


The


Diamond STATEment



The Multiple Award Winning Newsletter of the Greater Little Rock Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

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Sep/Oct 2004

Extraordinary!

District Contest at hand



Novice Quartet Champions, The Leaders. Tatus, Frazier, Snow, Morris

The Southwestern District Convention and competition will be in Richardson, TX from Thursday, October 21 through Sunday, October 24, 2004. The Diamond State Chorus is one of 14 choruses entered. The Untouchables are the only quartet from Little Rock entered so far but there is plenty of time yet.

The headquarters hotel is the Renaissance Dallas Richardson Hotel at 900 E. Lookout Drive.

Extra-ordinary! Declared the venerable **Don "Pops" Francis** following the 2004 Novice Quartet Championship and Family Pot Luck Social on Saturday evening, August 28. Perspicacious **Bob Cox** cited a similarity to **Johnny Carson**. Both were applauding the performance of the Master of Ceremonies, **George Tribble**. They also thought the contest and social were great.

There were eighteen quartets in the novice division and three more in Comedy, plus a late entry that served as mike testers. Lamar Setliff was the overall chairman and contest adminis-

trator. He was augmented with **Jonathan Clarke** as the assistant administrator and **Bill Ragan** as Food Coordinator and **Bud Holeman** as Venue Coordinator. In the contest itself, the aforementioned **George Tribble** was the MC, judges were **Betsy White, Paula Steinsiek, Milana Dennis** and **Janell Barkley**, and **Dianne Cox** served as the secretary. **Paul Moore** was out of town but was highly instrumental in helping form the 22 quartets.

The food was, as usual, plentiful and delicious.

Contest (Continued on page 2)



2004 Novice Quartet Entries

	Quartet Name	Tenor	Lead	Baritone	Bass
M	Bits & Pieces *	Don Snow	Lamar Setliff	Matt Tatus	Steve Purdy
1	Bass-Heavy	Todd Tucker	Arthur Dercksen	Mike Fess	Bruce Dabbs
2	Party Line	Mark Hotchkiss	Jim Linsley	Jim Morris	Roger Armstrong
3	King of Hearts	Bill Ragan	Bruce Dabbs	Marty Koschmann	Bob Cox
4	Out of Character	Don Snow	Lamar Setliff	David Stafford	Larry Walton
5	Three Wheel Drive	Lamar Setliff	Ed Frazier	Dan Cook	George Tribble
6	The Leaders	Matt Tatus	Ed Frazier	Don Snow	Jim Morris
7	4 Rapsallions	Don Snow	Dick Ahern	Arthur Dercksen	George Tribble
8	Miss Fits	Art Bohannon	Carl Cullum	Dan Cook	Burt Wilkerson
9	The Capitol Gang	Todd Tucker	Ed Frazier	Dick Muse	Lou Anderson
10	Rough Necks	Lamar Setliff	Jon Clarke	Dan Cook	Bruce Dabbs
11	Father Knows Best	Richard Zelnick	Ernie Zelnick	Paul Wilkerson	Burt Wilkerson
12	Three Young Guys	Lamar Setliff	Ed Frazier	Tim Copeland	Bruce Dabbs
13	Dinglebari's	Richard Zelnick	Steve Purdy	Mike Fess	Dick Muse
14	The Travellers	Arthur Dercksen	Jon Clarke	Steve Purdy	Dick Ahern
15	Effervessance	Lamar Setliff	Ed Frazier	Dan Cook	Steve Purdy
16	The 4 Hoarse Men	Todd Tucker	Dick Ahern	Richard Zelnick	Lou Anderson
17	Written Up	Todd Tucker	Elwin Jones	Dick Muse	Lou Anderson
18	Indifference	Tim Copeland	Richard Zelnick	Don Snow	Ernie Zelnick
c1	The Unmentionables	Lamar Setliff	Tim Copeland	David Stafford	Bruce Dabbs
c2	Zirconium	Mark Carter	Jim Morris	Mark Hotchkiss	Jim Linsley
c3	The 4 Hearsemen	Todd Tucker	Dick Ahern	Mike Fess	John Jacobsen

Contest

(Continued from page 1)

The Lead quartet called *The Leaders*, repeated as winners, with **Matt Tatus** at Tenor, **Edwin Frazier** at Lead, **Don Snow** at Bari and **Jim Morris** at Bass. Second place went to *Effervessance*; **Lamar Setliff, Edwin Frazier, Dan**

Cook, and Steve Purdy. In Third Place was *The Capitol Gang*; **Todd Tucker, Edwin Frazier, Dick Muse and Lou Anderson.** The Comedy winner was *The Unmentionables*, they were untouchable with **Lamar Setliff, Tim Copeland, David Stafford and Bruce Dabbs.** **Edwin Frazier** was the lead singer in all three of the Novice Quar-

Contest (Continued on page 3)



Second Place winner *Effervescence*. **Lamar Setliff, Ed Frazier, Dan Cook and Steve Purdy**



Third place *The Capitol Gang*. **Lou Anderson, Ed Frazier, Dick Muse, and Todd**

Contest

(Continued from page 2)

tet winners.

The twenty two quartets on stage, including the mike testers and the comedy division, with four men each, consisted of 88 positions. Eleven men sang the 22 Tenor spots, with **Lamar**

and **Todd** in five each, **Don Snow** in three and **Richard Zelnick** in two. Lead was split among 18 men; **Edwin Frazier** did five and **Dick Ahern** did three while **Jon Clarke** and **Lamar Setliff** were in two each. There were 17 baritones with **Dan Cook's** four leading the way and **Michael Fess** at three close behind. **David Stafford**, **Dick Muse** and **Don Snow** were in two. **Bruce Dabbs** was in four quartets, leading the way for 14 basses. **Lou Anderson** was in three and **George Tribble**, **Burt Wilkerson** and **Steve Purdy** were in two each.



Secretary of judges
Dianne Cox

Overall, 33 different men sang, accounting for a very high percentage of active membership. None of them was named **Paul Moore**. **Lamar** was the highest participant, being in 7 quartets, including the mike testers and a comedy entry. **Don Snow** was in five and three men were in five, **Edwin Frazier**, **Todd Tucker**, and **Bruce Dabbs**.

Thanks to all for making this one of the best ever.



Comedy division winner, *The Unmentionables*. **Lamar Setliff, David Stafford, Bruce Dabbs, and Tim Copeland**.



Contest Judges. **Janell Barkley, Milana Dennis, Betsy White, Paula Steinziek**, shown wearing the "group ooo".

NEW MEMBER ARTICLE – Roger Armstrong

by Burt Wilkerson

Roger Armstrong was born June 10, 1947 in Norfolk, Nebraska, the first of four children Lyle and Elizabeth Armstrong were to have.

In 1952 they moved to Cuba, Missouri where Lyle opened his own jewelry business.. Roger says he can't remember a time when music did not play a big part in the family's life. His mother was the church organist and his father sang bass in the choir. Roger remembers singing by his father in a church choir Easter production of the "Hallelujah!" chorus. He was 9 years old and had to stand on a Coke box on a chair to be able to see the director. Musical

instruments in the home included piano, organ, guitar, trombone, harmonica, juke box, slide whistle, kazoos, and snare drum. Roger joined the school band and, to the dismay of the neighbors, began taking snare drum lessons.

In 1958 the family moved to Little Rock to be near Roger's grandparents. They attended Winfield United Methodist Church at 16th and Louisiana. The family became very involved in the music and drama programs at the church. Roger was in the band at Cloverdale Junior High School and in both band and choirs at Mabelvale High School. He decided he wanted to be a band director. With a music scholarship he enrolled in Little Rock University where, in addition to the core subjects, he studied music theory, history, appreciation, directing, percussion, and performance. He was also a member of the Arkansas Symphony Orchestra's percussion section.

During his college years at LRU Roger was a member of the Winfield Players and he was named to the Arkansas Intercollegiate Band. He was inducted into Kappa Kappa Psi.

It was during his time at LRU that Roger began to sense the call to the ministry growing stronger. In November of 1967 he received his License to Preach and in January of



Roger Armstrong

1968 transferred to Hendrix College in Conway to begin his pre-theological studies. He auditioned for and won a place in the Hendrix College A capella Choir and played in the Hendrix College Band. He was also active in the Hendrix Players. He was inducted into Alpha Psi Omega. He worked in several areas of the state as a student pastor while completing his undergraduate work. In 1971 he graduated with a BA in Philosophy.

Roger and Linda were married August 14, 1971. (Jim Linsley was one of the groomsmen!) After working as a director of music and youth ministries at First United Methodist Church in Jacksonville, Roger was appointed to the Rondo circuit (4

churches) at Texarkana. He and Linda had their first child, Jennifer there in 1973. In 1974 Roger, Linda, and Jennifer moved to attend graduate school in Kansas City where he enrolled in the Saint Paul School of Theology. During the three years of studies there he completed a statistical survey of the Metro area census tracts for the Kansas City District, and served in larger membership congregations in Lenexa, Kansas and Independence, Missouri. He was ordained a Deacon in 1975, and graduated in 1977 with a Master of Divinity degree. He returned to Arkansas and was ordained an Elder in 1978.

After Linda received her MA in Psychology at UCA, Roger and Linda had two other children, Michael (19), who will begin studies in radio and television at ASU this spring, and Laura (21) who is a senior Psychology major at Hendrix and a 3rd degree black belt instructor in Hollander's American Taekwondo Association School in Conway. Their oldest, Jennifer, is now employed by EDS in Little Rock as a technical writer and editor.

Roger has served United Methodist Churches in many areas of Arkansas. Some of them have been Huntington Avenue UMC, Jonesboro; Dardanelle Parish; Mayflower; Director of the Winfield Players, Little Rock; First UMC, (Continued on page 5)

Armstrong

(Continued from page 4)

Jacksonville; Rondo Circuit, Texarkana; Blevins Circuit; Hunter UMC, Little Rock; Hawley UMC, Pine Bluff; Piney Grove UMC, Hot Springs; Fordyce UMC; Carr Memorial, Pine Bluff; The Little Rock Conference Council on Ministries; Saint Mark UMC, Camden; First Christian Church, Camden; Griffin Memorial UMC, Paragould, and his current position as senior pastor at the Western Hills United Methodist Church in Little Rock..

He has also been an active member of various civic organizations including the Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, and was program director, editor, and President-elect of the Camden Noon Rotary Club. At one time Roger was the president of the **Arkansas Interfaith Hunger Coalition** which helped start various programs to meet hunger needs including Potluck, the Arkansas Rice Depot, and various food banks and helped raise millions of dollars worth of aid to the hungry through an annual Interfaith Ingathering at the State Capitol.

Roger's father, Lyle Armstrong, was a member of the Diamond State Chorus for several years and his mother, Elizabeth, still lives in Little Rock. His brothers, Robert and Don, have also sung with the chorus, but his sister, Anne Holcomb, has not. Sometimes Lyle and the boys would form their own quartet! Other than Barbershop Harmony, Roger's hobbies and interests include ham radio, photography, professional storytelling (Wordweaver Productions), playing Santa Claus, and theater scriptwriting, direction and production. He has been acting and technical director for the annual Music, Arts, and Drama camp at Hot Springs for 17 years, and is often asked to perform as a storyteller for schools, churches, and civic groups. He was a member of the South Arkansas Chamber Singers for 6 years, writing scripts for some of their fund-raising performances.

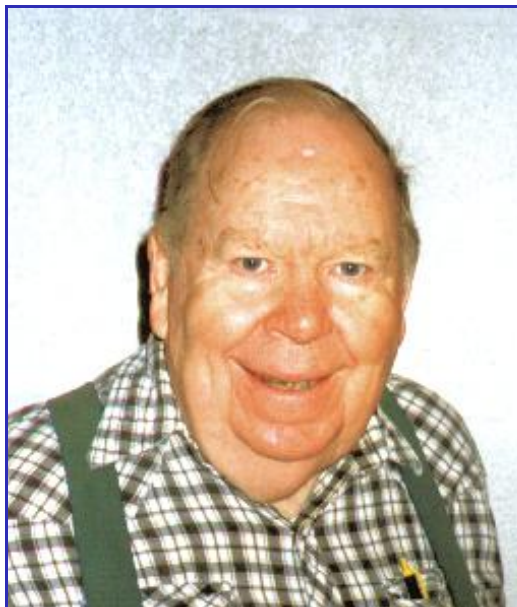
In his current position as **Pastor of the Western Hills United Methodist Church** Roger is leading the congregation into its 90th year of ministry in Little Rock. The church has an attendance of 102 in a membership of 300 and has just started a new drama group, a handbell choir for children, and a growing class for "tweens."

During the summer the church's swimming pool is open seven days a week. The church is south of Colonel Glenn Road between University Avenue and John Barrow Road, next to the First Tee Golf Course.

Roger is happy to be in the Diamond State Chorus. He likes the attention to detail in the rehearsals and looks forward to improving his vocal range. He is also interested in finding three others to sing with in a quartet for fun, growth, and competition. His email is wordweaver@arkansas.net.

**

I asked Roger to provide some information about himself for a New Member Article, and he sent the completed message as it appears above. His contribution and his work on this is greatly appreciated.



Lyle Armstrong

There is only one thing I'm adding. When I joined DSC in 1997, I was placed on the risers next to Roger's Dad, Lyle Armstrong. He became my mentor in so many ways. He was a terrific singer, a jolly individual, and a very interesting person. I soon considered him a special friend. I cannot tell you how much he taught me about the DSC and about Barbershop. I will forever be thankful for those times I was able to enjoy singing with him before his death. He was special, and Roger is a chip off the old block.

Burt Wilkerson

S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.
now **Barbershop Harmony Society.**



SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

Minutes of the monthly meeting of the Board of Directors of the Diamond State Chorus, held at 5:30 P.M. Monday, August 9, 2004, at the Pleasant Valley Church of Christ in Little Rock, AR. Present: **Elwin Jones, Larry Walton, Burt Wilkerson, Lou Anderson, Rip Ripley, Terry Mercing, Don Snow, Gary Hawkins, Steve Purdy, Paul Moore, and Bob Cox.**

Absent: None

1. Approved minutes of the board meeting of July 5, 2004.
2. Accepted the financial report. \$1,050 in show advertisement sales is still outstanding. Larry
2. Music and Performance: Terry Mercing said that he will begin blocking out next spring's show this week. He also said regarding the 2008/2009 Southwestern District Convention that the Robinson Center is available for either year.
4. **Terry** asked to revisit a topic from a year or so ago: a sound system. He has a quote from AV Arkansas for an amplifier unit (450 watts/channel), mixer, heavy duty case, 3 microphones to put on stands, cable cords, emcee microphone, 2 microphone stands for quartets, and 4 speakers (2 main, 2 monitor), for \$4,000 plus tax. It could be used for performances and recordings. Board approved Terry pursuing obtaining a sound system for the chorus.

5. **Elwin Jones** mentioned a possible performance at St. Andrews.
6. Membership: **Paul Moore.** Paul is to coordinate with Don Snow regarding scheduling a guest night.
7. **Elwin Jones** said that our chapter programs need to continue to be more varied.
8. Don Snow said that he is pleased with the musical progress of the chorus this summer.
9. The next board meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 13, 2004, at 5:30 p.m. at the Pleasant Valley Church of Christ in Little Rock, Ar.

Respectfully submitted,

R.C. Cox, Chapter Secretary



Birthdays

- Sep 2 Dick Ahern
- Sep 6 Red Noble
- Sep 15 George Tribble
- Sep 21 Lamar Setliff
- Sep 25 Mark Hotchkiss
- Sep 25 Michael Fess
- Sep 29 Elwin Jones
- Sep 30 Richard Ripley
- Oct 12 David Stafford
- Oct 14 Steve Purdy
- Nov 1 Gary Hawkins
- Nov 3 Bud Holeman

Anniversaries

- Sep 8 Gloria & Marty Koschmann

The first reading of the proposed board for 2005 was last Monday night, as follows;

President	Elwin Jones
Past President	Larry Walton
Secretary	Bob Cox
Treasurer	Rip Ripley
VP Music	Terry Mercing
VP Marketing	Bruce
VP Membership	Paul Moore
VP Program	Dick Muse
At Large	Lou Anderson

DIRECTLY SPEAKING

October 2004

To Rehearse, or Not Rehearse! Is it a Question?

Monday nights come the same time each week, every week except on three holidays a year, leaving 49 days a year we gather to fellowship, have fun, learn new singing and performance skills, practice our hobby, encourage each other, share special moments of music, and perpetuate our society!

We call it “rehearsal”. We rehearse each Monday to provide our paying and “pro bono” public with a quality representation of our chosen “style” of music. We also rehearse to acquire and strengthen our singing and performance skills for competitions. Our competition scores and adjudications then reveal the strengths and weaknesses of our performances thereby giving us insight and guidance for areas that need attention. All of that helps us to fulfill the second sentence of this paragraph.

Rehearsal night is exactly that for some of our members, a rehearsal night, while for many it is just a more organized rehearsal than the other nights they rehearse reviewing their notes, words, and movement patterns. For me, Monday night is the culmination of my week’s rehearsals in order that I can perform for you! There may be aspects of each Monday night that require me to be flexible and vary from my plan, but all in all, it is my performance for you and your benefit. If you go away from the hall after a week like last week, experiencing overtones throughout the night and undertones as well, and feel encouraged and fulfilled, excited about next week, next month, or even next year, then my rehearsals and performance have been effective, if not, then I did not prepare effectively. When I see a note, like that from Elwin on last Tuesday, telling our absentees that I was “on my game” means more than you can know. Then there are weeks when my performance in front of the chorus has been criticized as “less than professional and distracting”. Now I am not fishing for compli-



Chorus Director Don Q. Snow

ments or accolades, but it does help me to know whether or not I am accomplishing for our chorus what you have asked of me. Positive reinforcement makes me want to be there, it makes me want to do more! I hope you feel the same thing from our audiences’ applause, from the positive comments by our judges and coaches and that you feel the rehearsal time you’ve invested was worth it.

I say all of this to say something to you each. I have said this before and probably many times but we need you there each rehearsal. Whether you sing just for fun and do not intend to perform in public or in contest, or whether you savor each moment of preparation for the gruels of contest, we need you there. Each Monday night we practice our skills for all of our performances, not just contest! Each Monday night we collectively learn something new that creates additional enjoyment from our hobby. When you miss it, you MISS it! And the next time you come back, you have to work at catching up instead of learning what is being taught that night.

Life has a funny way of contending with what we want to do. We want to play, it demands work; we want to rest, it demands attention. Life is just that way, but as they say “all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy” (no reflection on Mr. Larsen) reminds us of the need to play. Do you remember how much physical effort, concentration, and involvement it took to play capture the flag, or spotlight, soccer, softball, or football? We have a hobby that requires a lot but the benefits are well worth it. Sometimes we ask a lot of you and spend most of our time on the risers. We rehearse our movement patterns over and over to solidify and unify our visual presentation even to the way we breathe! But in the end, most of you tell me it’s OK.

As you ask me to prepare and rehearse for each Monday night, I ask you to be there. We have a great plan for next year’s annual show and the next 3 years. We want you to be a part of it; all of it! Won’t you take the question out of the question?

Thanks!

Don

Coming Events

Oct 22-24 SWD District Convention and Contest in Richardson, TX

Nov 19-21 COTS (Officer Training) at DFW Lakes Hilton, Grapevine, Texas

Dec 11 Top of the Rock Casino Night

Dec 13 Annual Installation and Awards Banquet

Mar. 5, 2005 50th Anniversary of first meeting to start the Greater Little Rock Chapter.

Mar. 17, 2005 (Thursday evening) Paid performance at the Woodlands in Hot Springs Village

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

Apr/May 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 2004 Leadership

Board Members:

President	Elwin Jones
Secretary	Bob Cox
Treasurer	Rip Ripley
VP Music	Terry Mercing
VP Devel/Mktg	Burt Wilkerson
VP Membership	Paul Moore
VP Program	Karl Krebs
Board	Lou Anderson
Past President	Larry Walton

Music Team:

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

Section Leaders:

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

Committee Chairmen:

Show	Max Watkins
Scholarship	Jim Linsley
Valentines	Tim Copeland
Quartet Activities	Lamar Setliff

Special Assignments:

Performance Coord.	Lou Anderson
Uniform Manager	
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 Counselors	Karl Krebs George Tribble

DSC Counselor	Tom Rush
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