

# Gray Matters

Official Semi-Periodic Publication of The Association of International Seniors Quartet Champions

November 2007

## The Pres Says.....

Darryl Cremer

### AISQC continues to grow

I don't mean in numbers. We can only add four new members a year at the max, and many years we only add two or three as some of our fellow champions form new quartets and decide to compete again. What I mean is we are growing in stature, quality, involvement, and recognition. Let me give you a few examples –

We're going to have about 35 of our members joining us on stage in the AISQC chorus in San Antonio,

Our Nominating committee has done an excellent job and we will have several new men joining our Board of Directors. This is great because new people bring new ideas and new thought in helping us move forward.

The quality of our champions and seniors quartets in general is growing. When I look at the quartets that will be competing in San Antonio, the overall level of the competitors is up. This is truly an indicator that our seniors groups are taking the contest more seriously and working harder to be able to compete in the Seniors International contest.

Last year was the first year that we had a picture of every quartet that competed in the Seniors International contest in the Harmonizer. That will happen again this year and will be an ongoing feature. We get a ton of recognition from the entire society because of this, plus, it interests more men in getting involved in the seniors' quarteting experience.

With the help of Cindy Hansen, Doug Maddox and our AISQC show chairmen, our show continues to get better and stronger. This year you are going to see more interplay and equality between our champions and the "July medalists".

We continue to get more and more support from Ed Watson and the entire BHS staff. Ed is committed to helping us become successful.

This year, all of the competitors in the Seniors International Contest will receive a competitor's pin – another first and just like the July International contest.

A key to continuing this great progress and growth is each of you. There are less than 80 men in the entire Barbershop world that have had the good fortune to win a gold medal and become a world champion. This is an extremely great honor, but it also comes with a responsibility – a responsibility to let other senior barbershoppers know what a great thrill it is to compete in the Seniors International Contest; a responsibility to help, coach, support and encourage the Seniors Quartets in your area; a responsibility to be involved and keep AISQC alive.

San Antonio is going to be a great contest and a great time. I look forward to seeing you there.



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## Buzz Haeger 1925-2007

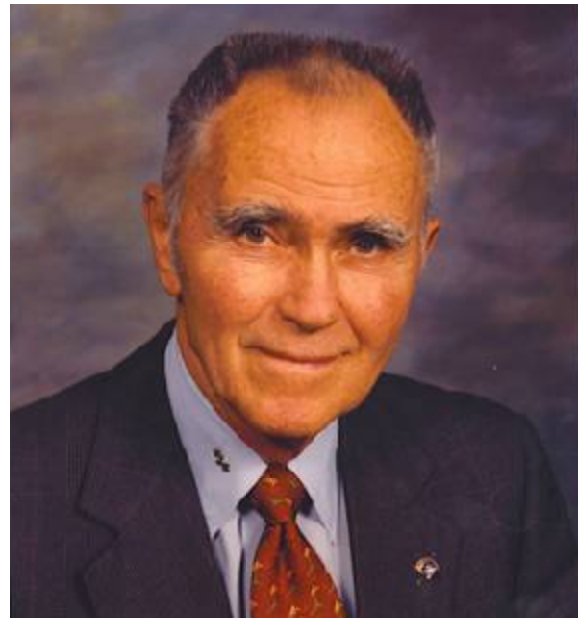
The great Warren J. "Buzz" Haeger, tenor of the 1965 Four Renegades, passed away Saturday, November 3, 2007 at the age of 82. His son, Mark and daughter Diane, son-in-law John Welter, and his best friend Marty Mendro were at his side when he died.

The Memorial Service for Warren J. "Buzz" Haeger was held at Christ Church, in Oak Brook, Illinois on November 17, 2007.

In attendance.... Clarke Caldwell, Harmony Foundation CEO and his wife and Ev Nau representing the International Staff. Bob Squires, AISQC Historian, Dave Cowin, AISQC Treasurer.

AIC Members, Marty Mendro, Ray Henders, Greg Wright, Dick Kingdon, Jay Giallombardo, and many others.

The West Towns Chorus sang "Precious Lord" and "I'll Walk with God" during the service and "Lost in the Stars" at the afterglow followed by quartets, anecdotes, tags, stories, tags, remembrances, tags, eulogies, tags, and "Keep America Singing" directed by the master kibber himself, Marty Mendro.



Warren (Buzz) Haeger

## The Silvertones

Not much to report on -- Bill still is not able to warble, Sam and I are singing with the Chorus of the Keys in Sarasota and can't believe its been Twenty years since we won our Gold in Washington DC on January 30, 1988.. Wow where has the time gone. Hope to see all at the Mid-Winter if personal problems will allow.. Hummmmbly, Bob Reidenbach, Tenor, Silvertones...

## FRIENDLY ADVICE

### Our Championship Year 2007

2007 was a remarkable year for FRIENDLY ADVICE. It started with a very satisfying placement at the Mid-Winter Convention in Albuquerque, N.M.

We enjoyed doing many corporate performances, private shows, weddings, funerals, and Barbershop shows in and around Seattle. Once again, we agreed to be auctioned off at the Northwest Medical Team's annual function at Safeco Field where we donated two performances which, after spirited bidding, sold for \$1,200 each!

Summer brought the singing of the National Anthem at Emerald Downs Race Track and entertaining the crowd with songs between races for the next couple of hours.

In May, we traveled to New Zealand with the Bellingham Chorus to do shows with local Barbershop Chapters in most of the major cities on both the North and South Islands. Dan and Wes brought their wives and Bill brought his wife and daughter. Except for a couple of hotel stays, they were billeted with local Barbershop families for the 16 days they were in New Zealand. Kevin Ashton, one of our hosts, came for a visit to Seattle in September.

On June 3 we headlined the Friday Harbor show on Lopez Island in the San Juan Islands. Then in August, a trip to St. Petersburg, Russia with the QCED Chorus (Quartet Champions of the Evergreen District) and Dr. Greg Lyne completed their long distance traveling. It was pleasant being in the Okhtinskaya hotel for the 10 days of the stay. There were five performances in and around St. Petersburg in magnificent concert halls. The trip was sponsored by the International Fine Arts Institute and the Russian Ministry of Culture. St. Petersburg is a beautiful and interesting place but the weather was very hot and the mosquitoes were in full regiments.

The Silver Moon Quartet from Helsinki, Finland came for a visit in July. They are good friends and while here in Seattle, attended the Northwest Harmony College and Harmony Explosion. Friendly Advice has been to Finland three times and plans to go again next May.

Christmas is fast approaching and the quartet has a great many shows booked including parties, corporate events and Christmas shows. It's been a fun filled year.



### A Little Known Navy Fact

The U.S.S. Constitution (Old Ironsides) as a combat vessel carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for her crew of 475 officers and men. This was sufficient to last six months of sustained operations at sea. She carried no evaporators.

However, let it be noted that according to her log, "On July 27, 1798, the U.S.S. Constitution sailed from Boston with a full complement of 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7,400 cannonshot, 11,600 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum." Her mission: "To destroy and harass English shipping." Making Jamaica on 6 October, she took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum. Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there 12 November. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine. On 18 November, she set sail for England. In the ensuing days she defeated five British men-of-war and captured and scuttled 12 English merchantmen, salvaging only the rum aboard each. By 26 January, her powder and shot were exhausted.

Nevertheless, although unarmed she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. Her landing party captured a whisky distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons of single malt Scotch aboard by dawn. Then she headed home. The U.S.S. Constitution arrived in Boston on 20 February, 1799, with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, no rum, no wine, no whisky and 38,600 gallons of stagnant water.

Thanks to the hard work of Ken Buckner and approval by Ed Watson, competitor pins will be presented to all competing quartets at the midwinter seniors quartet contest in San Antonio as they are at the International contest in July.

## 2008 Board Nominees

### Officers:

President

Ken Buckner

Immediate Past President

Darryl Cremer

Treasurer

Dave Cowin

Vice President - Music

Joe Liles

Secretary

Jim Richards

VP Public Relations

Reed Sampson

### Directors At Large

#### Second Year Members:

Charlie Metzger

Alan Dudrick (for Dick Whitehouse)

#### First Year Members:

Doug Watson

Bill Thompson

## AISQC Board Meeting Minutes 1/24/07 8pm Mid Winter, Albuquerque, NM

President Darryl called the meeting to order at 8pm. The minutes from the previous board meeting in Indianapolis were approved with one correction.. Ed Wirtz was not in attendance at the Indianapolis convention.

Dave Cowin passed out and explained the treasurer's report, which was reviewed and discussed at length. We received the interest (\$394) from the endowment fund, which is being held in a separate account that Dave has created. Monies in this account are to be used for worthy projects. We have \$7000+ in the AISQC account as of 12/31/06. There are no outstanding obligations except for the website cost which is about \$250 annually.

The Gray Matters newsletter should be sent to Ed Watson and John Schneider in addition to AISQC members.

Ken Buckner discussed the show. The band will be paid by AISQC (\$250). General discussion.

Dave Ewing thought that a committee should be formed to continue the working relationship with BHS and discuss the split of show profits. Possibly in the future, AISQC might receive a larger income from the show.

More discussion of budget for 2007. Treasurer Cowin changed the accounting period to the calendar year. It was noted that the budget as presented was slightly negative.... More expenditures than income. It was decided that the budget for 2007 should be balanced and was modified to balanced after discussion.

BHS now pays for medals. AISQC pays for badges for new champs  
A **motion** was made that the treasurer's report be accepted as received with minor modifications of column headings. **PASSED**

The 2007 budget was approved as modified by the board. More 2007 budget discussion. **Motion** to accept the budget as modified. **PASSED**

Considerable discussion of "youth in harmony" program. Joe Liles favors scholarships for Harmony College or Explosion in order to avoid having to create and manage our own program.

Jim Richards By-Laws

General Discussion of proposed Article 4 -- Associate Membership

Jim passed out proposed article 4. Nothing of substance has changed since it went out in Gray Matters. Tangarone pointed out that the wording needs to be changed in a few locations to reflect that we are talking about associate membership in AISQC and not in a Seniors quartet. All agreed that the word quartet would be deleted in five locations. Jim will try to run the changes by the deciders so that article 4 can be voted upon at the annual meeting. Jim **moved** to accept Article 4 with the proposed changes and present it to the membership at the annual meeting break-fast Saturday. **PASSED**

Ken Buckner mentioned that photos of all competing senior quartets would appear in the next issue of the Harmonizer. Applause! He also mentioned that he is working to have the BHS provide lapel pins for senior quartets as are provided to all competing quartets at the summer convention. The lapel pin design can be figured out later after/if BHS approves the idea.

AISQC might consider going halves with them on expenses.

General Discussion of involvement of AISQC quartets in Districts.

Dave Ewing thought that there should be a link to the Seniors Gold website from the BHS website. Good idea.

Joe Liles discussed the show. Rehearsal schedule was mentioned. Show will be quite different with the band and medley. Keith Hopkins will be MC and do voice over at start. Tim Waurick does all BHS CDs and will sing the solo on second verse. Cindy Hansen choreographer.

Dave Ewing -- Nominating Committee -- Presented the 2007 slate. Jim Richards & Ed Wirtz will remain for another year while Charlie Metzger and Dick Whitehouse will become 2 year board members. Alan Durick and Bob Squires 2 year terms are completed.

The Champs reception menu was mentioned. Yummy!

Charlie Metzger arrived

Darryl will swear in new champs at reception.

Carl Taylor.... Discussed young men in harmony

Darryl discussed the interest from Frank Lanza fund

Bruce Odell talked to Rick Spencer and talked with all districts re ymih. Bruce received a 50 % response from Districts.

Discussed district budgets for YIH programs. EVG and LOL are doing a good job of YIH marketing. What impact could we make? Bruce rec

ommended that the \$394 income from the Frank Lanza Endowment Fund be used for support materials for all Districts.

It was pointed out that there is no follow-up in any district re Harmony Explosion.

Joe Liles pointed out that any follow-up should go through the teacher, asking how we can help. Follow-up cannot make the teacher feel threatened that BHS is competing for singers.

We could have kids sing on chapter shows ... don't let teacher think we are robbing them of student time

Tangarone mentioned that \$394 + \$50 could support 3 scholarships to Harmony Explosion and provide immediate recognition to AISQC. Liles agreed and added to get the students teacher to accompany the kids. Let kids experience the HExp program. Later in life they will support BHS. An article in the Harmonizer could mention the AISQC scholarships and provide needed recognition.

Darryl ..... Maybe we need to establish a fund for this program.... Discussed the \$100 contribution to HF when AISQC members pass away. Maybe these monies instead should go to this youth endeavor. Liles thought that the music department would handle scholarship applications since they handle/screen applications for directors. Make scholarships available through the music department. Rick Spencer could develop an article. AISQC wants to contribute money and get recognition for it. The \$100 Memorials could go into the new Frank Lanza memorial account (maintained by the AISQC treasurer) as well as the annual interest received from the Frank Lanza Endowment Fund.

Ken thought that \$394 would not have a great impact. Some discussion to setting aside monies each year for this purpose. The fund will grow over time. AISQC can vote each year to add some amount to the pot and establish a number of scholarships to Harmony Explosion. There was general agreement on this.

Charlie Metzger mentioned that Harmony Foundation could possibly fund another special purpose fund to be managed by AISQC for this purpose. We could approach HF and ask if they might lend us some credibility.

Tangarone had to leave.

Bob Squires recorded the following.

**Motion** was made by Allan Durick to place \$100 in the Frank Lanza accrual fund in the memory of each deceased AISQC member and associate member. Seconded by Dave Ewing. **PASSED** unanimously.

Material for Gray Matters. Ken Buckner felt a need for greater contributions to the bulletin. How do we get this information? After some discussion, Bob Squires volunteered to help gather newsworthy items for the Gray Matters and pass them on to Dan.

Ken Buckner needs someone to take over as show chairman for 2008. After discussion about Charlie Metzger and Bob Squires as possible replacements, Charlie and Bob agreed to take on this project.

Meeting closed with Joe Liles directing the board in "Keep The Whole World Singing".

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## AISQC Dues

For those that didn't make it to Albuquerque, please know that your 2007 dues are due now. You can send a check for \$10 to Dave Cowin, 21054 W Hazelnut Ln, Plainfield, ILL 60544 to save him from mailing out reminders.

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## Little Known Musical Terms

**Appoggiatura:** A composition, solo or instrument, you regret playing.

**Approximatura:** A series of notes sung by a performer, not intended by the composer.

**Appimento:** A musical entrance that is somewhere in the vicinity of the correct pitch.

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## Website Updates

Leo Larivee does an excellent job of updating our website. To avoid having Leo get things from many sources, and to ensure that all things on our website have been reviewed by our Marketing VP, Ken Buckner, all changes, recommendations for addition or deletion, updates, etc, should be sent to Ken. He will coordinate with Leo which will simplify things.

## Minutes of Annual AISQC Meeting. Breakfast, Saturday Morning 1/27/07

Call to order with The Old Songs directed by Joe Liles.

President Darryl recognized Ed Watson and John Schneider for being so helpful to AISQC. Ed Watson mentioned the good show last night and had a few short comments which were well received. He looks forward to working with AISQC in the coming year.

Sergeant at Arm Henders informed us that a group of terrorists captured a bunch of lawyers outside the hotel and threatens to release one a day if their ransom demands are not met. He fined himself \$5 for the interruption.

Darryl recognized:

Dan Tangarone for continuing as the Gray Matters editor.

Joe Liles & Ken Buckner for the great show Friday night.

Jim Richards for all the time spent on AISQC bi-laws.

Barney Alleman for being our liaison with the Harmony Foundation.

Grif Griffith for being the sunshine chairman and updating us on our ill members.

Dave Ewing for being the Nominating Committee chairman.

Dave & Marilyn for putting together the great Champs reception and ladies breakfast.

Bob Squires for taking on the role of AISQC historian.

Ken Buckner for a bang-up job as Marketing VP. He noted that photos of all competing senior quartets will appear in the next issue of the Harmonizer.

Carl Taylor and Bruce Odell for their efforts in exploring our potential role in District youth in harmony programs.

Ed Wirtz for the great job of managing the flow of the Seniors Contest on Friday afternoon.

Joe Liles for being our great Director of Music.

Darryl mentioned our need for more funds and has appointed Rudy Zarling to investigate our potential for qualifying for a grant for some of our projects. Rudy will give us a report in Denver.

2007 Show chairman Ken Buckner needs to pass the baton for our show in San Antonio. Charlie Metzger and Bob Squires have accepted the co-chairs for our 2008 show.

Joe Liles then recognized Darryl Cremer for his great job of being AISQC president during 2006 and his continued efforts in 2007.

Dave Cowin presented the treasurers report to the membership. He mentioned that we ended 2006 with \$7438.59. Dave established a new account for our upcoming youth oriented programs. Annual monies from the Frank Lanza Endowment Fund will flow to this account, which will provide funds for youth focused scholarships to Harmony Explosion camps. The initial deposit to this account is \$394. The 2007 budget was approved as a balanced budget.

Jim Richards discussed the AISQC bi-laws. Article 4 deals with associate membership in AISQC. Sometimes an AISQC quartet needs to replace a member. There was considerable discussion with some dissention. Jim moved that AISQC adopt Article 4. Second by Bill Thurmon. After lengthy discussion the motion was passed with 26 in favor, 8 against.

Jim Richards called upon the dissenting votes to come up with an alternative wording. The issue can be revisited in the future. Carl Taylor suggested we give it a shot and see how it works.

Darryl discussed some of the highlights of the board meeting from 1/24.

AISQC desires to give financial support to youth harmony programs. We don't have much money now but we will find some funds to support scholarships to harmony explosion camps. Monies from the FLEF will be put into a special accrual account established by Dave Cowin. In addition, and as passed by the AISQC board, when an AISQC member passes away, \$100 will be placed into this account rather than going to the FLEF. This will provide funds for immediate use.

Barney Alleman explained what the Frank Lanza Endowment Fund is all about. Frank Lanza made the initial contribution to this fund and was one of the founding fathers of AISQC.

For those wishing to contribute to the Frank Lanza Accrual Account, send your checks to Dave Cowin.

Dave Ewing presented the Nominating Committee 2007 slate.

President Darryl Cremer

Dave Ewing Immediate Past President

Dan Tangarone Secretary

Dave Cowin Treasurer

Ken Buckner Vice President Public Relations

Joe Liles Director of Music

Jim Richards board member

Ed Wirtz Board member

Alan Durick and Bob Squires completed their 2 year terms as board members.

Charlie Metzger and Dick Whitehouse will begin 2-year terms as board members.

Dave Ewing moved to accept the slate, which passed unanimously.

Friendly Advice was welcomed and inducted as the new 2007 AISQC quartet champions. The usual degree of respect was provided throughout this period. A box was requested for tenor Dan due to a height challenge issue.

Darryl then recognized all the AISQC members that competed in the contest.

The meeting was concluded with Joe Liles directing The Irish Blessing. Respectfully submitted,  
Dan Tangarone, AISQC Secretary

**Richard Elliot Whitehouse** age 76, of Alexandria, Virginia, died June 13, 2007 at Mount Vernon Hospital, Alexandria, Virginia. He was born in Pleasantville, New York. He is survived by his beloved wife, Christine Whitehouse and his devoted children; Richard Whitehouse, Jr., his wife, Ellen and children, Jack, Stephanie, Jennifer, Christopher and Patrick; Robert Whitehouse, his wife, Mary and children Elizabeth and Bobby. A Memorial Service will be held at 3 p.m. on Saturday June 23, 2007 at St. James Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Road, Alexandria, VA. Expressions of sympathy may be sent to St. James Episcopal church, P.O. Box 109, Mt. Vernon, VA 22121-0109.



Dick Whitehouse

## Jurassic Larks Still in Flight

The Larks have had a Great Year!!! This spring, we did shows in Beatrice Nebraska (a return engagement), Milbank, So. Dakota (with snow, even) and McCook, Nebraska (sharing the stage with Vocal Spectrum). Our last spring show was in Overland Park, Ks., on May 19th, the chapter home of the CSD president Don Fuson. Don hosted a great backyard B-B-Q on Friday night, and they put on one whale of a show twice on Saturday.

In March, we headlined the evening show for a Youth In Harmony event in Humboldt, Iowa, hosted by the Fort Dodge Iowa Chapter. Jim Bagby (Rural Route Four, Kansas City director) was the clinician, assisted by Don Fuson.

We then focused on Denver, and drove out for the International Convention. Had a super time, just singing around whenever and wherever. Met up with a lot of old friends for some good conversation and some singing. One special highlight: Storm Front. RMD, (with some ex CSD members) took THIRD place medals. There was lots of good humorous entertainment from several of the top 10 competing quartets, which was great. (We still love MaxQ, even though they won). Hope we hear some of that in San Antonio.

After Denver, we did two performances in Charles City, Ia. for the Winnebago company on July 19th.. They were holding their annual rally, with over 1000 Motor Home campers from around the country. We finished off July with a big birthday bash/ family reunion at a private home, complete with great food and drink.

August was family and vacation month. Then in September we started out helping the Village at Legacy Point in Waukee, Iowa hold a grand opening from 9 to Noon on the 8th, cabaret style. On the 15th we sang for the Tech High School (Des Moines, Iowa) class of '55 to celebrate their anniversary.

We did a return engagement to Wamego, Kansas to do two shows with the Dutch Mill Sweet Adelines Chorus on Sept 22nd. They are a top notch Chorus, and a great group of Adelines.

We now are looking forward to the October CSD convention in K.C. where we expect Catalyst will qualify to represent CSD in San Antonio in January. Hopefully another CSD quartet or two will make the cut. The Larks will be singing with the Des Moines Chapter in the chorus contest (competing against the Ambassadors of Harmony ) and singing as a quartet, in full regalia, in the CSD All Champs show Friday night. We will be doing a show as a quartet with our chorus in Des Moines, Ia on Oct. 29th, and we have a show in Winner So. Dakota, November 17th. What the hey! Life just doesn't get much better than this.

Victor Neilsen, Tenor, Jurassic Larks



## Antique Gold....

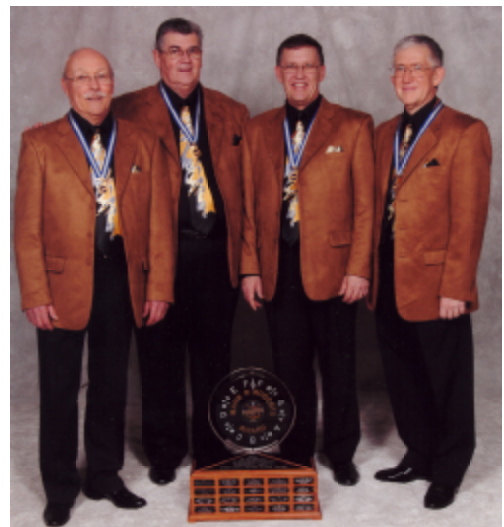
The 2006 International Seniors Quartet Champions, Antique Gold, appear in the movie "Good Luck Chuck" starring Jessica Alba. Their song is also on the soundtrack album.

Antique Gold hails from right here in lovely Vancouver, British Columbia. I have not seen this movie, but have heard it is not exactly appropriate for youngsters. (Therefore, they'll probably all race to see it.) In fact, the word is that the movie may not be everyone's cup of tea due to certain language and content. From what I have learned, those who enjoyed movies like "There's Something About Mary" and "American Pie" would enjoy this.

It's great that a quartet appears in a feature film! Apparently you can also see many beautiful vistas of Vancouver, because it was filmed here.

Some time ago, Realtime heard that this movie needed a quartet and we were recommended to the casting people. We had no idea what the movie was, but a chance to meet the lovely Jessica Alba is something many men would enjoy. However, it appears the casting director wanted a quartet of greater class, pedigree and distinction (i.e. OLDER! :) and Antique Gold "stole" our gig! :) It's a good thing they're our friends! (As well as father and uncle.)

But... there is a quartet in a movie! As they say, "All publicity is good publicity!" Cheers, John. Realtime.



## Nominating Committee

In consultation with Jim Richards, our "interpreter of the by-laws", we have established an ongoing nominating committee. In this way, the task doesn't fall to just one person and by structuring the committee with staggering terms for the members, we add one new member each year to the nominating committee.

As Dave Ewing has handled this task a number of times, I have asked him to serve as the Committee's first Chairman and the one year member on the committee. Bruce Odell has agreed to be the two year member and Ken Buckner has agreed to be the three year member. Each year the president will appoint a new three year member.

In addition to the two Directors who are serving the last year of their term, it will be necessary to identify a replacement for Dick Whitehouse. I believe Dick's remaining term is one year. Additionally, per our by-laws, I have served two terms as president and cannot serve further at this time.

Thanks again for your help and good luck. Darryl

## This is worth repeating!

At our recent convention in Albuquerque, Johnny Hammon, lead of our 1989 champs, Bayou City Music Committee, present me with a CD of the quartet in performance for the AISQC historical archives.

That got me to thinking and by means of this article I'd like to ask all of our champs if you would be willing to donate a CD, DVD or cassette of your champion quartet performing. It could be from a contest, a show on which you were featured or simply a rehearsal performance.

It would be great to have some kind of a historical musical record of all of our champions through the years. I have also asked Marilyn Turner and Dan Tangarone to send me copies photographs of past events to be included in our archives. I would also ask each of you if you have any quartet photographs that you would like to donate to our archives? Candid shots, show performances or pictures taken at our past conventions. All such photos would be treasured and kept in our archives.

If you have the time, look through your scrap books and memorabilia and send on anything that you feel would be worthy of inclusion in our AISQC archives. Perhaps a display could be organized and be shown to the public at future conventions.

I would be most grateful for your efforts and anything that you would like to donate for our archives. If it's something you would not want to part with, I would be happy to make a copy and return it to you. Please send your donations to:

Bob Squires, 2709 Canyon Drive, Plainfield, IL 60586



**Jim Casey**

## Jim Casey Memorial Service -- A little more detail

The celebration was attended by 600-700 people, perhaps more. About equally represented were the choral directors and the barbershoppers.

The service opened with the playing of "Jesus Loves Me" as recorded by Jim and orchestrated by my son, Clark.

Phil McShan (member of the VM, former director of the Texas Millionaires) lead the service.

After Phil's welcome the congregation sang "All Creatures Of Our God And King."

Phil delivered a Life Message next.

I was honored to speak about Jim's barbershop "career", how he got started, keeping him in the Society how he evolved into one of the premier coaches in the barbershop world - both men and women, and his legacy in our hobby: I said that every time I hear our current top choruses and quartets sing I hear the influence of his teaching. Not only did he 'imagine' how we could sound, he used his incredible teaching gifts to make it happen; and therefore he would always be with us.

The best line of the day was spoken by Brad White. Brad directed the Texas Choral Directors Chorus in singing "Kyrie" from Mass in G by Schubert, and "Deep River". He then reminisced about having Jim as his high school choir director. His opening remark was "I am looking at a room filled with two kinds of people. Those that sing with and those that sing without vibrato."

A quartet with members from MaxQ, Making Waves, and Acoustix sang "I'll Walk With God." All goosebumps from yours truly.

Phil then read a message entitled "From Glenda" where she told about her love for and life with Jim.

The VM sang "You Raise Me Up" and "God Be With You," and represented us all in their usual wonderful fashion.

Cindy Hansen Ellis shared coaching experiences with us that she and Jim had experienced. Some of them were associated with coaching FRED, who were represented at the service by Clay Hine.

Cindy was followed by Rudy Gatlin who talked about Jim as his choir director and friend. Rudy mentioned about how every time he and Jim would get together they would sing "Sweet Hour Of Prayer." He played that track and sang his part live.

We then listened to the "Precious Lord" as recorded by Jim, again orchestrated by my son...An incredibly emotional moment.

Then the service ended with the congregation singing "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God." And this was a congregation that could REALLY sing!!! I was seated in the front pew since I had to speak and many times just stopped singing and listened to the sound pour over me in waves. WOW!!! Would that all congregations could sing like that.

Two other choir directors also spoke during the service.

Phil McShan also lead the brief service at the gravesite.

It was a lengthy service, but it did not seem long, and that is the important thing.

Jim got a musical and upbeat celebration of his life, but with enough emotional moments to show the incredible respect that all had for him.

Kudos to Cindy and Brad for designing such a beautiful and moving service, and to Phil McShan for doing a superb job in leading it. Lloyd Erickson