



**"HARMONY
IN MOTION"**

The Chordsmen Chronicle



www.FunCenterChordsmen.com

Volume 42 Issue 2 ~ February 2017

Chordsmen presents 2016 top awards

2016 Barbershopper of the Year



Tom Webb

Definition: A member of the chapter who has contributed above and beyond regular membership including duties of a position within the chapter.

The nominations for Barbershopper of the Year (BOTY) come from the chapter membership. This list is then narrowed down by the committee made up of all past BOTY holders. It is well to

remember that in a given year, a BOTY does not have to be awarded. It is only given if someone has met the full definition.

The 2016 BOTY, **Tom Webb**, has been an active member of the Fun Center Chordsmen since 2006. During his 11 years he has served as a Board Member at Large. Over and above those duties he has written the scripts for the last several annual shows. He has also served as Show Chair and Co-Show Chair for many of the shows. As tenor section leader, he has been a very valuable member of the Music Team.

Tom doesn't know how to say no. When he is asked to perform additional projects for the chapter, he is always willing and able. He is faithful in his attendance and brings a positive attitude to every chapter function.

***Congratulations, Tom Webb
2016 Barbershopper of the Year***

2016 Chordsmen Hall of Fame



Lorin Weaver

Definition: Admission to the Chordsmen Hall of Fame (CHOF) is limited to members of the chapter who have, over several years, contributed to the chapter above and beyond normal membership activity or office holder.

They must be a former Barbershopper of the Year Award recipient. This is an honor like no other and is a permanent award to be cherished by the individual and honored by the chapter members at large.

Lorin Weaver joined the chapter in 2008 and immediately became a valuable member of the lead section. As the chapter leadership became aware of Lorin's many talents it became clear that he was a man of details. It wasn't long before Lorin was asked and agreed to become the chapter Treasurer. He has taken the Treasurer's job to new heights implementing a chapter budget. He can show you where every dollar has come from and where every penny is spent.

His monthly financial reports to the board leave nothing to question. The reports that Lorin provides go way beyond a treasurer's job. He also maintains the new uniform inventory.

***Welcome, Lorin Weaver
to the Chordsmen Hall of Fame***

CHOF ~ posthumously Presented to Hugh Clingan

By: Dave Kracker ~ Former director

Hugh's posthumous award was accepted by daughter, **Linda Flenner**, Granddaughter **Jennifer Blackledge** (daughter of Tim Clingan) and great grandson Gabe Blackledge.

Hugh was a charter member of the Mansfield Chapter of SPEBSQSA (now known as the Barbershop Harmony Society – BHS), chorus name Fun Center Chordsmen. He was our second chapter President (1975), and our second Barbershopper of the Year (BOTY) winner (1975).

Hugh began as a bass singer when he first joined the chapter, but in later years switched to tenor for two very good reasons. The chorus needed tenors, and this made it easier for Hugh to get into a quartet! And that he did, several times over!

Hugh was the first member of our chapter to hold a district office with JAD. He was a counselor/VP for the Stayman Division and loved visiting and assisting the other chapters in our Division. Though he never acknowledged it, I am certain that Hugh recommended me for the coveted Director of the Year in JAD which I received in 1983.

Hugh was totally dedicated to our Chapter and to barbershop harmony in general. "Gung Ho" barely describes his modus operandi. He rarely missed a rehearsal or a performance. Hugh Clingan was a true barbershop blue blood!

His 15 year membership terminated at the time of his death on Jan. 16, 1990. Earlier that day, Hugh had been working on his farm in Weller Township. He was also planning on quartet practice at 3 PM that day. I would guess he was singing in a heavenly one by the end of the day.

Hugh had the pleasure of having one of his sons, Tim, as a fellow charter member. Tim recalls seeing a *Man of Note* pin with the number 9 on it, but the family is sure there were several others after that. Some of his men of note included **Gary Oswalt**, **Roger Humbert**, **Dave Kuhn**, and **Russell Glen**, all long-time members over the early years.

Welcome Hugh, to the CHOF ~ RIP

Chordsmen donate special microphones to the Renaissance Theatre



Mike Chelsie Jim Trevor

The Fun Center Chordsmen chorus has had a long standing relationship with the Renaissance Theatre in downtown Mansfield. They work with the chapter each year to work out the details for the annual show, normally in March.

Last summer, **Lee Cook**, **RF Miller** and **Jim Frye** attended the Marion chapter annual show. We were amazed at the sound coming from the stage and we began looking for the microphones. We couldn't see any. After the show the barbershoppers in the audience were invited on stage to sing KTWWS. Ahhh this gave us a chance to look close up to find the microphones. There they were, little mics lying on the floor around the front of the stage.

At that point we knew that the Renaissance Theatre had to have some of these for our show. In checking with the Ren, **Mike Miller** the Executive Director and **Chelsie Thompson**, Director of Operations, told us that they had two of them they use for children's programs. Our show would require at least four.

To show appreciation for the joint cooperation experienced by the chapter, it was decided that the chapter would donate two new **Crown PCC-160** microphones from Sweetwater in Fort Wayne, Indiana.



Making the presentation for the Chordsmen were **Jim Frye**, as Immediate Past President, and **Trevor Garrabrant**, Chorus Director. 🎵

2017 Chapter Leadership installed during banquet



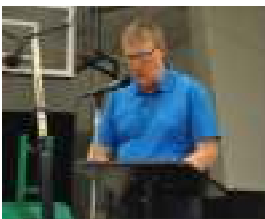
Installing officer **Chris Foisy** officially installed the newly elected officers of the Mansfield Chapter on January 11, 2017.

But let's not get ahead of ourselves. Before any part of the official ceremony began President **Stan Popp**

offered the invocation. Then it was time to eat at the buffet table prepared by the Chordsmen's own chef, **Dan Noe**. Chef Noe prepared salads, entrees, and many desserts for our enjoyment. And several Chordsmen were seen making a second trip to the buffet table before hitting the dessert table.



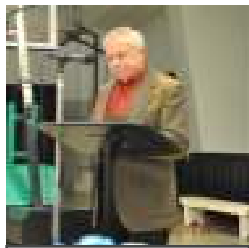
Chef Noe giving a rundown of the delicious meal that awaits.



Jim Frye

The outgoing president **Jim Frye**, had an opportunity to address the members, wives and guests in a message about his previous four years as president. And his hope for the future.

Then **Stan Popp**, incoming president spoke of his plans and ambitions for the chorus in the coming years. Stan had been serving for the past 18 months as Executive Vice President, appointed by president Frye.



Stan Popp

Then it was the time that all had been waiting for. Our guest quartet, **Conerstone** had accepted our invitation to provide some singing entertainment after all the speeches.

Cornerstone is from the Men of Independence chorus and was just recently formed in 2015.



Fred Locker (T) Chris Foisy (L) Dave Hipp (B) Fred Locker (T)

Their song choice and presentation was enjoyed by the barbershoppers, wives and guests ending with a standing ovation (standing O) with smiles all around.

Chris Foisy, the lead in Cornerstone just happened to also be our installation officer. He made a good lead-in to calling the officers to the front to be officially installed to lead the chapter for 2017. (Last page lists the 2017 Chapter Leadership)



Our Director, **Trevor Garrabrant** had told the Emcee, RF Miller, prior to the beginning of the evening, that he really had nothing to say. But RF called on him anyway as the last speaker. Never at a loss for words, T-Rev spoke briefly about how pleased he was with our progress. He then directed KTWWS as a fitting close to the event. Now the work begins! 🎵

Directly Speaking

Last Order of Business as VP of Music and Performance

As many of you know, **Jim Frye** is our new VP of Music and Performance. We're sure he will do a wonderful job in his new role with the Chorus. But, before I handed that baton over to Jim, I made one last change to our audition process.

We have been truly focused on becoming a better singing chorus. So I have been really doing a lot of research of good audition materials. After much digging, I came across the perfect packet.

Once I read through it, I knew it was a perfect fit for our Chorus. So go ahead and take a look at it below. It became affective on January 9, 2017. I believe you will all agree this will set us up for success for a long time.

I am even considering making all of the Baritones re-audition with the new packet. There will be a lot less time fixing the Baritones in rehearsal as if there aren't any ;)

AUDITIONING METHOD STANDARDIZED AND SIMPLIFIED

Tenor, Lead and Bass audition

Leads will be considered for membership if they recognize the melody.
Those who actually hit the first note after hearing the pitch receive bonus points.
Those who reach measure 4 in proper key will be considered for section leader.

Tenors & Bases making it to measure 2 will be considered for membership.
Those making it to measure 3 will be considered for section leader,
and those making it to measure 4 will be hospitalized immediately—
(after signing them up, of course).

Baritone audition (simplified)

Baritones: It is expected that anyone applying as a Baritone already know this simple little intro. We won't insult them by supplying the words.

By: Trevor Garrabrant ~ Chorus Music Director

Now to the Directly Speaking

First of all, thank you guys for sending six of our leaders to the JAD Leadership Academy. What a great representation, and it is awesome to see our chapter so involved in getting educated to become a better chapter all around.



So when I attend these training sessions there is usually a ton of great information that could help me become a better director. **Jay Butterfield**, the director of Parkside Harmony, did not disappoint. He had a plethora of knowledge to share, and did an awesome job of trying to help all of us take our skills to the next level.

In my younger days I would try to soak it all in and try to apply it all. Now that I am slightly wiser in my years, I have learned to take just two or three nuggets and truly do my best to apply those few ideas.

The first nugget I walked away with, is to have an end of rehearsal recap before we tear down. The goal is to let all of you know what went well so you know to continue those and to give you two or three concepts to rehearse in the time between rehearsals.

The next nugget I obtained was to give a full recap email the next day on what happened at rehearsal. This gives guys who had to miss our awesome chapter meeting an idea of what happened, and will also give a chance to be more specific about measures where there are opportunities for us to improve. Even after the first recap, I know this will benefit me greatly to keep things fresh in my mind for parts of the score I need to study.

The last nugget I took from the weekend were some ideas on how to incorporate more quarteting into the chapter. **Bari Courts** did a nice job of giving several ideas. Some we are doing or have done in the past. Also a few others we could use. We will have some fun quarteting the Monday after our show which will include some kind of random draw quartet competition. It will be a blast for sure. 🎵

Reflections on the JAD Leadac

By: Jim Frye ~ Assistant Director and VP Music and Performance

The 2017 JAD Leadership Academy was truly an awesome event! This was my third time to attend and I think it was the best one yet. The Chordsmen were well represented with six board members attending: **Stan Popp** (Pres.), **Trevor Garrabrant** (Director), **Lee Cook** (Sec.), **Lorin Weaver** (Treas.), **Ed Farrar** (VP Mem.), and **Jim Frye** (VP M&P/Asst.



Director. I don't think another chapter had more than four present.

Friday night started out with dinner at Wurst & Bier, an authentic German-style restaurant. While sitting there enjoying our wonderful meal and beverage, we heard barbershoppers singing somewhere inside the place.

We found the source of the music and joined some fellow JAD brothers in a few songs. This is one of my favorite parts of being a barber-shopper...being able to sing anywhere, anytime with men you may have never met, yet we understand the special bond.



We headed back to the hotel and went directly to the Academy for our evening sessions. The JAD Senior Chorus, **The Vocal Seniority**, sang for us in preparation for their participation in the BHS Midwinter Contest.

I can proudly say that this chorus, at the Mid-Winter Convention in San Antonio, TX the following weekend, took 1st Place in the first ever Senior Chorus Contest. (There will be more feature articles on their success at Mid-Winter in the March issue.)

The Chordsmen in the Vocal Seniority were **Mike Craze**, **Tom Webb**, **Ed Farrar**, **Ron Rosser** and **Dan Noe**. Great job guys...way to represent the Chordsmen! The evening concluded with tag singing

and fellowship into the wee hours of the morning... well, for some of us!

Saturday was a full day of more learning sessions, and wonderful food. The day concluded with the installation of new JAD officers for 2017. **Doug Smeltz**, FCC member, takes over as JAD President and we are excited for the future and Doug's leadership.

In the Quartet Raffle, our chapter was the lucky recipient of the quartet "The Crew." with **Paul Gilman** (Br) **Jared Wolf** (B) **Patrick Michel** (L) **Noah Campbell** (T)



This is a top notch quartet and we'll be able to have them perform for us sometime during the year for something other than the annual show.

I went into the Director's track with our director, **Trevor Garrabrant**. The leader of the track was **Jay Butterfield**, director of the Parkside Harmony from Hershey, PA. Parkside Harmony finished in 8th place at Internationals this past July. They are only in the second year of existence!! I can see why based on the excitement, energy and knowledge Jay possesses. And they rehearse only twice a month. Each member must be committed to working between rehearsals.



I'm still rather new to the position of Assistant Director. I have a lot to learn and started this process by soaking up everything I could from Jay and Trevor. My hope is to be able to implement what I learned, and along with Trevor, implement what I learned into our future rehearsals.

I'm excited about the future of the Fun Center Chordsmen Chorus and I hope you are too. 🎵

Never have to pay your dues in one big lump sum again

By: Lee Cook ~ Chapter Secretary

Have you ever thought about how nice it would be to not have to pay your BHS dues all at once? If you have had that thought, why not enroll in the EZDues payment plan from the Barbershop Harmony Society.

The chorus benefits by not having anyone show as over due on the BHS roster. The plan, for a new member, basically starts in the first month of enrollment in the plan. The new member pays half the cost of a regular priced membership and that sets him up for the entire year. The member's credit or debit card, will be charged 1/12th of his annual dues each month. When the member's renewal date comes up, he's already paid up for the next year.

Any existing member that is not enrolled in the EZDues plan can enroll in the EZDues payment plan this way. At the normal renewal date, the member pays the full one year dues payment which includes the Society, District and Chapter dues. At the same time the member enrolls in the EZDues plan and it works the same as for a new member. Using a Credit or Debit card, BHS will charge the card monthly for 1/2th of the members renewal fee.

On the EZDues plan you are paying monthly toward the future year of membership so you are always up-to-date with your membership dues.

If you would like more information on the EZDues program. you can look on the Barbershop Harmony Society website under membership, or talk to me.

One of the goals that came out of the Board's strategic planning meeting in November was to get a good portion of our membership on this plan. It benefits the Society, the Johnny Appleseed District and the Mansfield Chapter.

As your renewal date approaches, give serious consideration to enrollment in the EZDues plan. Here is the link on the BHS website that explains the program. It is a program that heals that "once a year hurt" when it's time to renew. 🎵

<http://www.barbershop.org/files/documents/membership/EZDues%20explanation.pdf>

What are they supposed to do

By: Jim Frye ~ VP Music and Performance

Ever wondered what the responsibilities of your elected board positions are? I wondered too as I prepare to take the position of VP Music & Performance. I'm sharing these with you so you know and can hold me accountable for the responsibilities.



Jim Frye

- ◆ Chairmen of the Music Team
- ◆ Prepare an annual music leadership team budget and material needs
- ◆ Guide the music leadership team in planning the yearly chapter music program, including the selection of music appropriate to the members' learning and performance abilities
- ◆ Oversee the maintenance of chorus records, such as audition records, progress records, etc.
- ◆ Obtain the services of outside coaches and performance review specialists
- ◆ Evaluate, on a regular basis, the goals set by the music leadership team
- ◆ Manage a quartet development program for the chapter
- ◆ Attend scheduled training seminars
- ◆ Directly communicate with: chapter music directors, chapter board, Music and Performance Committee and members as appropriate, District Vice President for Music and Performance

As you can see the position is very important to the chapter and its members, and I want you to know I take these duties seriously and will do my very best to meet them daily, monthly, and yearly. You have every right to expect your elected officers to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the office they hold.

Please feel free to discuss any of these with me, especially when you become aware of issues I might not know about. Fortunately, we have an awesome music team, comprised of section leaders, directors, librarian, VP of M&P, and the president (ad hoc member). I look forward to serving you and the chapter! 🎵

**Secretaries Report:** Lee Cook

Accepted December board minutes.

VP Music & Performance: Jim Frye:

- On January 30, the music team will meet at 6pm to establish the process to be used for auditioning for show and contest.
- Contest night rehearsal for February will be Feb. 13 or 20 with an outside coach
- Contest rehearsal for March will be the 3rd Monday in March.
- Spring contest on April 21 and April 22 in Independence, OH.

VP Marketing & PR: RF Miller

Received 35 charts each of.

1. The Longest Time
 2. Drift Away
 3. Come Go With Me
- Purchased two portable display tripods for use with BOTY and CHOF master list boards
 - Tripods and master list boards are stored in the Congo storage room.
 - Arranged for the CHOF clocks awards and master list board.
 - Officially notified JAD President and Secretary as well as BHS of Dan Brant's passing. BHS will send a letter of condolence to his wife Karen.
 - Prepared the program for the installation banquet.
 - Updated website for the BOTY, CHOF, and officers.
 - In process of creating news release on BOTY, CHOF, and new officers. These will be release individually separated by a few day for maximum in the media.

VP Membership: Ed Farrar

- What to do about contacting members not at rehearsal.
Have contacted these people and no response .

VP YIH: Dave Kracker

No 2017 Singing Buckeyes Harmony Camp this year due to money issues

Chorus Manager: Dan Noe

Possible gig Saturday, February 4, 2017 Rehab Telethon, Richland Mall, 7pm.

New Business:

- R.F. Miller made a motion to accept the membership application for Brody Moore.
- 2nd by Walt Jewett. Motion Passed 12 Y 0 N
- Jim Frye made a motion to accept the 2017 Fun Center Chordsmen budget.
- 2nd by Lee Cook. Motion Passed 12 Y 0 N
- R.F. Miller made a motion to have Dan Noe do a financial review for 2016.
- 2nd by Walt Jewett. Motion Passed 12 Y 0 N
- Jim Frye made a motion that pizza night is free for a member in the month of their birthday.
- 2nd by Walt Jewett. Motion Passed 12 Y 0 N
- Lorin made a motion to read into the board minutes, the names of those handling money for the chorus which include: Ron Rosser, Chris Rumas, all board members and all active chorus members. Seconded by Jim Frye. Motion Passed 12 Y 0

Next chapter board meeting
13 February, 2017
6:00 PM
Mayflower Room
1st Congo

Points to Ponder An Editorial

A Man of Note ~ Big Deal?

You bet it is. But why make such a big deal out of obtaining a Man of Note pin (MoN)? Why does the BHS, on their website, associated with each members name, list the number of Men of Note they have and the last year the member received one?



Stop to think a minute. It's called recognition. Every member of the human race loves to be recognized for the good work they do, especially if it benefits others. Beginning to see the big picture yet?

Most every member of the Barbershop Harmony Society is a member because another barbershopper invited him to come to a local chapter meeting. Now we know that some people just can't seem to step out of their comfort zone and talk to strangers about how much fun it is to sing barbershop with the Chordsmen.

Very few, and I mean very few prospects come waltzing through the door on rehearsal night stating "I want to join your chorus and sing with you.."

How long do you think it would take before our chapters membership was reduced to zero? Don't even think about that. Do something to keep that from happening.

So members of the Chordsmen, step out of your comfort zone and invite a guest. It may be someone you know or a total stranger. Yes I know, for some, it's very difficult to do that. If you ask someone to join you and have fun on chapter meeting night, they won't bite you. In fact they may wind up thanking you. But if you do ask someone to visit, and if your guest becomes a member, you are recognized for your effort, even though it wasn't easy. That recognition takes the form of a Man of Note pin.

Some of our FCC members have numerous such pins and others, unfortunately, have a zero in that category.

There are current members of the Chordsmen that have been recognized for their recruitment efforts by the number of Men of Note they have accrued.


The following list of members and their Men of Note is calculated on just the members who claim their chapter of origin as Mansfield. It does not reflect dual memberships although the dual members account for a total of 41 Men of Note.

<i>Member</i>	<i>Member for # of Years</i>	<i># of MON</i>
Dave Kracker	48	15
RF Miller	17	12
Trevor Garrabrant	10	7
Frank DeWitt	39	4
Terry Loughman	32	3
Chris Rumas	12	3
Bill Herdman	33	2
John Maurer	28	2
Dan Noe	13	2
Stan Popp	16	2
Ron Rosser	36	2
Mike Craze	17	1
Dick Gahm	45	1
Walt Jewett	11	1
Gayle Raye	39	1
Dan Strader	14	1
Lorin Weaver	9	1
Total Men of Note	419 *	60

*A total of 419 years of barbershop experience.

You can see it's not easy to obtain a Man of Note. 60 Men of Note in 419 years of barbershop experience, averages one new chapter member every seven years,

The Chordsmen have added only two new members since January 2016 They don't come easy or very frequently. So members of the Chordsmen, your challenge is to get one more MoN during 2017 and if you don't have a MoN, it's time to step way out of your comfort zone and get one.

Then and only then will you understand why receiving a Man of Note recognition pin is indeed a big deal. 

2017 Chapter Leadership

President ~

Stan Popp

Exec. VP ~

Vacant

Music Director ~

Trevor Garrabrant

Assistant Directors ~

Jim Frye

Dave Kracker

VP Music & Performance ~

Jim Frye

VP Chapter Development ~

Ed Farrar

VP Marketing & PR ~

R.F. Miller

VP YIH ~

Dave Kracker

Secretary ~

Lee Cook

Treasurer ~

Lorin Weaver

Immediate Past President ~

Jim Frye

Board Members at Large:

Bob Gibson

Terry Loughman

Mike Craze

Walt Jewett

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

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

*Unless other credit is given, articles and pictures are
by R.F. Miller*

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

(*Mansfield)

2017 Man of Note honor roll

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)

(Vacant) (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)