



## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS

**Wally Smulson**

*VP, Music & Performance  
Chapter Librarian*



When I was 3, my parents moved to Skokie, IL. I attended East Prairie School through 8th grade and then went to Niles Township High School East. I graduated in 1968. My wife and I started going steady in junior year of high school (we were sweet 16 at the time) and got married after we finished college. In high school, my main interest was Concert Choir. Our director, Earl Auge, was director of the Arlingtines in Arlington Heights, IL. He started a barbershop club at Niles East. In my junior year, our school produced The Music Man. Naturally, I was the Baritone in the Barbershop Quartet.

My wife, Marla, and I have 2 sons, 2 daughters-in-law, and 1 granddaughter. Both families live very near to our Illinois home.

For college, I attended Loyola University Chicago where I got a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree in Mathematics. I minored in Education and in the middle 80's got an Administrator's Certificate. After graduating college in 1974, I worked for Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Illinois in the Mathematics Department. I taught High School math of every level including college level calculus. From 1985 to 2000, I became the Department Chairman and I took an early retirement in 2012.

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Our weekly meetings are at the **University United Methodist Church at 4412 S. Maryland Pkwy, LV 89119**, on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.

UNIVERSITY CHURCH is located across the street from the University of Nevada-Las Vegas (UNLV) on Maryland Parkway, between Flamingo Rd and Tropicana Ave.

You can see an online location map here:

<https://goo.gl/maps/JnQu8S85t7DkpVmK8>

*Wally Smulson...continued*

From 2012-2015, I have been a substitute teacher in the public schools in Wilmette, Illinois. It has been quite a change from high school age to preschool through 8th grade students. I have been able to teach all subjects to students of all ages and ability levels. My favorite classes are Kindergarten and 1st grade.

Music has always been part of my life. I have played piano since I was 8 years old. I sang choral music in high school and college.

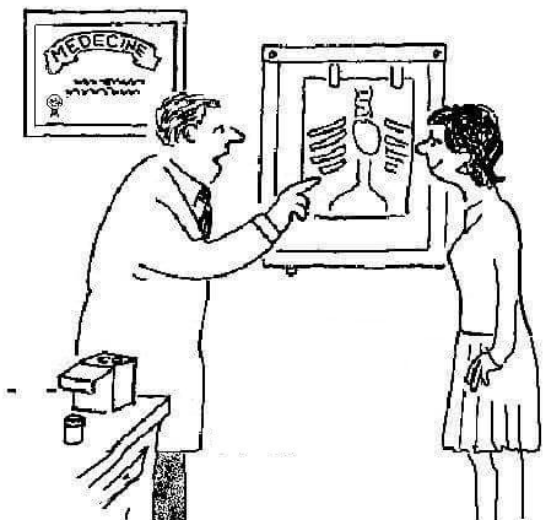
For 25 years, I was been a Square Dance Caller. I have taught square dancing to beginners, been a caller for many parties, and called for many square dance clubs.

In 2014, I joined the Arlingtones Barbershop Chorus in Arlington Heights, Illinois and am very pleased to be a member of the Silver Statesmen.

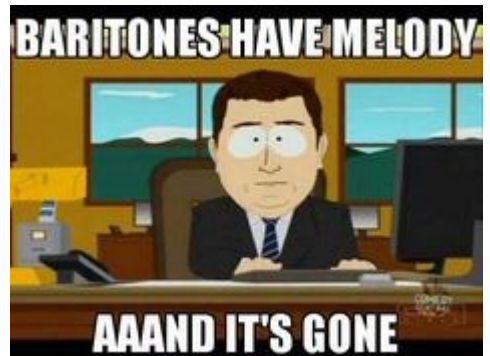
**A DAY WITHOUT MUSIC.....**

**JUST KIDDING....**

**I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THAT'S LIKE.**



"Your heart is slightly bigger than the average human heart, but that's because you're a Music Teacher."



I don't always listen to barbershop quartets ...  
But when I do, so do my neighbors!



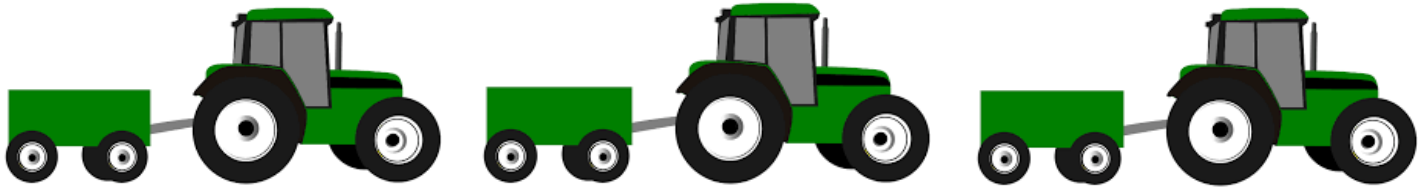
## Five things every director wishes you already knew about rehearsing

By Bill Rashleigh, Former Music specialist, BHS

As a chorus member, what can you do to make those rehearsals be more fun for everyone? Directors often become frustrated by the famous “I taught that last week” syndrome that seems to plague every chorus. If all chorus members will internalize the following lessons, they can reduce the syndrome’s symptoms—if not cure the disease—and help make a better chorus in the process. Here are some things to think about:

- 1. For the chorus to improve, each man must leave his own behavioral comfort zone.** If each singer would improve one aspect, skill, or attitude each and every time he sings, the overall music will get better very quickly. Take ownership of something. Maybe it is a breathing issue, maybe a balance challenge, maybe it is adding more airflow over the break in your individual voice. Simple things like these accomplish immediate improvement.
- 2. You should be emotionally involved in the music.** Barbershop is a very emotional, heartfelt, simplistically beautiful style of music. The music doesn’t need to be complex to produce complex emotions in the singers or the audience. However, anything less than full effort will result in a less satisfying musical experience for you and your audiences. When you commit to becoming a member of your chapter’s chorus, you’re committing to being a doer rather than a casual spectator. With that responsibility to put your whole self into the music comes the joy of joining others to bring music to life. What greater purpose in the arts might there be?
- 3. Rehearsals will be more productive if you listen—and extinguish comments—while on the risers.** When your director cuts off the chorus in the middle of a phrase, do you sometimes choose this moment to tell your neighbor that he sang the wrong note or “oo” vowel? You may think you’re helping, but this disrupts the flow of the rehearsal. Remember this: Unlike you, the director hears exactly what the audience would hear (the macro effect). If he didn’t hear what you just heard (the micro effect), the audience probably wouldn’t hear it, either. On the other hand, the issues he identifies (both positive and negative) will be critical. The director can fix many more problems when chorus members withhold their comments and trust him to prioritize which issues need to be addressed at the moment. If the director consistently overlooks something that is bothering you, it is best to discuss it with your section leader or your director after you get off the risers.
- 4. Singing well takes a lot of exertion.** Singing requires more concentration, for a longer period of time, than any other activity. Psychologists will tell you the mind works in concentration spurts, about 7-10 seconds, then we think of something else. Most activities that require concentration require it for very short periods of time, but a song lasts 2-1/2 to 3 minutes. That is a very long time. So train your mind, through a variety of exercises, to increase the length of time you can concentrate, and you will be able to handle the demands of the music. You probably already know how to sing good vowels, sing in tune, balance chords, and outwardly exude what the music demands. You have these skills and have done them in isolation. The challenge is to do them for the duration of the song and beyond if you are in a performance. Practice does help. Use a mirror and sing, karaoke style, some of your favorite quartet songs to see if you look like they sound. Take ownership of some aspect of singing and practice, practice, practice. Video cameras are also great for giving truthful feed-back for such practice.
- 5. Skills take time to learn and more time to re-learn.** The instructions in golf are very simple: Hit the ball into the hole with the club, 18 times in a row ...duh! But anyone who has tried that knows it is not easy. Singing is the same way. The instructions are simple: Sing all the word sounds, perfectly matched amongst singers, in perfect intonation in relationship to the chord and the key, in proper balance, with perfect unity and precision while expressing that in a believable, heartfelt manner creating seamless artistry ... duh! We know it is not easy. Allow yourself the privilege of honing skills and know that it will pay off. Singing is a marathon sport, running over the course of your singing life.

**You should have fun when you sing. Enjoy each other and share in the joys of making great music because you don’t know when you won’t be able to do so again.**



Recently while on vacation a friend of mine had the opportunity to visit and tour John Deere's World Headquarters. From its humble beginnings in a blacksmith shop in 1837, John Deere has become a billion dollar, multi-national corporation.

While touring the headquarters he saw a placard in the building that caught my interest. The placard read, "I will never put my name on a product that does not have in it the best that is in me." It is attributed to John Deere, founder of the corporation. The placard is placed throughout all of John Deere's facilities as a reminder of what is expected of everyone.

Think about it. Everything he built, everything he did has his absolute best in it. Doesn't this stand true for us today as the Silver Statesmen?

Shouldn't every time we rehearse, every time we perform, and for that matter, every time we step out in public to represent the Silver Statesmen, have the very best that is in each and every one of us? As with John Deere, every product had his absolute best in it. So should it be with us.

So, how does this happen? With nothing less than pride, diligence and hard work. As with a corporation, a team of horses, and even our chorus, this takes everyone doing his part and pulling together in the same direction as a team.

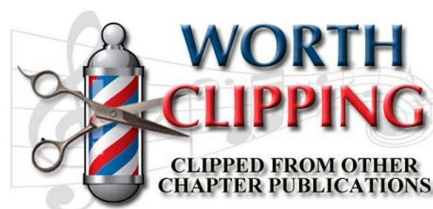
We have a lot going on right now with preparations for our shows in September and August, not to mention sing outs along the way. Again, diligence and hard work come into play. And how do we accomplish all of this? By putting forth the very best that is in each and every one of us. This means attending rehearsals every week. Paying attention to the director or whoever is at the front leading us. Taking time outside of rehearsals to learn and review music. Also, doing our part when asked to help out with a project.

So then, what is the payback for all of this? With John Deere it is a high quality product that is in great demand with the corporation's heart and soul in it. It should be that way with us. Every time we rehearse and every time we step out in public either individually, as a quartet, or as a chorus we should provide a high quality product that has the Silver Statesmen's heart and soul in it.

Therefore, we need to always remember...

"I will never put my name on a product that does not have in it the best that is in me." *John Deere*

Great words to live and work by.



## Silver Statesmen Calendar

### Calendar Events for 2022

#### JULY

3rd - Patriotic Songs Performance at Dr. David Dorway's organ concert at Grace Presbyterian Church, 1515 W. Charleston Blvd LV 89102 - 2:00 p.m.

3rd - National Anthem and God Bless America Performance at the Las Vegas Ballpark for the Aviators baseball game, 1650 S. Pavilion Center Dr LV 89135 - 6:05pm

3-10 - International Convention (Charlotte, NC)

#### AUGUST

20th - "Viva Las Vegas" - 2:00 p.m. - Winchester-Dondero Cultural Center, 3130 Mcleod Dr, LV 89121

#### SEPTEMBER

23rd - "Viva Las Vegas" - 7:00 p.m. - Siena Senior Community 55+, 10525 Siena Monte Ave, LV 89135  
(Residents Only)

#### OCTOBER

13-16 - FWD Fall Convention - Fresno, CA

#### NOVEMBER

12th - Veterans Day Show - 2:00 p.m. - Clark County Library Theater, 1401 E. Flamingo Rd, LV 89121

13th - Veterans Day Show - 2:00 p.m. - Windmill Library Auditorium, 7060 W. Windmill Ln, LV 89113

#### DECEMBER

TBD - Holiday Performances



## Puns to Make You Chuckle

Hotel owners usually have “suite” dreams!

My blind friend borrowed some money today. He said he'd pay me back the next time he saw me..... HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!

How did the cowboy ride into town on Friday, then ride away only 3 days later on Friday?  
(His horse was named Friday!)

Why did the blonde sneak past the medicine cabinet? She didn't want to wake up the sleeping pills...

Age 60 might be the new 40, but 9:00p.m. is the new midnight!!

What do turkeys drink out of? A Gobble-let.....!!

The music that touches you in your youth is magnified as you get older. Each song can be a virtual time machine — all you need is to hear a second or two and you go back to that place and time when you first heard it. It's a wonderful feeling when music touches you so profoundly and stays with you through time.



## **Our Mission Statement:**

**"To share our passion for music, to preserve the art form known as Barbershop singing, to enrich the lives of our members, community, and audiences through performance and to bring people together in harmony and fellowship."**