

The **DIAMOND STATE CHORUS**

Diamond STATEment

SOUTHWESTERN SINGERS
SPEERSOSA
DISTRICT OF CHAMPIONS

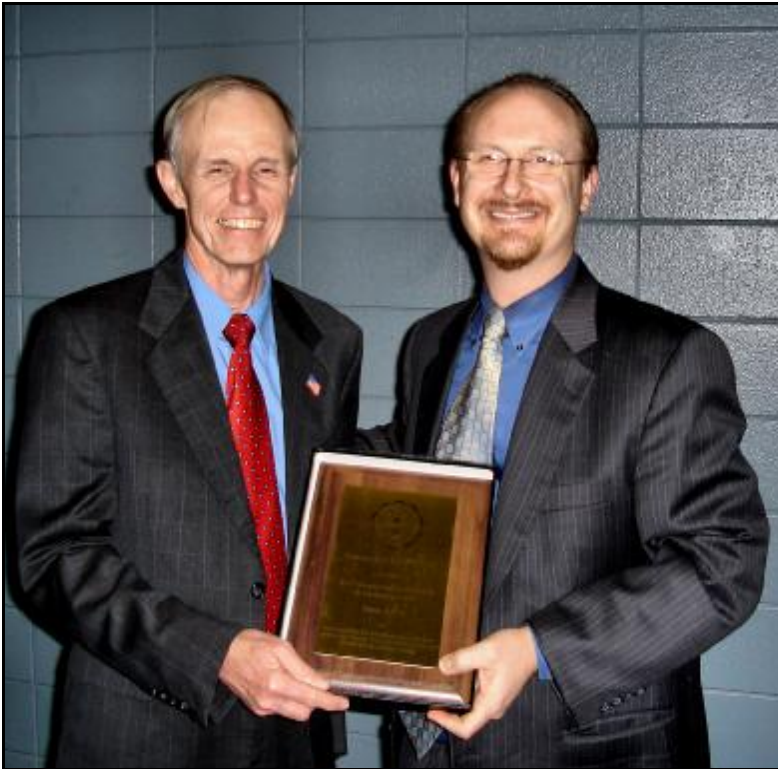


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The Multiple Award Winning Newsletter of the Greater Little Rock Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society

Zelnick is BOTY

Dabbs named Most Improved Singer



Richard Zelnick, left, was presented a plaque by **Tim Copeland**, right, to commemorate being elected **Barbershopper of the Year 2007** by a vote of the membership of the Greater Little Rock Chapter. BOTY is the highest honor the Chapter can confer, and is presented each year at the Officer Installation Banquet to a deserving member of the Chapter. Zelnick was selected primarily because of his continuing service as an outstanding Webmaster, but he is also a faithful member, and excellent quartetter and supports the chapter in many ways.

Bruce Dabbs, right, was selected by the Music Team as the Greater Little Rock Chapter's "Most Improved Singer" for 2007. Shown above is **Don Snow**, Diamond State Chorus Music Director, presenting a plaque to memorialize the occasion. The annual award is in memory of Glen Chambers, a founding member of the chapter and a long time singer, quartet member, coach and judge, and is a selection by all members of the Music Team, including directors, section leaders, and others.

Tim Copeland speech introducing the 2008 Barbershopper of the Year

The purpose of the Barbershopper of the Year award is to give the general membership of the chorus an opportunity to recognize one of its own for participation over the past year. This award is not granted to the most talented member of the chorus. It is granted based upon a vote of the membership on the Monday Night before the installation banquet.



another commitment took him away during the early part of our Monday rehearsals. Some would have been content to just go on home. But instead, once that commitment was complete, he showed up to chorus and gave it his all for the rest of the rehearsal. For the past several years, his most vital role in the chorus has been as our resident computer geek and webmaster. Our website has become an incredibly important tool. Not only is it a source of advertisement and we have actually a member here tonight who was introduced to the chorus through the website. It is also our primary means of distributing recordings for learning new songs and, and through it, we keep up who has qualified on what songs. It is also a great communication tool for the membership about what has happened and will soon be happening in the chorus.

The nomination form encourages the members to think about the following qualities: Who in the chapter has been most directly involved in the chapter's activities. Who has been faithful in attendance? Who has been key to helping maintain chapter morale? Who has gone above and beyond the expected to support the chapter?

Bohannon, Terry Mercing, George Tribble, Lamar Setliff.

A volunteer organization derives its greatness from the commitment of it's members. And this list is among the best!

We have with us tonight several past recipients of the award. I would like to ask you to stand as I call your name...

Steve Purdy, Elwin Jones, Lou Anderson, Max Watkins, Don Snow, Paul Moore, Art

The individual whom you have selected as BOTY for 2007 has been a member of the chorus for ten years. During that time, he has been a member of multiple quartets and he has served on the board. He has help grow the chorus, especially among his own family members. His devotion to the chorus became evident when

Undoubtedly for these and many other reasons, you voted, Barbershopper of the Year for 2007, **Richard Zelnick.**

I am really honored by being voted Barbershopper of the Year. It seems like the things I do are not that important, but we seldom realize how much we touch the lives of those we work with until they tell us. I want to support the chorus functions as much as I can and am always glad to be able to be there. Thank you all again for your encouragement! I believe that every member's participation is important and their contribution never goes unnoticed; maybe unspoken unfortunately though. Thank you again.

Richard Zelnick



Bruce Dabbs honored twice

Most Improved Singer Award

(See photo on page 1)

What a pleasant surprise to be recognized and awarded the "Most Improved Singer" award for 2007. Since I transferred my membership from Memphis in 2001, it has been my personal goal to continually improve my singing. Completing the Barber PoleCat program was a huge step in my progress, and I encourage all our members to work through this program as quickly as they can.

Our chapter is blessed with so many good and improving singers. As each of us work to improve our singing...it increases the beauty of the joyful harmonies created when we blend our voices together. After experiencing some medical vocal issues this year, I can truly say...Thanks be to God for the human voice...a most wonderful and portable instrument. May we never take it for granted...use it to encourage and help others...and strive to improve our singing voices to the best of our ability.

Bruce Dabbs

Public Relations and Marketing Award



Bruce Dabbs, Left, with the SWD Public Relations and Marketing Award that was presented to the Chapter at the District Convention in Corpus Christi and presented to Bruce by **Terry Mercing**.



Jenny Mercing,
Mistress of Ceremonies at
the awards banquet



Heather Dabbs, right, with Ripley grand daughter. Photo courtesy of **Bruce Dabbs**.

The Sound Fraternity sings



This is the first known photo of *The Sound Fraternity*, the Greater Little Rock Chapter's newest registered quartet. From left, *Lamar Setliff, Ron McConnaghey, Elwin Frazier, and Tim Copeland*. Photo courtesy of **Bruce Dabbs**.

Hawkins special proclamation presented



Terry Mercing, right, with **Don Snow**, background, shown presenting a special certificate of appreciation for **Gary Hawkins** to **Jennifer Hawkins**.

Oldest quartet also performed.



The ever-popular *Zirconium*. From left, **Mark Carter, Mark Hotchkiss, Jim Morris, and Jim Linsley**. Since two of them are inactive in the chorus, we don't see (hear) nearly enough of them.



Frances Bing
Special Guest



Libby Mathis
Special Guest

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

2008 Officers Installed



Ken Zahrt, Bruce Dabbs, Terry Mercing, Todd Tucker, Bob Cox, Richard Ripley, Elwin Jones, Tim Copeland

The 2008 Greater Little Rock leadership team shown above, plus incoming Chapter president Dick Muse who could not attend, were officially installed by District Vice President Lou Anderson. (pictured at right). Lou said he represented the society and challenged the officers to serve to the best of their abilities and the Chapter members to assist in every way possible. A complete list of the officers and board is on page 6, along with the office to which they were elected and installed.



Members of the chapter standing to swear allegiance to the good of the chapter and to assist the officers in making 2008 a great year for barbershopping in Greater Little Rock.

Coming Events

January 7, 2008—First meeting of the year.

Valentines Day
February 14

2008 NE & NW Convention Details:
March 28-30
Oklahoma City, OK

Greater Little Rock Chapter Annual Show:
July 19
UALR Theater

2008 SWD Convention Details:
October 24-26
Little Rock, AR
Terry Mercing, Chairman

2009 NW Division and International Prelim:
March 6-8
Location TBA

2009 NE Division Convention:
March 27-29
Location TBA

2009 SWD Convention Details:
October 23-25
Little Rock, AR

Year 2008
Leadership

Board Members:

President	Dick Muse
Secretary	Bob Cox
Treasurer	Rip Ripley
VP Music	Ken Zahrt
VP Devel/Mktg	Bruce Dabbs
VP Membership	Terry Mercing
VP Program	Todd Tucker
Board	Tim Copeland
Past President	Elwin Jones

Chorus Music Directors:

Music Director	Don Snow
Other Director	Terry Mercing

Section Leaders:

Tenor	Don Snow
Lead	Mark Hotchkiss
Asst	Elwin Jones
Bari	Steve Purdy
Bass	Terry Mercing
Asst	Larry Walton

Committee Chairmen:

Show	
Scholarship	
Valentines	
Quartet Activities	Lamar Setliff
Contest	Terry Mercing

Special Assignments:

Performance Coord.	Tim Copeland
Uniform Manager	Elwin Jones
Librarian	Todd Tucker
Bulletin Editor	George Tribble
Chapter Historian	George Tribble
Web Master	Richard Zelnick
Staff Photographers	Gary Hawkins Richard Zelnick

District/Society Officers:

SWD Distr. VP	Lou Anderson
Chapter Support Rep	Elwin Jones
DSC Chapter Sup. Rep	Phil Maxfield

The editors and publishers of the DiamondSTATEment solicited input from the entire chapter and got the following:

2007 has been an exciting year to be a part of DSC. The level of performance, direction, and fellowship makes driving to and from Clarksville worth the time and expense. I eagerly anticipate 2008 Merry Christmas to all and a healthful 2008.

Arthur and Nell