



**"HARMONY
IN MOTION"**

The Chordsmen Chronicle



www.FunCenterChordsmen.com

Volume 41 Issue 6 ~ June 2016

Open House ~ Guest Night a success



Trevor Garrabrant directs the guests and members in "Heart of My Heart"

By: Ed Farrar ~ VP Chapter Development

For a month in advance, the Fun Center Chordsmen worked to make the Open House/Guest Night a success. And so it was with a total of 19 guests who attended along with 31 members. Some of our guests were former members but 10 were first-timers. Each guest was given a music packet with two Barber Polecat songs and "After You've Gone" sheet music.

The open house was promoted as a night centered around the visitor with each action explained. The physical warm-up helped the guests understand why we warm-up the body. This was followed by the vocal warm-up by director Trevor Garrabrant explaining the necessity of exercising the voice slowly.

The guest had ample time to sing starting with a tag followed by guests and members on the risers to sing

"Heart of My Heart." Charts were furnished to the guests. Director Garrabrant had everyone sing the melody. Each part was taught individually so the guest could determine which voice range felt better. Then everyone sang the song, followed by more singing with "Honey Little Lize" taught in the same fashion.

Everyone took to the chairs and Trevor assured the guests not to be alarmed by just looking at the sheet music. He explained how the music and the learning tracks work together. The lead predominate learning track for "After You've Gone" was played as the guests looked at the chart. Then it was back to the risers for all to sing it. This was followed by the chorus singing "San Francisco Bay Blues."

Rounding out the evenings entertainment were songs from two of our local quartets, **Good Company** and **Home Edition**.

We were all smiles when a local high school quartet, **The Twilight Zones**, sang us their version of "(Just the Way You Look Tonight)." The young men are **Gage Goodwin** from Lexington high school, **Tucker Boggs** and **Eli Novak** from Clear Fork high school, and **Jody Odom** who attends OSU Mansfield.

As the meeting came to a close, as the V.P. Chapter Development, I passed out copies of the chapter information booklet and the May issue of the Chordsmen Chronicle.

As a surprise, everyone was invited to the Pizza Hut with the guests being treated to an all-you-can-eat pizza extravaganza. In between bites of pizza, the Fun Center Chorus members joined to sing "Hello Mary Lou" and "Blackbird" to rounds of applause from our guests and the Pizza Hut staff.

Only time will tell if the guests had enough singing, fun and fellowship to return. But every member went out of their way to make the guests feel welcome. 🎵



A very special performance

By: Dave Kracker ~ Assistant Director

Diane Kracker has known since last September when she was appointed with 17 others to the State level of Eastern Star as Grand Organist, that her local chapter (Ruth) in Mansfield would honor her with a special reception. In these situations, the person being honored locally is in charge of lots of the program planning, including entertainment and food.

From day one, Diane has talked about wishing she could have the chorus sing for the event, but she knew that it was a long shot as our rehearsals are on Monday nights like their meeting night. When we learned that Trevor was not going to be available on the May 16th, **Jim Frye** and I began working on the rehearsal schedule so we could sing as Diane had hoped.

Our performance at the Masonic Temple was very well received by the Eastern Star audience. I say this based on the numerous comments I received at the "after

Veterans may salute the flag



Over the years there have been controversies concerning how veterans should or could salute the flag.

To clear up this issue, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2008 contained an amendment to allow un-uniformed service-members, military retirees, and **veterans** to render a hand **salute** during the hoisting, lowering, or passing of the U.S. **flag**. A later amendment further authorized hand-**salutes** during the national anthem by **veterans**.

Of course all members of the military in uniform salute the flag and the National Anthem. But retirees and other veterans have perhaps been hesitant to salute not being sure of the proper protocol.

Now you know.

glow" and still from Diane following more recent meetings there on her part.

As most quartets know from prior singing engagements in their service room, it's not the greatest place to sing. In terms of the size of the room, the carpeting, not to mention that your audience is all sitting off to the sides makes for a musical challenge.

Their response to "Lost In The Stars" got us off on solid footing and we continued to sing well from there on. Several folks made reference to one man in particular whose face and body were so much into the music. That person was **Dan Strader**. You should have seen their faces when I told them that Dan never sang a note due to his present condition. Need we say more! Let's all be a Dan Chordsmen.

Diane is very proud of us and I think she kind of considers herself our mascot. At any rate, she was delighted that we were the entertainment for her big night. She recently forwarded me a photo of our doing the Irish Blessing with her on the risers singing tenor. The smile on her face says it all. 🎵

Chordsmen sing to honor Veterans

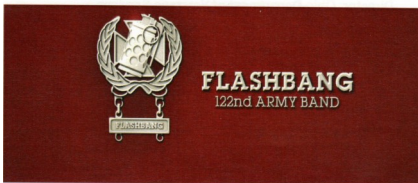
By: R.F. Miller ~ VP Marketing & PR

Several times each year, the Fun Center Chordsmen participate in activities that salute and honor the Veterans of the armed forces.

For the Memorial Day event, on the square in downtown Mansfield, we perform several patriotic selections during the celebration ceremony. In November every year, the Chordsmen host a Salute to Veterans.



**2016 VETERANS
APPRECIATION DAY
Mansfield Lahm Airport**



**Saturday, May 14, 2016
10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

**Cover of the program for the
Veterans Appreciation Day**

Chordsmen to request we perform at Lahm Airport during the day long 2016 Veterans Appreciation Day. Tony wanted to kind of showcase our singing so he asked for mostly secular rather than patriotic selections.

The weather became a problem because all activities, including our 30 minute performance, were to take place on the tarmac of the airport in front of the terminal building.

Whenever the Veterans organizations want entertainment, they know they can count on the support of the Fun Center Chordsmen.

Many in the chapter are veterans, and as such, feel it is a privilege to offer their support for these events.

In early January of this year, Tony DeLong, Director of the Richland County Veterans Service Commission, contacted the

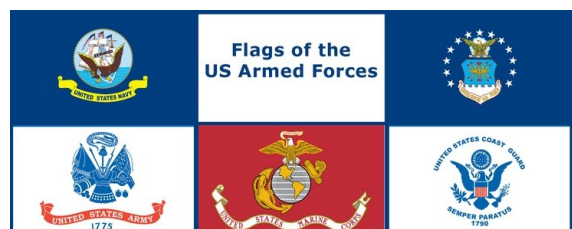
There were to be displays such as one of the C-130s assigned to the 179th Airlift Wing of the Air National Guard based at the Mansfield Lahm Airport, the local Swat Team, and the air base fire fighting equipment.

Saturday morning dawned over the horizon as a cold, rainy and windy day. Weather more like December than early May. The Chordsmen were to dress in the uniforms we use for patriotic performances. It included a white short sleeve shirt. At the last minute, with a wind chill of 37 degrees, it was changed to dress for warmth instead of uniformity.

As it turned out, the wind and rain forced all activities to be moved indoors in the terminal building. So, as the Marines would say, we had to improvise, adapt and overcome. Singing inside was more pleasant than trying to compete with the wind and rain outside but was somewhat cramped.

Beginning at 12:00 PM we sang seven songs to as many that could crowd into the terminal building. Most of the vendors and guests became quiet as we opened the program. As is our custom when we perform at patriotic or Veterans events, our last song is "The Armed Forces Medley." The many veterans in attendance saluted when their branch of service song was sung.

It was a moving tribute to those who have served, are serving, or who will serve, and their families.



Show song challenge

By: Jim Frye ~ President

On Monday, May 23rd, the Chordsmen started a venture they've done 40 plus times...the preparation for a new show concept for the upcoming year. Recently the Music Team met and spent several hours discussing the overall theme concept, and then selecting music to support this theme.

The theme for the 2017 FCC show will be **"Love, Faith & Rock-n-Roll."** The first song released to the membership to learn was "Happy Together", part of the Rock-n-Roll collection.

The first of eight songs will truly challenge the members, as it has a good length, strong bass line beat, and requirement of strong vocal technique.

I challenge all members, including myself, to start early and carve out time daily to spend with the learning tracks, and get ahead on the memorization requirements. We all have many things in our lives that require our time, and it's easy to let our barber-shop songs slide to the back burner. But we must remain accountable to ourselves, our brothers in song, and our chapter to not let this happen. Here are the four pillars of accountability:

Responsibility –

"a duty that binds to the course of action"

Answerability –

"being called to account"

Trustworthiness –

"a trait of being worthy of trust and confidence"

Liability –

"being legally bound to a debt or obligation"



If we all answer the call of being accountable, then surely our progress individually and as a chorus will allow us to complete the mission of learning all our songs in the allotted time, and save us the mad rush at the end. Imagine a February 1st with all our songs and possible choreo learned, audited and ready to go, and all we had to do was tweak things to make it public performance ready. What would our frontline director say to that?

The challenge is posted...will you accept?

The custom continues

By: R.F. Miller ~ VP Marketing and PR



The Chordsmen perform in the gazebo on the square in downtown Mansfield, during the Memorial Day ceremony.

As has been the custom for the past many years, the Fun Center Chordsmen again participated in the Mansfield Memorial Day ceremony. The Chordsmen have been a part of this ceremony for years when it was held at the Mansfield Cemetery.

Each year the Chordsmen, patriotic to the core, is proud to perform in the ceremony that not only honors the service men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice, but also the veterans.

Standard selections include Amazing Grace and the Lords Prayer. This year, the Armed Forces Medley was sung and the veterans of each branch of the military was recognized.

The Richland Source media outlet said it best when, on their app website, in an article about the Memorial Day events, they printed; *"Following in Memorial Day tradition, the Fun Center Chordsmen performed a variety of patriotic song selections. The most popular song of the day was a medley of military songs, representing each branch. As their branch's song was sung, veterans young and old stood and snapped off a salute, just as sharp as it was when the first joined the service."*

The Richland Source is a tremendous supporter of the Fun Center Chordsmen. And we extend our sincere appreciation for all the media attention they give the Chordsmen.

Standing room only at the Waterford

By: R.F. Miller

“The home of the free because of the brave!”

Each week for three weeks in advance, the Waterford ran this advertisement in the local paper. The Waterford contracted with the Fun Center Chordsmen to perform on Thursday May 19. With such advance promotion, we had to be on top of our game.

When we arrived to set up the risers at 5:30, many visitors were already seated awaiting our performance. By the time we were to sing, there was standing room

only in the main dining room of the Waterford.

As we took our place on the risers, the chatter in the room didn't subside, so we just began to sing our opening number, "There's No Business Like Show Business." That quieted the crowd quickly. After the song, they erupted in raucous applause. And it continued after every song we sang. What a great group to perform for.

During the 45 minute show, it was obvious that the audience was enjoying not only the chorus but the **Good Company** quartet who gave everyone a treat when they found out "Elvis was in the house."

Every chorus cherishes a large, very responsive audience and that's what we had at the Waterford. At the local watering hole after the performance, the members agreed that this event will go down in chorus history as one of the best ever. 🎵



The Fun Center Chordsmen Concert *Date: Thursday, May 19th • Time: 6:30 pm*

Please join us for a free concert with The Fun Center Chordsmen, a men's a cappella chorus, at The Waterford at Mansfield. Mouthwatering appetizers and delectable desserts will be served starting at 6:00 pm with the concert starting promptly at 6:30 pm. Seating is first come, first served. Please join us for this free event!

Live life to its fullest at The Waterford at Mansfield where our Independent Living and Assisted Living community offers residents a vibrant lifestyle. Inviting apartment homes in multiple floor plans feature thoughtful amenities such as walk-in closets, emergency call systems and walk-in showers. A lively fitness program, extensive library, game room and rich activities program ensure our residents are always entertained.

Call or visit us online today for more information or to schedule a complimentary lunch and tour!
The Waterford at Mansfield is an Independent and Assisted Living Community.

From the Board walk

By: Lee Cook ~ Secretary



May Board Meeting 5/14/2016)

The April board minutes were approved.
The Treasurers report was received.
Income = \$3,271.01
Expenses = \$544.95

VP Marketing & PR (RF Miller)

Published a May Chronicle.

Asked board approval for unbudgeted funds of \$200 to have learning tracks made. No other source of tracks for Drift Away is available.

Stan Popp made a motion for \$250 additional funds for account 434 to purchase the learning tracks for Drift Away. Seconded by Mike Craze. Motion passed.

In the 434E line in the FCC budget will spend in next couple of months

VP Membership (Ed Farrar)

May 9 guest night we had 19 guest and 10 of them were first time visitors to the FCC chorus.

VP YIH (Dave Kracker)

15 campers signed up for harmony camp at this point and may have to give a few bigger scholarships to few students for camp.

Honorarium of \$250 to each of two high school choruses on our 2017 annual show from YIH fund.

Chorus Manager (Dan Noe)

Working with lady from Morrow County fair for possible singing gig.

Came up with potential sing-out work up sheet for members to use when somebody ask them about maybe doing a gig that can then be passed on to Dan to follow up on.



Point to Ponder

An Editorial

All the ingredients are in one place

Let me step back in time for a moment. I first joined the Chordsmen in March of 2000. At the time, **Mark Blake** was the director. Under Marks directorship, the membership grew from approximately 24 to 40 men.



When Mark left, **Steve Kovach** became our director in January 2001, and in the first several years the membership grew to 66. After all, Steve was a graduate of Bowling Green State University (BGSU) with a degree in music. He had the background and the teaching ability to improve the chorus. Steve was with us until September 2010.

With Steve's departure, **Doug Smeltz** was out front for five years. The membership held steady at about 50 to 55 which included 10 of the Singing Buckeyes as dual members. Doug improved our vocal quality.

OK, back to the present time. In April of 2015, Doug stepped down and **Trevor Garrabrant**, who joined the chorus in 2007, became our front line director. He, too, is a BGSU grad with a degree in vocal music and he is a music teacher. Current member ship is still 55.

Steve had recognized Trevor's ability and began to mentor him to some day become a front line director. Doug continued this mentoring process encouraging Trevor to attend the CDWI and the Directors College for three years. He is one on line course shy of becoming a certified director.

So all the ingredients are in place. A very qualified Front Line director in Trevor, an assistant director, **Jim Frye** who is a BGSU grad with a music degree in instrumental music, and assistant director, **Dave Kracker**, with 22 years of chorus directing and many years of quartet experience.

We know what we have internally, qualified leaders, fun, excitement, fellowship and good quality singing. Why can't we seem to share it with others. Is it fear of what they will say when we ask "do you like to sing?"

If that's the case, get over it. We need to share what we have with men of all ages. Don't let anyone escape an invitation..... Do it now!



2016 Chapter Leadership

President ~
Jim Frye

Exec. VP ~
Stan Popp

Music Director ~
Trevor Garrabrant

Assistant Directors ~
Jim Frye
Dave Kracker

Chorus Coach ~
Vacant

VP Music & Performance ~
Trevor Garrabrant

VP Chapter Development ~
Ed Farrar

VP Marketing & PR ~
R.F. Miller

VP YIH ~
Dave Kracker

Secretary ~
Lee Cook

Treasurer ~
Lorin Weaver

Immediate Past President ~

Board Members at Large:
Bob Gibson
Terry Loughman
Mike Craze
Mitch Gale

*The Chordsmen Chronicle is the official bulletin of the
Fun Center Chordsmen.
Editor: R. F. Miller (RFMiller1@gmail.com)*

***“It’s great to be a
barbershopper in
*Mansburg, Ohio”
(*Mansfield)***

2016 Man of Note honor roll

New Member	Sponsor	# of MON
Jim Foley	R.F. Miller	12

Plenty of room for your name



Chordsmen Quartets

(alpha order & year founded)



Bravada (2001)

Jim Frye (T)
Trevor Garrabrant (L)
Dan Crow (B)
R.F. Miller (Br) (419) 884-2441 (contact)

Chordially Yours (2004)

Gayle Ray (T)
Mitch Gale (L)
Stan Popp (B) (419) 756-0098 (contact)
Frank DeWitt (Br)

Good Company (2008)

Tom Webb (T)
Lee Hull (L)
Mike Craze (B)
Chris Rumas (Br) (419) 886-3163 (contact)

Home Edition (1991)

Jim Frye (T) (419)-989-9895 (contact)
Jerry Starrett (L)
Bill Herdman (B)
Dave Kracker (Br)

**BARBERSHOPPING
CAN BE FUN!**