

# Gray Matters

Official Publication Of The Association Of International Seniors Quartet Champions

January 2004

## The Association of International Seniors Quartet Champions

Presents

# Classic Harmony

## Friday, January 30, 2003

Well, gentlemen, your 2004 AISQC Show Committee, under the chairmanship of Darryl Cremer has raised the bar again!

The members of this committee are Reed Sampson, Joe Liles, Marlin Griffith and Dick Bek. And, when this show is over, you are going to want to slap each of them on the back for the wonderful entertainment they have brought to the Biloxi Grand Casino stage.

Your Classic Harmony show will begin at 2 p.m. Friday, January 30th in the Biloxi Grand Casino Theater. The lineup of talent tells me in advance that this Show has the potential to be the best production yet. Featured performers are **Power Play**, your 2003 International Quartet Champions; **The Barons**, our reigning 2003 Seniors Champions; **HEAT**, the 2003 college quartet champions; and four of our own wonderfully talented past international seniors quartet champions, **Chicago Shuffle 2002**, **Harmony 2001**, **Jurassic Larks 1998** and **One More Time 1992**.

As a special treat for the audience, we will present a 12-man group number, composed of the quartet members of Power Play, HEAT and The Barons. If you haven't already figured it out, this group represents **ALL** of the 2003 SPEBSQSA quartet champions -- another first for the AISQC.

In addition, to these fabulous quartets, the AISQC Chorus will have 47 of our finest on stage, under the direction of Joe Liles and Mel Knight. Rehearsals—all two of them—are scheduled for Thursday, January 29 from 2 to 5 p.m. and Friday, January 30 from 9:30 to noon.

To top it all off, Rob Hopkins, our incoming International President, will be our Master of Ceremonies for the second half of the show.

This entertainment lineup will attract a large crowd, so learn your words and music, and come to Biloxi prepared to make yourself part of the AISQC's greatest show ever! As you can see, the tide is turning, we're gaining momentum and, with any kind of luck, this just may be the last year we will have to sell tickets to the show!



**The Barons**  
2003



**Power Play**  
2003 International Quartet Champions



**HEAT**  
2003 College Quartet Champion



**Jurassic Larks**  
1998



**Harmony**  
2001



**Chicago Shuffle**  
2002



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## Elections 2004

Dick Bek

According to the AISQC Bylaws, Article VI, Section 2, "Officers and At-Large Board Members shall be elected by the membership at the Annual Meeting. Nominations from the floor shall be permitted only with the prior consent of the nominees."

If you would like to be considered for any of the positions below, please let me know as soon as possible. Additionally, if you would like to nominate one of the members for a position, please let me know that too. If you did not ascertain their willingness to serve in the position, I will contact them prior to our meeting in Biloxi.

### VACANT POSITIONS:

**President** Pete Tyree has completed two terms as our current president. He will continue serving on the AISQC Board as Immediate Past President replacing Dick Bek

**Vice President** Doug Watson is unable to continue in this position due to his current work schedule.

**At-Large Board Members - 2 positions** for 2-year terms to replace Mel Knight & Dave Ewing who have completed their terms.

### NOMINATIONS RECEIVED TO DATE:

President: Dave Ewing

At-Large Board Members: Dick Bek

### CONTINUING TO SERVE IN 2004:

Rudy Zarling -- Treasurer

Dan Tangarone -- Secretary

Dick Whitehouse -- At-Large Board Member

Bill Thurmon -- At-Large Board Member

## Agenda Membership Meeting

Following Breakfast Friday Morning

January 30, Ballroom B -- Grand Casino Hotel

I Call to Order

II Report of Nominating Committee

III Minutes of Membership meeting, Albuquerque.

IV Treasurers report

V Committee Reports

a. By-laws...Richards (vote needed)

b. Show committee...Cremer

c. Endowment Fund...Zarling

d. Other

VI Old Business

VII New Business

a. AISQC Mission Statement discussion / select committee

b. Discussion of scope of AISQC concerns. Tyree

c. Election of new officers and board members. Bek

VIII Adjournment

## Jurassic Larks -- 2003

Victor Neilsen, Tenor

The Larks had another fantastic year. It was 1998 when we took the Gold, and still we are somewhat in demand. Who would have think it? Certainly not the four of us.

We got a great start in May when we sang for the wife of an Iowa National Guardsman who was literally on his way to Iraq, a very warm and humbling experience for us. A DVD was made of the performance, and later shared with his fellow soldiers....how about that for sharing Barbershop singing around the world?

Summer and fall brought shows for the Iowa Cubs, Farm Bureaus, birthdays, Hospices, United Way, a Carnegie Library's 100th year, antique car show and more. And the best of all, barbershop shows in Papillion Neb, Alpena Mich, Wamego Ks, Lake Geneva, Wis and of course our own show in Des Moines.

We had 24 formal performances in 2003 and several informal ones. At O'Hare we sang Happy Birthday on the phone for one of our wives, and a stranger then asked us to sing happy Anniversary on the phone to his wife (obviously he forgot until then), and then a security guard asked us to sing Happy Birthday to his wife. We hardly ever fail to sing in the airports, and have made some great connections (singing-wise) there.

At our fall District Convention, we again sang with the Association of Central States District Champions of which we are members. We have been honored by membership in that association, and it is great to be so recognized locally. We are the only Seniors Quartet Champions in the group, members because of our International standing.

Several 2004 performances are already scheduled. 3/10 -- St. Louis; 3/14 -- Kishwaukee Valley; 3/20 -- Ripon, Wis.; 4/17 -- Wausau, Wis.; 4/24 -- Des Moines; 5/1 -- Princeton, Ill; 5/15 -- Black River Falls, Wis.

So, as you can see, we still have open dates, and as long as we are still somewhat ambulatory, we will consider anything that pays and comes our way.

**The Barons are cruisin!** Go along for a great week of singing and sun Feb 1-8 aboard the biggest godzilla ship ever.. the "Conquest" from New Orleans to Montego Bay, Grand Cayman and Cozumel. Contact Ken Buckner for more details. Kenvention@aol.com.

## Biloxi Show

Darryl Cremer

Everything is coming together for what is going to be a FANTASTIC show in Biloxi. Our show flyers have been out and circulating for several months. You've all gotten the music and learning CD for the songs we will be singing on our Friday afternoon show.

You've received the 2 songs (I will Never Pass this Way Again, and This is My Country/This Land is My Land) that we will sing with the Medalist Chorus on the Friday and Saturday night shows. (A first for us)

All of our Senior Champ Quartets that will be performing on the show are geared up and ready to go.

Power Play and Heat are ready to go.

Joe Liles has done a great job of putting together a "12-tet" arrangement of 2 songs that our three 2003 Quartet Champs - Power Play, The Barons and Heat - will sing together. This is the first time and the first show where this has ever happened.

Dave Ewing has done a great job of writing an article for Gray Matter that will give you up to the minute information.

We'd now like to share the show script with you so everyone knows the plan and the show sequence. We've got some technical details to work out with Doug Maddox and that will get done over the next couple of weeks, but rest assured it will be all set to go by show time. There are a couple of key points that we need to call to your attention.

1. We need everyone to be at our Thursday and Friday rehearsals. This is important musically and it is important from a staging point of view. (There are some staging things we can only work out with everyone present)

2. We need all of our quartets to adhere to their allotted time slot. The time listed is your TOTAL ON STAGE TIME.

3. You will notice that all of the quartets performing in the first half of the show will not be singing all of the songs with the chorus. This is necessary to maintain show flow and to avoid having people walking on or off the stage while the chorus is performing.

4. We are asking the chorus to remain backstage for the entire second half so everyone's ready to go at the right time.

So here's the script. See you all in Biloxi. Darryl

## 2004 AISQC SHOW - BILOXI

**MC** from backstage ---- Ladies & Gentlemen, the Association of International Senior Quartet Champions welcomes you to "Classic Harmony". Please turn your attention to the stage and greet the AISQC Chorus under the direction of Joe Liles.

*One More Time does not sing the first 2 songs with the chorus.*

**Zip-A-Dee Doo-Dah -- Chorus**

**MC** from backstage ---- We go from a classic Disney song to a classic Mills Brothers tune. Come with us "Up that Lazy River"

**Lazy River -- Chorus**

Curtains Close

**MC** from backstage ---- Ladies & Gentlemen, our first quartet won their gold medal in 1992, and it's great to have them on our stage "One More Time"

*One More Time - 12 minutes total performance time*

**MC** from backstage ---- Here's a quartet that's found a way to make a fashion statement out of wearing leisure suits. Our 1998 champions -- **Jurassic Larks**

*One More Time joins chorus during Jurassic Larks performance.*

**Jurassic Larks - 12 minutes total performance time**

*Jurassic Larks and Harmony do not sing the next song with the chorus.*

**MC** from backstage ---- Our gold medal chorus returns with a medley of familiar gospel songs. This time, directed by the baritone of our 2000 champions Overtime -- Mel Knight.

Curtains open during the intro

**This Little Light of Mine -- Chorus**

Curtains close

**MC** from backstage ---- For our 2001 champions, Harmony is more than just a name. It's four friends doing what they most like to do - sing together in a quartet. Please welcome **Harmony**

*Harmony - 12 minutes total performance time*

*Jurassic Larks join the chorus when curtains are closed*

**MC** from backstage ---- Our next quartet may be seniors, but they're not old, and they certainly don't shuffle. They love to sing, they love to have fun and it shows. Please welcome our 2002 champions - **Chicago Shuffle**.

*Chicago Shuffle - 12 minutes total performance time*

As **Chicago Shuffle** leave the stage, the curtains open, and the chorus starts singing Bass vamp for FOUR measures...

*Chicago Shuffle does not sing the next song with the chorus*

**Sitting On Top Of The World -- Chorus**

## INTERMISSION

*Note: AISQC Chorus members should remain backstage during entire 2nd half of show..*

## Minutes of AISQC Meeting

January 24, 2003

The annual meeting of AISQC was called to order by President Pete Tyree at approximately 0845.

President Pete then called for the report of the nominating committee chaired by Immediate Past President, Dick Bek. Dick informed us that Dick Whitehouse, Bill Thurmon and Darryl Cremer had been nominated for the position of two-year delegate. Jim Richards interjected that AISQC does not have delegates only board members. Dick was duly fined \$5. Pete then called for the full slate of officers for 2003 but Dick did not have the list and was summarily fined an additional \$5 by permanent Sargent at arms Ray Henders for being so disorganized. Dick then interactively fabricated the 2003 slate of officers by asking each existing officer if they would agree to serve another year. President Tyree said you could have his job but eventually agreed to do it again so he could recover the \$680 he shelled out for the AISQC breakfast. Vice President, Doug Watson agreed to serve another year as did Treasurer, Rudy Zarling and Secretary, Dan Tangarone. Mel Knight and Dave Ewing, were elected in January 2002 as two-year board members and remain on the board through 2003. Dick Bek asked if the new two year board members would be voted on and Pete reminded him that he previously stated that the vote would be at the end of the meeting. Dick was fined another \$5 for not listening, bringing his total to \$15.

President Tyree then asked for corrections or additions to the 2002 minutes. The 2002 minutes were unanimously accepted.

### Rings and Things ..... Dick Bek

Dick reported that the AISQC rings are done and several AISQC members have purchased them from the Effenmeyer Co in Milwaukee. Dick asked that AISQC members consider obtaining a ring by dealing directly with the Effenmeyer Co. Dick mentioned that the new ribbons for the Gold Silver and Bronze medals have been made up and purchased by the society for the first, second and third place medals to be given out through 2007. The old ribbon for the gold medal is no longer available. The existing new ribbon is about 1.25 inches wide with a sparkling silver stripe. The board decided in the board meeting of 1/23/03 that the ribbon should be a maximum of 1 inch wide with a 1/2 inch gray stripe in the center. Dick will pursue obtaining a source for the new ribbons. The new bar will be given out without the year engraved. The quartets will be responsible for engraving the year on the bar to save the engraving costs.

Pete mentioned that the society board has approved providing medals for the top five places in the Senior contest and will announce the top five quartets this year in Albuquerque. Medals and ribbons will be mailed to the 4 and 5th place 2003 Senior Medalists when available.

Buzz Haeger reported that George Evans is in very poor health. Our thoughts are with him.

Ribbons have previously been made for the top 3 medalists through the year 2007. First place is blue with a gray stripe, Second is red with a gray stripe and Third is white with a gray stripe.

Dick Whitehouse suggested that all bars be made up at the same time. Dick Bek will check if this is feasible from a cost standpoint.

Bob Squires reported that two Districts are still not in compliance with the C&J recommendation that all senior prelims be held in the fall. This will be discussed in the Society board meeting today. Vince yinger wondered how quartets got into the Seniors contest, with no scores. Lots of BS on this. Not sure why this subject was even being discussed but lots of BS.

**Honorary Members -- Jim Richards** reported that the board came up with a paragraph for changing the By-Laws. AISQC Board on Thursday 1/23/03 approved the paragraph that Jim came up with. Jim read the paragraph. It is inserted here.

Any AISQC member may nominate in writing to the President, the name of a potential candidate for Member of Merit of the AISQC. The full text of the new wording will be published in

## SECOND HALF OF SHOW -- BILOXI

### 2004 AISQC President

Welcome back. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am the newly elected president of the Association of International Seniors Quartet Champions. As one of my first official duties, it is my great pleasure to introduce the Master of Ceremonies for the second half of our show. Ladies & Gentlemen, please welcome our new Society president - Mr. Rob Hopkins.

**Rob Hopkins --** Personal greetings to the audience and comments (to be written by Rob Hopkins).

**Rob Hopkins** And now, on with the show. We have more gold medal quartets for you, plus a special performance that is a first on any stage. To get us started, here is the 2003 International Seniors Quartet Champion, representing the Cardinal District - **The Barons**.

**The Barons - 15 minutes total performance time.**

**Rob Hopkins** It's been said, "Advice, like youth, is wasted on the young". Well, that certainly wasn't true when someone told these next young men to try Barbershop Harmony. They did and now are the 2003 MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop quartet champions. From the University of Miami - **HEAT**.

**HEAT - 15 minutes total performance time.**

**Rob Hopkins** All of us who enjoy this wonderful hobby feel that we are part of the barbershop family. In Montreal, we learned a new meaning for the term "Barbershop Family." It has a name -- and that name is Slamka. Ladies and Gentlemen, our 2003 International Quartet Champions - **Power Play**.

**Power Play - 15 minutes total performance time.**

**Rob Hopkins** Earlier I promised you a very special performance... and that time has come. For the first time ever, all three of our reigning International Quartet Champions are on the same show, but more important than that, it's the first time ever, all three have sung together. They've got more gold than Fort Knox. Ladies & Gentlemen, please greet our three International Champion Quartets, **Power Play, The Barons, and HEAT**.

As the applause dies down, one of **The Barons** steps to the microphone and says..... *Thank you very much Ladies & Gentlemen. We leave you with a wonderful song that touches the heart of every Barbershopper*

**The Barons** begin **That Old Quartet of Mine**, then are joined by **Power Play** and **HEAT**, then by **One More Time** and **Jurassic Larks**, then by **Harmony** and **Chicago Shuffle**, finally by the entire **AISQC Chorus**. (The timing and details will be worked out at our Thursday rehearsal)

### AISQC Board Meeting – 9 AM January 29, 2004

Biloxi — Grand Casino Hotel, Pascagoula Room

- I Call to order—determine quorum 9AM -- Tyree
- II Introduction of Guests, if any -- Tyree
- III Minutes of Albuquerque Board Mtg. -- Tangarone
- IV Treasurer's Report -- Zarling
- V Committee and special Reports
  - A By-Laws.....Member of Merit -- Richards
  - B Show Committee -- Cremer
  - C AISQC Foundation -- Zarling
  - D Senior Task Force of Society Report -- Bek & Tyree (and Board Action -- Buckner)
  - E Other
- VI Old Business
  - A Recommendation to the Society Board for inclusion of show ticket in Midwinter Program.
  - B Standing Committees: GM, Social Affairs, Historian, By-Laws (maintenance) Committee.
  - C Discuss implied activity from By-laws. -- Tyree
- VII New Business
  - A Response to AISQC referrals by Society Board in Task Force Rec and Board Actions.
  - B AISQC Vision Statement as directed by Society Board (due 6/1) establish working comte?
  - C Other
- VIII Adjournment

## Minutes 2003, Continued

Gray Matters. A vote will be taken next year at the annual meeting in Biloxi.

Johnny Hammond. Any limit of members? Lots of discussion. It will depend upon the wisdom of the Board of Directors and the entire group to limit Members of Merit so that the character of the organization will not change. The number might be in the 5-6 percent range. Wisdom will prevail. Dick Whitehouse pointed out that we shouldn't have to go looking for people -- the meritorious people we want will rise to the top and only a few will be voted in. The wisdom of the Board and group will prevail to maintain the character of the group.

**Endowment Fund** Rudy Zarling reported on the AISQC Endowment fund since Frank Lanza could not be in Albuquerque due to his prostate cancer. Rudy read the purpose of the AISQC endowment fund.

Statement of funds as of 12/31/02 \$4365.76. Funds donated after 9/31/02 have increased the total to close to \$5000. The purpose of the endowment fund is to provide funds to support beneficial, charitable and educational purposes and programs of the AISQC. Earned income only can be used for these purposes. At all times the principal will remain intact. The dollar amount to be donated to the Harmony Foundation was discussed in the Board meeting held on Thursday. A final motion was made to donate \$100 from the AISQC general fund to the Keep the Melody Ringing fund within the Harmony Foundation for a deceased member. It was voted to donate \$100 for Burt Staffen and Ken Pacetti to the Keep the Melody Ringing Fund. In the future, Rudy will write a check to the Keep The Melody Ringing Fund for each deceased member. It was noted that the Harmony Foundation does not provide AISQC with a statement of the earnings that the AISQC Endowment fund generates and therefore AISQC does not know how much monies could be used for qualified purposes. The Harmony Foundation should provide AISQC with a statement at least annually which shows the principal and earnings. Rudy read Section 4 of Article 7 (AISQC Endowment Fund) ---- "The treasurer (of AISQC) shall be responsible for serving as a liaison between the Harmony Foundation and the Board Of Directors (of AISQC) with regard to the fund management and performance and the funding of grants." "The treasurer (of AISQC) will report to the (AISQC) membership at the annual meeting the status of the Endowment Fund as reported by the Harmony Foundation

A motion was made by Dick Bek and passed unanimously to authorize the AISQC treasurer to donate \$100 immediately upon the death of an AISQC member to the Keep The Melody Ringing Fund in the name of the deceased member.

We need a statement from Harmony Foundation to show the amount of principal and interest earned so AISQC knows how much could be used for qualified purposes.

Rudy noted that two AISQC members have not paid their dues. After considerable discussion, the Board decided that the Treasurer, after checking the delinquent member's Society membership status, should send a letter

## Minutes 2003, Continued

to the greater than 6 months dues delinquent member indicating that his AISQC membership is in jeopardy. The member must immediately pay the delinquent dues or be dropped from membership in AISQC. (If a dues paid AISQC member is no longer a Society member, is he still a member of AISQC?)

The treasurer's report was accepted.

Grif complimented Dick Merritt on his many years of prior service to AISQC as treasurer.

President Tyree indicated that an audit of the AISQC books is needed. After some arm twisting, Dick Merritt volunteered to audit the books.

Joe Liles quickly noted that Dick Merritt was a man of merit. (Lengthy moans) Henders quickly went for the jugular and fined Joe \$5.

Reed Sampson, show chairman, reported on the upcoming show which is timed to come in under 2 hours. It should be great. Talent fee is modest.

Dave Ewing, a fine Texas resident, volunteered to be the contact for the AISQC incorporation papers in Texas.

Buzz Heager pointed out that the Albuquerque Mid-Winter convention program only listed the AISQC show on one line. Very little publicity is given to the AISQC show.

Tangarone suggested that AISQC continue to pursue inclusion of the AISQC show ticket as part of the Mid-Winter registration.

The New Mexicords chorus sold tickets to our show per Dick Bek. We should thank them for their efforts.

Dick Whitehouse pointed out that various meetings are always scheduled during our show time. It would be better if no meetings were scheduled during the AISQC show to allow everyone to attend our show.

Bill Thurmon and Dick Whitehouse were elected to serve on the Board through 2004.

Pete Tyree asked for a vote on the slate of officers presented. The motion to accept the slate passed unanimously.

Pete Tyree asked that our new champs, Chicago Shuffle, sing the song that will be sung on the show. It was quickly apparent that the learning tapes could have been studied to a greater degree. At least two of those present were reasonably polite. After a long, dreary introduction, an attempt was made to sing Precious Lord Take My Hand. They were afforded the usual level of respect.

The meeting quickly evolved into chaos and then we were gone.

Respectfully submitted, Dan Tangarone, Secretary

**Good Luck to Dick Bek, Jimmy Wheeler, John Adams, Alan Durick, and Paul Huff who are competing at Biloxi.**

## GRAY MATTERS

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## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## Article IV - Associate Membership (Proposed)

Jim Richards

*All underlined words are new. All non underlined words represent the original text. This is the proposed wording which will be voted on in Biloxi at the annual meeting and represents the consensus thinking and discussion during the meeting in Albuquerque.*

**Section 1:** Society policy requires that an active International Senior Champion Quartet must have as active members at least three of the original members it had when it won its Championship to continue use of the quartet name and championship rank. Any man who is recognized as a permanent replacement for a member of an active International Senior Champion Quartet is eligible for associate membership in the Association. Associate Membership of Merit may be conferred as provided in Section 7 below.

**Section 2:** Associate membership may be conferred by a vote of the general membership at its Annual Meeting, with a maximum of two (2) dissenting votes permitted

**Section 3:** An Associate Member must be a Society member in good standing.

**Section 4:** An Associate Member shall not be eligible to move, second, or vote on Association matters, nor shall he be eligible to hold any office in the Association or serve as a Board Member of the Association. An Associate Member may, however, if appointed, serve on an AISQC committee in any capacity except Chairman.

**Section 5:** Unless qualifying for Permanent Associate Membership Status under Section 6, below, an Associate Member's membership in the Association shall terminate immediately when: a. he is no longer a member of an active International Senior Champion Quartet, b. the International Senior Champion Quartet of which he was a member either disbands or replaces more than two original members (thereby losing the right to use the quartet name and championship rank), or, c. does not meet the requirements of Section 3 of this Article or Article VIII, Section 1.

**Section 6:** Permanent Associate Membership Status, subject to compliance with the provisions of Article IV, Section 3, and Article VIII, Section 1, and the limitations of Article IV, Section 4, may be conferred upon a past Associate Member whose membership has terminated, or upon a current Associate Member whose membership may terminate, by a vote of the general membership, provided: a. he has performed in an active International Senior Quartet for a minimum of one (1) year, and b. he is nominated in writing by a member of the International Senior Quartet with which he qualifies, and c. the nominating member makes his nomination in writing to the President of the association at least thirty (30) days in advance of the Annual Meeting, and d. no more than two (2) dissenting votes are received upon the general membership's consideration of the nomination at its Annual Meeting.

**Section 7: Associate Membership of Merit**

Any AISQC member as defined in Article III may nominate a candidate(s) by submitting the name(s) of potential candidate(s) to be considered as Member(s) of Merit of AISQC to the President in writing at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual meeting. Each candidate's nomination should be accompanied by supporting documentation.

Each nominee must be: a. A Society Member in good standing, and b. At least sixty (60) years of age.

The President shall present the names of all suggested candidates to the AISQC Board of Directors for their consideration. The name(s) and supporting credentials of candidate(s) who have, in the opinion of the Board of Directors, made meritorious contributions to the furtherance of the goals of the AISQC, shall be presented at the annual AISQC meeting for a vote of the AISQC membership. To be accepted as a Member Of Merit a nominee must receive a unanimous ballot.

Members of Merit are not expected to pay annual AISQC dues.

