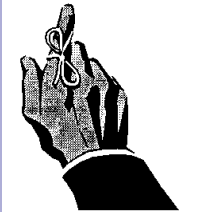


Just a Reminder ...



A Few Reminders

Remember the September 7th rehearsal will be a coaching session with the AWESOME Joe Connelly AND it is also **the night each member is to debut his individual costume**. If you're at a loss, contact Subway Jay for assistance.

September is also our 100% month: Every person going to Peoria is expected to be at the final three rehearsals (Sept 7, 14, 21). We cannot coordinate all the activity on stage when we are missing singers. More importantly, we want to know what sound we have going into the contest.

Every member is required to turn in an evaluation tape - no excuses. We will no longer be dedicating time in the rehearsal to do taping. If you haven't turned in a tape, find an octet/quartet to sing with you after rehearsal.

Finally, thank you Mark B., Casey C. and Eric S. for helping execute two productive rehearsals. Can't thank you guys enough for being there to add your expertise and enthusiasm to the night.

Joe T.

Inside this issue:

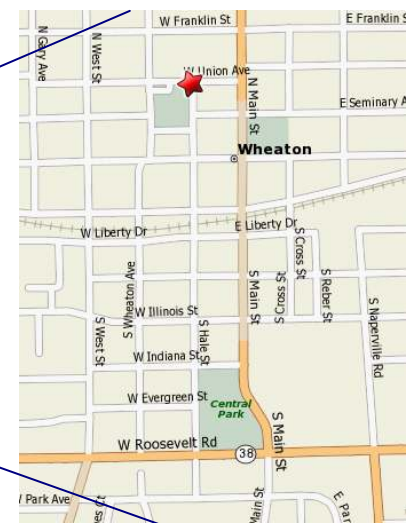
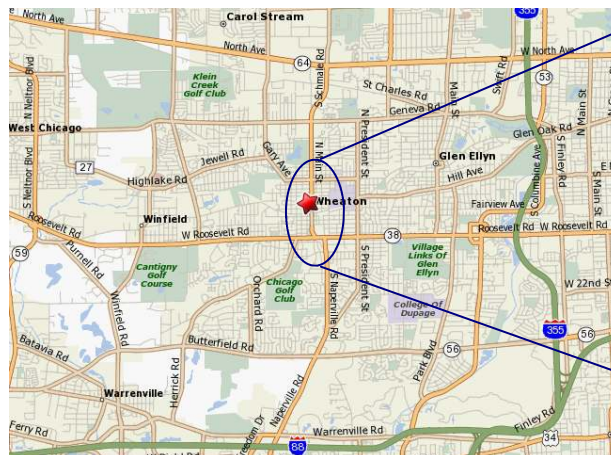
- Cookbooks 2
- Christmas Blitz 2
- Hall of Fame 2
- Road to Mecca? 2
- Schedule 3
- About West Towns 4



Front Row

There will be an extra rehearsal for the front row this Sunday, August 30th from 2 to 4 pm at the Wheaton Senior Citizen Center (aka Wheaton Leisure Center) at 208 W Union Ave, Wheaton, IL. It is the building in the same park as the Wheaton band shell. Enter the building from the West side. We will be working on all the dance steps and character interactions. If you have a video camera, let me know - we use them to tape the moves for future learning purposes. The judges and the townspeople are NOT required to attend, but if you want some addition repetitions, feel free to show up.

Joe T.





Limited Time Offer—Sale Price Ending!

60th Anniversary Cookbooks available for sale before Chorus practices during August for **\$12.00** each. In **September, they will be \$15.00** each. If you are receiving this issue of the PITCH and are not attending practice but would like to purchase a cookbook or cookbooks, please contact Linda Carey, POW! member and she will get them to you. She can be reached at 708-352-6383 or webbco916@sbcglobal.net. Thank you for your support of this fundraiser.

October 10th Christmas Blitz

Mark your calendars for our Christmas Music Blitz on Saturday, October 10th from 9 to 1pm at the Moose hall. Our regular Monday rehearsals immediately following the Peoria contest will be focused on preparing for the October 19th performance. Therefore we need a special rehearsal to kick off the Christmas season. This rehearsal will focus on all the music we are targeting for the 2009 Christmas Show, including one new combined number. Please plan on being present for the full four hours as there is a lot of music to cover.

Thanks, Joe T.

Hall of Fame

Several years ago the board instituted the West Towns Hall of Fame (HOF) and since 2004, twelve men have been inducted into this prestigious group. The board then asked Frank Connell and Don Davia to come up with a selection committee that would also document the nomination criteria. Don and Frank made the following recommendations for the "Hall of Fame" selections committee

- Active past presidents will make up the committee (accepting input from anyone) to make nominations
 - Board would then approve the nominees
 - A selection is not required for every year
 - Not limit nominees to members/former members but include such persons as family members (Dottie's Dollies) or quartets, similar to BOTY award selection.
 - Keep recognizing those who have contributed or continue to contribute much
- The Board agreed that the past presidents will become the committee for Hall of Fame selection and they should set up guidelines for the HOF selection. Joe T volunteered to help document and organize the materials.

The Road to Mecca?

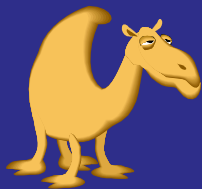
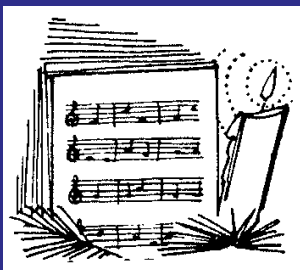
From the Illinois District "Awards Committee"

The Fall Convention is quickly approaching, and your chorus is eligible to win the "**M**ost **E**ntertaining **C**horus **A**ward"...also known as the "**MECA**".

We hope this reminder finds your chorus very busy fine-tuning your competition songs and adding additional entertainment "elements" that will clinch the valuable MECA for your chorus.

To help clarify the MECA goals, scoring procedure and the evaluation criteria, we offer the following information.

(Continued on page 4)



Schedule of Events

August 2009

- ◆ 30 2-4 PM Front Row Rehearsal
- ◆ 31 Rehearsal

September 2009

- ◆ 7 Rehearsal/Coaching with Joe Connelly & Costume Debut
- ◆ 14 Rehearsal
- ◆ 17 Board Meeting
- ◆ 21 Rehearsal
- ◆ 25 -27 District Fall Contest
- ◆ 28 Rehearsal

October 2009

- ◆ 5 Rehearsal
- ◆ 10 Sat: 9–1 Christmas Blitz
- ◆ 12 Rehearsal
- ◆ 19 Performance—Monarch Land-ing—Naperville
- ◆ 26 Rehearsal



AUGUST 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					

Reminder! Rehearsal on Labor Day with Joe Connelly coaching.

Only 4 Mondays until Contest!

November 2009

- ◆ 15 (Sun) 1:00 PM Downers Grove Library

December 2009

- ◆ 10 7:30 PM Tech Rehearsal (Thu)
- ◆ 11 8:00 PM Christmas Show (Fri)
- ◆ 12 2:00 PM & 7:30 PM Christmas show
- ◆ 13 Sunday 1:30 PM Christmas Show

2010

- ◆ Jan 23 Sat. Installation Banquet
- ◆ Feb. 13 Sandwich Opera House
- ◆ June 27 - July 4 - International (Philadelphia)

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 0 9

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30			

O C T O B E R 2 0 0 9

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
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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 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

PITCH Editor:

Bob Nicodem
18W109 Claremont Dr
Darien, IL 60561

email: RNicodem@comcast.net

Work: (708) 735-8164 Cell: (708) 337-3895

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 Music Team

Joe Krones
Craig Lancaster
Joe Tomecek
Mark Betczynski
Jay Bentz
Bob Vokal
Don Thompson
Bob Nicodem
Casey Clements
Ed McDevitt

Email: musicteam@westtowns.org

Uniforms: Eric Sutherland
Sunshine: Jim Williams

Road to Mecca? continued

(Continued from page 2)

The MECA "Goals"

Simply put, the goals of the MECA are to...

- Encourage more choruses to compete at the fall convention,
- Bring more entertainment to our audiences,
- Expose non-barbershoppers to our style of singing, fellowship and fun,
- Learn what the general public considers "entertaining" in our performances.



MECA evaluation

The following information should help to clarify how the MECA is awarded and the criteria used in selecting winning choruses.

- Two MECA awards are given, one for the larger (plateau 5A) choruses, and another one for all of the other choruses.
- The MECA can be won by any chorus regardless of how they score in the officially judged contest.
- The MECA scoring is performed by a separate panel made up of at least five non-barbershop people from the general community...**not** by the official contest judging panel.
- An official ENTERTAINMENT PANEL SCORING FORM is used by the MECA panelists. This form provides ample area for each panelist to record comments describing what they liked and/or disliked about each performance. They then assign a numeric rating (from 1 to 10).
- Each MECA panelist evaluates each chorus' performances by recording their own personal, subjective "opinion" as to what they find "entertaining". After all of the choruses have performed, each panelist "ranks" them (first, second, etc.) based on their personal preferences.

Suggestions

As you prepare to "WIN" the MECA, keep in mind that no two people will score a Chorus' performance the same and that everyone has his (or her) own likes and dislikes, especially where "entertainment value" is concerned. Therefore, as a general approach to preparing to compete for the MECA, we offer the following recommendations.

- Remember that **barbershopping begins with good singing**, and good singing serves as the foundation of "entertainment".
- Incorporate any and all elements (i.e. movements, expressions, costumes, color, empathy, etc.) to your presentations that enhance, rather than detract, from selling your performance to the audience.
- Take a "Showbiz" approach to preparing your performances. Consider what you would like to see if you were in the audience.
- Before coming to contest take a critical look at your performances, evaluating them honestly and openly.
- Keep in mind that entertaining performances implement appropriate interpretation, inspiration, and presentation.
- Sing your hearts out and have fun!

We look forward to seeing you at convention and watching you perform in contest.