



**"HARMONY
IN MOTION"**

The Chordsmen Chronicle



www.FunCenterChordsmen.com

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Fun Center Chordsmen participate in the BHS *Make a Difference Day*

By: R. F. Miller ~ VP Marketing & PR

There were many different ways and many different organizations working to make a difference on Saturday, October 22nd. The Mansfield, Ohio chapter, The Fun Center Chordsmen, followed the suggestion of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

BHS encouraged each and every barbershop chorus in the United States to just go out and sing for folks without expectation of reward. Just sing for such places as nursing homes and assisted living organizations.



The Chordsmen started their singing tour by paying a visit to Wedgewood Estates, an assisted living facility.

Wedgewood has four dining rooms and the Chordsmen visited each one and sang several songs for those residents eating lunch.

The chorus was escorted from one dining room to another by our host, and photographer, **Kerstin Feasley**. Each room had its own unique shape and although it was somewhat crowded, we were able



to get formed up in the space available.

We made it work in each of the locations.

Assistant directors, **Jim Frye** and **Dave Kracker** shared the duties of keeping the chorus all together.



Some of the dining rooms' décor seemed to be the same, but each room had its own group of enthusiastic diners.



In one of the dining rooms, we saw a former Chordsmen, **Wayne Keifer** (in black shirt). A lot of us remembered him singing with the chorus in days past. I bet he remembered some of the songs we sang.

There was one smaller dinning room that was almost overlooked but was too small for the entire chorus. One of the chapter quartets, **Good Company**, sang for them to make sure they weren't forgotten.



The Chordsmen gathered to car pool to the next singing location as we said farewell to the residents of Wedgwood.



Next stop, Primrose Retirement Community. The Primrose location was new to many of the Chordsmen, but one of the chapter quartets, **Bravada**, has performed there many times before, especially for Valentine's Day.

We were to perform in a special section of the large dinning room where chairs had been arranged in theater style for the residents.

The program was scheduled to begin at 1:00 PM.

Host and helpful photographer at Primrose was **Havelah Feasley**. She made sure we had all of our questions answered and greeted the residents as they arrived.



Since we didn't have to move around to sing this time, we were able to perform for a full 30 minutes. The residents were very animated in their response to our singing.

The show began with "Sittin' on top of the World." Then, as is often the case, the Emcee introduced the directors and asked if he could do some market research. He then asked the question, "How many of you have never, ever heard the Chordsmen sing before? About half of those in attendance raised their hands. The Emcee then asked, "Where were you during the last song?" That resulted in much laughter and really broke the ice with the residents.



The interaction with the residents made it fun for both the singers and those there to listen. And at Primrose, we met **Bill Woodrow** who sang with the Chordsmen in the mid fifties.

All in all, the Make a Difference Day for the Fun Center Chordsmen was fun. We ended the day with a feeling that we shared our voices in song to make a difference in the lives of those at Wedgwood and Primrose.



♪

Lest we forget ~ Veterans Day November 11



Marines raise the flag atop Mount Suribachi on the Pacific island of Iwo Jima, February 23, 1945

Lest we forget the men and women of the military who fought and died in all the wars, to protect our freedom. More than 7,000 Marines and Navy personnel died in the battle to secure the island of Iwo Jima.

To honor the active and retired members of the US military, the Fun Center Chordsmen will perform a Veteran's Salute on Monday evening November, 7 at the First Congregational Church.

All veterans, active duty personnel and their families are invited to attend.

There are many veterans among the members of the Chordsmen and the entire chorus thanks them for their service.

We are the "home of the free because of the brave,"

Bravada at 1285

By: R.F. Miller ~ Bari ~ Bravada



Sometimes you're just in the right place at the right time and good things happen. Other times, not so much.

One of the members of the quartet

Bravada gets his coffee freshly ground at the Blueberry Patch on Hanley Rd. in Mansfield. On one such occasion, he was asking the owner, **Lisa Bielstein**, how late the 1285 Winery stayed open on Wednesday nights. Sometimes the quartet goes someplace to have a little liquid refreshment after rehearsal, as in afterglow.



Lisa said 10:00 PM and encouraged us to stop and sing for them some Wednesday night after practice. Oh, well, I guess we just had to do that.



The first time we visited the Winery, **Stan Popp** and wife Barb joined us. Lisa said "The first round is on the house if you'll sing for us." Oh my, what to do.

Of course we sang more than one and even got Stan to join us for Sittin' On Top

of the World.

So we imbibed and sang for over an hour. Everyone had so much fun with the impromptu entertainment. As we were leaving, Lisa asked us to come back three weeks from then because there

would be about 30 ladies at the Wine and Paint party. Decisions, decisions.

So we did indeed stop by and the same protocol was enjoyed. The staff all said they were glad we came back. Many of the ladies stopped their painting, grabbed their cell phones and began recording as we sang song after song.

So it looks like **Bravada** has a new hang out after quartet practice. No only is it fun, it's tasty as well. Wood fired pizza and a wonderful choice of liquid refreshment. It doesn't get any better than that.



Steve and Lisa Beilstein had operated the Blueberry Patch for several years when they decided to open the 1285 Winery. Construction on the winery began October 2013. It's now if full swing.

It's neat place to meet, greet and sing and....? 🎵



What does the future hold?

By: Jim Frye ~ Assistant Director

This past Monday night (10/24) I unfortunately was unable to sing due to a slight sore throat and its effect on my vocal cords. So I decided to sit out in front so I could get a better sense of the ensemble sound and hopefully offer critique, both positive and negative.

Trevor programmed songs from our learned repertoire and upcoming show tunes. As the chorus worked with Trevor on "Blackbird," the overall sound and visual performance was solid, as we would expect being a previous show tune. Riser etiquette was in place and some good ol' fashioned woodshedding was at hand.



And then it happened. Trevor moved forward into 2017 show music and well, we took a step backward. Much to my surprise came a totally different chorus sound, mainly due to many members stumbling over the words and notes. The confidence level sunk, right along with the pitch.



Many members stood there with no music in their hands, no pencil to mark their music, and I guess pretended to perform as though they were "off paper" and "test ready"?



If you were in attendance you know I concluded our evening by reminding everyone that we only have 12 full rehearsals, and five shortened rehearsals (due to Christmas music) left before our show in March. It would have been acceptable if this were May or June and we just started, but this is almost November! We've had the music and learning tracks for five months but looked/sounded more like five days. I think the idea for going to contest in April will be in jeopardy unless things improve in the coming weeks.



So, where do we go from here? I know for sure that we are better singers than what we heard this past

Monday night. We all know those moments from past performances that make the hair stand right up and gives us goosebumps. But what does it take to make that kind of reaction happen more frequently?



We must spend time with the learning tracks, at home or on the road. We must practice by singing in front of a mirror to check our mouth and how we shape our vowels and our facial expressions. It's really not fair to Trevor when we are not prepared. We end up wasting his time, and ours! We can be better than this. In fact, **We Can, We Will, We Must!**

Below is a checklist we should all refer to on a weekly basis to hold ourselves accountable to our directors, our sections leaders, our section, and the chorus as a whole. While I support the idea that Monday nights need to be fun and an enjoyable experience, we also need to understand the commitment required as a member. Fun comes from making great music together, but this happens when every member arrives prepared, having put time in prior to the rehearsal. We are a great chapter, with great leadership and great members...why would we settle for anything less?

FCC Member Checklist:

- Do I have all my sheet music in an organized manner?
- Do I have all my learning tracks downloaded and available and do I use them?
- Do I check my email regularly for emails from the President, or Director,
- Am I logging into the FCC Member Only website **weekly** to view the Dashboard filled with Chapter news, recording my attendance at upcoming events, marking my music learning status?
- Am I spending time **at home** working on the chorus music, working on the areas that need attention? If I am struggling with a particular section of a song, am I asking my section leader or director for assistance? We can never be scared or embarrassed to ask for help.
- Am I letting my section leader and/or directors know if I am going to be absent at upcoming meetings or events?
- Simply put...am I personally doing my part to support the chorus. 🎵

From Top Gun to Chordsmen Rehearsal

By: Steve Kovach ~ February 2002

A Chordsmen rehearsal focuses on developing a "Champion."

- ◆ Chordsmen have attitudes and perspectives very different from everyone else.
- ◆ Chordsmen expect things of themselves that most of us would never dare.
- ◆ Chordsmen rehearse and master their craft in ways that most of us have never tried.

A Chordsmen rehearsal redefines the expectations of both the group and the individual.

- ◆ Chordsmen expect nothing less than perfection from each singer.
- ◆ Chordsmen expect each individual to be responsible for preparedness and perfection.
- ◆ Chordsmen expect that each performance will be stunning.
- ◆ Chordsmen expect "standing O's" in every performance, which demands risk-taking.

A Chordsmen rehearsal raises the bar on individual responsibility.

- ◆ Chordsmen singers must know how to make every performance fabulous.
- ◆ Chordsmen singers use rehearsal to learn and refine both perfection and stardom.
- ◆ Chordsmen singers don't waste rehearsal time on remedial techniques, but own them.
- ◆ Chordsmen singers make the ensemble great only by demonstrating greatness themselves.

A Chordsmen rehearsal teaches the proper focus on performance skills.

- ◆ Chordsmen learn, in rehearsal, to recognize when they're wonderful, and when they're not.
- ◆ Chordsmen learn, in rehearsal, both how to recover and how to raise the level.

- ◆ Chordsmen know that "peaking" is no better than a "coin-flip," "standing O's" must be rehearsed.

What a Chordsmen rehearsal is not.

- ◆ A Chordsmen rehearsal is...not...about winning a contest.
- ◆ Chordsmen can not control what other groups do.
- ◆ Chordsmen can not control the abilities or tastes of Judges.
- ◆ Chordsmen can only control what they do.
- ◆ Chordsmen know that, if they are wonderful, winning audiences or contests takes care of itself.

A Chordsmen rehearsal is not about elitism, or about not being a hobby anymore, or about not being fun!

- ◆ Chordsmen *didn't join* to be mediocre singers, and you didn't either.
- ◆ Chordsmen *don't ever enjoy* mediocre singing, and you don't either.
- ◆ Chordsmen have fun struggling and achieving, just like you do, in the magic arena we call a "hobby."
- ◆ Chordsmen learn that "quality" is a dirty word, *only* if we burn out, never having achieved it!

The expected results from a Chordsmen rehearsal experience


Commit to a championship attitude.

Have individual responsibility for developing your own inner champ

Acept only perfection from yourself

Make every rehearsal a preparation for your own personal championship

Perform, at all times, with the attitudes and techniques of a champion

Here's to working hard, having fun, making great sound, and being champion Chordsmen! 

From The Boardwalk

By: Lee Cook ~ Secretary



Below you will find highlights of the October 11, 2016 meeting of the Fun Center Chordsmen board of directors.

Secretaries Report (Lee)

September board minutes were accepted.

VP Music & Performance (Trevor)

Show music coming along very well.
Will get November 7 veterans salute song line up out to music team

VP Marketing & PR (RF Miller)

Established a new media outlet.
1) Radio station at Mansfield Christian School
Worked with Groupanizer.
1) To pay annual renewal for public side and members only side of website.
2) Separate charge for each side of website.
3) Can change themes at no charge.
4) Annual charge will be \$556
Next Chronicle deadline is Tuesday Oct. 25.

VP YIH: Dave Kracker

Harmony camp looking at new venue for the camp.

Chorus Manager: Dan Noe

Thursday, December 8, 2016 Christmas sing at Mansfield Place @ 6:30pm. This is a 30 minute \$300 paid gig.

New Business:

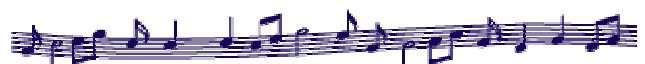
R.F. Miller to start election stuff for 2017 board of directors' spots that will need to be filled. 🎵



Highlights of the JAD House of Delegates meeting.

By: Ron Rosser ~ HOD delegates representative

1. Discussed Healthy Chapter Initiative. The purpose of the Healthy Chapter initiative is to develop strategies for strengthening the overall health of the communities of artists that comprise the BHS chapter structure. The district will assign resources as necessary.
2. Discussed District re-alignment. The JAD board now consists of the following board members: President, Immediate past President, Executive Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, four Board Members at Large, VP Administrative Leadership, VP Contest and Judging, VP Events, VP Chapter Relations/Fellowship, VP Music Leadership, VP Outreach, VP Technology/ Communications. There is no longer a VP of Membership and VP of Marketing.
3. Discussed Apple Corp for 2017. The decision has been made to have four regional sessions a year. The discussion is to utilize two weekends in four locations. A team has been appointed to review the details. They will be scheduled around the same time as the current Apple Corp. This will be reviewed each year to see how it is working.
4. Discussed Leadership Academy. The name has been changed. It is now the **Regional Leadership Academy**. The same location will be utilized. Other districts will be invited. The format of the sessions will change. The Core sessions are the same except that Outreach has been added.
5. Convention Update Mixed quartets are now able to compete at Conventions. The Singing Buckeyes will host the Spring Convention in April. The 2017 Fall Convention will be in Cincinnati. 🎵



Point to Ponder

“Living in your comfort zone”

An Editorial



In Stephen Covey’s book, **The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People**, habit number two deals with using the whole brain. And states, “The left side of the brain is the more logical/verbal side and the right hemisphere is the more intuitive, creative one.”

Studies show that most men are left brain oriented and find it difficult to use much of the right side. We are about to be challenged to use both hemispheres of the brain.

For the past several months we have talked about the upcoming Strategic Action Plan retreat for the official board. In that session we’ll look at the goals and objectives that need to be accomplished within the next three to five years if the chorus is to thrive and survive. And each member, must by necessity, buy into and work toward accomplishing the objectives laid out in the plan. Each of us has had the opportunity to have input to the action plan. Some have and many have not.

So what has this got to do with “Living in Your Comfort Zone?” There will be several objectives that we’ve talked about doing for years, but no action has been taken. Now is the time. The Action Plan is only objectives with time lines and responsibilities on paper. It means nothing if each member of the chapter fails to work diligently to accomplish them.


Yes, it will force many of us to do things we will not be comfortable doing. We’ve heard the excuses, “Oh I can’t sell tickets or show ads.” “Oh, I feel uncomfortable talking to strangers.”

Well boy and girls, now is the time to put a “**For Sale**” sign on your comfort zone.

Don’t misunderstand. We welcome all men of good character and who can sing, into the chapter. However, if we just come on Monday nights and are not

willing to work for and support the organization, then in the future, there won’t be a chapter.

I was part of the JAD staff when we had to take back a chapter’s charter because they couldn’t or wouldn’t do what was necessary to gain membership - a chapter that once had 74 members. I did some research and found that the chapter membership began to decline when a single individual with a very negative attitude joined the chapter.

So it is hoped that each member of the Chordsmen will stand behind the work that the board has done and will do, in formulating a plan for future growth. All this while having more fun than human beings should be allowed to have. 

I read Stephen Covey’s book while I was working as the General Manager of Emergency Services at Sprint. Just incase you’re wondering about the other habits, here is a list of them.

1. **Be Proactive**
2. **Begin With the End in Mind** ~Envision what you want in the future so you can work and plan toward it. (This what is the Strategic Action Plan is all about.)
3. **Put First Things First** ~ What is important and what is urgent
4. **Think Win-Win**
5. **Seek First to Understand, Then to be Understood**
6. **Synergize**
7. **Sharpen the Saw**

“Let’s do this thing!”

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)*

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

2016 Man of Note honor roll

New Member	Sponsor	# of MON
Jim Foley	R.F. Miller	12
<i>Plenty of room for your name</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)
Mitch Gale (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) (419)-989-9895 (contact)
Jerry Starrett (L)
Bill Herdman (B)
Dave Kracker (Br)

