

**The Bulletin of the Miami-Shelby Chapter's Melody Men Chorus**  
*A Friendly Bunch of Guys in the Johnny Appleseed District Who Love to Sing*

**February 2006**

## **Emerson Utz Joins Chapter Eternal**

It seems much too frequent for us to be singing for each other at funerals! We were all shocked to hear that Emerson had passed away this month. Given his family history, he was one guy I figured would out live most of us! It is hard to say much that wasn't aptly noted during Emerson's memorial service. His absence will be felt strongly at the Pittsburg Church of the Brethren, yet, he'll live on in the many memories of guys my age who cite Emerson as a role model in their journeys of faith. We laughed some at memories of advice Emerson might have made that may have been at times unwelcome. He tended to speak his mind, but, I'll assert that you'd be hard pressed to recall a time when Emerson intended to hurt someone with his words. He left a fine family behind, some real special friends, and something of a legacy in service to not only his local church, but his denomination as well. I saw several church officials from the Church of the Brethren District, where Emerson served on the board, and, the Church of the Brethren's camp in Peebles, Ohio, where he also served on boards and committees. His history with our chapter has included board service, as well as his more recent efforts as steward of our new chapter equipment trailer. The Melody Men were a BIG DEAL to Emerson. He loved to sing, and he loved the guys he sang with. Guess that could apply to most of our chapter members. Ever noticed that when the Melody Men gather, they tend to LIKE each other? Perhaps that is a good testament to Emerson, as well as the many beloved chorus members we've said good bye to in past years. We LIKE each other! That's a good tradition to let live on. *Editor*



Emerson Utz



Wheelhouse

**Melody Men Chorus  
Welcomes Wheelhouse  
as headliner quartet for  
our 2006 Spring Show.**

**May 6, 2006**

**Piqua High School  
Auditorium**

# Tickets and Ads for May 6 Show

By Paul Webb

Gentlemen: Please see below our schedule of events for our upcoming show on May 6, 2006. Our show will be on us before we know it.



Paul Webb

With that in mind, and because of the time lapse between our last November show and this May 6 show, I ask that we all put forth a more *concentrated* effort. I realize that some ad sponsors will say “we just supported you”, but just reply that we are trying to change our show date to accommodate the folks returning from warmer winter climates so they can attend our show and to not conflict with football schedules. The next show will be in Spring 2007. Ask them to please help us keep our ticket prices down by purchasing a sponsorship ad.

Ads are our primary fund raiser for our show. Therefore, I ask that every member sell at least 3 ads. By doing that we keep our ticket prices down and help promote barbershop harmony. If we want to keep our hobby alive, please help sell ads. Then comes the tickets. If everyone sells at least twenty tickets we can be successful. That being said, let’s think about what that means....I believe that everyone knows 10 families. 2 tickets per family equals 20 tickets. That is 10 sales... I know some will sell more, but that is icing on the cake. We can all do our part.

Let me recap.           3 ads times 44 active members = \$3300.00  
                              20 tickets times 44 members   = \$8800.00  
  Total                               = \$12100.00

Please help this year to be successful!!

Thank you again for all your efforts in 2005!!

Paul Webb, ticket and ad chairman

TASK	SUSPENSE -DATE
1. Ticket design to Tim	2-7
2. Ticket design approval	2-28
3. Flyer design info (date, title, quartets, etc.) to Tim	2-28
4. Flyer design proofread	3-7
5. Print tickets	3-14
6. Flyer final approval with any changes	3-14
7. Flyer in Mail	3-21
8. Tickets to members	3-21
9. President, Show Chairman, and Director comments to Tim	3-28
10. Program info to Tim	4-4
11. Approval of Tim’s program layout.	4-11
12. Final program design approval--to print	4-25

**Former Bari Don Wick sent this reminder of the Golf Outing in memory of his son. Golfers in the chorus may want to sign up and show Don how the game is played!!**

Devin Wick Memorial Golf Outing began as a quest to honor Devin, husband, son, brother and friend. But equally, a life-long devotee of the game of golf, Devin saw each shot as an opportunity to be inspired by those with whom he played. Now in its sixth year, the outing has donated over \$30,000 to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society of Southern Ohio to fund the research of blood-related cancers.

Come join us Friday, June 23, 2006, for a lively day on the spectacular Shaker Run Course.



**FACE to FACE**  
**My View From The Front**  
**By Dick Baker**

Dick Baker At the last board meeting, there was a long discussion about the focus of our chapter and what goals we wished to attain. With the change in show dates, we needed to realign our projects and rehearsal schedules.

The discussion turned to contest. I was asked how I felt about it.

I feel that contest is not set up to ‘beat the other guy’. We should be doing our personal best and not worry about the numbers. The only person that we have to ‘beat’ is ourselves. Contest gives us a focused attempt at a great performance which someone will ‘grade’ and give us their perspective.

The one fault with this system is that it is a subjective number that’s put on an artistic performance. The numbers vary because the judges are all different at each venue. The thing that stays the same is that the scores are consistent between competitors. To determine progress, you have to see how you rank in the district standings after contest is over.

I do not wish to ‘beat’ anyone. I do want to improve our stuff and show improvement by the upward movement in the district standings. I would like for us to be positioned in the group with membership like ours (40-50).

We are not candidates to be District Champs or International Competitors. We are a multi-faceted group and have many interests within the area. We sing in churches, schools, at ball games, fairs, do charitable works and put on a great annual show. I just want us to be at our best. When we participate in Convention and Contests, we can grow so that our audiences can appreciate our musical presentations all that much more. That is why we do what we do...for the great fun of it!

**The Big Event is in Indy  
 this Summer!!**

The following text is pasted from the Society web site at [www.barbershop.org](http://www.barbershop.org):

Based in part on the results of a convention participation survey conducted last fall, the Society Board has opened the Indianapolis 2006 chorus contest to a whopping 30 choruses in the Big Show – the most we’ve ever put on the contest stage. Invited to the contest:

- 16 District Chorus Representatives
  - 2 choruses representing affiliate organizations
  - 12 at-large choruses from the pool of the top-scoring choruses that accept the invitation to compete.
- That means that every fall district convention this fall has implications beyond winning the international chorus preliminary. Twelve at-large slots are up for grabs, too, and the race goes to the finest.

**New schedule to fit in the new events**

“The ears can absorb what the bottom can tolerate,” quoth the judges, and most audience members will agree. To accommodate seven hours of chorus contest, the event will be split into two sessions on Friday, July 7.

The college contest moves to Saturday, so still more singers will be able to see this increasingly popular event. The full week looks like this:

- Tuesday July 4 Harmony Foundation presents...
- Wednesday July 5 Quartet Quarter-Finals (2 rounds)
- Thursday July 6 Quartet Semi-Finals (Top 20)  
AIC Show
- Friday July 7 Chorus finals 30 chorus finalists  
in two contest sessions
- Saturday July 8 College contest  
World Harmony Jamboree  
Quartet Finals

# Know Any of These Guys?



Three of these guys have been involved with our chapter this past year. In 1985, 1986, and 1987, they represented Johnny Appleseed District on the International Stage, and then were crowned District Champs in 1987. After that year, a new bass and bari were added, and that quartet was named the Naturals. Several years later, the lead went on to an International Gold in Marquis. Since all this happened almost 20 years ago, you might have difficulty recognizing some of these guys, as they're obviously much more elderly these days!!

The information above was prompted by a new addition to the Johnny Appleseed District's web site, called the **JAD Champions Web Site**.

Go to <http://www.singjad.com/champs/> and enjoy! We have Mike Sisk, Carl Cash, III, Tim Speicher, and Reid Joyce to thank for a great addition to the JAD site!

ACT IV performed on the International Stage three times prior to the year they finally won the JAD Gold. Tenor Bob Moorehead is one and the same guy as our occasional coach who works with us, Former member, Carl "Woody" Woodrow, now sings with Dick Baker and friends in Senior Class. Of course the bass is our own Richard Baker as a teen!

Lead Randy Chisholm entertained us often with Marquis before his death.

## Music For Young Adults

***Gentlemen, this is some of an exchange from the Harmonet based on a note from T J. Barranger. I don't know T. J. or Bill Biffle whose response is included but I can relate to the topic of their exchange.***

***Recently I received a large envelope filled with notes of appreciation from the Fort Loramie Third Grade class. BBLT had the privilege of singing for them back in October 2005. As I read through them (my intention is to give you the chance to do the same) I was struck with the thought that one visit by a chapter quartet may have helped more than one youngster consider singing as an activity that would be worthwhile as they move through life. Youngsters will listen to our style of music and many will find it something they enjoy. I would encourage you all to look for ways where a chapter quartet or the chorus can participate in singing with the youngsters of our area. ... Dale***

----- Original Message -----

From: "Bill Biffle"

Subject: RE: [bbshop] Re: Music for young adults

Date: Mon, 6 Feb 2006 09:37:47 -0700

I don't know T. J. Barranger, but it seems to me that he's an awfully smart young man! His post below hits the nail right on the proverbial cabeza. We spend a lot of time thinking and discussing how to attract younger members. T. J. is in that market group and speaks to this issue very clearly. I think we would be nuts (to speak plainly for once) to ignore him and others like him as we seek to reach this population.

Like T.J., I have always thought it was ironic that we try to attract youth by singing music that's 40 years old. While there are certainly lots of reasons we join and stay - preparation for performance, performance itself, personal growth, opportunities for leadership, camaraderie, etc., it's the sound, folks, and the joy we get from creating it (mostly in a foursome), that attracts and keeps the vast majority of barbershoppers. When I joined - back in the Ice Age - "Dear Old Girl", "Honey, Little Lize", "Aura Lee" and the like were not songs that were on the hit parade even 'way back then. But, boy, singing them with other men was sure fun!

At Harmony Explosion camps, whenever there's a break, the kids want get into small groups and sing tags. They want to be a part of the sound. We need to stick with what we do that makes it fun. Sing songs - and tags - that have chords that ring, and let 'em ring 'em!

Please, read T. J.'s post below. Then read it again.

Thanks,

Bill Biffle

Date: Wed, 08 Feb 2006 10:19:12 -0500

From: "TJ Barranger" <chordz@lycos.com>

Subject: RE: Re: Music for young adults

Thanks for the kind words, Bill.

I hadn't expected my post to generate such a response, but I'm glad I was able to get folks to stop and think a bit. It really comes down to how well you represent the organization and the art form; not what songs you sing. There are some really wonderful newer melodies that can be woodshedded easily, and there are some older songs that have no business in barbershop. Our style of singing and our natural pattern of chord progressions are the attractive aspects of our hobby. The lyrics we sing aren't going to make or break us with new members (granted, of course, we sing lyrics that are in good taste).

A few weeks ago, I had the pleasure of participating in a Cabaret Night at a high school here in Maryland. This is an event where the hard-working kids in the school's music and theater programs get to show off a bit and sing solos for family and friends after a semester of ensemble work. The lead in my quartet has a 17-year-old son who sings in the school's select ensemble and is also a barbershopper. For his presentation, rather than sing a solo, he wanted to sing baritone in a barbershop quartet with his dad. So after our regular quartet rehearsal, our baritone stepped out and we rehearsed for an hour with our lead's son...we had a really clean sound, and we knew we'd impress.

On the night of the performance, my lead, my bass, and I realized early on that we were the only people over the age of 18 who were going to be on stage. On top of that, the audience was mostly made up of teenagers. A lot of the students were singing pop songs and Broadway music from newer shows like "Rent" and "Aida". We got up to sing "Old Folks At Home (Way Down Upon The Swanee River)" and "Everybody Wants To Go To Heaven"...very old music by comparison. Well, after our first song, we got what had to be one of the loudest ovations I've ever heard out of an audience. After our second number, we couldn't hear ourselves think.

After the show, we got together with a handful of the guys in the music program and sang tags. We were easy-going about it, and we were very supportive of them. They really got a kick out of ringing chords (and the girls really enjoyed hearing them do it, too).

***Music For Young Adults continued from page 5***

All in all, a great experience. We came away feeling better about ourselves as performers, knowing we could hold our own with some immensely talented young acts. And the kids learned to enjoy, respect, and appreciate good barbershop harmony.

It goes to show...if you hone your craft and take pride in your performance, people of all ages will take notice, and maybe even join in on the fun.

In Harmony, T. J. Barranger

***Gentlemen, there are many ways to attempt to improve our chapter and build membership. Here is a creative idea that I found on the Nashua, NH chapter web site. ... Dale McKinney***

## **Free Singing Lessons!**

**For men who want to sing better.**

**[Click here to Register](#)**

**The Granite Statesmen** Chorus is offering three singing lessons absolutely free for men of all ages who want to try singing four-part, a cappella harmony. This program, sponsored by the largest NH chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, has received widespread support and is continuing in its seventh season. The instruction will include four-part harmony singing, proper use of your vocal instrument, breathing techniques and basic performance skills. A team of experienced vocal coaches and a medical doctor will lead the workshop. The lessons will run for 60 minutes each, beginning at 7:00 P.M. The first set of lessons will be at the Nashua Senior Center, 70 Temple St. in Nashua. A large ensemble workshop immediately follows each session allowing students to practice what they have learned.

The lessons occur on three consecutive Wednesday evenings. Past singing experience is helpful but is not necessary to enjoy this program. Singers are encouraged to attend the entire series of classes, although each can be appreciated individually. These free lessons are a great way to find out if four part harmony singing is for you!

Next Free Singing Lessons:

All Sessions Start at 7:00 PM

Nashua, NH -- Wednesday 01/25; 02/01; and 02/08

Nashua Senior Center  
70 Temple Street

[Click here for directions](#)

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
MIAMI-SHELBY CHAPTER, SPEBSQSA, INC.  
Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>, AT GREENSTREET UMC, PIQUA, OHIO

The meeting was called to order by Pres. Bob Moore. Those present in addition to Pres Moore were:

Dave Eleyet	Jim Riley	Jim Haley	Dale McKinney	Art Wehneman
Bill Ganger	Theran Huffman		Guests:	Dick Baker

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

The secretary's report was received as read with an affirmative voice vote.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

The treasurer's report for the month of Jan. indicated receipts of \$166.57 expenses of \$1,441.12 with a balance Jan 31st in all funds of \$6,301.42. Treas. Ken Crawford was not present, so discussion on the 2006 budget was tabled until a later date. The report was received with an affirmative voice vote.

**PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

Dale brought one performance before the Board. It was the Miami Co. Fair Saturday Aug 19th for a fee of \$400.00 with our own risers and sound system. It was moved and seconded to accept this performance and passed with an affirmative voice vote.

**MUSIC VP**

Jim Riley reported that the new music is doing well. We will also be looking at a new church piece in the coming weeks. A brief discussion was held concerning chorus competition and our goals for this year.

**OLD BUSINESS**

A motion was made by Jim Riley and seconded by Dale McKinney to extend a contract to the 2006 guest quartet "Wheelhouse". The cost to be \$1250.00 plus expenses. All present voted in favor.

Further discussion was held on the question of paid positions with no action taken. The Board will be asking for feedback from the membership.

Nothing has been decided as yet on the question of someone to pull the trailer and provide storage.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Dale McKinney reported that The ACES concert will not be held at Miami East Middle School as originally planned, but will be at Tipp City this year. There will be a charge of \$100.00 plus we will be responsible for the refreshments. Dale McKinney moved we pay this. Jim Haley seconded. Motion carried.

Dale McKinney moved to send the chorus director, the two assistants and the music VP to the Music Man Director's School at a cost of \$30.00 plus room and board on Feb 17th in Columbus. Bill Ganger seconded. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the Holiday Chorus Program for next Christmas. No action taken.

As there was nothing further a motion to adjourn was made by Bill Ganger and seconded by Theran Huffman Motion carried. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted      Dave Eleyet, Secretary

**MINUTES OF A SPECIAL BOARD MEETING CALLED DURING BREAK ON  
FEB 7<sup>th</sup> AT THE GREENSTREET UMC PIQUA OH**

Pres. Moore called the meeting to order. There was a quorum present at this meeting.

A request has been received from the Miami Co Fair Board asking for s performance on Aug 13th for a fee of \$400.00. This was moved, & seconded and passed by voice vote.

A motion was heard to move the 2007 show to Troy High School. This was seconded and passed by voice vote.

As there was nothing further the meeting was adjourned by consensus.      Dave Eleyet Secy.

## 2006 Chapter Officers

President	Bob Moore
Secretary	Dave Eleyet
Treasurer	Ken Crawford
VP Music	Jim Riley
VP Membership	Mark Reedy
Program Co-ordinator	Dale McKinney
Director of Public Relations	Open
Trustee 2006	Art Wehneman
Trustee 2006	Jim Haley
Trustee 2007	Bill Ganger
Trustee 2007	Dan Black
Trustee 2008	Theran Huffman
Trustee 2008	Neil Webster
Past President & District Delegate	Open
Show Chairman	Mark Reedy
Show Director	Dave Maxson
Service Chairman	Gordon Davis
Music Librarian	Art Wehneman
Quartet Contact	John Gearhardt
Editor	Jim Moore
Bulletin Production/ Distribution	Jim Haley
YMIH Chairman	Dale McKinney
Director	Richard Baker
Ass't Directors	Bob Moore Brian Phillips

## Miami-Shelby Calendar

Feb 14	Tue	7:30	Rehearsal at Greene Street Methodist Church
Feb 21	Tue	7:30	Rehearsal at Greene Street Methodist Church
Feb 25	Fri	???	KTH Parts Industries Performance - Springfield
Feb 28	Tue	6:00 ??	Kristan King Welcome Gathering at Piqua Centre Mall, followed by Rehearsal at Greene Street Methodist Church
Mar 5	Sun	???	ACES Concert - Tipp City High School
May 6	Sat		Miami-Shelby Spring Show

Check our our web site calendar for last minute instructions, etc.

NotePaper is scheduled for distribution on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

Miami-Shelby NotePaper  
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