

January 25, 2007

## **Chapter Presidents' Dinner Albuquerque Mid-Winter**

### **Sequence of speakers at the first Mid-Winter Chapter Presidents' Dinner**

**Welcome - Dave Duncan – Cardinal District President**

**Ed Watson – Welcome**

**Noah Funderburg – listen and learn; sing a song with me**

**Rick Spencer – Director, Music Education**

**James Estes – Student Activities Coordinator**

**Tag – Ed Watson**

**Ron Black – Chair, Music and Performance Committee**

**Larry Clemons – Chair, Contest and Judging**

**Dick Girvin – Chair, Archives Committee**

**Dick Girvin – on behalf of the Governance and ByLaws Committee**

**Gerry Borden – Vice Chair, Chapter Support and Leadership Training  
(CSLT)**

**Mike Mathieu – Chair, Society Events Committee**

**Todd Wilson – Director of Marketing and Public Relations**

**Charlie Davenport – Director of Membership**

**Byron Myers – Chair, Membership Committee**

**Dave Duncan – Introduce DPs and EVPs**

**Ed Watson - Questions**

## **Dinner 6:35**

### **Welcome - Dave Duncan – Cardinal District President**

Showed YIH/Harmony Explosion Camp Video (during dinner)

### **Ed Watson – Welcome 7:30**

Welcome to this “first event” of its kind with the Chapter Presidents attending Mid-Winter Convention. We are pleased to be able to take advantage of the opportunity to gather several Chapter Presidents to review the direction of the Society Committees and Staff, supporting the Society members and chapters. We also want to hear from you.

### **Noah Funderburg – listen and learn; sing a song with me 7:32**

### **Rick Spencer – Director, Music Education 7:34**

Rick reviewed staff names and functions who work for each chapter and member of the Society. 1100 society members subscribe to the Music Subscription Series. Four or five hands of the chapter presidents said they had never had a society music educator visit. Music Educator staff want to meet with chapter boards, sometimes coach quartets and choruses, often do seminars on music skills and membership enjoyment. Need some help in gathering groups of chapters together and then filling out the surveys from the staff about “How was district and chapter communications on this event?” Current results say “don’t know about this in advance; did not know anything in advance.”

Staff also does a lot of “weekend train the trainers.” Harmony University is a week-long music-filled experience in the summer. Scholarships for front-line directors are available for qualified first-time directors going to directors’ college. Quartet scholarships include “bring your baritone for free Scholarship.”

Donors to the Harmony Foundation fund these scholarships. Special weekend session has also been put into place to meet the reduced time availability of some members. Events include:

classes at International and Mid-Winter Conventions;

CDWI training levels (hands went up that they did not know about this program; it has a 96% satisfaction rating from attendees);

Director of the Future for chapters who need to plan for director succession and avoid the issues with vacancies in the chorus director position.

New program for the Music Educator Stipend survey, looking to identify educators who might be interested in getting involved with choruses, either directing or receiving some coaching or help with their youth programs.

### **James Estes – Student Activities Coordinator 7:45**

James is also the Chair of the Youth Activities Committee. Sponsor one-day Youth Programs. There is a program where a chapter can apply to receive 100 copies of three pieces of published music to support these activities. **OR,** chapters can receive \$10/student/educator in attendance up to 100 attendees (\$1000) to offset the incurred expenses in setting up the one-day events **upon conclusion of the event.** **Harmony Explosion** Camps are partially funded with \$700 to the district (to offset clinician expense) and then \$50/student and educator in attendance.

YIH Clinician list is available at the Members Only section of the web site. Larger, geographic districts are also moving toward working to host “divisional” activities and track the various events. It is important to report all these activities back to your District YIH VP/Coordinator. Collegiate contest rules were republished as updated for 2007 in the latest Harmonizer. Ages now go from 15 to 25 ~~who are full-time students~~. Collegiate quartets can compete simultaneously in both the collegiate and regular society contests. District representatives go to Denver International, **as well as any Collegiate quartet scoring 69% or higher.**

10 things your chapter can do to get into the youth programs and support:

1. attend your local high school and college music concerts
2. offer to usher or put away chairs at your local school concerts
3. offer to work at a fund raising booth at a local school
4. give extra tickets to your local schools and students
5. contact a nearby chapter to host a local festival
6. give a local educator in person a music educator packet (CD, songs, info)
7. donate a sum of money to a school music program
8. give scholarships to HE camps
9. give scholarships to HU
10. encourage a student ensemble to sing on your show and let them sell the tickets to fund their local music program

**Tag – Ed Watson 7:57**

**Ron Black – Chair, Music and Performance Committee 8:00**

This Committee is all about the music and the performance planning, training and development. Emphasize help with the districts to put on local schools. A few hands went up that had never heard of the Standing Ovation Program (SOP). Only cost to the chapter is a seat for the SOP Reviewer and guest. Contact your district SOP Administrator, who will probably also contact you when you register your show. Quartet Promotion and Activities Coordinator works any quartet and chapters to encourage quartet development and district quartet schools. Music Mentor program will assign some specific music educator/trainer to a chapter to work with chorus, quartets and directors but will stay in contact and visit several times during the course of the year. Music Publication subcommittee reviews and selects songs for publishing.

**Larry Clemons – Chair, Contest and Judging 8:06**

Judging Certification Process: The process to become a certified judge is high competitive. There are 45 judges per category and every judge is issued a certificate to judge for 3 years and is then decertified. All society judges must recertify at the Contest & Judging Category School every three years. Current and candidate judges may or may not receive an invitation to attend the next category school in 2007. The window for applying to enter the judging program and attend the C&J Judges Category School in the year 1020 is August 31 to December 31, 2007.

Contest & Judging Guards the Barbershop style: The C&J committee receives many messages asking “what is happening to the Barbershop style?” The Contest &

Judging program celebrates the creative arrangers that bring new songs and new ways of performing barbershop. The C&J program also ensures that new approaches remain within the barbershop style that among other elements include the tenor harmonizing above the lead, the acceptable inclusions of barbershop seventh chords and an arrangement that basically resolves around the circle of fifths.

Recent rule changes to enhance contest performance: In addition to background mood lighting at the international contest, C&J now will allow projecting your own background image via portable projection systems carried on and off the stage. Also, the rule restricting the use of your own amplification system has been changed to allow contestants to use electronic means independent of the house system to take pitch or to provide limited, brief, and relevant sound effects. Nothing in this rule shall be interpreted to permit the use of recorded music (including singing) and/or recordings of the spoken word.

**Dick Girvin – Chair, Archives Committee 8:17**

Interpret, catalog and display appropriate documents that present the Barbershop Harmony Society and experience. Current artifacts are still in Kenosha, but will be coming to a display area in the new Nashville Harmony Experience area. Photos, old videos, even cylinders, costumes, founder room mug collection, films, license plates, shoes, Harmonizers, quartet photos, etc.

Acquisition of Barbershop-related materials can be helped by having all members be aware of collections of materials that become available due to other member's deaths or relocation. Spread the word about collecting these valued historical materials for archive inclusion. We don't want to lost this heritage

What is history? What is heritage? What would you like to see preserved? You, the individual society members and your children and their children, will be the viewers of these collected artifacts in the future.

**Dick Girvin – on behalf of the Governance and ByLaws Committee 8:23**

Chapter By-Laws need to be occasionally updated and reviewed. There are updated templates for standard Chapter By-Laws and then the expanded

**Gerry Borden – Vice Chair, Chapter Support and Leadership Training (CSLT) 8:24**

Develop a cadre of caring and passionate men to support your chapter's definition of success. We continue to train Chapter Counselors or Chapter Support Representative. Some hands were raised who do not know their CC or CSR. Most hands raised to indicate they have actually met CC/CSRs. CSLT Committee is charged to develop the training curriculum at COTS but also available to the districts by other means. Committee is looking at new, different ways to provide training as CC/CSRs to each chapter in the future.

Chapter Operations Training Seminar (COTS) – a few hands who indicated they had not been to COTS. The format is changing and pushing many new areas for chapter leadership development and training to District Planning. COTS for 2007 will use many more district resources. The committee is looking for additional men who have a passion to facilitate the training of new/incoming chapter officers and the future chapter leaders.

### **Mike Mathieu – Chair, Society Events Committee 8:30**

On committee since 2002 and chair since 2005. Committee serves as advisor to every district Events VP. Murray (2), Hank (2), Mike (1), Bill (1) and Jerry (1 month). Committee reviews future convention bids from those cities. Summer International Conventions planned through 2016 (except 2015). All summer conventions are during July 4<sup>th</sup> week.

San Antonio (2008) and Pasadena (2009) for Mid-Winter Conventions.

Criteria for selecting convention cities – value for tourist destination, financial package offered by the host city Convention and Visitors' Bureau, acceptability of the contest venue; geographic location of the host city; length of time since last convention; hotel prices offered to the Society Members.

Nashville in 2008 will be the convention for the first full year of our new HQ. Anaheim 2009 (last 1999); Philadelphia 2010 (last in 1977); Kansas City 2011 (last 2000) in new arena; Portland 2012 (last 2002); Toronto 2013 on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society; Minneapolis 2014; 2016 back to Nashville. Denver in 2007 with Music Man theme.

### **Todd Wilson – Director of Marketing and Public Relations 8:40**

Reviewed each of staff supporting the chapters through the Marketing and Public Relations efforts on behalf of the Society including Harmony Marketplace, Harmonizer, Wed site, local press information.

Need tools and materials to support each member and chapter throughout the Society. M&PR want to provide bridge-building between all chapters and their communities, and even between chapters to support joint efforts. Open up all channels of communications between members, chapters and districts.

Enrichment of the chapter experience in providing more fun and enrichment to the members and the lives of others.

Recruitment of new members; retention of current members

New chapter president's hands – what new challenges do you have?

How do we improve the quality to recruit youth

Plan around “that is not the way we used to do it”

How to survive your tenure and avoid burn out.

What is your chapter doing extremely well?

- Got a new director that is getting us moving.
- Chapter is having more fun.
- Chapter is sound financially.

How many chapters have a long-range plan documented?

- How many chapters have a long-range mission and vision?
- How many members know what the mission and vision mean?
- Chapter plan to achieve that mission and vision.
- How many with a plan feel you are on track?
- How many chapters have clear and concise goals?
- Barbershop.org/spots has many new radio spots for membership, singing valentines, national anthems, male/female voiceovers, other PSAs available to any chapter

Society M&PR organization has set up various affinity programs that you will hear more about. Look for ways to help develop music in the community.

**Charlie Davenport – Director of Membership 8:55**

Introduced staff who support members who call and need help. Drew Ellis will be calling various chapter presidents to just “chat,” and find out what is going well and what areas might need information or help.

Everything that you have heard this evening and everything that you can do will impact Society Membership. Membership staff commits to be the most responsive to your needs. Contact Charlie for the development of new chapters

**Byron Myers – Chair, Membership Committee 8:58**

Excited about the 2007 Membership Plan, “Music Man of Note.” Want to create more public awareness of the audiences we have inside and outside of your local chapter. Membership also wants to mirror the Society theme. Will continue the 100% club in 2007 and also offer some unique Music Men of Note awards.

Nothing is new in membership. Some of the same issues the Society has been facing throughout the history of the organization. High points in the previous Harold Hill program. Lower points with continued demand for time on the part of our members.

Need to “GROW or DIE” at the local chapter level and throughout the society. We must change our attitude about the society, but do not ignore the chapters that are smaller and shrinking

Everything we do needs to be filtered by “How does what we do impact our membership?” The Membership ToolKit will come to each chapter president that will have all kinds of suggestions regarding recruitment, orientation and retention. RETENTION is the basis for growth at every chapter. We must figure out active and interesting ways to engage and involve new members and also regain the involvement with all the current members.

Each chapter will be asked to identify some “Harold Hills” within your chapter and district who will visit other chapters.

Every member who earns a Music Man of Note in 2007 will be put into a drawing for two free tickets to a 2008 Convention. We draw this every month in 2007. In addition, 20% dues reduction will be given for each new member. The districts will make a big deal about those members who are the ones who bring in those important new members.

Planning for growing and living better within the chapter is vital to membership. Marketing of chapter quartets and choruses in the community is crucial for the audience to assimilate their interest in our musical style. Develop a strategy for your local chapter. Give detailed instructions to your own chapter members. Develop future chapter leaders by sharing what you know and how you are doing planning. Strive for quality singing, knowing that single element will attract new members. Knowing the chapter plan may encourage each member to align himself with the plan and will remind that member to change his behavior and attitude to support the plan.

Present the music, values and our culture in a positive light.

Help establish individual goals for each chapter member (for example, help people learn how to invite and recruit others to join and get a Music Man of Note).

Want you, the Chapter Presidents, change the attitude of “grow or die” to “grow and live.”

**Dave Duncan – Introduced DPs and EVPs 9:11**

**Ed Watson - Questions: 9:12**

Received a letter from a member who said “we have problems and don’t even have a charitable foundation to contribute to anymore.” That is wrong. We can all contribute to the Harmony Foundation as members and as chapters.

We would like to set up this kind of session every year if it has been of benefit to you, the chapter presidents.

Tag 9:15

**Questions: 9:18**

- Membership CD is being put together and will delivered to each Chapter; most of the information is already available at the Society website
- Championship songs from 2006 and back to 1996 is available for download from iTunes
- [americanharmonythemovie.com](http://americanharmonythemovie.com) has a 5 minute trailer; was a finalist for the recent Sundance Film Festival

Adjourned the evening at 9:24 with final song.