



# The QuarterNote

Volume 3; Issue 1; February 29, 2004

## From the Editor's Notebook

Dear Friends of the Founders Chorus! I hope you've had a pleasant Winter Season. It's not been too bad weather wise-has it? In fact it's been downright warm for most of the winter.

Things are certainly heating up, though, for the Founders Chorus as the warmer days of spring are just around the corner. We're looking forward to "**BarberShop March Madness**" as the contest season gets underway. will be held within the Four Divisional contests SouthWestern District. The "International Prelims" will be held in San Marcos, TX, March 19-21 where Tulsa's own "Cooligans", the 2003 SWD Champion Quartet will compete for their spot on the International stage. Curt, Kent, Darrell and Eddie are confident that they will be selected as one of the best group of quartets from the "District of Champions" to represent us all in Louisville this July.



For the "Grand Old Chapter" it's back to the stage at Hot Springs, AR with a new contest package sure to bring the audience to it's feet and (we hope) to show the judges that The Founders Chorus is a force to be reckoned with. We took a year off from the contest cycle and devoted ourselves to stage presence and music improvement, with a trip to Harmony Ranch and several coaching sessions with Phil McShan. Phil is director of the Fort Worth Texas Millionaire Chorus and one of the "Front Row Guys" with the Vocal Majority chorus. Who, I ask you, should know how to get a group of men to sing and perform better than someone in charge of getting the best of the best to look good?!!

More than that, though. **Three** quartets from Tulsa are entered in quartet contest at Hot Springs!! "Final Note" is back with a new and has gold in its eyes. "Dave and Company", long absence from the contest stage, will be making a comeback and the "new kids" on the contest stage will be "Chips



the bass after a

What does all this mean? It means that the Tulsa #1 chapter of SPEBSQSA is a vital, active, productive chapter and we want to make a name for ourselves! It means that we will no longer be satisfied with being the best kept secret in the arts community of Tulsa! It means that we are **STILL** the NUMBER ONE chapter of The BarberShop Harmony Society, and we want the whole WORLD to hear us ring chords! You can help! You

can be a part of this success! We are actively seeking men who enjoy singing close harmony. We invite you to see and become a part of the new, revitalized Founders Chorus by attending one of our chapter meeting/chorus rehearsals any Tuesday night at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 2929 E 31<sup>st</sup> St. The fun starts at 7:00 PM.

### ***Founders Chorus Spring Show***

The Spring show has been changed. Last year we'd announced our choice to use the Society classic "A Tribute To Al Jolson" Then, in December, we lost one of our greatest members to a tragic one-car accident. Morris Franklin Rector, known to thousands of barbershoppers all over the world as "Mo," passed away December 6, 2003 at the age of 69. Mo was the first man in the history of the Barbershop Harmony Society to repeat as an International Quartet Champion. He won his first quartet gold medal with the Gaynotes from Tulsa in 1958. He also sang with the Quasars, 1975 Southwestern District Quartet Antonio. He also sang with the Quasars, 1975 Southwestern District Quartet performing "Music Man," throughout the United States with the road company of starring Forrest Tucker. In addition to his singing talents, he was an outstanding arranger, coach, writer and idea man. Mo was a long-time member of the "Grand Old Chapter" and we made an executive board decision to dedicate our next show (the Spring Show) to his memory. Therefore, our show will be "A Tribute To 'Mo'"; A celebration in song and spoken word to his life and times. Not a memorial, but a remembrance with anecdotes and vignettes from friends far and wide, and nothing but Rector arrangements. Joining the Founders Chorus will be Chapter Quartets, "Final Note", "Dave and Company", Chips Off The Old Block", and the 2003 SWD Quartet Champions, "Cooligans". It promises to be an evening filled with laughter, song and some tears; but will leave you delighted and wanting to hear more of the songs that Mo loved most – close 4-part harmony. Mark your calendars for Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, at 7:30 PM at the Tulsa Scottish Rite auditorium. Tickets (\$15 – Reserved / \$10 – General Admission / \$5 – Student) will be on sale soon from any chorus member, by calling (918) 622-5392, or by emailing [tulsafounders@cox.net](mailto:tulsafounders@cox.net).



### ***Singing Valentines A Big Success!!***

Our biggest fundraiser, by far each year is Singing Valentines. This year we had an **OUTSTANDING** year, in spite of the fact that Valentines Day was on a weekend day and many of our "customers" order Valentines for their sweethearts to be delivered at their workplace. In all, during the week, we delivered about 130 Singing Valentines and made about \$5000, much of which will go to our YMIH program.

### ***YMIH Program Offers Tulsa Public Schools' Young Men A Weekend Music Camp!***

The Founders Chorus has selected as its major **community service program**, the SPEBSQSA **Young Men In Harmony** program. YMIH offers Middle- and High-school boys a chance to experience Harmony Explosion Camp – a weekend immersion in

accapella singing held on the campus of Texas Women's University in June. We have made contact with the Tulsa Public School administrators and vocal music teachers advising them of this program and that we want to sponsor boys to this outstanding weekend. YOU can help!! If you have a son or grandson who would like to attend – call his school principal and music teacher to ask them to participate. Call TPS to encourage them to work with their schools too. We are also asking for help from service and fraternal organizations in funding this worthwhile educational opportunity. It costs only \$140 to send a boy to the camp. If you are a Rotarian, or an Elk, or Moose, or a member of the Jaycees, or any other fraternal organization – we want to talk to your chapter. Maybe you can sponsor boys from a particular school or just one boy or teacher. Whatever level of help can be offered will be appreciated. Our non-profit status makes this an ideal charitable contribution. Please call (918) 622-5392 for more information.

***Let your friends in on the secret!***

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