

Gray Matters

Official Publication Of The Association Of International Seniors Quartet Champions

May 2002



Chicago Shuffle Deals the Gold!

Ray Henders - Tenor, Howard Tweedle - Lead, David Boo - Bass and Darryl Cremer - Bari sang their way to International Seniors Quartet Champions at the Mid-Winter in Riverside, Ca this past January. It was a tight contest with only eleven points separating first and third. Congratulations Fellas. See you all in Albuquerque!

The Chicago Shuffle Meets Jim Lovell



When the Delnor-Community Hospital hosted its fourth annual Senior Vitality Celebration, who should they more appropriately invite to entertain than this year's International Seniors Quartet Champions, The Chicago Shuffle. More than 2,000 people were in attendance at the Pheasant Run Resort. The breakfast event's guest speaker was Apollo 13 Captain, Astronaut, Jim Lovell.

The audience had a double-edged treat in store, as they enjoyed the 30-minute performance of the Shuffle and an hour talk from the man who made "Houston, we have a problem" a household expression. Jim related many stories about the making of the movie, meeting Tom Hanks and director Ron Howard, along with tape excerpts of the actual event and explained that the movie was so realistically portrayed that there were times he couldn't tell which was the movie clip and which was the clip from the actual trip.

All four members of the quartet - Lead Howard Tweedle, Tenor Ray Henders, Bass Dave Boo and Baritone Darryl Cremer - were thrilled and honored to be standing on the same stage with this genuine American hero and consider it one of the highlights of their barbershop quartetting career.



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AISQC Endowment Fund

As of June 1, 2002 the endowment fund has a total of \$14,600. This figure includes a bequest of \$10,000. I'm happy to report that this is a nice increase since my last report.

As you know all gifts are tax deductible and can be in the form of cash, stocks, bonds or insurance assignments. Donations can also be made in the form of a bequest to AISQC. The purpose of the fund is to provide money for future projects of AISQC.

All donations of \$1000 or more will entitle the donor to membership in the FOUNDERS CLUB. I'm sure you have seen Society members wearing yellow FOUNDERS CLUB badges at conventions. For further information contact me at 401-529-1544 or email at seanote4@aol.com. Frank Lanza

Wanted: Quartet Tapes, CD s, & Videos

We have received several tapes and CD s from AISQC quartets for our AISQC music library but my information tells me that there are a few more available. In our continuing effort to maintain current information on our championship quartets I am asking any quartet that hasn't donated to submit one of the above items. Someone many years from now may want to know how your quartet sounded. Don't disappoint that person. Mail to Frank Lanza, 175 Peninsula Road, Wakefield, R.I. 02789

Frank Lanza Update

I feel fine and am on a hormone treatment regimen to control my prostate cancer. My doctor tells me I'm on the right track and should have no future problems.

Interim Financial Statement

<i>Balance fr Prev Treasurer</i>	3679.80
Income	
Dues	545.00
Breakfast Riverside	545.00
AISQC Show	2443.20
Total Income	7213.00
Expenses	
Plaques	192.77
Gray Matters	22.90
Breakfast Riverside	600.12
Badge	9.50
Show expenses Val	254.66
AISQC Displays	85.12
President's Reception	458.50
Badges SPEBSQSA	61.20
Stamps	34.00
Checks	19.25
AISQC Shirts	303.21
Total Expenses	2041.23
BALANCE 4/29/02	5171.77

Medals Sent Out

Dick Bek informs that the Silver and Bronze Society medals have been sent out to the Barrons and Sound Revival for their efforts in Riverside. It is interesting to note that Dick says the ribbons, bars and medals themselves have been re-designed and look terrific. Hope to have an image of them soon.

Larks Update

Since our last report, the Larks completed the Fall Show schedule and G.W. (bari) became a winter Texan, so we're on hold for right now. He's coming back to Iowa for Christmas, cause he doesn't want to miss the snow. Actually, it's a great time to reflect on what fun the Larks have been having singing for BBS shows and others. We sang for two Farm Bureau annual meetings earlier this year and as a result of that, we were solicited for an article in the Iowa Farm Bureau Family Living In Farm Country, Nov 2001. It is sent to about

Minutes of the AISQC Meeting -- Friday, January 26, 2002

President Dick Bek called the meeting to order at 8:47 AM. He welcomed our guests Tweedy Haeger, wife of Buzz Haeger, Howard Mescher who helped with our show production and Marty Mendro who took photos for the archives. Dick mentioned that Marty would be taking photos of the members for those who did not get them taken last year.

President Bek read a letter from Walter Latzko expressing his regrets at not being able to be with us but was thankful for his wife's Marjorie successful surgery. She now has a new hip and will be walking without a cane before long. Walter sends his best wishes for a successful show.

Dick mentioned that the Foliates featuring Jim Foley singing "Old Bones" who were to appear on the AISQC show would not perform since Jim Foley slipped on some ice and fractured his pelvis. (Immediately following the meeting, Val Hicks had Milt Christensen half convinced to sing the solo on Old Bones.) A get-well card for Jim Foley was circulated for the members to send good cheer.

President Bek asked the group if they would like Harmony to sing when Daryl Flinn arrived at the breakfast. This question was met by considerable moaning signifying a definite maybe.

The health of other members was discussed. We rejoiced at Bob Ridenbach's report that Ralph Shonk was in complete remission from lung cancer diagnosed last year. Ralph sent his greetings to the group. Doug Watson reported that Jim Foley was doing OK although experiencing some pain. He has started rehabilitation but faces 6-8 weeks in a wheel chair. Dave Ewing reported that Ken Pacetti, diagnosed with liver cancer 14-15 mo. ago, had had a pump installed to deliver chemo directly to the tumors that had shrunk by 70%. Ken was doing so well that he has been playing golf and would be singing in the senior's contest on Saturday. Dick Bek reported that Frank Lanza had a non-cancer related prostate surgery procedure shortly before the convention and would be unable to attend this year. Frank is doing well and regrets he can not be here. Bob Mahoney reported that Warren Mitchell suffered a mild stroke in August and was remaining at home recovering. Buzz Haeger, not wishing to be outdone, reported that Ray Henders is suffering from Terminal Senility. This was confirmed by the unanimous, response of the members. Ray appeared to stare vacantly into his coffee but added that after consulting with Dr. Dombrosky, he would be going in for a hernia transplant.

In order to convey proper recognition, Frank Lanza asked Griff to present plaques to Secretary, Bob Griffith and Treasurer Dick Merritt for their many years of meritorious service to AISQC. In addition, Griff presented a plaque for meritorious service to Dick Bek for a good average job these past two years as AISQC president.

Griff presented the new slate of officers developed by Frank Lanza. The nominees are as follows:

Immediate Past President - Dick Bek, President - Pete Tyree, Vice President - Doug Watson, Secretary - Dan Tangarone, Treasurer - Rudy Zarling, One Year directors - Dick Whitehouse • Mel Knight • Griff Griffith, Two year directors - Dave Ewing.

Rudy asked to address the group but Henders told him to wait in the car.

Bek appointed Ray Henders Sergeant at Arms. The vote of confidence was underwhelming. Henders put his arm around Bek and asked Dick if he knew the difference between an elephant and a jackass. Dick didn't know and begged the answer. Henders offered "you can't put your arms around an elephant!" Henders then fined himself \$5 for the disruption.

Val enjoyed the Gandhi pun in Gray Matters so much that he donated \$5 to the group.

Voting started on an individual, bickering basis. The votes were so close however that it was becoming clear that we might not have a full slate until mid afternoon. Recognizing this, Bill Thurmon moved to accept the proposed slate by acclamation. Bob Squires seconded the motion that was passed unanimously.

Zarling finally interrupted the meeting to point out the two pages of documented problems experienced by Dick Merritt with the treasurer's position. Henders fined himself another \$5 for suggesting Rudy get someone to read the two pages to him. To help ease his pain, Rudy's salary was doubled.

Immediate Past President Dick Bek requested that guests be excused for the remainder of the business meeting. Guests then repaired to the hall. Chaos ensued.

President Pete Tyree conducted the remainder of the meeting.

The cost of the AISQC breakfast was discussed. Dan Tangarone pointed out that the breakfast cost in 2001 amounted to approximately 80% of the AISQC 2001 Income. After much additional discussion Bud Roberts, Over-Time, moved that AISQC members pay for their own breakfast. The motion passed unanimously.

Members were reminded to pay their \$10 dues and \$15 breakfast cost to Treasurer Rudy Zarling.

Griff announced that he would have videotapes of the AISQC show available for \$15.

President, Pete Tyree, not wishing to appear dictatorial or biased, kindly asked the group if a song from the current reigning 2001 Seniors Champions Harmony would be in order. Considerable heated discussion ensued. After several protests, Griff moved to let Harmony sing, which narrowly passed. After further comments, Harmony started to sing but nobody quite remembers what the tune was or if actual chords were being sung which is definitely a requirement for AISQC membership. The time was well utilized however since everyone was able to get coffee refills, do some woodshedding and discuss the results of the Junior contest in Nashville while providing Harmony with the usual level of respect. Henders thought he heard a couple of good chords. Being relieved to hear this, all present then welcomed Harmony into the fold.

A motion was made to have the newest members sing a song. Again, it narrowly passed.

Harmony then sang Harmony, obviously taking Henders suggestion that they sing one that they knew. The chords rang and a standing ovation ensued.

Pete called on Dick Bek to discuss the subject of honorary membership in AISQC which was tabled at the meeting last year. Dick turned over the presentation to Jim Richards who explained the issues involved. Criteria for nomination for Honorary membership remain undeveloped due to the issues raised over the past year and will be developed in committee over the coming year. Considerable discussion was given to this subject. Until new criteria are developed this subject was tabled.

The subject of contest procedures was discussed as related to senior quartet qualification for the midwinter seniors' contest. Issue is non-uniformity of procedures between Districts. This is a district issue and districts cannot agree on uniform procedures according to Jim Richards. AISQC cannot affect change in this area. After considerable additional discussion it was generally decided that a committee should be established by Pete Tyree to study this issue and make recommendations as to how to proceed. For now, the issue is tabled.

Past secretary Bob Griffith reminded AISQC members to update rosters at each table, and reminded those that were interested to take a copy of last years business meeting minutes, which were distributed at the tables.

Barney Alleman pointed out that International has for the past two years, been awarding the championship Senior Quartet Gold medal to the second and third place quartets. The only difference was the color of the ribbons. The company that made the silver and bronze medals went out of business and International did not get them replaced. International had been informed of the problem last year. The medals to be given out this year were again the championship gold medals. It was moved and seconded that AISQC only hand out the silver and bronze ribbons this year. When the silver and bronze medals are replenished, they will be sent to the second and third place quartets. The motion passed. New dies for the 2nd and 3rd place medals will cost \$600 each and may have to come from AISQC funds. Pete will work towards getting International to take up the slack.

Wanted: Your Quartet Tape, CD or VIDEO

In our continuing effort to maintain current information on all champion quartets, I m requesting that each quartet that has produced either a CD, tape or video to donate one of these items to the AISQC library.

This request was made at the annual meeting and several quartets have already made a donation but we need one from each quartet to complete our files. Please respond now and send material to Frank Lanza, 491 Roundhill Court, Warwick, R. I. 02886

Larks Update -- Continued

35,000 associate members throughout Iowa and vicinity. We ended up with a two page spread, telling the story of the Larks. It even included pictures taken during a rehearsal where we were dressed as we usually arealmost indescribable, but they made the picture of us in our leisure suits look great (well, okay, good). So far we've have four calls from people who saw the publication, and recognized one of us. Two might be for performances, and Barney heard from a friend he hadn't heard from in more than 20 years. Now that's part of the wonderful world of barbershop!!!

Right now we're looking for G.W. to return, so we can prepare for the AISQC show in Riverside. We also have the chapter installation banquet and another performance to warm up for in early January. In Riverside, we plan to cheer on our own Central States District Seniors qualifiers, Gentlemen of Note, as they compete for the gold. Being seeded third, I'd say they have a great chance to bring the gold back to CSD. Hope to see you there.

Victor Neilsen, Tenor
Jurassic Larks 1998 Seniors Champs

AISQC Minutes 2002 -- CONTINUED

The subject of AISQC rings was brought up. Dick Bek reported that AISQC rings could be obtained for \$100 in silver and \$200 in gold. But the design would need to be created. A motion passed to create a new committee to study this issue and come up with a design and the particular details regarding costs involved. Rings would become available on a voluntary basis only. Dick Bek will chair the committee with Barney Alleman working with him.

The subject of associate members was raised. Jim Richards clarified the rules regarding associate members. All current associate members' status is unclear because none have been voted into AISQC according to the existing rules. Those associate members are: Dennis Evans (Lead, George Baggish Memorial Quartet), Keith Fransen (Grandma's Beaus), Bob Isringhaus (Lead, The Silver Tones), Gary Raze (Tenor, OverTime), Al Rehkop (Tenor, Saturday's Heroes), Paul Huff (Bari, Rockies IV) and Dick Swanson (Bass, Fatherly Advice). Gary Raze and Paul Huff were voted in as permanent associate members. Dick Swanson and Bob Isringhaus were nominated and inducted as associate members of AISQC. Dick Swanson was presented with his AISQC name badge and will be eligible for permanent associate member status next year. Dennis Evans and Keith Fransen were dropped from associate member status since they are not singing with an AISQC champion quartet. Al Rehkop's status was tabled.

President Pete Tyree adjourned the meeting at 10:35 AM.

AISQC Newsletter
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