

The AHSOW BULLETIN

An occasional publication of AHSOW

Reporting progress on Preserving the art of improvised harmony

Volume 2, Issue 1

Editor Casey Parker

May 2007

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 1,200 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/>]

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS AND ELECTION

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS: Meetings will be held during the International Convention week of July 1 - 8, 2007 in Denver, Colorado as follows -- AHSOW Board Meeting; DEC Meeting; and General Membership Meeting. This is a Call For Agenda items for these meetings. Send these to President Coant. NOTE - President Coant is obtaining room information from HQ

ELECTION: This is a Call For Nominations for AHSOW Board member vacancies whose terms are expiring in 2007.
President
Executive Vice President
Corporate Secretary
Treasurer
Education Manager - East
Send your nomination, with permission of nominee, or self nomination to President Coant. Nominees should include qualifying experience and outside commitments during the

two year term. Election will be held by email; and by mail for those without email. NOTE - President Coant - a nominating committee is preparing a slate of nominees.

THE NOMINEES PLEDGE

I have read and understood the duties of the position to which I have been nominated as described in the By-Laws . I believe I am qualified to perform these duties. I agree to minimize or eliminate outside voluntary commitments during my term of office. I pledge to perform the duties of the position for the two year term to the best of my ability.

OFFICER REPORTS

President

Duties By-Laws 3.02.

AHSOW's NEW VISION

Thanks to the vision of AHSOW's Member of Member Services, Tom Wiener, AHSOW has a new vision for the year 2007 and beyond. At the Albuquerque Mid-winter Convention, Tom unveiled his "*Vision Realization Plan*" to the board.

The basic plan is to revitalize every AHSOW room at every district convention and the Society conventions. In order to do this we need to accomplish the following tasks:

- Invite ALL members of AHSOW to participate in our gatherings
- Enroll ALL members of AHSOW Vision that every woodshedder will find joy and excitement at our gatherings
- Under the leadership of our District Educators and Certifiers (DECs), with the support of our Education Managers, develop gathering teams who will make the necessary arrangements for gatherings at district events
- Update the DEC Operations Manual to provide guidance, detailed instructions, check lists, and templates for our DECs
- Man the AHSOW room in Denver using this new vision plan

- Man district AHSOW rooms during Fall conventions using the new vision plan and the updated DEC Operations Manual
- Follow the progress of these tasks, making adjustments as needed, and report to the AHSOW Board of Directors and the Membership on progress

I have asked our webmaster, Phil Richards to include Tom Wiener's plan on the website so you can download it for yourself and read it thoroughly. I invite every AHSOW member to do so. I also want you all to join me in thanking Tom Wiener for his incredible vision and the time he put into this plan. In order to make this outstanding plan work, we ALL need to get on board!

Here's an update for Harmony University 2007. I hand-picked the two men who will represent AHSOW at the 2007 Harmony University this August. They are Steve Shannon (SWD) and John Fisher (MAD). Both men are longtime woodshedders and the best two candidates I could think to represent us. We (Steve and John) have been invited to attend the woodshedding classes and give our input during these classes. Steve is a former AHSOW Vice President and one of the best woodshedders in our history. John "Fish" Fisher is an incredible ear singer and knows more old songs than you or I could imagine.

I am so excited about AHSOW being represented so well at HU this August. If you are planning to attend HU, please take the time and stop by the AHSOW room each night. Also, please invite your non-AHSOW member friends attending HU to stop by and join the ranks by qualifying on two or more parts. Harmony University is one of the most exciting place to woodshed. That's where I qualified and got started into this wonderful fraternity the summer of 1988.

By now the spring district convention are underway and I "SING"-Cheryl hope your district had a great AHSOW room. As you'll see in Tom Wiener's aforementioned plan that our new vision plan will need to happen on the DISTRICT level in order to succeed our goal. I invite you all to go to the AHSOW website and download this awesome plan and become a part of the solution!

For An Old Song, Bob Coant, AHSOW President

Executive Vice-President

Duties By-Laws 3.03.

AHSOW IS THE ANSWER

Would you believe it, the answer is AHSOW! To what you say? Well, one the Districts took a survey of its members, to find out what they were looking for in their barbershop experience. The survey was well crafted, by people with experience and knowledge in setting up surveys. The response to the survey was well above average, which indicated that the date was very relevant.

When all the responses were tabulated, the results showed that the members wanted FUN, QUARTETING & MUSIC EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES in that order. I'm sure the members of that district are no different than the rest of the barbershoppers in the Barbershop Harmony Society.

So what is the answer? AHSOW! Is the answer to at least two out of the top three. I'm sure we could make a case for music educational experiences, as well. However we don't have them formally.

From a FUN standpoint, woodshedding is certainly FUN. Why else would you do it? It certainly isn't something that you do for someone else. It's just for you. There is certainly the challenge of doing well, but isn't that part of the FUN?

When you fill that chord, using just your voice responding to you ear, there is a satisfaction that you can't buy anywhere. Others certainly admire some one who is good at woodshedding, but that's not why we do it, It's a selfish thing that we do for ourselves, because it's FUN.

Woodshedding with three other guys is definitely great QUARTETING. There is a bonding element experienced, when four guys create beautiful harmony. It's very rewarding to each participant and something that you can't duplicate, by yourself. AHSOW provides that QUARTETING fix. You don't have to try and find three other guys that want to meet with you once a week for rehearsal. Just show up at an AHSOW meeting and it's instant QUARTETING.

So if you're missing out on FUN & QUARTETING, the answer is AHSOW. Raleigh Bloch

Corporate Secretary

Duties By-Laws 3.04.

CORPORATE SECRETARY REPORT

I took minutes at the Jan. 25, '07 Board meeting and distributed them to the President/Board within hours of the meeting. I tracked action items from the meeting and who was responsible for them and did some following up on them. Among other things, Bob C. accepted the action item of seeing that the minutes got posted to .the web site www.ahsow.org

Noah Morrison

Treasurer

Duties By-Laws 3.05. The Treasurer shall act as financial officer of AHSOW; be responsible for all financial records; and prepare and distribute regular and specially requested financial reports when and as required by law, by SPEBSQSA, and by and for AHSOW. The Treasurer will serve as agent for all financial transfers from and to SPEBSQSA and individual members in matters of member dues payments, payment for products and services, et al.; and perform other duties incident to his offices and as assigned by the President or the Board. As a prerequisite for holding this office, the Treasurer shall be qualified to be bonded by corporate surety.

No report received

Manager of Publicity & Promotion

Duties By-Laws 3.06. The Manager of Publicity & Promotion shall actively promote AHSOW's mission and visions; pursue free and paid avenues for consistent organizational publicity, advertising, and promotion; and implement publicity, advertising, and promotion upon approval of the President and/or the Board. The Manager of Publicity & Promotion will perform other duties incident to his offices and as assigned by the President or the Board.

Noteworthy is "The Harmonizer" is willing to publish a column for us if we can get some gentlemen with expertise with writing a column. If there is anyone out there who feels confident enough to take on the responsibility contact Bob or myself. There recent article was a great shot in the arm. We could use more. JEF

Information Manager

Duties By-Laws 3.07.
Membership report First Quarter 2007

Hi, it's Glenn Schilberg, your Membership officer, trying to make interesting news once again out of a bunch of boring numbers! The first calendar quarter is always a "downer" in membership and it seems to hit at the same time as the late-winter blahs and 'cabin fever' and all the other depressing aspects of Jan-Feb-March. For some reason, more Society members have a 12/31 renewal than any of the other quarters, so even a small percentage of non-renewals will fall disproportionately in the Jan-March quarter. In addition, all of the AHSOW overseas members expire on 12/31 and a couple or three of them may not renew in any given year. And unfortunately there is an occasional death or two and we always hate to lose membership that way.

Oh - and when you get your next Society renewal notice, please look for the line item saying "AHSOW \$10" . [Side note: NO increase!] We have had a few glitches in the Society software where the AHSOW affiliation was not linked in, and when you pay the invoice without that amount in there, they notify us that you have dropped AHSOW! Perish the thought. So to preserve your certification as a true ear-harmony craftsman, be sure to look for your dues renewal and if it's not there, notify them (membership@barbershop.org) and me (glenn@AHSOW.org) to get it corrected. Thanks so much, and sing on!

So we're currently at 1,249 members, down from 1,274 at the beginning of the year. However, just like the new plant growth that's beginning to emerge with spring weather, we're getting hopeful already. We're just beginning the spring season of Society events and should get several new inductees from those venues that have AHSOW Rooms. (Casey Parker just qualified two at the FWD Spring District Convention, for example.) Please do YOUR part to patronize the AHSOW rooms at your district events. It's a lot of work for your DEC and ADC's and they deserve enthusiastic support of the art/science of woodshedding rather than "Well, I might drop in if I have the time."

Glenn Schilberg

Director of Commerce

Duties By-Laws 3.08.

AHSOW Inventory, April 17, 2007

Yellow Folios	1041
Red Folios	406
Arrangement CD	36
" cassette	126

Some materials have been returned from the field, so that quantities of CDs and cassettes on hand are greater than before. This renders the duplication of CDs less urgent.

All the shirts are gone, and replacement has been postponed, pending the selection of a new AHSOW logo.

Mark Hotchkiss
AHSOW Director of Commerce

Manager of Member Service

Duties By-Laws 3.09.

Report of the Manager of Member Services

I am pleased to report that at the Midwinter Convention in Albuquerque your Board of Directors approved a new Vision Statement”

Vision

The Ancient Harmonious Society Of Woodshedders, as a subsidiary of the Barbershop Harmony Society, is a group of singers that gathers at every opportunity to enjoy and preserve the art of pure woodshedding in harmony through four men blending their voices

Each Gathering will satisfy all the singers present, whether they be:

Members of AHSOW who just want a place to meet other accomplished woodshedders and spend their time singing.

Members of AHSOW who want to work with more accomplished woodshedders to polish their skills.

Singers who want to learn how to woodshed, usually although not necessarily aspiring to AHSOW membership.

Members of the Barbershop Harmony Society who are interested in membership in AHSOW and who are ready to qualify.

These Gatherings occur at all Society Conventions and Schools as well as on other occasions.

The essence of the vision is that everyone who wants to make up harmony as we go along will find a welcoming, inspiring place in the woodshed.

To make this vision a reality, I prepared a Vision Realization Plan that involves every member of the Society. I must confess I underestimated the difficulty of the steps so we are behind. Nevertheless, I am working the plan with the support of your Officers and DEC's and ADEC's.

You can expect a telephone call from one of us asking for your support and participation in the Vision. I look forward to your positive response and comments.

In addition to the Vision Realization Plan, I am working on a revision to the DEC Operations Manual, developed by Past President Toban Dvoretzky and his friends, and further revised by supportive woodshedders. We will use this revised manual to be sure that our Vision becomes a way of life for our Society.

I would like to hear from any of you who has an idea, a preference, or a beef (I love steaks) about how our gatherings happen.

In harmony's way,

Tom Wiener, Manager of Member Services, AHSOW

Bulletin Editor

Duties By-Laws 3.10.

BULLETIN EDITOR REPORT

Issued Call For Papers March 9, 2007 to all Board Members. Past officers and DEC's were invited to contribute. Target date for Draft was April 15. One report had been received. A Second Call For Papers was issued April 16, 2007. Issued a Third Call for Papers April 20, 2007. I have not received reports from the Treasurer, Manager of Publicity & Promotion, or the Education Managers.

Casey Parker

Education Managers

Duties By-Laws 3.11. There shall be two Education Managers, designated as Education Manager/East and Education Manager/West. They shall have active responsibility for AHSOW musical and educational programs within their designated Districts, and such other duties as may be assigned by the President, the Executive Vice-President, or the Board.

Responsibilities include direct management of the AHSOW District Educator & Certifier (DEC) program, or of any successor program; the recruitment, training, counseling, and management of all DEC personnel; the leading of regularly scheduled DEC meetings; and receiving submissions and pursuing delinquencies of DEC reports.

No report received from Western EM due to illness.

No report received from the Eastern EM;

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.

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 & . isn't famous enough?**

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

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
