



**"HARMONY
IN MOTION"**

The Chordsmen Chronicle

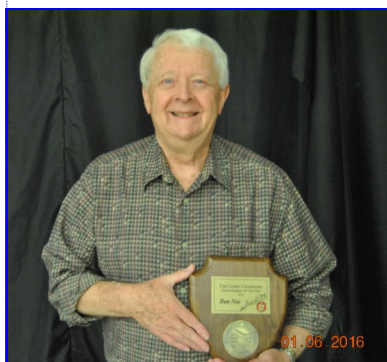


www.FunCenterChordsmen.com

Volume 41 Issue 1 ~ January 2016

2015 Honors Barbershopper of the Year and Hall of Fame Inductees

Dan Noe ~ 2015 BOTY



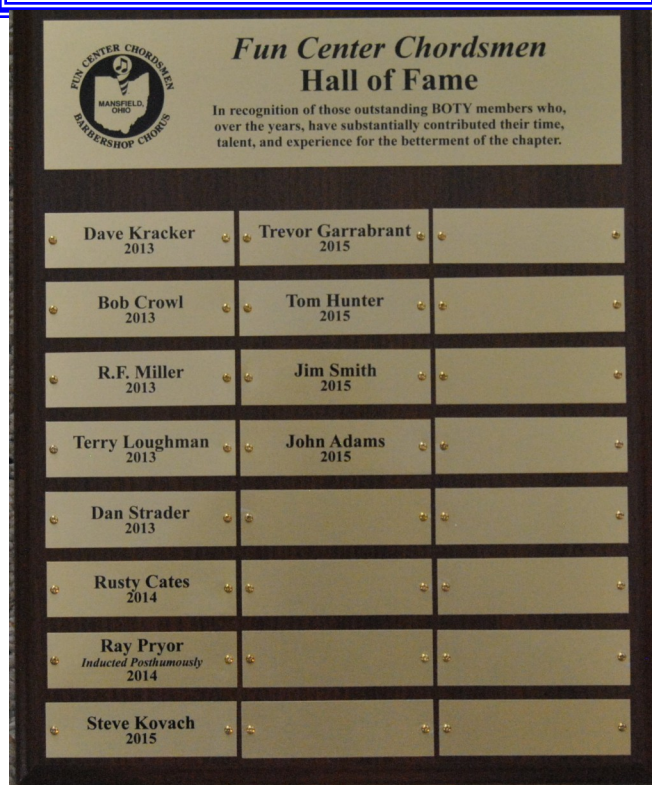
There's not a **no** in Noe. There are the letters in the name, but never a no in his response when asked to help the chapter. Since he joined the chorus in 2003 Dan has served in several official capacities and many volunteer roles.

It's difficult to recall a time when Dan said 'No' to a request for his help. He is always there when you need him. Dan has served as the chapter Treasurer, a show committee member, bass section leader and most recently as the Chorus Manager. Thanks to his efforts the chorus had more public performances in 2015 than in previous years.

He has hosted the past several chapter picnics and installation banquets at the New Life Church of Christ in Bellville. And for these events, he had done most of the work in the kitchen. As a matter of fact, when the 2014 BOTY, Mike Craze was making the announcement about the 2015 BOTY, Dan was in the kitchen, again!

Congratulations **Dan Noe** and thanks for the years of dedication to the chapter and the work you have done for the chorus.

Chordsmen Hall of Fame inducts five



How does one become a member of any Hall of Fame. A question you can't answer! If you just do your job, whatever that job may be, to the very best of your ability and perform well above and beyond expectations, then your peers may qualify you to be considered for the Hall of Fame.

The same is true with the Chordsmen Hall of Fame (CHOF). First, a member must be

recognized for his quality of work and chapter contributions, by being presented the Barber-shopper of the Year (BOTY) award. This is the first step in being a candidate for the CHOF.

The CHOF Class of 2015 had five individuals who had performed above and beyond expectations.

Steve Kovach: (BOTY 2003) Beginning in January 2001 Steve became the front line director of the Fun Center Chordsmen chorus. For ten years, every Monday night he taught, encouraged, prepared and developed the vocal production of the chorus.

He and his wife Kari became an integral part of the Chordsmen family. Steve made a lot of the learning tracks the chorus used during those years. He was totally dedicated to making each member of the chorus a better singer.

He had a very unique way of teaching the chorus how to form vowels and how to breathe properly. As a graduate of Bowling Green State University he studied under R. D. Mathey. It's no wonder he was excited about barbershop.

Steve didn't ever live in the Mansfield area. He commuted each Monday, first from the Columbus area and then from the Wadsworth area.



**Steve Kovach and Trevor Garrabrant
Inducted into the Chordsmen Hall of Fame
Class of 2015**

He did all this with the Mansfield chapter while competing on the international level with Silver Medalist quartet, Uptown Sound.

Trevor Garrabrant: (BOTY 2009) He too was a graduate of BGSU although a few years behind Steve. As a young vocal music teacher in the Crestview school system, he found his way to a rehearsal of the Chordsmen thanks to the never ending persistence of **Joe Dove**. **Steve Kovach**, immediately recognized Trevor's potential as a musical leader in the chorus and began the process of mentoring him in the ways of a barbershop director. He was dedicated to the chorus every Monday night.

In 2010, **Doug Smeltz** became the front line director when Steve stepped down after 10 years out front. Doug continued mentoring Trevor and appointed him an Assistant Director.

Trevor was elected VP of Music and Performance for the chapter and began immediately to utilize the Music Team to assist the directors.

After attending a Chorus Director Workshop Intensive, (CDWI) and three years of Harmony University Directors College, Doug appointed him Co-Director of the chorus giving him more time to polish his director skills.

Fast forward to April 2015. **Doug Smeltz** was elected Executive VP of JAD and found himself tight on time. He asked to step down as the director and assured the chorus that Trevor was well prepared to take over the front line position.

In the past couple of years, his family with wife Megan, grew with two boys, Keaton and Sawyer. But Trevor was still committed to the chorus every Monday night. Juggling his work time, family time, quartet time and chorus time, he has performed the role of Front Line Director to the full satisfaction of the membership. Thankfully Megan is an understanding wife.

Tom Hunter: Tom was a key figure in the formation of the Fun Center Chordsmen in Mansfield, OH. In the spring of 1973 he responded to an ad in the Mansfield News Journal regarding

Hall of Fame continued

the formation of a new singing group. That ad had been placed by **Joe Vaughn**, who was very involved with a barbershop chapter in Elyria. That left Tom with the major responsibility to run with this possibility.

Joe helped the fledgling group find an interim director by the name of **Lou Mau** from the Elyria area and Tom kept pedaling away at recruiting a small group of singers. When Lou turned the reins over Tom, he recruited local city school musician, **Glen Fischer** to take over the directing role. **Dave Kracker** entered the picture either in late 1973 or early 1974 and was asked by Glen to take over directing, knowing of Dave's past involvement with the barbershop style of four part singing.

With Tom still at the administrative wheel of the small group, they were licensed by SPEBSQSA in March of 1974 and then chartered that following September. **Tom Hunter** became the chapter's first President and also was the first Barbershopper of the Year in 1974. Tom remained very active with the chapter as an officer and bass singer until he moved from the area.

John Adams: (Inducted posthumously)

John was a 1974 charter member of our chapter, performing on our first show at Malabar HS in Feb. 1975. He later became our President in 1984 and 1985, receiving the coveted Barbershopper of the Year award in 1984. That was just the tip of the iceberg! John served as our chapter Treasurer from 1975 thru 1979, and also published our first newsletter, The Fun Center Hubbub from 1975 thru 1986.

John's monumental accomplishment (unknown to the majority of the chapter members, old and new) was that HE was the person who secured the First Congregational Church for the chapter meetings. It was an accomplishment whose benefits have been enjoyed for all those years. That was done in August 2006, 31 years ago! Prior to that



the chapter met at the Eagles Club on North Main St., an American Legion Post on Park Ave. East, and then the Elks Club at Mulberry and Third St. in Mansfield.

Jim Smith: (Presented Posthumously)

Jim Smith was one of only of 5 men in our 41 year history to hold the office of President for 3 years. His terms were in 1976, 2000, and 2001. He was awarded the BOTY in 1976.

He was very instrumental in getting our Harmony Camp scholarship fund established, personally arranging for our first silent auction at our summer picnics. An article in the FCC Hubbub, the name of the chapter bulletin back then, noted that the members could hardly believe the amount of items Jim had gathered, in fancy display no less. The net gain was over \$1,000!

New Lifetime Service Award

By: Dave Kracker—CHOF 2013



Dick Gahm
Lifetime Service Award

The Lifetime Service Award (LSA), is a newly created honor that the Board approved in 2015. It can only be awarded to a member of the chapter who has been a member for a minimum of 25 years; is not a member of chapter Hall of Fame; may or may not be a past Barbershopper of the Year; and has faithfully served the chapter "over and above" the

normally expected membership duties in any capacity.

Dick is one of the few remaining 1974 charter members of our chapter. He had been singing with the Country Gentlemen of Bucyrus for 5 years previous, and remained a dual member of both chapters for several years thereafter. Very few members have ever been more faithful in

New Lifetime Service Award—Continued

attendance at chapter meetings and performances over the years.

For years, Dick was our “House Committee Chairman”, which basically meant he served coffee and punch for us and then cleaned up the mess we left. Dick was our Historian for many years, going to the trouble of keeping up not just one, but two scrap books of our show programs and photos. He also worked on show props for most if not all of our annual shows.

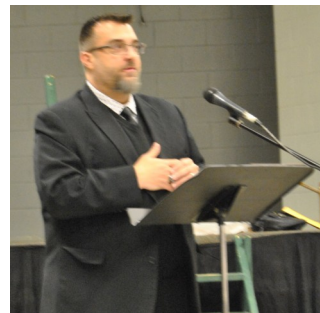
From past chapter bulletins, we learn that Dick was our Program VP in 1976; Picnic Chairman in 1977; Board Member at Large 1983-1986; Stage Manager for our 1984 Show (A Decade of Barbershop Harmony); quartet member with “Four In A Chord”, one of our first registered quartets; and also for many years with “Richland Sound System” (Humbert, Sterle, Oswalt).

***The “members only” website is for more than just downloading music.***

- The Taskbar shows all the latest news every member needs to know.
- The Music Learning section let’s you chart the progress of each new song from the Not Started status through to being Approved.
- The Attendance section for each chorus event, let’s you chart your attendance commitment.
- The Music section allows for downloading the learning tracks and charts.
- In the documents section, you will find such information as:
 - 2016 Chapter Board Minutes
 - Chapter position descriptions
 - Chorus contest score sheets
 - The Classic Tag book

***2016 Officers Installed
At banquet***

The leadership team of any organization plays a major role in the success or failure of the group. So too, the leadership team of the Fun Center Chordsmen will determine the future pathway to success of the chapter.



The 2016 chapter leadership team was officially installed at a banquet on Wednesday, January 6. The installation ceremony was conducted by former chorus director, **Steve Kovach**. The officers are listed on the

final page of this issue of the Chronicle.

The evening was full of fun, fellowship, entertainment and challenge.

Late Edition quartet sang several songs with a special one, “Don’t Blame Me” to **Diane Miller**.



Doug Smeltz then invited all the “quartet guys,” members from Home Edition, Bravada



and Good Company, to join Late Edition in singing “Nevertheless,” a song that was in each quartet’s repertoire.

The evening concluded with **Steve Kovach** directing the chorus in his signature song “Ride the Chariot,” sung by **Trevor Garrabrant**.

***Fun Center Chordsmen and
Dogwood Blossoms
perform joint show***

Battle of the Barbershop choruses took place in October in Mt. Vernon. The Dogwood Blossoms invited the Chordsmen to share the stage with them for their annual show. It was billed as the “Battle of Barbershop.”

The ladies thought that “Anything the Chordsmen could do, the Blossoms could do better,” and set about trying to prove it. After three rounds in the ring, (on the stage) it was declared a draw. But boy was it fun!

The Dogwood Blossoms had the first round all to themselves since it was their show. Following a brief intermission, round two was the Chordsmen time in the ring (stage).



Then in round three, the two choruses joined forces to continue the battle. The song “Anything you can do, I can do better” finally resulted in both directors shaking hands and declaring it a draw...to just sing and have fun.



Bravada and Good Company quartets were available to sing during the second round.

Good Company led off with a couple of songs that held the audience attention.



Chris Rumas Mike Craze Lee Hull Tom Webb

Later, Bravada had the opportunity to perform with their new tenor, **Jim Frye**. Two love songs were on the ticket for Bravada.



Jim Frye Trevor Garrabrant, Dan Crow, R.F. Miller

An octet of four Chordsmen and four Blossoms sang before the finale...Lida Rose.

It took a couple of joint rehearsals and a combined dress rehearsal to make sure everything happened the way it should. The theatre in Mt. Vernon has really good acoustics and the stage was “hot.”

Every Chordsman that participated will tell you that it was a real “hoot” practicing and performing with the Dogwood Blossoms.

Thank you Dogwood Blossoms for a really great time!

Bravada performs in the Music Man

At a Bravada quartet rehearsal in early April of last year, Trevor asked the quartet if they wanted play the School Board and quartet in the Morrow County Little Theatre production of "The Music Man" in July. He said we would only have to learn three songs, "Sincere," "It's You," "and Lida Rose." We already knew Lida Rose so we thought it would be a piece of cake and we'd only have to attend rehearsal during tech week before the show. We readily agreed.

Just to get the lay of the land, so to speak, we went to one of the rehearsals after we agreed to perform. That's when we found out that we would be on stage during the singing of several of the other show songs, like "Iowa Stubborn" "Seventy-six Trombones" "Wells Fargo Wagon." and "Shippoopi."



OK Trevor, more work. But by now we were hooked on the show and didn't mind attending the other rehearsals and learning the extra songs.

Except for Trevor, the others had little experience in performing in a musical. But with a great cast and a super show director, we learned quickly enough to pull it off. It was a "blast."

Since the show, Tim has moved to Nashville.

Keeping up with Good Company

By: Tom Webb



As Good Company quartet enters into it's 8th year we find that 2015 was a year of ups and downs, a number of on the mark performances and a couple of close

seconds.

We have worked very hard to improve our sound, focusing on voice and vowel matching and have strived to improve our sync and memory issues.

We discovered, "what's the first word?" could be accompanied by "what's the first song?" right after both were discussed, not five minutes before performance time. Turning to each other the moment we stepped on stage only to see all having that "deer in the headlights" look, has to be one of the most memorable experiences for any quartet. If only we could remember when it happened. But it did on a couple of occasions and we survived both of them.

This past year saw us performing at nursing homes, churches, a strawberry festival and receiving our first standing O at the statewide meeting of the Ohio Child Conservation League. 125 very enthusiastic ladies made that experience extra special, giving our quartet a great big shot in the arm confidence-wise.

The Dogwood Blossoms show and after glow rank as one of the most fun venues at which we've performed. We also started a ministry of sorts by singing once each of the last two months for the kids at the Juvenile Detention Center.

Good Company—Cont

Along with an anniversary party, birthday party and other impromptu performances, we've had a busy year, and remained relatively healthy.

The one thing Good Company is doing more than anything else, is having fun. Singing is therapy and performing is putting that therapy in outreach. We discovered that when we have fun so does our audience, whether we are spot on or having a senior moment. Hopefully that really does make us



From the Prez

"The new year stands before us, like a chapter in a book, waiting to be written. We can help write that story by setting goals" - a quote from Melody Beattie, author of many self-help books.

What will be **your** personal goals be for this year that will make you and ultimately the Chordsmen a better chapter? Well, let's first understand what a goal is:

"A goal is a desired result that a person or a system envisions, plans and commits to achieve. Smart goals should be specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound."

As I think ahead to 2016, here are five goals I think we all can adopt as our own, including me:

1-To dedicate time each week **outside** chapter meetings to learn and memorize our chapter music. Let's be accountable to ourselves, our section leaders, our directors, and our membership.

2-To do our part in helping sustain our financial budget, through the selling of Singing

Prez cont'd

Valentines, show ads, show tickets, Pass The Hat, or personal donations to the budget. When the budget is stable, the chapter has a better chance to also remain stable.

3-Show your commitment to the chapter through regular attendance at chapter meetings and public performances. While we will all have commitments to work and family, we should do whatever necessary to make sure we are present at chapter scheduled events.

4-New member recruitment remains a vital need for the future of the Chordsmen. Each one of us **must** take every opportunity to reach out to the men around us, whether family, friend, colleague, or even stranger, and initiate a conversation about our love of singing and how the Chordsmen can be a place for them. Strive to either earn your first "Man of Note", or add to those you've already brought in.

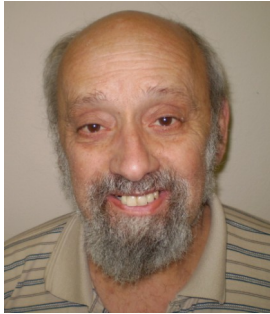
5- Research the area you live in and find performance opportunities for the chapter, like local town/county fairs, service organizations, music series, elderly care facilities. Due to the number of public performances in 2015, our budget was afforded a nice positive bump not projected. Let's make sure the 2016 budget gets the same reward. And, no better way to attract potential new members than from getting out in front of our community members.

There you have it! Imagine if every one of us accepted this goal challenge? Imagine the effects on our musicality, our finances, our membership, and our public presence. It will surely take courage to step up to this challenge, but as poet Maya Angelou said, "Courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage, you can't practice any other virtue consistently."

I leave you with this final quote from Bob Marley, "One good thing about music, when it hits you, you feel no pain."

It's Show Time

By: Ron Rosser



The revenue from our show ads and ticket sales is a fund raisers that keeps the chapter financially sound. It is really important that each of us put forth the effort to utilize the community support and sell advertisements

in our show program. I have put together a packet which explains how this process works.

In each packet, there is a list of instructions, a report which lists ads that were sold in previous years, a copy of the ad contract, and a copy of last year's ad. If you did not sell ads last year, there is a blank report. Please return this report to me when you have finished selling ads. If you have any questions on filling out this report, please ask me.

Each Monday please give me all of the ads that you have sold that week. Please do not wait until the last week. I will be delivering the ads to the printer each week.

Think about where you do business...where you spend your money. That's a good place to sell ads.

If you want to sell an ad to a business, check to see if it was in last year's program. If it was, someone else has been assigned it. If it is not, go get it. There is an index of advertisers in the back of each year's program. If you have any questions about how to sell an ad, please ask **Walt Jewett**. He is our resident expert. 🎵

**BARBERSHOPPING
CAN BE FUN!**

2015 Brought Changes

Nothing is constant except change! We've all heard that phrase and probably never given it much thought. What if changes were never in the picture? We'd still be using fly paper, buggy whips and hand crank butter churns.



Progress is based on change. It doesn't really guarantee success but it's an opportunity to reassess the values, commitment and direction of the organization. So it is with the Fun Center Chordsmen.

During the past year the chapter has undergone a couple of significant changes in the leadership team. These changes are for the better only if the members embrace the changes and commits to support them.

In April, just after the annual show, a change in the front line director became effective. Former co-director, **Trevor Garrabrant** was named the new front line guy. He has risen through the ranks of Assistant Director, Co-Director to Front Line Director through diligent study and performance.

Changes in technique, style and interpretation are in order. And the membership must commit to adjust to the new process of moving forward.

Also in 2015, **Jim Frye** was appointed as Assistant Director. Both Trevor and Jim, have music education degrees from Bowling Green State University. To make full use of Jim's background is a change we can all support.

Stan Popp was appointed and subsequently elected to the position of Executive Vice President. In the past, the position of EVP has not been used for its intended purpose. That's another change! His appointment assures the chapter that there is indeed leadership in depth. 🎵

Noe's Notes

By: Dan Noe ~ Chorus Manager




Dan Noe

2015 was a very good year for the Chordsmen Chorus. We had terrific opportunities to enjoy our craft in sing-outs, great bonding experiences at chorus rehearsals, struggling through challenging circumstances, we are gaining in stature and quality. The spirit of our fellowship has become a delight to look forward to each week.

Much of it is due to our fine leadership team that continually demonstrates their commitment to being super encouragers, patient advocates of excellence and wise architects of our development. What a neat thing to be a part of such a positive group!!

I search for words to express how honored and humbled I was to receive your vote of confidence accompanying the BOTY award. What an unexpected but greatly appreciated gesture on the part of the members.


What punctuates the honor is the fact that I so enjoy the areas of activity to which I have migrated. What a neat group of fellows in the section that I attempt to lead. They work hard, respond to helpful suggestions and always express appreciation for effort invested with them. What a joyful spirit among all the members when we are together. That produces an unconscious inspiration to keep on keeping on no matter what the down turns or daunting challenges.

We truly have a good thing going. I am grateful to be a part of a "Band of Brothers" with such a fulfilling mission. 

Chordsmen keep wardrobe stock

Lorin Weaver, the chapter Treasurer, does double duty as the wardrobe stock room clerk. To make sure we have additional chorus clothing for new members, he maintains the stock room with the following items.

- Green Long sleeve tux shirt
 - 2 -Med
 - 1 -2XL
 - 1- 3XL
- Blue tie die T-shirt
 - 2 - 2XL
- Blue summer Golf Shirt
 - 2 -M ed
 - 1-L
 - 1-XL
- Red FCC embroidered golf shirt
 - 1-Med
 - 2-L
- Red FCC light weight jacket
 - 1-Med
 - 2-L
 - 3-XL
 - 2-2XL

If you need any of these wardrobe items, please talk Lorin. 



The measure of success is not whether you have a tough problem to deal with, but whether it's the same problem you had last year.

John Foster Dulles

Craft Corner

Have you often wondered just how Trevor is able to tell us where a note falls on the scale? Does it amaze you when he is able to tell us "that note is the fifth or third or root in the chord?" Well you have to remember he spent a good share of his earlier years studying music theory.

If you were to ask him how he learned it all, he'd probably say, "you begin by learning the notes of the treble and bass clef."

So for those who are in the learning process and for those who may need a refresher, here are some hints on how to learn the notes.

In Treble Clef:

The line notes are:

Every Good Boy Does Fine

Or E G B D F

The space notes spell FACE



In Bass Clef:

The line notes are:

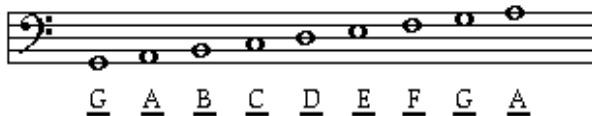
Good Boys Do Fine Always

Or G B D F A

The space notes are:

All Cows Eat Grass

Or A C E G



This may seem pretty rudimentary to some of the veteran Chordsmen but this process has helped quite a few barbershoppers learn how to read music. The more you know about reading music, the more you can learn about singing good barbershop harmony. 🎵

Points to Ponder

An Editorial

"Choose wisely my friend"

Looking back, knowing what you know today, would you have made different choices in earlier years. Most of us, if we were totally honest, would say yes to that question. But as they say, "hindsight is 20/20."

No chance to change the past but we can certainly influence the future with our choices.



Let's apply this philosophy to the chorus. We know we can be a better singing and performing chorus than we are. Choices in the past have placed us where we are today. But that doesn't have to be a mirror image of the future. The future of the chorus will depend entirely on the choices that each of us makes beginning now.

As a member of the Fun Center Chordsmen, we're faced with choices at least once a week, if not more. **On Mondays we can;**

- ♦ choose to attend chorus rehearsal...or not.
- ♦ choose to be on time... or not.
- ♦ choose to listen or to talk when Trevor, Jim or Dave is out front.
- ♦ choose to focus on singing the way we've been taught...or just do it the way we've always done it.
- ♦ choose to participate in the operation of the chorus...or let others do the work.
- ♦ choose to work on our music outside of Monday rehearsal time...or not.
- ♦ choose to have a positive attitude...or one that's not.
- ♦ choose to be a *leader*... or a *leaner*.

A good question to ask ourselves would be this;
"If every Chordsman were just like me, what kind of a chorus would we be?"

"Choose wisely my friend."



2016 Chapter Leadership

President ~

Jim Frye

Exec. VP ~

Stan Popp

Music Director ~

Trevor Garrabrant

Assistant Directors ~

Jim Frye

Dave Kracker

Chorus Coach ~

Vacant

VP Music & Performance ~

Trevor Garrabrant

VP Chapter Development ~

Ed Farrar

VP Marketing & PR ~

R.F. Miller

VP YIH ~

Dave Kracker

Secretary ~

Lee Cook

Treasurer ~

Lorin Weaver

Immediate Past President ~**Board Members at Large:**

Bob Gibson

Terry Loughman

Mike Craze

Mitch Gale

*The Chordsmen Chronicle is the official bulletin of the
Fun Center Chordsmen.*

Editor: R. F. Miller (RFMiller1@gmail.com)

2016 Man of Note honor roll

	<i>Your name here</i>	



Chordsmen Quartets (alpha order & year founded)

Bravada (2001)

Jim Frye (T)

Trevor Garrabrant (L)

Dan Crow (B)

R.F. Miller (Br) (419) 884-2441 (contact)

Chordially Yours (2004)

Gayle Ray (T)

Dan Strader (L)

Stan Popp (B) (419) 756-0098 (contact)

Frank DeWitt (Br)

Good Company (2008)

Tom Webb (T)

Lee Hull (L)

Mike Craze (B)

Chris Rumas (Br) (419) 886-3163 (contact)

Home Edition (1991)

Jim Frye (T)

Jerry Starrett (L)

Bill Herdman (B)

Dave Kracker (Br)

Late Edition (2013)

Keith Shuck (T)

Steve Sommer (L)

Mark Hannum (B)

Doug Smeltz (Br) (614) 537-5184 (contact)

***“It’s great to be a
barbershopper in
*Mansburg, Ohio”***

*(*Mansfield)*