

The



Diamond State

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The official newsletter of the Greater Little Rock Chapter of the
Diamond State Chorus and the Barbershop Harmony Society

Purdy named 2004 BOTY

At the annual Greater Little Rock Awards Banquet, Steve Purdy was Chapter Officer Installation and announced as Barbershopper of the Year 2004 for his exceptional contributions to the chapter. Steve served as Baritone section leader, Associate Director, and sang with our best quartet, Flashback.



Steve Purdy

Perhaps his greatest contribution, however, came from his work on choreography. Steve worked diligently with Paula and Betsy to develop moves for the chorus, implement the moves, and keeping the chorus in line. That choreography brought a long needed excitement to choral performances and brought much more enjoyment to our audiences.

Congratulations, Steve.

Anderson is 2004 Most Improved Singer



Lou Anderson with Don Snow

The **Glen Chambers** Most Improved Singer Award for 2004 went to the robust bass **Lou Anderson**. The Award was proposed a few years ago by **Lamar Setliff** to honor one of our founding members. The winner is selected by a vote of the Music Committee from nominations solicited from all Section Leaders. The presentation was made by **Don Snow**, Music Director of the Diamond State Chorus.

Congratulations, Lou.



Leadership Reports

President's Corner

by Elwin Jones

As you read this, our Chapter is one month away from its 50th Anniversary on May 17, 2005. What a milestone! Fifty years of bringing harmony to central Arkansas. Speaking as one who has only been a member over the past five years, I want to say congratulations to each of you for being a part of such a great organization and thank you for all you bring to our chapter. As many of you know, and as I have learned, the Greater Little Rock Chapter, with roots that reach to Russellville, Hot Springs, Pine Bluff, Searcy, and Conway, is a very active chapter with many accomplishments to be proud of. You have members who not only serve in local capacities, but are active at Division, District, and National levels, serving as officers and committee members. Our youth outreach programs rank among the best in the society, and continue to grow each year. Witness the fact that this year we will be awarding not one, but two college scholarships to graduating high school seniors. We continue to sponsor young quarteters to Harmony Explosion and the programs at Wynne High School bring in larger groups each year. We are fortunate to have in music leadership men



who are very talented and give unselfishly to the chorus, our quartets, and our outreach programs. Our level of participation in quartets currently shows 50% of our active membership involved in a registered quartet and during our annual novice competition we reach 80%. Our public performances continue to grow in number and quality, and include Valentines Day, our annual show, and several other paid performances around the state every year. Participation in Division and District competitions allow us to the opportunity to visit and sing with men of other communities who share our love of music and give us a real sense of how our skills are pro-

gressing. Each of these activities is supported by you, our members who lend your time and talent to make things happen. It is your willingness to give that makes our society the wonderful organization it is. I look forward as we start on the next 50 years, to continuing fellowship, friendship, and fun with all of you as we grow our chapter and our society by introducing the wonderful world of barber-shop singing to our community and beyond.

It's Great to be a Barbershopper!

Elwin

Your treasurer

by Richard "Rip" Ripley

Last year your Board of Directors decided to start sending to each of you a quarterly financial report of OUR Chorus. I hope that you have found it to be information that you would like to have. If you have any questions about the report, I will be happy to get you an answer. You can see me or e-mail me at elripp@charter.net



the Rock, their 32% of the profits, we raised a net of \$3,208.23. Last year the net was \$3,002.42. A few more Quartets working now to sell and deliver more next year on the same advertising budget will increase this even more.

Tax time note: This information was sent to me, but verify it with your tax man before using it: Miles driven by members to a fund raiser is deductible on your tax return as charitable deduction when you itemize your deductions.

Our first quarter was great, and we have an opportunity to have an even greater second quarter with the upcoming events for fund raisers.

Another thought about next years Valentine project: Anyone wanting to work on the data entry part of the valentine project next year will be welcome. New ideas of how to do it will be appreciated.

On our Valentine project, after paying the Top of

2005 MARKETING & MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT HILIGHTS

By Bruce Dabbs

WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE?

By now you've received your March/April Harmonizer. Please take time to read carefully the **UCANSING2** article beginning on page 16. Let me share some **key bullet points** to focus our minds on what we are doing. The Chapter Leadership Team will be supporting this National campaign as a way to strengthen our chapter identity in Central Arkansas, and to encourage each chapter member to renew his commitment to sharing the great hobby that we love.



- Increase Membership to 31,500 by December 31, 2005
- Increase the value provided to our membership
- Retain a higher percentage of our members

OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND

- Bad news – We have over 60,000 people that have been identified as lapsed members.
- Good news – Our marketing research indicates almost 28,000 (46%) of these lapsed members would be willing to come back to our Society if we were to incorporate some changes.

The Society will be offering huge incentives to choruses & members for recruiting new members.

(New members must be recruited from: August 1, 2005 through October 31, 2005)

The PLAN is in motion and we need 100% participation from every Barbershop member.

Let's ALL be ready for "U Can Sing 2" Night the week of September 12-16, 2005

More information will be shared in the coming days, but it's not too early to start thinking of how you can bring in just **one new member** to the chapter. That simple achievement will get us to 60+ men on the risers, plus give you a chance to win a \$1000 random drawing this fall. In addition, our efforts now will ensure we **celebrate the next 50 years of Barbershop Harmony** with our community, sons, and grandsons!

Bruce Dabbs, VP Marketing & Public Relations

Our Society's mission is "Building Better Lives through Singing"

The Core Values of the **Barbershop Harmony Society** are:

- Singing, Fellowship, Fun, Enrichment, Creativity

An expanded view of our mission:

- Perpetuate and celebrate the barbershop harmony style
- Serve each new generation of singers through support of vocal music education
- Serve audiences through an uplifting, wholesome variety of a cappella musical entertainment
- Serve our members by sharing fellowship, performance skills, and leadership development
- Help build better communities and a better world, bonding diverse people through the pure fun of a cappella harmony as we "Keep the Whole World Singing"

THE PLAN

- Our Strategic Value Target audience is men 35-54 with some background in singing or performing.
- Our secondary target of college-aged men who sing.

WHAT DRIVES IT?

- We will be conducting a North American Media campaign the Society has never seen in its history, specifically; advertising in "USA Today" and some major market media campaigns.

Pending Performances

by Lou Anderson

Winfield Methodist

The Diamond State Chorus is singing on Friday night, May the 6th at 6:30 PM. The occasion is that the good folks down at the Methodist Church are having an Ice Cream Social and they decided that it wouldn't be sociable at all, unless the DSC gets invited to sing as well...AND we get paid to do it as well! How is THAT for a scoop of vanilla with a cherry!



This is a full 90 minutes, FULL TX, paid performance with two or three quartets interspersed between Chorus sets as we on and off the risers to the direction of Don Snow and the way he plans our program.

Directions: Got off of I-430 and take Cantrell Rd (Highway 10) west and drive and drive.. a never measured it, but it is at least 5 miles... when you get to the Wal-Mart on the left, it will be in about 1/2 mile on the RIGHT. The Intersecting Highway is AR 300. Warm-up room is the main fellowship hall where the Ice Cream Social is after the performance. Plus, there are a couple of restrooms if you want to wait until you get there and change clothes into your Tux. (Did you know Tuxedo is named after a town in Upstate New York?)

The Riser crew needs to arrive at 4:30 PM because the set up is slightly challenging after we remove the pulpit in the auditorium. The rest of the chorus NO LATER than 5:00 PM. The auditorium where we sing is HOT but the warm up room is high and dead.. it will take a while to get a chord to ring right, so don't be late.

Fairfield Bay

Get your Tux to the cleaners and get it back quick, because the Diamond State Chorus heads up to Fairfield Bay for a performance on Sunday May 22nd at 2:00 PM. Our performance is for the North Central Arkansas Foundation for the Arts and Education and it is actually in the Shirley High School Auditorium. More about that later.

This is a full 90 minutes performance that gives us a chance to run through the 50th Anniversary Show a couple of weeks before June the 11th performance at North Little Rock High School behind the Other Center. Come to think of it, it might not be a bad idea to see if the cleaners will give you a cut rate on the Tux for bringing it in so much and so close together. 3 times in 5 weeks!

The Riser crew for Fairfield needs to arrive at 11:30 AM to allow for any contingencies that are SURE to occur so far away from home. The Chorus needs to arrive no later than 12:00 Noon and we go on sharp at 2:00 PM. Drive time is likely to be close to an hour and a half.. judge for yourself when you need to head up that way. The computer says it is 69 miles from Maumelle, so some of you have much more to drive than that. Pine Bluff can be looking at 130 miles, because this is 25-30 miles on the OTHER side of Tim Copeland's house.

Direction: For those with Map quest (you KNOW what I mean) put in the Address: 154 School Drive, Shirley, AR 72153-7524 you WILL love it! For all the rest who prefer the written word, I will send you the directions via email so I don't take up too much newsletter space.

BONUS: This paid performance qualifies for gas reimbursement of \$25.00 with the only stipulation is that you take any other member of the chorus with you (two is OK and appreciated). Because of the proximity to Greenbrier.. **Tim Copeland** is only reimbursed \$19.27. (Editor's Note: someone could pick up Tim at his home, drive him to the performance and back and only have him with you for about an hour and you would get the full \$25.00) We are going to be SO READY for our 50th Anniversary Performance!

TV Production Planned

by Jim Linsley

Just in case you are unaware, SHADOWBOX is producing a television show to air on broadcast and cable television at no charge to the DSC. And in lieu of the "no charge" aspect we are open to individuals in the chorus and outside of the chorus that would like to have some on the job experience in creating a TV show.



In essence what I'm asking is this:

If you or anyone you know would be interested in helping with production of the DSC TV Show please get in touch with me. We will need people to work with camera work, props, scripting, graphics, post editing and more. I believe it will be an exciting, enjoyable and fascinating experience if you or others would like to help. If you have some camera, editing or other experience that is even better but not necessarily required.

Please contact me as soon as possible. We have accumulated a catalog of clips of various barbershop groups from previous shows and competitions and are now working on pre-production of the opening sequences and segues. Additional content will be such that will highlight the Barbershop style of music, membership, our service to the community, the DSC as an icon in the community as well as it's youth outreach programs and more. We also expect to do some local celebrity interviews.

I have obtained a commitment from Comcast to air shows on cable. Also, we have had interest from broadcasters in the past to air a DSC based show without a financial outlay and should be able to do the same in the future.

Please contact me as soon as possible.

Thanks guys,

Jim Linsley

Scholarship Auditions Scheduled

by Jim Linsley

Don't forget the DSC Scholarship Auditions Sunday, April 24th. Chorus members need to be there at 1pm so we can get things set up and be ready to greet guests as they arrive about 1:45pm. The actual auditions will begin at 2pm. Plus the chorus needs your support for this very worthwhile program. **Danny Gililand** will be there also. Let's show him we appreciate his tremendous moral and financial support too. Here's the info in a nutshell.

What? - **Scholarship Auditions**

When? - **Sunday at 2 pm (April 24th, 2005)**

We need chorus members there at 1 pm to help set up.

Where? **Indian Hills Baptist Church**

6801 JFK

North Little Rock, AR

Note: Indian Hills Baptist is right next door to the NLR First UMC where we have had it in the past. If you know where we've been having them in the past you can't miss it this year either.

About the Participants:

This year there will be about 7 applicants to compete during the auditions. These are students who are not satisfied to just make do. They are active in their schools in drama, choral and orchestra and student government and more.

Each year we have a terrific group of high school seniors audition and each year we've been amazed at the talent in these youths. Now we have the opportunity once more to see and listen to these terrific young adults and get a glimpse into the future of music to come. The auditions and the winner's upcoming performance on the show is the highlight of the Diamond State Chorus Scholarship Program. Come early and be ready to look, listen and enjoy this great bunch of high school senior singers.

Thanks and see you there!

Jim Linsley, Chairman

DSC Scholarship Program

Division Contest

The Diamond State Chorus competed admirably in Shreveport on April 2, 2005, but finished a disappointing third place in the final standings for the North East Division, trailing The Vocal Majority (no surprise there) and Central Cities.

The VM has embarked on their quest for an unprecedented eleventh International Championship, and led the pack with 1,105 points. Central Cities had 845 points and the Diamond State Chorus was a rather close 808 behind them. These three plus the Hot Springs Fun City Chorus qualified to compete at the District Convention in San Antonio on October 22, 2005

Flashback was ineligible to compete for the Division Championship, having won it the last two years, but they sang anyway to qualify for District and had the top scores in the NE Division. They were also disappointed that they did not have the best overall score in the combined NE and SE divisions, but that honor went to the current international champion quartet, Texoma Sound. Texoma had the highest ever Senior Quartet scores in January and have a TON of competition experiences with at least one, and I believe two,



Anniversaries

Feb 24 **Mary & Herman Schmid**—60 Years
Mar 28 **Sue & Marvin Chism**—40 Years
May 27 **Jenny & Terry Mercing**—10 Years
Jun 11 **Erma & Rip Ripley**—50 Years
Jun 28 **Betty Jo & Ted DeWeese**—25 Years
Jun 29 **Mary Lou & Paul Atkinson**—60 Years

Birthdays

Feb 7 **Vic Moore**—70
Feb 18 **Don “Pops” Francis**—65
Feb 24 **Arthur Dercksen**—75
Jul 20 **Andy Holt**—40

international gold medal winners. The Untouchables finished very respectably, and U4IA also ran.

BOB6

Barbershop or Bust – 6 was at Wynne High School again this January. There were more than 100 students on hand to work with **Jim Debusman**, the clinician. *Flashback*, Terry, Don, Steve, and Gary, again served as section leaders. *The Diamond State Chorus* arrived during the afternoon and shared a pizza supper with the boys. The concert in the evening was first rate, with the 100+ boys chorus doing a superb job. In addition to the DSC, the program included a chorus from Jonesboro (boys who attended earlier BOB's have kept barbershopping alive at Arkansas State University) and the local girls ensemble.

HSV Woodlands Performance

Hot Springs Village Performance on March 17 was first rate. Many in attendance said the Chorus was improved even over last year's outstanding concert. This reporter was not able to attend so details are very sketchy, but it was obviously a great event and put some much needed cash in the chapter coffers.

Chorus Web Site

by Richard Zelnick

The Board recently approved the purchase of the domain www.diamondstatechorus.com and attaching it to our existing web site. Now either that name, or the previous one www.arkdsc.org will work. Cost is only \$8.50 for a name for a year. This will give an easily remembered site name to share with those interested, and with potential show program advertisers!

The Members page is continually in flux. Its purpose is to provide quick notice and online resources for events, or other things such as the videos now available there. Things come and go depend-



ing on upcoming and recent events, so check it out occasionally! If any significant changes are made, you'll get an email notice. You still need to read the *DiamondSTATEment* for the full details on events, writings by the Chapter officers, birthdays and anniversaries, and historical data of the Chorus.

On the main Chorus web page (www.diamondstatechorus.com), the Members Page link is partway down the left side, just below the red box for the Diamond STATEments. If you have anything, photos, maps, text, that you want put on the Members page, please send it (them) to me at rzelnick@classicnet.net. Word documents, Excel files, jpg photos, all are usable.



Chorus Director Don Q. Snow

Coming Events

Mar. 5 50th Anniversary of first meeting to start the Greater Little Rock Chapter.

April 24 Saturday Rehearsal at PVCC

May 2 Participate with Cabot High School in a Choir Day, with evening show at 7 pm! Details TBA.

May 6 Paid Performance at Winfield Methodist Church

May 17, 2005 50th Anniversary of the Greater Little Rock Chapter.

Jun 12, 2005 Annual Show—Make it a big event! Time and place to be determined

Oct. 21-23, 2005 SW District Convention – San Antonio

Mar. 2006 NE Division Convention and Competition in Little Rock

Oct 20-22, 2006 SW District Convention – Corpus Christi

Oct 2007 SW District Convention - Corpus Christi

Oct 2008/09 Possible bid for SW District Convention in Little Rock



Year 2005 Leadership

Board Members:

President	Elwin Jones
Secretary	Bob Cox
Treasurer	Rip Ripley
VP Music	Terry Mercing
VP Devel/Mktg	Bruce Dabbs
VP Membership	Paul Moore
VP Program	Dick Muse
Board	Lou Anderson
Past President	Larry Walton

Music Team:

Music Director	Don Snow
Associate Director	Steve Purdy
Director Emeritus	Terry Mercing

Section Leaders:

Tenor Lead	Gary Hawkins
	David Stafford
Asst	Mark Hotchkiss
Bari Bass	Steve Purdy
	Terry Mercing
Asst	Jim Linsley
Audition Coordinator	Terry Mercing
Librarian	Todd Tucker

Committee Chairmen:

Show	Terry Mercing
	Roger Armstrong, Jon Clarke
Scholarship	Jim Linsley
Valentines	Lou Anderson
Quartet Activities	Lamar Setliff

Special Assignments:

Performance Coord.	Lou Anderson
Uniform Manager	Elwin Jones
Bulletin Editor	George Tribble
Chapter Historian	George Tribble
Web Master	Richard Zelnick
Staff Photographers	Gary Hawkins
	Richard Zelnick

District/Society Officers:

Internat. Membership	Terry Mercing
SWD VP Events	Lou Anderson

Chapter Support Reps:

Don Snow,
Elwin Jones
Wally Loerch

DSC Counselor