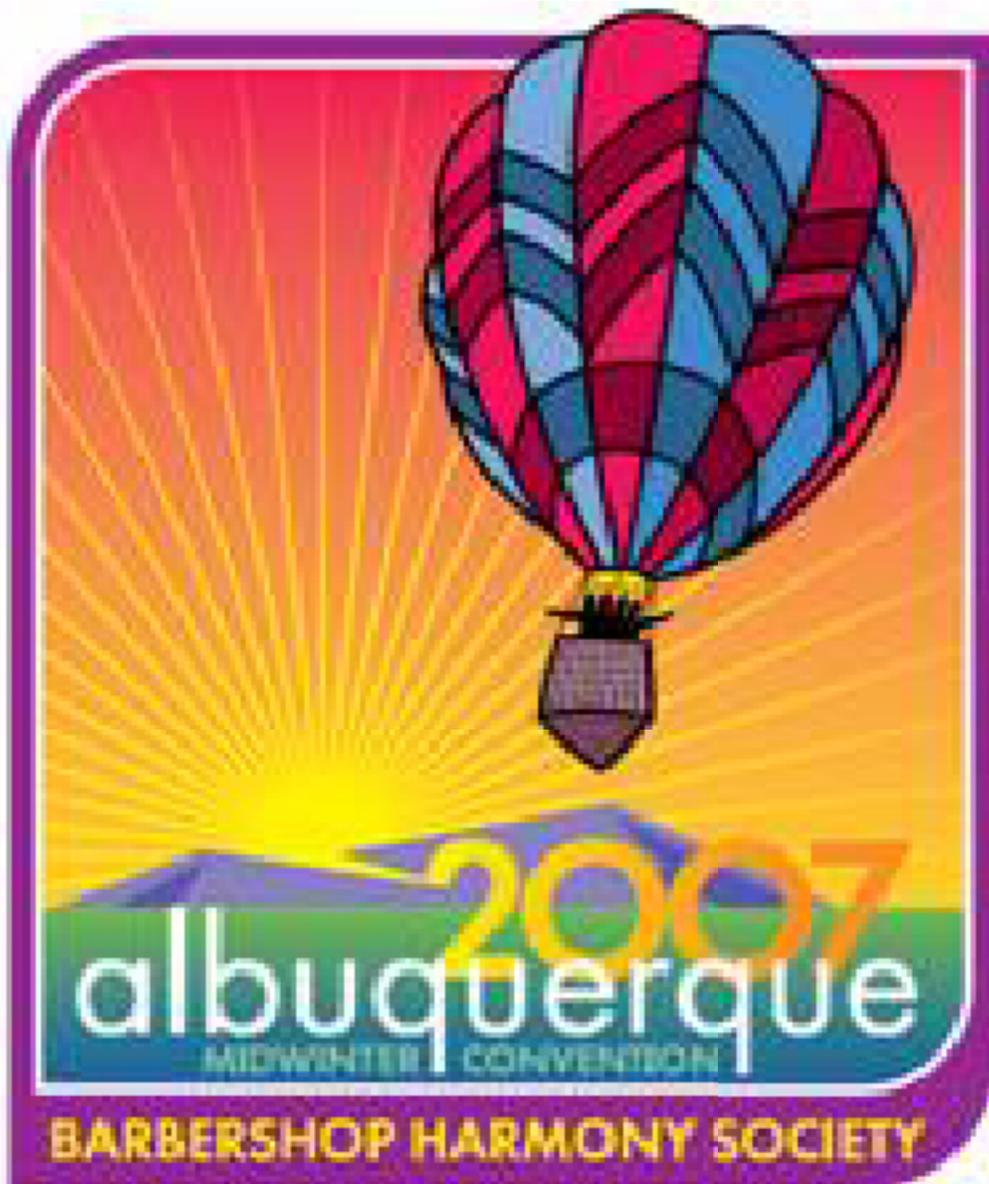


GRAY MATTERS

Official Semi-Periodic Publication of The Association of International Seniors Quartet Champions

November 2006



Albuquerque is going to be the best yet! Remember to study your music every day as this is our greatest endeavor so far. The Music Man Medley is fantastic and the staging will be a knockout! See you there.



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James Paul Wheeler 1934 ~ 2006.
Jimmy passed away on Wednesday, November 22, 2006 in Salt Lake City. He died of respiratory failure associated with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). Jim grew up in Ogden, Utah where he graduated from Weber State University and met his future wife, Barbara Roberts. They have been married 51 years. He graduated from the University of Utah with a Masters in

Social Work and worked for the Utah State Division of Children and Family Services for 25 years, mostly in administrative positions, serving as State Director prior to retirement. Jim loved the profession of social work, was a leader in the field and made a significant impact in many people's lives. Jim was a member of the LDS Church, where he held many positions. Jim's philosophy of life was one of "harmony," which led to his passion for Barbershop singing. As an outstanding tenor, he was a member of the Beehive Statesmen Barbershop chorus for over 50 years. He sang in several quartets beginning with the Lake Shore Four, the Salt Flats, a premier comedy quartet, One More Time, 1992 International Seniors Quartet Champions and finally with Senior Class Reunion. He traveled extensively, entertaining audiences nationwide. He completed an International USO Tour in the 1960s with the Salt Flats, entertaining American Troops, many in hospitals in Asia. Jim loved to play tennis, golf, ski, fish, bike, run and travel. He loved nature, especially sunsets, and enjoyed many camping trips. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughters, Wendy Merrill, Jodi (Brian) Bailey; and son, Todd; ten grandchildren and his sister, Carol Goddard. Jim was an outstanding husband, father, brother and friend. He will be greatly missed. Funeral services will be held on Monday, November 27, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the Heughs Canyon Ward, 6301 South 2300 East, Salt Lake City. Friends may call at Wasatch Lawn Mortuary on Sunday from 6 to 7 p.m., and one hour prior to the service. Interment will be at Wasatch Lawn Memorial Park. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to: Harmony Foundation International Inc., 225 W. Washington Street, #2330, Chicago, IL 60606 or the ALS Association (888) 949-2577. Keep the whole world singing!

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ALBUQUERQUE SCHEDULE

Wednesday:

AISQC Board Meeting, 8 pm to 10 pm - Board Room East - HQ Hotel

Thursday:

AISQC Chorus Rehearsal, 1 - 4 PM - Sage Room HQ Hotel

AISQC Chorus Rehearsal w/band, 7:30 - 10 PM - Kiva Theater

Friday:

AISQC Chorus Rehearsal, 9:30 - 11:30 AM - Kiva Theater

Seniors Contest, 1 - 4 PM -- Kiva Theater

AISQC Dress Rehearsal w/band, 6:45 - 7:45 PM - Backstage Kiva Theater

AISQC Show, 8 - 10:30 PM - Kiva Theater

AISQC Champs Reception. 11PM - 1 AM - Sendero III HQ Hotel

Saturday:

AISQC Breakfast, 8 - 9 AM -- Sage Room HQ Hotel

AISQC Annual Membership Meeting, 9 - 11AM - Sage Room HQ Hotel

Bob Squires has agreed to be the AISQC Historian. If you have documents or other materials related to our organization please send to Bob. You can contact him at bobsingslead@aol.com

AISQC IS ALIVE AND WELL – UP AND RUNNING

Darryl Cremer

We may be "senior" but we are "champs" and there's a lot going on within AISQC that proves that. Let me share some of these things with you.

Ken Buckner, our Marketing VP is doing a great job of updating our marketing materials, website (take a look at it if you haven't seen it lately), promoting us across the country and finding opportunities to showcase our new champs (like the Rocky Mountain Harmony College program). Ken is also working with John Schneider on the development of a "competitor" pin for all contestants in the Seniors International Quartet contest.

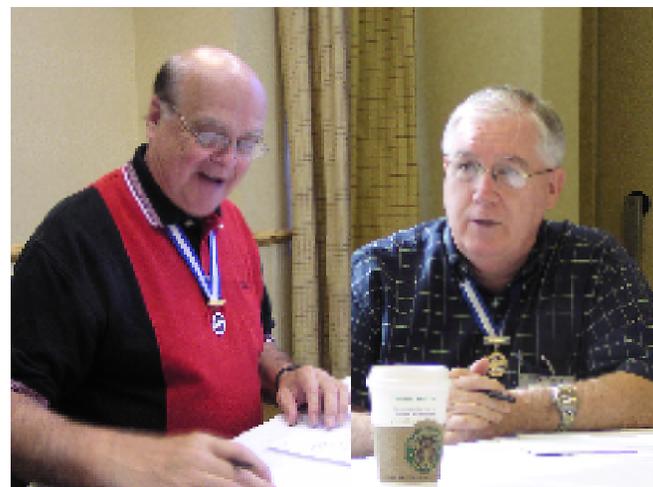
Jim Richards is working with manufacturers to update and re-design our badges so they are consistent with our new medal design.

Joe Liles, our Music VP is working on the new music for our AISQC chorus for our 2007 Albuquerque show. You've already heard from Joe on some of this.

Grif Griffith has agreed to serve as our "Sunshine Chairman". Grif will keep us posted on our members that are undergoing challenging times and as appropriate send them a card so they know AISQC is with them and thinking of them. Grif needs all of our help on this, so please keep him posted.



Johnny Hammond, lead of the Bayou City Music Committee, 1989 International Seniors Quartet Champions, sang the National Anthem at the Houston Astros game on August 7. Reports are that it was a great rendition! Way to go Johnny!



Albuquerque Show: The Chorus will sing "Wells Fargo Wagon", Pick-a-Little/Goodnight Ladies Medley', "Lida Rose", 76 Trombones and You Raise Me Up. Keep studying those tunes so we can put on a quality show. This is going to be BIG!

Texoma Sound Retires!

TS competed at the Southwestern District Convention and did fairly well. Not as well, perhaps, as we would have liked, but it was passable. Scores were close to international standards and with a little more work (or perhaps a lot more work) we felt we could have achieved the required "76" to make it to the Big Dance and be the first International Senior's Quartet to do so.

Be that as it may be, we have decided to disband the quartet. The distance between us -- Tulsa and Stillwater in northern Oklahoma and Houston and New Orleans in the south part of the country -- have made it very time consuming as well as costly to meet on a regular basis for rehearsals.

Thanks for the support of Texoma Sound.

Website Updates

Leo Larivee does an excellent job of updating and managing our website. To avoid having Leo get things from many sources, and to ensure that all things on our website have been reviewed by our Marketing VP, Ken Buckner, all changes, recommendations for addition or deletion, updates, etc, should be sent to Ken. He will coordinate with Leo which will simplify things. So, if you have any changes you feel should be made, send them to Ken, and he'll work with Leo.

Tom Bates, tenor of Antique Gold passed away in May 2006. The Funeral was held at Burkeview Funeral Home in Coquitlam at 2:00 pm on Saturday, May 20. His chorus sang The Lord's Prayer, the Irish Blessing, and The Quest. Tom was a fine man and barbershopper.

Several AISQC members have shown an interest in the Young Men In Harmony program. My chapter has sponsored many of these workshops, getting young men singing Barbershop and other styles of music. We have developed a workshop manual on how to organize and conduct one of these workshops. Anyone interested, please get in touch with me MGRIFF0528@aol.com



Official AISQC Casual Shirts..... Dave Cowin has the red and black casual shirts which he would be glad to send to you for a fee of course. Send him and email and order yours today. He can fill you in regarding the cost.

PERFORMANCE PLAN FOR THE MUSIC MAN MEDLEY Rev 11/06/06 (see *)

Please transfer these notes to your music

I – Overture – Trouble.. This narration will be done by Keith Hopkins, Harold Hill and MC for the AISQC Show.

* **II – Wells Fargo Wagon** – The AISQC Chorus (SC) starts and sings thru letter B and is then joined by Jurassic Larks who sing to letter C. SC leads then sing the pick-ups at letter C and all sing to letter E. SC is then re-joined by Jurassic Larks who sing to letter F. SC sings the unison pick-ups to F and finishes this segment.

III – Orchestra plays “Good Night My Someone”.

IV – Sincere - Antique Gold performs this segment.

* **V – Pick-a-little/Goodnight Ladies** – SC sings to letter C where they are joined by Downstate Express singing solo/unison lyrics and Good Night Ladies. All continue to the end.

VI – Orchestra plays Sadder But Wiser Girl

VII – Lida Rose – SC sings and accompanies a soloist yet to be determined. (note: we will sing the standard BHS arrangement of Lida Rose.. not the one in the medley.)

VIII – Orchestra plays prelude to Till There Was You

IX – The Barons sing Till There Was You.

X – 76 Trombones – SC Chorus sings all.

ALBUQUERQUE SCHEDULE

The new major events schedule is as follows:

Friday afternoon, Jan. 26th (1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.) Seniors Quartet Contest

Friday night- Jan. 26th (7:30 p.m.- 10 :00 p.m.)- the AISQC Show (Seniors Quartet Champions Association)
Saturday afternoon- 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.- Buffalo Bills Quartet Contest

Saturday night- 7:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.- Show of Champions
All these events will take place in KIVA Auditorium in the Albuquerque Convention Center, located right across the street from the Hyatt Regency Hotel, the headquarters hotel for this convention.

C, E-flat and G entered a bar. The bartender said, "Sorry, I don't serve minors." The E-flat left and the C and G had an open fifth between them. After a few drinks, the fifth was diminished and the G was out flat. An F entered and tried to augment the situation but was not sharp enough. A D entered and excused himself to the bathroom, saying, "I'll just be a second." An A entered but the bartender wasn't convinced that this relative of C was not a minor. Then the bartender noticed a B-flat hiding at the end of the bar. "Get out, right now!" he exclaimed. "You're the seventh minor I've found in this bar tonight."

The next night the E-flat returned to the bar in a 3-piece suit. The bartender said, "You're looking sharp tonight. This could be a major development." This was the case, when the E-flat took off the suit and everything else to stand there au natural.

Eventually, the C sobered up and realized in horror that he was under arrest. He was brought to trial, found guilty of contributing to the diminution of a minor, and was sentenced to ten years of D.S. without the possibility of a Coda. On appeal, he was found innocent of any wrongdoing, even accidental, because the accusation was bassless. The bartender decided he needed a rest -- and closed the bar.

Jeff Winik, Princeton Gardenstatesmen/Easton Brothers In Harmony, Sound Barrier Quartet

2007 Champs Reception

Marilyn Turner and Dave Ewing have done a tremendous amount of work on putting together the details for our Champ's Reception and Member breakfast.

The Champ's Reception will follow our Friday night show. Without going in to all of the details, the menu will be light snack type sandwiches, veggies, coffee, and a cash bar will be available. The selection Dave and Marilyn have put together will also accommodate some of our members with diet/food restrictions. Based on past attendance, the total cost for the reception will be approximately \$1600.

Our annual meeting and member breakfast will be Saturday morning. Ed Watson and John Schneider will be our guests at the breakfast (nice support from Ed and John) A breakfast that is similar to the past breakfast meetings will be approximately \$21.00 per person.

Based on the feedback, we will continue the practice of charging \$15.00 per person for the Champ's Reception and \$15.00 per person for the member's breakfast meeting. Based on the cost figures Dave has gotten, this means that AISQC will be picking up about \$800.00 of the total cost. Again, this amount is similar to what has occurred in the past.

Dave Ewing will be sending out information on the Champ's Reception and the Member breakfast to all of our members so he can get an attendance count and work with the hotel to finalize everything. Darryl

A Will is a dead giveaway.

A backward poet writes inverse.

A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.

If you don't pay your exorcist you may be repossessed.

Show me a piano falling down a mineshaft and I'll show you A-flat miner.

When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully recovered.

A grenade fell onto a kitchen floor in France resulting in Linoleum Blownapart.

He broke into song because he couldn't find the key.

A calendar's days are numbered.

A lot of money is tainted: 'Taint yours, and 'taint mine.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

He had a photographic memory, which was never developed.

When you've seen one shopping center you've seen a mall.

If you jump off a Paris bridge, you are in Seine.

Bakers trade bread recipes only on a knead to know basis.

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

AISQC Board Meeting Agenda

Wednesday, January 24, 2007 8:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Board Room East – Hyatt Headquarters Hotel

8:00 Call to Order Darryl Cremer
8:05 Review/Approve July Minutes -- Dan Tangarone
8:10 Treasurer's report -- Dave Cowin
Review and approval of 2007 Budget
Status of the interest from Frank Lanza Fund
8:30 Marketing plans/direction for 2007 -- Ken Buckner
8:45 Show update -- Ken Buckner
8:50 Nominating Committee -- Dave Ewing
9:00 Break
9:10 Harmony Youth Festival Report -- Bruce Odell
9:25 AISQC Board -- Member Memorials
9:40 AISQC Member Development Discussion
(Use of funds to increase participation at MW)
10:00 Joe Liles -- Keep America Singing
Meeting Adjourned

The Larks In Flight

Yes, the Larks are still flying high, and just when I thought things would be slowing down, I find we already have five chapter shows scheduled for this spring.

Plus, January 2007 will be our 10th Midwinter, since winning the gold (on our very first try -- a bit of trivia) and we have sung in



the chorus and as a quartet every year. How's that for more trivia? And longevity? Who would have thought.

But before Midwinter, after doing the Harmony Weekend in Dixie District this past summer, we have an invite to sing on the Myrtle Beach, So.Carolina chapter shows (Jan 20 and 21). We had a whale of a good time at their Harmony Weekend, where we were honored to headline the Friday night show, sharing the stage with the likes of Stateline Grocery and some kids called New Release.

We then spent the weekend coaching quartets from around the Dixie District, and even had a "Meet the Champs" session Sunday morning, which people even came to. And sang with us.

At this Midwinter, we hope to see and hear Catalyst become the second Senior Champions in CSD and of course from the Pride of Iowa chorus, our home chorus. And we are looking forward to the Music Man theme convention (just like the one in Denver in July, where we hope to be also).

On Feb 23 we will be back in Beatrice, Nebraska. This is the second chapter that has asked us back. Maybe that means if you hang around long enough you will be "new again".

On April 14 we will be in McCook, Nebraska for the Prairie Statesmen's chapter show. It's in CSD, by the way, and we will be sharing the stage with some young upstart quartet you might have heard about, also from CSD -- Vocal Spectrum.

On April 28, we will be in Davenport Iowa for the Chordbuster's chapter show "Floatin' Down the River". We are always pleased to be asked to do shows in CSD, and there are quite a few other chapters that have yet to do so.....(hint, hint). There are also a lot of Districts.....oh well.

On May 19, we will be in Overland Park, Kansas (yes, a CSD chapter). This is the home of our 2007 CSD President, Don Fuson. Don's special to us, since he is a supporter of the Larks and, more importantly, of Senior quarteting in general. And he's a very nice man, too, even though he is not a senior (yet).

We also keep pretty busy doing local performances for organizations and private parties, and look forward to another fun and full year in 2007. Keep singing. It don't get much better than this.

Victor Neilsen, Tenor, Jurassic Larks