



Productive Practice

Craig Lancaster, VP Music & Performance

Last Monday's rehearsal was extremely productive.

For those of you that missed it, first of all we dusted off a few songs that we have not sung for a while that we will be singing at upcoming recording sessions: "Music Man Medley" and "How Deep is the Ocean". Both went surprisingly well considering how long it has been since we sang either of them.

The recording sessions are scheduled for Feb. 23 and Mar. 16. We

are likely to need an additional recording session, and we will let you know as soon as we have the details ironed out.

We also began working on the NEW contest set. Thanks to Joe T. for his hard work in getting us off to a great start. It sounded GREAT!!

We have a VERY aggressive learning schedule. George Gipp is coming to give us the Presentation Plan on **Feb. 16**. That is just over a month

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WTCList & Email Etiquette

By Ed McDevitt

Over the past several months we've had multiple instances of inappropriate use of the West Towns Yahoo list e-mail. Just about every time it happens, one or another of us gets a complaint; worse, sometimes ALL of us get the complaints.

Since I had something to do with setting up the list, Bob Nicodem, as Board Secretary and officer in charge of communications, asked me to review what the list is for and what it is not for.

What the List is for

What it is for is simple: West Towns Chorus and Chicagoland West Subur-

ban Chapter business. "Business" includes notices and announcements pertaining to chorus and chapter activities. Examples include reports on shows, information on uniforms, announcements about singing engagements, music information, messages to the chorus from our director.

Other appropriate postings include notices about illnesses and deaths of chapter members and their family members, as well as important information about the health or passing of other barbershoppers who might

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Many hands
make light
work!

Want to improve
your skills?

Try IDAH!

POW! Postings

POW! Partners of West Towns will have a meeting on Monday, January 12th at 7:45 at The Moose Hall. All wives, significant others and friends of the chorus are welcomed. Discussion of various activities, and plans for this coming year are on the agenda. Please plan to join us.

POW! Partners of West Towns is requesting support and help with refreshments for **Guest Night on January 19th**. Please bring some

sort of refreshment to contribute to the table. It doesn't have to be a large amount if more of us bring something....cookies, fruit, veggies, brownies, whatever is most appreciated. Punch and coffee will be provided. Any wives willing to come and help set up and clean up, please call Linda Carey at 708-352-6383. Thank you.

Linda Carey
Vice-president POW!

IDAH IS BACK

After a one year absence, IDAH, the *Illinois District Academy of Harmony*, is back with a BANG!

What: – IDAH 2009 Spectacular

When: – Saturday, Feb. 21, 2009

Where: – 2nd Presbyterian Church, 313 N. East St, Bloomington, IL

Time: – 9:00 AM till 8:30 PM

Who: – Individuals, Quartets, Chorus, Directors

Why: – Fun – Coaching – Education – Entertainment – More Fun

You can register online with a credit card (VISA/MasterCard) at:

<https://www.illinoisdistrict.org/registrations/IDAH/>

Or you can download the flyer, printable mail-in registration form, and FAQs at:

<http://www.illinoisdistrict.org/index.cfm?pid=3>

If mailing in the form, please send it in with your check, to Tim

Pashon per the instructions on the bottom of the registration.

IDAH has something for every district barbershopper; Young or old. Quartet man, chorus performer, or good old Joe Barber-shopper. You will find as much fun and exciting activities packed into eight hours as you would anywhere in our Society. Noted barbershoppers (Rich Knight, Jay Giallombardo, Jim De-Busman, David Leeder and more) are waiting to provide you with your very best barbershop experience. Our guest teaching quartet is Society semi-finalist and hilariously funny, **Lunch Break**, from Nashville.

Our quartet coaches are ready to provide your quartet with a unique experience to raise your level of performance and musicality. Individual coaching pods

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Schedule of Events

January 2009

- ◆ 12 Rehearsal, POW! Meeting
- ◆ 19 Rehearsal—**Guest Night**
- ◆ 22 **Board Meeting**
- ◆ 24 **Installation Dinner**
- ◆ 26 Rehearsal

February 2009

- ◆ 2 Rehearsal
- ◆ 9 Rehearsal
- ◆ **13 Singing Valentines**
- ◆ **14 Singing Valentines**
- ◆ 16 George Gipp—new choreo
- ◆ 21 IDAH
- ◆ 23 Joe Connelly & Recording session

JANUARY 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

March 2009

- ◆ 2 Novice Quartet Contest
- ◆ 16 Joe Connelly & Recording session

April 2009

- ◆ 17 - 19 Spring Convention (sing as out-going champs)

May 2009

- ◆ 9 Cabaret - American Legion Hall, Downers Grove.
- ◆ 29-30 Tentative date for a retreat with Kevin Keller as coach
- ◆ June 28 - July 5—International (Anaheim)

September 2009

- ◆ 25-27 Fall Convention (compete to qualify for International 2010 Philadelphia)

2010

- ◆ June 27 - July 4 - International (Philadelphia)

FEBRUARY 2009

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

MARCH 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

"The Installation Dinner is a time for **FUN, FELLOWSHIP and FOOD!**"



Song Schedule

Friday Feb 13 – Sunday Feb.15 - Singing Valentines

*Let Me Call You Sweet heart
Heart of my Heart/Story of the Rose
I Love You Truly*

Monday Feb. 23 – Second Recording Session

*Till There Was You
Wrote 'em in the Good Old Days
I'll Walk With God
Precious Lord
How Deep is the Ocean*

Monday March 16 – Third Recording Session

*Almost Like Being in Love
Music Man Medley
Wizard of Oz Medley
I Believe
Irish Blessing*

Friday April 17 – Sunday April 19 – Illinois District Convention

*West Towns Opener
Live till I Die
I'll Walk With God*

Saturday May 9 – Spring Cabaret – American Legion Hall

Date TBD - Fourth Recording Session (will likely be needed)

*Lost in the Stars
Friends
Happy Together
God Bless the USA
Mary Lou*

“IDAH has something for every district barbershopper; Young or old.”

IDAH (continued)

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will allow each foursome to experience a hands-on approach, customized to your needs.

As an individual student, you will select three classes from a large variety of barbershop subjects. There is something to choose for everyone. Three two-hour sessions will provide you with lots of skills and knowledge to take back to share with your chapter and make you a contributor at the chapter level.

Don't let this great opportunity slip away. Bring a friend. Bring your chorus. Bring your quartet. An exciting IDAH waits for everyone!

Your IDAH Committee
Jeff Bowyer - jeff.bowyer@plantpioneer.com
Don Smit - SMITDONF@aol.com
Bob Squires - bobsingslead@aol.com

Valentines Quartets Forming

Anyone not currently in a quartet but who would like to be in one to perform "Singing Valentines", should email me (rhoades-brothers@gmail.com) or call me at 708-243-0749 stating their desire to do so and should plan to be at my office on Monday evenings at 6:30pm. My office is at

4919 S. Main St. Downers Grove, IL. 60515, 2nd floor (less than one block from the Moose Hall).

Bruce Rhoades



WTCList & Email Etiquette (continued)

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be known to our membership.

It is perfectly legitimate to query the membership about who might be going to a specific barbershop event. If you wish to query the membership about who might be going to a particular event, please be sure to request that members reply specifically to you, *not* to the list. And as a respondent, please do not respond to the entire list unless you are requested to do so (a likelihood that is so tiny as to be invisible). Please learn in your e-mail the difference between "REPLY" and "REPLY ALL." If you click on "REPLY" and the addressee comes up as "WTCList@yahoogroups.com," change the addressee to the individual to whom you are responding.

What the List is NOT for

Here are several sorts of things that are not appropriate for the list:

- Jokes, cartoons or stories
- Inspirational or religious messages
- Exciting news about something you got involved in
- Photos or Slide Shows (see below for additional information)
- Political messages

- Personal business information or appeals
- Complaints about other members
- Virus or scam warnings
- Notice that you will or will not be at a rehearsal (call or e-mail your admin section leader)

Photos & Slide Shows: We don't want to keep people from showing us photos or slide shows of chorus or other chorus/chapter group performances. If you wish to do that, please learn how to post such things to one of the photo posting sites such as Picasa or Kodak Photo Gallery or any of the dozens of such sites. Then simply send the link to the list.

Kudos: While it's nice to congratulate someone (a quartet that does something good, someone who publishes something you like, our Director or an Assistant Director who did something extraordinary), what such kudos generate is a rush of "Me too" messages. Lots of our members really dislike getting their e-mail boxes cluttered up with such stuff. So let me suggest that instead, you send your kudos to Bob Nicodem for consolidating and inclusion in The Pitch.

To sum it up: don't be afraid to use WTCList@yahoogroups.com but don't abuse it. Thank you.

The West Towns Chorus

**PO Box 1005
Downers Grove, IL 60515**

West Towns rehearses every Monday evening, 7:30 PM on the 2nd floor of the Moose Lodge, 1030 Warren Ave., Downers Grove, IL 60515

Phone: 630-201-5544

www.westtowns.org

2008 ILLINOIS DISTRICT CHAMPIONS!

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The views and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the official views of the Chicagoland West Suburban Chapter aka The West Towns Chorus



2009 Board

President:	Darryl Nordentoft
Executive VP:	Jack Fagan
Music VP:	Craig Lancaster
Program VP:	Joe Tomecek
Membership VP:	Bruce Rhoades
Public Relations VP:	Jon Dobosenski
Chapter Development VP:	John Morrison
Treasurer:	Tony Tumea
Secretary:	Bob Nicodem
Members At-Large:	Mark Johnson, Jon Sutherland

Email: board@westtowns.org

Illinois Barbershop Chapter Seeks Music Director

The **DuPage Valley Chapter** (of Illinois) is seeking a talented, energetic and enthusiastic individual who can further the performance level of the chorus, primarily for our many singouts. We are looking for a person who would be comfortable working with a mature chorus. We further look for someone who understands music presentation, singing skills and barbershop standards. Experience as a director

or assistant director of a barbershop or other a capella choral group would be a plus. Interested? Please feel free to stop by our rehearsal any Tuesday evening and meet our chorus members. Interested persons may obtain more information by contacting:

Paul S. Palmer, Chapter President
312-749-3940 palmer@bagpipes4hire.com

Productive Practice (continued)

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away. If we are to take full advantage of this coaching opportunity, we need to have EVERYONE on board and up to speed on the up-tune by then. Hopefully you have all picked up your music and learning tracks by now. If not, you need to do so as soon as possible.

For those of you that have picked up your learning tracks, please take every opportunity you can to work on this new music. Listen in your car, on your computer, whenever you get the chance.

Please make every effort to attend the rehearsals leading up to these coaching and recording sessions. If we are to move forward and produce a stellar product, we need everyone to be on the same page.

Thanks and see you next Monday (1/12/09).