

The QuarterNote

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Tulsa Founders Chorus

The QuarterNote



H.O.T., McKinley St. Function, Texoma Sound Tops In SWD

"It was the best contest and convention ever". That was the consensus of all in attendance at the 2004 SWD Convention and Contest in Richardson, TX; Oct 22-24. The Dallas Metro Chapter (Vocal Majority) did an outstanding job of organizing the convention and staging all the things that need to be done behind the scenes. And they did it without breaking into a sweat. What a class group of guys and gals we have there in Big D.



The Heart of Texas Chorus (Central Texas Corridor)

, under the direction of Ron Black edged Houston's Tidelanders by a mere 6 points to

squeak out the 2004 SWD Chorus Championship at the District Contest in Richardson, TX on October 23rd. Houston was followed by Ft. Worth's Texas Millionaires Chorus by only 14 points. It was a VERY tight contest and all three qualified as possible representatives to next July's International contest in Salt Lake City.

McKinley Street Function took the Quartet contest by storm. They impressed the



judges and the audience with their exciting

vocals and smooth stage presence. They also performed at the COTS (Chapter Operations Training School) afterglow in

Dallas November 20th. You can look for them at a chapter show near you all through the next year. For more information log on to their website at: www.mckinleystreetfunction.com.

Our Seniors Quartet representative to the Jacksonville Mid-Winter



convention will be Texoma Sound. Some of you may recognize a couple of familiar faces in this outstanding quartet. Frank Friedemann (T) and Bill Thompson (bari) formerly of The Bo-johnson Quartet have joined voices to bring their outstanding talents to the contest and show stage.

From The Contest Stage

Founders Chorus Moves up in District Standings



The Founders Chorus stepped up to the

plate and delivered a great performance in Richardson. Achieving their best placement in several years, they came in at #11 with an aver-

age 61.3 score. That is several points higher than anytime in the last ten years. Director Charles Campbell praised the efforts of the Tulsa Chorus and said that he and the rest of the music and performance team were sure that all the hard work and extra coaching sessions

was a big part of the chorus' success. The chorus had expert coaching from Phil McShan (Fort Worth) and Ron Black (H.O.T.) during the year. But mostly it was the desire and commitment level from the chorus members that made the difference. **Way to go Tulsa!!!**

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Wanted:

Your ideas, thoughts, input. The editorial staff of **The QuarterNote** is on the lookout for articles of interest to both members and friends of the Tulsa #1 chapter of The Barbershop Harmony Society. Please feel free to contact us by email at tulsafounders@cox.net. All reasonable comments will be included in future issues unless you specifically ask us not to. Please be courteous. Please sign your message. Messages without signatures will be deleted.

Hope to hear from you soon.

2005 Board of Directors to Lead Chapter Into the Future

Well, it wasn't "W" and John, but it was just as important to the members of the Tulsa chapter. As Chapter President for the last two years, Bruce Bellen made the difficult decision to step down and make room for another administration to carry on the important work his vision had started.

The 2005 Board of Directors for the Tulsa #1 Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society is as follows:

- President: David Roberts
- Executive VP/Chapter Operations VP/Treasurer: Wallace Loerch
- VP Membership/Chapter Development: Bill Smiley

- Program VP: Tom Pickard
- Music/Performance VP: Tim Thompson
- Marketing/PR VP: Gran Barrows
- Chapter Secretary: Doug Campbell

"It's going to be a GREAT ride to a much improved Barbershopping experience"

2005 President David Roberts

The new BOD will become official at the Installation Dinner on January 21 at a location to be named. New members on the Board are Bill Smiley, Gran Barrows and Doug Campbell. Incoming President, David Roberts is expected to take the

chapter along the same path that the Bellen administration started it upon. "My vision is bright and clear", said Roberts. "The members can expect a GREAT ride this next year to a much improved barber-shop experience."

Incoming Board members, Smiley, Roberts, Loerch, (Doug) Campbell and Chorus Director Charles Campbell attended the SWD COTS the weekend of November 20-21. All gained new insight into their respective positions with lots of hands-on tips from the excellent faculty.

Transitional teams are already hard at work making the change of administrations as seamless as possible.

Letters to the Editor

**This space is reserved for
YOU! Submit your
comments, suggestions,
complaints, ideas ...
whatever to
tulsafounders@cox.net**

The President's Corner By Bruce Bellen, Chapter President

Bruce is spending the Thanksgiving week with his family. As he approaches the end of his two year tenure as President of the Tulsa #1 chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, he reflected with me, the incoming President, about his experience and how he hopes his administration will be remembered.

"Dave Stevens, the President before me, is a very organized person", Bruce remem-

bered. "His was a style I tried to pattern myself after." Asked about his decision to take a year off from competition in 2003 Bruce had this to say, "It was certainly a difficult decision. The chorus had not been scoring well and I agreed with Charles and the music team that it just wasn't much fun always coming in near the bottom of the score sheet. So we had some extra funds in the kitty and took the year off from the contest circuit, went to Harmony Ranch, got

some GREAT coaching from some really good barbershoppers and the results are evident. We scored higher this year than in any year since, I think, '92 or '93."

As I follow Bruce into the office of President, I want to take a moment to thank him for his service and leadership over the last two years. His administration will be remembered well as one that made a difference. — David Roberts

The Barbershop "Experience" - What it Means to Me

From The Editor's Desk By David Roberts, QuarterNote Editor

Opinions in this section are those of the editor alone and are not to be construed as coming from the Tulsa #1 Chapter of SPEBSQSA

Experience. The dictionary defines this word in several ways; but for the purposes of this editorial, let's use this one: "active involvement in an activity or exposure to events or people over a period of time, leading to an increase in knowledge and skill".

Doesn't that ring a chord for you? Doesn't it really encapsulate what our involvement in the Barbershop Harmony Society can give us? And notice the first word of the definition: active. Active participation in our chapter activities at any level builds our individual barbershop experience. Setting up chairs and risers at each meeting, making the coffee, selling tickets for shows, or wringing the last drop of emotion from a ballad at contest, then seeing the audience (and judges) in tears, these are all part of our barbershopping experience or our desired one.

But there is that one word ... active. A definition of this word is "showing energy and involvement". Another way of putting

this might be: "You get back what you put in". Well, for barbershoppers that is not completely fair. We get back from this hobby so much more than we could ever as an individual contribute.

But it all starts with "active involvement". You have to ask yourself, and answer in all honesty, what kind of experience do you

You have to ask yourself, and answer in all honesty, what kind of experience do you want out of this hobby?

want out of your hobby? Barbershopping "is a way of life", that's how SWD Hall of Fame inductee Larry Clemons so aptly phrased it. That kind of involvement may not be for everybody. The choice that each and every one of us has to make must be based upon many factors. There are family and career concerns. There are a plethora of other interests which will tug at your time and just as importantly for some, your purse strings.

The Tulsa #1 chapter is keenly aware of all these things which have strong influences upon the choices you make affecting the level of your personal barbershopping experience. That is why we've begun the Commitment Level Choice Program. The CLCP gives you options heretofore not offered to chapter members. You make the choices based upon what kind of experience YOU want out of your hobby today. You want to work your tail off, win District and go to International? We'll do that if enough of us share your goal. You want to stand (or sit) and sing the old songs? We'll do that too as part of the meeting programs Tom Pickard is developing.

As for me, barbershopping is a way of life. But, it's more than just the singing. It's caring for my friends and family in the barbershopping community. It's being actively involved in and promoting the lifestyle personified by Joe Barbershopper. That is the way I will build the Barbershop Experience I want.

Directorially Speaking ___

We're coming to the end of what think has been a corner turning year for the Founders Chorus. All the coaching sessions and outstanding instruction we received at Harmony Ranch last year REALLY paid off. The core contest and performing chorus is ringing chords like I've not heard in the three years I've been directing.

We still have a long way to go, but I believe that we've made excellent progress and, more than that, with the commitment

level I feel from the core guys, I think we'll get there sooner rather than later.

On top of the contest successes, it was a joy to direct the Founders Chorus in our "Tribute to Mo" (Rector) show last April and at the "Parade of Quartets" in September. The "Lights On" at Utica Square Thanksgiving night was really a high point for me. Leading you wonderful men in front of that huge crowd is one of the most fun things I do as your director. With the

"Holidays In Harmony" show coming up at Coffeyville next month, I think you'll agree that we've had one of our best years ever.

Keep practicing at home so our rehearsals are more like chorus rehearsals and not note/word sessions. Tape the rehearsal sessions and work on the interpretations. Drink plenty of water. Keep your sinus cavities clear. Warm up your voice on the way to chapter meeting—use that Manhattan Transfer tape, it really does work!

Tulsa Quartets Give it Their Best Shot

by Dave Roberts, Bari—Final Note



Two of the Tulsa chapters most active quartets, Dave & Company and Final Note threw their straw hats in the ring,

then stepped up to the mike and sang their hearts out at the SWD Quartet Contest in Richardson, TX on October 22nd. I'm proud to say that I am in one of those foursomes and it was an experience that I

will never forget.

The men and women of the Vocal Majority Chorus sure know how to

make you feel welcome. Neither one of us did exactly as well as we hoped, but the experience of singing on stage for an audience of over 1000 fellow barbershoppers and being judged by some of our barber-



shopping heroes is just the best.

"Coming in 24th was a bit of a disappointment", said Tim Thompson, Lead of Final Note. "But I'm not afraid of giving it another try if the rest of the guys want to go at it again". Well, whatever the decision might be, we're all very proud to have both quartets and all eight of these wonderful guys as representatives and members of "The Grand Old Chapter".

Tulsa Founders Chorus

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The Birthplace of The Barbershop
Harmony Society



The Founders Chorus is the PERFORMING ENSEMBLE of the Tulsa #1 Chapter of The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. (SPEBSQSA). Now officially called "The Barbershop Harmony Society", SPEBSQSA was born in Tulsa on April 11, 1938, when 26 men gathered on the Roof Garden of the Tulsa Club to preserve the Old-Fashioned American art form of close four-part harmony.

We of The Founders Chorus are proud of our heritage as the Birthplace of The Barbershop Harmony Society, and invite you to JOIN US IN SONG each Tuesday evening, 7:00 PM, at John Knox Presbyterian Church, 2929 E. 31st Street. Call (918) 622-5392 or email tulsafounders@cox.net for further information.

Visit The Founders Chorus
on the Web at ...

www.swd.org/founders

Upcoming Events

December 10, 2004	"Holidays In Harmony" Coffeyville Community College, Coffeyville, KS
January 21, 2005	Officer Installation Banquet
February 14, 2005	Singing Valentines from the Founders Chorus
April 1-3, 2005	Combined NE/SE Division Convention and Contest—Shreveport, LA
May 2005 (Dates TBA)	Founders Chorus Spring Show
July 3-10, 2005	International Convention & Contest—Salt Lake City, UT
October 21-23, 2005	SouthWestern District Convention and Contest—San Antonio, TX