

Inside This Issue

Rehearsal Notes	2
Board Notes	2
Singing Engagements	3
Schedule	5
About West Towns	6
Birthdays	6
Guests	6




**WELCOME!**

**Meet New Member Dan Murphy**

Dan first heard us at the Downers Grove Heritage Fest about 8 years ago and thought it might be something worth looking into. At that Heritage Fest a couple guys were willing to sing a couple songs with him and he was excited to be able to really ring some chords. One group of guys was a quartet with no little ability—Alchemy! The other guys just happened to be Craig

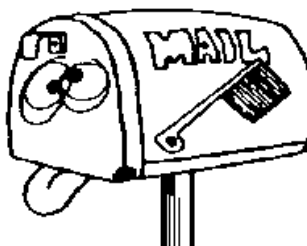
Ahlgrim, Craig Lancaster and Joe Tomecek. . Since that time he has been to a few of our Christmas shows. Dan did sing some barbershop in high school and college.

He is married with two children (twins—a boy and a girl), lives in Darien and works as a computer programmer. Be sure to introduce yourself to Dan and welcome him to West Towns. 

**Quartet Activities?**

**Quartets**—How about letting the rest of us in on how much fun you have as a quartet?

Why not jot down a few notes about your performances and give those notes to me every couple months or so. Or if you're really busy, every couple of weeks.




One way to encourage other quartets is to let guys know how much fun it is. You can even include stuff on coaching sessions, IDAH, fun times together, etc. What about a disastrous performance? Maybe we can all learn from others mistakes or how to better handle a bad situation.

Let's hear from you! 

**New "Sunshine" Person**

A big thank you to Dave Walker for agreeing to take over the Sunshine position from Jim Williams (our new treasurer). Be sure to contact him with any news of anyone in the West Towns family—sickness, surgery, births, engage-

ments, weddings, etc. He can be reached at David\_A\_Walker @ msn.com or his home phone is (847) 496-7500. 



## Rehearsal Notes—Jon Hoekema

For the guys who made the rehearsal, despite the location mix-up, here are the notes of some of the things we worked on.

We spent our time working the first part of Sweetheart of Sigma Chi.

1) Leads – at the beginning of the song “When the world goes wrong...” on the word World – make sure you are on the high side of that note.

We don’t want to start flattening 3 notes into the song. (Note – we don’t want to flat at all!)


2) In measures 4-6 (and the rest of the song, but this is the measures we especially focused on) connect the word sounds.

3) Tides of Time – ty-eeds of ty-eem. Don’t forget to turn the diphthong and say the word sounds completely.

4) As we worked on the song, we worked on smoothly connecting word sounds.

When singing or speaking the lyrics we must keep a constant flow of sound or wall of sound.

Hope you all had a good night off. We’ll hit Sigma Chi next week.

Leads – spend a little extra time working on our harmony part when the basses have the melody. 

## Board Notes

Your board spent several hours Thursday evening working hard to ensure the future of this chapter. Here are a few notes from the board meeting held this past Thursday.

1. Dave Shepherd gave a wrap-up of the Christmas show.
  - The fourth show was a success and if we continue to build momentum, we can grow our audience as well as the bottom line.
  - John Morrison and Bob Wahl did a great job with ticket sales but would like a couple more people to step up and “learn the ropes” to provide more assistance for future shows. **[In other words guys—HELP is NEEDED! Talk to John Morrison.]**
  - Working on ways to take advantage of opportunities for improvements and strengthen weaker areas in the show.

2. Nelleke Roffelsen talked about POW! and the need for better communication so they can help the chapter better.

- To address the communication issue, an email group list (like the WTCList) for wives, friends, supporters and members of POW has been created. It is called POWTC@yahoo.com . We will be asking you for emails of wives, significant others, family members, groupies and anyone willing to help POW, to get them on this list which will be used to let them know when and what kind of assistance is needed.

2. Music & Performance VP
  - Working on a systematic and long-term goal to improve each singers singing and produce excellent

*(Continued on page 4)*

We've been working for quite a while to get our process for booking singing engagements under control. It's been a struggle, partly because our modus operandi for so long has been that anyone who finds one brings it in and announces it with the hope that we'll have enough singers and a director and place on the schedule.

We now have a process and ask that everyone follow it.

It starts with Craig Lancaster who, as a member of the Music Team, will vet the engagement by assuring:

That it is a chorus opportunity, not a small group or quartet opportunity

- If it is a full chorus engagement, that it either pays enough to justify the effort or brings other benefits that coincide with our goals
- If it is a small group engagement, what the small group's size should be and who can best represent the chorus in that small group (in consultation with the rest of the Music Team)
- That it fits our calendar - which means that it doesn't conflict with something already on the calendar, or doesn't interrupt our preparation for another event
- That we have a director who is one of our current list of active director-type people and who can work the engagement
- That we can assure that the singers we need (full chorus or otherwise) can be present and prepared for the engagement
- That we can accomplish the engagement logistically
- That we have sufficient time to prepare a properly excellent performance that accords with or enhances the reputation of the West Towns Chorus
- That we have a proper contract with the engaging party (which must be reviewed and signed/executed by an officer of the Chapter). We are preparing a standard contract, which must be used.
- That we know what other performing groups we should invite to be part of the engagement (quartets, for example, particularly quartets that must be paid). Craig Lancaster is in charge of inviting any other singing organizations.

We're not trying to make the process onerous. Craig has the onerous part. All you have to do is to bring the engagement to him and let him ask you some standard questions so that he knows enough to make a judgment.

So we ask that all engagements flow through Craig. Nobody who has been finding or encouraging outside engagements should stop doing so. The change is in starting FIRST with Craig when you locate an engagement - right away.

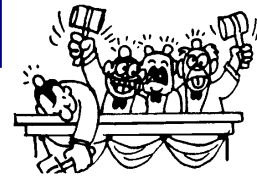
What is an engagement? Here are some examples, by no means exhaustive:

- Formal full-chorus performances like Monarch Landings
- National Anthem performances at sports venues
- Church performances, whether for funerals/memorial services, celebrations, or special occasions
- Tree-lightings
- Walk-a-rounds at organization dinners (usually not chorus performances, but sometimes come in as such a request)

When in doubt - call or text Craig and let him tell you what must happen.

In line with this establishment of process, we would like to be clear on who, as of today, is qualified

*(Continued on page 4)*



(Continued from page 2)


vowel matching and correct intonation throughout the chorus.

- The music team is reviewing several new songs for the chorus to learn, including a second contest song for the fall as well as new repertoire songs.
- The music team will make sure that learning tracks are available and they are ready to teach the songs to the chorus when they are handed out.
- Evaluation recordings will also be used to help the learning process.
- The director search committee will be sending out announcements this week using as many media approaches are available.
- The team is meeting after each rehearsal to review the events, successes and deficiencies of each rehearsal.
- The team is also meeting regularly each month to review progress on our plan, to make adjustments, and to review projects in the works.

### 3. Marketing VP

- Still working on building a strong marketing team [**In other words guys—HELP is NEEDED! Talk to Tony Tumea.**]
- Joe Tomecek volunteered to help making improvements to our web site.
- Dave Walker is working on developing and expanding the email marketing list and coordinating with our regular excel mailing list and Tix.com mailing list.

### 4. Other items

- IDAH—approved reimbursing \$250 to a second quartet for attending IDAH
- Approved bringing Mark Hale (director of Masters of Harmony) in to coach us in vocal production on March 15 (weekend after IDAH).
- Jack Roller made some improvements to the trailer and inspected it thoroughly and other than routine maintenance (tires, brakes), it is in good condition. Tony Tumea will take care of getting the phone number decals changed.
- Plans are being made for riser replacement in a systematic fashion. 

## Singing Engagements continued

(Continued from page 3)

to direct. We have three people:

- Joe Krones
- Joe Tomecek
- Mark Betczynski

We will, of course, have a new director sometime in the future. We hope to have additional assistant directors in the future also.

Ed McDevitt, VP Music and Performance 

Schedule of Events

February 2010

- ◆ 22 Rehearsal

March 2010

- ◆ 1 Rehearsal
- ◆ 8 Rehearsal
- ◆ 13 IDAH—Bloomington, IL
- ◆ **13 Performance:**  
St. James Church, Glen Ellyn  
call time 6:15 PM

**15 Rehearsal—coaching with Mark Hale**

- ◆ 18 Board meeting
- ◆ 22 Rehearsal
- ◆ 29 Rehearsal

# February 2010

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						

2010

- ◆ Apr. 16—18 Illinois Spring Convention
- ◆ Apr. 24—Cabaret
- ◆ **June 19— Chicago Rush—Nat'l Anthem**
- ◆ June 27 - July 4 - International (Philadelphia)
- ◆ July 8—gaming night—tentative
- ◆ Aug. 5 Cougar outing
- ◆ Aug. 18—gaming night—tentative
- ◆ Sep. 16—gaming night—tentative
- ◆ Sep. 24—26 Illinois Fall Convention
- ◆ Oct. 14—gaming night—tentative
- ◆ Oct. 18—Monday Full Chorus Performance—Monarch Landing
- ◆ Dec 10, 11 & 12 —Christmas show

# March 2010

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Th	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			

# April 2010

Sun	Mo	Tue	We	Th	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	

# The West Towns Chorus

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

West Towns rehearses every Monday evening, 7:00 PM on the 2nd floor of the Moose Lodge, 1030 Warren Ave., Downers Grove, IL 60515

Phone: **630-201-5544**

[www.westtowns.org](http://www.westtowns.org)

**PITCH Editor:**

Bob Nicodem  
18W109 Claremont Dr  
Darien, IL 60561



email: [RNicodem@comcast.net](mailto: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

**2010 Board**

President:	Jack Fagan
Music VP:	Ed McDevitt
Program VP:	Joe Tomecek
Chapter Development VP:	Jay Bentz
Marketing VP:	Tony Tumea
Treasurer:	Jim Williams
Secretary:	Bob Nicodem
Members At-Large:	Mark Johnson
Immed. Past President	Darryl Nordentoft
Email: <a href="mailto:board@westtowns.org">board@westtowns.org</a>	

## Birthday

Happy Birthday to **Barth Richards**, celebrating his birthday on **February 22**.

## Last Week's Visitors



**Larry Galuszka**  
**Kyle** (from Indianapolis)