



The Voice of Rushmore

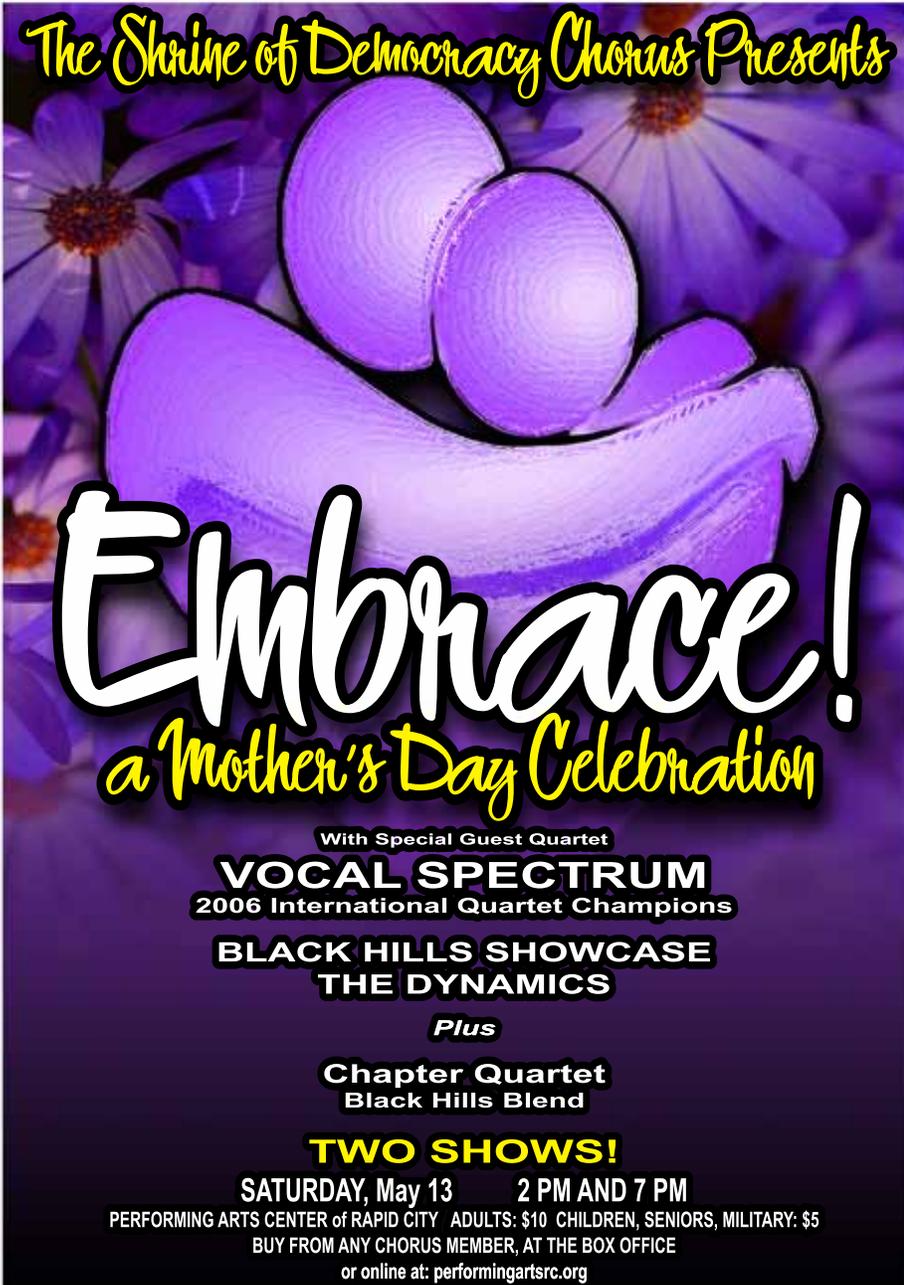
Mt. Rushmore Chapter

Volume 19

May 2017

Number 5

The Shrine of Democracy Chorus Presents



Embrace!

a Mother's Day Celebration

With Special Guest Quartet

VOCAL SPECTRUM
2006 International Quartet Champions

BLACK HILLS SHOWCASE
THE DYNAMICS

Plus

Chapter Quartet
Black Hills Blend

TWO SHOWS!

SATURDAY, May 13 2 PM AND 7 PM

PERFORMING ARTS CENTER of RAPID CITY ADULTS: \$10 CHILDREN, SENIORS, MILITARY: \$5

BUY FROM ANY CHORUS MEMBER, AT THE BOX OFFICE

or online at: performingartsrc.org

Calendar of Events

Chapter Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 2, 7 p.m.
Commons Area at PAC Center

Tech & Dress Rehearsal
May 12, 2017
Performing Arts Center

Annual Spring Show
"Embrace"
May 13, 2017
Performing Arts Center
Guest Quartet, *Vocal Spectrum*

Chapter Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 6, 7 p.m.
Commons Area at PAC Center

Hart Ranch Performance
June 9, 2017
Hart Ranch

BHS International Convention
July 2-9, 2017
Las Vegas, Nev.

Harmony Happening in the Hills
August 25-26, 2017
Hill City Boys & Girls Club,
Hill City High School,
& Mt. Rushmore

RMD Fall Convention
October 6-8, 2017
Zermatt Resort
Midway, Utah



President:
Al Kelts

VP Member Development:
Dan Horsley

VP Music & Performance:
Jim Price

Secretary:
David L'Esperance

Treasurer:
Ron Evenson

Immediate Past President:
Steve Ferley

Members at Large:
Jessica Kading – Marketing & PR
Rod Pfeifle
Wayne Anderson
Lynn DesLauriers
Bill Grant

Appointments

Music Director:
Clayton Southwick

Assistant Directors:
Jim Price
John Elving

Chorus Manager:
Jim Olson

Chorus Contact:
Pete Anderson

Music Librarian:
Open

2017 Show Chair:
Pete Stach

Harmony Happening Co-Chairs:
Pete Stach
Rod Pfeifle

Bulletin Editor-in-Cheap:
John Elving

Webmaster:
Ken Weybright

The Voice of Rushmore is published monthly and is the official publication of the Mt. Rushmore Chapter of the Rocky Mountain District (RMD) of the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS).
The Mt. Rushmore Chapter is the home of the *Shrine of Democracy Chorus*. The chapter and chorus meet each Thursday evening at 7 p.m. in the choir room at the Rapid City Performing Arts Center.
For more information visit our website, www.shrineofdemocracychorus.org.
Correspondence about content and contributions for publication should be sent to the editor. All material, except copyrighted material, in *The Voice of Rushmore* may be reproduced without permission; please credit the author and *The Voice of Rushmore* in all reprints. Thanks.
John Elving
leaderman@midco.net
605.381.9680

Print off two copies of this newsletter to share—one with your family and one with someone you are bringing to a chapter meeting. Let them know they belong here!



Visit us online at:
www.shrineofdemocracychorus.org

CHAPTER QUARTETS!

Black Hills Blend
Al Kelts, tenor
Alan Schulte, lead
Wayne Anderson, baritone
Pete Anderson, bass

High Mileage
David L'Esperance, tenor
Jim Olson, lead
Open baritone spot for rent
Del Beck, bass

The Mt. Rushmore Chapter and the *Shrine of Democracy Chorus* meet every Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. Meetings and rehearsals are held in the Performing Arts Center Choir Room (through the South St. entrance) in Rapid City. All guests are welcome. All men are welcome to come sing with us. For more information, call (605) 209-3701.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Steve Ferley	May 13
John Elving	May 18
Pieter Wouden	May 19

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE ADULT CHOIR MEMBER WHO DOESN'T HAVE TIME TO PRACTICE

by *Tori Cook (Harborlight Show Chorus) from chorusconnection.com*

I've heard that you don't have time to practice your music outside of rehearsal. Look, I get it. You have a life outside of chorus (and if you don't—we should discuss immediately!). Perhaps you're working a 40+ hour a week job, you have a family to take care of, a partner that you need to spend time with, other hobbies (even other choruses!) that are equally as important to you, you're dealing with the daily struggles of life (AKA #adulting) and you're just tired. Trust me, SOML! [Ed: SOML = Story of My Life]

And you think, hey—I'm not getting paid for this! You signed up for the chorus because you love it. You love the feeling that you get when a chord locks perfectly and shivers crawl up and down your spine. You enjoy the camaraderie of your fellow choir mates. You are inspired by your director and the other leaders in the chorus every day. And you love performing and making a musical impact on your community. But here's the thing: when you signed up for this chorus, it became more than you. You became part of an ensemble, a group, a second family. And as an individual member of this ensemble, you made a commitment to hold up your end of the bargain. And yes, this bargain includes practice outside of rehearsal. I'm not asking for you to spend hours practicing every week (unless you want to!). But I am asking that you put in some time, any time, and every week.

Raise your hand if you've ever gone multiple weeks without practicing (sheepishly raises hand while typing). That's what I thought. Can we all agree that this is not the kind of commitment we want to give to our choir? We are doing ourselves a disservice and we all deserve more than that! Even if it's only putting in five minutes a week working on your toughest measure, any time is better than no time at all.

So, here is my request: take out your calendar and choose a date and time for a weekly practice session. You don't need to put an end time, only a start time. That way, you can rehearse for as long as you feel like. But the trick is to actually get a practice session on your schedule, start the session every week, and hold yourself accountable.

The joys of singing don't come without some work.

And we all have to work! You can't have a chord lock perfectly if someone doesn't know their pitch. You can't have the camaraderie of choir if your fellow choir mates are feeling let down. You can't have leaders who inspire you if they aren't themselves inspired by the music. And you can't have an impact on your community if you're not putting in the time to accurately develop and deliver the message.

My point: make some time, any time. And then let's make some beautiful music together!

Sincerely,

Your passionate choir director
and fellow choir members



Thoughts on Chorus Singing

From the Internet
as seen in the **PROBE**motor
Steve Jackson, Editor

Singing in a choir isn't about having fun. It's about hard work, high expectations, and pride in accomplishment through teamwork. That said, there's no more fun than hard work. Choir is fun because it is hard work. To make "fun" the goal is backwards; just as in life, seeking happiness is fruitless. In seeking meaning, we find true happiness. Choir works the same way.



Presidential Prattling



Al Kelts
2017 President

I have discussed “the story” of almost every bass in the SOD Chorus....except one—Denny Dodge. So... What is the story of this tall, quiet, almost shy guy?

Denny’s “story” begins as several of our stories in 1942 when, as Denny indicates, “*There were penny postcards... Remember those days?*” Denny’s mom worked at the Crescent Creamery in Sioux Falls, initially, and then was a housewife after Denny was born, continuing through the birth of his sister eight years later. Her death in 1954 was a “*shocker and affected my whole life!*”

His sister went to college in Missouri, transferred to Austin where she graduated, was married, became a homemaker, and now is a caretaker for older people. Denny’s dad worked for Standard Oil, the Sioux Falls Morrell meatpacking company, and finally the Sioux Falls Fireworks Company. Sadly, Denny became an orphan at age 25 when his dad was killed in a fireworks accident.

Denny went to Washington High School where he was a trumpet player in the band and his mother thought that he would be another “Harry James.” After graduation he worked in a grocery store and then became a “pork cutter” at Morrells and married his first wife in 1961 at age 18. They were only married for six months. Two years later in 1963, he married his second wife, Deanna. Subsequently, his son, Jeff, was born in 1965 and his daughter, Julie, in 1969. Since his wife “belonged to two or three bridge clubs, I decided that I should do something more than working at Morrells,” so he enrolled in a stenography course at a Sioux Falls tech school.

In 1975, Denny moved his family to Rapid City where he became a stenographer in the Seventh Circuit State Court and his wife worked for American Greeting Card Company. Denny’s son became a “*real trumpet player*” at Stevens High School, even being presented the John Philip Sousa Award for excellence in music by Milo Winter. He now runs a very successful restaurant in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Although many of us have been waited on by his



lovely daughter, Julie, at the Millstone Restaurant, I did not realize that Julie earned a 4.2 scholastic average (0.2 for tutoring) in three semesters at the South Dakota School of Mines, as well as singing in the choir and playing clarinet in the band. However, love intervened and she moved to Syracuse, NY, in 1991 with her boyfriend, not returning until 1997. Upon her return to Rapid City, Julie chose not to attend the

School of Mines, was married in 1999, and produced Denny’s two grandkids. In addition to her waitress job, Julie is well known in the Rapid City Area as one of the excellent vocalists in the Dakota Choral Union and the School of Mines Community Chorus. Denny’s second marriage ended in divorce in 1983.

Denny and his third wife, Sharon, had known each other for several years before she obtained a divorce in 1999. After dating from 2002 through 2006, they were married. Sharon has a son in Denver who is Regional Sales

Director at Supplyworks (Northern Colorado Paper Company) and has produced two step-grandkids for Denny. Sharon carried on her mother’s tradition as a music teacher and now directs the choir at the Canyon Lake Senior Center and is substitute director of the Gospel Choir at the First Methodist Church; Denny sings in both choirs.

So the question remains, how did Denny get into barbershopping? Denny says that he met Al Pitts through Al’s son-in-law, Jack, and was urged by both of them to join the SOD Chorus. In May 2006, Denny retired and in 2007 started singing with the chorus, although admitting that he had no real singing experience.

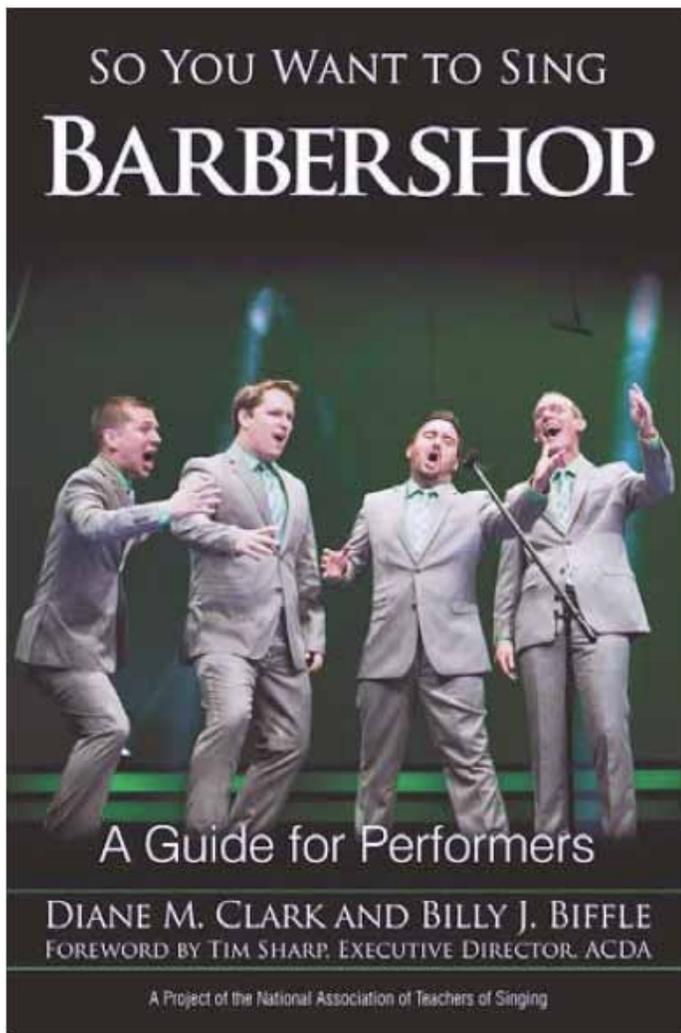
In regard to the SOD Chorus, Denny says:

- “*I love to perform—when we know all the songs.*”
- “*I’m not about to tell anyone what to do.*”

In regard to retirement and age, Denny says:

- “*It’s nice not having to go to work every day!*”
- “*I golf every day in the summer—I’m never any better, but I do like it.*”
- “*You miss out on a lot of life when you can’t hear. Unfortunately, when you turn up the volume on a hearing aid, the background noise is almost unbearable!*”

Al



Many of you who have been around the Rocky Mountain District know who Bill Biffle is. He is a veteran Albuquerque barbershopper, an avid quartet singer, as well as a past president of the RMD and the BHS. He is now making his presence known as an author. He has co-written **“So You Want To Sing Barbershop”** with Diane Clark.



We Get E-mail,

John,
CeCe and Bob O'Connor arrive in Rapid City for the summer on June 1. See you all at rehearsal soon. Hello to all in the chorus.

In harmony,
Bob O

Golden Nuggets

From the Midwinter Keynote Address
Presented by **Deke Sharon**

If you haven't listened/watched the YouTube presentation from the most recent Midwinter Convention given by Deke Sharon, here are a couple of nuggets that came out of it. They are all very applicable to not only every Barbershop chorus, but every chorus of any kind.



- *If your music doesn't take your audience to an emotional place, if it doesn't touch their life, if it doesn't reach their soul, it doesn't do anything.*
- *Spend 25% of your time on technique and 75% on changing the world through your music. If you listen to any Motown groups, you will notice that they totally connect with the audience and we get drawn in even though they are generally out of tune by our standards.*
- *Barbershop is no longer the best kept secret. If you don't like what people are saying about Barbershop, go do something about it.*
- *Here is how to draw people into what we are doing and make it compelling:*
 1. *Present our music that gets to the heart of why people love music—songs that mean something to them. Electrify the audience in a way that THEY understand.*
 2. *Don't speak about Barbershop in language that people don't understand.*
 3. *Be you. People can tell when you're faking.*
 4. *Create genuine musical moments.*

Again, if you haven't seen this keynote address given in San Antonio, then take time to view it now. It can be found at <https://youtu.be/UufvNhiwwDg>. There's a lot packed in there.



THE JOY OF QUARTETTING



Al Kelts
2017 President

The focus of this "Joy" will be on quarteting events at **Rocky Mountain Harmony College** at Estes Park YMCA Camp April 20-23.

The first events began on Friday afternoon, when 11 intrepid Barbershoppers assembled in the main conference room of the Emerald Mountain Lodge with our leader Vern Docter in order to form "pick up quartets" and sing four different songs. Each of us had gone online to get the sheet music and learning tracks for: *"It's a Brand New Day," "Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans," "Lost in the Stars" and "Java Jive."* Interestingly, "pick up quartets" are more difficult to construct when it is necessary to share two basses and two leads between four quartets! Furthermore, the use of a lottery to determine which songs the quartet sings further increases a participants' anxieties (since we each do a couple of songs better than the other two)!

During the afternoon we had three "reshufflings" and three winning quartets. Surprisingly, the third contest was won by **Simple Pleasures**, including yours truly and John Elving, resulting in a Bat Man medallion around our necks and the honor(?) of opening the evening show with *"It's a Brand New Day!"*



The next quartet events involved **Black Hills Blend** in coaching sessions beginning with **Royce Ferguson** (Chula Vista, CA), who sang tenor with the quartet **Revival**, the 1998 International Quartet Champions, as well as being the director of the **Westminster Chorus** when they received their first International Chorus Gold Metal in 2007. Because of my involvement in the Harmony Platoon on Friday evening, I joined BHB and Royce late. As I walked into the room, I realized that Royce's suggestions had made a big difference in BHB's sound already! During a second session with Royce on Saturday, we learned even more, such as showing our upper front teeth, lifting our upper lips, thus internally lifting the structures in our mouths, in order to produce a better sound.

We then received coaching from **Tony Sparks** (Albuquerque, N.M.), who has sung in barbershop quartets since junior high school, sang for 20 years in the internationally ranked medalist quartet, **Bank Street**, and is director of the youth chorus, **The 505**. Tony focused on polishing our sound, improving the clarity of our words, and even complemented Alan on the quality of his voice!

BHB also attended the RMHC Class, **"Quartet Round**

Table." Participants included our two coaches, other coaches, and the winning quartet from the fall RMD Contest, **The Pine**. Several questions were asked and several comments given:

- **"How do you pick the right songs for the quartet?"** Answers were varied but all seem to agree that the song had to fit the vocal range of the quartet comfortably. However, each quartet should have a couple of songs that "really push" the quartet.
- **"How do you deal with that one guy?"** Answers ranged from "talk to the guy" to "it takes time and patience" to "replace him" and to "in the life of a quartet that guy changes to different guys." Royce shared that a coach described Revival as "four guys who were such great fixers that it was like trying to kill an elephant by plugging all its pores!" (I think I get it?)
- **"How important is new music?"** They all agreed that it is easier to fix new songs than to fix old songs because of habit, but a quartet needs to keep old songs that the audiences like.
- **"How do you balance work and singing?"** "No one has time for barbershop, you have to make time." Time and rest are important. "We, as barbershoppers, are standing on the shoulders of giants, giving us thrilling goals..."
- **"How should we use technology?"** Every member of the roundtable agreed that communication by technology is important in this day and age. Uploading music to Facebook can help a quartet hear their music and also give other people a chance to "see you having fun." Some quartets communicate by drop boxes only for quartet members or uploading to private part of Facebook. Skype can be used but there are difficulties due to latency issues.
- **"What encouragement would you give to quartet folk?":**
 - Our voices are part of us, so "allow yourself to find the space to be successful."(?)
 - Self-growth is important.
 - It all works out in the end. Therefore, if it's not working out, then it's not the end!

Since we had coaching during the day, we were asked to sing in the Saturday evening show. Interestingly, when confronted with singing on a show, we realized that Alan had never performed

in a quartet on stage. We gave him a quick tutorial on walking onto the stage, spreading out and looking happy. We then sang



two songs, *"Ain't Misbehavin'"* and *"Love Letters."* Although, I believe, we did fairly well in those songs, we failed to realize that the mic position was less than perfect for our new lead, Alan.



Continued on Page 9

THE JOY OF QUARTETTING *continued from page 8*

Highlights from Estes Park in Pictures

(photos by Al Kelts)



Friday morning through my window screen



Much later in the evening, we sang "It's a Brand New Day" and "Feelin' Fine" at the Afterglow.

Friday morning outdoors



The Headliners of the Saturday Show were **The Pine**. (Photo 5). They certainly have a very nice sound and do an excellent job! It is still amazing to me that guys 25 years old and younger are the RMD winning quartet!



Al



RMD Board



Jim Clark giving me the check from Harmony Foundation Donor's Choice back to the Mt. Rushmore Chapter.



Antonio Lombardi, BHS representative reporting on materials available to local chapters.



The YMCA Camp view of the Rocky Mountains on Sunday Morning.



A young boy elk saying goodbye.

BOARD SCRIBBLINGS



DAVID L'ESPERANCE
Chapter Secretary



CALL TO ORDER:

The regular monthly meeting for April 2017 of the Board of Directors of the Mount Rushmore Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society was called to order by President K. Alan Kelts at 6:04 p.m. on April 4, 2017 in the Helen Hoyt room of the Rapid City Public Library. The secretary certified the presence of a quorum, with **Show Chair Pete Stach** also in attendance. The proposed agenda was approved as modified.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the March 2017 meeting were approved as presented.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

President Kelts thanked Pete Stach for presenting the committees listing for the upcoming Show. He also announced that because of fee changes at the Rapid City library, future meetings of the Board will be held at the PAC in either a multi-purpose room or in the commons area.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Because the meeting was so early in the month, **Treasurer ron Evenson** has not received the bank statements and thusly had no report, other than to note that Singing Valentines were slightly in the red, once all of the bills are in.

VP and COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Music and Performance VP Jim Price says the Music Committee is pleased with the progress on the **EMBRACE** songs and feels the Tuesday extra sessions are paying good dividends.

Chapter Development and Membership VP Dan Horsley had seen a flier from Sound of the Rockies Guest Invitation and says some very good ideas are offered. **Member-at-Large Bill Grant** attended a Guest Night of the Sarasota, FL Chapter and brought back some additional insight to share with Dan and

the chapter.

Marketing and Public Relations VP has an aggressive plan to market **EMBRACE**, with a strong emphasis on Facebook and other social media, and fully utilizing the PAC website. She has researched costs for LAMAR Advertising electronic billboards, and at the suggestion of board members will also check into EPIC Signs. She and Bill Grant have been attending chamber mixers and networking, and Steve Ferley noted the May mixer is at Fort Hayes. He thinks it might be a great opportunity to highlight **EMBRACE**.

EMBRACE Chair Pete Stach is really pleased with the way committee activities are taking charge. The many details are being worked and he feels we'll have a wonderful show. Bill Grant had suggested we offer complimentary tickets to those who purchased Singing Valentines, and **SV Chair Steve Ferley** was given authority to extend those invitations.

OLD BUSINESS:

Rocky Mountain Harmony College is in Estes Park CO April 20-23. **Black Hills Blend** will receive coaching and attend any classes as time allows. Wayne Anderson requested the Chapter follow its tradition of assisting members who are attending i.e. funding for registration, ½ of lodging expense and fuel for driver. Steve Ferley seconded, and motion passed with one negative vote.

The secretary noted the chapter is current with all necessary reporting to RMD and BHS. He will request **EMBRACE** insurance coverage the first week of May.

NEW BUSINESS:

The secretary noted a group called Flags for Fallen Vets is asking for volunteers to place American Flags on all grave sites at Black Hills National Cemetery and Fort Meade National Cemetery at 9 a.m. on Sunday morning, May 28. Each volunteer will be given 20 flags to place. Reportedly this complete coverage has never been accomplished before. David will bring the idea to the chapter to sign up volunteers. Wayne Anderson stated the high school graduations are scheduled for that day.

NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT:

The next regular meeting for the board is currently scheduled for May 2, 2017 convening at 7 p.m. at a location to be determined. With no further business for the good of the chapter, and time having run out with the pending extra rehearsal, President Kelts declared adjournment at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
In Perfect Harmony,

DAVID L'ESPERANCE, Secretary

FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR-IN-CHEAP



John Elving
Editor-in-Cheap

Who Do You Perform For?

Do you perform for great, adoring audiences? Or do you perform (notice I didn't say sing—it's different) for whomever might show up? Perhaps you perform for your own amusement, or amazement. It seems as though some of us are content to do just that—perform for ourselves.

Some people within, and outside of, our chorus have noticed that there seems to be a preponderance of worry about selling those sponsorship ads. Now, I'm not saying that isn't important, but what good does that do if there isn't a full house to sing for—or even a half house?

I don't mean we shouldn't be selling ads for our show book so that we can support a yearly planned budget, but I am saying that we should be putting as much effort to selling tickets so we can fill the house. We need to share this great "hobby" of ours so that others can get as enthused as we are about a truly American art form—Barbershop singing.

The Historic Theater at the Performing Arts Center holds approximately 800 people. It would be great if we sold (not just gave away) a total of 1,200 tickets—600 for each of our two shows. Our audiences will not hear a better example of great singing than in Vocal Spectrum. These gentlemen are truly great musicians, not just Barbershop singers. We also can give an audience a performance that is as good as any they will hear in the five-state region, and beyond.

Now, it takes some effort on everyone's part to offer tickets to everyone they come in contact with. People want to be entertained. We provide that entertainment. If you have pride in what you are doing as a chorus member, then you should be proud to sell tickets to anyone. The opportunity is there. All we need to do is take advantage of that opportunity. Let's each work at filling the auditorium for this show honoring mothers. After all, we have all had one! Without them we wouldn't be here and able to sell tickets.

Sing-cerely and Hum-bly,

John

1200

1100

1000

900

800

700

600

500

400

300

200

100

Tickets Sold



Tas of the Month

My Mom

Words & Music by
WALTER DONALDSON

Arrangement by
JEREMEY JOHNSON

Tenor Lead

moth - er, my mom.

Bari Bass

She's my moth - er, moth - er, my mom, my mom,

moth er, my mom, my mom,

I love my mom.

I love my mom.

MEMBER'S RESOURCE CENTER
Keep for reference – click on active links below
 BHS Website – www.barbershop.org
 Rocky Mountain District website – www.rmdsing.org
 BHS Phone Number – 1-800-876-SING (6474) – toll free
 Renew you membership – www.barbershop.org/ebiz
 Quartet registration – www.barbershop.org/ebiz
 Find a member, chapter, quartet – www.barbershop.org/ebiz
 SOD Chorus VP Music – sdprice@rap.midco.net
 SOD Chorus President – dockelts@aol.com
 SOD Chorus VP Membership – dan@horsleyrefinishing.com
 Voice of Rushmore editor – leaderman@midco.net
 605-381-9680 (Cell)
 Webmaster – kenweybright@shrineofdemocracychorus.org
 605-721-7650

