

PACKERLAND



Stays in Tune!

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Oshkosh Park Falls Ripon
Stevens Point Wausau Oshkosh

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The purpose of this newsletter is to inform all of the Packerland Division chapters of the activities of other chapters. This will be a fun way to exchange ideas. My goal as Division Vice President is to publish this letter four times a year.

In the first quarter of 2008, the **Appleton Chapter Fox Valleyaires** has been keeping with a flurry of activities. In January, Appleton sent 8 representatives to the COTS at UW Stout. The gentlemen enjoyed the various class offerings in the new format. We also enjoyed the opportunity to network and share in song with our brothers. Also, the guys were only a little distracted by the Packers playoff game with Seattle. In January, we also installed our chapter officers with the help of Packerland Division VP, **Clary Reinhardt**. Clary introduced all the key members of the newly established IBMC, or Itty-Bitty Music Company. **Don Derozier** was selected as the Barbershopper of the Year. **Ken Bester** received the **Dan Waselchuk Memorial Award**.

The month of February was filled with mixed emotions as the month started off with the always exciting **Youth in Harmony Festival at Hortonville High School**. Although a big snow storm hindered attendance, a good time was had by the boys, the **Fox Valleyaires**, the teaching quartet, **High Rez**, and the clinician **Bret Lewis**, who filled in for **Joe Liles** when **Joe** suffered an illness and could not attend.

On a sad note, the chorus lost one of our brothers and long time Barbershopper, **George Paltzer**. George suffered an illness while traveling on vacation with his family in Texas.

On a lighter note, a heavy snow storm didn't stop our chapter quartets from delivering Singing Valentines to deserving sweethearts across the valley.

It was a day filled with wonderful stories and great memories. Wrapping up the first quarter, the **Fox Valleyaires** are completing preparations for their annual show, **Love...Finally!** The show will take place at Pathways Church in Appleton on Saturday, April 12th. The headline quartet will be **Main Street Station**. Also singing on the show will be the **Fox Valley Sweet Adelines Chorus**. Show times are 3:00pm and 7:30pm. Contact an Appleton Chapter member or our website www.foxvalleyaires.com for ticket information.

Within our ranks we have a fifty-year or more club. **Will Mackin** has joined a very exclusive club. Members are: **Rollie Tonnell** (60-yrs), **Will Mackin** (50-yrs), **John VerBockel** (51-yrs), **John Scherer** (55-yrs) and **Carl Schumacher** (52-yrs), and **Russ Johns** with 55 years.

Ken Bester, President Appleton Chapter



Oshkosh Events,

Complied by **Jack Kile**

On December 6, 2007 the Oshkosh and Ripon Chapters had a combined annual dinner/installation with 60 in attendance. Our officers were installed by **Carl Grahm**

Valentines Stories: The chapter had 2 quartets, one in Oshkosh and another in Berlin that braved the snowy conditions. The Oshkosh quartet made 26 appearances including 4 schools (Shapiro Middle School - Oshkosh; Shattuck Middle School - Neenah; Winneconne Middle School, Franklin Elementary -Oshkosh.) Not only did the honored teachers enjoy the performances but their students did as well. The Berlin quartet put on lot miles on treacherous roads for their 28 performances. One of the appearances made by the Oshkosh quartet was in the Chemo Therapy Room at Mercy Medical Center for a patient undergoing treatment. It was a touching moment for all including quartet member **Roger LaPoint**, a previous cancer patient.

On December, 7, 2007 the WinnebagoLand Barbershop Chorus presented the "Community Sounds of Christmas 7th Annual Charity Concert" to an appreciative audience of over 1000 at the Alberta Kimball Auditorium (Oshkosh West High School). All services were again donated and there were no expenses.

The event brought in \$7000 which was divided equally among the 7 groups to be given to its designated charity. The concert featured 6 youth singing groups from Oshkosh (South Park Middle School 8th Grade Choir -- Humane Society; Webster Stanley Middle School Choir -- Boys and Girls Club; Oshkosh West H.S. Barbershop Chorus -- Memorial Scholarship in honor of a former student; Oshkosh North H.S. Madrigals -- Humane Society; Oshkosh Lourdes H.S. Concert Choir -- Multiple Sclerosis Society; and Oshkosh West H.S. Madrigals -- Memorial Scholarship in honor of a former student) along with the WinnebagoLand Barbershop Chorus -- local cancer support group.

Each group performed 2 Christmas numbers and then combined forces to sing in a mass chorus of over 250 voices which sang 3 numbers. As usual, the mass chorus brought a lengthy standing ovation -- What an inspiring way to end the evening!! Over the 7 years, the show has raised \$50,000 for charity. We are extremely proud of this unique event which is our way of giving back to the

community who, through the years, has been so supportive of our barbershop activities. --- For more background and history on this charity concert, please refer to the March-April 2007 issue of the Pitch Piper -- p.7.

COTS: **Pat Rudolph**, our chapter's assistant director attended the sessions for choral directing -- I was on the COTS faculty for Youth in harmony.

Snow bound stories: The Oshkosh quartet went to **Warren Steinerts** place of **business to sing for his secretary. On the way out, Roger LaPoint** got stuck in a ditch trying to avoid a deer -- likely story!!! Had to get a wrecker to pull him!

Sponsorship of the Oshkosh Youth Alliance Chorus and their trip to San Antonio to participate in the first annual International Youth in Harmony Festival/Contest which occurred in January. The Chapter's involvement included providing assistance in the formation of the chorus, arranging rehearsal sites, contacting students regarding practices, providing supervision at practices, RAISING MONIES TO PAY FOR TRAVEL COSTS and to pay for uniforms, making the travel arrangements and providing chaperones for traveling and also on site at the Festival.

Our chapter, through a considerable financial effort on its part, along with funding from a major fund raising activity, individual donors and foundations (including a sizeable grant from the J.J. Keller Foundation), and from the LOL and from area chapters -- Appleton (Fox Valleyaires), Green Bay, Manitowoc, Plymouth, and Ripon Chapters, was able to pay for all the boy's travel expenses. The Harmony Foundation paid for lodging and registration costs -- Many thanks to all! This terrific effort by our chapter involved the work of many and truly was a team effort and I might add a labor of love. --- For additional information about the OYABC and their trip to San Antonio, please refer to the January-February 2008 issue of the Pitch Piper - p.12

New members: **Mike Gray, David Pohlman, and Rigo Garza.**





What's Happening up in Delta County?

By Marc D Tall, VP Public Relations

After wrapping up 2007 by taking part in an eight choir/chorus Christmas festival, our chapter began the year by preparing for a March 1st benefit concert. Our chorus, **The Remnants**, produced the event aimed at raising money for a fourth-grade class trip.

The chorus, chapter quartet "*The Next Generation*", a ladies quartet "*Mood Swing*", and a new ladies chorus "*The UP Town Girls*", were joined on stage by fifty fourth graders and a group of sixth-seventh-and-eighth grade boys and girls, to entertain an audience of about four hundred. We are proud to say we raised \$3,000 for the kids, and will present the money to the local school board to gain a bit more publicity for the chapter.

Another point of pride for us... we are growing! We are doing it by staying busy. We are always having an event coming up, while never forgetting that we get together to have fun.

Every member knows that the more guys we have singing, the more fun we all will have. We are inviting you up and see how it's done. We meet each Tuesday evening at 7 PM in Gladstone MI at the American Legion club... and you are welcome!

Barbershop music at its best Wausau,

Submitted by **Charlie Wade**

If you have visited **Wausau** lately, you have probably seen more bearded men than usual, and it's probably because of our up-coming show on April 12 at the Grand Theatre. Our theme is "*Pirates of Harmony*". We have more than 20 singers who don't look like they have shaved for a several weeks. Some actually look pretty good that way!

We have been preparing for our annual show since last fall, and it is now becoming a very serious matter. The only interruptions were the Christmas

holidays and Valentines Day. Our annual Christmas program was held at a local church, bringing in several outsiders to add to the ranks. With the gracious sponsorship of a local bank, we were able to get the show aired on our local public access station. It was a treat to hear the many favorable comments we receive about it.

Another successful project was our "Singing Valentines". We had 3 quartets out there, and did about 70 gigs. That is always a "great experience" for everyone involved.

For various reasons, four members decided not to renew for this year. On a brighter note, **Joel**

Stubbe was awarded the covenant **Barbershopper of the Year Award.**



Congratulations Joel!

After our show, it is a short time before we head off for competition. This means there will be no time for relaxation. This coming summer we hope to have performances at three local churches, for their regular Sunday services.

HOMETOWN HARMONY NEWS

Submitted By, **Clark Koehler**

I'm dreaming of a White Valentines Day might be a rewrite of the famous and eternal Bing Crosby singing of "I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas." It was indeed a stormy day on February 14, 2008. Those of us in eastern and southern Wisconsin fought sleet, snow, and blizzard conditions to dispatch our appointed rounds and bring a little cheer to the recipients of "Singing Valentines". All told the men of Hometown Harmony Tradition sang about 60 greetings (significantly down from our usual number) to unsuspecting but appreciative ladies. Four quartets were on the road from 7:00 in the morning until 8:00 in the evening slipping and sliding, sometimes experiencing white out conditions from one end of Sheboygan County to the other.

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The ladies however were typical in their response; they either got teary eyed, giggled, or said they were going to "kill" the guy for the embarrassment they were experiencing.

We visited the young, the infirm, and the elderly. We sang in nursing homes, class rooms, offices, restaurants and apartments. There was sometimes a crowd of on lookers other times just the one selected but regardless of conditions we the singers received as much of a thrill as the ones we were singing to. What a neat way to express our enjoyment of our hobby and spread the good word of Barbershopping.

We are looking forward to February 14, 2009 and the prospect of sunshine and 50 degrees.

Al Prom Barbershopper of the Year

Long time Barbershopper, **Al Prom** was elected the Hometown Harmony Barbershopper of the year at the Annual Awards Night held in January. Al was show chair in 2007 and is a very active Youth in Harmony Chair having organized two successful events the past two years. This year Al will sing in three different quartets in our show which will be held April 12 at the Plymouth High School. Prom usually sings bass but does equally well at bari. Al has sung with the Menominee Falls and Port Washington Chapters prior to joining HHT.

Chris Reisbeck **New Director**

Chris Reisbeck, tenor, and music teacher can add another title to his resume as he has taken the director reigns of Hometown Harmony Tradition Barbershop Chorus. Chris agreed to direct after the retirement of **Bruce Beyer** another outstanding Barber-shopper last summer. He attended the Harmony University in July of 2007 and came back all fired up for barbershop, that fire has transferred to the men as they have improved greatly and have a new zest for our hobby. We are looking forward to great things for our chorus in the near future.



What's new in Green Bay?

Submitted by **Lee Frederickson**

Winter is always a very busy time for the **Green Bay Chapter**. We have a tradition of installing our new officers at our annual Christmas party.

Bob Fricke gets very creative with a theme for the occasion and had the wives and members roaring with laughter!

The **Baylanders** have a lot of involvement in our Singing Valentines program. To help promote singing valentines, **Ed Selissen** again was able to obtain radio and TV spots. Our co-ordinator **Bob Quigley** did his usual magic in scheduling the seventy-five singing valentines sung by five quartets in the chapter. One of the quartets was able to demonstrate the barbershop style to about four classes who wanted to "witness" the occasion. An actual music class was also given a private demonstration of barbershop harmony which they thoroughly enjoyed!

We had several new participants at COTS this year. The six members that attended all had a fabulous time and came back to Green Bay really "fired up" even though they missed some of the Packer playoff game.

Holding our usual Monday rehearsal at the Elk Lodge proved a bit difficult since it seemed like we had a blizzard every Monday. Thankfully, the Elks was able to reschedule us on Tuesday every time we had to "postpone" our rehearsal. Attendance at our weekly rehearsals has been terrific in spite of the antics of "Old Man Winter."

On March 1st, we had a coaching day to help prepare for our 63rd annual Harmony Jubilee. Our coach, **Duane Enders** gave us great ideas and suggestions for our show. ***That's Entertainment*** will be held on April 26th at Green Bay West High School and our scenery crew led by **Jim Emmel** is busy preparing for the show. **HIGH DEFINITION** will be our featured quartet. We await an early migration by our "snow birds" to join us on the show. We hope to see **you** in Green Bay!

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BIRTHDAY PARTY QUIPS

A man has reached middle age when he is cautioned to slow down by his doctor instead of the police.

News from up North
Way up North

Submitted by Peter Centner

The Lakeland Barbershopper Chorus of Woodruff-Minocqua, WI. started the year after a very busy Christmas season, having sung out at over a dozen locations including nursing homes, schools, Wal-Mart, etc.

We began preparations for new music for our annual show in August, and began work on Singing Valentines. That too was very successful. *Face the Music Quartet* had a busy Valentines Day, visiting 19 locations around Rhinelander and over to Tomahawk. The rest of the chapter covered the north woods around Minocqua, logging over 150 miles making over 15 stops as well as some freebees. Thanks to the efforts of all the chapter members, we brought in over \$1000 to be used for scholarships for outstanding vocal students in our area.

Many of our members have taken advantage of the terrible weather and ventured to points warmer, but we expect to be at full chorus by May, just in time to buckle down and get these songs off the paper.

Now its crunch time and we need to select our guest quartet for the 2008 show and finalize the show order. We are also proud to have a webpage up and running at lakelandbarbershop.com. We even update it from time to time.



LAKELAND CHORUS OUTSIDE REHEASAL
(EDITOR NOTE-Looks like they were locked out of their rehearsal hall



The Manitowoc Clipper Chordsman Chorus
-Looks like they re getting ready for a cruise.



Ken Bester-Appleton chapter
Receiving the **2007 Dan Waselchuk Memorial Award**
Pictured with Ken is **Pat Waselchuk**, Dan's widow.

More party Quips

You know you're into middle age when you realize that caution is the only thing you care to exercise.

My Godmother is 90: she's dating a man 93. They never argue: they can't her each other

Northern Gateway Director Search Nears Conclusion

Submitted by **Norm Barnard**

During the month of March, the director search committee presented three candidate directors for audition in front of our membership. More precisely, it was four, but I'll cover that later. All candidates were given the same assignments. That assignment was to work with one of our current repertoire songs, teaching a new song, working with our weekly afterglow song and fielding questions from the membership present that evening.



In the order that they auditioned, we will start with **Jacob Oxley**. Jake is a student at Steven Point University and has been in touch with barbershop harmony all his life. He recently directed the Oshkosh youth chorus at the Mid-Winter

convention in San Antonio, Texas.

The final two candidates came to us in the form of a husband wife team. With virtually lifetime



exposure to the barbershop style, **Roger and Kathleen Harris** expressed an interest in helping our chorus maintain our quality and perhaps get us to a higher level.



Northern Gateway Chorus, Selects Kevin Morrissey New Director

The Director Search Committee held a final meeting on March 16, 2008 to review and discuss three possibilities as the future director of the Northern Gateway Chorus. After a two month effort which included interviews, phone calls, auditions and numerous meetings, the search committee came to a decision after much discussion. As a member of that committee, this writer is somewhat astonished that the process could reach fruition in such a short period of time. The diligence of the committee can be credited to the speed with which this task was accomplished. As indicated,



discussion was thorough and many factors were weighed regarding each candidate's ability, compatibility and skills. Great consideration was given to what was good for the chapter's future health as well. All things considered, the committee went to the Chapter Board of Directors in an emergency session prior to rehearsal on St. Patrick's Day with the recommendation that an offer be made to **Kevin Morrissey** for the position of chorus director. The board considered said proposal and unanimously voted in favor of the proposal.



PACKERLAND NEWS
137 STATE STREET
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This is my first attempt to produce a division newsletter. Packerland Division has 12 chapters. All but 3 chapters have an article about their activities. I hope all of the readers of this newsletter get a better insight of our division activities. It took a lot of time and effort to put it together, and I want to thank all of the contributing authors. I also want to thank **Dick Staedt** of the Appleton chapter for designing the letter head. With the help of the twelve chapter presidents, I will have another newsletter in July.

KEEP THE WHOLE WORLD SINGING!

RIPON

Home of the Harmony Kings Chorus

Submitted by **Bob Bengsch**

The **Ripon Chapter** had 6 members join the **Oshkosh Chorus** for their show on March 29th. We will also be getting ready for the June Dairy Days Parade in Markesan. We will be putting our float in the parade.

Come join us for the **Ripon Chapter Show** which will be on October 18th. With the help of the **Oshkosh Chapter Winnebago Chorus** this should be a great show. The **4-Bits of Fun** quartet have a number of performances lined up in the next couple of months.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Packerland contest in May, as I will be the Stage Manager.

GOOD LUCK to all.



PLEASE MAKE AS MANY COPIES AS YOU NEED TO
SHARE WITH YOUR CHAPTER MEMBERS

DEADLINES MUST BE ATTAINED

SO

I HAD TO GO TO PRINT EVEN THOUGH THREE

CHAPTERS DID NOT

SUBMIT AN ARTICLE.

IT MIGHT BE BETTER

IF WE PRODUCE A NEWSLETTER

THREE TIMES A YEAR

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS?