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

2014 Contest Singers

March 24, 2014

In This E-mail

- Script for Monday's Meeting
- Highlights of the Last Meeting
- Online Officer Training
- Need Ad Chairman
- Dixie Coaching Summary
- Chapter Repertory
- Ambassadors of Song

Calendar

Naturalization Ceremony, Thursday, April 3, US Courthouse, 10:30 AM and 1:30 PM

Special Olympics Track and Field, Saturday, April 26, 9:30 AM, McCallie

HubFest, Saturday, May 10.

Guest Night, Monday, May 12, 7:00 PM, All Saints

Alexian Grove, Thursday, May 15

Scout Flag Day, Saturday, May 24th, National Cemetery

Memorial Day, Monday, May 26th, National Cemetery

Harmony Explosion, July 17-19, UTC

Need Ad Chairman

We need someone to volunteer to be Ad Chairman for the Annual show in August. Let me know if you are willing to help. *Rich*

Online Officer Training

Have you considered serving on the board? The Dixie District held officer training on the web for the first time earlier this year. It was a great use of technology and has the side benefit of allowing everyone to view the classes whenever and wherever we like. I recommend watching any of the classes that interest you and thinking about how you can serve our chapter on the board next year. You can find the videos here:

Script For Monday's Meeting

7:02 Chuck leads warm up
7:15 Chuck - Polecat - Sweet Adeline
7:30 Paul - Caroline*
7:45 Paul - How's Every Little Thing*
8:00 Paul - Irish Blessing*
8:20 SteveG - Announcements & Break
8:30 Four on the Floor - Fred, DavidC, Rich and DaveR
8:40 Risers - National Anthem*
8:55 Risers - Ten Fee Off the Ground*
9:10 Paul - Tag Singing
9:25 Gandy Dancer Award and KTWWS

* Repertory Song

Highlights of the Last Meeting

There was a discussion of the Coaching Session at the Dixie Convention, and it is summarized below. We broke into sectionals and selected Section Leaders and Section Administrators (Tenors: SL, Fred, SA, Wally; Leads: SL, Tom with SteveG assisting, SA DaveF; Baritones: SL, Chuck, SA, Rich; Basses: SL, Wilbur, SA, DaveR). Fred passed a 7 year renewal to DaveF. Rich announce a Special Olympic Sing Out on April 24th. Also next week is our Naturalization Sing Out. Marcellus welcomed back Mike Rich for a second visit. Tom passed the Gandy to JJ and we closed with KTWWS. Missing from the photo above are Charlie, JJ, Bill and Tom.

Dixie Coaching Summary

This past Saturday, our chorus had the opportunity to be coached by Randy Loos for an hour. Let me tell you a little bit about Randy. He is a very respected coach at the highest level of barbershop and has coached gold medal-winning quartets like PLATINUM. He sang bass with Grandma's Boys (after they won) and sang in three separate Sunshine District quartet champions. At International, he finished 4th with Sidekicks and 5th with Backbeat. He also directed a Sweet Adelines chorus to International gold in 1993. He knows what he is talking about and he had a lot of great things to say about our chorus. He had some critiques, as well, and we spent a full hour working out some of our kinks. Here is a summary:

1. Tenor and bass unit sound was pretty good, but the lead and baritone sections need some work in this area. Sectionals are needed to unify our sound because you can't do much if everyone sings with different front-back placement and vowel sounds.

2. He immediately discerned that we had been working on opening up and raising our soft palates, and were doing a good job of it, but at the expense of a richer and fuller front-back blended sound. We should have a bit of the nose buzz that comes with singing forward without losing the hootiness of opening up. He suggested we sing a buzzy "eeeeee" sound while migrating it to "ohhhhhh" and touching our noses.

3. He spent a lot of time on breathing. Many of us are taking lazy, half-empty, "conversational breaths". He wants us to take a full, low, and deep "singer's breaths" every time we breath. And we

You can find the videos here: http://tinyurl.com/dixietraining *Wally*

Chapter Repertory

Armed Forces Medley,
Caroline,
Celebrate Harmony,
Darkness on the Delta,
Georgia On My Mind,
God Bless America,
How's Every Little Thing in Dixie,
National Anthem,
Shenandoah,
Simple Melody,
Sweet Adeline,
Ten Feet of the Ground,
There is Love and
When She Loved Me.

For funerals:
Irish Blessing
Lord's Prayer
Nearer My God to Thee.

Are You Reading This?

Last year I sent out this note with the intent of finding out who is **NOT** reading the newsletter so I could contact them to see what we can do to make it more relevant. So let me know you ARE reading it by clicking REPLY and then SEND in your email program. PLEASE do not sent out an email to the chorus as was done last time as that nullifies what I am trying to do. Thanks, *Steve*

should take them on Paul's upstroke, the indication he gives us before we sing EVERY SINGLE TIME. Our directors are not to let us get away with laziness. They are ready to direct; we should be ready to sing. Breathing like this will give us the support we need to reduce vibrato, a struggle many singers face.

4. Individual responsibility is key. When we are learning a new song, it's 90% on our directors and 10% on us. By the time we get to the stage, those numbers are reversed. There is nothing Paul can do for any of us individually at that point. WE are responsible for taking proper breaths, singing exactly like everyone else in our section, words, notes, dynamics, emotion, and choreography.

We will hopefully have this opportunity again in October at the Fall Convention in Atlanta. Please take a minute and put 2-4pm on your calendars for Saturday, October 11. Okay? *Wally*

Ambassadors of Song

Those of you who missed the convention shows this weekend also missed an important issue facing the Harmony Foundation. They have so many youth choruses who want to compete that they had to turn away over 25% of the qualified applicants for the Youth Festival earlier this year. They have ALREADY booked choruses for all 20 available spots for next January. This is simply unacceptable. Kids are interested in singing barbershop and we have to tell them "No, we don't have the resources." I'm proud to invest in the future of barbershop by giving a monthly donation to the Harmony Foundation through their Ambassadors of Song program. https://www.harmonyfoundation.org/song.shtml It's easy to set up, automatically comes out of my bank account, and they send me a statement every year for tax purposes. You can give as little as $10/month and designate up to 30% of your gift to come back to our chapter or go straight to the district. We are already known as a very charitable chapter within our district, but we are not within the top ten when it comes to donations to the Harmony Foundation. Let's show'em what we can do. *Wally*

Online Archive