



The Mansfield, Ohio Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society

The Fun Center Chordsmen in the Johnny Appleseed District (JAD)



The Chordsmen Chronicle



www.funcenterchordsmen.com

1-877-754-SING

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Volume 36 Issue 1



...with new commitment, new dedication, new attitude, new enthusiasm, and new possibility thinking.

Now to the issue of each of these and how we can make better use of them in the new year. In 2010, consider these things relating to your hobby and the Fun Center Chordsmen.

New commitment: "Losers make promises they often break. Winners make commitments they always keep." *Dennis Waitley.*

- ◆ Work on the music between Monday rehearsals. This will save everyone's time because Steve will not have to keep repeating instructions.
- ◆ Be on time for rehearsals and exercise "riser" discipline both on and off the risers. When someone is up front, listen...don't talk.

New dedication: "The person who makes a success of living is the one who sees his goal steadily, and aims for it unswervingly. That is dedication."

Cecil B. De Mille

Beginning now, be dedicated to the cause.

Make the effort to attend each and every rehearsal and special performance. You are missed when not there. The total chorus is only as good as each voice, blended together, makes it

New attitude "The greatest revolution of our generation is the discovery that human beings, by changing the inner attitudes of their minds, can change the outer aspects of their lives." *William James*

Each new year brings the best time to make sure our attitude is in good shape. Apply the PMA approach...
Positive Mental Attitude.

- ◆ Be a "booster" not a "basher."
- ◆ Compliment more and criticize less.
- ◆ Think first about ways we can, should and will do things instead of why we can't, shouldn't and won't.

New enthusiasm: "Act enthusiastic and you become enthusiastic." *Dale Carnegie*

"There is real magic in enthusiasm. It spells the difference between mediocrity and accomplishment."

Norman Vincent Peale

- ◆ Generate enthusiasm within the chapter and everyone will benefit.
- ◆ A smile, a pleasant greeting and a kind word will be a part of the enthusiastic, new you.

New possibility thinking: "Nothing is impossible to a willing heart." *John Keywood.*

"What great thing would you attempt if you knew you could not fail?" *Dr. Robert Schuller*

- ◆ **Enough said!**

Malabar merry maker enjoy largest crowd in several years

Photos by Greg and Susie Cole

What's it like to sing for the Christmas at Malabar celebration? It's like food, fun, fellowship and great harmony all wrapped in to one delicious, heart warming gift.

Every year the Fun Center Chordsmen a cappella chorus, performs at this event. They have for many years with the exception of a couple of years ago when a snow storm cancelled the event.

The Chordsmen sang for 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. with occasional breaks. They sang for about 40 minutes then took a break while a Very Large Quartet (VLQ) stepped up and kept the Christmas carols going.



During two of the breaks, **Steve Kovach** presented a stirring solo of *Oh Holy Night* accompanied by **Diane Kracker**. For a few seconds after each of Steve's solos, there was absolute silence prior to enthusiastic applause.



Diane played during many of the times when the chorus was not singing. She accompanied her husband Dave, assistant chorus director, when he led visitors in group

singing.

Christmas Goose was a favorite song of the chorus as well as the visitors who lingered in the main entrance. 🎵



Brotherhood in action

By: Dave Kracker ~ Bari ~ Home Edition



Dave Kracker

As most of you know, **Jerry Starrett** lost his Dad to yet another form of cancer on Christmas Day. He had been ill for some time and was tired of the battle, passing in his sleep in the wee hours last Friday.

John, Bill, and I chose to dress in our Home Edition wear for **Jim Starrett's** calling hours yesterday (12-28) and were joined by our wives and **Joe Dove** for the trip to Massillon in mid-afternoon.

The roads were a bit on the treacherous side, but we made it to the funeral home at our designated time of 5:30 and were joined there by my best barbershopping buddy from Canton, Jerry Hughes. Jerry sang in a gospel quartet with John Starrett, Jerry's twin brother.

The lines were long for the hour or so we were there, affirming the popularity of Jim and his family. Laughter was ever present to no one's surprise, and the family was clearly at peace with their loss.

We had offered to sing a song if desired, but this meant halting the long line of comforting friends who had come to pay their respects. In a flash, Jerry decided he wanted to do this, and while he could hardly get his announcement to the crowd completed due to his emotions, he sang Java Jive without a hitch! Hugs followed, the line resumed, and we departed.

Rather than head directly home, I easily coerced our little group to go have dinner at one of my all-time favorite eateries in Canton, Bender's Restaurant (for those who don't know, I'm a native of Massillon and began my barbershopping life in Canton in 1961, joining the same night with Jerry Hughes). The food was wonderful, the fellowship was even better, and yes, we toasted Jim Starrett. The ride home was very pleasant, albeit a little tiring due to the snowy roads.

We had just enjoyed Brotherhood at it's barbershop best. 🎵



You have to pay the price. You will find that everything in life exacts a price, and you will have to decide whether the price is worth the prize.

Sam Numm

Old acquaintances should never be forgotten

Every year we sing a traditional song that is Scottish in its background but that is where the sure history ends. This song is actually a poem that is attributed to different authors dating back to the 14th century. In an anonymous old poet's complaint of man's ingratitude we read:

*"...Thairfoir this warld is very frewch,
And auld kyndnes is quytt foryett."*

Translation:

*"...Therefore this world is very 'fickle'
And old kindness is quite forgotten."*

In the 15th century the poem was turned into a ballad using the manuscript of Sir Robert Ayton:

*"Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never thought upon,
The flames of love extinguished,
And freely past and gone?
Is thy kind heart now grown so cold
In that loving breast of thine,
That thou canst never once reflect
On old-long-syne?"*

Later in the 17th century it was heard as a Scottish street song refrain:


*"On old lang syne.
On old lang syne, my jo,
On old lang syne:
That thou canst never once reflect
On old lang syne."*

The song we sing today is attributed to Robert Burns who most assuredly had heard or read these previous versions. He removed and added lyrics to form what we know today as Auld Lang Syne. Here are the original lyrics and their translation:

*Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
(Should old acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
(And never brought to mind?)
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
(Should old acquaintance be forgot,
And days o' auld lang syne.
(And days of old, long past.)*

Chorus.

*And for auld lang syne, my jo,
(And for old long past, my joy (sweetheart),
For auld lang syne,
(For old long past,)
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
(We will take a cup of kindness yet,)
For auld lang syne,
(For old long past.)*

Should we forget about all of our old acquaintances, friends and family? Should we forget the days past--the days of old? Certainly not. As we sing this song this year let's remember our friends and family who have gone before us. Take a cup and toast the times past as we look forward to the future. 



From
Steve
and
Kari



Tag of the month

8. Wedding Bells Are Breaking Up

Those wed - ding bells are break - ing up that old gang - of mine.

S. K. Grundy, 1959

Sung by the Four Pitchikers

Grace note version sung by the Gas House Gang, 1993

To every FCC member,
we just came out of December.
We're in a new year,
with nothing to fear,
just lots of good stuff to remember.

So the month of December we flip,
And get ready for this next year's trip.
Let's make our chorus alive,
Not just try to survive,
But bring in some new membership.

By: Chris Rumas ~ VP Membership



Chris Rumas

Happy New Year guys! I'd like to take a page out of the play book of "Wal-Mart Joe" As Joe has told us many times, it doesn't have to be Wal-Mart. It can be anywhere you encounter new people, or just when you're around relatives, friends, or neighbors.

The *invite* can be simple. Hand them a card and say, "Hey, [person's name], why don't you join us this Monday night? Bring your son, grandson, or nephew. We have a lot of fun!" That's an easy approach for you, and it's a non-threatening, no-pressure invitation to the individual. Especially if you start with those close to you.

We don't have to be salesmen to take advantage of invitation opportunities. After the first time or two we talk to those we know, it becomes a little easier to invite a stranger. However, when we invite someone, it's important to remember that we need to be at rehearsal to greet, welcome, and support new visitors.

Our attendance is also critical in showing support for our chorus and each other. We may never be a Vocal Majority. But we can be a really good chorus by not only increasing our numbers, but also, and most importantly, following and applying the teachings of Steve, Dave, and Trevor.

This year I hope to implement various ideas for increasing our membership. Along with this Chronicle, you'll be receiving a loose-leaf survey I'd like you to complete and return to me ASAP. This will also help shape our approach to increasing membership.

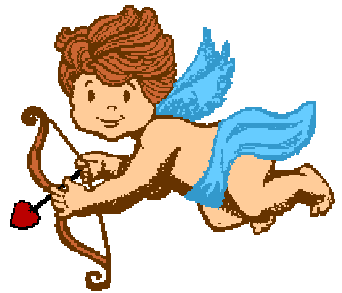
I had a productive meeting with the JAD Vice President of Membership, our own **Rusty Cates**, who shared some good techniques we can use. I'm looking forward to meeting with him again. You've heard it said often, "Strive to be the best you can be individually." If we heed that advice it will be contagious, and you'll see it rubbing off on the new members as well as the old. 🎵

"I don't understand why Cupid was chosen to represent Valentine's Day. When I think about romance, the last thing on my mind is a short, chubby toddler coming at me with a weapon."

Author Unkonw

By: Chris Rumas ~ Singing Valentine's Chair

With Valentine's Day being a little more than one month away, we need to prepare our supplies/suppliers, and quartets to help make this a smooth operation this year. Will the quartets please let me know when you'll be available



Valentine's Day is on a Sunday this year. So we will probably deliver them on Friday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 or 7:00 p.m. Any requests for Sunday delivery will depend on the availability of a quartet. No commitment should be made for Sunday delivery until the availability of a quartet is known.

Every year we seem to have a concern with how far to travel. We always get requests from Galion, Shelby, and other out-lying areas just by virtue of the advertising. Would one or more of the quartets let me know if they're willing to travel the extra distance? We'll confine our sales/delivery area to Richland/Ashland County with few exceptions. Delivery outside of this area will depend on the availability of quartets. I know that **Chordially Yours** sings in Wooster because Stan works there, so they always handle those requests.

Gentlemen, our Singing Valentines is a unique program that is very popular. On a per man hour involvement, it's our most profitable fund raiser of the year. We've always done well, and often better than some of the larger chapters.

The goal should be that everyone sell at least two (2) SV's this year. It might be a little out of the comfort zone, but it can be done. And I know some of the members will sell quite a few more than two. Start with family, friends, and businesses you deal with... schools, doctors, dentists, auto dealers, groceries, jewelers, banks, etc.

This program isn't work, it's FUN, and it's a great way to establish our name, as well as great community rapport. 🎵



Does it matter?

By: Bob Crowl ~ VP Music and Performance



Bob Crowl

As we begin the New Year and continue the process of learning the music for our 2010 show, it is very easy to “back off” and say to ourselves “We have plenty of time to get this stuff off-paper.” I know I’ve been there, most especially when things get pretty hectic around the Christmas Holiday season. I’ll venture to say that at some point, every Chordsmen has experienced that same feeling.

Now that we have all survived the Holiday season, it is time to reflect and ask ourselves, “Does it matter?” As a matter of fact, **it really does matter**, not only to our individual selves, but to the rest of the chorus as well.

As I look at the earning schedule for the next few months, I see several things. First, I notice that we have selected eleven numbers for the show. There is a positive to this in that four of the numbers are ones that we already know. Another plus is that most of us have already recorded four of these and submitted them for review.

Next I see that the process for learning the remaining songs is laid out in an orderly fashion. If you remember my article from last month, I stated that one of the most important aids to our learning music was to have a plan. Well, if you have the schedule in your hand, you have the plan.

Please understand that this plan will be modified, massaged, and tweaked occasionally as we move through the coming weeks. Steve has already requested that we increase our rehearsal time, by practicing between Mondays to learn both “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” and “California Here I Come” quicker than the schedule calls for.

While we have a learning track for “California”, we don’t have one for the other. If you don’t have access to a piano and someone to plunk out the notes for you, you can make your own practice tape by humming the melody and recording it. This will help you learn the words. It will also give you something to help you learn the “Offset” second time through for the chorus.

Remember, the sooner we can put the music down, the quicker we can begin to shape and make this great show we have planned a reality. So, ask yourself, does my “Two foot square” really matter? The answer is that it most certainly does, not only to ourselves, but to the chorus as well.



Bravada suffers quartet brain fade but recovers in time for the show

By: R.F. Miller ~ Bari ~ Bravada

When it comes to an appreciative audience, you can't beat the folks at Primrose and Elmcroft assisted living communities. Bravada had the opportunity to experience their enthusiasm during December.

Wednesday evening, December 2, found Bravada darting through the rain to arrive at Primrose in time for a 6:45 performance. The rain didn't keep visitors from joining their families for the Christmas time festivities.



Bravada

We not only sang some Christmas songs, but a lot of our up tunes that they really seemed to enjoy. When invited to sing along with us, they didn't hesitate. At least we saw a lot of mouths moving and can only assume they were singing. After the final song, they wouldn't let us leave. The kept asking for one more, then one more. We wound up singing several additional songs.

On December 16 we entertained at Elmcroft in Ontario. It was their annual Christmas party and wow, what a crowd. There was hardly enough room for us to stand and sing. They too, showed an enthusiastic response to our musical selections and didn't hesitate to sing when given the opportunity. We substituted *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear/Silent Night* medley with a group sing-a-long on two verses of *Silent Night*.

Why did we set aside that beautiful Midnight Clear medley? Well, it seem that during the warm up before the performance, the wheels fell off just after the phrase, “Peace on the earth good will...” The “will” chord couldn't be found. And everything after the “will” chord just wasn't there. So we had to abandon the medley.

Bravada has sung this medley numerous times before including at Primrose. That night, however, the quartet had a brain fade from which recovery in time for the show, was somewhat doubtful.

After singing at Elmcroft, Bravada ventured next door to Panera Bread for dinner. **Bob Crowl** knew one of the girls working there and we couldn't resist the urge to sing for her. The manager on duty had no problem with our request to turn down the “piped in” music so we could sing *Brand New Day* and *Who Will Buy*, to the delight of the staff as well as the diners.

It's always fun to sing for those who truly enjoy our efforts. These folks made our December a month to remember. 🎵

Pop Gun and a front tooth cap off Home Edition's year

By: Bill Herdman ~ Bass ~ Home Edition



Home Edition

It's hard to believe another year has flown by. **Home Edition** weathered through this country's financial crisis knowing that quartet, chorus, and general singing doesn't cost much and helps lift your spirits as well as those around you.

And what better way to spread cheer is through Singing Valentines. This is **Home Edition's** favorite singing day of the year. We are always so tired at the end of the day, but we have so much fun mixing with so many different people and watching their reactions. And now as you are reading this the 2010 version of our fun day is only about six weeks away.

Last year, and hopefully again this year, between Singing Valentines and our annual show, our chapter quartets participated in Pop Gun. This was an incredible experience for us and all through the year we have tried to apply all that the coaches drilled into us.

Not that anyone would remember, but a loose and sometimes "missing" front tooth caused much consternation not only for me but the quartet. It could go flying out at anytime during a song and often did. Oh well, it became permanent in June and eased the anxiety of the quartet.

In June and July we were able to share a couple of sings with **Good Company** and for one we were able to have **Bravada's** Tim Brandt fill in for our tenor, John Maurer.

It seems like most of the summer and into the early fall. **Home Edition** is plagued with vacations. In all the years I've been singing with the quartet our vacation times have never coincided with one another which makes practicing a "trio" event.

In October and December we were able to sing at the Brethren Care Center in Ashland for two events they had scheduled for residents and their families.

Although **Home Edition** wasn't able to sing as a quartet at Malabar it was great fun to mix with other quartet guys to do "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear" This night really capped off the end of the year. 🎵

Good Company has a festive December

By: Tom Webb ~ Tenor ~ Good Company

Celebrating our first full year together as a quartet the members of Good Company managed to pack in a pretty busy schedule for the month of December.



Good Company

Besides our weekly practices we sang at four different venues during the month. We started out singing at Geyers Market in Lexington on the 5th, where we wandered the aisles singing a number of Christmas Carols, managing to confiscate a few tasty samples and a great recipe for ham loaf while we were there.

We moved on to Grandpa's Cheesebarn in Ashland where we spent the next two hours entertaining the customers with various Christmas Carols and numbers from our repertoire. It proved to be a long day of singing, but we had a good time.

We followed that gig up with a sing out on December 7 at the Family Life Counseling Christmas Party. **Bill Herdman** filled in for **Tom Hoover**, who had to work that day. Not only did we get to sing, but they fed us well too. It doesn't get any better than that. Many thanks to Bill for his efforts.

Finally, we got the opportunity to sing for the Hermits Club at Brookwood Country Club on the December 15. We were able to again mix some Christmas songs with a couple of our regulars and added some sing-a-longs for a fun filled 30 minutes.

Our December gigs were great learning experiences, as each one presented its own unique singing situation. We found the challenges of singing in intimate settings only helped in boosting our confidence levels. We also learned what we need to do to improve our craft. It was a fun and festive December to be sure. 🎵

A wish for the New Year

**"May the best of your past,
be the worst of your future"**

R.F. Miller

From the Boardwalk

Tom Hoover ~ Secretary

Minutes edited for space ~ Ed.

Board Members Present:

Weaver, Rumas, Cook, Crowl, Laughman, R.F. Miller, Gahm, Strader, Hoover, Cates, Craze at the December 7, 2009 meeting.



FORMAL BOARD ACTIONS:

- Motion made to accept the Minutes of November 2009 Board meeting as corrected. The motion was seconded and passed. The Secretary wishes to express his gratitude to President Strader for recording the minutes in his absence of the December 2009 meeting.
- Motion to receive the 2009 November Treasurer's Report. The motion was seconded and passed.

Discussion:

Crowl reported that the Music Team has recommended that the Board approve formal attire for the Chorus. The recommendation includes the full outfit but does not include the shoes. The cost is \$119 per tuxedo. A motion was made to have each man, in the performance chorus, pay \$60 per man, with the tuxedo being returned to the Chapter upon termination of membership by the individual member. New members, joining the performance chorus, following the purchase of the tuxedos, would also be required to pay \$60 as part of their membership fee. The motion was seconded and approved.

Weaver reported that his computer would not support the software the Chapter uses to track chapter finances. It was moved and approved that Weaver be reimbursed for costs he incurred in resolving the technical issues he encountered.

Weaver also questioned how the weekly "Pass the Hat" donations should be allocated. Following discussion, Tom Hoover mentioned that he would research past Board action to confirm current Board policy.

Crowl reported that **Dave Kracker** and **Bob Crowl** have prepared the learning schedule for the 2010 Show.

Cates reported the district is stressing having Compelling and Attractive Chapter Meetings (CACM). The key point of this effort is to have weekly meetings that will encourage people to participate and join our weekly chapter events.

Meeting adjourned my proclamation.



Man of Note honor roll 2010

New Member	Sponsor	Man of Note #

Happy January Birthdays

- January 22 ~ Dick Gahm



Chordsmen Quartets

(alpha order & year founded)



Bravada (2001)

Tim Brandt (T)
Trevor Garrabrant (L)
Bob Crowl (B)
R.F. Miller (Br) (419) 884-2441 (Contact)

Chordially Yours (2004)

Gayle Ray (T)
Dan Strader (L)
Stan Popp (B) (419) 756-0098 (contact)
Frank DeWitt (Br)

Good Company (2008)

Tom Webb (T)
Lee Hull (L)
Tom Hoover (B)
Chris Rumas (Br) (419) 886-3163 (contact)

Home Edition (1991)

John Maurer (T) (419) 289-3635 (Contact)
Jerry Starrett (L)
Bill Herdman (B)
Dave Kracker (Br)

Mem'ries (2008)

Gary Oswald (T)
Frank Kovacs (L)
Mike Craze (B) (419) 566-3772 (Contact)
Ed Sterle (Br)

2010 CHAPTER LEADERSHIP

President

Dan Strader

Music Director

Steve Kovach

Assistant Directors

Dave Kracker

Trevor Garrabrant

VP Music & Performance

Bob Crowl

VP Chapter Development

Chris Rumas

VP Marketing & PR

R.F. 'Bob' Miller

VP YIH

Dave Kracker

VP Program

Rusty Cates

Secretary

Tom Hoover

Treasurer:

Lorin Weaver

Immediate Past President

Rusty Cates

Board Members at Large:

Terry Loughman

Dick Gahm

Mike Craze

Lee Cook

Special Performances and Noteworthy Events for 2010



- ◆ Date: Friday January 15-16
Time: 5:00 p.m.
Event: Leadership Academy
Location: Concourse Hotel, Columbus
Uniform: N/A
- ◆ Date: Friday, March 26
Time: 6:00 PM
Event: Annual show rehearsal
Location: Renaissance Theatre
Uniform: N/A
- ◆ Date: Saturday, March 27
Time: 12:00 noon and 6:30 PM
Event: Annual shows
Location: Renaissance Theatre
Uniform: TBA

Unless otherwise credited, all articles and photos are by R. F. Miller

- ◆ Date: Friday/Saturday April 15 & 16
Time: All Day
Event: JAD Spring Convention and contest
Location: Independence, Ohio
- ◆ Date: June 10 ~ 13
Event: Apple Corps
Location: Kenyon College



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The Year of the Chapter

The Fun Center Chordsmen
Mansfield's Barbershop
Harmony Chorus
www.funcenterchordsmen.com

We meet every Monday
night at 7:00 PM at the First
Congregational Church, 640
Millsboro Rd. (corner of
Marion Ave. and Millsboro
Rd) in Mansfield.

*Visitors and guests are
always welcome*

Chordsmen Chronicle **January 2010 Issue**