

THE HEARTBEAT

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February 2016

THE HOF NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

by Keith Mullen, Music VP

I don't know about you, but for me, I had an especially enjoyable time at rehearsal on Jan. 21st. We had 40 singers at rehearsal and while working hard, everyone seemed to be having a good time. We had 10 new people join us through auditions and they should make good additions to our chorus. We may get a few more applicants who could not make it to our prior meetings.

Now it is our job, as members of the established chorus, to make these people feel welcome and needed. Don't slack off and start ignoring them after a couple of weeks. We need to continue to talk with them and encourage them to keep coming back. If you are able to, offer to help them learn their music, not during rehearsal, but maybe some other day or before or after rehearsal. It is going to be difficult for them to learn their part to every song in our repertoire, plus the other songs we sing on a regular basis that we take for granted. "The Old Songs", our "Welcome" song, "Keep the Whole World Singing" and the "Pole Cat" songs are all new songs to non-Barbershoppers, so keep that in mind and help them learn them quickly.

To help new members, in their first year, our Board of Directors has voted to pay half of a new member's first year's dues. The combined dues for a new member are \$160 plus a \$10 first year registration fee. To help them financially, the chapter will pay \$80, which is half of their dues. Being hit with the full dues payment when joining is difficult for some and with the addition of purchasing a tuxedo for shows, this can knock a hole in the budget. *(No guys, if you quit and rejoin again, you will not get this discount! This is only for NEW members.)*

If you have been to rehearsals since the first of the year, you have already seen how our rehearsal format has changed slightly. Scott is including more into our rehearsals and our time is being used more efficiently in each area we cover. Section rehearsals will be included each week so we can become more proficient in the notes and words of our songs. Something new, be prepared to join in a quartet to sing one of the

repertoire songs we have just rehearsed. This will happen as much as possible so we can each gain confidence in our own abilities.

This year is a new start for the **Heart of Florida Chorus** and this year has started off very well. Let's keep it going the way it has started and we will all be singing better and enjoying our hobby more. Deke Shanon, one of the founders of the professional contemporary a cappella touring group "VOCALosity" started out singing barbershop and claims that singing our style of music made him a better singer. Barbershop singing is difficult to do well, but it is very rewarding. I quote Deke when he calls "**Barbershop: A Cappella's Martial Art**".

THE PRESIDENT IS STILL HERE!

By Fran Donohoe, President

As we begin 2016 I am encouraged at the sudden increase of guests at rehearsal. Could it be that the Super Show gave us some very positive exposure. Just a thought!

So far in 2016 we have two or is it three new members? That's great! You can help our recruitment efforts by being absolutely prepared at each weekly rehearsal. The upcoming Valentine program will give us additional exposure in The Villages. If you are in a quartet on Valentine's Day for the first time be ready for a wonderful experience. With The Villages demographic, SINGING VALENTINES can be a wonderful opportunity to bring a few moments of joy to a lonely soul.

On January 9th the **Heart of Florida Chorus** held our annual installation banquet at the Water Oaks Community Center. **David Kirkpatrick** handled the installation ceremony and did a wonderful job. The Board welcomed new members **Reed Johnson** and **Roy Fields**. Special PRESIDENT'S AWARD certificates were presented to **Rich Casanzio**, **Dick Beck**, **Willie Williams**, **Bob Thames**, **Scott Werner** and **Dick Baird** for their special efforts in making the SUPER SHOW a huge success. *Editor's note: Fran was awarded the Barbershopper of the Year award at the Installation Banquet.* **Dick Beck** has retired from barbershop but mention must be made of his *(Continued on page 3)*

HeartThrobs

By Roz Fischer

Hi all. Wow! The days are passing so quickly, that it won't be long before even I am an old lady! Well, February is here, and with it comes the selling of the Singing Valentines. I have done my best to convince **Fran Donohoe** to eliminate this project; but since he has become the Barbershopper of the Year, he has ignored me completely. I am so glad that **Fran** became the Barbershopper of the Year. He deserved it and has done a tremendous job of being President, chairing the Super Show, and bringing profits to the **Heart of Florida Chorus**.

The installation of officers occurred on January 9 at the newly renovated Water Oaks Clubhouse. It was a beautifully warm evening, the delicious food was served by Hacienda Catering, and the atmosphere was one of great friendship and camaraderie. Thanks go to **Keith Mullen** for planning this event. Good luck to our new officers. We wish you a great year. One of the images that will remain in my mind is of Mary Tougas, our staff photographer, trying to get a picture of each award recipient. Mary is a short lady, and at one point was nearly squashed by two very large men as she moved in to get the shot. Afterward, however, she remained unruffled as she exclaimed, "but, I got the picture."

The February HeartThrob Luncheon will be at the Mexican restaurant across from the old post office on the east side of the Villages. We will meet at El Ranchito at 1 p.m. on February 12. I hope to see many of you there. Let's do our best to sell the Singing Valentines to as many as we can. The target areas might be the Villages south of CR466 and CR466A, where most of the newer residents live. Many do not know what a Singing Valentine is. Selling at the Recreation Centers in these southern-most villages might prove very profitable for our chorus. Thanks go to the quartets who will perform and to their wives for the sacrifices they make for this event.

Have a wonderful Valentine Day, remember the one you love, stay well, and stay happy. Remember: Keep a song in your heart.

Visitors for the Month Of January

Jim Shade	Leesburg, Florida
Bill Eaton	Leesburg, Florida
Bill Howlett	Hudson, Ohio
Rudy Sabatino	Rockaway, N.J.
Rich Beery	The Villages, Florida
Dick Sutton	Indiana

MEET THE HEARTTHROB - JUDI MCCARROLL

This lovely Hoosier was born in Hammond, Indiana, on May 18. She, and her handsome husband, **Tom**, have been married more than fifty-four years. They have two children and four grandchildren.



She states that her favorite place to live is in Florida, and it is easy to see why. She and **Tom** have a big, beautiful home on the water in Eustis, Florida, and they both have hosted the afterglow following the show at Umatilla High School in December. Her work experience is as a "Girl Friday" for a construction company and in quality control for the National Auto Theft Bureau in Illinois.

Judi has always wanted to sky dive. Her hobbies include boating, bingo, swimming, and biking. Active as she is, she may sky dive yet! Judi volunteers for the Elk Charities - Haven Rescue for abused women and children. When **Tom** is at chorus practice, she works as Vice President of the Anna Miller Section of the Elks. She feels that she is very proficient in making cookies. I can attest to that. She makes the most delicious tiny cookies, with fig in them, that I have ever eaten. I have convinced myself that they are calorie-free!

If she won the lottery, this beautiful lady would choose to go to a fat farm. She and **Tom** met at church choir. Her most embarrassing moment happened when she jumped off a swing and left her dress on the swing. I hope you have the opportunity to know this lovely, kind lady. She is a great addition to the HeartThrobs.

You Can Tell That Your Internet Connection Is A Little Slow, When:

Seen on the Internet

1. The text on your web pages is displayed in Morse code.
2. The graphics come to you via FedEx.
3. The message you post to your Newsgroup isn't displayed until a week later.
4. While ordering online, your credit card expires.
5. The ESPN Web site exhibits the "Heisman Trophy winner" for 1989.
6. You're still in the process of downloading that new game, "Pac-Man."
7. You receive emails with stamps on them.
8. You click "Send," and a little door opens on the side of your monitor and a pigeon flies out.

Central Florida Chapter Attendance Record For 2015

Compiled by Jim Busko

I compiled some attendance data from the 2015 chorus rehearsals:

- Number of rehearsals: 47
- Total attendance for the year: 1,390
- Average per rehearsal: 30
- Highest attendance: 44 (February 26th)
43 (February 12th)
41 (January 15th, January 29th, March 12th)
- Lowest attendance: 21 (June 18th, October 29th)
22 (July 23rd, August 13th)
24 (June 25th, July 2nd, July 9th, September 24th, November 5th)

Average rehearsal attendance by month:

Month	Rehearsals	Total	Average
January	4	158	40
February	3	123	41
March	5	167	33
April	4	133	33
May	4	110	28
June	4	102	26
July	5	121	24
August	4	103	26
September	4	120	30
October	5	127	25
November	3	75	25
December	2	51	26

Looking back since I became secretary in 2011:

	Official Membership (on January 1st)	Total Attendance	Average Attendance	Highest Attendance	Lowest Attendance
2011	111	2,416	51	71	33
2012	103	2,341	48	65	32
2013	98	1,939	42	57	23 (Valentine's Day!)
2014	89	1,872	37	50	23
2015	78	1,390	30	44	21
2016	67	64 (to date)	32	32	32

(Continued from page 1) **See President's column** tireless efforts working with The Villages ticket office for the SUPER SHOW. The ticket office had numerous personnel and management changes during the summer and fall making it a challenging task for **Dick** as our ticket liaison. Thank you Dick! **Pat Haley** gave a brief report on the Harmony Foundation, which is very strongly supported by our membership. The President recognized Roz Fischer for all her work supporting the chorus. Special thanks to **Keith Mullen** for organizing a wonderful dinner and evening. The evening was concluded with **Scott** leading the chorus in a special song dedicated to all the ladies for their support of the **Heart of Florida Chorus**. Hey, if all members attended this dinner then I wouldn't have to write this summary--think about it!

In 2016 I need all the help the members can supply. As no one came forth to take over as President, I find myself having accepted a job as a Sunshine District VP. Coupled with the Presidency of the Citrus County Chorus and a small business plus playing the piano at a country club I'm sort of swamped (is that a word?) "Off the paper."

True Facts

- The youngest pope was 11 years old.
- Pilgrims ate popcorn at the first Thanksgiving dinner.
- They have square watermelons in Japan-they stack better.
- Iceland consumes more Coca-Cola per capita than any other nation.
- It is possible to lead a cow upstairs but not downstairs.

Barbershop Music As Seen By CASA

By Deke Sharon, Founder of [CASA](#) (the Contemporary A Cappella Society)

You're young, you're scrappy. You want to be the best. You started singing in school, like everyone: choir, maybe a couple musicals. Karaoke with some friends, talent shows. Then some collegiate a cappella. But you don't want to just be fine. That's not enough. You want to be great. You want technique, you want moves. You need to learn karate . . . except contemporary a cappella doesn't have a traditional refined martial art, does it? It does. It's called Barbershop. And you're about to get the best schooling a young'un can, including:

BLEND: There's no blend like a Barbershop blend. They don't just match their vowels, they align their diphthongs as they sweep from one vowel to the next. Four guys sounding like one guy. Why does blend matter? Because each vowel has a very specific "fingerprint"--frequencies in the harmonic series--and when the vowels are perfectly aligned, it helps lock down.

TUNING: You think four voices can only create four notes? Guess again. When you lock your voices into perfect tune with the same vowels you can not only create additional notes above yours, you can even create the perception of a bass note below the human vocal range. That's right, that's the vocal equivalent of some kind of dark arts ninja magic. But it works, and it happens every day, along with . . .

DYNAMICS: Pop music on the radio has had the life squashed out of it. Learn how to sing quieter than you thought you could, and make a group sound that's louder than you have, without microphones. Did I mention that a perfectly aligned chord also reinforces itself, creating a boost in volume? More ninja skills. But we're not done yet, because you'll learn.

RUBATO: In a pop song, the tempo rarely varies. In a Barbershop performance you'll be pushing and pulling time, not unlike an orchestra. But there's no conductor. You learn to feel the rhythm rise and fall, you learn to breathe as a unit as you perfect your . . .

REHEARSE: Barbershop is built on the finest traditions and techniques of classical choral music, so you know you're learning proper vocal technique and centuries of good habits, which will lead to . . .

PERFORMANCE: There's no hiding in the back row in Barbershop, and no auto-pilot. Songs are short, and every measure is a litany of rhythmic changes, rapidly aligning chords and juxtaposed dynamics, all delivered with a larger-than-life performing style that will push you to be present in every moment. But it's not all about performance, it's all about . . .

COMMUNITY: When you sing Barbershop, you're always only three guys away from a song, because

there's a common repertoire and a perpetual desire to sing. Everyone's on the same team playing the same game, and you always win.

You might think Barbershop is only old guys singing old songs, but you're wrong. Sometimes the songs are new, sometimes the guys are young, but you know what? There's a lot to be learned from your elders, and if a song has lasted a century, it's still around for a good reason.

I'm not saying you have to learn Barbershop to be a great a cappella singer, but I am promising you if you do sing Barbershop, you'll be better than if you don't.

Editorial

By **Elbie Ford**, Editor

Well, here it is February already and a lot has happened to me. The main one you see is I lost (the message on my screen read "Hard Drive Failure") my computer with windows, and as you can see, many of you will ask, "What is wrong with our editor?" My son in Tennessee sent me a Mac, because, he said, they have far less trouble than PC's. Boy, do I have a bunch of stuff to learn. John Fleming was gracious enough to loan me his laptop to publish the newsletter like I always do, but, I've decided that if I'm going to switch, I might as well do it all at once (cold turkey).

If you can be patient with me, I'll learn this new system. As you can see, I lost my clip art and my pictures file, but I'm building that up slowly. I've got the template of the original newsletter on a thumb drive but Mac doesn't have a publisher program to open it!

I'm going in the hospital for some minor surgery on the 10th (Is there such a thing?) and expect to miss most of the month of February. Hopefully, I'll be back soon – ready to plunge ahead! I thought my troubles would be over when 2016 dawned but they continue.

It's great to see the membership growing with new people coming in to sing with us. Be sure you apply yourself and work on your music at home. (Hey, **Fran**. Since most of us are not working could we raise the 1.5 a week to 3 or 4?)