



News – n – Notes **March 2007**

Next Month don't miss the final tally on the Valentines Campaign.



What's Coming Up Soon ? Take a look !

March 17th – PVI's at the Frederick COB. It'll be an early start. The whole thing will be underway at 8:00 am so be there ready to sing!

March 24th – Ladies Night, a celebration of the better half of this great chorus. The venue is the Hollow Creek Golf Club in Middletown.

April 21st - Performance at Homewood. A complete run through of the WWII show for the Homewood Volunteers. Show is set for 3 pm.

April 28th – The WWII show with lots of extra stuff to be done for the Lions Club in Wardensville WV. We are already in the process of rehearsing and we need you to be at the top of your game. If you need help, please see one of the music leaders right away.

May 5th – The Chorus Of The Potomac Annual Show in Cumberland

May 19th - Our 40th Annual Show. It's going to be at T.J. High School and will be a blast. I have it on good authority that the music selections will mostly be familiar ones and passed to you as soon as possible. Details as soon as I have them!

May 25th & 26th – Southern Division Convention – Reston VA

June 15th & 16th – Harmony College East – Salisbury MD



Happy Birthday to you ... Happy Birthday to you

We wish many happy returns to Merle Pinnekamp and Stan Thomas on their special day
... Happy Birthday from the Frederick Catoctones.



From Our Prez ... Dean

The Thrill of Competition

You've all heard the phrase 'Everybody wants to go to heaven but nobody wants to die'. My boss has a single account (among his other 800 or so) that produces over \$100,000 in annual income for him. Put a group of insurance agents in a room and ask if they'd like to have an account like that and not one of them would say NO. However, show them the time and effort involved over many years to build the community good will and personal Rapport that it took to get that account and few will follow.

Over a year ago, many of us nodded our heads when asked if we'd like to be a chorus that would compete at international in a couple of years. I'm not sure we were ready to count the cost that it will take to get there – or even get to the first steps – winning our division, then our district. Just dreaming about it won't make it happen. It's going to take all of us stepping up our game – plus, the addition of some excellent voices to our mix.

I understand the excitement of competition and I have every intention of helping us get back - hopefully this year. However, I really have no desire in competing at a lower level than we have in the past. That being said, it's not my decision - it's a chorus decision that needs the full support of the music team to be successful.

Do you want to go to competition?

Vote yes by spending quality time each day working on breathing, resonance and accuracy - plus any number of things brought out in your previous PVI's.

Vote yes by taking some individual voice lessons from one of our music leaders or a professional vocal coach.

Vote yes by inviting (then stop and pick him up) one new, young, good singing voice to a chorus rehearsal this month.

Vote yes by being there early on 3/17 ready to work hard and improve as an individual and a chorus.

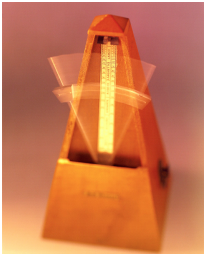
Vote yes by selling \$400 in ads instead of the expected \$200 per member and 50 tickets vs the expected 20 per member so the chorus has the financial stability to do all the things needed to make us more competitive.

Thanks,
Dean



Chapter Development – More than a “Catch Phrase”! It's about US!

Hammet is out shaking the bushes and doing research in other local singing organizations to see where the singers are. You can be in on this. As we continue to emphasize, anyone you know that has an interest in singing is a potential member. Bring them by and let them see what we can do!



And Now For Something Completely Different ... The Director's Corner.

Gentlemen,

I can't explain why. But, I feel the excitement brewing. We have so many rewarding performances coming up that I am ready to get moving. I am planning, practicing and researching ways to make you the best you can be. I expect you to work at home and come to rehearsals with energy, focus and dedication. Together, with our positive output at home and at our chapter meetings, we will be an unbeatable team of musicians and performers, offering the very best in our community.

Do your work, memorize your music, attend that PVI session on the 17th and work together on Tuesdays to develop not one, but two shows with the goal of achieving a standing ovation. It won't be easy. But, the important missions of music making never are. I have every confidence in you and your future as great singers and performance artists.

Let's have some fun making beautiful music. See you Tuesday!

THE DIRECTOR



A "Note" From Our Music & Performance VP

Roger has been a little under the weather this month but will return next month with more insight.



From Our Dynamic Program VP

Tom wants to make sure that you sign the book for commitments so we know who is going to come out and play at each of our upcoming activities.

Here is a Late Breaking News Flash!

From Sue, the 40th anniversary show chair:

I have never been so excited about an event in my life. Not even my own wedding! (I was too nervous then, hon!) There'll be maybe 1200 to 1500 people there. How do I know that? Because last year we already had 800 at two shows, and this year we're only doing one, and it's a wingding. Vito has most graciously agreed to be our host -- in his hobo guise which is perfect for our "Music of America" theme. He's going to be the expert as the one who has ridden the rails. 4 Aces -- you all know them, right? -- are the featured quartet, plus we have The Pizzazz Show Choir from Monocacy Middle School as a feature. Their set is going to not only draw larger audience numbers, but their set will knock 'em dead. A real class act.

Ad sales are hot as a pistol, and already ad chair Rich Heffner is spending every lunch time on the phone placing ads. I think we're over a thousand in sales already. Heck, I sold one at lunch today! It was so easy it was amazing. We'd really like every single chapter member to place at least one ad. Or ten. The rate is competitively very inexpensive for a program ad, and when you tell them it's for the 40th anniversary, people are very willing. There are flyers and info at chapter meeting, and if you aren't at the meeting, email me at shlandon@verizon.net and either me or Rich will mail you out what you need. It's a special 40th anniversary tribute kind of a program, so lots of people want to get seen in it (with such a huge audience).

I was at the chapter meeting Tuesday night and it's so easy to do all this work for you all. It's all about the music. You guys make the most beautiful sound I ever heard. I'm privileged to be working with you on this. More news about tickets sales and advertising coming soon. Thank you, Brice, for handling ticket sales. Leon, for chairing the fantastic afterglow we have planned. Jim S. for chairing senior ticket sales. Call me, email me ANY time if you want to know how to help or have questions.

NEEDED:

Sets chair (very small job, not much in the way of sets)

Set up volunteers day of show

Post-show stage clean-up chair

Someone to handle getting a cake ordered and brought to Afterglow and of course . . . Mature ushers, ticket sellers, greeters, program handlers. (Need to be able to answer questions from audience members and help with the massive crowd we'll have.)



Last but NEVER Least, a few words from the BIG "Daddy" ...
Mark Wadhams!

The Catoctones chapter quartets braved rain, sleet, and snow to achieve their appointed rounds. Thanks to all those that participated and for those behind the scenes that did a great job. You all know who you are so I am not going to generate a long list. The weather definitely had an impact on our Valentines campaign but, all in all, we only really lost 2 or 3 because of it. I believe the final tally was 28 Valentines delivered so we should have cleared our expenses and made a little money, but it certainly could have been better. Next year we will have to do better at this. A few highlights from my perspective is when we sang (Ring Of Gold) in front of ~200 kids and teachers at the Banner School. They were all well behaved and had a good time. The lady crying on the stairwell as we sang to her – she was a jazz vocalist that was actually recording How Deep is the Ocean and thought our rendition was spectacular. The hardest one was singing to a lady who's daughter hired us to come sing to her because her late husband loved barbershop. The daughter signed the card from her late husband. We pretty much lost it when she picked up his picture and looked at it as we**TRIED**....to sing to her. Many more great memories but these were a few. I am sure that others have just as many great stories.

Now we are gearing up for the two World War II shows in April. These are both going to be a lot of fun and quite rewarding. Jeff is working us hard and the guys are responding by singing better and better. We have hit a whole lot of songs and the sound is really starting to blend and become a great unit sound that we are so capable of producing. If you have missed rehearsals as of late come on out and hear for yourself and take part in this great sound. The more guys we have the better the sound will become overall. Don't be left behind and miss this. The April 21st show is at Homewood at 3pm. This will just be the scripted part of the show with one or two other songs at the end. The Wardensville WV show is April 28th at 7pm and is a full two hour production. The entire scripted portion of the show and then the second part of the show will be a concert of Catoctones repertoire (20-30 minutes). These are both paid gigs that will net the chapter \$900. Please come out and support the chapter by taking part. Make sure that you **SIGN UP** so that we know we have coverage of all parts. These are both going to be great shows.

I am working on getting more paid gigs in the future as well as other sing out possibilities (these include the July 4th breakfast like we did last year, Middletown Heritage days (modified), and a few others. If you have any suggestions or contacts please forward them my way and I will follow up on them. We are already booking some sing outs for the holiday season. Thanks to all those whom lend their assistance.

There are many new features that will be
appearing in future months!

Crafting the Sound We Want – Cal and others will give you
tools to build you skills with!

Have you got any other ideas? Let me know!



Board Meetings

Still the 2nd Saturday every month. The time is 8:30 a.m.at Roy
Rogers on Ballenger Creek Pike in Frederick.

Everyone is welcome to attend. See what it's all about.