him to be a member counted on to do more than his part for the Chapter.

Don is optimistic. Church and Chapter—these are the dual hubs in the wheels of life for him. Both require faith, patience, and hard work. Both consistently point to the future. In this regard, **Don's** advice for newer members is "stick with it—fun things always come up" to make the long sessions enjoyable. **Nancy and Don** go to high school class reunions held every five years. **Don's** 55-year class reunion is scheduled soon. With a little imagination, one can see them lovingly dancing the Landler. Perhaps the triple-time footwork is a little slower now, but they are ready to spring into a hearty "*Beer Barrel Polka*".

Fox Valleyaires Vision Statement

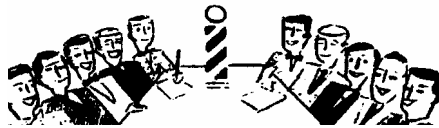
- * To be recognized as one of the most musically exciting choral groups in the area.
- Fox Valleyaires Mission Statement
- * To promote the barbershop style of music in the community.
- * To extend to all men an invitation to join our chapter and share in the barbershop experience.
- * To offer members the opportunity to improve their musical skills through crafts and coaching sessions, quarteting and tag singing.
- * To produce an annual show, perform in the community and for charity.
- * To encourage vocal music in schools and our community.
- * To use competitions to gage musical improvement of chorus.

Silver Sponsors

Wal*mart and Dawn Leudtke Agency of American Family Insurance

Music committee and board meeting notes

1. The board approved membership for **Ken Cherney and Jack**



Marcoe. Royal Uhlenbrauck received "Man of Note" for **Ken.**

2. **Bob Pautz** reported, for lack of interest, the golf outing was canceled. He said that he would try again in the fall.

3. The board approved buying a \$100 ad in the Kids from Wisconsin performance in Shwano.

4. **Don Derozier** informed the board that our present "guest night" format has not been successful. He is open for suggestions how to make it work.

5. The Public Relations sub-committee questionnaire was read by **George Paltzer.** The board instructed George to prepare a report with findings and recommendations.

6. The board approved sending \$50 to the Harmony Foundation on behalf of **Tim Winch,** and **Janet Smith,** wife of **Andy Smith.**

7. Chapter members (that are on stage) registration, \$40, for the fall contest in Rochester will be paid by the chapter.

8. All music for the 2007 show has been selected and handed out. **Kelly Aschebrook** has several ideas for a story line. If you have any script writing talent or any ideas about the story line, I am sure Kelly would appreciate your input.

9. The music committee discussed having one or two coaching sessions with Society personal before the fall contest.

10. Three outer door key passes for the village hall have been issued to **Clary Reinhardt, Carl Schumacher and John Scherer.** The outer door will automatic open before our meeting and then lock when we leave. The key pass is only needed after hours or weekends.

GQ4 learns a lot at Mini-HEP

By Scott Crevier



GQ4 attended Mini-HEP this year at UW La Crosse. The chorus paid our tuition, and I want to tell you a bit about where your money went.

The weekend started with a general session at 7:30 on Friday evening. We arrived a couple hours early, so we grabbed some sandwiches from Subway and went to a local park to eat. While there, we noticed that a family had rented a shelter for a high school graduation party. So, we just walked over there and sang a few tunes for the graduate and his family and friends (always remembering ethics rule #6). They absolutely loved it, and we made some new friends!

At the General Session, we always learn a song quicker than you'll ever learn a song. We went through some great warm-up techniques and sang a few tags. Each quartet in attendance sang two songs on stage for the crowd, ending with **Storm Front.** Following their performance, they fielded an informal question and answer session. It's always great to hear how international quartets rehearse, how they manage their schedules, how they choose their repertoire, etc.

Friday night, back in the college dorm, about a dozen barbershoppers gathered in **Chris and Kelly's** room. The hours flew by quickly singing tags and songs and sharing some great harmony. We met some great new friends.

Saturday consisted of 7 one-hour coaching sessions, a very long day, but we worked very hard, and we learned so much! Where else can you get all this great coaching in a single day at a single location?

I want to tell you a bit about our coaches. **Dan Heike,** lead from Midnight Watchmen (2002 LOL champions) and judge candidate. **Dan** is always great. He said, "When you hear a wrong chord in rehearsal, stop immediately and fix it. Do not allow it to become habit and do not accept less than what you're capable of."

Ron Rank is a society music judge who judged us in Manitowoc in May. Of all the judges, his scores for us were the "*least friendly*" so to speak, and he gave us some great feedback after that competition. To have him as a coach was definitely a treat. **Kelly** and I were having some trouble locking on octaves. To fix that he had me stand in front of **Kelly.** **Kelly's** task was to sing "through" *me.*

GQ4 at Mini-hep, continued on page 6

My task was to allow his voice to come through my mouth and enhance it with my own. This was an awesome technique. We both noticed an immediate change. By the time the hour was up, **Ron** said that we had definitely improved since Manitowoc. Our other coaches were **Rick Spencer**, Society Director of Music and Education, and tenor of "**Voices Only** and **John Plazek**, Past LOL District president and organizer of Mini-HEP. With these two gentlemen, we worked a lot on lead/bass matching.

We also had a coaching session with **Syd Libsack** (bass), **Jim Clark** (lead), and **Dave Ellis** (tenor), quartet members of **Storm Front**. Those three sessions were absolutely the best of the day. Since we had already had a lot of work on music and singing (plus the feedback from the contest coaches last month), we asked these guys to help us out with our performance and stage presence. They definitely know what they're doing, and we feel so fortunate to have had this time with them.

A very interesting thing happened in our last coaching session of the day. We were working with **Dave Ellis** whose sessions were on the stage in the auditorium. **Brian** and **Kelly** were having troubles matching. He had **Brian** and I switch places just for practice so that **Brian** and **Kelly** could hear each other better. *Holy cow!* We sang **Danny Boy** like that on stage with the mic, and it never sounded better. We were able to produce a very rich and full sound without any extra effort. It was wild hearing **Chris** in my left ear and boy, what a difference it made. I don't know if we'll keep that arrangement, but we'll definitely use it in rehearsals.

Saturday evening's show was open to the public. Each quartet dressed up and did two songs. **Storm Front** did their 30 minute set. Noticeably absent this year were the kids from the **Harmony Explosion Camp**. I hope that attendance will be sufficient next year to hold the camp.

Storm Front put on the very best 30-minute set that I have ever seen. I laughed so hard I cried. **Brian** even stopped taking pictures of them, and started taking pictures of me trying to dry my eyes. Since we worked with three of them one-on-one earlier in the day, we truly feel that we made some great new friends. I hope we get a chance to see them again very soon.

After this outstanding weekend, our goal is to apply what we have learned and make some new habits. We have two goals for Rochester. **First:** To perform well enough on Friday night so that we make the top ten for Saturday. **Second:** To win the district novice championship. **GQ4** wants to thank you so much for supporting us. We intend to do you proud!

Editors' note: members of GQ4 are Brian O'Neil, Chris Nimmer, Kelly Vandehy, and Scott Crevier.

Commercial publisher to distribute top-quality barbershop arrangements

Students and music educators will now have easy access to great close-harmony! In the Society's mission to form alliances with other like-minded organizations, a contract has been signed between the Barbershop Harmony Society and **Hal Leonard**, one of the world's largest music distributors, to create a new series entitled, "Close Harmony for Men". **Hal Leonard** has a customer base of millions and is a direct link to tens of thousands of choral music educators throughout the world.

The series, launched early this year will carry eight titles of some of the Society's best selling music for youth events. Society Director of Music and Education, **Rick Spencer** states, "Music educators have asked us for years if they can purchase barbershop music through their "usual channels." We are now able to better assist them and their programs by offering this to them."

Dr. Chris Peterson, director of the Midwest Vocal Express barbershop chorus and Professor of Music Education at UW-Milwaukee, will serve as the series editor. The two organizations are looking to expand the initial offering of eight pieces based on the anticipated success of the launch of this series.

Tag Contest Results

Your top three latest and greatest tag writers.

After a several months long opening for people to submit their entry, over 60 people submitted their own original tag for entry into the Society's first-ever Tag Contest. To keep the writers of each tag unknown during the judging process, each person's name was assigned an ID number which replaced the person's name on the tag.

"There is no shortage of great tag writers out there which made this contest incredibly difficult to judge," said **Rick Spencer**, Director of Music and Education. "We are so fortunate to have such amazing talents out there in our barbershop world." And the top three are....

First Place: **Nathan Gutschke** from Shallowater, Texas garnered top prize (two registrations to Indianapolis) for his soft and tender tag entitled, "This Table Set For Two." This one is going to break your heart.

Second Place: **Pete Benson** from **Faribault, Minnesota** finished second with a creative composition called "The Tears Have Left My Eyes." Hold onto your hat when you sing this one! Second place received a \$100 Gift Certificate to the Harmony Marketplace.

Third Place: **Lloyd Steinkamp** from Santee, California rounded out the top three with a tag about the holiday season called "Isn't This A Lovely Time Of Year?" Third Place received a \$50 Gift Certificate to the Harmony Marketplace.

The songs we sing

One of our new songs for the 2007 show is Jazz came up the river from New Orleans. In the song, it mentions meeting **Bix** in Davenport. So, who is Bix? Thanks to **John Scherer** who did a little research on-line, we can tell you a little about him.

Bix Beiderbecke,

A Riddle Wrapped in an Enigma

Even those closest to Davenport, Iowa-born Leon **Bix Beiderbecke** never really knew just who he was, or the source of the musical genius as cornetist, pianist and composer that brought him lasting worldwide fame. Many have called him “an enigma”. After all, how probable was it that a mostly self-taught young man from the mid-sized Iowa town on the Mississippi River would play and compose such incomparable music.

Bix was born on March 10, 1903, blazed like a jazz comet through the “Roaring 20’s, and died, worn-out and deathly ill, on Aug. 6, 1931, at the age of only 28. How likely was it that he would be little more than an asterisk to the Jazz Age or that in more recent years he would be the subject of three films, at least, five books, countless magazine and newspaper articles, and conversation wherever fans and musicians gather?

He was a washout in school, never properly learned to read music, yet astounded colleagues wherever he played. In his short life, Bix composed just five pieces that bear the stamp of genius and further enhanced his reputation. Music, including the classics, was the one true love of his life. He went from the Wolverines, Jean Goldkette Orchestra, and finally to the very “mountain-top” of the Twenties, Paul Whiteman Orchestra.

There were many recordings in between. Still, he could never get his personal life in order, and those who knew him wondered if musically he ever found what he was looking for, perhaps something dreamed of, but unattainable.

In his autobiography, “*Sometimes I Wonder*”, friend and fellow musician **Hoagy Carmichael** wrote, “He was our golden boy, doomed to an untimely end.” Hoagy also said, “In Harlem, in Hollywood, in the Chicago South Side, in Le Jazz Hot Joint where the city folk come to listen to his records, they still talk of **Bix Beiderbecke**.”

For more information on Bix Beiderbecke, go to www.bixsociety.org



We welcome our guests for this month. As mentioned earlier, **Ken Cherney** and **Jack Marcoe**, our guests right after our show, have now become members. Other guests are **Mark Lindekugel**, **Joel Krueger**, **Smyte Smithlin**, and **Orien Colmer**. Guest songbooks are provided and we encourage our guests to be on the riser with us. On Tuesday, June 20, all the guests stayed after and did some “gang singing” with the rest of us.

Not too many years ago, our guests were **Gerry Dunning**, **Ken Bester**, **Kelly Aschebrook**, and **Don Doriezer** just to mention a few. All of us were guests of this chapter at one time. Chapter leaders come from chapter members. Chapter members come from guests who enjoy what they see, feel, or hear from our chorus on their first, second or third visit. How you treat a guest on their first few visits will have a huge bearing on if he becomes a member.

It’s great to be a Foxvalleyaire



“The Spirit of one loved never truly leaves us. The Soul lives on in ways sometimes imperceptible, but always felt.”

Please extend our condolences to **Andy Smith** on the death of his wife **Janet**. Several members of the Foxvalleyaires chorus attended the funeral and sang a tribute to Janet. We also extend our sympathy to **Christina Winch** and family on the death of their father and husband, **Tim**. Many of us did not know **Tim** very well. Because of his job, he was not able to be there until late on rehearsal night. For a short period **Tim** was in a quartet with **Dick Staedt**, **Scott Finley**, and **Rick Pyle**.

Ev and **Kathy Rescheske** also lost **Ev’s** brother, **Ralph** since our last newsletter issue.



JUNE-JULY 2006
A WORD FROM OUR NEW
SPONSOR

Submitted by **Ken Felton, Public Relations VP**

Yes indeed these are the words the MC will use to introduce our second signed and sealed **Silver Sponsor** the **Dawn Leudtke Agency of American Family Insurance**. A great big thank you to **Tom Schell**, who worked with this account from start to finish. As I've said before it is our membership that will supply the best leads for this program. So in addition to **WAL*MART** we add the **Dawn Leudtke Agency**. Their intro follows:

" We also would like to thank **Silver Sponsor**, the **Dawn Leudtke Agency of American Family Insurance**, serving our friends and neighbors in the Heart of the Valley. Contact **Dawn** and her associates for all your insurance needs. Believe me they care about you, their customers. They're at 2528 Crooks Ave, Kaukauna."

As members of the **Fox Valleyaires** we should patronize these sponsors whenever we can. Their participation directly helps us promote our group and our Harmony Society. Thanks again to **Tom Schell**.

Appleton Chapter
Foxtales
137 State Street,
Neenah, WI 54956
www.Foxvalleyaires.com

Congratulations to Carl Schumacher

You have reached **50 years** of membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society. **What a milestone!** You began your barbershop career before men like me, who are now approaching retirement, were even old enough to join the Society. You made it possible for there to be a Society for us to join. The entire Society is grateful for that.

We are pleased to invite you and a guest to a complimentary awards breakfast during the **International Convention in Indianapolis**. The program will include presenting you with your 50-Year lapel pin as well as your induction to the Harmony Fellows program. There will be a photographer there to record this special moment.

Ev Nau – Director of major gifts
Harmony Foundation

Quotes used at the Dynamic Leaders Forum:

"Now is the time. Needs are great, but your possibilities are greater"
-Bill Blackman

"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates.

"The great teacher inspires." **- William Arthur Ward**

"The function of leadership is to produce more leaders, not more Followers."
-Ralph Nader

Please check our calendar of events on page two. Post it on your refrigerator. We have several important dates coming up this summer.

This coming **Tuesday, June 27** there will be **no rehearsal**, but you are encouraged to come to South Park in Oshkosh for the annual "chicken chew" with the Oshkosh chapter and other area chapters. You don't have to be in a pick up quartet to enjoy the evening. Bring your wife or friend along.

Saturday July 15 will be an exciting day being coached by **Bruce O'Dell**. This will be an all-day event right at the Village Hall. Plan to be there!

There will be **no rehearsal** on **Tuesday August 1**. Once again, we can share some fellowship with fellow area barbershoppers because we are invited to sing with the Manitowoc chapter in Manitowoc.