

Subject: November AHSOW Bulletin2
From: Casey Parker <caseypar@garlic.com>
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The AHSOW BULLETIN

An occasional publication of AHSOW

Reporting progress on Preserving the art of improvised harmony

Volume 5, Issue 2 Editor Casey Parker November 2010

Dedicated to preserving the art of improvising harmony

ABOUT AHSOW

The Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodshedders is a subsidiary of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America. There are about 1,200 members out of 28,000 SPEBSQSA members who have qualified for membership in AHSOW by acceptably improvising 2 or 3 harmony parts. Annual dues of \$10 is billed through the SPEBSQSA/BHS dues invoice system. Website <http://ahsow.org>

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEETINGS: Meetings will be held during the International Midwinter Convention week of **January 25th - 30th, 2011** in **Las Vegas NV** as follows -- AHSOW Board Meeting; DEC Meeting and Membership Meeting. This is a request for Agenda items for these meetings. Send these to the AHSOW President . NOTE - The President will obtain AHSOW room and date information from HQ

NOMINATIONS

AHSOW always needs a few good men! Nominations will open soon for the following positions:

Executive Vice President, Information Manager, Bulletin Editor, Manager of Member Services, Manager of Publicity & Promotion, Director of Commerce, Education Manager East and Education Manager/West. Self nominations are permitted. Nominees are expected to serve a two year term and must have sufficient time to perform their duties. See By Laws at the web site, ahsow.org for position descriptions. Address nominations to the Corporate Secretary, or Nominating Committee Chairman when announced.

Applicants for appointment as District Educator & Certifier are solicited for the following Districts: MAD; NED; and DIX. Address applications to AHSOW ExVP.

AHSOW NEWS

The 2010 International Convention was held at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The AHSOW Rooms attracted Woodshedders world wide. AHSOW Room Team inducted new members.

Harmony University was held at St. Joseph Missouri. The Woodshedding Class was instructed by Dr. Burt Szabo with help from members. Several new AHSOW members were certified.

The new Discovery Singing CD has proven to be very popular. It is used to learn the 43 songs in the DS folio, and sing-a-long harmonizing. It is available from Director of Commerce.

OFFICER REPORTS

President

Duties By-laws 3.02.

Greetings All Shedders of Wood!

We ARE bringing AHSOW into this century. It is coming more slowly than we would have hoped, but it IS coming. I realize that many of you do not resonant to the need for a new dynamic web presence, or Facebook, or Twitter, or any of that other

"stuff" that seems to have overtaken our world. It also seems odd in light of the fact that we are blessed to enjoy an art form which is absolutely as low tech as humanly possible. Nothing other than four voices is needed (and if the three are good enough, you can produce the tenor with overtones). You don't need music, electricity, or equipment of any kind. Can there be anything purer, or more elegant in its simplicity? Seems sort of counter intuitive to try to foist all this new fangled stuff on it. But Gents, our future is in the excited young barbershoppers roaming the halls late at night singing tags in Convention Hotel hallways. They haven't yet been brainwashed into believing that they CAN'T woodshed. They are willing to try anything and have no fear. Now when you snag a group of "under 20's" and show them how it's done, it's very exciting. Of course what you discover is that just like in their older barbershop brethren, there are some who are naturally inclined to it and some who aren't. But what you don't find is a fear of doing it because they think they'll look foolish. You may not like it, but these kids don't have landline telephones and they don't even have e-mail. They communicate with Facebook, Twitter, and texting. IF you want reach them, these are the only methods. Anyone or any organization that doesn't communicate in this way is not worth their time. This is "Generation Z". For generation Z, computer technologies and the Internet is the common place. All their communication takes place on the internet and they show very little verbal communication skills. Most of their formative years are being spent on the World Wide Web. They are used to instant action and satisfaction due to internet technology.

Older guys will find us the way they always have, in AHSOW rooms, COTS, Harmony University, classes, gatherings, etc. But the next generation of woodshedders is going to find us online. So we are embarked on two paths at once. Making us accessible to Generation Z and trying to improve the quality of AHSOW rooms.

The Board of Directors used to meet twice a year. We now meet once a month via teleconference. Just like any volunteer organization, there a few people doing an enormous amount of work. There is something you can do and I'm going to ask you to do it right now, the minute you've stopped reading this. Are you on Facebook already? Then find AHSOW on Facebook and join the Group. We need members.

**See you there,
Lance Lubin**

Executive Vice-President

**Duties By-laws 3.03.
Vacant**

Corporate Secretary

**Duties By-laws 3.04.
Noah Morrison**

I've been participating in AHSOW Board meetings (and we are meeting more frequently and accomplishing more thanks to Lance's vision of a more modern AHSOW), taking notes and distributing action items to the Board to help ensure we get

done what we say we will. In June-July I ensured that ballots were emailed, mailed and counted for the slate that was elected to serve on the Board. As always, please keep your email address up-to-date with the Society to reduce the need for paper ballots and physical labor to process them. The ballot process was a bit more hectic than usual this year as the Board brought the new Information Manager and new President up-to-speed on the process, and I am glad they are fast learners and willing and able to help serve AHSOW members! In October I helped qualify a new member in the FWD AHSOW room who didn't think he was much of a woodshedder, and helped him to experience the joy of woodshedding; he qualified on all four parts. Best wishes with your enjoyment and sharing of the skills and creativity of fun woodshedding and in making it part of life's healthy habits.

Noah Morrison

Treasurer

Duties By-laws 3.05.

No report from me ... my info is for the Board only.

Rod Sparks

Manager of Publicity & Promotion

Duties By-laws 3.06.

Manager Publicity-& Promotion

The AHSOW Facebook page is up and running as of this past June 29. You can find it by using the longhanded version of our name (Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodshedders) in your Facebook search area. I currently have nine members listed.

You are welcome to post anything 'shed-related for discussion, once you are accepted as a member of the group. Anyone who becomes a member of the group is encouraged to invite other Facebooked woodshedders you know to join. I am certain more people than I have woodshedding wisdom to impart. Please join us.

Ross Lindgren

Information Manager

Duties By-laws 3.07.

Information Manager

Vacant

[Glenn Hayes resigned]

Director of Commerce

Duties By-laws 3.08.

Director of Commerce report

Glenn Schilberg

We're getting pretty routine now with the new "Certified Woodshedder" name badges. Canadian and overseas orders take

an extra step and extra postage but the guys are worth it! One ongoing problem is when a guy prefers his nickname instead of his formal name and the DEC's in the room forget to ask him his preference and mark it on the Room Summary.

The second printing of the "Discovery Singing" books has been completed and they have been in use since just before Philly Int'l. Found a typo - the table of contents refers to "Moonbeams" but the song is in fact "Moonlight Bay". Strangely enough, that typo existed in the old printing also, but no one ever noticed it because that TOC was so hard to read. We did upgrade one song: 'Tenting Tonight' was dropped and replaced with 'Alabama Rose' (a favorite of AHSOW greats Jack Jemison and Bud Hillier, eminently harmonizable, and a six-chord song instead of three).

We have used up our stock of the Discovery Singing CD and a second edition is in progress. Lloyd Erickson will be recording Alabama Rose in addition to the five Joe Liles songs that were missing from the first edition.

The online AHSOW store [hosted by CafePress] has been built and stocked with a few items (T-shirt, ball cap, coffee mug, beer stein...) bearing the AHSOW Notes logo saying 'Certified Woodshedder'. Cool and classy. Payment can be via credit card or PayPal. Go to www.cafepress.com/AHSOW for more detail. We will eventually have a link to the e-store from our new website. AHSOW does receive a portion of the sales proceeds so indulge yourself!

Manager of Member Service

Duties By-laws 3.09.

Vacant

Bulletin Editor

Duties By-laws 3.10.

BULLETIN EDITOR REPORT

Issued Call For Reports for November 2010 Bulletin, October 1, 2010 to all Board Members. Past officers and DECS were invited to contribute. Draft issued October 15. Second draft issued 10/20. Third Draft issued, Final issued . Casey Parker

Education Managers

Duties By-laws 3.11.

Education Manager West

This is the time of year that all of the Districts DEC's are running AHSOW rooms and several are Brand New DECS running their first room ever, the names of these DECS and their districts are: Aaron Wolf / PIO, Bryan Black / SWD along w/ his new ADEC Jevon Wright who got his feet wet helping out in the AHSOW room this year at HU, in our New Carolina District (NCD) Don Dobson and John Fisher will run the DEC position together.

In the spring three Districts will have new DECS, in CSD we have Gale Demaree in the DEC position who also has got a couple of men lined up as ADECS, in the ILL district we have Jim Fourmont as DEC w/ four more lined up to be his ADECS, and LOL has Charlie Wilde as the new DEC.

The unsung hero's that have been in the trenches for be it a long timer such as Casey Parker in the FWD or the relatively new such as Oz Whelander in the RMD all need our support in making AHSOW work.

As of now I am still looking for someone to take on the DEC position in the EVG District so if anyone would like to try or thinks they know of someone that may want to help run the AHSOW room in EVG, please contact me by e-mail or by phone and get EVG an AHSOW room of their own to enjoy the art of woodshedding.

Kent Shepherd, EMW

ahsow_emw@yahoo.com

Phone # 559-394-3605

Education Manager East

NO REPORT RECEIVED

Erik Deland

DEC REPORTS

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT

The FWD AHSOW Team presented a class "Introduction to Woodshedding" led by Casey Parker, Mark Torrance & Mike Werner, with participation of AHSOW members Les Cudworth and others.. The audience members took an active part in the class. The AHSOW Room was available for woodshedding 9 AM to Midnight Friday and Saturday October 8 & 9, 2010. Seven new members were certified, and one member re-instated. Several Discovery Singing CDs and DS booklets were sold. Approximately 40 members signed the room log. Participants in qualifying quartets were: Noah Morrison, Les Cudworth, Bill Beck, Dave Bishop, Peter Drew, and others. Thank you all.

Casey Parker

FWD AHSOW Team Leader

A. Harmonious Society Of Woodshedders, <http://ahsow.org/>

subsidiary of SPEBSQSA, dba BHS <http://barbershop.org/>

JOHNNY APPLESEED DISTRICT

Ken Wheeler

After Apple Corps, the JAD HEP school, I spent six lovely days in the hospital with health problems. We just completed our fall contest and convention. The district again provided a woodshed room. There was the usual bunch of events, including semifinals with 27 quartets and a contest with 7 choruses, plus a Saturday night past champs show, followed by a chorditorium. Some of the old faithful AHSOW members came in and we woodshedded until 2:45 AM. We had some good 'shedding but no auditions. Our next scheduled event is spring prelims in April. I will be unable to attend mid-winter.. My best to all and happy holidays. Hummmmmmbly, Ken Wheeler

SENECA LAND DISTRICT

Mike Ebbers

SLD DEC

The Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodshedders (AHSOW) opened their traditional room at the SLD Fall Convention in Rochester NY. They didn't serve coffee or beer, so what was it all about? It was a great place to enjoy some good old fashioned barbershop harmony. It was open on Friday afternoon from 1-4 and on Saturday between events: 3-5 PM after the chorus contest and 9-11:45 PM after the quartet finals. Signs were posted in the lobby and on the third floor of the headquarters hotel to direct barbershoppers to the spot.

Woodshedding is how barbershop singing got started. The lead singer provides a singable harmonizable melody, while three other singers choose notes above and below the melody to form pleasing chords. Granted, without an official paper arrangement in front of them, some of the resulting chord choices may at first be less barbershop-like than others, but as the singers experiment with different note choices, more and more harmonious chords emerge. Pride of creation and teamwork is established, and the participants part ways in a happy mood.

Anyone is welcome to stop by and woodshed. In addition, some people choose to join AHSOW. One SLD AHSOW member (Warren) has been barbershopping for 61 years and spent several hours in the AHSOW room. Membership is by audition, and is open to BHS members who have demonstrated proficiency in ear-singing at least two harmony parts. SLD President Pete Carenz stopped by to help qualify one member, singing a well-done lead melody. Congratulations to Michael and Chris, who are the newest SLD members to qualify. See this link for more information (ahsow.org), including a history of the AHSOW society and some helpful tips and techniques about woodshedding.

Because of the great interest in woodshedding, the AHSOW room is always in need of qualified woodshedders to help the newer ones along and to assist during auditions. On occasion, we had people stop by to audition but left disappointed because there were no qualified members available to form a quartet. If you are qualified, or know someone who is, spread the word. You are all invited to spend some time in the AHSOW room when it is open. Thanks to Phil McCabe for the hours he spent, as well as to John Wulf and Eric Saile for their time and assistance. During the brief lulls of newcomers, those experienced ones all took the opportunity to ring a few chords together.

To all SLD members, don't miss this enjoyable opportunity at the next SLD event. In 2011, come join us at the AHSOW room during the spring and fall conventions and also at the PowWow (Harmony Education program for all ages) during the summer.

Mike Ebbers

AHSOW SenecaLand District Educator and Certifier

CAROLINAS DISTRICT

The Carolinas District celebrated its first ever Fall Convention on Halloween weekend at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Interestingly, this new District received its charter at the International Convention on the 4th of July in Philadelphia. The early expectation, in terms of attendance for their fall convention and for planning purposes, anticipated approximately 500 members and guests. The site for the convention was to be held at the Landmark Resort Hotel with all events taking place on site at the hotel. In addition to the District Quartet Contest on Friday evening (23 quartets participating), there was a District Chorus Contest on Saturday (mid-day) and the Quartet Finals Saturday evening. Lo and behold, "the best laid plans of mice and men often go astray". The final convention registration tally, as of early afternoon Saturday, had already gone beyond 900 members and friends. As you can imagine, all meeting room plans had to be changed when it became obvious they were running out of available space. The District had committed space for nine chapters planning to host hospitality rooms. The main ballroom was maxed out Friday evening and an adjacent smaller ballroom was being used for the overflow for the Saturday evening finals. Although the yellow AHSOW banner was on display above the entrance to a smaller ballroom off the lobby, it was now being used for chorus warm-ups for their contest appearances. Talk about confusion, there was music everywhere. This, in addition to hotel staff running around setting up rooms for this and that activity, in spite of printed schedules previously prepared. Flyers promoting the AHSOW Hospitality Room were posted throughout the Landmark Resort and emcees were very helpful in terms of making announcements about the AHSOW Hospitality effort. John Fisher (BHS woodshedder extraordinary) and the writer were running around like chickens with their heads cut off. In the final analysis, attendance in the space provided for woodshedding left something to be

desired, however we were assured our spring convention, being held in Charlotte, North Carolina would provide adequate space for our woodshedding program. Although the number of woodshedders reached thirty, that was a far cry from what usually takes place and that was attributed to the successful efforts of the Carolinas District and their promotion for this inaugural convention. The redeeming event for AHSOW was the certification of Nathan P. Daniel as the first barbershopper to qualify as our newest member of the Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodshedders in the newest District of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Nathan is a member of the Savannah Chapter which is petitioning the Society to become a member chapter of Carolinas District because of their close proximity and alliance to the Carolinas. We're told they had twenty members attending the inaugural NCS convention.

Don Dobson

JOIN AHSOWnet: IT IS A FORUM FOR AHSOW MEMBERS ONLY

The AHSOW Bulletin
C. Parker, Editor
305 Vineyard Town Ctr #113
Morgan Hill, CA 95037
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MUSIC AVAILABLE FOR A SONG

NEW -Harmony Song Index -8,560 Song Titles with, Composer & Year,
My Harmony Archive has 6,000 arrangements and 10,000 harmony type piano-vocals.
The Harmony Archive has available arrangement songbooks and Harmony Guides.
Did you know that pre-1923 songs are Public Domain, hence have no royalties or fees?
Sheet Music prior to 1923 often included four part arrangements. I have 200.

From the Society Code of Ethics:

The Society aspires to preserve for its members and for all future generations of prospective members the sacred right of men to seek haven from the burden of their daily cares through indulgence in old fashioned vocal quartet harmony, and to that end we do hereby pledge ourselves to abide by the precepts of this Code of Ethics

HELP WANTED: Opening ASSOCIATE EDITOR <mailto:caseypar@garlic.com>
Support Woodshedding, write Editorials. become Famous & . is n't famous enough?
Email an article to Casey Parker at <caseypar@garlic.com>