



FORTUNETELLER

Newsletter of the Greater Vancouver Gentlemen of Fortune
An affiliate chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, Evergreen District
Editor Harry Gray: e-mail bunionbari@gmail.com
Info: (604) 526-2212 or online <http://www.gof.bc.ca>



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

2011 - No.1 – January - February

2010 - Interesting Times!?!

By Charlie Metzger



From my perspective, 2010 started off a little too interestingly. We had a plan, but we had a budget problem. We began to record for future CDs, but we stopped because we could not afford it (to make money this way?). We prepared for contest as usual, but for various reasons wound up with only 30 on stage

and an amazingly difficult time getting the music together. A new and exciting chorus was promised in Abbotsford and some key contributors chose to leave the chorus. And, of course, many of us suffered with the absence of Ian McGillivray and Rita. All in all, it felt like a crisis to me.

Most fortunately, we have managed to set a new direction. The most important thing about it may be that each member attending is either coaching or getting individual coaching about how to improve their singing and performing skills every week. We have a process by which members can qualify for working a new song on the risers by showing that the words, notes and breaths are learned. We also have the capability and the beginning of a plan to provide video feedback for everyone on their appearance while performing. These are important steps.

Planning-wise, we have two good contest pieces selected and excellent learning tracks are available for both. Over 40 singers, about 80%, are qualified on the first of them. We have a renewed plan to get CDs recorded. We have a plan to have next year's show theme decided so that it can influence the choice of music learned this year. The director has negotiated for a new two year contract and part of it is that everyone in the chorus will be asked to sign a contract that clarifies the things that most everyone knows about member responsibilities to the chorus - an important document to have for new members especially. We also have an active plan to

recruit regularly and perform regularly - a good intention with which to start the year!

There will be a general planning meeting early this year. We will begin to deploy the funds left to us by Ian to build the chorus in the ways that the Board see fit. I hope that we will soon have 90% of our regular competing singers ready, through qualification, to begin intensive work on making **...Jeanie...** an A-level offering; and that soon after we will have 90% ready and qualified for **Happy Days and Lonely Nights**. I hope we have serious interest in participating to make a CD that exemplifies the best that we sing. I hope that everyone will continue to spend 30 minutes a day working on making their contribution to our chorus ensemble the best possible one. I hope that this new year will find everyone knowing that they are valued, respected, contributing, and getting good value for their time. I resolve to enable all of this as well as I am able.

Directly and in the hope of harmonious excellence,
Charlie.

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When Insults Had Class

(Before English got boiled down to 4-letter words)

"His mother should have thrown him away and kept the stork." Mae West

Gung Hei Fat Choy

Welcome to the Year of the Rabbit

(For February 3rd)

2011 Chapter Officers

President

Dave Whittier 604-466-2920

scarybari@shaw.ca

VP Music & Performance

George Gregory 604-879-0436

ggregory@gregoryandgregory.ca

VP Chapter Development

Carl Gung 604-594-7147

cgung@gmail.com

VP Communications & Promotion

Ed Arnold 604-929-2904

ed_arnold@telus.net

Secretary

Al Alain 604-464-7780

ajalain@telus.net

Treasurer

Rich Clark 604-572-5588

clarkrs4@telus.net

Past President

Peter Lissett 604-929-3235

plissett@shaw.ca

Board Members-at-Large

Sean Murch 604-765-1435

sean@nlgames.com

Shanti Ghose 604-873-4285

sghose@shaw.ca

Musical Director

Charlie Metzger 604-581-1423

cometzger@shaw.ca

Assistant Director

Byron Walton 778-689-9337

waltonbm@shaw.ca

Youth in Harmony

Bill Martin 604-291-1744

baribill@telus.net

Prez Sez - Interesting time we live in

By Dave Whittier



I was thinking about that while reading Charlie's recent Groupanizer blog [see page 1]. We did indeed have an interesting year in 2010, in every sense of the word: budget challenges, membership challenges, morale challenges, "new choruses down the road" challenges, all of which pretty much hit us at the same time. It was a tough time to make anything happen, and I just want to recognize **Rich Clark**, **Peter Lissett** and the rest of the 2010 executive team for keeping the ship afloat and on course. I also want to thank **Charlie**, who kept the faith and supported us all last year, probably long past the point where it was any fun for him!

This year is my turn, both in terms of my shot at the 2011 presidency, and my opportunity to try and support Charlie and you all as we journey down the road to

excellence together. The MLT has put together an outstanding program for this year, based on individual excellence and focusing on small group practices. I want to support this approach from the executive level, and will be working with the executive team to come up with a plan to leverage our assets: enthusiasm, dedication to the success of the GOF, and a fairly healthy war chest to devote to individual and group coaching. I also want to see us really work on developing a healthy number of quartets to take to competition.

It's going to be a great year, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to experience it with you all.

2011 is a Prime Number

By Charlie Metzger



Of course, being prime, it has some mathematical properties, including being indivisible by any number less than its square root, but that's beside my point. This is a prime year for the GoF. It is likely to be pivotal in our survival as the chorus which perpetually ranks highest in the

Division. We're pushing "retired" as the average age, and that means that it takes more work to learn our music; and we need to keep up our skill levels with careful attention to our singing and understanding of our craft. Be part of the solution and do your "due diligence" with regard to your chosen "serious leisure": **The Mighty GoF** (as son Tom once coined us to be).

We haven't been beaten in the Division for a long time, but we gave up our spot to the Toppers at District. Please be part of our continued story of success and get yourself qualified for **...Jeanie...** immediately, and for **Happy Days and Lonely Nights** within the month.

All the best to all of you in this New Year, especially those who have chosen to lead! Let's all do a great job of following - 30 minutes a day!



Dilbert's Rules of Order

#36: Politicians and diapers have one thing in common; they should both be changed regularly for the same reason.

Inter-Chapter Meeting



Instead of the usual GoF rehearsal night, **Tuesday December 21st** was scheduled as an inter-chapter Open House with invitations to all the local chapters. Directed by **Mac Matheson** 21 members of **Langley First Capital Barbershop Chorus** (including a lady tenor) joined 40 GoF guys in a rousing polecat for the dozen or so guests. Following some warm up callisthenics with **Charlie** the singers were split into 6 groups, ensuring a tenor in each group, and sent off with a coach to sing lead solo, lead/bass duet, lead/tenor duet, lead/bari duet,



other duet combos and trios to 8 bars of "Angels We Have Heard on High". Coaches **George Metzger, Lawrence Spencer, Dave Anderson, Mac Matheson,**

Doug Affleck and **Jim Gibson** helped to improve everybody's notes, diction, voice production and blend. When we reconvened and sang the whole carol as a massed chorus it was electrifying.

Directed by **Danny Tryon** Langley performed for the GoF and guests, and **Charlie** directed the **GoF** through some of our repertoire. There was then a short business session with some presentations:

Bill Martin, the GoF Youth in Harmony rep, was given a donation from the chorus by Treasurer Gordon Ross.

Crys Lauzon, our Show and Contest Stage Manager, was given a token of appreciation by Past President Peter Lissett for her contributions to the chorus.

Marty Lovick was recognised by Byron Walton for his many donated hours of chorus coaching with the GF.

Charlie directed "Keep the Whole World Singing" and we all repaired to Me-N-Ed's for pizza, libations and song. A great evening that we should do more often.

Puns for Educated Minds:

#12: A small boy swallowed some coins and was taken to a hospital. When his grandmother telephoned to ask how he was, a nurse said, "No change yet."

2010 Awards Nominees

Here are the Greater Vancouver Chapter 2010 Award Nominees. Note that the Board of Directors are responsible for reviewing nominations to the GoF Hall of Fame and deciding on which candidate, if any, should go forward.



Voting took place in the business break January 18th. Awards will be presented at our Annual Awards & Installation Dinner/Dance February 12th at the Legion.

Barbershopper of the Year

Ed Arnold - Ed did an outstanding job of getting singouts for the chorus in 2010. Most of them were paid with some being 50/50 shows; a total of over 8 singouts, not including the Annual Show. The addition to our depleted coffers was substantial.

Byron Walton - Assistant Music Director, taking on extra duty at singouts, small chorus performances, etc. Set up the Family BBQ, Quartet sessions and support.

Dave Whittier - He had a great membership program and did a lot of work and organization on it. Also, for his work with Tom and Charlie organizing *groupanizer* and for setting up PAYPAL for the Christmas show.

Carl Gung - He has kept, and offered, an outstanding photographic record of our performance endeavours, he has tirelessly videoed our songs during rehearsal nights when requested, and has immersed himself in the production and delivery of the Christmas show. With Wendy as his supporting Barbershop partner on many occasions he has been a true asset to the chorus during the past year. Show Committee, Performance Committee, Official photographer, steadfast member, significant helper in all areas.

Jim Bates - Always there early on Tuesdays to set things up for rehearsal. Duplicates learning tracks onto CDs as requested and organizes procurement and distribution of new music. Runs the Afterglow for the Christmas Show.

Ray Fallan - our hardworking Chorus Manager who also collects and delivers our risers to any venue we sing at where they are required.

Barbershop Fellowship Award

Carl Gung - Carl is a tireless volunteer for numerous activities, such as photography, Christmas Show Committee chair, collecting picture money etc. He has embraced the barbershop philosophy of contributing to

the greater good providing a tremendous photographic record of the many GoF functions; Shows, singouts, BBQs, parties, retreats, etc. Also, as Show Chairman he spearheaded the committee to produce a terrific Christmas Show this year

Peter Lissett – for stepping into the vacant President’s position for a good part of the year. This past year was a difficult year for the Chapter and Peter brought experience and continuity to the BOD and assisted in making the year more successful than anticipated. He also organized and chaired a unique Awards and Installation Banquet in New Westminster. Throughout the year he was the tireless FortuneTeller reporter on Board Meetings, singouts and retreats.

Rod MacLeod – always a strong supporter of the chorus who will lend a hand anytime it is required – in particular, gets the posters and programs printed for the Christmas Show.

Harry Gray - for producing a great Fortune Teller throughout the year.

Ray Fallan – the riser transportation man, chorus manager and all round great contributor to the chorus.

Byron Walton - As Assistant Music Director and VP Music & Performance, Byron worked tirelessly throughout the year helping Charlie with the chorus.

Gordon Ross - Gordon took on the job of Chapter Treasurer somewhat reluctantly in 2009 "for a year" when Don Rush retired. This was his second year and he did an admirable job with the Chapter's finances. Cares deeply for the chorus and its members and puts his concerns forward honestly and with integrity. Speaks well of everyone, brings out potential members, has good relationships with everyone, along with supporting the chorus with his own commitment to learning and personal skill development - a model amateur chorister.

Ed Arnold - for all his work getting the singouts.

Arthur Loyie – for his smiling welcome to all guests attending a practice; making sure they always have a name tag and music.

Barbershop Woman of the Year

Donya Metzger – Donya brought both her musical and performance experience to the Chapter, assisting in Chorus vocal warm-ups, individual voice lessons and working with the Performance Team. In addition, she helped produce a couple of Learning CDs with Charlie.

Shari Clark - Shari is that quiet women behind the scenes that takes on various duties. She is always there

at concerts, taking tickets, afterglow duties, cleaning up, selling CDs and volunteering without hesitation.

Maya Whittier - for her general support of the chorus throughout the year and for her efforts on our Christmas Show organizing the 50/50 ticket sellers.

Wendy Gung - Carl Gung is credited with the photographs of all our shows and functions. However, a great proportion of that photography is done by Wendy Gung from her seat in the audience. She takes the pictures at all the shows, singouts, contests and outings.

Yvonne Martin - who is the ubiquitous volunteer and quiet contributor.

Thanks to Bob & Keena Moller

By Rich Clark

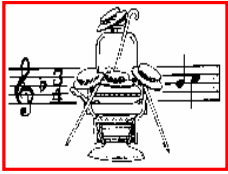


When the civic authorities gave Ray Fallan the final ultimatum to stop parking the GOF trailer on the street near his house, **Bob Moller** stepped forward and volunteered space in his oversized driveway. The trailer was

parked on their property for many years, at no cost to the chorus. Back in the day when we participated in the ritual of wearing makeup for contest, and Bob was singing with the GOF, **Keena Moller** was a regular on the makeup crew.

In recognition of their contributions to the livelihood of the GOF, the Board decided to recognize them with a gift certificate to Metrotown mall. On behalf of the members of the GOF, I was proud to visit with Bob and Keena on Dec 17. Joining me for the presentation were **David Anderson** and **George Wakeham**, who sang with Bob in **Power Edition** (2001) and **Fanfare** (2002) quartets. **George Metzger** rounded out the foursome. Bob was in good spirits and conversed easily, as he relaxed in his wheelchair. I could still feel the power in Bob's boy scout hand shake, in spite of the loss of strength on his right side, resulting from a previous stroke. Bob and Keena asked me to pass on to each of you, their appreciation for the gift certificate and for the messages of support they cherish, as they face the challenges of fighting Bob's cancer.

Coincidental with our visit with Bob and Keena, David lead us in singing happy birthday, over his new piece of technology, to Julia, his four year old granddaughter, while she was at her cupcake party at a restaurant in Victoria.



January 2011
**Down
Memory Lane**

By Ross Hood

40 years ago this month (1971)

In January of '71 the International office set up the POLE CAT program. There were just 6 songs on the list, only 4 of which remain on the list now. They deleted "We sing that they shall speak" and "I'll take you home again Kathleen". They were using it as a great vehicle for quartet promotion. The **Casualaires (Bob O'Shaughnessy, George Meehan, Charlie and George Metzger)** won the Cough-e-cup at the big wheel in Bellingham.

30 years ago this month (1981)

The headline for the January 1981 issue of the *Lake City Reflections*, edited by **Jack Faust**, read "We Win". The reference was to the **International Achievement Award** program. We were No 1 in the Society in our plateau. Points are awarded for membership retention, activities and involvement. **Alex Hood** was made a lifetime member of the chapter in recognition of his long time service. We received a Harmony Foundation award for our contribution of \$14.43 per man to Logopedics.

20 years ago this month (1991)

Music Educator National Convention was held in Vancouver in May of '91. The Society was to be involved for the first time. There was a show at the Orpheum Theatre with the **Interstate Rivals**. There was a barbershop spectacular with the three local choruses involved. Our own **Ken Pask** was appointed as District Music Educator (DME).

What the Directors Discussed

By Peter Lissett



The last Directors meeting was held at La Spaghetteria Restaurant on **December 13th, 2010**. This 'old and new' directors meeting is when the baton is passed on to your 2011 Board. Here are the highlights:-

Rich Clark reported that he had investigated other avenues than GICs for the investment of the funds in the **Ian McGillivray Legacy**. Corporate bonds didn't have a significantly high yield and carried a degree of risk. He reported that he has looked at CIBC, BMO, HSBC and Montreal Trust offerings of laddered GICs. It was

decided that \$40,000 of the Legacy fund be invested in laddered GICs and that the unspent \$5,000 from this year together with the \$5,000 for 2011 be put in a flexible, cashable GIC. The remaining \$40,000 would be invested as follows: \$10,000 for 5yrs, \$10,000 for 4 years, \$10,000 for 3 years and \$10,000 for 2 years.

Charlie's contract was discussed at some length and accepted. I'm pleased to inform the membership that it has subsequently been accepted and signed by Charlie. It is a two year contract taking us to the end of 2012.

It was agreed that **Byron and George Gregory** would start planning for Valentines early in the New Year, and that the chorus would participate in Valentines singouts and compete at Division and District in 2011.

Byron Walton reported that he was well within budget; that the music for the new song had been ordered; and that every chapter from Abbotsford to Bellingham had been invited to attend rehearsal our guest night on Tues 21st Dec. Presentations to **Crys Lauzon and Marty Lovick** would be made by Peter and Byron respectively.

Dave Whittier indicated that Paypal had proved to be easy to use for the Christmas Show and was a success. Cost was \$500. It will be good for Valentines too. He recognized the hard work of the board this past year when the chapter endured a number of difficulties.

Ed Arnold stated that we had had three of the most successful singouts in a long time. He hopes that in 2011 the chapter will be better organized for recruiting at these singouts with the GoF display board/tables/CDs and so on. He recommended that the chorus aim at one singout a month at malls – even if we have to perform for free. He added that a new brochure should be considered in the near future.

The 2010 board members were thanked for all their work by outgoing President **Rich Clark**.

My Christmas Show

By Shoji Whittier



On the fourth of December, 2010 the G.O.F. held their annual Christmas show. Our family had recently got back from my Uncle Doug's funeral in Victoria. Dad was very sad, and didn't feel ready to perform. Taro didn't know all the bass notes to the Christmas songs yet, so I would be the only one in my family able to perform in the show.

One day before the show, we had a dress rehearsal. I knew the theatre well, and it felt good to be back on-

stage. We rehearsed all our songs, worked on choreo and stuff, and then went home. The next day I was very tired; we had got home late, plus I spent most of the night staring at the ceiling, unable to sleep. I had packed my suit and lunch the day before, so I didn't need to rush around grabbing my things as I went.

After a quick breakfast, I was driven by my mom to the M.J.F. theatre. We were a few minutes early, so Taro and me helped mom and a few other people set up stuff. After that, I went to a quick rehearsal, waited, ate lunch, got my suit on, waited some more, then went on-stage. We started the show with *Nevertheless*; in my humble opinion [which it never is] we sang it pretty well! We sang the rest of the songs for the first half, we did really well, and I felt awesome.

Pretty soon, the first half of the show was over, and we wandered off the stage to let NVP perform. Then we sang our songs quite nicely, and finished the show well.

After dinner, we came back to get ready for show #2! It was a lot like the first show, we got on stage, sang our songs, I got that awesome feeling I get when I perform; we then left the stage to let NVP on. One NVP performance, intermission, and a handful of quartets later, we were back on.

While we were singing *White Christmas* I think the fake snow seemed more realistic than last time, I don't know why. We finished up our show singing "*We wish you a Merry Christmas*" with NVP. As soon as the curtain closed, I ran to the change room to put my normal shoes on, my feet were killing me! After I changed my clothes, and helped put things away, I went to the after glow, which was great, and I talked with Donya for a while. There were also really awesome quartets, snacks, and stuff. We left the after glow at about 11:30 because we were tired. When we got home, dad was still up, so we played guitar hero, then went to sleep.

QCED Seaside Weekend

By Moe Jones, QCED President



The 39th annual meeting and show of the Quartet Champions of the Evergreen District weekend was held in Seaside, Oregon, January 14/15, 2011. It was a great weekend of singing and fellowship. Rainy weather did not dampen our spirits.

Mike Menefee noted, "It felt to me as if there was a spirit of renewed energy and enthusiasm for QCED". The chorus was amazing, the quartets provided exciting performances, and we had fun initiating our new champs, **The New Originals**. **Gary**

Raze (rhymes with "craze") was an entertaining emcee, and the list goes on.

Before the weekend began, **The Northwest Spirit Quartet**, with **Forrest Lamotte** as their substitute bass did countless gigs in the Seaside area for two days to promote the QCED show. The annual meeting was prepared well ahead of time. The music team of **Donny Rose, Mel Knight, Denny Stiers, and Mike Menefee** worked behind the scenes to prepare us for our chorus rehearsal and new music.

The business meeting was very well organized. Highlights were: a positive treasury report; recaps of the 2010 Seaside and Portland District QCED shows and the Camano Island Retreat; as well as a Groupanizer presentation. Future plans were discussed. Donny reported that he attended a meeting of District Champion Organizations at the International Convention in Philadelphia. He indicated that QCED was far ahead of the other organizations regarding shows, fellowship, and the promotion of barbershop quartet singing. Finally, the meeting ended with the "normal" induction of this year's champs, **The New Originals**.

The afternoon rehearsal was longer than usual but worth it. There was team work with section leaders and we worked hard to master the new songs. And we did. It was fun and rewarding. The QCED chorus was very focused under Donny Rose's masterful work.

The evening show was awesome and the audience showed their appreciation with a standing ovation. The show started off with a honky-tonk piano player who set the mood. The quartets were **Northwest Spirit, Overtime, 3 Outa 4, Fast Track, and The New Originals**. And, as mentioned, the chorus provided a powerful performance. They sang six numbers and feedback suggested the audience wanted more.

The **Bob Swanson Award** was presented on the evening show. This award is presented annually to a QCED member who has followed in Bob's footsteps, and who has made a difference through leadership, fellowship, and a furthering of the activities of QCED. This year's recipient is **Chuck Landback**.

The evening followed with singing and fellowship at Doogers. There was a lot of praise for our great weekend. Kudos to those who made this event possible: the music committee, trustees, show chairs, executive, Northwest Spirit quartet, Doug Barker, staff of the Seaside Convention Centre, and Donny Rose for extraordinary work as our chorus director.

We look forward to a bigger and better QCED weekend next year in Seaside

Happenings & Reminders

Fleetwood 50/50 Show

Saturday December 18th saw the chorus returning to the Surrey Fleetwood Community Centre and a 50/50 Show for the Seniors Group. The hall was well filled and very appreciative. The regular repertoire was followed by Emcee **George Gregory** explaining how a cappella 4 part barbershop harmony was put together, with **Moe Jones, Byron Walton, Dave Anderson** and **Ed Arnold** demonstrating. **Antique Gold** opened the second half of the show, the chorus joined the audience for a carol sing-a-long, and then performed the Christmas set of carols and songs. The journey home started to turn treacherous with heavy snow falling in Surrey



Fallan's Carol Party

By Ray Fallan

The Carolling Night Dec 17th was a great success. We had the most people of any other time, I think. About 47 people showed up, we stayed out singing for about 1/2 hour then we had dinner and party. As always, there was lots of food and what a variety. I came up from the basement two times to get some food and the people were still lined up the hallway. Also lots of singing in the basement. Everybody (I think) had a great time....Clarence and I stayed up until 3:00 AM talking... that's always fun.....

CD Recordings (rescheduled)

Note that GoF is going ahead with recordings for new CDs. **January 22** is for Christmas music. **February 26** is the possible second session. All singers needed please.

Installation Dinner/Dance (New Venue!!)

The GoF Annual Installation Dinner/Dance will be on **February 12th** at the **Legion** near our rehearsal venue, Coquitlam. It will be a Valentines Day theme and is open to our members and guests, as well as members of other chapters. The 2011 Board of Directors will be installed; the 2010 Awards recipients honoured and our own DJ (**Doug Affleck**) will provide the dance music. **Date:** Feb 12, 2011 **Time:** Cocktails at 5:30 pm Dinner at 6:30 pm **Place:** **Royal Canadian Legion, 1025 Ridgeway Ave** Coquitlam, BC (We have used this facility for the Installation Dinner in previous years)

Cost: \$40 each. This includes a fabulous buffet meal, entertainment and dancing, plus all taxes and gratuities. Dancing will be provided by Dancin' Daze Music. There will be a special something for the ladies. After all it is Valentines, what better way to treat that special person? See **Paul Peachey** for tickets.

Valentine's Quartets

The GoF will be back singing valentines this year. **Don & Roxie Giles** have volunteered to take orders and be dispatchers again. **Rod MacLeod** will be managing the quartets so get them together and let him know ASAP. Also, it's time to start promoting the sale of gigs to friends and neighbours, and putting up posters and cards.

2011 Strategic Planning Session

Saturday February 26th from 0900 to 1200. This is your opportunity to have input into the chapter's strategic direction, from mission statement to priority of activities to, well, just about anything. Location will be the clubhouse at Rich Clark's development 15988 - 83rd Avenue, Surrey. If you have any agenda items please send them to **Dave Whittier** before February 23rd.

Comment #156 by Bill Gibbons

"In every barbershop chapter, there will always be one person who knows what is going on. Get rid of him."

Deadline for the next issue is March 1, 2011

CALENDAR

2011

- Jan 21 GoF's 54th Birthday
- Jan 22 **CD Recording**
- Jan 26-29 Midwinter International, Las Vegas
- Feb 12 GoF Valentine Dinner Dance Installation/Awards, Coquitlam
- Feb 14 **Valentine's Day Quartets**
- Feb 26 Strategic Planning Session
- Feb 26 (?) **CD Recording**
- Mar 18-19 Division II/Prelims Renton, WA
- April 1-2 **Division I Convention** Abbotsford
- April 22 Easter
- July 3-10 International, Kansas City, MO
- July 22-24 HCNW Tacoma, WA
- July 31 Anacortes Salmon BBQ
- Sept 2-4 Harmony Hollow, Squamish, BC
- Sept 9-10 **Chorus Retreat**
- Sept 28-Oct 2 PanPacific Convention, Brisbane
- Oct 7-9 **District Convention** Spokane, WA
- Oct 10 Thanksgiving