

HARM-O-NEWS

Tualatin Valley

October 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

By the time this article goes to you we will be into the cabaret. Hopefully attendance and performance will pick up greatly and it will be a success. The focus of my article is somewhat motivated by the current effort and somewhat by the lack of accomplishments with last year's goals we had set forth. On the plus side we did a fine job at Division contest and we put on a good and profitable show. We have three areas of main focus; music and performance, marketing and chapter development or membership as most of call it. In music we were never able to get everybody behind taking the responsibility to learn their parts and demonstrate their achievement by turning in tapes. Everybody did a little but 80% didn't do very much. The visual seems to have to be re-taught every Tuesday. In membership we seem to rely on Dave Muralt or somebody else to invite new people. We loose a number of good singers for reasons that we can only speculate. So this year our membership numbers are down about a half a dozen. Marketing had plans to have a brochure out this year and to have an article each quarter in our local papers about us. We've made some steps toward those results but neither was accomplished.

So what does all of this mean? We have some events coming up that will help us answer that question. After the cabaret we will have a planning session at the Hillsboro Presbyterian Church on Saturday, November the 6th. The morning session at least will be devoted to a discussion of "who are we?", "What do we want to be?" and are we willing and anxious to do what we need to in order to accomplish this. It should be a valuable and lively time as we look at a chorus which has in the past had a laid back attitude that

shows up a month before a show or contest, throws something funny together and then just drifts through the rest of the year. We could consider being a really good singing and performing chorus that knows our words and notes really well and commits the visual to memory so that we can spend Tuesdays turning the songs into artistic heart rending performances that have a real exciting sound. It could even be funny! So I would like to invite all to come and join us in this discussion to shape our next year for TVHM.

- Steve Kyes



TVHM's fearless leader, Mel Knight, at District.

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Music and Performance Steve Kyes

Where do we want to go with music and performance? I'll get a little technical for a moment. The barbershop style of music is designed to produce a "ring" which results by adding extra notes above the chord and expands the sound. This happens when everyone is singing in good quality, in tune with each other, singing the correct notes and matching the sounds of everyone around them. Hopefully that's not too technical. Mel, Chris and I have tried to develop this with the work we do on the songs during the rehearsal. Then the visual has to be believable and fit the mood and message of the song.

So now that I've described the desired outcome do we have a majority of member who want to seriously work toward becoming the best that we can be? This would require an attendance of about 75%. It would involve bringing a tape recorder to every rehearsal and taping sometimes just to listen to yourself at home to see how you're doing and remember what we're doing with the song. It would require spending some time during the week looking at the music and singing with the CD of your voice part. This is something that isn't happening. It is happening with the singers in better groups be it barbershop or a symphonic choir.

Mel, Chris and I want to know because we would plan our music and rehearsals according to the desired direction of the chorus. Think about it as we have discussions in November.

2005 Officer Nominations Steve Kyes

The slate of officers nominated for 2005 are:

President: *Mike Ott*

Marketing: *Gary Hurd*

Membership: *Ron Outcalt*

Music and Performance: *Steve Kyes*

Secretary: *Ron Fairfield*

Treasurer: *Bob Dodge*

Board Member at Large: *Al Goldmann*

Board Member at Large: *Matt Epstein*

Elections will take place on November the 2nd and they will attend Chapter Officer Training (COTS) in Eugene on November 20th. Chris Gabel will also be attending a class on directing. This will follow our planning session from the weekend before. We hope to establish the direction and goals for the coming year for the chapter and then after they return we can develop objectives and work plans for the 3 vice presidents.

Meet Your Fellow Barbershopper—Bill Frazier

Name: William W. Frazier

Part: Lead

Years in Barbershop: 22

Place of Birth: Walla Walla, Washington

Favorite Job: Training

Early music experience: Always loved music. Too lazy to stay with it. Chorus in high school. Musicals in college. Church choir.

First Barbershop Experience: Mel Knight asked me to come to *The Sounds of Willametteland* rehearsal in Lebanon, Oregon. I did. I was hooked.

Secret Talent(s): Humility

If you could, you really would like to sing...: In a rock band. [Editor's note: Bill obviously personifies the confidence of a lead!]



On the Road with TVHM Mike Ott

As you all know, we decided to hire a bus to take a lot of us up to Surrey for the district competition. As the organizer, I was a bit nervous seeing as how this was the first bus trip I had ever organized. Dutifully, I was there about 10 minutes early with a bit of nervous energy, hoping everything was going to go smooth. My hopes were dashed at 7:35 when the bus had not yet arrived. Being prepared, I called the number for the bus company, asking where our bus was. When the gal on the line said, "What bus?" I began to panic. She said she would call me back after she found a driver and a bus. As I was preparing to send everyone off for breakfast, she called and said the bus was 5 minutes away. She was scrambling for Mt. St. Helens tours and forgot about our trip – luckily our driver didn't. All was forgotten when 5 minutes later, a new 52 passenger bus showed up instead of the 35 passenger one expected



Everyone relaxed – some relaxed more than others:



On the road...

but everyone had a great time:



The trip back had its own fun moments. When crossing the border, we all had to get off the bus and go through customs. They sent the inspector on the bus, and about 2 minutes later, he came off the bus, shaking his head saying, "I don't even want to know what's been going on here." I can't imagine why he would have said that:



All in all, it was a great trip. Thanks to everyone that made it a wonderful fellowship experience for all of us.

We Want Your Voice for Speaking Too

Mike Ott

We all know we come together on Tuesdays for singing, but as Steve has said, on the 9th we need you to come prepared to talk as well. Over the past year, I've had conversations with many of you on things you would like to see different at TVHM. All of them have been great ideas, but we have had problems executing. I think a big part of that is the big "C" word – "CHANGE" - scares many of us. We would like to see things improve, but we all see something special in TVHM and we don't want to lose it.

Keeping those great ideas in mind, someone smarter than me once said that insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results. To get any of those great ideas to happen, we have to embrace change, but to be successful, we also have to control it. That is where your speaking voice comes in. WE have to have your input to make sure we change the right things.

I encourage you to consider thinking in terms of priorities rather than just ideas. To improve, some things will have to change, so we should be thinking about tradeoffs. For example, we all want to TVHM to sound better, and we all enjoy the loose atmosphere associated with TVHM. Those two items may be counter to each other, so we may have to adjust the priority we place on them. That doesn't mean we have to completely throw away one to achieve the other, but we will have to change our expectations.

Don't hold anything sacred when considering your priorities. TVHM is known for comedy, but more than one person has suggested maybe we should do something straight and do it really well. When setting goals, you need to put all of those things on the table, determine what has more value, and then we can make the changes to varying degrees to see them through.

Most of all, this is your chorus, and your speaking voice is needed to help set those goals so that your leadership can develop a successful plan to improve the TVHM experience.

Scenes from District...



Batman and Robin incognito!



TVHM's most excellent manager, Mike Ott.

TVHM Calendar

	2004
Nov 6	Cabaret
Nov 12 & 13	2005 planning retreat
Nov 20	COTS in Eugene
Dec 11	Awards and annual dinner
Dec 21	Annual Christmas party

Chapter Officers

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

Harm-O-News
 c/o Mark Stettler
 3266 NE Glencoe Oaks
 Hillsboro, OR 97124