

# The Bulletune



A Monthly Publication of The Mall City Barbershop Chorus  
... a chapter of SPEBSQSA

*Keep the Whole World Singing!*

Dan Crampton, Editor

The Mall City Chorus meets Tuesday Evenings at 7:00 p.m. at the Wesley Foundation on the WMU Campus

**February 2000**

**AL'S** *Wow! February here already?* Seems as if we just had the "Best of the Fest" performances last week! With all of our performances during 1999 in mind, I would applaud Mr. Gene Hanover for his efforts and enthusiasm to bring out the 'Best' we have to offer at all performances. Thanks Gene!

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**S** February is the big month to get ads and tickets sold for our annual show. we also have a way to go for one hundred Singing Valentines.

Let's also not forget about our commitment for each of us to bring in at least one new member.

Our calendar is pretty well set, and new music for the show and contest about 50% learned. The 50% balance must be learned at home with music tapes or any other means, such as retreats, etc. With the flu bugs and the weather bugs not exactly cooperating, I'm still confident we will reach our goals... or my name ain't. . . .

*Al Grieser, your most humble chapter president*

## From the Director

Well, here we are at show time again and I am more excited every week! You are all singing so well and the show is shaping up to be one of the best. Just what we like to have happen.

Congratulations to you all on the invitation to the Buckeye Invitational! We have been there before and this time should be even more fun. As time passes, you will be receiving much more information about the weekend. For now, **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** We need to have you all there! *That's August 18-19 in Columbus, Ohio.*

Thanks to Dan for bringing us this Bulletune. It was a tough time getting it back off the ground. He is in need of anything that you would like to share with the membership. If you give it to him, he will do what he can to use it.

Convention is coming up April 28, 29 in Battle Creek and we are getting excited. If there is anyone out there that would like to compete with us that is not active, come on down. The contest rehearsal begins at 9, and after the show it will begin at 8:45. We will have the Show Package coming out in the next couple of weeks and it would be nice to have everyone there so we don't have to begin over every week.

That's all for now.

*C YA on Tuesday! Gene*

## YEAR 2000 GOALS

1. 24+ New Members
2. 100 Singing Valentines
3. 2 Grants
4. 1 Annual Show
5. 7 Various Retreats
6. 1 Christmas Show
7. 1 Very Best of the Fest
8. Member Retention

## WHOA! IT'S VALENTINES DAY AGAIN!

Yes it is that time of the year where we get the chance to make a lot of people happy. Yes, I'm talking about singing valentines. For those of you that aren't aware of it, our Singing Valentines are a real hit with those that have received them in the past. Ask any of those people who have been involved with the delivery and you will be told that both men, women and children really enjoy getting them.

Our goal is to deliver 100 Singing Valentines. So are we ready? Well, we've ordered and received 100 cards, ribbons and plastic flower boxes. In addition 100 fresh long stem roses, babies breath and ferns are on order and will be delivered on February 12<sup>th</sup>. The songs have been taught. The forms and schedules have been drawn up. So are we ready??? Well, not quite. ***We now need the orders.***

***This is where you come in!*** When you meet anybody, yes anybody, ask them if they have thought about their Valentine gift to their loved one (wife, husband, child, girlfriend, boyfriend, mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, friend, work partner, boss, neighbor, pastor, well you get the idea, anybody). Tell them you have a great unique gift and then show them the Singing Valentine flyer. Point out that they will get a barbershop quartet dressed in black tuxedos, with tails, and that the quartet will sing your Valentine two appropriate Valentine songs and that your Valentine will receive a long stem rose and a card from the person sending the Valentine. Where will we deliver? You name it. We've delivered to hospitals, grocery stores, offices, homes, nursing homes, out of state via telephone, churches, fire stations, restaurants, at a court house, at a city council meeting and at a radio station, to name a few. What a wonderful response we've received! The possibilities are endless. The ones given at work are extra special. In fact they often generate additional Singing Valentines right on the spot.

We will go to places like Plainwell, Vicksburg, Lawton, Paw Paw, Richland, Schoolcraft, Oshtemo, Mattawan, Comstock and even, you guessed it, Kalamazoo.

This is a fund raiser that is an absolute win-win situation. We need the funds to operate the chapter and the customer will be happy and talking about this special Valentines gift for years to come.

***These are an easy sell, so let's just do it! Thanks!***

*by Raleigh Bloch*

### **Board Meeting Highlights - 1/19/2000**

**Present:** *Al Grieser, Brian Hall, Ron Bower, John Fair, Warren Royer and John VanWestrienen.*

The Treasurer reported receipts of \$1,221.38 and expenses of \$1,179.88 with a balance on hand of \$4,816.00 of which \$431.64 is unallocated.

Membership reported that singing well is one of the best recruitment tools we have.

Brian Hall reviewed the responsibilities of the music committee.

The show retreat at Gull Lake was discussed. It was decided to have a registration fee of \$30.00 per member. So far, only 15 people have signed up. A vote will be taken at

our next chapter meeting whether to hold an all weekend at Gull Lake or an all Saturday at The Lake Street location. The calling list will be used to promote both the show retreat and the Buckeye Invitational. A sign-up sheet for the Buckeye Invitational will be available.

Al Grieser reported he has contacted The Ritz regarding the possibility of their singing on our 2001 Annual Show. This year's show Afterglow will be held at the Moose Lodge on Portage Road, as last year, at a cost of \$9.00 per person.

It was decided not to use bus transportation to the Buckeye Invitational due to the \$2500 cost.

An ad in the Vicksburg Rotary Showboat Program was approved at a cost of \$65.00.

The budget for Year 2000 was reviewed and approved.



## *The Year 2000 Calendar.....*

February 5	Saturday, 9 - 5	SHOW RETREAT
February 12	Saturday, 9 - 11am	Singing Valentine Retreat
February 14	Monday	SINGING VALENTINE DAY
March 10	Friday, 7pm	Dress Rehearsal
March 11	Saturday, 7:30pm	ANNUAL SHOW
April 1	Saturday	Contest Retreat
April 25	Tuesday, 7pm	Contest Sendoff
April 28 - 30	Friday – Sunday	Spring Convention & Contest
May 1 – 31	All Month	Membership Drive Month
May 19 – 21	Friday – Sunday	H.E.P School; Round-Up MSU
June 21	Wednesday, 6pm	Plainwell Sing Out
July 2 – 9	Sunday – Sunday	Kansas City Convention
July 30 – August 6	Sunday – Sunday	Harmony/Director's College
August 15	Tuesday, 7pm	Buckeye Send-Off
August 17 – 20	Thursday – Sunday	Buckeye Invitational
September 16	Saturday	Fall Contest Retreat
September 22 – 24	Friday – Sunday	Bush League
October 17	Tuesday, 7pm	Fall Contest Send-Off
October 20 – 22	Friday – Sunday	Fall Convention & Contest
October 27	Friday	Spaghetti Dinner
November 25	Saturday	Christmas Show Retreat
December 8	Friday	Christmas Show Dress Rehearsal
December 9	Saturday	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Christmas Show - Afternoon & Evening
December 31	Sunday	3 <sup>rd</sup> Annual "Best of the Fest"



## ***"We Sing That They Shall Speak"—Heartspring***

*by Jack Andrews, President, Heartspring*

Helping children communicate has been at the core of Heartspring's mission for more than 64 years and for 34 years Barbershoppers have been committed to helping us with this mission. Over the years, Barbershoppers have provided more than \$13 million of support to Heartspring.

Heartspring School has earned a national reputation for improving the lives of children with severe, multiple disabilities. Typically, these are children who have failed to make progress in their local school district. There are times when the child's school recognizes the need for help. More often, it is the parents who are dissatisfied with the progress their child is making and initiate the admission process. These children have a variety of disabilities such as mental retardation, autism, hearing and vision impairments. The one common denominator in all the children seen at Heartspring is the lack of communication skills. That inability to communicate is a major factor in frustration levels that will frequently result in severe behavior problems.

At Heartspring, students receive consistent reinforcement of communication, behavioral and life skills in every setting ... in the home, in the classroom, even out in the community. Each child's program is custom designed and implemented by an interdisciplinary team of caring professionals, including experts in the fields of education, behavior management, communication, life skills, and health. This program, applied in an atmosphere of love and reward, results in measurable improvement ... and a more fulfilling life.

### **A new future**

Heartspring has now moved to its new \$14 million campus, which elevates our ability to serve children and their families. The campus layout places all staff members in close relationships with each other in order to promote efficiency, communication, and collaboration among our instructors, therapists, and other school staff.

Heartspring continues to receive national recognition for the quality of its services. We are accredited by the National Commission on Accreditation of Special Education Schools and praised by professional visitors. The creation of the Shaklee Institute to Improve Special Education has resulted in a national awareness of Heartspring as an organization committed to better the education of children all over the country, not just those attending the school in Wichita where donations from Barbershoppers are used to fund partial scholarships.

Heartspring delivers the quality of services that compares with the quality of championship quartets and choruses. Like you, we are totally committed and dedicated to a goal and a desired outcome. Thanks to you, children do achieve success that their parents never imagined possible. Thanks to you for caring.

**Editor's note** – For some of the newer members..... ever wonder about that cigar box that gets passed around?? The money that you put in that box goes to Heartspring.

Our very own quartet "Under New Management" received the Great Lakes Express Trophy award at the last Fall Pioneer District Convention for donating 100% of all proceeds from every one of their performances to Heartspring. They received a nice writeup in the Dec 1999/Jan 2000 issue of the Troubadour (p.16) for doing so.

**Bob Shafer (Member of "Under New Management") has agreed to take on the responsibility of seeing that the "Heartspring Cigar Box" gets passed around at every meeting. As editor, I'll let you know, on a monthly basis, how we are doing on donations.**

Please be generous. As you can see from the article above, the money goes to a very worthwhile cause and it represents a longtime national SPEBSQSA charitable effort.



## *A Report From the Membership Chair.... Warren Royer*

We have had a pretty successful year in attracting new members, and if we want to put 50 men on stage for contest, we'll need to think about getting more! AND we need to encourage members we have, to come to as many of the rehearsals as they can between now and show and contest time to be sure we are prepared.

One of the best tools for membership recruitment, often overlooked, is the impression we make in performances. Nobody wants to sing in an outfit that doesn't sing very well. If we sing well, and let men who hear us know that they are welcome, we'll get good singers to join us.

Something that we wanted to try last year and couldn't get off the ground is a recruiting push on the WMU campus. There are a couple of ideas in the air to make such an effort a success. And we shouldn't forget the tremendous public relations value we get from the Singing Valentines Program!

We also want to try again a similar plan to last year's "special guest month."

All of these plans are in the works, but to reiterate - one of the very best plans is *to sing well in performances*, let the public know we're here, and be sure that each of us is an active, participating member - to make up the kind of group that other men want to be a part of.

Spread the news!

### ***"UPSTAGE SOUND" HAS A GREAT CD CALLED "JUST US"***

*For those of you that aren't aware of it, "Upstage Sound" recently completed their first CD, and from comments heard at the chorus rehearsals, by a number of people, it's great! Some of the 15 songs on the recording are songs that "Upstage Sound" taught to the chorus. This means you can sing along with them. The recording was done professionally by John Stites of Arcadia Recording. This is the same guy that recorded the chorus a few years back, so you already know the professional job that he does in producing a quality master. Failsafe Media Company out of Chicago produced the CD's and did an excellent job of matching the quality of the master. The artwork is a combination of professional photographs by Film Arts, Inc. out of Blue Grass, Iowa and printing by Byrant Printing of Kalamazoo.*

*As far as we know, this is the first quartet out of the Kalamazoo Chapter to produce a professional recording! If you would like to purchase a copy, please see Raleigh, Ed, Kerry, or Gene. It's a great way to support their efforts to show the barbershop community that barbershopping is not just on the Eastern half of Michigan!*

## Your Board

President	<i>Al Grieser</i>
Secretary/Treasurer	<i>John VanWestrienen</i>
Immediate Past President	<i>John Fair</i>
VP - Music & Performance	<i>Brian Hall</i>
VP – Membership	<i>Warren Royer</i>
VP – PR	<i>Toby Shaver</i>
Bulletune Editor	<i>Dan Crampton</i>
Music Librarian	<i>Ron Bower</i>

## Happy Birthday!

Clair W. Branch	2/6
Adam V. Swager	2/8
Eugene A. Hanover	2/19
James W. DeDoes	2/25
Chris J. Fenner	2/28
Scott N. Gardner	2/28
Jeddy Wilson	2/23

## Happy Anniversary!

None in February!

## *From the Past.....*

In the Music Director's report of the *January 1993 issue of the Bulletune*, Gene Hanover brought our attention to the "Lifeblood" motto which really goes to the heart of why we come together to sing. It bears repeating here.

**“EVERY MAN, IN HIS OWN  
WAY, EXPERIENCING THE  
JOY OF HEARING HIS VOICE  
CONTRIBUTING TO  
BARBERSHOP HARMONY.”**

**DON'T FORGET TO PROMOTE OUR ANNUAL SHOW!!**

**“THROUGH THE YEARS . . .”**

**featuring**

**. . . “Hear & Now” – Premium Quartet from Columbus Ohio**

**. . . “Upstage Sound” – 1998 Pioneer District Champion Quartet**

**. . . Chapter Quartets**

**. . . Mall City Barbershop Chorus**

**Where: Chenery Auditorium**

**When: Saturday, March 11, 7:30 p.m.**



## ***Mystery Member!***

*One of the great aspects of our hobby is how it brings together men from all walks of life who all share a passion for singing close harmony.* I for one, have sung next to men on a weekly basis both as a chorus member and a quartet singer not knowing, for example, what they might do for a living, etc, etc. Often we really don't care what one does outside of rehearsal, just as long as he sings well!! Well in order to learn more about each other, and to help Dan Crampton in finding material for this newsletter I would like to write about a "mystery member" each month. I'll need your help, however if this is going to be successful. I'd like for each of you to answer a few questions and turn in the

sheets to me. From the information you provide, I'll write a short piece each month describing that month's mystery member. It might be fun to go around and try to discover who that member might be during our weekly rehearsals. The identity of the "mystery member" will be revealed the following month. Don't feel you have to answer all the questions, but answer as many as you can. The more information you provide, the easier it will be to write this article.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Wife's Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Children** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Grandchildren** \_\_\_\_\_

**Years Barbershopping** \_\_\_\_\_

**Occupation** \_\_\_\_\_

**Favorite Book** \_\_\_\_\_

**Favorite Movie** \_\_\_\_\_

**Most influential person** \_\_\_\_\_

**Special Awards/Recognitions**

**Other hobbies/interests**

**Any other fact that you might like to share about your life**

For those who fill out this information, I'll be around to "interview" you before I write the article. Again, this is just meant to be fun and a way by which we can each learn a little something about each other.

*Ed Fritzen*