

The AHSOW BULLETIN

An occasional publication of AHSOW
Reporting progress on Preserving the art of improvised harmony

Volume 1, Issue 2

Editor Casey Parker

November 2006

Dedicated to preserving the art of improvising harmony

ABOUT AHSOW

The Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodshedders is a subsidiary of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America. There are about 1,400 members of 33,000 SPEBSQSA members who have qualified for membership in AHSOW by acceptably improvising 2 or 3 harmony parts. Annual dues of \$10 is billed through the SPEBSQSA/BHS dues invoice system. Website <http://ahsow.org> [transfers to <http://www.harmonize.com/ahsow/>]

OFFICER REPORTS

President

Duties: Bylaws 3.02.

Let's Put The "AH" Back in AHSOW
By Bob Coant, AHSOW President

For years, AHSOW has been the only organization *really* dedicated to preserving barbershop harmony, in particular, the ancient art of woodshedding. The BQPA (Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association) was formed as a dream of founder, Tom Neal and they have ideals and goals very similar to ours. I am asking any AHSOW member attending the Albuquerque midwinter convention in January to please stop by and support their *Buffalo Bills Quartet Contest*. They will be using the old contest and judging categories used many years ago like Harmony Accuracy, Balance and Blend, Voice Expression, Arrangement and Stage Presence. Many of our newer Society members don't even remember the day when these categories were used. It should be a real treat from the historic standpoint alone never mind from the *Preservationist* side of the story!

We have decided to hold an AHSOW Board of Directors meeting in Albuquerque and there promises to be some really great topics discussed. I want to let the membership know of some of the things I plan to bring up for discussion and will do so in this article.

Possible logo change: This was part of discussion in Salt Lake City and again in Indianapolis. After long discussion, we have decided to leave the name

(AHSOW) alone but we still want to make a logo change. Reasons for wanting to make a change are the current logo is very “busy” looking and does not duplicate well. In addition, we are nearly out of all of our merchandise with the current logo and now is the time to make a change if we are to do it while inventory is just about depleted. I propose to hold a logo contest. We will ask for designs to be sent into me from any AHSOW member, the top three designs will be decided by the AHSOW membership then the board will choose the winning design from those three at the Denver convention meeting in July 2007. The winning logo will receive a prize (yet to be determined) in addition to the “bragging rights” as being the creator of the new logo.

New AHSOW website design: We also discussed the possibility of redesigning the AHSOW website. Your president feels we need a facelift which is a great time to do this, especially if we are considering a new logo. We want to have a direct link from the Society’s website and we’d also like to make some upgrades. These would include promoting our AHSOW merchandise (hopefully with a new logo!), making online voting easier, a special ‘MEMBER’S ONLY’ section where we can offer free public domain music, mp3 melody lines, lyric lines in pdf format and much more. All of this would be downloadable FREE to AHSOW members!!! Obviously, everything available online will be legal material.

AHSOW Gold Membership: This is an idea from your president. I would love to see another level of membership added to our bylaws, that of AHSOW Gold. Gold members would be those attaining all 4-part voice status. We would give them a special gold badge with their name and the year they joined AHSOW along with some other perks yet to be determined. (Your ideas are greatly appreciated!). This would NOT be intended to be any kind of “elitist” group, rather just a way of rewarding those AHSOW members who choose to work towards being the best woodshedder possible. There’s not a better way to enjoy your hobby more than being able to woodshed on all 4 parts!

These are just a few of the topics we plan to discuss at the midwinter in Albuquerque this January. I welcome any and all suggestions from the membership for the board to discuss. YOU are AHSOW so let’s put the “AH” back into AHSOW!

Bob Coant, AHSOW President

Executive Vice-President

Duties: Bylaws 3.03.

Report of Raleigh Bloch, Executive Vice President:

Barbershop Friends

I have to tell you of an experience I had while attending the AHSOW Room at our Indianapolis Convention in July. Tom Palamone, lead from the 1948 International Champion Pittsburgers who loves to woodshed, came into the room. Also, there was Buzz Haeger tenor from the 1965 International Champion Four Renegades, another avid woodshedder, and Patrick McAlexander a 12 year old 5 year member and 3 part qualified AHSOW singer and me. It was a joy to see Tom Palamone, who is 90 years old and Patrick enjoying each other along with Buzz and myself. Age was not an issue and neither was anything else. We just wanted to make harmony and we did.

That got me to thinking about all the friends I have and realized that the majority of them are barbershoppers. I'm sure, if you stop and think about your friends, you'll find that many are barbershoppers as well. Another thing that you will find is that these friends are pretty nice people. They come from all walks of life; some are young, some old. We don't care what they do or did for a living, whether they are fat, thin, bald, tall, short, what kind of car they drive or what have you. They're just good people and barbershop friends that we enjoy singing with. That's our common bond, barbershop harmony. The above is an example of that bond.

Involvement in the various aspects of barbershop leads us to meet and know even more great guys. Whether it is coaching, getting coached, being on the district board, society board, AHSOW board, holding a chapter office, being in a quartet, a section leader, a DEC, attending a school, attending conventions, events, etc.

All these things allowed you to get to know more barbershoppers and know them even better. When I go to chapter, District or Society wide events, I know barbershoppers from all over the world and you know what? Just about every one of them is a pleasure to know and would do anything for you.

I've lived from one end of the country to the other and quite a few places in between. Each time I moved, I immediately went to the local barbershop chapter and it was just like being home. There were great guys to know and instant friends to sing with.

So where is this all leading to? Well, I'm here to encourage you to get more involved and you'll find it brings you even more friends and more fun. When some one taps you to get more involved at the chapter, district or Society level, say yes I'm willing to help.

Raleigh Bloch
AHSOW ExVP

Corporate Secretary

Duties: Bylaws 3.04.

**Report received [Noah Morrison Sec<lovetoharmonize@earthlink.net>]
The Summer 2006 Minutes, containing the election results, are
here:**

<http://www.harmonize.com/ahsow/boardmin.htm>

Noah Morrison

Treasurer

Duties: Bylaws 3.05.

No report received [Rodney F. Sparks Tr<ahsow@sbcglobal.net>

Manager of Publicity & Promotion

Duties: Bylaws 3.06.

Report received {John Fabian PR<krazad1@aol.com>}

AHSOW: Dedicated to the Preservation of Our Society Roots

Greetings and Salutations Brothers in Harmony,

AHSOW is alive and well and doing fine in Seneca Land. SLD's fall convention has come and gone and the AHSOW room was ably manned by John Wulf. Some fine voices in four part harmony rang throughout the 8th floor of the host hotel helping to make this one of the best conventions ever.

Which brings me to our mid-winter convention in Albuquerque; BE THERE. I'm looking forward to meeting as many of you as I can. The roots of our Society IS Woodshedding, just as O. C. Cash first envisioned it; four gentlemen getting together and having fun

locking and ringing chords to popular melodies of the day. Without Woodshedding, our Society wouldn't exist today. So for all you purists out there who have been despairing over the direction our Society has taken, rejoice and join AHSOW. You know you want to, so just do it. AHSOW will be present at NM and at Colorado; stop and ring some cords with us!

With a Song in My Heart,

John W. Fabian (PR guy)

Information Manager

Duties: Bylaws 3.07.

Report received [Glenn Schilberg, Information Manager
<AHSOWmgr@connecttime.net>]

Membership and Information Services: Glenn Schilberg

AHSOW membership as of mid-October is 1,332. Year-to-date we have lost 111 members (20 deaths, 28 Society nonrenewals, 63 AHSOW nonrenewals) but have added 90 members (82 new certifications, 8 reinstatements) – so we're a net loss of 21 good souls year-to-date, or about 1.6 %. It's been a tough year for nonrenewals.

Other than the slow membership slide, another concern for the near future involves the new 'Aptify' software system being implemented by the Society. By the time you read this perhaps the new system will be switched over and we will be online again. We at AHSOW have participated in the planning process and are now awaiting the cutover and startup of Aptify. But what, you wonder, does AHSOW have to do with Society software?? The answer is that we are a subsidiary org within BHS and since a person must be a Society member to be in AHSOW, we share their member database. Each member record contains an AHSOW field and I

(Glenn) configure that appropriately as we add new members or drop the nonrenewals.

This integrated membership approach has several advantages over AHSOW's former standalone system: we find out about member deaths, we remain reconciled to the master Society records, and most importantly, we retain the member's vital statistics behind the Society's secured server, safe from hacking or other non-barbershop access. And perhaps some day the Members Only display will indicate AHSOW membership like it does Men Of Note!

So you can see why we at AHSOW are both eager for the new software and also apprehensive about potential problems. Be patient as we and the Society get through the next few months!

Director of Commerce

Duties: Bylaws 3.08.

**No report received.[Mark Hotchkiss Dir Cmrce
<mhotchkiss20700@prodigy.net>]**

Manager of Member Service

Duties: Bylaws 3.09. .

**No Report received [Tom Wiener, Manager of Member Service
<t.wiener@ieee.org>]**

Bulletin Editor

Duties: Bylaws 3.10.

**Report of Casey Parker, Bulletin Editor
. This Bulletin itself and the previous issue represents the progress of the incumbent.**

Education Managers

Duties: Bylaws 3.11.

**No report received from Eastern EM; [John A. Schulkins EME
<ljschulkins@msn.com>]**

**Education Manager West Report Kent Shepherd
EMW<shep44@myway.com>**

"HARMONY UNIVERSITY 2006"

**Almost every one that came to the room was a member of AHSOW (WOW)!!!
Out of 62 men that entered the room during the week 46 were AHSOW, leaving
only 16 non-members to work with, so we were able to qualify almost one third
which I thought was pretty good! As far as the quality of woodshedding that
went on, it was GREAT!**

**Robert Lenoil was my right hand man, he was not only helping to run the room
by qualifying new men but he also was putting up flyers all over H.U. to let
people know how to find us.(GOOD JOB ROB)!!!**

**We were able to sell several items at the room such as shirts, CD's, and
woodshed song books. As for selling badges, taking renewals, and doing
anything else that we can for our brother AHSOW's, I say what better place
than HU, some of our members never even get to the good old U.S. of A. unless
it's at H.U., and they want to get our help up close and personal.**

**Yes we did keep a log of every man and woman that came into the room right
up to Mr. Jim Bagby right before he drove home sixty miles on Saturday night!
Boy howdy did every AHSOW that came to the room help in any and every way
they could, they were great! I know that all in all Robert and I had a
WONDERFUL TIME!!!**

**Thank You for letting us have this chance to help out and run the room at H.U.,
Kent Shepherd
Education Manager West
ADEC FWD**

DISTRICT EDUCATOR & CERTIFIER [DEC] REPORTS

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT

This is the report of the AHSOW presence at the FWD Fall Convention and Contest, San Jose CA, October 6-7, 2006.

Friday 10/6

9:00 AM AHSOW Room opens - Closes midnight

1:00 PM Woodshedding Class

Saturday 10/7

10:00 AM AHSOW Room Opens - 1:30 AM AHSOW Room Closes.

Whoodshedding Class, Friday 1 - 2 PM

Casey Parker acted as M.C. and introduced each participating team member in turn. Kent Shepherd, Earle Holt, Mike Werner and Charlie Bauder. Each gave their special explanation of Woodshedding with demonstrations. I gave closing remarks, and handed out a take home document. with tips on woodshedding each part. We had about 15 Students. Earle put his signage on the door as the Schedule did not specify location of each class.

AHSOW Room Operations

Updated AHSOW brochures were placed in the Registration area.

We had 28 guest signatures in our sign in book Each guest was welcomed to the AHSOW room and ask if they were interested in membership. If so, we asked what harmony parts they wished to try. They were put in a quartet with three other AHSOW members and pro ceded to try that part. After qualifying on that part they were sang another harmony part. Those that were certified, filled out the Certifier Form, paid \$10, and were given the Discovery Singing booklet and a gold temporary badge Others were given the "I Sang By Ear" stick-on. Sixteen were certified; but two are being held for verification, giving a net firm recruitment of fourteen. A check for \$155 is being sent to the Treasurer, which includes merchandise sales.. Certifier Forms have been sent to Glenn Schilberg.

Member participation was indicated by 36 signatures in our sign in book. Those who participated in qualifying quartets contributed to the success of our recruitment. We were especially glad to have Keith Pratt. our ADEC from Las Vegas, attend,..Special thanks to Charlie Bauder for sending a folder with seven lead sheets to all ADECs in advance, to use as qualifying songs

I believe the FWD AHSOW team had a successful presence at the San Jose convention. Thank you Earle, Kent, Mike, & Charlie.

-----new members-----

Willard N. Andrus T Bs

Phil Bartek T Bs Pending Society renewal

Sean C. Chasworth T Br
Ron M. Gaviati T Bs
Joel A. Huddleston L T Br Bs
Leo A. James L T Br Bs
Donald E. Koehnlein L T Br Bs
Dane A. Lighthart L T Br Bs
Dan N. Madsen T Br
John D. Pearson Br Bs
Steven M. Quan T Br
Alan W. Stroppini T Bs
Allen W. Treadway T L Br Bs
Phillip Wolf L T Br Bs

Casey Parker
District Educator & Certifier

EVERGREEN DISTRICT
Report of EVG DEC Lyle Southam <Chantez@shaw.ca>

What's new? AHSOW wise

Hi Casey, Here's a collection of "what's new"
Chuck Olson (Forest Grove Chapter) is going to Portland Metro chapter next month to do an AHSOW information and woodshedding demonstration. Portland has 60 to 70 great singers, and came 4th at the Fall District Contest. They want to know more about AHSOW, and Chuck is going to give them some history and get them trying it out. He may even get a few new members in the process...I have an idea. I'd like to put together a promotional Video of things chapter members should know about AHSOW. Part of that video would be a recording of the event Chuck is doing next month in Portland. I managed to get the District Convention Manual folks to insert a requirement for a room for AHSOW at all future District Conventions and International Prelims.

MISCELLANEOUS Contributed by "Toban Dvoretzky"
Find these at <http://www.barbershop.org/>
See Come out of the woodwork and get into the woodshed -- under Sing and Perform > Singing Skills. Also look for AHSOW among other subsidiaries under Who We Are >Affiliates > Subsidiary organizations bring extra value to Society members

MUSIC AVAILABLE FOR A SONG

NEW -Harmony Song Index -8,560 Song Titles with, Composer & Year, My Harmony Archive has 6,000 arrangements and 10,000 harmony type piano-vocals. The Harmony Archive has available arrangement songbooks and Harmony Guides for sale or trade. Did you know that pre-1923 songs are Public Domain, hence have no royalties or fees? Sheet Music prior to 1923 often included four part arrangements. I have 200.

From the Society Code of Ethics:

The Society aspires to preserve for its members and for all future generations of prospective members the sacred right of men to seek haven from the burden of their daily cares through indulgence in old fashioned vocal quartet harmony, and to that end we do hereby pledge ourselves to abide by the precepts of this Code of Ethics

**HELP WANTED: Opening ASSOCIATE EDITOR <mailto:caseypar@garlic.com>
Support Woodshedding, write Editorials. become Famous, is famous enough?**

Email an article to Casey Parker at <caseypar@garlic.com>

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