The Weekly Newsletter of the
Choo Choo Chorus

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Boaz Photo by Susie Alexander

March 21, 2011

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Calendar

Board Meeting, Monday March 21st

Garden Plaza Sing Out, March 24. Garden Plaza is located at 4586 Forsythia Way, Ooltewah, Tn 37363. The phone number there is 423-396-5100. Dave Rack will have handout copies of directions next Monday.

Lookouts Baseball Game, April 21

Naturalization Ceremony, April

Script for Monday's Meeting

None

Summary of Last Meeting

Paul open with TOS and Hello, Mary Lou, and stretching and tuning exercises. Chuck went over the Tag to *Give a Little Whistle.*

Paul worked on songs for the Garden Plaza sing out on March 24th including GBA, SSB and CDTR. He led a short post mortem on the Spring Contest. There was good and not so good, and a rather good evaluation where we learned some things by actually singing and not just listening. Chet, out newby, thanked everyone for the opportunity to sing as he had fun. Chuck listed the possbile song for the Disney show. Dave and Tanya were in a wreck, but are ok. Dave Rack gave an update on the Garden Plaza sing out, and the facility is really nice. Fred passed out a 7 year renewal to Gary. We sang a welcome to young Austin.

After the break, we went to the risers to continue working on sing out songs. Beau passed the Gandy to Chuck. We closed with KTWWS.

28, sing at 10:30am and 1:30pm

Scout Flag Day, Saturday, May 28 at National Cemetery, assemble at 7:30am

Memorial Day, Monday, May 30 at National Cemetery. We are likely to be asked to sing.

Lookouts Baseball Game, July 7

Monteagle Assembly Owners Meeting, July 22, Monteagle, TN

Observation from our President

On the risers Monday we had 19 singers but only three leads, David from Peru, the new member whose name I forget, and a young visitor named Austin. They did remarkably well, and I think we were all impressed. Austin seemed to really enjoy it - as did his mother, Cindy. She even called someone on her cell phone for them to hear us sing. We worked hardest on the bell chord in Showboat. 5 bell tones from 4 parts is not good. We did it fast, we did it slow, we did it so many ways everyone learned not only what they should do but what the other parts should do. When we finished the sound was so good it make the hard work seem worthwhile. Several commented they had been doing it wrong and didn't know it. That brings up a point and prompts me to get on a soap box.

If we are going to contest why can't we do this with every section of every song and make sure everybody participates and is singing at the best level their talent will allow before a contest? Virtually everyone in the chorus right now except the Directors and Section Leaders are subject to being wrong on certain notes and not making the right vowel sounds on certain words and not knowing it. This makes it imperitave that we evaluate every singer in some way before going to a contest to make sure he at least knows where he is having problems. Call it personal coaching instead of evaluation if you like. There are ways to do this that are not as threatening as singing in a quartet. I have heard of several ways it can be accomplished without a singer feeling "put on the spot". If any are not willing to accept this help could be told they can do anything with the chorus except go to contest.

I don't see how anyone could get upset over this type of policy. It seems every year we lose one or more good singers because they are not satisfied with our progress as a whole. If new members don't make good progress it is not their fault, it is ours, for not doing all we can to make them successful. Let this last contest be a wake up call for our Directors, Section Leaders, and other leaders, we have a group that wants to learn. It is not enough to tell them to work on it on their own, it is not enough to tell them to ask for help if they need it, we need to develop a plan and work at the plan to give everyone the help they need. Leadership needs to be proactive. The results will be worth the effort. This plan, whatever it is, needs to be one that the membership likes and will "buy in" to, not one that is forced on them. I believe we have the ability to do this. I hope you do too. KTWWS, *Lebron*

The Choo Choo Chorus is the performing unit of the Chattanooga Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society.
We meet almost every Monday night at All Saints Academy, 310 East 8th Ave, Chattanooga, TN 37421.
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