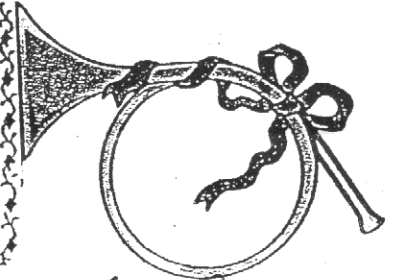


BARBERSHOP
HARMONY
SOCIETY

Fanfare

"Home of the
Vocal Federation
Chorus"

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



Gil & Diny Croenen
Joan & Frank Knoll

John & Erid Gough
Bibi & Isabel

Bowker
Kigh & Shellig
Reswell & M. Pherson
Mazdip

Jim & Sylvia McDougall
Betty & Dan Schierson

Norma & Brook Allen

Bill & Fran Galbreith

Joan & Gord Terpi

Henry & Gail Wiersma

Les & Mary Temple

Canadians

Kindly



Maig & BATTI

Pat Dixon

Blake & Audrey Hughes

Rarry & Rae Driscoll

Bob & Bev Rowlett

"Keep the light of hope glowing at Christmas for those in need...give to the Harmonize for Speech Foundation, so that Barbershoppers can help those with speech and hearing difficulties"



A message from our President



2006 has been another great year for the Vocal Federation and we all need to pause and take a moment to pat ourselves on the back for having the privilege of belonging to such a fun group of people. We are so fortunate to have an abundance of talent in those who help to direct the chorus and in the management of our organization. Above all, the active participation in performances and in every weekly practice should make us proud to be Barbershoppers.

I look forward to even more fun and singing in 2007 and getting a chance to try out all our new video and sound equipment should fill us all with enthusiasm for the new year.

Joan and I wish all of you and your families a Blessed and Happy Holiday Season and all the best in the New Year!

Frank



“Anyone who sends me junk e-mail is automatically added to the ‘naughty’ list!”

CELEBRATIONS

CHAPTER BIRTHDAYS

January 1 – Peggy Abel

January 9 – Eunice Fennel

January 9 – Marilyn McPherson

January 20 – Blake Hughes

January 29 – Lydia DeRuiter



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, December 2, 2006

Sing -out at McNaughton's Home Hardware in Newbury.

Saturday, December 9, 2006

Chapter's Annual Christmas Dinner.
(St. Andrew's Church).

Wednesday, February 14, 2007

Singing Valentines

Saturday, February 24, 2007

District Novice Quartet Contest.
To be held at S.D.C.I.

Saturday, March 10, 2007

Chapter's Annual Retreat
To be held at S.C.C.S., 9:00 A.M.

Saturday April 14, 2007

Chapter Annual Spring Show
"HAPPY TRAILS"
To be held at S.C.C.S.



NEWS FROM THE STOCK MARKET

This has absolutely nothing to do with barber-shop, however, our daily lives are affected by it and most of us pay some attention to its ups and downs. This was picked off the internet and seen in the Grimsby's "The Knight Line", Doug McLellan, editor.

- *Helium was up; Feathers were down.
- *Paper was stationery.
- *Cows steered into a bull market.
- *Pencils lost a few points.
- *Hiking Equipment was trailing.
- *Elevators rose while Escalators continued their slow decline.
- *Weights were up in heavy trading.
- *Light Switches were off.
- *Mining Equipment hit rock bottom.
- *Diapers remained unchanged.
- *Shipping Lines stayed at an even keel.
- *The market for Raisins dried up.
- *Coca Cola fizzled.
- *Caterpillar stock inched up a bit.
- *Sun peaked at mid-day.
- *Balloon prices were inflated.
- *Scott Tissue touched a new bottom.



A BARBERSHOP CABARET

A well fed audience and some liquid refreshments made for a full house of pure enjoyment when our Barbershop chords rang out on October 14, 2006. This was our first attempt at hosting such an affair on our own and I'll admit there was a few doubting that the event would succeed. Success is putting it mildly with the crowd we had, what they consumed and the success of our draw.

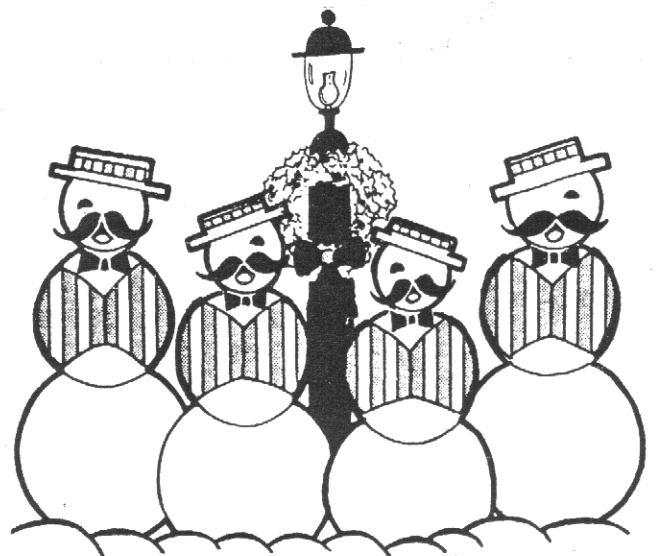
173 sat down to eat roast beef with a little wine to boot. As soon as the tables were cleared, we started our program of entertainment. 3 quartets and the Vocal Federation proved to be ample.

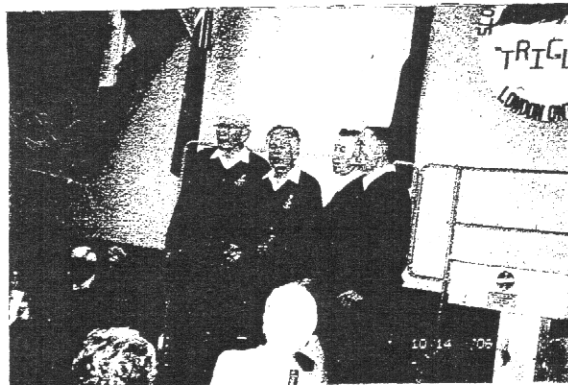
A huge vote of thanks go out to Rural Roots, Sterling Silver and our special guests Symmetry. Thanks also to the 25 guys on stage with the Vocal Federation. Another vote of thanks to Bill Gough for emceeing and to Orval Allen for his presentation on our service projects which by the way sold tickets like crazy. The people that worked the bar worked the hardest. Job well done. You know who you are. Thanks so much for pitching in. There also were the regulars that do their job on an ongoing basis. To you I say thanks. And a very special Thank You to Harold's Angels for assisting in many different ways. The table decorations were perfect for the occasion.

177 ticket sales accounted for a profit of \$1531.75 after all the expenses were paid. But the bar did an awesome \$675.16 that was all profit. And don't forget the draw for 3 special prizes earned us \$832.30 that was all profit.

Good work guys and thanks again.

Jim McDougall
Chair of Cabaret Committee





Barbershoppers sing at Slovenia Club

On Oct. 14, the Vocal Federation of Strathroy (local barbershop singing society) held a cabaret at the Slovenia Club.

Over 175 people attended a dinner and cabaret performance. The dinner was provided by the owners of the Gardenia Restaurant and was enjoyed by all.

After the dinner, the audience enjoyed the singing of a number of quartets and the Vocal Federation chorus.

There were many present who were not familiar with barbershop

singing, but after the evening was over, many were heard to say, "Let me know when you are doing this next year, this was fabulous!"

The special guest quartet, Symmetry, entertained with a number of songs that were enjoyed by the audience because the songs were familiar and everyone loves to reminisce. Two quartets, Rural Roots and Sterling Silver, whose members are part of the Strathroy chorus, were also enjoyed, particularly the rendition of Over the Rainbow by Sterling Silver.

The evening was successful in raising funds to support Harmonize for Speech, a charitable organization that helps people with speech difficulties.

The Vocal Federation of Strathroy will be sending a cheque for \$1,500 to the charity and thanks all the people who came out to support and enjoy a fabulous evening.

The Strathroy Vocal Federation practices every Wednesday evening in the Presbyterian Church at 8 p.m. and would love to see men of every age come out to join us.

Words of Wisdom
*"...show me what you do and
 I'll tell you what you believe..."*

WE SING THAT THEY SHALL SPEAK

Each day, battles are being fought against the afflictions which inhibit normal speech. They are many, and an estimated one in twenty is afflicted.

Ontario Barbershoppers and the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, are proud of their Harmonize for Speech Fund set up to help in the field of speech disorders. Throughout Ontario and the entire Society, our voices are raised in song.



**VP Chapter Support
J.R. (Digger)
MacDougall**

<chaptersupport@ontariodistrict.com> ✦

How to increase the number of Barbershoppers in your community

It was a great learning experience for me and it happened the day I met six members of the *Westminster Chapter* while I was taking some "down time" at the midwinter convention in Sacramento. As usual, I was mulling over that age old question we all face: "How to attract new and preferably young members to our Society, and keep them?"

Not wanting to miss this opportunity, I put the question to these young men and here's what I learned.

In March, 2002, a group of five young Barbershoppers met to discuss forming a new chorus, a chorus composed of other young singers in order to involve more of their peers in singing barbershop harmony. One of these five, **Terry Ghiselli**, then approached the old Westminster Chapter (where membership had dwindled to eight) with an idea to let a group of young guys create their own chorus under the chapter's charter. The president and the other current members were ecstatic with the idea and offered their support in any way possible. That's how it all began.

The newly formed chorus entered the SoCal West Division contest in April, 2002, with just 15 men and a hand full of rehearsals. They qualified for the Far Western District competition that fall. Six of the 15 on stage that day were brand new Barbershoppers. The youngest was 16, the oldest 27. Their average age was 20.

For the district chorus contest, October, 2002, the New Westminster Chorus, with 19 men on the risers, stunned the audience by actually outscoring all the other competitors but was disqualified due to a misunderstanding regarding member eligibility. One year later, however, the chorus won the championship.

The chorus also won the right to represent the FWD at the International convention in Louisville, in 2004. The Westminster Chorus was honored to place ninth overall in their first appearance on the International contest that summer in Louisville.

This past October the chorus was overjoyed to once again win the Far Western District, earning the right to return to the International contest stage 2006 in Indianapolis!

Membership? I repeated my question to the six young men. How does this answer my question: "How do we increase membership?"

Their answer to me: "DON'T TRY TO GET YOUNG MEN TO JOIN YOUR CHAPTER."

Wow, that wasn't what I was expecting.

But they continued to explain that instead, get a group of 16-30-year-old men to form a semi-structured chorus of their own and let them develop on their own. Meet when they want, choose the music they want to sing and be supported from a distance. A unique concept but it worked.

As I pondered their story and compared it against all my recent research on this topic, I came to the following conclusions (or call them recommendations).

It is important to remember that, to many people these days membership in a group does not necessarily mean the type of active involvement we associate with barbershop singing.

Start by finding a group of four to five men aged 16-25, who are interested in singing anything.

Find a group leader or someone (under 35) willing to direct them while they sing.

Ask these four or five young men to involve their friends who would also like to sing. Hopefully their enthusiasm will rub off on another four to ten young guys.

Plan the singing get togethers (notice that it's not called rehearsals/practices) on a Saturday or Sunday for an hour when they are not too busy.

Let them know that you and your fellow singers will provide and pay for any a cappella music they would like to sing, their meeting place, pizzas and soft drinks, and any other expenses they incur with no strings attached except that you would like one of the leaders to phone you sometime and let you know what else they need.

Wait and see what develops.

This is a different approach to membership but it worked and continues to work. Can we try it?

Sure it's a big step but not that hard. And what have we got to lose?

Did you know that, as reported by the chair of the Society CSLT Committee in 2003, *Ontario District* has the highest average age in the Society? Perhaps it's time to follow a successful example already underway.

During my latest conversation with those new Westminster Chorus young men, they said they'd be very happy to share their

ideas with anyone who asks. I now plan to work with one of the founders of Westminster who, in a report to the Society Board, said "We all recognize most young guys can't relate to guys twice their age. They will however stick around if they can find a bunch of guys their own age who share a common interest and further commit to participating if they can unite behind a common goal. Let's help these guys start a 'young' chorus of their own."

So what is the solution to effectively recruiting young people? Get our current young members out there singing with guys their own age. Further, motivate these guys to start a chorus of their own. Please note the key word, chorus, not quartet.

Three years ago a new group started in Westminster, California. Now it wasn't a new chapter, but rather the rebirth of a struggling one.

If you would like to learn more, please contact Digger at <digger.macdougall@sympatico.ca> ✦



From The EDITOR'S DESK



The year 2006 is rapidly coming to an end. It has been another busy, but enjoyable year for me and I'm truly grateful for that.

Being the editor of the Fanfare brings with it a challenge that I gladly accept, but it also has its frustrations.

Like the lack of contributions from some of my fellow Barbershoppers, be it in writing or by bringing me some of your pictures.

So, on my Christmas wish list I find, besides good health, a need for your comments and stories to fill the pages of our Fanfare.

In closing I do want to thank those of you who did contribute.

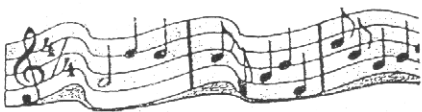
Above all a great big thank you to all for signing the Season Greetings on the front cover of this Fanfare and for your very generous donations for the "HARMONIZE FOR SPEECH FUND"

The total amount donated was \$ 310.00

To all of you, and your family, a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Gil.

Next Fanfare Deadline : Dec.20



**SHOWTIME
IS COMING**

HAROLD'S ANGELS

Simple Joys

Sweet Memories

Great Love

Wishing everyone a Blessed Christmas

Looking forward to celebrating with you
December 9th

Vocal Federation Christmas Party.
St Andrew's Presbyterian Church
Strathroy

Next Meeting- March 14, 2007

President – Norma Allen

Vice –President – Eunice Fennell

Secretary – Pat Dixon

Treasurer – Jean Nisbet

Press Reporter – Marilyn McPherson

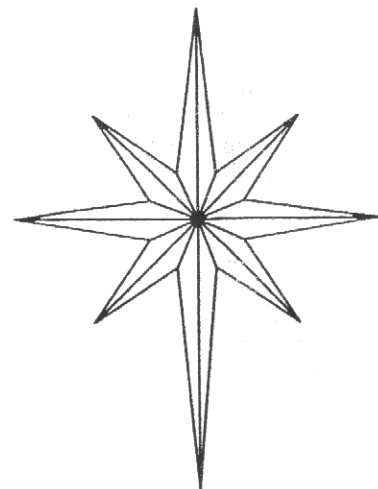
E-mail Co-ordinator – Mary Vair

Telephone Co-ordinator – Eileen McEwen

Sunshine Reporter – Audrey Hughes

Fund Raisers – Sylvia McDougall

Diny Craenen



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 Evening at 8:00 P.M.

Board of Directors

President	Frank Knoll	(519) 264 - 2856
District Delegate	Frank Knoll	(519) 264 - 2856
Secretary	Orval Allen	(519) 246 - 1234
Treasurer	Les Campbell	(519) 245 - 0359
Chapter Dev. V.P.	Bob Fennell	(519) 693 - 4280
Music V.P.	Roswell McPherson	(519) 245 - 1711
Communications V.P.	Gil Craenen	(519) 245 - 2888
Program V.P.	Bill Robertson	(519) 245 - 0979
Performance V.P.	Raymond Mason	(519) 264 - 1850
Marketing & P.R. V.P.	Henry Wiersema	(519) 289 - 5562
Board Member At Large	Larry Driessens	(519) 245 - 2851
Board Member at Large	Leigh Laughton	(519) 264 - 1464

Appointments

Quartet Chairman	Bob Howlett
Historian	Ernie McEwen
Service Projects & Fundraising Chairman	Bill Robertson
Uniform Chairman	Bill Galbraith
Show Committee Chairman	Orval Allen
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

Vocal Federation www.bam.on.ca/vocalfederation/
Ontario District www.ont.spebsqa.org
Barbershop International www.spebsqsa.org
Ashow www.ashow.org

*Remember to share your Fanfare with all of your
family friends and neighbours.
Share the joy of singing.*

P . R . O . B . E .

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



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 the 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 an 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 benefits 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 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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Strathroy, ON. N7G 1T3

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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, its officers or members.

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