

Scoops & Swipes

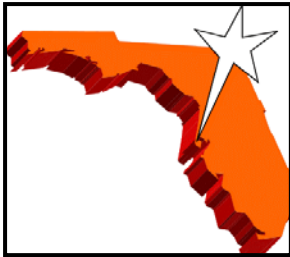


Volume 50, Issue 5



September-October 2010

Now is an exciting time!



Bob Banagan, Music & Performance V.P.

Greetings Suncoast Singers! Here we are rapidly approaching one of our busiest times of the year. Already we have several performances up and coming. Lance has had a "little" response from the hand-outs he gave to some members, trying to "drum up" some exposure for us in the coming months. Our fellow members will soon be returning from the North and filling up the risers. My Section Leaders (bless them) have forwarded all music to the "seasonal residents" so they should be up to speed and ready to be qualified when they come through the doors.



Bob Banagan

Speaking of Christmas, I have been making a nuisance of myself at the Safety Harbor Recreation Center of late. I have been lobbying for the chorus to sing at the annual tree lighting (Dec 3) in downtown Safety Harbor. I received an e-mail from Joe Cooper who is the man in charge of this event just yesterday and have every reason

to believe that we will be doing just that! I really hope we can do it as this is a huge event for this little town. I have taken my grandchildren there every year since we've lived in Clearwater. There will be hundreds of people there and many, I'm sure, have never heard Christmas Carols done in barbershop style. We would be singing in the gazebo which has it's own risers and sound system. It's great exposure, a golden opportunity to pick up some new members, PLUS we'll all get to see Santa. Does it get any better than this?

It looks like we will be moving into better quarters after the first of the year. I'm going to let Lance elaborate on that subject if he chooses. Nevertheless it's going to be an exciting and busy time over the next few months. Let's all pitch in.



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The Music Team has been hard at work coming up with music that we hope is easy to learn and fun to sing. There is more on the way. We are going to re-visit "Basin Street." You may remember we worked on that song when Jeff Latham was still here. Those of you who have the music stashed away ... dig it out along with the learning CD if you have it. "Silent Night" is another song to be looking at. We are going to add it to the "Midnight Clear/Silent Night Medley." We need this song for the Christmas season.

Heads up guys, I have good news for you!

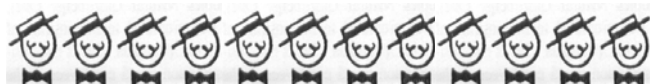
By Herb James, President



Herb James

The music committee is stepping forward with new plans that will please all of us. Remember our slogan " Sing Well, Have Fun , Spread the Word?" In order to sing well, we all must qualify on all songs in our repertoire. No qualify, no singee on the risers. We want all of you to qualify.

If you can't or choose not to qualify, we have many important, and interesting duties for you to do to make us a better Chapter, and have more fun. We will have a completely new format in place soon which will be exciting for all of us. We will be involved in the community and have more fun than you can imagine. BE PREPARED , learn your notes and music, THE WORD WILL BE HEARD IN THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY. Don't be left behind! !



Sing Well, Have Fun, Spread the Word

By Lance Lubin, VP Public Relations

That is our "Mission Statement". At COTS a few years ago, when I was attending as Music VP, they made us write a "mission statement". Everyone, predictably, came up with long formal statements about spreading joy through harmony blah blah blah. I promise that not a single person could have recalled the mission statement they wrote a month later. It occurred to me that if every member couldn't tell you the mission statement, the mission statement was worthless. People who don't know the mission can't carry it out. I thought about the Marines, never a "wordy" bunch. No Marine has to ask what "Semper Fidelis" means, and "Semper Fi" suffices just fine. Although, as it turns out, "Semper Fi" may actually be a "values statement."



Lance Lubin

Recently I started wondering, what is a "mission statement" anyway? An article by Hildy Gottlieb titled "Three Statements That Can Change the World", marvelously illuminates what a mission statement is (and isn't) and why it's so valuable. Here are some excerpts:

Does your organization have a Mission Statement? You probably do. How about a Vision Statement? A Values Statement?

If you do not have these three statements, or if you have them but are not using them to guide your organization's work, you are missing out on some of the simplest and most effective governance tools you could find. These statements of your Vision, your Mission and your Values can define and guide your organization's ability to create the future of your community!

We can't really begin the discussion of the Vision Statement and the Mission Statement without first addressing the semantic difference between the two. And the simplest way we have found to show that difference in usage is to add the letters "ary" to the end of each word. VisonARY Mission-ARY. A visionary is someone who sees what is possible, who sees the potential. A missionary is someone who carries out that work.

Your Vision Statement will therefore answer the big question - WHY are you doing what you are doing? You are doing it so you can create a community that is better than the way things are now. You are doing it so that individuals' lives will be better, so that everyone's lives will be better. Your Vision Statement will create that context. It will tell where you are heading.

Like the Missionary, your Mission Statement will turn your vision into practice. The Mission Statement is the one that will actually do the work. Again, it is easy to see what the Mission Statement needs to do if we go back to plain English usage. Consider the phrase "mission accomplished" - the

work is done. The mission is the doing part - it is what you will do to bring that vision to reality.

But that is where most organizations stop. Vision and Mission. Statements of where we are headed, and what we will do to get there. A Values Statement provides the tools for the organization to accomplish that. First, the Values Statement will look outside the organization, to the visionary outcomes you want to create for your community.

That is the power of what a Values Statement can do. It will not only tell the world outside and inside the organization what talk you want to walk, but it can give you the tools for measuring whether or not you are indeed walking that talk! One of the other common reactions we get when the issue of "values" is raised is that a discussion of values is little more than "Touchy Feely mumbo jumbo," with no real practical application to the work the organization does. The truth is directly opposite of that. Boards face values-based dilemmas at the board table all the time - they just don't recognize them as such. Any time the board is faced with the question of "What is important here?" that is a values-based decision.

Absent a values-based context for decision-making, groups are more likely to default to fear-based decision-making when things get tough. And those fear-based decisions are more likely to cross the very lines we would have agreed we would not cross, had we talked about those values in the first place. The only defense against making fear-based decisions you may live to regret is to have discussed core values ahead of time.

A self-evaluation can be done by using the 3 Statements

Vision

Have we done our work in a way that will move our vision forward? Have we focused entirely on our mission, at the exclusion of our vision? How might we change our work to aim at that vision?

Mission

Have we done our work in a way that monitors to ensure we really are accomplishing our mission? And if not, how might we change our work to ensure we are indeed accomplishing that work?

Values

Have we done our work in a way that adheres to the universally shared values at the core of our Values Statement? And if not, how might we change our work to ensure we are indeed walking our talk?

Wow! That's a lot of food for thought. So, is our mission statement (Sing Well, Have Fun, Spread the Word) really a mission statement? Probably not. It's more of a slogan than anything else. It is however, a darn good slogan. But the examination of all this stuff is more than just academic. We can learn a lot about ourselves, our organization, and our goals by thinking about these things in relationship to our Chapter.

Bill Boll receives Fifty Year Service award

(At a recent meeting, Herb James called Bill Boll to the front and presented the award. Bill's resume follows):

Bill Boll joined the Society in 1960 with the Skokie Valley Chapter (Illinois District). In 1961 he transferred to the Arlington Heights Chapter (Illinois District) and competed and performed with them until 1968. Because of a job transfer he moved to New Jersey and sang with the Cherry Hill Chapter (Mid Atlantic District). In 1969 he was transferred back to Illinois and rejoined the Arlington Heights Chapter, where he remained until 1982.

While singing with the Arlington Heights Chapter, Bill competed in several District and International Competitions. During his years with the Arlington Heights Chapter he was also active in competing and performing with several quartets. In 1982 Bill and his family moved to Clearwater. Since 1982 he has sung in the Sunshine District with the St. Petersburg



Herb James, Bill Boll

Chapter (1982 — 1987, 1991 — 2009) and the Heralds of Harmony (1987 — 1991). During these years he competed in Sunshine District chorus competitions and was active in various quartets. He continues performing in the Anona Barbershop Gospel Quartet, "Men of Note" and several church choruses.

He has had many chapter jobs including Secretary, President, VP Membership, Ticket Show Chairman, and Board Member. He has received the St. Petersburg Chapter Barbershop of the Year award and was inducted into the St. Petersburg Chapter Hall of Fame.

Bill served as the Sunshine District Secretary (1998 — 2004) and was Editor of the Sunshine Directory. He was on the Society faculty, training chapter officers in Chapter Operations (1998 — 2005)

Hello Florida Suncoast Singers!

From: Clyde Hall, VP Chapter Development

We had a very successful Open House on August 30th with about 25 guests. The chorus sang through our repertoire and we were very well received. Two of our quartets also sang and it was really nice to have the "G men" singing with us again. The new sensation "For-two-nuts" also did a fabulous job. Kudos to all!



Clyde Hall

2011 will prove to be a very exciting year for the Florida Suncoast Chorus. The Board of Directors and the Music Team are setting forth a new vision for the coming year and we will have lot of new opportunities. We will be heavily involved with the City of Largo and we have a possible new rehearsal space. We also will have some variety in our uniforms. The chorus already has a number of

performances on the books so we want to be ready to be the best we can be. With new songs and choreo in the works, and our singers from up North returning, it's going to be a great year. Your Board and Director are working very hard, giving of their time. Let's not make them feel they are pulling us uphill. Remember – be on time to rehearsal and ready to sing at 6:30. Remember the uniform of the day, name tags, etc. And most of all, come prepared knowing your words and music and ready to have a great rehearsal. We need everyone's cooperation for our chorus to grow. If you can serve in any capacity - please volunteer for the many jobs that need to get done. Let's all look forward to the best year our chorus has ever had!! It's Great To Be A Barbershopper!

Birthdays

September:

Gene Henriksen	7
Don Lucarell	11
Joe Hambsch	19
Jim Greiner	24
George Lindstrom	26
Kurt Popp	30



October:

Bill Boll	3
Clare McCreary	18
Don Ellis	24



DON'T FORGET!

BRING YOUR

Music



Pencil (with eraser)



Recorder

EVERY REHEARSAL

Is barbershop a hobby or a craft?

By Tom Roan, Director of Music.

The only way to improve as a singer and to be a better barbershopper is to practice all the techniques and apply all the wisdom you learn at meetings, coaching sessions, and craft sessions. My article could pretty much stop right here. Pretty simple isn't it? Would you go golfing once a week and just expect to be a whole lot better after a year without ever practicing your game? Sure you may improve some, but you'll never know your full potential without extra practice, or maybe even lessons. Yes, we're getting older, and maybe you don't think it's worth the effort? Is there one simple tool that could improve your game immensely without a whole lot of work? The answer is, Yes!

I should also point out; it's not usually about age. Though it's true the older guys can't sing like they did 30 years ago, most do still have the ability to train and maintain the muscles involved in breathing. It's a physical law of science. Train a muscle, and it WILL become stronger, or at least remain toned. This law doesn't discriminate against age. The law works... period. Proper breathing plays the biggest part in becoming a better singer, yet it's something we usually pay the least attention to.

If you lift weights on a regular basis, you either get stronger when you push the limit, or you maintain a certain level of fitness. Breathing is no different. Proper breathing for singing involves a certain set of muscles. Use those muscles on a regular basis, and you will maintain a certain level of competence with breath management and your ability to produce a quality tone.

Forget the term "breath support". It's out-dated and inaccurate. Tone is what we support, breath is what we "manage"! Unlike lifting weights, working out the breathing muscles can be easy when done on a daily basis. There are simple exercises that take only 2 or 3 minutes. Do these 3 times a day, and your breath management will improve greatly. More important, singing will become a whole lot easier!

If the thought of making singing "easier" doesn't excite you, I surely don't know what will. Over the past few months I've really focused on working and improving my own breath management. The most exciting part is... results are tangible. Singing HAS gotten easier for me. That's awesome! When we talk about "*selling the song*", that's rarely a tangible concept. To experience the physical sensation of free and easy singing is very tangible, and is very possible for you. If you do just a little each day to improve your breath management, you will hear and feel the results. That should be motivation enough.

At the past two chapter meetings I've had a quartet sing for the chapter. I then worked with them for 20-25 minutes in the

back room, and had them sing again. We all agreed there was a definite and tangible improvement in the group's performance. This is mostly due to "awareness". Being aware of all that goes into a quality barbershop singer at one time is difficult. That's why we have to practice things enough to make it second nature.

There is no single aspect of singing more important than proper breath management. It's everything! Without it, all the other techniques you learn or use are disempowered by the lack of a solid foundation. I've only been in barbershop eight years, yet it's taken that long for me to realize the importance of this statement. You can shape your vowels all day long, but what will it matter if you run out of breath before the end of the phrase?

If you only focus on one thing, it should be breath management. The best part is that the exercises are so much easier than learning words and notes. The title of my article is "Hobby or Craft?" If you are bored already and tired of hearing about breathing, it's likely a hobby for you. If the prospect of making singing easier by just doing simple daily exercises excites you... it's a craft.

If you see barbershop as a hobby, that's fine. There's no crime against playing golf once a week for enjoyment, while not really caring if your game gets better. However, if this is your approach to barbershop, just be aware of two things: 1. You are not likely to ever sing much better than you are right now. 2. Those around you who treat it as a craft and work to be better, WILL become better singers. This may cause you feelings of inadequacy with your singing in the long run. (Note: Author is not a licensed therapist).

My hope is that everyone can "grasp" the importance of proper breath management. It took a couple of Gold Medal coaches to get it through my head. Yes it takes a *little* work, but more important is consistency. Don't see it as this big boring thing that won't really matter. Even knowing words and notes 100% is not as important as breath management. (Did I say that out loud)? We'll be spending more time on this at future meetings, so I hope you embrace it. Make breathing exercises a part of your daily routine. It's fast, it's simple, and the results make barbershop more enjoyable for you and your fellow singers.



My first Labor Day Jamboree experience

By Kurt Popp

WOW! That is the first word that comes to mind when I think about that weekend. All of you who didn't attend missed some thing very special. The list of performing quartets included some of the best in the business. The winner of the novice quartet contest was a young bunch from Miami called "Uprising" and they began Saturday's show (we came in third) followed by Bill Billings latest quartet, "Flashback." "Virtuosity" and "Bling", both ladies quartets, also put on awesome performances. 2010 International Champions "Storm Front" took the stage for a couple of songs and then "OCTimes" took the stage for an amazing show.



Kurt Popp

intermission a surprise quartet took the stage. It was none other than "Crossroads," the 2009 International Champions. What a special treat to hear all those chords lock and ring. "Stormfront" finished the show in their own special way. Everyone needs to see them perform. They truly are entertainers. My sides are still sore from laughing. What a show! I don't know how they can do what they do and stay on pitch but stay on pitch they do.

I am still very new to barbershop and the singing and ringing is great, but the thing that impressed me more is the brotherhood that I felt with everyone I came in contact with. Every person I met treated me like an old friend. What a wonderful organization we belong to.

Sunday's show began with a young quartet that finished third in the 2010 International College Quartet competition called "Spanglish." They will be a quartet to watch in the near future. Then came "The Pursuit" who started out with an awesome arrangement of "16 Tons." Another ladies quartet by the name of "Journey" was next singing with beautifully blended voices. "OCTimes" took the stage next for a few songs wowing the audience once again. After the

My wife and I had a great time and we are planning on attending the Jamboree next year and every year thereafter that we are able. I would recommend that each and every member of this chapter attend next year. Just be sure to reserve your seats early because they go fast. The venue is small so it is like your own personal performance. It doesn't get any better than this.

Additional comment by Clare McCreary, Editor. Pictures by editor.

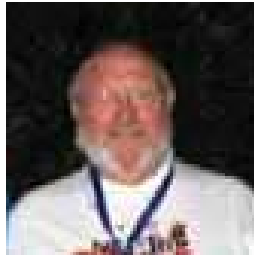
June and I went up on Thursday, a day early, to just relax, do a little fishing – and to ensure a good room! We had the place to ourselves that day, but the next day people from all over the country started filing in. Friday evening the District held a welcoming party around the pool, with wings, snacks, and free beer in the gazebo and it was very well attended. It seems that our Labor Day Jamboree is well known throughout the country and many travel many miles to get there – like Bill Biffle, our Society President who came from New Mexico. Many well known medalist quartet men were there also, just to woodshed with their compatriots. And, of course, the show quartet members, not performing as a quartet, but singing tags around the pool with ordinary guys like me. This "around the pool" bit went on all weekend. Some pictures follow:



What is tradition worth?

From "Voice of Rushmore", John Elving editor.

Tradition. What's it worth to you? What's it mean to our chapter? Does tradition play a part in not only what we sing but also in HOW we sing? Recently a discussion took place on the internet concerning the singing of *The Old Songs* to begin chapter meetings and *Keep the Whole World Singing* to end those same chapter meetings. It all stemmed around the idea that chapters begin and end their meetings by singing these two songs, but singing them badly. They seem to be "throw away" songs that are sung with no performance standards in place.



John Elving

more often than not. Read through the lyric line by line and imagine how moving this song might be if sung with the kind of emotional involvement, correct notes, and rehearsal preparation you give your other songs. Then go do that rehearsing. Will you perform this in public? Maybe, maybe not. But even if you don't, sometimes it's worth a little rehearsal and commitment to a song you sing just for yourself." (*I checked my part against what the notes really are. It wasn't pretty! Then I checked the other parts. Not any prettier! I've learned all those parts wrong. -Editor*)

Now in our chapter we almost always have someone up front to direct our closing songs (we add *It's Time Now To Go* to the mix). It is a great training ground for our members to learn some of the ins and outs of directing. Some have experience in directing while others have never directed before.

That's not the point, however. Do we sing those songs, along with some others, the "way we've always done it" or do we work hard to sing them with our best performance skills? It doesn't make much sense to work as hard as we do during our rehearsal portions of the chapter meeting to then not incorporate those skills into singing everything that we sing. There are those, even among our membership, who want to sing the old songs just like we've always sung them. There are also those who want to sing whatever we do better than we did last time. Which camp do you fall in? Or maybe you're somewhere between. In my opinion, which may not match up with yours, if we sing things the way we've always done them, why sing them at all? You may not agree with me, but at least give it some thought.

From the Internet: "When was the last time you actually rehearsed either of these songs? Expecting that the answer is "never", do you perform any other songs in your repertoire that are never rehearsed? If not, is it surprising that the rest of your current repertoire probably sounds better? "*Keep The Whole World Singing*" is an especially wonderful song, with a strong and heartfelt lyric, a well sculpted melody and some very ringable chords. Willis Diekema's arrangement can be a little tricky and is probably woodshedded incorrectly

If I want to go out and, say, dance, do I want to continue to go and dance the same clumsy way I may do it the first time? For me, at least, it all comes down to my personal pride. I want to do something better the next time than the way I just did it. I'm not satisfied with the status quo.

I learned from my father a long time ago (that's right, a L-O-O-O-N-G time ago) that if I quit learning or working at improving what I do, I might as well die. There's no reason for me to keep on doing what I do. After my father's retirement, which came well into his 70s, he started work on a second masters degree in a completely new field. He also started studying two new languages. Until the day he died, he was still studying and learning. It kept him sharp and focused on things besides becoming a couch potato.

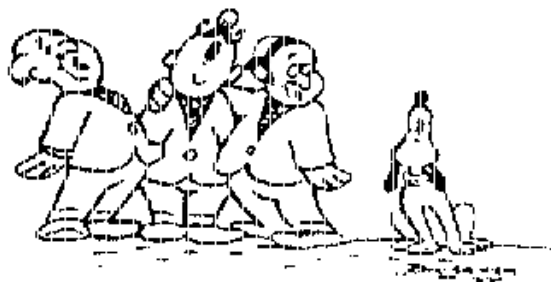
We can continue to sing all the old songs the same old way, or we can continue to sing them better and with more musicality each and every time we sing them. There should never be any "throw away" songs. Every song has a special message for someone and it is our duty to make that song special just for that person.

Often times we don't even know that person or how a song affects them. But it does. Our challenge, then, is to work to make the most of that song, whatever song it is, the most powerful thing for that person at that particular time. I challenge each of you to work at becoming the best singer of every song you sing each and every time you sing it. That is no easy task, but let's continue to learn and live!

Sing_cerely & Humm_bly,



A Rest



**Guests don't
"just show up"**

... someone
invites them!



**Have you invited
a guest lately?**

Woodshedders problem

Editorial:

The chorus is now singing “If I Had My Way.” This is an old song that has been the delight of woodshedders and “chord worshippers” since before barbershop. For some reason or other this song presents all sorts of opportunities to invent neat swipes and to hold onto great chords “worshipping” the sound. There are several similar songs that come to mind – “I’m Forever Blowing Bubbles,” “Chinese Honeymoon” and maybe best of all “Bright Was the Night.” The point is that if we want to sing the song in public, the invented swipes and the holding of pleasureable chords may not fit the context of the words of the song. So, I guess I’ll just have to learn how to sing the song the way the director wants it sung. But that doesn’t mean I have to sing it that way in a hotel stairwell!

You are a part

From Lance Lubin

You are part of a greater whole. Without you, the whole cannot fully express itself, and without the whole, you are desperately empty.

You are vitally and uniquely important. But that does not make you more important than others. Your thoughts, ideas and actions have the power to transform. But that doesn’t give you the right to overwhelm.

Instead, it gives you the obligation to serve. It gives you the opportunity to contribute to something bigger than yourself, something that gracefully encompasses all you are.

By so giving, you enlarge your own life and the world around you. By so giving, you create real value and meaning, and experience profound fulfillment. Sing your own song, with a passion that comes from the center of your being. And delight in how beautifully it resonates within the chorus of all that is.

--- Ralph Marston

What I learned at a BOD meeting

Editor

I attended a Board of Directors meeting the other day, and I got an earful! Besides the regular reports etc., they had a guest speaker. Warren Ankerburg is the Leisure Time Director for the city of Largo. (My how time flies – my wife, June, was Warren’s den-mother when he was a Cub Scout.) He and Lance Lubin have been collaborating on a plan whereby the Pinellas Florida Suncoast Chapter will become members of the Largo Recreation Department and will be called on regularly to give performances for the department (some paid on a 50-50 basis, some freebies). We also will be given

the use of the new state-of-the-art Largo Recreation Hall for rehearsals and shows. We must pay for membership, so it is all above board and not pure gravy for us. However the cost of membership is a little less than what we are currently paying in rent for a rehearsal hall, and as members, the use of the facility is free. We also will become a household word in the city of Largo which tremendously increases our prospects for recruitment and for more lucrative performances. Warren thinks this is a win-win situation for the City of Largo and for our chapter – and so do we.

(I may go to more BOD meetings)

The results of being drugged

St. Louis Suburban “By-Lines”, Dick Kury editor

The following letter has appeared on the internet and was viewed by many readers. I felt it would be appropriate for the readers of By-Lines too.

The other day, someone at a store in our town read that a Methamphetamine lab had been found in an old farmhouse in the adjoining county and he asked me a rhetorical question, “Why didn’t we have a drug problem when you and I were growing up?” I replied, I had a drug problem when I was young : I was drug to church on Sunday morning. I was drug to church for weddings and funerals. I was drug to family reunions and community socials no matter the weather. I was drug by my ears when I was disrespectful to adults. I was also drug to the woodshed when I disobeyed my parents, told a lie, brought home a bad report card, did not speak with respect, spoke ill of the teacher or preacher, of if

I didn’t put forth my best effort in everything that was asked of me. I was drug to the kitchen sink to have my mouth washed out with soap if I uttered a profanity. I was drug out to pull weeds in mom’s garden and flower beds and cockle-burs out of dads fields. I was drug to the homes of family, friends and neighbors to help out some poor soul who had no one to mow the yard, repair the clothesline or chop some firewood, and, if my mother had ever known that I took a single dime as a tip for this kindness, she would have drug me back to the woodshed.

Those drugs are still in my veins and they affect my behavior in everything I do, say, or think. They are stronger than cocaine, crack or heroin; and if today’s children had this kind of drug problem, America would be a better place. God bless the parents who drugged us.

Author unknown

SCOOPS & SWIPES is the voice of the Greater Pinellas County, Florida Chapter Barbershop Harmony Society
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CHAPTER MEETING

Each Mon. 6:30 PM
Crossroads Christian Church
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Largo, FL 33778-1320

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

meets the second Tuesday of each month
Place TBA

MUSIC COMMITTEE

meets first Tuesday of each month, or as needed.
Place TBA

Sept. 17-19 Panhandle Festival, Camp Timpoochee
Oct. 1-4 District Convention, Ocala
Oct. 16 Performance
Oct. 24 Performance
Dec. 5 HOH Christmas show
Dec. 11 Performance

We insert mistakes routinely in this publication to provide ammunition for the constantly critical. Mark all corrections with a red pencil and place in circular file.

All articles without a by-line were written by the Editor. Views expressed in this bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the chapter members or its officers. Unless otherwise noted: Pictures by John Nuss

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Florida
Suncoast
Chorus

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Please let us know!



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