



**"HARMONY  
IN MOTION"**

# The Chordsmen Chronicle



www.FunCenterChordsmen.com

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## *The future requires a paradigm shift\**

\* (An important change that happens when the usual way of thinking about or doing something is replaced by a new and different way)

By: Tom Webb ~ Tenor Section Leader

There are very few “sure things” in life, outside of death and taxes, with the exception of change. Change is inevitable. The problem with change is that all too often it is thrust upon us like a thief in the night, breaking into our seemingly secure world. Change comes into our lives and takes away our secure feelings, and what we are used to. When change comes, we just aren’t ready for it, or so we think.



Let’s take our chorus as an example. We’ve gone through quite a few changes since I first joined 11 years ago. We’re on our third front line director, our membership has grown and then dwindled. We’ve seen several men come and go. Here today and gone tomorrow. We’ve lost them through the natural attrition of life; physical moves, loss of interest, and death, the ultimate change maker.

We’ve changed our sound, our look, our way of learning music and so much more. We are not the same chorus as we were 11 years ago. We’re better. But more changes are coming.



We have a choice now, as we always do. We can embrace the changes that are about to take place or we can bemoan the fact that change is inevitable and cry in our beer. As I survey our members, many of us are on the back nine of life. We need younger faces and voices if the chorus is to exist long after we’re gone.



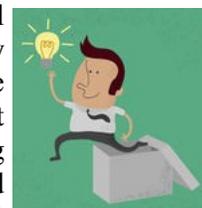
It is selfish of us to think we can remain the same, existing as we are, without changing. That’s why we are singing newer music, and inviting the high school choirs to sing with us on our spring show.

Our leadership team will be meeting soon to develop a strategic action plan for our future. A plan that must entail much change. We cannot just keep on keeping on if we want to exist 10 years from now. We all need to “get our thinking caps on” and help them as they try to help the chapter.



So let’s all do just that by putting on our thinking caps and let our leadership know that we are here to support the plan, because it is our chorus. It’s time to get involved in ways other than just performing and meeting on Monday nights.

It will require thinking outside the box and dreaming for those who will come after us. If you love this hobby as I do, then it’s time to activate the creative juices that have lain dormant in your brains. We cannot keep doing the same things we’ve been doing and expect a different outcome. It’s just not going to happen.



So please jot down some ideas for where you would like to see us change. Think a little and dream a lot of what could be 10 years down the road. Who knows? Maybe some of us will still be around to enjoy the fruits of our labor. If not what better legacy to leave than one that says “We were thinking of you guys. Enjoy”



## As singers we need to take care of our primary instrument

By: Jim Frye - President/Assistant Director

The voice is a highly delicate instrument. It is important for a singer to care for his voice so that fatigue, strain and injury may be avoided, and so that it may function at its optimum. Maintaining overall good health through healthy habits is critical. Insufficient rest, obesity, poor nutrition and hydration, substance abuse and allergies can all lead to sicknesses that can have serious effects on the speaking and singing voice.

A singer must pay close attention to the signals that his voice gives so that the necessary steps toward preventing problems can be taken. At times, a change in certain behaviors or unhealthy habits may be necessary in order to protect the voice from developing problems in the first place.

The following list provides tips to keep your voice protected and in top shape:

**Warming up** – as an athlete would stretch, jog, etc. to get his physical muscles ready for a workout, so too must a singer. Always take time to sing warm up exercises to make sure the vocal cords are ready to go.

### VOCAL WARM UP TIPS

- 1 HUMMING**  
This is a great way to warm up your vocal cords by humming. Humming helps to relax the throat and diaphragm.
- 2 ELEVATOR SLIDES**  
Use an octave pedal and slide up and down and ascending. Slide up to your highest note and back down again.
- 3 THE LIP BUBBLE**  
It's just like blowing a bubble, but with your mouth open. Breathe in and out slowly and steadily. You can also try this with a small amount of water in your mouth.

 **Hydration** – The vocal cords vibrate against each other in order to produce sound. In order to vibrate properly and to work effectively, they need to be well lubricated with moisture.

**Sleep** – Being overly tired can decrease a singer's ability to effectively concentrate on his technique, while singing, which could lead to strain or injury. Whenever possible, a singer should get a full night's sleep for a rehearsal or performance.



 **Smoking and Singing** – Smoking and exposure to smoke irritates and dries the tissues of the throat, especially the vocal cords. Smoking may promote acid reflux, which can also affect the vocal cords and cause irritation of the entire throat. Avoid at all costs!

**Carbonation and Caffeine** – avoid consuming carbonated drinks (e.g. soda/pop) before singing. Since caffeine acts as a diuretic, all products containing caffeine such as pop, coffee, teas and chocolate should not be consumed before a rehearsal or performance.



**Foods** – Certain foods, such as spicy dishes, greasy fried foods and fad diets should be avoided prior to a rehearsal or performance because they create an upset stomach, which can cause gastric reflux. In this situation, the acids in the stomach rise up the esophagus to irritate the tissues of the vocal cords.



**Nasal allergies** – Severe nasal allergy symptoms can affect your singing tone. One recommendation for dealing with mild congestion due to nasal allergies, if



you don't wish to take allergy medications, is that you take Fisherman's Friends (extra strength) lozenges just before you sing. They are really effective at temporarily clearing the sinuses and getting rid of post-nasal drip, and can be taken immediately before a performance. Many people don't appreciate their strong flavor and you'll have a greenish-brown tongue afterwards, but they are pretty effective for many people. What's especially great about Fisherman's Friends is that they don't coat the throat or dry out the sinuses, making it possible to sing after taking one. Also, warming up your voice with exercises that will gradually 'loosen' the congestion before you sing would likely be very helpful.

**Singing while sick** – Laryngitis is an inflammation of the larynx, where the vocal cords are located. The irritation suffered by the vocal cords causes hoarseness or complete loss of the voice. Laryngitis may be caused by viral infection, bacterial or fungal infection, inflammations due to overuse of the vocal cords or excessive coughing. Best choice is to simply rest and limit any use of the voice until symptoms have passed.



We must remember to take good care of ourselves and our voices so that we can always be ready to sing! 🎵



# Craft Corner

## Gems on Singing

By Jay Giallombardo

Reprinted from the August issue of

*The Voice of Rushmore*

John Elving ~ Editor

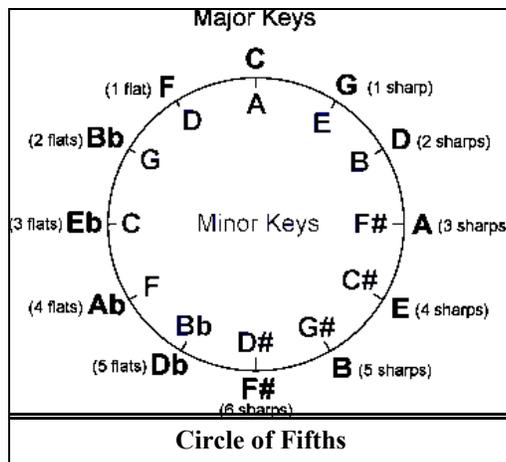
Here are some thoughts that fit every chorus of any size, anywhere, at all times. including ours

- Having to concentrate on notes and words keeps the body from moving. We must tell the audience, "I'm having fun." (In other words, absolutely know the notes and words so you can bodily tell the audience you're having fun.)
- While we do tell a story, we don't sing words, we sing sounds that represent words. (Remember, it's "Singlish.") Audiences hear emotion, not just words.
- Circle singing (and sitting in the chairs) is for teaching, working, and fixing. The risers are for performance (100 per cent of the time).
- If each man believes he can get just a little bit better and works to be so each and every day, the chorus will get a LOT better. 🎵

*Desire is the key to motivation, but it's the determination and commitment to an unrelenting pursuit of your goal - a commitment to excellence - that will enable you to attain the success you seek.*

*Mario Andretti*

Since T-Rev and Jim are making every effort to teach us SolFege, here is a chart that may help to better understand those syllables between Do, Re, Mi, Fa, So, La, Ti.



| Scale degree     | Syllable                   | Pronunciation              |
|------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Unison, Octave   | <b>Do</b>                  | <i>dough</i>               |
| Augmented unison | Di                         | <i>Dee</i>                 |
| Minor second     | Ra                         | <i>"Rah rah rah"</i>       |
| Major second     | <b>Re</b>                  | <i>ray</i>                 |
| Augmented second | Ri                         | like <i>reach</i>          |
| Minor third      | Mé                         | <i>May</i>                 |
| Major third      | <b>Mi</b>                  | like the word <i>me</i>    |
| Perfect fourth   | <b>Fa</b>                  | 'a' as in <i>father</i>    |
| Augmented fourth | Fi                         | like <i>feet</i>           |
| Diminished fifth | Se                         | <i>say</i>                 |
| Perfect fifth    | <b>So</b> (or <b>Sol</b> ) | long 'o', like <i>sold</i> |
| Augmented fifth  | Si                         | <i>see</i>                 |
| Minor sixth      | Le                         | <i>lay</i>                 |
| Major sixth      | <b>La</b>                  | 'a' as in <i>large</i>     |
| Augmented sixth  | Li                         | like <i>lean</i>           |
| Minor seventh    | Te                         | like <i>take</i>           |
| Major seventh    | <b>Ti*</b>                 | <i>tea</i>                 |

# Fun Center Chordsmen sponsor 24 to Harmony Camp

By: Dave Kracker ~ VP YIH

**Harmony Camp** is a four day barbershop harmony a cappella singing camp held in Columbus, Ohio every July. Each year, the Fun Center Chordsmen awards a \$200 scholarship to any high school or local college vocal music student in the area wishing to attend.

Application for the scholarships are on a first come first served basis based on the amount of money the Chordsmen have raised to support the camp. All monies used for these scholarships are from the members themselves and a few outside donations.

This year 24 students from eight different schools were each awarded a \$200 scholarship. A total of \$4,800 was underwritten by the Fun Center Chordsmen. Schools represented were:

- Mansfield Sr. – 6
- Mansfield Post Graduate - 1
- Shelby – 4
- Ashland - 4
- Crestview - 3
- Madison - 2
- Mansfield Christian – 1
- Ontario - 1
- Home Schooled - 2

The Fun Center Chordsmen has a history of financially helping area students attend Harmony Camp each year. For the past several years, they have been one of the top four chapters in the Johnny Appleseed District of the Barbershop Harmony Society to sponsor students to the camp.



19 of the 24 Harmony Camp attendees sponsored by the Fun Center Chordsmen.

*Photo by Rusty Cates*

The Mansfield chapter believes that the future of barbershop a cappella singing rests in the hands and hearts of the youth of today. The scholarships are open to both young men and young ladies vocal music students in grades eight through college.

Each year, many of the scholarship recipients visit a chapter meeting to express their thanks for the financial assistance. They speak of the camp being one of the most exciting events in their young lives and they can't wait to go back next year.



*Ed.*

**Dave Kracker**, VP Youth in Harmony for the Chordsmen coordinates the scholarships each year. The chapter extends a heartfelt "thank you" to Dave for all the years he has served a VP YIH and in getting many young folks to the Harmony Camp.

## *From The Boardwalk*

By: Lee Cook ~ Secretary



**July board minutes** - were approved

**Treasurer's Report - Received**

### **VP Music & Performance (Trevor)**

Music team meeting was held August 1, 2016 @ 6pm. Following things were discussed:

Talked about choreo ideas for 2017 show music.

Section leaders would like a longer sectional once a month to go over anything of their choice that needs worked on for the section.

**VP Marketing & PR (RF Miller)** Sent written press release concerning Harmony Camp and the \$4,800 scholarships underwritten by the Fun Center Chordsmen. Also sent picture of the 19 out of 24 students. Appeared in the Life Style section of the News Journal on Sunday, August 14.

Sent 2016 chorus picture to Barb Bower of the Dogwood Blossoms chorus for use in their show program.

**Chorus Manager:** Dan Noe

Summer church sing Sunday, August 21 at McElroy Road Church of Christ in Mansfield.

Nov. 11, 2016 @ 2pm Lucas Local Schools veteran's appreciation program.

Nov. 20, 2016 45 minute program for Thanksgiving Banquet at New Life Church Of Christ in Bellville.

### **New Business:**

Sept. 26, 2016 Fun Center Chordsmen Picnic to raise money for Harmony Camp Scholarships. At New Life Church Bellville if church is free.

### **Update on current status of the chapter as of August 2016**

Verified by comparing the BHS member registration to the current Chordsmen website roster.

1. Currently 53 total members on roll at BHS.
2. 10 dual member from Singing Buckeyes
3. 1 dual member from Delta Kings
4. 1 dual member from Men Of Independence
5. 1 dual member from Golf Capital Chorus
6. 1 tri member from Singing Buckeyes & Alliance Chorus
7. 39 Net Mansfield members
  - 4 known to not renew (Transfers)
  - 35 Net Mansfield Members
    - (Average age 64)
  - 4 Members considered Not active
8. 31 Active Mansfield Chapter members.

### **Member statistics from the past**

- In June of 2004 we had 58 members (1 dual)
  - Average age 63
- In August of 2005 we had 64 members. (Increase of 6 in one year)
  - Average age 59
- Of the 64 members 50 were considered to be active.
  - Attended rehearsals, events and



**WE WILL BE  
CLOSED ON  
LABOR DAY**

## *From church sanctuary to airport hanger*

By: Jim Frye ~ Assistant Director

The Fun Center Chordsmen look for every opportunity to share their joy of singing. And so it is that each summer they sing at two or three churches in the Mansfield area where our members attend.

The chorus has been doing this Sunday Singing for a number of years and for many different churches. If the chorus has not performed at a members church for at least two years, the members put their church names into a hat and we draw two or three. That member then coordinates in finding a date that works for our complimentary performance.



The last church sing took place on Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup> at the McElroy Road Church of Christ, where member **Lee Hull** attends.

Sixteen members were able to participate, under the direction of assistant director **Jim Frye**. Numbers performed included *Amazing Grace*, *This Little Light of Mine*, *Ride The Chariot* (featuring **Chris Rumas**~soloist), and *Irish Blessing*. It was our blessing to be able to provide some joy to those in attendance.

We look forward to next summer and wherever the selections take us! 🎵

On Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup> the Chordsmen traveled to the Ashland County Airport to participate in the Ashland County Veterans Appreciation Day.

Many of the Chordsmen are Veterans. And as a chorus, we seize every opportunity to perform for and honor those who have served and those who are serving in the five branches of the military.

Our song choices included some traditional barbershop songs, a few “breaking up” tunes, and several patriotic selections.

Prior to our performance we observed an awesome reenactment of Dwight D. Eisenhower on the night before D-Day.

The audience was fully engaged and appreciative of our efforts and energy, and it appears a return visit could be in the making.



A big Chordsmen “*Thank You for your support*” to all our local veterans and veterans across the globe!



*Land of the free  
because of the brave*

# Point to Ponder

## We should all be Zipper-Lippers

An Editorial



**Discipline:** a noun

**Definition:** 1) Orderly or prescribed conduct or pattern of behavior 2) Self control.

I think the chorus has been talking and writing about discipline during rehearsal for as long as the chorus has been in existence. So why discuss it any further?

For two simple reasons. There are always new members who need to learn the meaning of the word and because the experienced members have a tendency to forget more often than they should.

So let's go over it again. *Riser discipline* applies both when we're on the risers and seated in the chairs. *Riser discipline* means a prescribed conduct or a pattern of behavior that includes self-control.

When Trevor, Jim, Dave or anyone else is up front, what they have to say is far more important to the entire chorus than what you or I might have to say to our neighbor. When we engage in local idle chatter, we are doing the entire chorus an injustice. They want to hear what the *frontline man* has to say. So lets save our questions or comments for the break.

When the director is working with a particular section and we insist on talking, humming or softly singing our notes or someone else's, we



again fail to exercise self-control for the betterment of the entire chorus.

When he says "please don't sing," that means don't sing, don't hum, just listen. What part of that sentence needs repeating.

OK, so the new members learn and abide by the *riser discipline* concept. And what do they hear? An experienced member talking, humming and/or singing and generally causing a distraction. That's no way to be a role model.

The chorus can't learn from your local chatter with your neighbor. But they can learn when the man up front talks. And in case you've forgotten, your lack of self-control is showing and you show total disrespect for the person up front when you don't exercise *riser discipline*.

So the choice is yours. You are in control.



Should (I, you, we) be known for someone who can *zip their lip* or someone who causes unnecessary distractions.

I'm sure the entire chorus would surely appreciate the *Zipper-Lipper*. 🎵



## 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       |
|            |             |          |
|            |             |          |
|            |             |          |
|            |             |          |

*Plenty of room for your name*



### *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)

