



TIMBRE



Quarterly Newsletter of the **Evergreen District** of the Barbershop Harmony Society

December 1, 2023

"With One Voice"

Volume 75, Number 4

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Don Greer

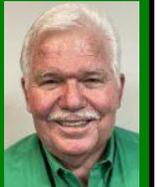
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TIMBRE

Official QUARTERLY Publication of Evergreen District, BHS



2023 District Officers

- District President** **Don Greer**
Donaldrgreer@gmail.com
- Executive Vice President** **Bill Hickman**
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- Treasurer** **Larry Breitbarth**
Secretary **Chris Powell**
Immediate Past President **John Rettenmayer**
john.rettentmayer@gmail.com
- Director Events** **Rob Macdonald**
Director Education **Katie Roman**
Director Communications **Sid Brown**
- Other Key Evergreen Leadership Positions**
- Director of Contest & Judging** **Jay Krumbholz**
Director of HCNW **Glenn Hayes**

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To go to the prior issues of the Timbre newsletters: [click here](#)

All articles, photographs and other information herein are provided by BHS members, for BHS members, patrons and others interested in barbershop harmony singing in Evergreen District.

Please refer questions to secretary@evgdistrict.com

NOTES FROM THE EDITORS

This is the thirty-third issue of TIMBRE newsletter under editor Bob Robson (content) and the fourth for Doug Gardner (layout). If you find some of your favorite features from previous issues missing, please let us know. The calendar of current events, the lists of previous year contest winners and Hall of Fame members have been dropped in favor of links to the online Evergreen district calendar, and online honorees lists at: EVGDistrict.com

TIMBRE 2024 PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

Issue #	Ad/Copy Deadline	Publishing Date
2024 #1	Feb. 24, 2024	March 1, 2024
2024 #2	May 26, 2024	June 1, 2024
2024 #3	August 26, 2024	September 1, 2024
2024 #4	November 26, 2024	December 1, 2024

From Your EVERGREEN DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

'Tis The Season!



As we're reminded in Ecclesiastes, "To everything there is a season...", and it is indeed the Holiday Season! It is wonderful to see the many show flyers for this time of year, and I trust there are more shows out there. This year has presented many challenges as Chapters continue to rebuild. The Evergreen District Communications Team has been diligent in supporting you all through Marketing, the District website, Facebook and YouTube channels, the Timbre, Greensheet and Chapter Leader News publications as well as the EVG Historian. All of which can be found linked to www.evgdistrict.com. A Big Thank You to Greg Kronlund, Ken & Judy Galloway, Duncan Gilman, Bob Robson, Doug Gardner, David Dobson, and Laura Pennington for their continued support to all EVG Chapters!

Speaking of seasons and the changes they bring; I will humbly be moving to the Executive Vice President position of the District Board as we move into 2024. The Communications Team will be in great hands as Greg Kronlund will become the Communications Director. Please reach out to either of us for any questions or ideas you may have for your Chapter as we close out 2023!

Respectfully,

Sid Brown
2023 EVG Communications Director

"Good communication is the bridge between confusion and clarity".

Nat Turner

HAVE YOU MISSED COPIES OF THE TIMBRE OR THE Greensheet?

Archived copies of **YOUR** district newsletters are stored conveniently on the Evergreen District website.

Click here: EVGDistrict.com

Any missed copies can be downloaded directly to your computer or printed.

DISTRICT PRESIDENT'S YEAR-END MESSAGE

By **DON GREER, Evergreen District President**

Transforming Our Singing Community: Adapting to Change and Cultivating Unity

In the last few years, our singing community has navigated a journey of significant transformation and adaptation. As we usher in 2024, it's crucial to reflect on where we've been, where we are now, and the path we envision for the future.

Where We Have Been

The strategic shifts began with a streamlined approach, downsizing our Evergreen board to focus exclusively on operations. The unexpected challenges of 2020, particularly the COVID-19 pandemic, forced us to rethink our mode of operation. We introduced Zoom for all activities, from monthly board meetings to chapter presidents' calls. This period saw the suspension of traditional conventions, replaced by a district presidency that relied heavily on virtual engagements. The rapid rate of change was evident, with an increase in meetings and the introduction of tools like the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and standardized bylaws.



Where We Are Now

Currently, the role of the District Presidents Council (DPC) is evolving. The DPC now hosts taskforces, engages in productive dialogues with Harmony Hall and the Society Board of Directors, and is actively taking responsibility for action. The adoption of the Value Exchange initiative and the emphasis on designing a new business model are reshaping our approach. We're exploring new technologies to foster unity and implementing deeper leadership training for both volunteers and staff. We're moving from a top-down to a more collaborative bottom-up organizational structure. The Chapter Presidents call is becoming more dynamic, like the DPC call, with the House of Delegates (HOD) taking a more active role.

Where We Want to Go

Looking ahead, our focus is on supporting and empowering singing community leaders. We aim to encourage singing community's connection with their local community, ensuring that singing communities maintain autonomy while feeling supported. The key lies in our three governing values: Valid Information, Informed Choice, and Personal Responsibility. Our communication, guided by these values, is set to transform our organization significantly.

The Road Ahead

Our journey is not just about adapting to change but also about reimagining our identity. By fostering a culture of open communication and mutual support, we can create an environment where every member feels valued and empowered. The question "How can we better support Singing Communities?" remains central to our mission as we move forward.

As we celebrate the start of 2024, our community stands at a pivotal moment, ready to embrace the changes that lie ahead. With a commitment to unity, innovation, and continuous learning, we are set to transform our organization and enrich the experience of every member of our singing communities.

HOW DO YOU BARBERSHOP?

By **BILL HICKMAN**, Incoming 2024 EVG District President

HOW DO YOU BARBERSHOP?

How do you barbershop? This may seem like a silly question, but I ask it for a serious purpose.

In October, the District had a very successful convention in Federal Way. Over 400 barbershoppers watched 37 quartets and 18 choruses compete in a barn burner of a contest. At the same time, we had a wonderful convention where we met, hugged, and sang with old friends, met new ones, compared notes, and helped govern the district. In all, a very satisfying time, except for one thing...not all chapters were represented.

Given the spectacular size of our District (over 2 million square miles) and the number of our chapters (46) this is not surprising, but it is a little disappointing. You see, we (your District Board) want everyone to share in the joy we find here in Evergreen. It's not about us, it's about you...which is why I ask the question; **How do YOU barbershop?**

We know that all barbershop is local which means what works for *Acappella Road* in Calgary, Alberta will likely not work for the *Wind Masters* in Columbia Gorge, Oregon. But and this is a very big but, it is worthwhile hearing about what other chapters are doing, if only to get some new ideas about what you can do in your chapter. All barbershop may be local, but that does not mean that what another chapter is doing can't be modified in some way to make your local barbershopping experience more enjoyable and meaningful.

Additionally, whether or not you would like your quartet or chorus to participate in our contests, please take the time to participate in any of the various opportunities the District Board is offering to teach and/or share knowledge. We advertise all of these in the *Timbre*, the *Greensheet*, and the *Chapter Leader News*, but are you the only one reading them? Share them with your Chapter Board and your chapter members. They may see something that you are missing. Here are some other opportunities:

- **Chapter Growth.** Are you aware that our friends in Harmony College Northwest have convinced one of the most respected chapter coaches in the barbershop world to engage in free chapter coaching? Every month Paul Ellinger meets with us by Zoom to talk through the Big Idea of chapter growth. Check out his videos at <https://harmonycollege.net/> and plan to join in on these Sunday evening sessions. It will be worth your time.
- **Presidents Meeting.** Chapter Presidents meet by Zoom at 7 PM Pacific time on the 4th Sunday of every month to share news and ideas. Those who participate have said that it is one of the best meetings they attend.
- To add to the mix, starting in January our new Director of Chapter Development plans to host routine Zoom meetings for chapter secretaries, treasurers, and other officers.

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HOW DO YOU BARBERSHOP? (Cont'd)

By **BILL HICKMAN**, Incoming 2024 EVG District President

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If all this seems a little overwhelming, why not just start a conversation within your chapter. Here is a proven method you can use to get a meaningful conversation going:

- Ask *“What’s going well in our chapter?”* Listen to the answers without judgment and ask follow up questions based on what you hear.
- When that conversation subsides, ask *“What’s not going well in our chapter?”* Listen to the answers without judgment and ask follow up questions based on what you hear.
- When that conversation subsides, ask *“What could be done better?”* The answers may give you a road map to your future.



PROSPECTIN’

By **SPUDS HAMHOCKER**

Clem, and his friend Bari, wandered into camp to see 15 people sitting around the campfire... some looked depressed, some were mumbling, some wringing their hands in despair.

Clem moseyed up to one woman and asked, “what’s wrong?” “Well sir we’re miners from the east, and we found this spot and we’re waitin’ for the gold.”

Clem laughed while Bari chuckled. “If’n ya want gold, the first thing you do, is find a suspect. Yep, a stream, river, or cave where you suspect there is gold. When you think you’ve found a speck of gold, ya prospect. Meaning ‘search a little deeper and a little wider’. When ya find the motherload, bring the gold home, wash it off, an’ treat it right.”

One man replied, “But we were told gold’s so abundant that it practically jumps into your pockets!”

“Well,” said Clem, “Gold never comes to you, ya go after it. It takes hard work, and some disappointment along the way, before ya find success, but ya keep tryin’ ...and if y’all work together the job’s easier. And teamwork is the only wealth worth talkin’ about anyway.”

Clem and Bari disappeared into the night.

One miner said, “By gum, we’ve never done it that way!” Another said, “But, we’ve always done it this way”.



EVERGREEN DISTRICT OFFICERS FOR 2024

At the fall House of Delegates meeting held on Saturday, October 21, 2023 during the Federal Way Convention, delegates voted unanimously for the slate of officers that was presented. Congratulations to the following people who will serve on the Evergreen District Board of Directors for 2024:

District President	Bill Hickman (Bellevue Chapter)
Immediate Past President	Don Greer (Bozeman Chapter)
Executive Vice President	Sid Brown (Boise Chapter)
District Treasurer	Larry Breitbarth (Kitsap County Chapter)
District Secretary	Chris Powell (Bellevue Chapter)
Director of Chapter Development	Bob Cox (Salem Chapter)
Director of Communications	Greg Kronlund (Federal Way Chapter)
Director of Events	Deena Wolfe (Oregon Mid-Coast Chapter)
Board Member-at-Large	Duncan Gilman (Portland Metro Chapter)

A huge thank you goes out to two officers who are leaving the board this year – Rob Macdonald is leaving the Director of Events position – and John Rettenmayer has moved to Florida and gave up the Immediate Past President role earlier in 2023.



Bill Hickman



Don Greer



Sid Brown



Larry Breitbarth



Chris Powell



Bob Cox



Greg Kronlund



Deena Wolfe



Duncan Gilman

PDX Barbershop Quartet Takes Boise Youth Event by Storm!

By Iain Haukkah, Argonauts Quartet

Students from all across Idaho recently participated in a huge barbershop festival in Boise. Over the course of three days, nearly 30 schools were represented, with over 500 students crossing the state-of-the-art Morrison Center for the Performing Arts stage at Boise State University. The festival was sponsored by local chapters of the Barbershop Harmony Society, who donated their valuable time and talents to make the event successful. Two local choruses from the area, Boise Chordsmen and Star Harmony, sang for students and their families on the evening show each night. Portland's favorite quartet, Argonauts, were privileged to provide featured entertainment for the festival as the headlining act.

The festival was also supported by the local government of Boise, including generous grant donations from the city's arts commissions, and even official recognition from city's mayor, Lauren McLean, who acknowledged the event as an outstanding example of arts education with a special plaque.

Debbie Cleveland, two-time quartet champion from Sweet Adelines International, added memorably to the experience. In addition to her quartet accolades, Debbie has taught choral music at the high school level for over thirty years, earning National Music Educator of the Year awards in 1997 and again 2018. Many of Debbie's high school students have gone on to win gold medals at nationwide collegiate barbershop quartet competitions. Faculty and students alike benefited immensely from her presence.



Drew Osterhout has performed previously at this festival in the late '00s, back when it was a one-day event. The growth since then has been awe-inspiring, especially considering the effects of the (continued next page)

PDX Barbershop Quartet Takes Boise Youth Event by Storm!

By Iain Haukkah, Argonauts Quartet

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pandemic on choirs, when group singing was all but impossible. Reflecting on his experience as a clinician this year, Drew passionately remarks, “To be able to give back even a fraction of what I have received through events like this one is just such a gift. Seeing the future of this art form live and breathe through the efforts of young people brings me so much joy.”

Rich Lapp, moderator and MC for the event, taught students about the importance of music. He made sure to impart some real wisdom to each cohort of students, many of whom were seniors in high school thinking about applying for college, entering the workforce, or joining the military. The overarching lesson was this: as long as you’re a barbershopper, a welcoming family of singers is always available to you throughout your life, regardless of age, gender, or occupation.

Students weren’t the only ones to receive an education at this event, however. The choir teachers who brought them were also invited to study barbershop craft, catching a glimpse of how they could implement such opportunities in their own classroom programs. They even got to perform a piece alongside clinicians on the evening show.

You will never attend a show with an audience that’s more enthusiastic and vocal than this one. From the stage, the cheering and applause was a physical force – a roaring wind tunnel of love and excitement each time a group hit the stage.

For booking inquiries, please contact argonautsquartet@gmail.com.



IF YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, GET INVOLVED!

By Bob Cox, Incoming 2024 EVG Director for Chapter Development

About six months ago I was approached by members of the District's leadership team asking if I would be interested in helping lead a group of volunteers in a very concerted and pointed effort to reconnect with our chapters/choruses/singing communities as a member of the District Board. I looked at my schedule for 2024 and said to myself, if I want to make a difference then I need to get reinvolved. Reinvolved you may ask yourself? Yes, reinvolved!



My resume as a chapter leader dates back to 1973 when I first joined the Society as a member of the Riverside Citrus Belters, an award winning 95-man chorus in the Far Western District. That first year I personally recruited 10 members, several were from the Air Base where I was stationed, a couple from the softball league I played on and two were as result of when engaged in regular conversation, I asked "so, where do you like to do your singing?" Many of these men are still involved today.

After leaving the Air Force in 1977, I moved back to Oregon and became active in the SenateAires Chorus. I served 3 times as Membership VP and saw our membership double in three years from 20-45. Our involvement in local community events was one of the keys to our growth. I was elected as Chapter President in 1980 and at the same time became active in the District as an Area Counselor helping chapters in Oregon realize some of their growth potential.

After serving as an Area Counselor there came opportunities to serve as the District's Director of Music Education, Marketing, Membership Development, Executive VP and in 1996, two terms as District President. As DP, I had the honor of being elected by my fellow District Presidents as the lead of the District President's Council and then as Society Board Member (Operations Team Leader).

My circle of service then returned to Membership Development where I served 20+ years on the Society's Membership Committee and as primary instructor/facilitator and Dean for the Chapter Officer Training/Leadership Academy Chapter Development/Membership programs Today I'm still active as a member of the Society's and District Ethics Committees and the Society's Operations and Training team and will again now be serving for the sixth time as the Salem Chapter/SenateAires Chorus President. Yes, I'm reinvolved!

In September of this year, with the loving support of my wife of 50 years, I made the conscious decision to get reinvolved with the District's leadership team. At the recent District Convention, I was elected to serve on to the District Board as the Director of Chapter Development, with responsibility areas focused on Membership Growth (recruiting/retention/orientation), Chapter Support, Administrative and Music Education, and Director Development. I already have several Team members in place and have openings for others to join these teams. Every one of us has special talents and skills we can share with others, and this is a great avenue to utilize your experience by getting involved to help make a difference by helping other singing communities. Now might be the time in your barbershop career for you to give back, either on a short or long-term basis. Please reach out to me and together we will find a fit for you to be involved and help make a difference.

Bill Hickman, 2024 District President, has set Chapter Development and Outreach as (continued next page)

IF YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, GET INVOLVED!

By Bob Cox, Incoming 2024 EVG Director for Chapter Development

(continued from previous page) primary goals for this coming year. The Board along with other leadership volunteers have set a goal of visiting or least visiting with, every chapter/chorus/singing community within the District in 2024.

The sad part is that since the pandemic we have lost track of many of our chapters. We have seen several chapters decline in membership, and unfortunately, some have made the decision to close their doors and surrender their charter leaving their singers no place to deliver their special gift of harmony.

On the other side of the coin, under the umbrella of “Everyone in Harmony” we have seen a growth in number of choruses opening their membership to the mixed voices community chorus structure. Some of which have chosen to stay as an all-male chorus are also growing. Each one of these groups is unique in their goals and future growth potential. There are no cookie cutter molds that any two organizations can fit into.

The Board and the Chapter Development Teams need your help so we can better understand each of these different structures and organizations, and how we as a District can help support them as they survive, grow, and rebuild. A “Getting-to-Know You” survey is being developed to become more aware of individual singing community’s specific needs, wants and desires as an organization. The survey will be emailed to key chapter leaders after the holidays when choruses will be back together on a regular basis and after many have had their 2024 planning and organizational meetings.

From this survey, the Chapter Development Team will be able to analyze your organization, determine your strengths and better determine how we might assist you by offering tools or programs you can use to reach your goals through membership growth (recruiting/retention/orientation), administrative/music team leadership training, director development, marketing, communications, community outreach and overall chapter support.

The District Leadership Teams want to help make a difference in your path to success in 2024 and are willing to be involved. Your input from the survey will determine the depth and level of support the District may be able to provide to help reach your goals. The adage, there is no “I” in TEAM, can be changed to Together Everyone Accomplishes More (TEAM) in which open communications and working together we can change the world through Harmony!

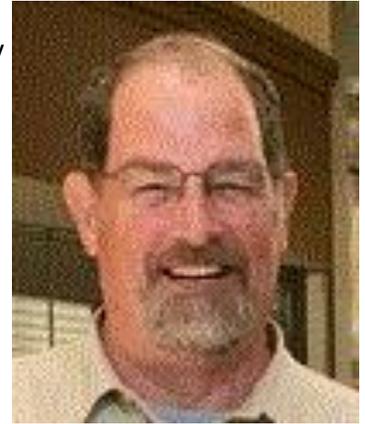
The Chapter Development Teams look forward to sharing our successes as we work together to continue to make Evergreen District a premier organization, focused on serving the needs of our membership and singing communities.

I’m as close as phone call, email or text and look forward to your input, help and support in 2024. Get involved and help make a difference! Happy Holidays to one and ALL!

Bob Cox, Board Member
Director – Chapter Development

Bcox5578@comcast.net

c) 503-910-0960

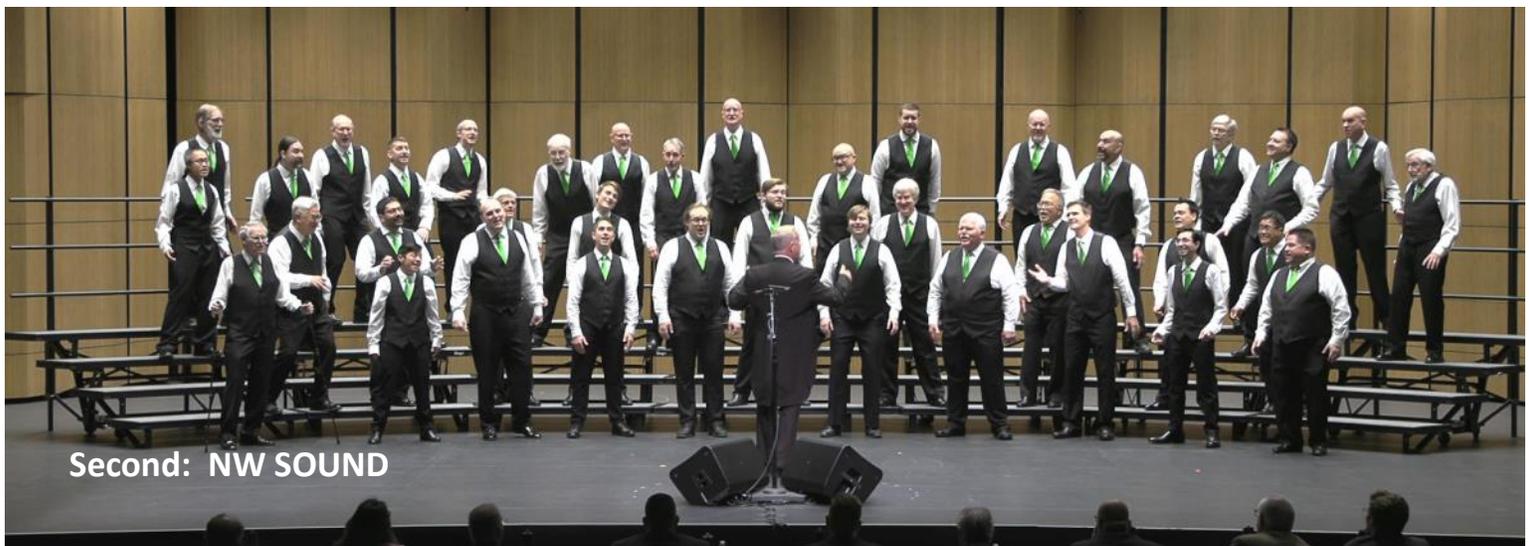


ANOTHER FABULOUS DISTRICT CONVENTION!

Another District Convention and Contest is in the books, and WHAT A CONVENTION IT WAS!!! 37 Quartets and 20+ choruses performing and a thoroughly entertaining weekend of terrific barbershop harmony. Many thanks to the Federal Way and District Team organizers, the volunteers, judges and others who made this happen. And to top it off, 5 quartets qualified for International in 2024, a historic and truly wonderful feat! (continued next page)



First: PDX VOICES



Second: NW SOUND



Third: NW MIX

ANOTHER FABULOUS DISTRICT CONVENTION!



EVG District Champ: Metzin' Around (Int'l Qualifier 83.5% Avg)



Mugshot (Int'l Qualifier 82.5% Avg)



InVoice(Int'l Qualifier 82.5% Avg)



Argonauts (Int'l Qualifier 81.5% Avg)



Attention Shoppers (Int'l Qualifier 79.7% Avg)

FROM YOUR “DIRECTOR OF CANCELLED EVENTS”

By **ROB MACDONALD, Co-Chair EVG District Events Team**

During my time as EVG Director of Events, I had the *displeasure* of cancelling 17 events (and counting) due to the scourges of COVID-19.

The *pleasurable* outcomes were the 2022 and 2023 District Conventions in Federal Way. The most recent convention held the first EVG contest where all versions of choruses and quartets competed together – mens’, womens’ and all-voice. Congratulations to the quartet **Metzin’ Around** and chorus **PDX Voices**, our first all-voice champions!



I also have the pleasure of “handing the baton” to Deena Wolfe, who was the 2023 Convention Chair, and also Co-Chair (with me) of the District Events Team in 2023. She will be the Director of Events for 2024 and an EVG Board member. If you did not attend the Zoom call with Deena on November 18, please reach out to her to share your skills and ideas.

Also, if you have any comments about the recent or future District conventions, please send them to events@evgdistrict.com.

Join us next year, October 24-26, 2024 in Portland!

In Harmony,
Rob Macdonald
Co-Chair of EVG District Events Team

October 2024

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Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thu.	Fri.	Sat.
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**EVERGREEN District Convention
Portland, ORE Oct 24-26, 2024
Be There! Can't be missed!**

“THE LATEST” FROM THE BUD LEABO MEMORIAL FUND

By Ken Galloway, Chairman of the BLMF Board of Trustees

Hope you all are having a great Fall.

The Bud Leabo Memorial Fund has been created to help provide funds for music education to directors, individuals and occasionally quartets of the Evergreen District. Our website provides information and an application for funds.

The Bud Leabo Memorial Fund Trustees accepted names for a Trustee. One of our Trustees, Kevin Boyd, is moving out of the District and therefore has resigned. After our recent meeting, Ed Gentz from Tacoma, WA has been selected to be the new Trustee. The other current Trustees are Chris Gabel (Tualatin Valley); Jim Bates (Vancouver, BC); Bob Huber (Northwest Sound); Chris Powell (Northwest Sound); Larry Breitbarth (West Sound Chorus); Ken Galloway (Columbia Gorge).



Also, at our recent meeting while reviewing BLMF Documents we selected a new chairman for a three-year term. The new Chairman will be Chris Powell. Please give Chris your support and we wish him the best of luck over the next three years.

Ken Galloway, Jr.
Chairman

FROM THE 2024 INCOMING DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

By GREG KRONLUND

Greetings Evergreen....

I'm excited to join the [Evergreen District Board of Directors](#). Next year's focus is helping chapters grow and thrive.

District Communication continues with the [Greensheet](#) event and information newsletter emailed to all members that allow us email access through the BHS Member Center.

[Chapter Leader News](#) is sent to chapter board members with reminders, events, and tips for successful chapter governance.

We'll continue our beloved [Evergreen TIMBRE](#) Newsletter once a quarter for all members.

Our [evgdistrict.com](#) website continues to grow with news, tips, opinions, information, and events. The Evergreen website includes back issues of all our printed publications. [Facebook/Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#) channels will expand.

Finally, if you have questions about internal or external marketing, advertising, or other communication ideas for your chapter, we are as close as email. Do not hesitate to reach out. "Helping Chapters Help Themselves 2024"



SAVE THE DATE FOR HARMONY COLLEGE NORTHWEST 2024

By **DUNCAN GILMAN, HCNW TEAM**

This summer, northwest barbershoppers are coming together again for one of the best music education events around. Save the date for Harmony College Northwest at the University of Puget Sound, June 14-16, 2024, with additional workshops June 13-14. Keep your eyes on harmonycollege.net and facebook.com/harmonycollegenw for updates throughout the year.



Who is Harmony College Northwest for?

Individuals: We offer students a wide selection of classes specifically chosen to meet their needs. New barbershoppers, chorus singers, quartetters, arrangers, directors, “music geeks” . . . we have lots of courses for every interest.

Quartets: Learn from an array of coaches available for private sessions to help your quartet achieve its goals, whether that's better community performances, improved scores at contest, or getting the most from your chart.

Choruses: Bring your whole chorus and experience up to four incredible coaching sessions. When your chorus isn't in coaching, your chorus members can choose from our wide array of classes. This is a coaching and class experience that will positively light a fire under your chapter's singers.

Directors: Directors wear many hats, and we will have a delectable buffet of courses to match. You're bound to find classes to help with everything from learning to delegating; from creating better section leaders to how to get your chorus to learn music faster; and how to use PVIs to improve the vocal skills of your whole chorus.

Chorus leaders: Take classes on how to get more out of the music (and your chorus), how to be a better administrative leader, or how to be a coach. Fine-tune your musical ear with some of the vocal production classes and, of course, widen your network of other chapter music leaders to ask questions and tap them for solutions.

Music educators: In addition to the invaluable resources you'll receive and connections you'll make, if you're a music educator, attending HCNW and the Arrangers Workshop can help you earn clock hours each summer.



NEWS FROM THE SING CANADA HARMONY BOARD MEETING

By **MURRAY PHILLIPS, CHAIR & CEO**



There'll be some changes made!

That was one of the results of the Sing Canada Harmony board meeting held in Calgary in mid-November.

The meeting started with a full-day strategic planning session that soon extended into almost 2 full days as the engagement of the board led to a new mission and vision and new goals.



Back row: John Wilkie, Trinda Ernst, Fran Thorson, Patricia Cassidy, Cynthia Feltrin, John Simpson
Front Row: Gordon Billows, Murray Phillips, Sean Huston, Bill Coulthard

What will not change is the reason Sing Canada Harmony exists. We will raise money to provide scholarships to legal residents of Canada to help them learn more about a cappella harmony.

We have board members from each Harmony, Incorporated Area, Sweet Adelines International Region Barber-shop Harmony Society District from each province in Canada. Our Founding Chair, Digger MacDougall continues to serve and provides great historical context. We have welcomed John Simpson as the BHS representative in Alberta and Sean Huston as the BHS representative from British Columbia. Fran Thorson represents SAI Region #26.

Sean Huston, The Squares, Port Coquitlam, BC 778-896-3496 SeanHuston@gmail.com

John Simpson, A Cappella Road, Calgary, AB 403-975-6600 jwsimpson.15@gmail.com

We have four scholarship application deadlines during the year. They are March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1. Forms and instructions can be found at [Scholarships – Sing Canada Harmony – Scholarship Fund](#)

Scholarship amounts will be determined based on the amount of funds in the account and eligible applications received. We can't give more than we receive.

We accept donations any and every day. We believe the world is a better place when there is singing. Singing brings enjoyment for a lifetime, to both the singer and the listener. You can do a whole lot of good for only a few dollars a month. Singing can start young people in a lifetime activity that will give them, and others more than they could ever imagine. What a great way to recognise a friend. Make a donation to Sing Canada Harmony in their name! Click on this link: [Types of Giving – Sing Canada Harmony – Scholarship Fund](#)

We have provided scholarships to Evergreen District members to attend Harmony College NorthWest, Harmony University and other educational opportunities.

We publish a newsletter for people interested in Sing Canada Harmony and we would love to have you as a subscriber! Click on this link . [Please, sign up for our newsletter \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

HARMONY KINGS—SHARING A TALENT

By Lanny Gleason, Harmony Kings

Has your chorus thought about how you share your talent? The Harmony Kings believe that music is a gift that is meant to be shared. The Harmony Kings share their talent two times a month at various audiences throughout the Puget Sound Area. Since we have been keeping track we have sung at almost 100 different venues. . This year we are beyond the moon because we have two performances a month booked through September of 2024. We do not consider ourselves as a competition chorus, but a performance chorus. Again, it gets back to the question of “How do you share your talent”? Our main focus is performing at assisted senior living residences. but we sing at other types of venues as well, like the Washington State Fair, the King County Fair, and on the Argosy Holiday Cruise Ship, and various Veteran's Day performances.

We have performed the National Anthem at various sporting venues like Emerald Downs Race Track, the Seattle T-Birds in Kent, the Seattle Kraken at Climate Pledge Arena and the Tacoma Rainiers at Cheney Stadium.

We also have several quartets that perform in the community at various venues. One of our quartets' favorite event is Singing Valentine's. But all of our chorus members would agree that our favorite performance gig is Studio 315. Studio 315 is an event run by the city of Kent, WA. It is a special evening for adults with disabilities. If you ever wanted to feel like a rock star, that is the event to be at. Every year after we sing for them, we go out to a local restaurant and have a meal and social hour. The Harmony Kings are a family, and what better way to end an evening with food and fellowship.

So, going back to the original question, “How is your chorus sharing their talent?” Maybe this article has lit a spark or given you an idea you haven't thought about. Maybe it gave you a challenge to do more in your chapter. Whatever the reason, remember “Music is a gift to be shared!”



HARMONY KINGS—SHARING A TALENT (Cont'd)

By Lanny Gleason, Harmony Kings



WHY BE A DUES-PAYING MEMBER OF THE BHS?

By **DONNY ROSE**, Harmony Foundation International

It may not be obvious, but BHS has a long history of people who attend meetings and sing with a barbershop group for decades who never join (perma-guests), and our paying members either encourage this or look the other way.

I think this is wrong, and we should chip in and pay our fair share. It takes money to keep everything working at every level of barbershop, especially as we are in a time of transition with aging members and fewer "joiners" to organizations.

Our BHS Dues cover a myriad of things like:

- Keeping a small stream of dependable money to cover overhead costs at the local, district, and international level.
- Reimburse the expenses of UNPAID volunteers that execute BHS events including many judges, educators, and leaders at every level
- Producing an ongoing pipeline of new BHS materials in an ever-changing world.
- Online member services and assistance with government forms, chapter needs, and general questions.
- Educational events and materials for leaders, judges, and members.
- Conventions at the local, district, and international levels.
- Creating new PUBLISHED barbershop music and learning tracks that are legal. Because of these efforts, music teachers and the general population can now FIND our barbershop sheet music.
- Insurance to cover volunteer leaders from injury lawsuits at chapter functions (It happens... all the time)
- Keeping barbershop in the public eye with professional marketing, social media, and a strong YouTube presence.

Headquarters staff who work tirelessly. We love our volunteers, but they come and go. A paid staff is critical to execute events and plan long term.

Barbershop dues ALSO create a space that would fade away without your dues. All choirs provide a place to sing and find emotional safety. However, barbershop is wildly different from other choral groups because we have...

- Intergenerational singing.
- Music that is not based in sacred text.
- Competitions at the local and international level with highly trained judges in our style.
- We overtly welcome people who do not read music.
- Our chapters and quartets often have a service element.
- Our members can grow into leadership roles
- Our chapters and quartets give meaning and deep fellowship as we age.

(continued next page)



WHY BE A DUES-PAYING MEMBER OF BHS? (Cont'd)

By **DONNY ROSE**, Harmony Foundation International

(continued from previous page)

One of the greatest volunteer choirs in the world, the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, has a mandatory AGE OUT at 60. Barbershop welcomes all voices to stay as long as you wish

BHS dues cover a massive network of barbershop related costs at about \$20 a month. I know many other hobbies or activities that are profoundly more expensive, and BHS is worth preserving. Heck: *I am quite sure I spend more at the bar after rehearsals than on my dues!*



One of the things I love about living in Bellingham, Washington, is seeing roadside "self serve" vendors. In 4 locations very near my home, people put out chicken eggs, duck eggs, and even potted plants in a self-serve stand by the road. They use the honor system to pay for these items. We know that it's fair to ask for a fee for this service. Why would I take advantage of these people, just because I think that the next person will pay and I can take this item for free?

That's how I feel about BHS paying dues. I'm chipping in my fair share for thousands of things I don't know about, but I do know it's fair to pay my fair share and keep BHS alive at the local, district, and international level.



AIC GOLD PRESENTS

“SPIRIT OF THE SEASON 2023—LIVE!”

The Association of International Champions invites you to unwrap the magic of an ALL NEW ‘Spirit of the Season 2023 - LIVE! Don’t miss a stellar lineup of International Champion Quartets: Midtown, Signature, Main Street, Vocal Spectrum and more. There are two ways to see this incredible show: In-person at the Lifebridge Church in Orlando, Florida, or from the comfort of your home via live-stream - Available World-Wide!

Mark your calendars for December 22nd, 7:30 PM Eastern Time, and be part of a night where harmonies will warm the heart and uplift the spirit. Tickets are just a click away at AICGOLD.COM. Secure your live show experience in Orlando or claim your virtual seat for a holiday livestream that can be replayed throughout the holiday season. Visit AICGOLD.COM today to reserve your place in this not-to-be-missed holiday tradition!

(Hey Chapters! Why not host a Guest Night / Watch Party during that usually dark week between Christmas and New Year's to treat your guests (and chapters) to a GREAT BARBERSHOP SHOW followed by singing some Holiday favorites and having fellowship.)

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FEATURING FOUR WORLD CHAMPION QUARTETS

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Breaking News!
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a cappella performers 'VOCTAVE'.

Voctave

SEVEN CHAPTER CONSIDERATIONS FOR YOUR PRESS RELEASE

By GREG KRONLUND, EVG COMM TEAM/MARKETING ADVISOR

- Don't make the Press Release too long, filled with details, or wording that might scare the folks off (eg. Director searches).
- There is a media expression: "sell the Sizzle Not the Steak"...Highlight the product, price, and place, sell the event.
- For a directors search take a look at the Harmonizer notices. Note the wording. Short, sweet, right to the point, not tangled up in details.
- Your Press Release is to make it easy for an editor to use. In other words, write the article or message for them. Radio, TV, Newspaper, and Magazines look for: a) how many audience members does this affect? b) does my audience care about this? c) what impact does this have on our community? (the more community impact the better chance for publication) d) We have limited space, and we don't have time to edit.
- Press Releases' need to spoon feed the editor because they won't take time to read the whole thing.
- I've thrown out so many press releases in my career because I didn't have time to read the document, let alone to edit the content. Spoon feed the editor the sizzle... **who, what, where, when why**. The HOW information involves too many details.
- Editors will often go to the website to decide how much impact the event has on readers/viewers... if the website is out of date, not updated recently, or looks stale they will pass on publishing.



THE MENAGERIE (EPISODE 8)

By PIPER McTAGGART

The Menagerie *by Piper McTaggart*

Episode 8—Winter Blossoms

Things were crazy at the Menagerie, as preparations for the Holiday Show picked up speed. New songs to learn, scripts to rehearse, tickets and ads to sell, programs to print, quartets to rehearse, afterglow to plan ... the thousand happy tasks done by chapters all over the world as they prepare to share some Barbershop holiday cheer. And all this hard on the heels of a fabulous District contest and convention that witnessed the true implementation “Everyone In Harmony.” For the first time, there had been men’s, women’s, and mixed quartets in the finals ... the best finals anyone could remember, *and a mixed quartet had triumphed*, adding the first non-male to the District Quartet Champs ranks. While this made some old-timers sad, most of these just grumbled a bit, then went back to singing.



Rachel the Raven was busy at the old Baldwin upright. Aaron the Aardvark finished helping with risers and “just happened” to end up near the piano, looking over Rachel’s work.

Rachel glanced up, feigning surprise. Rachel and Aaron’s budding romance was the Menagerie’s worst-kept secret.

“Oh! Hi Aaron!”

“Hi Rachel. Are you ... writing a new tag?” he asked awkwardly.

“Yes. I am preparing it as a gift to Otto and Hannah in honor of them directing their 20th Holiday Show.”

“TWENTIETH?” Aaron whistled. “I had no idea they had been directing the Menagerie so long.”

“Oh ... even longer!” said Rachel. “They did not have a holiday show the first couple of years, and missed a couple during the pandemic.”

“Whoa! That’s amazing. How lucky we are!” said Aaron, gushing a bit.

“I agree,” said Rachel. “I don’t know if there is a group in the Society quite like our little Menagerie. I want to surprise them with the tag during the finale of the show as we recognize their years of service and dedication. Want to see what I have so far?”

“Yes, please!” said Aaron.

“Notice,” said Rachel, pointing to her absurdly tidy manuscript, “that I used the traditional choral clefs ... bass and treble, and that *sometimes parallel fifths and octaves are a good thing!*”

Comfort and Joy *Arranged by Rachel the Raven*

Optional

A musical score for the song "Comfort and Joy" in 4/4 time. The score is written for piano and includes both treble and bass clefs. The lyrics are: "O tid-ings of com-fort and joy, com-fort and joy! (and joy!)". The score includes a section labeled "Optional" with a treble clef and a bass clef.

Rudy the Rhino approached. He, too, was trying to pretend he “just happened” to wander over, but the twinkle in his eye revealed that he was up to something ... as usual.

“Hey, you two!” he bellowed. Rudy would never need a megaphone. “So, are you going to just ignore tradition?”

The couple at the piano looked at him quizzically. “Um, what tradition is that?” asked Rachel, one eyebrow lifted.

Rudy, grinning widely, pointed up to the mistletoe “somebody” had hung above the piano.

LANGUAGE MATTERS—LYRICS

By: **CHRIS POWELL, EVG District Secretary**

Language Matters – Lyrics

Language Matters – Articles for EVG Leadership

Third in a series of articles by Chris Powell, Evergreen District Secretary

(Articles 1 and 2 appeared in the Sept 1, 2023 Timbre)



The language used by members of the barbershop community reflects our values and our devotion to the music. But does our language communicate effectively to those new to barbershop or those outside the hobby? The following is the third installment in a series of articles intended to open dialog within the Evergreen barbershop community on situations where the language we use matters.

For decades, barbershop repertoire has reflected its largely male participation with lyrics that appeal to male singers and early 20th century values. As we continue to embrace *Everyone in Harmony*, we need to consider whether the lyrics in our repertoire fit with our expanding membership. Also, as we strive to grow our audiences, especially among younger generations, we need to consider whether lyrics fit with the values of our changing audiences.

Examples of types of lyrics to consider and question include:

- Gendered lyrics – that is lyrics that are sung from the viewpoint of a specific gender, typically male. For example, from the lovely song “If” by the 70’s group Bread, “If a man could be two places at one time, I’d be with you...” The question arises, how comfortable would a woman be singing lyrics written from a male perspective? If our ensemble is mixed, then are we asking women to sing in this manner? Similarly, do men want to sing “And I’ve had so many men before...” from Andrew Lloyd Weber’s “I don’t know how to love him”?
- Stereotypical or derogatory gender roles – Many older songs describe unbalanced power dynamics between genders in relationships or characterize them as negative or coercive in some way. Examples include:
 - “Then she grew more cold and he grew more bold, Till she tho’t they had better go, But although he heard he not even stirred,...” from Cuddle Up A Little Closer, Lovey Mine
 - “Then you left her to hunt a new game;” from I Wonder Who’s Kissing Her Now
 - “Then we’ll join the army of married boobs, to the altar, just like leading lambs to slaughter.” From Goodbye, My Coney Island Baby/We All Fall medley
- Diminutive names/descriptions – Similar to the above, but specifically where the female characters are described as lesser as in “He loves a dear little girl.” from In My Merry Oldsmobile.
- Negative characterizations – Copacabana is an upbeat tune from Barry Manilow that many of us remember from our youths and are likely to be able to sing the chorus. But if you read the verse lyrics carefully it is a story of characters that fight and murder over a relationship conflict! Further, based on the names of the places and characters, listeners might assume that they are Hispanic, and that the song supports a prejudiced perspective that they are prone to violence. Are these values that your ensemble wants to promote?

(continued on next page)

LANGUAGE MATTERS—LYRICS (Cont'd)

By: **CHRIS POWELL, EVG District Secretary**

(continued from previous page)

As part of the *Everyone in Harmony* rollout, the BHS took an approach of providing education about a variety of concerns that might be barriers to inclusion. For example, David Wright has taught classes on the African American roots of barbershop, there were in-person classes and webinar panel discussions on several inclusion issues, and there have been ongoing publications about related topics. When asked, presenters were relatively cautious in making recommendations about choices related to song lyrics, preferring to inform and leave the choices to members and their ensembles rather than providing strong guidance on or removing availability of challenged songs.



There is likely not a single position or set of repertoire that works universally for all barbershop groups. Instead, chapters and their ensembles should regularly review and discuss lyrics with an eye toward ensuring that their repertoire reflects the values of those groups and their envisioned audiences. If we aspire to expand our audiences, we need to consider when songs might create a negative impression to new audience members and act accordingly. Sometimes word substitutions can solve minor issues with lyrics. Other times a song may need to be removed from consideration due to its potential negative impact on some current or future audience or ensemble members. I hope you will join in the work of ensuring that the lyrics you sing appropriately reflect your values and those of your intended audience.



“HIGHLIGHT YOUR DIRECTOR”

By GREG KRONLUND, EVG Communications Team

EVERGREEN COMMUNICATIONS TEAM
2024



WANTS TO HIGHLIGHT YOUR DIRECTOR

SEND BIO TO
MARKETING@EVGDISTRICT.COM

Send Your Director's Bio
For publications in 2024
Bios should be 150 to 170 Word length

PACIFIC SPIRIT VOICES—DIRECTOR SEARCH

By **DAVID ANDERSON, Music VP**

Director Search Now underway... Pacific Spirit Voices (Formerly Gentlemen of Fortune) are looking for a director to join by mid-2024.... Contact David Anderson drdkanderson@gmail.com for more information or to apply!

DIRECTOR SEARCH IN PROGRESS

Pacific Spirit Voices, Vancouver, BC. are in search of a new director. Our energized chorus has a new name, we are now mixed, and we are searching for a dynamic director to lead us forward.



Click [HERE](#) to enjoy a recent performance

Contact: Music VP, David Anderson
drdkanderson@gmail.com
(604) 230-5695

Evergreen District Communications Team Search for Facebook Admin Person

Evergreen Communications Team
2024
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2024 COMMUNICATIONS

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EVERGREEN HISTORIAN'S CORNER

By JUDY GALLOWAY, EVG District Historian

In 1990, Ray Heller, who at the time was working at SPEBSQSA headquarters, arranged to bring The Quiet Don Quartet from Russia to perform at various venues in the USA, including at the International Convention. Ray also had a long history with Evergreen District (see photo below of Ken Galloway, Bob Cox and Ray).

Make way for the Russians! A Soviet quartet visits the U. S.

by Ray - from my files

From the Soviet Union, the Rostov Musical Pedagogical Institute choir visited East Germany in 1987, where they heard and met a German barbershop quartet. The Germans gave them a couple of arrangements of their songs. Evgeni Feldman, a flutist and Soviet choir member, said, "We were captivated by the music and after returning to Rostov, we decided to organize our own barbershop quartet."

Choir director Yuri Vasiliev asked Feldman to sing lead. He then found a bass, Oleg Kovalenko, a faculty member and student of music composition. A lecturer in the school for choir directors at the Institute, Sergei Tarakanov, was recruited as baritone and Vasiliev sang the tenor part.

They became known as the Quiet Don Quartet, named for the lazy-flowing Don River that runs into the Black Sea at Rostov. They learned "I Can't Give You Anything But Love, Baby" and ten other songs. A few months later, they sang on stage at a Soviet hotel.

In August, 1988, while I was working for the Society in Kenosha, Wisconsin, I received a recording from someone who had received it from someone else who had heard a CBS news broadcast on a Minneapolis radio station featuring a Russian quartet singing "Toot, Toot Tootsie, Goodbye." The broadcast originated from an international agriculture conference in Moscow that was attended by President Ronald Reagan.

I phoned everyone I could think of and finally found someone who knew someone in our Agriculture Department. Eventually, I received a letter from a member of that Department who was stationed in the Soviet capital, who knew someone who had heard the quartet singing in Rostov and had talked to them. He provided me with the name and address of choir director and quartet member Yuri Vasilyev. I wrote him a letter - in English - and included a couple of barbershop arrangements.

In January 1989, I received a letter from Yuri, typed in Russian. I called colleges and universities in the Kenosha area and the Far East Department at one of the colleges directed me to a couple living in town who were Russian immigrants and had been used as translators by the college on various occasions. I called them and they agreed to translate my letter.

After further exchange of letters and after consideration by Society officials, the Russian quartet was invited to visit the United States for a tour to conclude with participation in the 52nd annual international convention in San Francisco. The 139th Street Quartet, from Far Western District, was designated to handle tour arrangements, with baritone Pete Neushul taking care of most of the details.

Yuri said that his quartet would be happy to come to the United States in June and July the following year. They were anxious to hear real American quartets.

Bob Bisio, an official of the international convention's host chapter, planned a gala banquet and show featuring the quartet during the convention week.

Problems immediately arose: How to pay for the trip, how to obtain visas and a year-long wait before the Russians were permitted to get airline reservations to reach the U. S.

Funding was partly solved by a \$10,000 grant from MBNA National Bank in Delaware that was at that time sponsoring a credit card with a picture of the Norman Rockwell barbershop quartet on it that Society members could use as a fund-raiser. The Society used this money to pay for airline reservations. The reservations, coupled with an invitation by the Society, provided the assurance that was required for the Soviet government to issue necessary passports and exit documents.

The Quiet Don Quartet arrived in New York City on June 1, 1990. Their first performance was the Manhattan Chapter's annual show, which was held at Carnegie Hall.

John Miller, bass of 1979 International Champion Grandma's Boys quartet, who was a vice president of NBC News, arranged to have the performance by the Russians, including a shot of them singing the Star-Spangled Banner with the Manhattan Chorus, broadcast nationally on network news.

Other shows and activities were scheduled in Boston; Columbus, Ohio; Washington, D.C.; Columbia, S. Carolina; Chicago; Kenosha, Wisconsin; Davenport, Iowa; Minneapolis; Los Angeles; San Diego; Seattle and at the Cow Palace in San Francisco.

At the Society convention, the Russians sang on a Tuesday night show with a quartet from Sweden, a quartet and chorus from Great Britain, a double quartet from Austria, a chorus and quartet from New Zealand; a chorus from the San Francisco area and the 1989 champion quartet, Second Edition. The Quiet Don Quartet also appeared before nearly 10,000 barbershoppers while judges tallied the scores from the quartet finals.

After the convention, the Quiet Don foursome returned to Russia and continued singing barbershop. The 139th Street Quartet traveled to Rostov in March of 1992 after the fall of the Soviet Union and performed on a show with the Russian quartet and the Pedagogical Institute Choir.

I have a poster, printed in Russian, advertising that show on the wall of my home office in McCleary.



HARMONY PLATOON 2023 RINGS TRUE!

By **GREG VERHAPPEN**, Harmony Platoon Organizer

This year's Evergreen District Convention was a huge success on all fronts from the quartets to the choruses to the Tags to the Afterglow and everything in between.

Congratulations to everyone! Especially the 19 first time Platooners who contributed to one of the largest Harmony Platoons ever. In addition, the quality of the quartets participating made this year's Platoon one of the best ever (and there was lots of weekend singing afterwards also)!

Congratulations to our top three quartets this year! "Hang Time" who were our Mic Tester quartet, "Raging Harmonés" who placed second, with "Unchained Harmony" in third. Special Thank you to our Judges: Ken, Judy, Jeannie, Kim, and Michelle for their help to make things go smoothly and to Iain Haukka from Bridgetown Sound who did such a great job directing us and bringing us together as an ensemble. It was especially great to have the entire Bridgetown Sound Chorus join us this year in the Platoon. It really helped contribute to the full confident sound of the chorus and each quartet.



Platoon Champions, "Hang Time" (L-R): Todd Dignan (T), Greg Verhappen (L), Jeroen Beudeker (B), Iain Haukka (b)



Harmony Platoon Chorus

GREENSHEET EDITOR....MOVIN' ON UP!

(from Evergreen Greensheet)



David Dobson has been the Editor of the Greensheet since 2018 and has worked very hard to make the Greensheet what it is today. In the last 6 years, he has made many wonderful contributions to the Communications team.

As of January 1st, David will be moving on to be a part of a new venture on the Evergreen District Board and will be working with Bob Cox.

From David: "I want to thank everyone who has helped me along the way. John and Edi thank you for always working with me. To Bob Robson thank you. To Don Greer & Bill Hickman Thank You. To Sid Brown Thank you for your guidance. And most of all Thank You to you the Evergreen District....you are the best! I will still be around and helping out the Communications team in some way, shape or form."

So what is next for the Greensheet? Your Assistant Editor, Laura Pennington, will become Editor. Laura sings with the Star Harmony Chorus in Boise, Idaho, and has been Assistant Editor since March.

Thank you David for your ongoing contribution and support for Evergreen District! Best wishes!





PRESENT

Here We Come A-Caroling!

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Featuring the RiversEdge Chorus

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EVERGREEN DISTRICT EVENTS CALENDAR

Here's a handy Link to the Online Events Calendar at <https://evgdistrict.com/evg-calendar/>

EVERGREEN DISTRICT INFORMATION LINKS

For Evergreen District & Historical Information, click the links:

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[Scores Archives](#)

[Quartet Champions](#)

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[Barbershopper Of The Year](#)

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www.EVGDistrict.com (Evergreen site)

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Contact Bob Robson bob.robson@shaw.ca
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TIMBRE 2024 PRODUCTION SCHEDULE

Issue #	Ad/Copy Deadline	Publishing Date
2024 #1	Feb. 24, 2024	March 1, 2024
2024 #2	May 26, 2024	June 1, 2024
2024 #3	August 26, 2024	September 1, 2024
2024 #4	November 26, 2024	December 1, 2024