



NUGGETS

Gold Coast Barbershop Chorus

SPEBSQSA, Inc.

San Luis Obispo Chapter



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December 31, 2005

CALENDAR

- Dec 2—SLO Parade
- Dec 3-Paso Robles Show
- Dec 3-4 Vocal Arts Ensemble
- Dec 12—Joint Meeting of Incoming and Outgoing Boards of Directors
- Dec 11th— N. County Sing out at Nursing homes
- Dec 18th—S. County Sing out at Nursing Homes
- Dec 26th— no rehearsal
- Jan 3rd-Quartet Coaching at Greg Schifano's
- Jan 7th— Saturday- Installation Dinner San Luis Bay Estates Clubhouse- Same place as last year –be there!

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Last Message from the Prez. This has been a very fast year as your president. Some of the positive parts of the job have been associating with a hard working board. Among their accomplishments have been updating the uniforms and equipment inventory, acquiring equipment to record quartets and attracting new and active singers to replace some of the members we have lost.

Some of the sadder events this year were the loss of some of our brothers due to moving away and illness. They remain in our thoughts.

We are all happy to see that Rick Marshall is making a good recovery. His illness has been a test for our chorus. When needed, Thomas Bourne, Don Poole and John Staley stepped up to keep us going and improving.

Of concern for the chorus is that we are spending money faster then we are making it.

Sometimes that is necessary to make opportunities for future income such as expenses for advertising and uniforms.



On the other hand, we are seeing a trend that the expenses to put on a show are rising faster then the income we are deriving from the show. The new board -and the chorus- will need to face this problem in creative ways. A few areas deserve consideration might be to:

1. Encourage all members of the chorus to sell a minimum number of tickets to the show. This has been done in the past. Our re-

search shows that the majority of people attending one of our shows are there because of a contact by a chorus member. Moreover, since our mission is to spread joy through our music we need to encourage people to attend our shows as well as prepare for them.

2. Raise the cost of tickets.
3. Perform more shows. We have nothing planned in the North County this next year.
4. Seek income raising events such as helping at contests.

Overall however the chorus has been faithful to its mission of spreading joy through its music. The potential for the chorus is strong and I have no doubt that under the leadership of Bill Long and the New Board we will continue to prosper and grow in numbers and musically.

Here's to a Great New Year.

Chuck Wilbur, President



Smile of the day: (You might be a Barbershopper if:)

1. Your wife no longer cares how you got makeup on your shirt.
2. You mistake the hum of an air conditioner for a quartet somewhere in the hotel.
3. The greeting on your answering machine starts with bum, bum, bum, bum
4. Your doctor schedules your heart surgery on a rehearsal night and you gotta think twice about it .



Inside Notes

A word from Greg Schifano

As a group that entertains the public, we should strive to keep our programs to an enjoyable length. Red Skelton was once asked what he thought of a sermon, "Well it was kinda' like the farmer goin' out to feed the herd for that day, but he dumped the whole year's load of feed."

Many times for a sing out, people, not fully understanding nonprofessional barbershop quartets, ask for half an hour or so, of ENTERTAINMENT. To some quartets that means singing everything they know, even if it's not up to performance standards. I'm with Red Skelton; I would rather be stingy with the repertoire than "lay our hobby on unsympathetic ears."

I for one, would rather hear "DO ANOTHER" than see one of those "WHEW, glad that's over." looks. Sad to say, we have all experienced that.

We tend to forget that our hobby, no matter how much we like to share it with others, is one that is more like a performance tour, rather than an exhibition sport! It is easy to lose sight of that fact when designing our presentation for the public! I wish everyone loved a cappella singing as much as I, but even as much as I love barbershop, I can get bored with too much sameness in our style of singing. Imagine someone who doesn't like it to start with?

I love to walk away from a gig with PRIDE, knowing that we presented a pleasing, entertaining package that was enjoyed by most of the audience -and professionally performed!

The proof of the pudding, of course, is when they ask us to come back!!

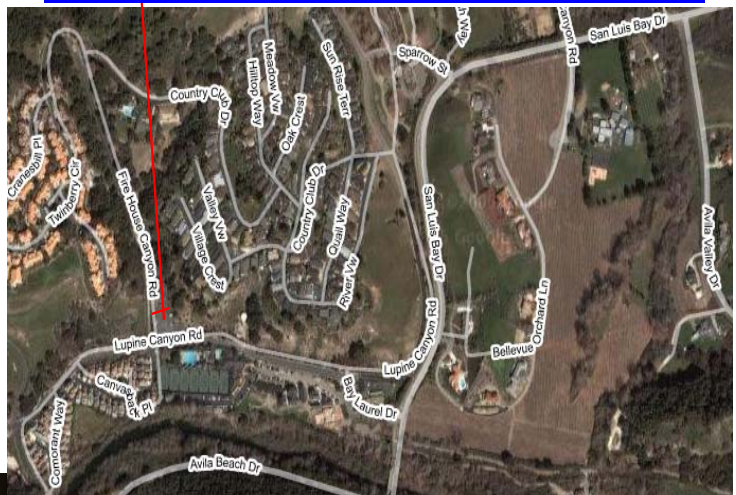


Quartet Coaching Resumes January 3rd

Greg's Quartet Coaching sessions resume January 3rd. To help out the Valentines Chairman, the next few sessions will concentrate on Valentine quartets. Everyone is welcome to Greg Schifano's studio every 1st & 3rd Tuesday night, starting at 7 PM. Greg's studio is at 4736 Bridge Creek Road, and he can be reached at 544-3116.

Greg has hosted five coaching sessions this year, and the idea was wildly successful. On at least one occasion there were so many attendees we may have used up every chair he owned! Greg has had excellent guest speakers, and always begins the session with questions from the attendees, an agenda, and then shares some music theory. The improvement made by Chorus members who have attended is audibly measurable. What you come away with is in direct proportion to the effort you put into it. (What a surprise, right?) Join us!!

Installation Dinner January 7th



Installation Dinner is at the same place as last year, the clubhouse at San Luis Bay Estates. From 101, exit San Luis Bay Drive, turn into Estates entrance before Avila Beach Drive. Go through guard shack, turn left, then right on Firehouse Canyon Rd. -Clubhouse on right. Event starts 6 PM, dinner starts at 7 PM sharp. FWD Installation Officer: Jim Turmire

Greetings Gentlemen! With my last installment for 2005, I'm happy to report we had a very good year with Chapter Development. We added several talented individuals and retained most of our core. Lets keep up the trend and add even more in 2006.



CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT



George Loose photo by B Miller

My COTS experience this past Nov. was very productive. I picked up some good ideas for our chorus. One big thing we all need to work on is better attendance at singing and exposure opportunities. The 2005 Christmas parade was a glaring example, only 8 guys showed up to ride the float. It was a bit embarrassing having only 8 bodies to fill a 20 ft. trailer. And don't think people didn't notice, I heard many comments of confusion.

Also, we need more quartets. We receive requests for quartet gigs on a regular basis with no one to fill the spot. This is an odd circumstance for an organization with the word "Quartet singing" in it's official name, don't you think? And I will point out that being in a quartet makes for a notably better chorus singer. Even if you sing only Polecats and chorus tunes for your own enjoyment, it's worth doing. And there is nothing wrong with working on your Valentine's quartet all year.

Let's all each make as a New Year's resolution to try our best to bring in a new member. And let us also renew our commitment to the chorus. Attend rehearsal, come prepared, and stay for the entire evening; we have far too many leaving at break. Remember, it's **YOUR** chorus, without you and your commitment we have nothing.. Don't let that happen.

In closing I want to thank everyone who helped me with my duties this year. This is not a one-man job but a team effort. There just isn't enough space to list all of you –but know that you are appreciated.

I'm looking forward to the Gold Coast Barber-shop Chorus of 2006....how 'bout you?

George Loose
VP Chapter Development

Special Thanks

When new members first fill out a form many state they were attracted to join because of the brotherhood and fellowship. This was emphasized for me by the overwhelming outpouring of sympathy and thoughtfulness from the membership at the passing of our son Steve. The turnout at the graveside service, the cards, e-mails, and phone calls were greatly appreciated and a great help to Kathy and to me. Barber-shopping has been a valuable asset in being able to cope. When you are singing you can't think about anything else. In addition, those who sing do so because they care about it. That depth of feeling extends to other aspects of their lives and touches others as all of you have touched us. Kathy and I wish to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all of you.

[Bruce Miller and family]

Thanks to so many of you who came to sing for my mother's 103rd birthday, once more before Christmas, and finally at her funeral service on Thursday December 29th. It is impossible to express how helpful you were to my family. Our cup overfloweth .

[Rudy Xavier and family]

GOLD COAST BARBERSHOP CHORUS

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SLO Frequency sings at Farmer's Market August 11, 2005

Gold Coast Chorus meets Mondays at 7:00 PM - Adult School, Rm J4, 1572 Lizzie St, San Luis Obispo



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