The Weekly Newsletter of the
Choo Choo Chorus

You're receiving this e-mail because you are a member or friend of the Choo Choo Chorus

Awards Banquet 2011	August 22, 2011
In This E-mail	***Script for Monday's Meeting***
• Script for Monday's Meeting • Summary of Award's Banquet • Mary Strickland on the Belles	Memb team 6:45 - 6:58, Wally & Crew Greet Guests, Sign in, Name tag, Music Folder, Vocal Range check, Set up Chairs and Risers
Calendar	Program VP 6:58 - 7:02, Dave White Gather Singers, Open Meeting, Introduce Director for KTWWS, Director - Paul leads KTWWS, Introduce Membership VP, Membership VP -Wally Introduce guests (Briefly), Introduce Warm up Director
Lookouts Baseball Game, Sept. 1, Assemble at 6:30 PM. Dress Casual	

Dixie Fall Convention, Sept. 30-Oct 2. We host. Marriott is Convention Hotel. Contests in Notre Dame Auditorium.

First CCCCC Rehearsal, Monday, Oct. 3. Dinner after that rehearsal.

Cleveland Christmas Show, Friday, Dec. 2, Cleveland

Chattanooga Christmas Show, Saturday, Dec. 3, GPS

Summary of Awards Banquet

Around 25 members and wives showed up at Wally's restaurant at East Ridge for our annual Awards Banquet on Friday, August 12. After a delicious buffet (see middle photograph), we proceeded to the business at hand, (see upper photograph.) Our President, Lebron Brock, made a few remarks, and then presented the President's Award to one of our long time members, Pat Crow (lower left photograph and see below.) After that, Fred Jesse presented the Barbershopper of the Year award to one of our dedicated members, Dave Rack, a well deserved choice (lower right photograph.) Mary Strickland made an invitation to the wives to become a part of the 'Choo Choo Belles' (see her talk in the right column.) The chorus performed a few songs (click HERE to see a video and photographs that Wally took during the banquet.) We ended the banquet with our usual Keep The Whole World Singing. *Dave White*

From the Crowe's Nest

Having joined Barbershop back in Canada around 1955, I dropped out due to moving to Michigan, job commitments In New Orleans,

Warm up 7:02 - 7:17, Chuck

Chair sing polecat 7:17 - 7:32, Paul, Harmony Collage

Circle sing 7:32 - 7:42, Chuck, Dream is a Wish.

Chair listen 7:42 - 7:47, Paul, When She Loved Me

Sectionals 7:47-8:02 When She Loved Me

Chair sing 8:02-8:17 Paul, When She Loved Me

Risers record 8:17-8:27 Paul, When She Loved Me

Annoucments 8:27 - 8:32, Dave White, Guest Introductions - Wally, Break 8:32 - 8:36.

Risers Octet Chuck, 8:36 - 8:51, Wish Upon a Star.

Risers sing 8:51 - 9:03, Paul, Wish Upon a Star

Risers sing 9:03 - 9:13, Paul, Dream is a Wish, Audio Coach - Dave White, Listener - Erby,

Risers sing 9:13 - 9:23, Chuck, Georgia on My Mind, Visual Coach Dave Fleury, Watcher, Brooks.

Closing 9:23 - 9:30, Craft, Gandy Dancer & KTWWS, Meeting Evaluator - Steve Wixson

Mary Strickland's Awards Banquet Talk about the Choo Choo Belles

Since we have some new ladies in the group, I want to say a few words about the Choo Choo Belles which some of you may not have even heard of. The Choo Choo Belles is a ladies auxiliary whose purpose is to support and encourage the chorus. The majority of barbershop choruses have these organizations.

A little history - approximately 15 to 20 years ago when this chorus met at Brainerd Baptist Church (which is during the time Wilbur joined the chorus) several of the ladies began meeting there also. There were ten, fifteen, sometimes more. We drink coffee, enjoyed cookies, made Christmas sweat shirts, planned for the next show or convention (which everyone attended, wherever it was being held) and enjoyed each others' company. One of our group, Evelyn Fraser, who some of us here were privileged to know, suggested we give ourselves a name, order shirts with our name on it, get name tags, and compile and sell a cookbook made up of our own recipes. We sold a lot of those cookbooks and all our friends and family members got one for Christmas, birthdays, etc., whether they wanted it or not.

In the years since we have supported the chorus by being present at sing outs, attending the conventions (setting together so we would make more noise); working in the conventions that have been held in Chattanooga (about 10 or so in recent years). We

Nashville, raising kids, etc. After losing my wife to cancer, my daughter nudged me to get off my derriere and get back to singing.

I found the Choo Choo chorus and a great bunch of FUN loving singers who lifted my spirits in song. They are nearly all gone and I miss their camaraderie and the fun we had.

I took up the challenge of serving the chorus in many areas, spearheaded well attended banquets at the Blue Cross Building. Oh, we ate well there. Served on the Board, and was Editor of the Blender newsletter (click HERE to see a real newsletter.) Present wife and I have worked on every convention and on Valentine Jobs. Now it's full circle--I'm back on the board. What a surprise when Lebron honored me with the Presidents Award.

I was asked " what did you do to get that award?" I replied " It's like the Academy Award--Achievement Award. They give to old timers who've been around along time and look like they have one foot in the grave....a going away present. Come to think of it... I'm feeling kind a puny. Think I'll lay down.

Thanks for the honor, and "Keep the Whole World Singing" (But in the old arrangement ! Oy Vey Vats next Rap.) *Pat*

have prepared food for guest nights and family gatherings, and for the singers at show time. We began the process of the gold vests the singers wear, and some other uniform pieces. We have donated most of the money that was remaining in our account to the Walter Boehm organization over the past several Christmas shows.

Interest in the group has somewhat decreased as time has gone on. I have served as president (a position which I never wanted, but was promised would only be for one year) for a long time, with Audrey Gist as vice-president, Margaret Crowe as treasurer, Glenda Erwin as secretary. We all would like for others to consider taking these slots. All of the ladies will graciously help out when called on to do what needs to be done. Thanks to Janet Wixson who prepares our Christmas dinner for us every year. But some new blood with new ideas would certainly be a good thing. To reassure you men folks, we are not deserting the ship, we are here when needed, do not hesitate to call us.

As we all know, the fall convention will be held in Chattanooga again this year on Sept. 30 thru Oct.. 2. Wilbur will need your help. If you can spare a few hours during that weekend, please see him. *Mary Strickland* Photograph in left column.