

## Longmont, Colorado's Barbershop Voice



Join Us Mondays at 7PM at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 1303 S. Bross Lane

## Just back from Barbershop Heaven

by Bill & Kay Sachs

We didn't realize what a truly wonderful experience we would have when we went to Pasadena to our first Midwinter Convention. We were especially excited to see **52eighty**, the youth chorus directed by our own **Chris Vaughn**. But, first things first. The Senior Quartet Contest Friday afternoon. There were 25 quartets competing with such wonderful names: **Metamusical Brothers** (with Dan Clark and Gary Drown), **Youth Reclamation Project**, and **Resisting-A-Rest**. The competition was great, and at the end the judges gave the winning score to **Audacity**, a quartet from the Far West District.

Friday night was pure barbershop heaven. We were privileged to hear **Old School**, a wonderfully entertaining set sung by four guys who have been winning in other quartets for a decade. Their "Last Night was the End of the World" was truly beautiful. It was thrilling to hear **Redline** with Chris and friends! They really made us sit up and take notice. What a powerful quartet.

**State Line Grocery** has been one of our favorite quartets since we first heard them. They didn't disappoint us, and their "Blue Moon of Kentucky" is a jewel to be experienced often. We also heard the 2008 College Champion who happen to be from Sweden, and will be competing in International with their chorus this year. By this time we'd run into **Ed and Joni Fitzgerald**, and we roped a couple of his Far West District buddies into a pickup quartet in the lobby. (The tenor was **Jerry Fairchild** of the **Sidewinders**, International Champions of 1964). That is always a wonderful happening at a barbershop event ... the sounds of chords ringing everywhere!

Saturday morning we caught the last of a session with **Redline**, as they were coached by **Royce Ferguson**, tenor of **Revival**, and director of the wonderful and oh-so-young **Westminster Chorus**, who took home the gold a couple of years ago. Then a wonderful hour with **OC Times**, the gold medal quartet from last year. They are super young men with incredible talent. That afternoon was the **Youth Harmony Festival**, with 10 groups competing from places like Atlanta, Wisconsin, New York, Albuquerque. We were so impressed with these young men. RMD's own **52eighty** did themselves proud. They lost to the winners (**Northwest Vocal Project**) by *only one point!* The closing show was superb. **OC Times** and **Crossroads** were the headliners. More barbershop heaven. There is nothing better than being with your best friend at Midwinter! Try it sometime!

## Hey, don't forget ....

March 31 Merle Moore's edutainment dinner, **Classical Gardens of China**, at **Royal Wok Restaurant**

March 19-22 Spring Convention in Las Vegas

May 16 Longmont's Annual Spring Show

# Board Meeting

condensed from secretary Merle Moore's minutes

The February 10 board meeting was held at 7:05 PM and called to order by president **Gerry Swank**. Also present were **Dave Waddell, Jim Cole, Bob Reed, Gene Melick, JR Homan, Dan Chaikin, Jim Schoemer** and **Merle Moore**. Absent was **Jim Hopper**. A quorum was present. The secretary's and the treasurer's reports were read and approved.

Reed said he will send Moore a copy of the 2009 Certificate of Insurance for filing with the secretary's minutes. It was moved, seconded and passed to give Reed authorization to make the necessary arrangements for setting up a credit card processing program.

Cole reported that the Sweetheart Dinner is set for March 1. He has had favorable feedback from members about knowing in advance of each Monday meeting which songs we will be working on. He also reported on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary of the Silverton Barber-shop Music Festival, scheduled for the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of July. He said Darin Drawn will be the Director/Clinician for the event and Vocal Expressions will be the guest quartet.

Chaikin reported that the May show committee is now formed with all positions filled except that of "Advertising Sales", for which a volunteer is still needed. He encourages all members to give him their ideas/thoughts about our 2009 Christmas show. One recommendation is that the show not exceed one and a half hours in duration.

There was a brief discussion about a chorus retreat date on August 22 or 29. Details such as the coach and the place are still to be determined. The Colorado Spirit Chorus, a Sweet Adelines group, requested through JR Homan the use of our risers for their retreat on March 21 at the Radisson Hotel Event Center. Past requests from this group for use of our risers have been approved. An e-mail poll of the board was taken and approval given by the respondents. Homan will make arrangements to deliver and retrieve the risers.

Purchase of a trailer to haul risers and other equipment is still pending. The Loveland chorus has decided not to sell their trailer to us.

Christmas show dates and location are still under study. Being considered is a Sunday matinee show in addition to an evening performance.

There was a discussion regarding development of a brochure and CD to be used in soliciting future performance opportunities.

There was discussion about a suitable means of recognizing and rewarding Jim Cole's contribution to the chorus by his filling in as director in Chris Vaughn's absence. It was suggested and approved to present Jim with a gift certificate to a local restaurant as a token of our appreciation.

Waddell and Homan are working with representatives from Bonfils Blood Center on details for our participation, and participation from other northern Colorado chorus members, in the upcoming blood drive to be held at the Longmont Mall on May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

There was a discussion about a postcard mailing to our list of patrons who have attended concerts we have given so that we may create an e-mail list to be used for future notification of concerts, singing valentines, etc. It was moved, seconded and passed to proceed to do this.

Schoemer reported that the auditorium in Broomfield that was being considered as a venue for a scaled down version of our spring show was not available in Spring, 2009 (April/May). It may be available in the summer of 2009 and there would be a cost to rent the facility and for tech. services. He is continuing to investigate our options for a Broomfield show. Other possible performance venues being investigated include Grand Junction, CO (Jim Cole), and YMCA of the Rockies (Gerry Swank).

Moore reported on two fund raising events approved by the board. The first event, Chinese dinner and a slide program on the "Classical Gardens of China", has been scheduled for March 31<sup>st</sup> at the Royal Wok Restaurant in Longmont. He also reported that he is preparing three additional garden oriented programs to be presented as season two of the "Beautiful Gardens Make My Heart Sing" program series he gave last year. Donna Bustamante is working with Moore to develop these fund raising events in 2009 on behalf of the chapter Women's Auxiliary.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM

Also sang with eight choruses

## Jerry Donnelly, quartetter times eight

First heard about barbershop in 1953 when my wife was a Sweet Adeline. At one of her conventions, I ran into four guys dressed just alike. Turned out they were the **Gay Notes** quartet, then international champs. I sang a few songs with them and *I was hooked!*



In 1955 I joined the **Omaha, Nebraska** Chorus and over the years I have been secretary, PVP, MVP, show chairman, director, and assistant director. Other choruses I've sung with are **Cheyenne, Wyoming, Rapid**

**City, South Dakota, Tucson, Arizona, North Platte, Nebraska, Kearney, Nebraska, Loveland, Colorado,** and now the **Longs Peak Chorus.**

Chorus singing is satisfying but singing in a quartet is much more so. You have to depend on yourself only, not the guy standing beside you, to lead the way. There's been the **Sharp Lifters, Golden Eagles, Shy Knights, Fire Marks, Love Notes, Harmony Tyme, Equality Statesmen** and the **Senior Sounds**. Once I found myself appointed director of the 12 to 15 man Cheyenne chorus. I went to director's school to find out what I was doing and our chorus started doing well and we grew to nearly 50 men. We kept on taking the Central States District Small Chorus Trophy.

My wife **Jinx** and I started a Sweet Adelines chorus in Cheyenne. *That was an entirely different experience!* With the family of seven children to provide for and two choruses to direct plus a church choir, my plate was filled to overflowing. In our family quartet, Jinx sang bari, the boys sang bass and tenor and I sang lead. All

my kids are *still* involved in music. *It must run in the family.*

I was a sheet metal mechanic for several years, then joined the Wyoming Air National Guard. Years later I finished 35 years of service in the Air Force.

What a thrill to receive my 50 Year pin at International last year. But somebody must have heard me lamenting my disappointment with the new pin design, and the Society was kind enough to surprise me with a second pin, the old model.

These past 50 plus years of barbershop singing have been the greatest experience of camaraderie and fellowship that a guy could have asked for.



### More fun at break time.

President Gerry Swank has brought back an old Longmont tradition, the COOTE (Cookie Officer of the Evening). Check with Gerry to get your name on the list to bring in cookies and liquid refreshments on a convenient evening.

## Larry Jones joins bass section

I was born and raised in Denver, Co. I always enjoyed singing. I was in our church youth choir in high school. It was in church that I met my wife **Kay**. We have one son and three grandchildren that live in Longmont. I attended the University of Colorado in Boulder, where I received a master's degree in electrical engineering. After college graduation I went to work for Hewlett Packard in Loveland, Colorado and in 1998 I retired after 28 years with the company. Since my retirement I have been active with our local **Habitat for Humanity** affiliate, serving as a construction volunteer and as a member of the board of directors.

Some years ago, I attended a concert of the **Loveland Choral Society**.



At the end of the concert they announced that they would be doing a Christmas concert with several numbers from the Messiah. My wife said I should do that. So I did and I sang with that group for many years. I also sing in our church choir.

Four years ago I was sitting behind tenor **Bruce Grauberger** in church and he evidently heard me singing hymns. He invited me to come to a barbershop guest night the following week and at first I refused. I told him I didn't think I could read music well enough. He was persistent and said he would pick me up for the meeting. It's a good thing that he offered to pick me up, because I would probably have found a reason not to come. Anyway, I found that I really enjoyed barbershop singing. I was invited to form a quartet a couple of years ago and the "**Senior Sounds**" have been having a great time ever since. I am really enthusiastic about singing with Longmont. What a friendly bunch of guys. I learn something new every week.

## Dick Kitchener joins Longs Peak baris

by Jim Hopper

Dick Kitchener taken a dual membership with the Longs Peak Chorus while singing with the Valentine City Chorus in Loveland. Dick has been singing barbershop music for over twenty years and has sung in four choruses and has been in five quartets (always singing baritone).



In the Loveland chorus, he has been president, music vice president, program vice president, and secretary. He has been show chairman several times, having written the show scripts for "Guns and Roses," "Return of the Music Man," and "Tropical Harmony".

Dick teaches philosophy at Colorado State University, where he started 39 years ago. He has plans to retire soon. He likes travelling, singing, golf, and reading/writing articles about philosophy (how weird is that?!).

## Ode to the unprepared

From Gene Keener, Sharp Notes

It's not my place to lead the song  
or find the key to sing it.

It's not my place to set the pace  
so I just kinda wing it.

It's not my place to know the way  
to tell and sell the story.

It's not my place to know my part,  
so I'll not even worry.

I know not either note nor word,  
yet stand there poised and thoughtful.  
No wonder when I sing the song  
it comes out so darned awful!

## Len Metallo returns to Longmont

I've always been a singer, from the earliest I can remember. My brother and I would always sing when asked. In fact, we sang in our first quartet when I was 14 and he was 17, and sang in our youth club's minstrel show each year after that. I joined my first dance band at 14, playing the guitar and being the vocalist. This continued through high school and college. It was a great time, be-

cause rock and roll was just starting and I sang all of Elvis' songs.



I graduated from Benjamin Franklin University and practiced accounting for 20 years, and then got into sales for over 20 years more.

In June of 1977 I heard an ad on the radio that a chorus in Alexandria, Virginia was having a free concert at the local mall. So I took my family and enjoyed the chorus. After the concert they invited the men to join them in a room, where they gave me music (barberpole cats). They seemed impressed with me, and that was my introduction to barbershop. A year later I was on the International contest. Since then, I've sung with **Denver Mile High, Boulder, Longmont,** and directed **Castle Rock Sweet Adelines, Mountaintaires, Timberliners,** and was assistant director for **Longmont.**

My quartets have included **Riverside Assembly, Colorado Gold** (1980 District Champs), **Platte River Junction, Harmony Tradition, Rapport,** and **Satisfaction** (Wizard of Oz).

I'm married to **Pat,** we have 11 children (combined), 21 grandchildren and met through barbershopping. I work for Total Longterm Care in Lakewood and we live in Arvada. My passions are American history, especially the Civil War, and big band music, which includes over 30 hours of Glenn Miller. Pat and I enjoy traveling and we

recently went to Hawaii for Pat's 50<sup>th</sup> high school reunion and to visit family.

I am glad to be back with the Longs Peak Chorus as it grows and improves. I know that with Chris as director we can achieve a high level, and I am glad I can contribute.

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## Dale Tinkle new barbershopper

I was born in Leadville, Colorado in 1947 and started singing in church as I was growing up. In junior high school, I joined the choir and continued singing in high school. I sang in two state

solo contests and was rated excellent. I sang in the madrigal choir my senior year in high school and won two musical scholarships to summer school.



I joined the Marines after graduating from high school and am a Vietnam veteran. After four years in

the Marines, I went back to school and sang in the college choir at Colorado Mountain College in Leadville. I worked at Climax Molybdenum Company in Leadville for 12 years. Then I moved to Denver and started working at Rocky Flats Nuclear Facility as an Alarm Tech until my retirement in 2005. I was there for 23 years.

I met my present wife, **Ann,** at Rocky Flats and we were married in 2002. Our church tried to start a choir but there were too few members to form one. I've always loved to sing and now as a barbershopper I have a chance to continue my passion, even though I feel a little rusty.

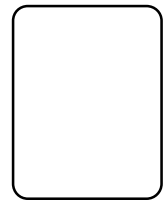
Two years after retiring I took a job driving a bus for Total Longterm Care, a company that takes care of the elderly and ailing seniors. That is where I met **Len Metallo,** who encouraged me to start singing again and join this great chorus.



**First social event of the new year. Here's a few never before seen pictures of the festivities at the 2009 chili supper and bonus bux auction.**



high notes  
 c/o Gil Norris  
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Please deliver to:



Our mission: "We provide each member with enjoyable experiences through continuous improvement in our singing, performing, and entertaining in the barbershop style."

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The High Notes is published monthly for the enjoyment of Longmont's barbershoppers and its content may be shared by fellow Barbershop Harmony Society (used to be SPEBSQSA) members. Please send your comments, material for inclusion and other chapter bulletins to the editor:

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