

# HARM-O-NEWS

Tualatin Valley

March 2004



## TUALATIN VALLEY HARMONY MASTERS

The Tualatin Valley Harmony Masters is a performing arts organization to preserve and encourage the barbershop style in our community, our schools and with our young people by participating in performances, concerts, and contests and by donating its time and talents through chorus and quartets. Visit us at <http://tvhm.evg.org>

### President's Message

We had our "March Madness" and it contained some good results. Our performance on March 12<sup>th</sup> showed us what we needed to work on. We got much effort from everybody, we made great progress at fixing and improving things, and peaked at the right time. Singing isn't something you can fix in the last couple of weeks. One has to build that skill over time. Now we have another big challenge in front of us. We have our annual show at Glencoe High School on May 15<sup>th</sup>. We will bring our "magic" into act with a show titled "The Magic of Barbershop Harmony". It will feature Vocal Magic, Shockwaves, the West Hills Sweet Adelines, and a couple of our quartets and of course, TVHM. We need to sell tickets like we haven't done in long time. To help facilitate this we are going to offer financial enticement or reward for selling tickets and ads. You will receive a "commission" for tickets sold and ads sold for our program. The amount will be gradient depending on the amount in dollars of tickets you sell. The more you sell the higher will be your commission rate. The money will be credited to your "account" and be available to use for uniform expense and expenses related to our trip to Surrey B.C. in the fall. We can't legally pay you money but we can pay barbershop expenses for you. Many of you have asked why we can't pay the money from chapter funds and so here is your chance. We have made the matinee an easy sell with \$6 tickets for the main areas and \$12 for the premium area. So hopefully we'll

not only have a good show, but a full house and you'll have a way of paying for your expenses to Surrey.

- Steve Kyes



Everybody's favorite dance partner.

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## Why Go to Contests Or Can All this Effort Be Worthwhile? Mel Knight

Several times each year your director and music team get all excited about stepping up our rehearsal efforts in order to do well in contests. Actually, we want to do well all the time, but the contest push seems to call forth even more focus and concentration on our singing and performing skills. How come?

There are really three big reasons for going to contests.

### 1. **Joining with other barbershoppers for the social aspects of our hobby.**

Although many of the chapters in our division are not far geographically, we are so tuned in to our own chapters and quartets that we often miss the association with our brothers in harmony. In days gone by (and for me there are an awful lot of bygone days!) we used to get together more frequently. Because of the pressures to increase our own skill levels, we don't seem to make the time to get out of our own rehearsal halls to visit other chapters, and just have fun together. Contests, conventions, barbershop schools and other chapter shows are the only opportunity we have to renew old friendships, make new friends and enjoy singing polecat songs and tags with others. It is particularly important for new chapter members to know that others are enjoying this hobby throughout the world in general and in our district and division in particular. As individual chapter members, I hope we all took the opportunity to enjoy the social aspects with barbershoppers from throughout our Oregon Division.

### 2. **Hearing and seeing other choruses and quartets perform.**

We know what our chapter sounds like...and we hear our own quartets on a fairly regular basis. What is the rest of the barbershop world doing? If we only participate in our own chapter vacuum, we miss a great deal. Contests give us the chance to see and hear other groups. When we are not competing, we join the audience and encourage our brothers' efforts. We compare their progress with ours. Can't we learn from their performances? What good things are they doing? What problems are they having that we've also experienced? How do we stack up? How can we use what we see and hear to make our own experience better?

### 3. **Providing a musical benchmark for our progress.**

This is probably the principal reason for competing. We present our package to the judges (and the audience) and get valuable feedback for our efforts. We get rein-

forcement when judges tell us the same things we have been hearing from our musical leadership. We get new ideas about what can make us better singers and performers. The audience response, (or lack thereof) lets us know whether we are entertaining, both vocally and visually.

So, what can we gain from the Division IV contest in Salem on March 27<sup>th</sup>?

- Our 2<sup>nd</sup> place finish says a lot! We should feel that we're a good chorus and that individually we're beginning to master the basics of the barbershop style. It should build confidence in our own abilities.
- Our comedic approach to barbershop performance is both entertaining to the judges and the audience. We were told by one of the judges at a recent contest: "We need you!" He was emphasizing that comedy is an important aspect of barbershop performances and we do it well. Not to belittle the choruses that decide to stand in tuxedos and do a "straight" package, but what we do is unique and desperately needed in the barbershop world. Our "Magic" set is one of the best we've ever done and the judges and audience reinforced that.
- We are singing better...and still have a way to go. But every performer in every style of music has a way to go. We can always get better! We've only touched the surface of what we are capable of doing! Our visual plan allows us the opportunity to sing well and still entertain in our own unique way.

Let's use the contest as a stepping stone to the next level. What is the next level? I submit that it is not 1<sup>st</sup> place in either division or district. It is to raise each individual's level of vocal and visual skill. This will, in turn, make the whole chorus better. We have no control over what anyone else in any other chorus does...only what we do to increase our personal abilities. The rest will take care of itself.

Thanks to everyone who contributed their personal best to the chorus' performance in Salem. It was great fun. But then, it's always the most fun to sing well...and *way better than the alternative!*

## It's Fun Getting Better!

Chris Gabel

Even though I couldn't make any sound, it was still a pleasure to be a part of the contest performance. Not only did the audience enjoy the comedy, but we also got a lot of positive comments on the singing. That's a great step forward.

I firmly believe the best is yet to come. All we need to do is make a little MAGIC, as in:

Make  
A  
Greater  
Individual  
Commitment

Boiled down to the basics, we need to be committed to:

1. Know the notes & words thoroughly
2. Produce a well-supported, resonant tone
3. Improve our pitch sensitivity
4. Sell the message of the song

By doing these things better, we were rewarded by the judges and the audience. What's exciting is – we are capable of doing even better! And that will be even MORE fun. The music team is planning to provide some additional tools to help every man improve.

1. Bring in a voice teacher to work with individuals during rehearsal time
2. Start the "Polecat" program – to give everyone more quartet singing opportunity

You can also help yourselves by enrolling in Harmony College Northwest – being held in Mid-July. This week-end-long event is one of my favorite activities of the year, with teaching from the top talents in the District – and even some International level folks.

So how about it, fellas – are you ready to make a little MAGIC?



Making "Magic" in preparation for Contest.

## Let's Build On Our Magic

Ron Outcalt (Chapter Dev. VP)

How can one describe the feelings of each TVHM member who participated in the Division IV contest held in Salem March 27<sup>th</sup>, after they collectively placed second in the event? *Euphoric? Sensational? Rewarding? Gratifying? Spine-Tingling? Climatic? Satisfying? Proud?* – Probably all these, and more! Hard work, dedication and perseverance are the prime ingredients for success, and success is what TVHM accomplished with their performance.

So, can we top this? You bet we can and one thing that will help immensely is to increase our membership numbers! The more good singers we can put on the risers, the richer and fuller the sound that can be produced.

One way to increase our membership would be to ask Dave Muralt to double his efforts, but he's already doing more than any other six guys put together! No, a better way would be for all of us to get involved by inviting friends, acquaintances and co-workers to visit our rehearsals.

Think about it...we've worked hard to improve our singing and performance level, and it's paying off. Sure, we're not where we want to be, **yet**, but we're making good progress. I'm certain that you've heard the old expression "*many hands make hard work easier*". Well, more quality singers next to us on the risers would help make our goals easier to attain and it would give others the opportunity to also enjoy one of the grandest hobbies in the world!

One of the goals set for TVHM during 2004 is to increase our members by ten singers. (That's a **net** increase, so we also want to retain all of our present members!) We've added one new member since the first of the year, so we need at least nine more – one a month! Dean Day is making a concerted effort to work with various media within our community to promote our chorus more this year, and that will help generate some interest for potential new members. But, nothing works as well as personal contact and invitations. You guys are the ones that can make it happen!

Mel, Steve and Chris are doing their level best to coach us into becoming better singers and performers. One of the things we can do to show our appreciation is to ask more singers to join us in building an awesome chorus! Let's keep spreading our MAGIC!

## Class Facility

Steve Kyes

One of the goals from our planning sessions was to have a "class" facility that we could call home. The Elks Lodge, while being free is anything but a class facility. In a recent discussion with the Exalted Ruler of the lodge it was apparent that while they liked us being able to rehearse there, they didn't feel we could call it a home. They have a number of concerns. There's an unwillingness to move the "junk" in the corner we were led to believe was ours to move. The boy scouts present a problem for them in that they lack proper supervision and can sometimes be destructive to displays. The parking lot wasn't meant to hold enough people when the upstairs rooms have events and something goes on downstairs as well. In other words, we're looking for a class facility we can call home. So here's your challenge. Help us find one. Schools are good but the music director has to feel good about having us and we need to be able to use it in the summer. Churches are good but they need to feel good about having us and we need a place to store our risers. Community centers or activity centers might work. A business that has an auditorium or multipurpose room might work. We would probably have to pay rent but we'd rather work most of it out in performances. The facility should be between Cornelius and West Beaverton to be in the area we have defined as our "community". So put on your thinking cap and help us find that facility.



**Can YOU supply the winning ticket for our new facility?**

## District IV Contest Results

*Editor's note: These are the official results from the March 27, 2004 contest in Salem, averaged by Steve Kyes.*

	Music	Presentation	Singing
<i>Bridgetown Sound</i>	73.8	78.3	74.5
<b><i>Tualatin Valley HM</i></b>	<b>65.3</b>	<b>69.8</b>	<b>64</b>
<i>Rogue Valley Harmonizers</i>	63.3	69.8	64.8
<i>Cascade Chorus</i>	67.8	66.3	58.3
<i>Vocal Gentry</i>	60.3	66	64.3

## Meet Your Fellow Barbershopper—Chuck Roller

**Part:** Lead

**Years in Barbershop:** 3

**Place of Birth:** Indianapolis, IN

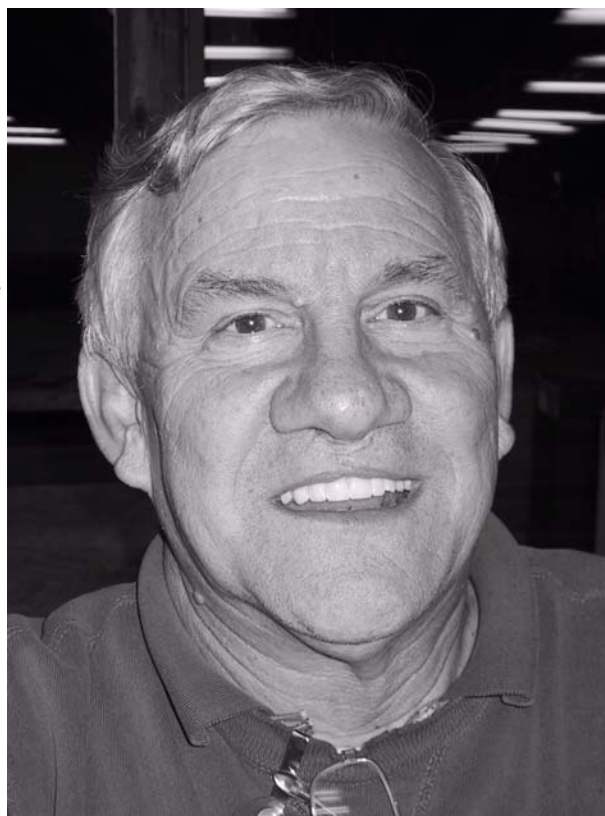
**Favorite Job:** Teaching adults computer skills, employment skills, math, career development, sales communication, and much more!

**Early Music Experience:** Playing tenor sax in the high school band. Also had my own combo. Made lots of money until the union caught up with us. I was only 15 at the time.

**First Barbershop Experience:** When I was a manager of a real-estate office in San Diego, the company put on a talent show, with 21 offices in the area participating. For our office, I came up with the idea of singing a barbershop style song. I had a bass and a baritone who had sung barbershop before, and a soprano who was in Sweet Adelines. I sang lead because I could only sing melody at the time. We learned "Daddy Sang Bass" and I rewrote the lyrics to reflect the company business. We beat the pants off of the 20 other offices!

**Secret Talent(s):** I like to fix things. As weird as it sounds, when I buy something new, I can't wait for it to break so I can take it apart!

**If you could sing any part, you would like to sing...:** I sing lead but I'm really a bass. However, I like lead better because its more interesting.



## TVHM Calendar

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	2004
May 15	Annual Show (Glencoe HS)
July 8	Shute Park
July 16 & 17	Harmony College NW
August 13	Astoria Regatta Show
Sep 10 & 11	Retreat
Oct 15 & 16	TVHM planning session
Nov 6	Cabaret
Nov 13	Annual Dinner
Nov 20	COTS

## Chapter Officers

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President	Steve Kyes
IP President	Chuck Olson
VP Chapter Development	Ron Outcalt
VP Music & Performance	Steve Schmidt
VP Marketing & PR	Dean Day
Secretary	Ron Fairfield
Treasurer	Bob Dodge
Board Member@Large	Gary Herd
Board Member@Large	Al Goldmann
Chorus Director	Mel Knight
Asst. Director	Chris Gabel
Chorus Manager	Mike Ott
Harm-O-News editor	Mark Stettler

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