

**WORKING TOGETHER IN FELLOWSHIP AND HARMONY, THE GENTLEMEN OF FORTUNE CHORUS ENRICHES SOCIETY
WITH EXCELLENT BARBERSHOP MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT**

2010 - No.4 – May

Division I & Prelims Contests



Division & Prelims "Quartet Chorus"

The 2010 Division I Convention included the District International Quartet Prelims. Held in Abbotsford on March 9/10 the contests were well hosted by the Vancouver Thunderbirds who took care of the District Board and Operations Team Meetings, as well as the chorus contest, the two quartet contests and Show of Champions, and the Afterglow.

With **Ray Fallan** as Emcee, Mic Testers **Antique Gold** opened the Friday night contest for the 10 competing quartets. With only 7 quartets actually in the Division Contest, and just 7 choruses, this was the lowest attendance in many years. It was good to see 3 novice quartets but disappointing to note there were no GoF quartets at all – a first in my memory. Perhaps not doing Valentines this year had something to do with that.



The New Originals (1st)



Vocal Works (2nd)

2010 Quartet champs are **The New Originals** from Bellingham & Western Washington, with a revived **Vocal Works** (Vancouver) placing 2nd and **Abbots 4** third. The 5 quartets in the Prelims finals produced two International qualifiers: **Catcher Block** from FWD

(featuring the Marron twins from WA) and EVG District Champs **Fast Track**. Chorus champs are **GoF**, with **Nanaimo** beating out **Langley** for second place. Before the Show a "Quartet Chorus", made up of the competing quartet members, wowed us with some great harmony under the direction of Convention Chairman **Peter McBride** (on the far right in the photo).

The 2009 Barry Smorenburg Award (Division I Barbershopper of the Year) was presented to **Mike**



Wilcox of the Langley Chapter. The citation and presentation were made by past winners **Harry Gray** (2008 left) and **Jim Bates** (2007 right) of the GoF. The 2009 Evergreen District BOTY is **Bob Robson** from Calgary.

Saturday night's Emcee **Bob Thomas**, (past GoF member) publicly recognised **Gareth Evans**, another past GoF member, for his many, many years of barbershop dedication and involvement.



2010 Evergreen Division I Chorus Champions
Photos by Carl & Wendy Gung

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Dilbert's Rules of Order

#10: I don't suffer from stress. I am a carrier.

2010 Chapter Officers

President

Rich Clark 604-572-5588
rich.clark@investorsgroup.com

VP Music & Performance

Byron Walton 778-298-2409
waltonbm@shaw.ca

VP Chapter Development

David Whittier 604-466-2920
scarybari@shaw.ca

VP Communications & Promotion

Ed Arnold 604-929-2904
ed_arnold@telus.net

Secretary

David Jones 604-984-4047
davej34@telus.net

Treasurer

Gord Ross 604-736-2204
gordon.ross@telus.net

Past President

Peter Lissett 604-929-3235
plissett@shaw.ca

Board Members-at-Large

Don Giles 604-929-7864
dongiles@shaw.ca

Doug Affleck 778-284-1179
djaffleck@telus.net

Musical Director

Charlie Metzger 604-581-1423
cometzger@shaw.ca

Assistant Director

Byron Walton 778-298-2409
waltonbm@shaw.ca

Youth in Harmony

Bill Martin 604-291-1744
baribill@shaw.ca

What the Directors Discussed

By Peter Lissett



Here are the highlights from the Board of Directors meeting held at **Ed Arnold's** place on **April 26th**:-

Honorary Treasurer **Gord Ross** gave us good news in as much as the next four months' out-goings are limited and, with the increase in members' dues and the GST rebate, the funds on hand are good. However, there are some expenses yet to be factored in and the overall forecast is that we will need to raise \$5,200 in order to meet our annual commitments.

A couple of changes in operating procedure were accepted. First, members will be responsible for paying their Society and District dues **directly to the Society** upon receipt of their reminders, usually sent out by e-mail individually. They will pay their Chapter dues separately to our Treasurer at the same time. Secondly,

chapter members will take on the responsibility to register and pay for their Division and District Convention fees themselves, rather than paying the chapter and have the Treasurer send in all the forms and a cheque for everyone.

The CD project is put on hold for the time being but will continue once the chapter is more solvent...new money, new plan!

Starting on August 3rd and running for four consecutive Tuesdays, people interested in singing will be invited to have free group singing lessons. This initiative of VP Chapter Development **Dave Whittier**, is based on Lions Gates' "**Ready, Set, Grow**" approach to attracting new chorus members.

VP Music and Performance **Byron Walton** will be investigating the availability and cost of venues for our annual retreat in September. The chapter's financial resources will not support the usual 50%, or so, subsidy for attendees this year. Subsequent to the meeting, it has been revealed that North Vancouver Outdoor School costs will be \$170 per person this year with a minimum of 50 attendees. More information will be forthcoming.

President **Rich Clark** will be leaving on an extended trip at the beginning of May. Past President **Peter Lissett** will assume his duties until he returns.

A very small fund-raising committee is to be formed. The individual may already have been invited to form it. Meanwhile, **Dave Jones** volunteered to organize a meat sale fund-raiser like the ones **Bob Moller** used to run in the past. **Doug Affleck** volunteered to organize and run the Awards/Installation Banquet next year. What a man!

MLT Update

By **Byron Walton**, VP Music & Performance



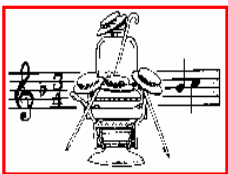
Gentlemen, the Music Leadership Team (MLT) & Board of Directors would like to open up the lines of communication with our membership more. For our music program, the **music selection** has been completed for 2010 with the following songs in process, or to be introduced over the balance of 2010: *Do You Hear The People Sing, You May Be My Used To Be, Beach Boys Medley, Bring Him Home, I Dream Of Jeannie With The Light Brown Hair, and Only You & You Alone.*

We are presently planning new music for 2011 & 2012 and encourage you to submit songs (or themes) that you feel would be appropriate for the GOF, to the MLT for consideration. All submissions will receive a response.

The MLT has completed the new **Performance Standards Program** which will be introduced during May. We encourage all members to involve themselves in this program for learning and feedback purposes. In a nutshell, the program includes personal audio recordings and feedback from the Section Leaders, and visual recordings along with feedback from the Visual/Performance Team. This program has been developed to assist us all in becoming better singers and performers, and to provide training and feedback on an ongoing basis. Needless to say, it will only be successful if we all cooperate and put forth our best efforts.

From time to time I receive feedback from members (both negative & positive) regarding our music program, which I feel very strongly should be dealt with to the satisfaction of every member. I encourage all members to continue providing feedback/suggestions/concerns to me and I assure you they will be heard and dealt with in a professional manner. We want everyone's voice to be heard as this is YOUR Chapter and your opinions are very important to its continued success.

Gentlemen, we have a wonderful chorus with so much potential. Let's all join in and do our part individually to make this the most exciting hobby and best Barbershop Chorus around for each of us. Who Can? - Greater Van!!!



**May 2010
Down
Memory Lane**
By Ross Hood

40 years ago this month (1970)

We had a pitch and putt tournament underway where you were given an opponent and arranged to meet him and play a game during the week and report your score. It worked well for a month or so. Even though the **Big Wheel** was held in **Anacortes** there was a representative from most of the surrounding chapters. I, being editor of the bulletin, asked several members to submit an editorial. They were given a month to submit something. The chorus had agreed to not attend the district convention in Calgary.

30 Years ago this month (1980)

Our beloved director, **Charlie Metzger** had the honour of **Evergreen District Barbershopper of the Year** bestowed on him. This was a great honour shared by only the elite of the district. He's working just as hard for the Society now. For the first time our membership numbered 100 according to Membership VP **Paul Nichols**. We received the highest score in the Society in

our plateau for Achievement points in the first quarter of 1980. Our **Sound Policy** quartet placed third at the Spring Prelims and were going to in **Salt Lake City** Internationals. **Bob Bradley** showed up on the guest list.

20 Years ago this month (1990)

It was Saturday, April 7 when the Scarecrow **Jeff Stevens**, Tin Man **Rob Hood**, Cowardly Lion **Mike Gibbs** (**Rob Goldsmith** took over after Mike went to Nanaimo), Wizard **Lawrence Spencer**, and 58 munchkins invaded the competition stage at the Division One Contest in Abbotsford. This was a test to see if the Wizard of Oz package would score well enough in competition. We had worked on the package for 10 months preparing for Carnegie Hall so we decided to perform a medley of Oz songs for competition and we scored quite well with it. In New York we were booked at the Penta Hotel in New York for our 4 day stay. The Penta was originally the Pennsylvania Hotel back in 1919, and was part of one of Glen Millers songs Pennsylvania 65000. Next month – How do you get to Carnegie Hall?



The GoF Wizard of Oz, Tuesday May 8, 1990 on stage in Carnegie Hall New York. The auditorium was awe inspiring and the stage absolutely huge with no curtains. The acoustics, however, were perfect.

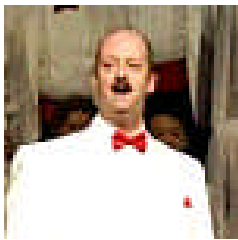
UNDERSTANDING TOOLS

Phillips Screwdriver: Normally used to stab the vacuum seals under lids and for opening old-style paper-and-tin oil cans and splashing oil on your shirt; but can also be used, as the name implies, to strip out Phillips screw heads.

Chapter Development

From VP: Dave Whittier

Ready, Set, Grow!



Membership. It's a hot topic in the Society these days and at the moment a particular concern for us in the Gentlemen of Fortune. We are six fewer men on the risers from last year and, although we have seen some outstanding additions to our ranks, we are still losing members faster than we are bringing them in.

So, like I have said at our Executive meetings and in front of all of you, I intend to try and do something about it. And the first thing I'm going to try is a membership drive, focussed on the first four Tuesday nights in August, and set up following the Sweet Adelines model called "Ready, Set, Grow!"

In essence the program is a series of free music lessons, teaching men the basics of vocal sound and Barbershop harmony in a group format. I will be sending out more details around content and format over the next month, and of course I will not be able to do this without all of your help! Get the word out to your friends, neighbours, colleagues, anyone who might enjoy a few weeks of fellowship and musical training, and who might be a potential future Gentleman of Fortune

Happenings & Reminders

2010 District Convention Registration

Registration Forms for the 2010 Portland District Convention on September 23-26 are available from **Ray Fallan**. Deadline for the \$75 Early Bird All Events registration is **May 31st**. After that it is \$100 until July 31, then \$125 'til September 15, and \$150 after that.

Remember that **you are now responsible** for doing your own convention registration; ie you have to send the completed form and money **direct to the Host chapter**.

Puns for Educated Minds:

#1. The roundest knight at King Arthur's table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from too much pie.

Comment #153 by Bill Gibbons

"I asked our director if I could sing a solo while the chorus hummed in the background. He asked what my other two wishes were."

Deadline for the next issue is June 22, 2010

CALENDAR

2010

May 24 Victoria Day
June 27-July 4 International, Philadelphia, PA
July 16-18 HCNW, Tacoma, WA
July 25 Anacortes Salmon BBQ
Aug 3 Start of "Ready, Set, Grow"
Aug 7 GoF Annual BBQ @ Byron's
Sept 3-5 Harmony Hollow
Sept 6 Labour Day
Sept 10-12 **Retreat** Place TBA
Sept 23-26 **District Convention** Portland, OR
Oct 11 Thanksgiving
Oct 12(?) Election of GoF Board of Directors
Oct 19-23 SAI International, Seattle, WA
Dec 4 **Christmas Shows** MJ Fox Theatre

2011

Jan 18-23 Midwinter International, Las Vegas
Feb 14 **Valentine's Day**
April 1-2 **Division I Convention**
April 22 Easter
July 3-10 International, Kansas City, MO
Sept 28-Oct 2 PanPacific Convention, Brisbane



More Prelims Quartets

Fast Track

EVG District Rep to
2010 International



Catcher Block

FWD Rep to
2010 International



West Coast Fusion
Division II Champs