

Gray Matters

Official Publication Of The Association Of International Seniors Quartet Champions

December 2002

The President's View

Pete Tyree

The mid-winter convention is not far off and the plans for our part of this convention are starting to fall into place. Reed seems to have the show going along. I am sure that you have all received your music and learning tapes and should be working diligently to commit them to memory (are made of this)? I couldn't resist that one.

The final minutes of the Riverside meeting are in my hands and will be delivered to each of you along with the agenda of the membership meeting and the other supporting documents. Dan, as the secretary, has made the keeping of minutes an exercise in literary science and I think that you will find them fun to read.

We have a report from the endowment fund by Frank Lanza et al to ponder and the "Rings and Things Committee" has reported in and the rings are going out as this is written, I understand. I still need a couple of reports to put before the board and the membership; the Member of Merit (Honorary or whatever) and the Permanent Associate Membership Categories that are both by-law changes. I note from the minutes that we have already created a few Permanent Associates that we may want to confirm or revisit?

Rudy sent in a budget of sorts that we may have to review and put together for the membership? Also, in order to conform to the by-laws, we need to have an audit of the books. Anyone who would like to take this on just let me know.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Albuquerque. We should have an interesting and busy meeting? Keep the old guys singing, (even if they are out of tune). Pete



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Memories Are Made Of This

Staring



Rendezvous
Mixed Quartet



Chicago Shuffle • Harmony • OverTime
Jurassic larks • Fatherly Advice
AISQC Chorus Directed by Joe Liles
Friday, January 24, 2003 2 PM



Chicago Shuffle



Harmony



OverTime



Jurassic Larks



Fatherly Advice



Jurassic Larks in Flight

The Larks are having another fun year. Spring shows with Riverside, Valentines, Sun City AZ, Oshkosh, Milwaukee, KENOSHA, Bella Vista, Monroe, WI, Des Moines and the CSD Prelims. Wow! They are BUSY!

This summer they performed at high school reunions, wedding receptions, retirement parties and even at a Senior Center, where they seemed to blend in with the crowd. A highlight was helping Van Harden, a local radio personality, celebrate his 50th birthday live, on-the-air.

They lumbered out to the Portland International, and enjoyed singing informally in all the general areas, including Tony Roma's restaurant every evening. Even sang a few songs with members of Toronto Northern Lights.

Harmony College beckoned in late July. Had a great quartet experience with four of the best coaches ever -- Darryl Flinn, Gene Cokerof, Lou Benedict and Bobby Gray Jr.

They look forward to lots of singing this fall with shows at County Farm Bureau, Balsam Lake WI, Spirit Lake Sweet Adelines and the CSD District in Wichita. Check them out at <http://www.jurassiclarks.com>.



Merrill Miller Home After Colon Surgery

J.Richards

Some cancer cells were discovered in one of twenty lymph nodes so he will likely be undergoing follow-on treatment. Merrill's surgery took place on the same day that his wife, Pearl, was to have undergone ovarian cancer surgery which was postponed. After that she is to get a new knee. Their winter in Tucson may be delayed. Thoughts and prayers are welcome.

Grif To Video Tape

The quartet contest and provide a complimentary video to all quartets and choruses who appear on the Friday and Saturday night shows. He will also tape our Show of Champions on Friday afternoon and make tapes available to members who order and pay for them at the AISQC breakfast Friday morning. Videos are \$15.00. What little profit is derived from these show videos help defray the costs to provide free tapes to the Junior Medalist Quartets.

Ken Pacetti, bass of Bayou City Music Committee, 1989 International Seniors Quartet Champions, passed away on October 22, 2002. He had been fighting cancer for a few years. Ken joined the Houston Chapter in 1955 and was a very active barbershopper holding every office and singing in numerous quartets. Ken also competed with senior quartets, Starlight Knights and Grumpy Old Men. Services were held at Woodlawn Funeral Home in Houston on 10/28/02.

Foley Does It Again!

A total of seven entries at the Illinois District seniors quartet contest vied for the right to compete at the mid-winter in Albuquerque. Gym Class -- (or is it Jim's Class) -- a quartet made up of lead Dick Bek (Fatherly Advice), tenor Rick Anthoney, bass Doug Smith (Sundowners) and three time senior gold medalist Jim Foley (Four Renegades) came out on top. Way to go guys. Mucho luck in the sunny Southwest.

Albuquerque Mixer

There will be an informal get together of all AISQC members on Wednesday evening, January 22, 2003 in the Hyatt Regency. The actual location will be posted in the lobby but be sure to check out the bar. If you are planning on arriving on Wednesday, 'cmon to the party.

RULES, RULES, RULES -- Quartet Qualification -- Effective 1/25/02

Each district will select its International Senior Quartet Contest representative at its Fall District Quartet Contest. The highest-ranking declared Senior Quartet from that district in the semifinal round, whether or not the quartet is also entered in the District contest, shall be declared that district's representative. All other senior quartet scores from the semifinal round will be included in the scoring pool. This will be the only means of entry for Society senior quartets to the International Seniors Quartet Contest. Districts are free to stage other senior quartet contests for local awards.

If a Senior Quartet is unable to compete in its own District Fall Contest, it may, with the permission of the District President and District Vice President of Contest and Judging of its own district, and of the District President and District Vice President of Contest and Judging of another district, compete in that district's Fall District Contest for inclusion in the scoring pool.

AISQC Website: The question was asked if we have a web site. We sure do! For those with internet access it is....www.SeniorsGold.com Log on -- you'll be pleased.

The Last Word

A couple drove several miles down a country road, not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument, and neither wanted to concede their position. As they passed a barnyard of mules and pigs, the husband sarcastically asked, "Relatives of yours?" "Yep," the wife replied, "in-laws."

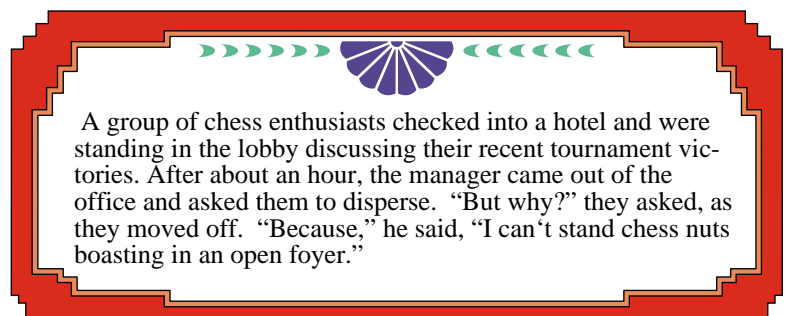
Where Are The Photos? On a recent trip to Headquarters several months ago, the Larks noticed that none of the AISQC champions photos were anywhere to be seen. Since then, we have learned that the Seniors Champions Photos will adorn the corridors of Harmony Hall at least until the grand old mansion is sold to some lucky billionaire. I'm sure they will be re-hung in the new digs wherever they may be.

Thanks Griff. Bless your heart. I knew you would come through! Yes indeed we need to have that reception though the planning for it always seems to be waylaid by the contest running overtime? It has been coming in at around \$450 for the whole thing from past reports and I would assume (without a budget) that that would be a target again this year? If you would do that I would be forever grateful.

Also, the KIVA Theater is non-union I am told and we can provide our own ticket and program people saving a whole bunch of money. Maybe even making a good net on this show, too?

We have set up four standing committees in our AISQC guidelines that have never been filled to my knowledge? One of these is a committee to take care of the things at the next convention I think. If the group wants such a thing I think it would behoove us to take care of some of these things officially, ahead of time and remove some of the brain damage that seems to occur each year? We will get organized, I think; thanks to people like you. A very grateful Pete Tyree

A woman has twins, and gives them up for adoption. One of them goes to a family in Egypt and is named "Amal." The other goes to a family in Spain; they name him "Juan." Years later, Juan sends a picture of himself to his birth mother. Upon receiving the picture, she tells her husband that she wishes she also had a picture of Amal. Her husband responds, "They're twins! If you've seen Juan, you've seen Amal." 8-)



A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse. "But why?" they asked, as they moved off. "Because," he said, "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."

The longest one-syllable word in the English language is "screched."

Dream" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt".

"Stewardesses" is the longest word that is typed with only the left hand.

News From Hawaii..........Milt Christensen

We had our show on May 3rd and 4th. Gotcha' headlined and did a fine job. I got to sing a couple of songs with them and it felt so good to sing in a QUARTET again. It was kind of a reunion for their bass and myself. Jim Kline sang with me in the 'Crown City Good Time Music Co. twenty eight years ago on the Hawaii show in the same theater where our show was held. Now there's some trivia for you. We both marveled at what a great hobby this is. You never know when or where you'll meet again with Barbershoppers who have a cherished place in you life. Keep smiling.

Milt recently said he was moving back to SLC in January and didn't think he would be able to make it to Mid-Winter. Lets all encourage him to change his mind.



Dick Bek has done a great job making the AISQC ring project a reality. The ring is very nice and will make a lasting memento of the Seniors Championship. If you haven't ordered yours yet, get with it! You might even have time to receive it prior to Albuquerque.



The silver and bronze medals were distributed to The Barrons and Sound Revival in May 2002. As you may recall there was a problem with not having the right medals to distribute at Riverside. The situation has now been remedied. Albuquerque should see proper medals handed out to the top three quartets.

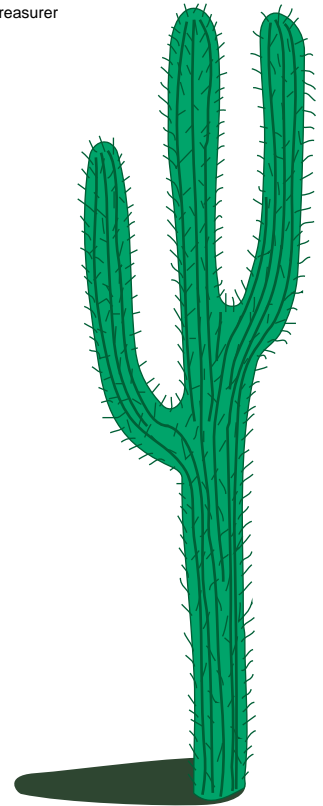
SUCCESS.-- The Bell Shaped Curve

- Age 4 success is..not peeing in your pants.
- Age 12 success is..having friends.
- Age 16 success is..having a driver's license.
- Age 20 success is..having sex.
- Age 35 success is..having money.
- Age 50 success is..having money
- Age 60 success is..having sex.
- Age 70 success is..having a driver's license.
- Age 75 success is..having friends.
- Age 80 success is..not peeing in your pants.

AISQC FINANCIAL REPORT 2002
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

Rudy Zarling, Treasurer

Transfer of Assets To Bank of America	3,679.80
RECEIPTS	
Dues (2001-2002)	635.00
Burt Staffen Memorials	15.00
Share of Riverside Show	2,443.20
Breakfast	530.00
Badges V. Neilsen – Replacement	15.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	3638.20
DISBURSEMENTS	
Riverside Breakfast Expense	600.12
Riverside President's Reception	458.50
AISQC 2002 Show Expense	339.78
AISQC 2003 Show Expense	
Learning Tapes & Music	753.05
Big Screen Ad	185.00
Re-Make Learning Tape	144.33
Cost of Checks	19.25
Engraving & Plaques	122.32
Ring Mold Charge	400.00
Postage	86.21
Gray Matters	65.34
Harmony Foundation – Burt Staffen	15.00
Shirts	303.21
Badges	75.45
AISQC Website	159.60
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	3,727.16
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL CONDITION	
TOTAL EQUITY – DECEMBER 31, 2002	3,590.84



Medals? What Medals? Should the DVPC&J recommend a standard policy in reference to medals for the International Seniors Quartet Contest?" The item was brought to the table by the DVP from the Ontario district. His comments indicated that awards for all Society sponsored contests result in the presentation of medals for the champions and the top four medalists except the Seniors contest. The Senior competition only awards championship medals and medals for second and third place.

Society by-laws state that the awards for all Society sponsored contests are provided through the Society. Since the AISQC has no control over this process, the DVPC&J has asked Dick Bek, as a member of the AISQC, to seek both an opinion and support for a recommendation to the Society C&J committee as to the possibility of expanding the Senior Awards to include champion medals and medals for those quartets placing second through fifth at our future Society Senior Quartet competition.

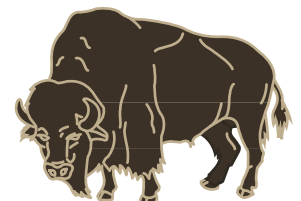
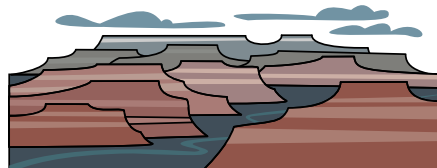
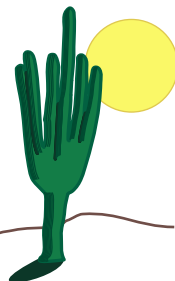
Please send your comments to both Dick Bek and Pete Tyree. We will discuss at Albuquerque.

Tri-County Reclamation Project came out of retirement recently to sing a couple of gigs. After a one year absence the quartet sang for the kindergarten, first and second grade students at the Walsh school in Lockport, IL. This is the school that Bob Squires taught at before retiring in 2000. Dave, Doug, Jim and Bob spent all day entertaining the students with "familiar songs" like Rubber Ducky and Mickey Mouse, as well as providing information about the history and style of Barbershop singing. What a fun day that was! A few days later we drove up to the Arlington Heights rehearsal to sing for their members as well as a special friend of ours, Bob LeClair. Bob is in failing health and was brought to the meeting by his brother and his son. Jim graciously stepped aside to allow Bob to sing one with us. On the return trip we stopped in at the West Towns chorus rehearsal and sang a few at the closing of their meeting. Recently, the quartet, their wives and significant other put to good use what was left in the "kitty" and treated themselves and the gals to an evening of dining at an elegant restaurant in Naperville. We even serenaded some of the patrons celebrating anniversaries.

To update everyone, Jim is back both physically and vocally. He's getting around very well after recovering from his bad fall in January 2002 that caused him to miss Riverside. Jim has now put together a new seniors quartet, Gym Class, with lead, Dick Bek and new senior citizens Rick Anthony (tenor) and former Sundowner bass, Doug Smith. My guess is they will be a factor in Albuquerque.

Not to be left out of the action, Doug Watson and Bob are actively trying to find a tenor and, along with baritone, Joe Sullivan, will give the fall qualification season a try. Tenor Dave Cowin, although still active in the Great American Chorus, has backed away from quartetting for a while as he and his wife Wanda look for retirement living in the western Chicago suburbs.

On behalf of Dave, Doug, Jim and Bob, the Tri-County Reclamation Project sends their very best regards to all the AISQC brothers.



Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused novocain during a root canal? He wanted to transcend dental medication.



Ken Pacetti, third from left, competing with Grumpy Old Men at Riverside, California in January 2002. We'll miss you Ken.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS -- ALBUQUERQUE

Thursday	10 am	AISQC Board Meeting	Sendero III, Hyatt Hotel
	2 pm	AISQC Rehearsal	Sendero III, Hyatt Hotel
Friday	8 am	AISQC Breakfast	Sendero III, Hyatt Hotel
	8 am	Ladies Breakfast	Location TBA
	10 am	AISQC Mtg & Rehearsal	Sendero III
	2 pm	AISQC Show	KIVA Theater
Saturday	8 pm	Show	KIVA Theater
	1 pm	Contest	KIVA Theater
	~4 pm	New Champs Reception	Hyatt Hotel, TBA
	8 pm	Show	KIVA Theater

Griff would like us to know that he will be videotaping our show again this year. You will be able to sign up and pay for a video at the breakfast on Friday morning. Video and sound will be excellent. Cost is a nominal \$15.

The microwave was invented after a researcher walked by a radar tube and a chocolate bar melted in his pocket.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

