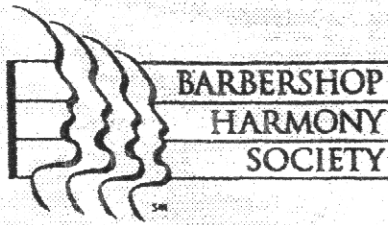


May 2006
Issue 11-3

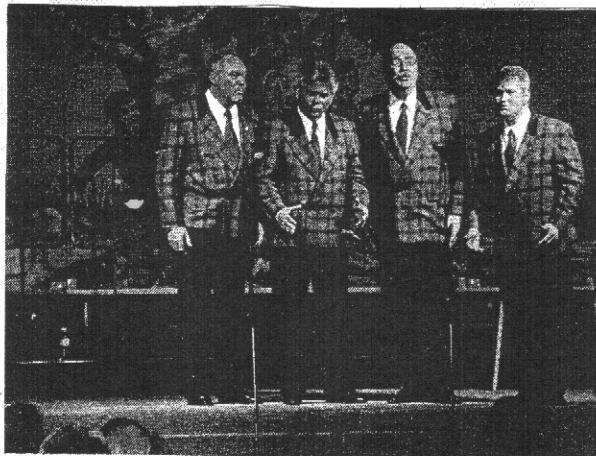
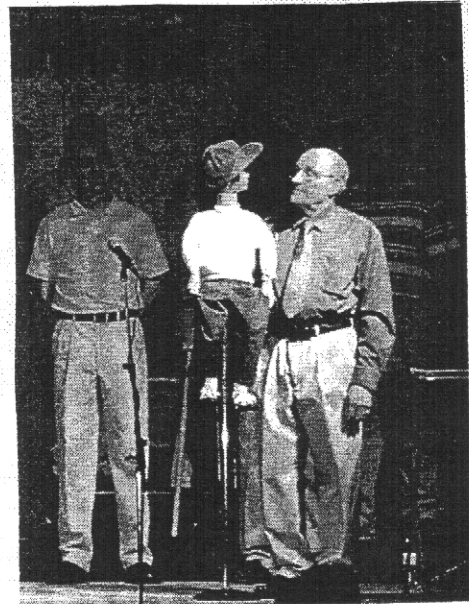
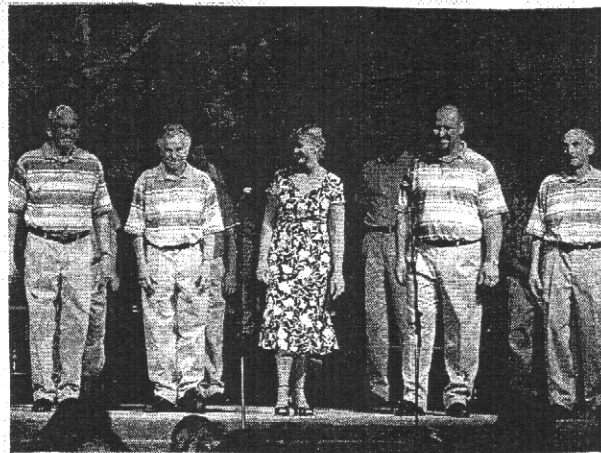
Strathroy, Ont.
Chapter
Established
1995
Member of
Ontario
District



Fanfare

"Home of the
Vocal Federation"

"Trumpeting the Federation's news to its borders and beyond"



April 1 SPRING FEVER

What a show! As the old saying goes, "Behind every good man -- is a good women." Well, behind our 2006 show, Spring Fever, was an excellent group of dedicated Barbershoppers. I would like at this time to recognize for all to see, some of the reasons why I feel this is an excellent group of fellows.

For about 50 weeks of the year The Vocal Federation members meet and work on songs -- learning, reworking and altering, until we know them well enough to sing at our show. Add to this the countless performances during the year, the retreat day before the show and the fall convention competition. A lot of work for a hobby!

As part of the show committee involved with planning the show, all I had to do was asking people to do a job and they willingly did it. A good example was Ray Mason. Excellent job Ray! I helped with the choreography and everyone stepped up to the plate.

Even when changes were made, everyone adjusted. I came up with an idea and roughly planned the flow of the show. Gord Vair took the plan and made it come to life. We had our own master of ceremonies and everyone I have talked to, raved about the job he did along with his friends.

Need I say much about our directors? We are so fortunate to have two excellent directors and three assistants who help in so many ways. I know there are times John Gough and Jim McDougall could throttle us or just give up, but they persist and eventually we come around to their way of thinking. Thanks for your dedication and patience. Bob Howlett, Gord Vair and Ros McPherson have helped us so much with their drills and singing exercises. Thanks guys

Our advertising campaign got off to a slow start, -- but wow!!, did it finish with excellent results. Year after year several members tramp the streets soliciting. Thanks to Gord Nisbet, Gil Craenen, Bill Robertson, John Gough, Orval Allen, Jim McDougall and Ernie McEwen we had one of our best years yet.

Our ticket sales again were fabulous. Singing to full houses made our job more enjoyable. I know, every member sold tickets, but I understand several people out did themselves. Bob Fennell, Bill Galbraith, Gil Craenen, Les Campbell and Arnold Dixon really set the standards high for the rest of us

One of my jobs was to work on the back drops. My job was made easier by Bob Fennell's help and the use of his workshop. An especially enjoyable perk was my lunches served by Eunice. Thanks to the many members who helped to set up for the show and take it down afterwards. A special thanks to Ken Vanderheyden. There were many other members who helped with this job. Ros McPherson, Walt DeRuiter, Bill Gough, Bill Robertson, Less Campbell, Dan Schieman and Harold Boekhoven. If I've left out anyone, I'm sorry. (My memory is going.)

The trailer was delivered to the school, containing risers, dias, plants, chairs and stand. To Ros and his crew, Less Campbell, Bill Robertson, Orval Allen and anyone I missed, thank you for the unloading.

The late crew came in to set up chairs. The crew of Larry Driessens, John Gough, Leigh Laughton, Jim McDougall, Frank Knoll, Arnold Dixon, Bill Gough, Ernie McEwen and many of the workers already there, made quick work of setting up the auditorium. Thanks again to all of you fellows.

It was amazing to see everyone step in and help clean up. With your help the school was back in order and cleared out by 11 o'clock.

I hope that Bob Howlett will extend to Lauren Grant our appreciation for her part in the show. Her singing was outstanding.

Orval Allen. What can I say. Your organizational skills throughout the year culminated on April 1. Your prodding, reminding—reminding—and reminding were responsible for getting many jobs done. We can only guess at the many hours you spent on barbershop matters. Your leadership qualities were tested to the limit many times, but thank you for being persistent and dedicated.

(continued from page 2)

Harold's Angels are a vital force in our Federation. Every time we need help with our show or performance, they step up. Thank you ladies for providing retreat and show meals. I hope that Norma Allen will extend our thanks to all you ladies. Thanks to Diny Craenen, Marilyn McPherson, and Joanne Vanderheyden for your part in our show. As well, I hope that all of the men in our chorus say a special thank you to their wives.

Frank, as president of this group, you must be very proud to look back on the excellent job this bunch of dedicated Barbershoppers and their wives did on April 1.

Show Committee member

Blake Hughes

CELEBRATIONS

Chapter Birthdays

- May 14
- May 19
- May 27
- June 10
- June 16
- June 16
- June 20
- June 24
- June 29



- Harold Boekhoven
- Enid Gough
- Frank Knoll
- Raymond Mason
- Bill Galbraith
- Bud Jackson
- Sylvia McDougall
- Jim McDougall
- Audrey Hughes

Chapter Anniversaries

- May 4
- May 22
- May 24
- June 16
- June 20
- June 21
- June 30



- Gord and Mary Vair
- Larry and Rae Driessens
- Leigh and Phyllis Laughton
- Ernie and Eileen McEwen
- Henry and Gail Wiersema
- Ted and Jiggs Gough
- Bud and Stella Jackson

I STOPPED BY THE DEALER, DEAR...

Some men were changing clothes in the golf club dressing room when a portable phone sounded and one of them answered: "Hello?" A woman's voice was at the other end: "Honey, it's me. Are you at the club?" He: "Yes." She: "I went shopping and saw this fabulous leather jacket at only a thousand dollars - may I buy it?" He: "Of course! If you like it, buy it." She: "I also stopped by the Mercedes dealer to look at the latest new models and saw a really nice one!" He: "What's the price tag?" She: "\$80,000." He: "OK, but at that price I want all the accessories too." She: "Fantastic! Oh yes, one more thing... remember the house we wanted to buy last year, it's up for sale again at just \$950,000." He: "Well, put in an offer of \$900,000." She: "OK, see you tonight. I love you!" He: "Sure thing, I love you too!" puts down the phone and as the others stare at him in total bewilderment asks, "Whose phone is this anyway?" (As taken from Owen Sound's bulletin 'Encore!')



A GOOD PUN IS ITS OWN REWARD

- *You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.
 - *He often broke into song because he couldn't find the key.
 - *He had a photographic memory that was never developed.
 - *Once you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall.
 - *Those who jump off a Parish bridge are in Seine.
 - *A man's home is his his castle, in a manor of speaking.
 - *A shotgun wedding is a case of wife or death.
- (As taken from the Twin City Hi-Notes)

Special Thanks!

To; the Harold's Angels ladies who sliced, diced, stirred, blended, cooked, baked, prepared and served all the very delicious and nutritious food for our Retreat, Show [moving the dinner to the library was a pleasant change] and Afterglow. For the meeting and greeting, ushering, escorting and acting on our program. Bouquets to all for your wonderful help and continuing support.

To; our music team, Ros, Gord, Bob, Jim and John, for the vocal and physical warm-ups. For the vocal, vowel, tuning, breathing, etc. exercises. Special thanks to John who does all the aforementioned plus stands before our chorus for many, many hours during the year and with great patience does his utmost to teach the four parts and get us to sing them in harmony as well as teaching interpretation, presentation and choreography. We are so very fortunate to have him in our chapter!

To; Arnold, our "ticketmaster", who once again willing undertook the very important role of managing our show ticket sales and again handled it in his usual exceptional way.

To; Blake, an incredibly talented individual, who participates in selecting our show songs, manages our program advertising sales, does the program layout, writes the choreography, imagines and then [with the help of handyman Bob] designs and creates the colorful scenery backdrop that reflects our theme, decorates the school foyer, etc. [apologies for whatever I missed]. So much talent and a hard worker too!

To; Gord Vair. Appropriate words fail me! They also scare me because he or his friends always manage to get the last one. A fabulous emcee performance that, in my opinion, was more unique and more entertaining than any I have ever seen any time or any place.

To; Sylvia and Jim for once again hosting the Afterglow in your beautiful home.

To; Frank, Les, Bob, Arnold, Blake, Bill and Bill for the time and effort dedicated to the Show Committee.

To; every fellow chapter member for the support you gave to the Show Committee and our Music Directors as well as for each contribution [large or small – they all matter] you made to the 2006 annual show project. All the feedback received seems to indicate that the audience really enjoyed the outcome and that I believe is either the first or second most important purpose of our show. I am very proud to be a member of this team.

Orval

On February 25,"Sterling Silver" entered the Western Division Novice Quartet Competition held in Sarnia,at the Central United Church. With five quartets competing,Sterling Silver was the last of the five to sing.Tenor Bob Fennell,lead Bill Robertson,bass Les Campbell and bariton Ken Vanderheyden sang two songs. In the first one,"Sweet Adeline",we all had a cane and dress hat.The hats were used to help emphasize and put into special performance different parts of the song.

The second song was "Over The Rainbow Parady".Overweight people and drive-through fast food places were the theme of this song. We started to get everyone's undivided attention, by having a picknick.(Kentucky Fried Chicken and French fried Potatoes),along with the commentary that went with it. At the end,we all followed a bluebird flying away in the sky. Out of five competing quartets,we ended up in third place,which was great for our first try.

We all got the greatest kick out of the following: at the end we looked out at a whole room full of smiling faces,laughing,grinning and enjoying. Right then we felt we had won a gold metal,which, of course,we hadn't,but it gave us a thrill to think that in 3 minutes or so,our quartet could bring a few happy moments to that room full of people. It sure was worth the hours of practice that we spent,prior to presenting the song.

Bob Fennell

From the Prez:

I'm just jotting down a few notes again to say how proud I am of the Vocal Federation. We had our annual Chapter Novice Quartet Contest on February 15th,2006 and, as usual,had a great competition.Three quartets sang there songs to a vibrant audience in front of a panel of tough, unflappable judges.

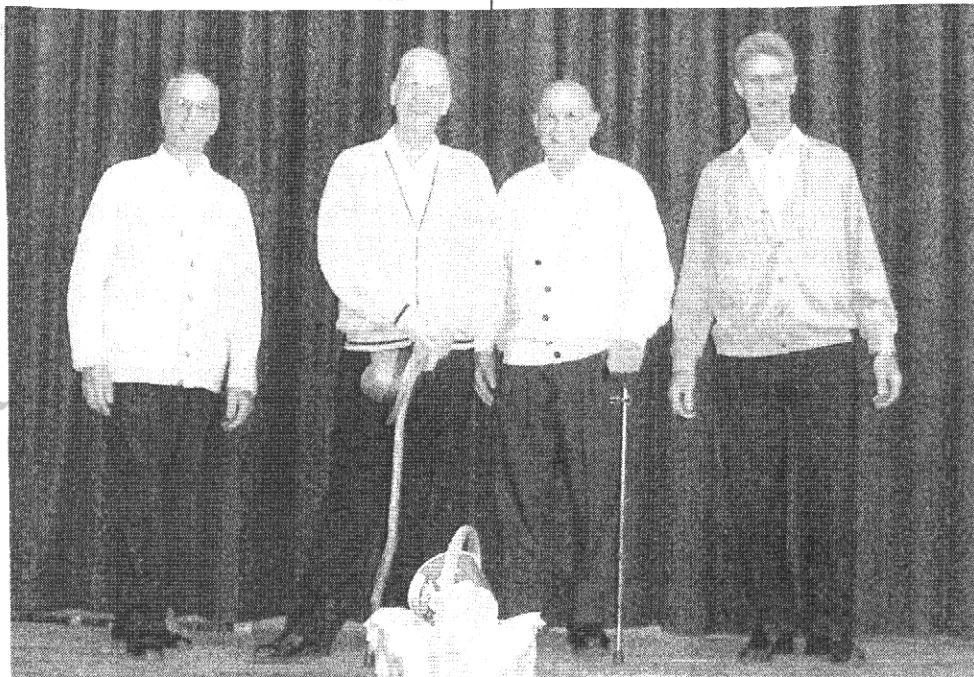
All three quartets put on stellar performances and the trophies went to "Sterling Silver",made up of Bill Robertson(lead),Les Campbell(bass),Ken Vanderheyden(baritone) and Bob Fennell(tenor). Great work!

I do have to make special mention of our judges, namely the illustrious quartet "Afternoon Delight", made up of Len Reeks(lead),Ed Crisp(bass) Alec Burns(baritone) and Ken McPhaden(tenor). By request,these guys performed one of my favorites,"Old Bones". Len always steals the show with that song.

Thanks to all who participated.It was a lot of fun.

P.S.Incidentally,"Sterling Siver" went on to win the bronze medal at the Western Division Contest in Sarnia on February 25th,2006.

Frank



George Carlin's Views on Aging

Do you realize that the only time in our lives when we like to get old is when we are kids? If you're less than 10 years old, you're so excited about aging that you think in fractions.

"How old are you?" "I'm four and a half!"
You're never thirty-six and a half. You're four and a half, going on five! That's the key.

You get into your teens, now they can't hold you back. You jump to the next number or even a few ahead.

"How old are you?" "I'm gonna be 16!" You could be 13, but hey, you're gonna be 16! And then the greatest day of your life you become 21. Even the words sound like a ceremony. . YOU BECOME 21. YESSSS !!!

But then you turn 30. Oooohh, what happened there? Makes you sound like bad milk! He **TURNED**; we had to throw him out. There's no fun now, you're just a sour-dumpling. What's wrong? What's changed?

You **BECOME** 21, you **TURN** 30, then you're **PUSHING** 40. Whoa! Put on the brakes, it's all slipping away, before you know it, you **REACH** 50 and your dreams are gone.

But wait!!! You **MAKE** it to 60. You didn't think you would!

So, you **BECOME** 21, **TURN** 30, **Reach** 50 and **MAKE** it to 60.

You've build up so much speed that you **HIT** 70! After that, it's a day-by-day thing: You **HIT** Wednesday!

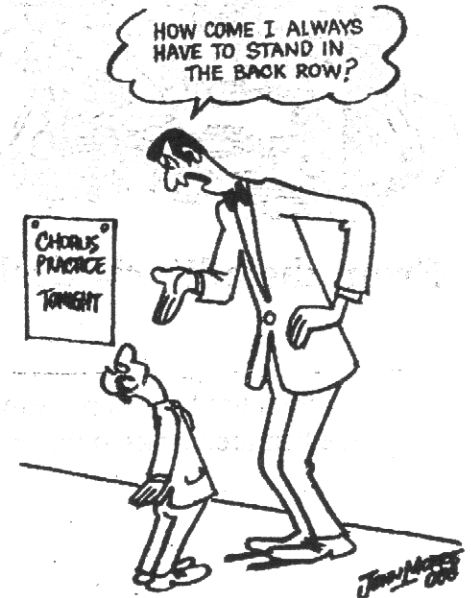
You get into your 80s and every day is a complete cycle; you **HIT** lunch; you **TURN** 4:30; you **REACH** bedtime. Into the 90s, you start going backwards; I was **JUST** 92".

Then a strange thing happens. If you make it over 100, you become a little kid again." I'm 100 and a half!"

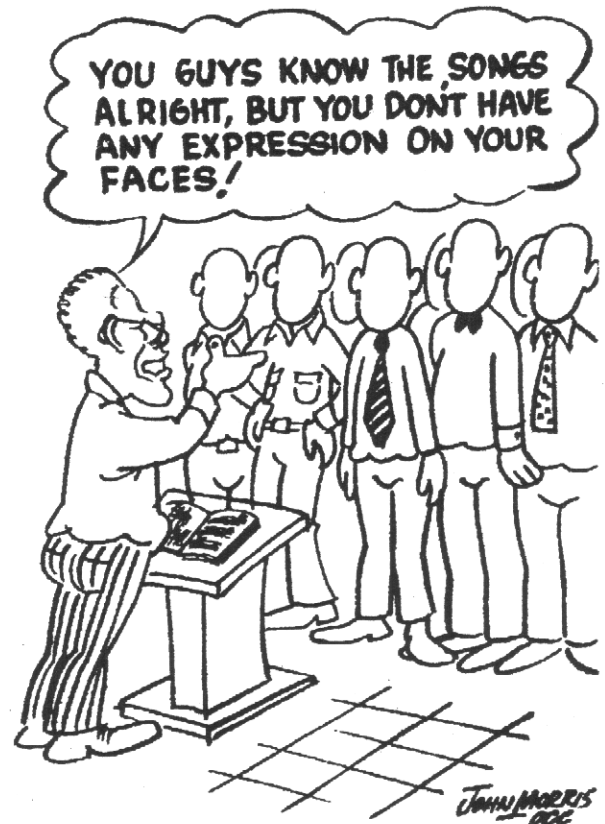
May you all make it to 100 and a half!!!

(As contributed by Ray Mason.)

Smile Awhile



What's the difference between a stumbling block and a stepping stone?
--The way you approach it !





From the editor's desk

What pleasure it has been to prepare this issue of the Fanfare, thanks to the many contributions I received from our chapter and beyond.

And most of it was very substantial.

I mean pages and pages. Wow!

It makes my job so much easier. I did not have to have to borrow much from past issues, (although a lot of it bears repeating), or from other chapter's news bulletins.

My sincere thank you to Bill Gough for the show pictures, to Orval and Blake for their thank you notes to all of us, to Ray for his interesting item about aging and to Sarnia's Bob Grimshaw for his very nice pictures of the Western Division Contest.

Keep it coming guys and girls, (I haven't received anything from Harold's Angels lately). I hope you don't mind my begging. It would be of interest to me to hear some opinions about the Fanfare. Don't be afraid to let me have some critical opinions, as long as it is constructive and for the good of the chapter.

Gil



Wed. April 26 - Sprucedale Care Centre
Performance 7:30 PM

Sat. April 29 - St. Thomas Chapter Shows.

Sat. May 6 - Day For The Arts

Sun. May 7 - Cook's United Church
Mt. Brydges, 11:00 AM

Wed. May 24 - "Big Bike for Stroke" Ride

June 2-4 Harmony College North
University of Guelph

Sun. June 21 Ailsa Craig Historical Soc.
Performance 2:00 PM

Wed. Aug. 16 Double Horseshoe Contest

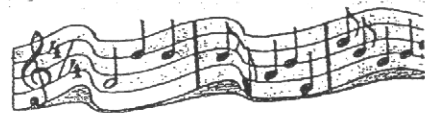
Sat. Sept. 23 Family Golf Day

Oct. 20-22 Ontario District Fall Convention

Sat. Nov. 18 Middlesex County
Warden's Banquet.

Sat. Nov. 25 Santa Claus Parade

Sun. Nov. 26 Western Division Annual
Christmas Concert, Seaforth



Next Fanfare Deadline : June 15



Strathroy Chapter
Western Division-Ontario District-Barbershop Harmony Society
 Home of the "Vocal Federation".
 The performing chorus of the Strathroy Chapter

Meeting at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
at the corner of Albert and Richmond Streets
in Strathroy-Wednesday Evenings at 8.00 pm

Board of Directors

President	Frank Knoll	(519) 264-2856
District Delegate	Frank Knoll	(519) 264-2856
Secretary	Orval Allen	(519) 246-1234
Treasurer	Less Campbell	(519) 245-0359
Chapter Dev. V.P.	Bob Fennell	(519) 693-4280
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Communications V.P.	Gil Craenen.	(519) 245-2888
Program V.P.	Bill Robertson	(519) 245-0979
Performance V.P.	Raymond Mason	(519) 264-1850
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Board Mem. At Large	Leigh Laughton	(519) 264-1454

Appointments

Quartet Activity Chairman	Gord Vair
Historian	Ernie McEwen
Service Projects & Fundraising Chairman	Bill Robertson
Uniform Chairman	Bill Galbraith
Show Committee Chairman	Bill Robertson
Fanfare Editor/Directory Publisher	Gil Craenen
Kitchen Steward	Les Campbell
Sunshine Chairman	Gord Nisbet

Music Team

Music V.P. - Roswell McPherson
 Chorus Director - John Gough
 Chorus Director - Jim McDougall
 Librarian - Dan Schieman

Section Leaders

Tenor - Ernie McEwen
 Lead - Bob Howlett
 Baritone - John Gough
 Bass - Jim McDougall

WEBSITES

Strathroy Vocal Federation

www.bam.on.ca/vocalfederation/

Ontario District-www.ont.spebsqsa.org

Barbershop International-www.spebsqsa.org

Ashow-www.ahsow.or



Remember to share your fFanfare with all of
 Your family, friends and neighbours.
 Share the joy of singing.

Vision Statement

The Strathroy Chapter will provide the opportunity for men of all ages to blend their voices in the unique style of barbershop harmony singing and will provide wholesome musical entertainment to people of all ages throughout this and neighbouring communities wherever our services may be desired.

Mission Statement

- * To realize our vision, the Strathroy Chapter will:
- Provide the means for men to participate in and enjoy the singing of barbershop-style harmony, both in chorus and quartet singing.
- Provide for its membership and organized process to learn and sing barbershop-style harmony from written arrangements or by "ear-singing".
- Develop members' vocal talent and performance abilities so that each time they sing together, they perform at the best level possible.
- Provide an atmosphere and programs which result in a high level of camaraderie and social benefit to members.
- Be a community leader in the cause of preserving and encouraging vocal music in our schools and our communities by singing barbershop music for schools, churches and social events.
- Enrich the lives of the less fortunate people in our Communities by singing barbershop music for senior citizen homes, nursing homes and hospitals.
- Initiate, promote and participate in charitable projects Especially those projects which will benefit the Ontario District's barbershop charities

The Federation's

Fanfare

Editor—Gil A. Craenen

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Fanfare is published on eight occasions annually by the Strathroy Chapter. Contributions are invited and will be acknowledged. The Editor may edit all for clarity, content or to fit the space. All stories are written by the Editor, except those carrying another byline, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Chapter, it's officers or members.

The Federation's Fanfare is a publication of the
 Strathroy Chapter of Barbershop Harmony Society

P . R . O . B . E .

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICERS AND BULLETIN EDITORS
 THE MOST INFLUENTIAL FRATERNITY IN THE SOCIETY