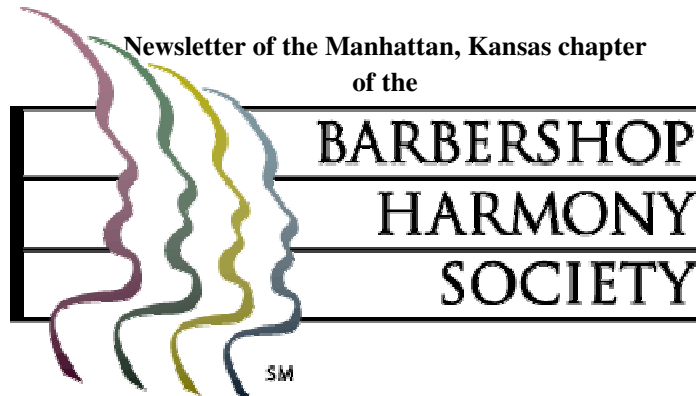


# InCider Press



Volume 29, Number 9

Karen Nanninga, Editor and Publisher

October 2006

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## Little Apple Chorus singing at Fort Riley September 17

**President Swenson** sums it up: "To the man, everyone agreed this is one of our most rewarding times invested together as a chorus. We appreciate so much what the Soldiers are doing for our country, and hope our little contribution in some way says that we do care and understand their sacrifices."

It was very impressive that forty members of the Chorus came together for six performances on Fort Riley on Sunday 17 September 2006. This was our second year to commemorate 9/11 and say we appreciate the efforts of our Soldiers and their families by singing at their Sunday services. Installation Chaplain COL Kenneth Sampson was our host. He arranged for a bus to transport the chorus from Ogden to each performance and back as well as the scheduling with each Chapel.

The activities of the day were captured in pictures by our editor **Karen Nanninga** and **Chaplain Erich Schwartz**. Some of those pictures are shown in this issue. A framed print named "The Hope of a Nation" was presented to **Chaplain Sampson** in appreciation for his efforts.

Sunflower Bank hosted a refreshment break with rolls and juice for everyone.

Thank you to each member of the Chorus that made this event possible.

**Gary Drake** Lead ♪

The chapter and chorus meet every Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. at the First Methodist Church Activity Center on the corner of Poyntz and 6th Street, Manhattan, Kansas.

*InCider Press*, a monthly publication, is the official publication of the Manhattan, Kansas chapter of the Central States District (CSD) of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

The Manhattan Chapter is the home of the Little Apple Chorus. The chapter and chorus meet every Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. at the First Methodist Church Activity Center on the corner of Poyntz and 6th Street, Manhattan, Kansas.

For more information about meetings or joining call or write to the Editor. (see below)

#### Chapter Officers

President.....Bob Swenson  
 Membership and.....Rodney Stanfield  
 Chapter Development VP.....and Bill Hanson  
 Music & Performance VP.....Steve Fisher  
 Marketing and  
 Public Relations VP.....Harvey Kiser  
 Secretary.....Pat Caffey  
 Treasurer.....Bill Bunyan  
 Member at Large.....Pat Caffey  
 Member at Large.....Gary Mott  
 Member at Large.....Ken Lyle  
 Member at Large.....Jim Lindquist  
 Member at Large.....John Schlender  
 Member at Large.....Don Thomson

#### Appointments

SPEBSQSA A-063 Delegate.....Bill Hanson  
 Musical Director.....Ken Lang  
 Associate Musical Director ....Don Thomson  
 Assistant Musical Director..... Myron Calhoun  
 Music Chairman.....Bob Ridley  
 Service Chairman.....Leonard Purvis  
 Show Chairman.....Jim Lindquist and  
 ..... Don Thomson  
 Uniforms.....Chuck Marr  
 Bulletin Editor.....Karen Nanninga  
 Web Master.....Bart Bartholomew

[www.littleapplechorus.org](http://www.littleapplechorus.org)

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Unless carrying a byline or some form of credit to borrowed sources, all items in this bulletin are by the editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the chapter or board. All photos in the bulletin are by the editor, unless otherwise identified.

*All chapter officers are expected and chapter members are encouraged to contribute their ideas on a regular basis*

## Looking back - - and forward!

I couldn't find a single guy that could say anything negative about our experience in Wichita. They were all pleased with the evaluation we received, and it simply re-enforced what **Ken Lang** has been telling us all along. And the Judges who reviewed our performance with us were complimentary in presenting ideas and ways to improve.

So what was the point of going? We knew we stood little chance of winning anything, but we prepared as best we could make our few moments on stage as good as we could. We, individually and collectively, fell short of what I'd call a perfect performance, but I'm sure it was better than had we not tried to compete. For me, the purpose was to improve my own singing and performing skills.

I know I learned a lot from the experience. There is something exciting about trying to do your best in a competition. Some of the comments given brought to light the fact that anytime we can improve our competition score, we are at the same time improving the value of our performance to any audience. So by competing, we have advanced our own cause by increasing the value of our performance. As we get better, more and more people will want to hear and see us.

At our most recent board meeting, we discussed the benefits of competition. No one approached it with the idea that we had to win something in order to be successful, but rather how the experience will improve our performance skills. To that end we need to improve our own skills by being more efficient in our chapter meetings, especially when it come to time on the risers.

Soon to be published will be a set of riser etiquette rules that we're asking our musical leadership to enforce. Consider the fact that you have earned, through your own work, the right to be asked to perform with the chorus. That is a privilege, but it also carries an obligation on your part to advance the needs of the chorus as you participate. I know not what the riser rules are going to be, but they will be designed to make our riser time more efficient, and with that efficiency, we will have more time to hone our performance into the best possible presentation.

It is a fact that the better we sing, the better we entertain, and the better we entertain, the more people will want to hear us. The more who hear us will increase our show attendance, provide more funds for our chapter's operation, and therefore advance our chapter as one that not only sings well, but entertains well. Your own personal commitment to better use of our riser time can only make the chapter a better one. Thanks for your commitment to making our chapter a better one.

In conclusion, please make a couple of notes about future dates very important to our planned success. The annual installation banquet will be held after Christmas Caroling on December 14th. This is a great time of sharing together, and the fun and fellowship is second to none.

We have also scheduled an all-chapter retreat for Saturday, February 3. Details will be forthcoming, but it will be an opportunity for every member to have some input into setting chapter goals and aspirations for the future. Mark these two dates on your calendars now and plan to share with us.

And finally, thank you for the opportunity to serve as your chapter

*(Continued on page 3)*



Gary Drake presents Chaplain Sampson with a print of "The Hope of a Nation" in appreciation for his efforts on our behalf.



The Chorus singing in the main post chapel.



Dorothy Dickerhoof, Yvonne Drake, Karen Trail, Evelyn Lewis, Joan Thomson, Diego Benavides, Karen Nanninga and Cindy Garwick were with the Chorus for their performances.



This chapel is the oldest building on the post in continuous use.

*(Continued from page 2)*

president for 2007. I will do my best to make every aspect of barbershop singing in Manhattan as enjoyable as possible throughout the year.

**Bob Swenson** President ♪



## A family affair

We have three generations of the Swenson's singing in our Chapter. They are Bob, Brian and Mason

Photo by Erich Schwartz

## Spring Show plans

Plans are well underway for the musical portion of the Spring Show. I would say that we are 98% certain of the songs we will learn and sing. I have listed them below. Along with the names of the songs, I have made some notes to help you in your planning, learning, and individual rehearsals. I think this will be another fun show to both prepare for and to produce. Our music leadership team and the creative committee have both met and had input to the music and the production. They, too, seem excited about the music, so I hope you are enjoying the songs that have been introduced so far.

### Hey, Look Me Over

#### Heart

### Do You Hear The People Sing

Please be off the music by November 2nd. Choreography will be introduced.

### Brother Can You Spare A Dime

We are well on our way with this one. Good job in learning it!

### Sit Down, You're Rockin' The Boat

You are doing a great job in learning this new song. Isn't it fun?

### That Old Gang of Mine

### Where Have My Old Friends Gone?

Probably will be introduced later this month.

### Give My Regards To Broadway

Will be introduced at a later date.

### What I Did For Love

Isn't this a lovely piece.

### Friends

Beautiful arrangement of a more modern song.

### This Is My Country

Probably will not be introduced until early next year.

We are off to a great start! When we are rehearsing on Thursday evenings, please make being off music being part of your learning process. We have been singing several of these songs for a few months now...and I think that any song we sing should be able to be memorized after spending a few months on it. It will probably take some individual rehearsal time, however. I hope you will be willing to spend this time. November 2nd is not that far away!

**Don D. Thomson** Associate Director ♪



Sharon and Leonard Purvis, Myron Calhoun, Joan and Don Thomson, Telva Swenson, Marilyn and Bill Bunyan and Janet Kiser preparing the CSD convention badges. Harvey Kiser took the photo and Bob Swenson was in the office printing the badges

Photo by Harvey Kiser



President Bob Swenson presents Bill Bunyan with the Barbershopper of the month award at our chapter picnic.

This months barbershopper of the month is **Bill Bunyan**. **Bill** is our chapter treasurer. **Bill** and his very able assistant **Marilyn** do a great job of keeping track of our funds and seeing that they go to the right places at the right time.

Thanks a lot Bill.

# Summer picnic and photos



Going through the serving line.



The group listening to one of the groups sing.



Here the three different groups share their songs with the members and guests at the chapter picnic.

Following the Ft Riley Sunday performances on September 17<sup>th</sup>, the **Little Apple Chorus** and their significant others meet in the Manhattan City Park shelter house for the chapter picnic.

The meal was catered by **Ricky's Cafe** from Hanover, Kansas. After eating more than we should of the delicious food **Don Thomson** had us break into three VLQ's to perform for the wives and others in attendance. After singing and socializing together most of those in attendance left for home saying it was a great day.

**Terry Nanninga**



## First time observations

I just wanted to thank first of all our director and everyone who was involved in the decision to go to this CSD contest!!

It was so much more than the contest. I am exhausted from the long day as I'm sure everyone was, but what an experience! As a first timer to all of this it was a little overwhelming sitting in the audience after we performed and listening to these other choruses and quartets. There is so much to learn, I wish every member could've been there to hear them.

The international champions were, well, international champions! They rang the chords and just had me on the edge of my chair along with everyone else just wanting to hear more!!

I don't want to jump the gun, but I was more than inspired and motivated to not only do better as a chorus member but I am going to be doing some serious work towards forming a quartet.

I don't want to sound negative either but sitting there listening to the judges critique our group was hard!! What was so surprising to me was what they told us was many things that **Ken** is already telling us and we just aren't doing yet! I'm sure he will have much to say at the meeting Thursday so I'm not going to spoil it with too many details!

There are so many things that made it a very worthwhile endeavor and I hope we are starting to plan for the next time! I loved sitting in the audience and having the Ambassadors of Harmony lead the audience in "Keep the whole world singing"!! The sound was incredible from an auditorium filled with barbershoppers (and spouses) on stage and off!! I can't wait till next time!!

**Tom Fish** ♪

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Ok, I have to admit it, yes this was my first time in 13 years to attend a Central States Convention, let alone compete in one. Now it is easy to understand why our members and spouses that attend the International come back so excited about Barbershop! And just think, this was only a mini-version and I wasn't able to get the full deal as I had to return early before the quartet singing so I could attend my grandson's first birthday.

Observation 1--I now have a better understanding of what a BIG job our **Bob Swenson** has as the person in charge of registration of such an event. Thank you Bob, Telva, and all who accept his invitation to help put the registration packets together. I, for one, will make a greater effort to be there next year.

Observation 2--It takes the whole team to get there. Thanks to all the Board members and Directors who helped with the logistics just to get ourselves and our "stuff" there. Special kudos to **Harvey Kiser** for arranging for the van, and **Bill Hanson** for hauling tuxes, and all the members who car-pooled.

Observation 3--Getting there is the easy part (even with the road construction around the Hotel!) Parking, finding the room, changing clothes in unfamiliar situations can be un-nerving. Thank goodness for the spouses who served as our make-up crew and official cheerleaders as we began the preparations.

Observation 4--The word "pattern" has a whole new meaning. Just like airports have their landing pattern, so does a Barbershop District contest. Can you imagine the people-power it takes to make something like that happen? It also takes some kind of special facility to pull this thing off. It really sharpens your navigating senses trying to remember how you got from here to there.

Observation 5--Barbershoppers are a great bunch of people. I can't count the number of "good luck", "break a leg", "great job", "glad you are here", "when you come back next year I'll bet you'll be the most improved chorus", that were said personally to me--and I don't think I personally knew a single one of these men that said that, and it was said with the utmost sincerity.

Observation 6--This is serious business, but can be done with a sense of fun and excitement. The Society has obviously put a lot of thought into running a smooth, ethical and fair contest, as well they should, as the stakes are high in selecting our District's representatives to the next International contest. I tried to have as much fun as possible, but must admit that my nerves settled down after our performance, and I really did enjoy seeing and hearing the

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remaining performances.

Observation 7--It is possible for men and boys of all ages to sing, dance, show animation and emotion, and do it all very well. I have not yet had the opportunity to hear our score or judges' comments, but this idea of "living the song we are singing" that Ken and Don talk to us about almost weekly was certainly demonstrated well by many of the choruses we saw perform. I think this was one of my most ah-ha moments.

Observation 8--Whether you have a chorus of 20 or 200, matching vowels and singing with intensity (of course on the right notes), is what really makes one appreciate this style of singing. I was utterly amazed when the largest chorus on stage--there had to be close to 200 of them--were able to sing softly and still sound like only four different men--now that is PRICELESS to anyone who appreciates excellence.

Bottom line--What a great day to drive a couple of hours in the beauty of the Kansas autumn season with friends, perform to the best of our ability with just a three week tweaking, see and hear some of the Society's best of the best choruses and take home some major learnings, and return to celebrate my grandson's first birthday at our house! Oh yes, and I must add listening to the radio as K-State beat OSU in football. The day can't get much better than that for me. I only hope yours was as fulfilling. and I know our performance and attendance at this event will make the Little Apple Chorus a better chorus in the future.

**Steve Fisher** ♪



**Thirty-one members of the Little Apple Chorus looking their best at the chorus competition at the Central States District Convention October 7.**

## Notes from the Board Meeting

At the October 9th board meeting the board decided to hold the Installation Banquet on December 14th in conjunction with Christmas Caroling. Details are not available at this time.

The board scheduled a Chapter Retreat to be held February 3rd next year. Details are being arranged. A chapter retreat is designed to allow chapter members to have input about chapter plans for 2007.

**Pat Caffey** Secretary ♪

## Improved singing is our best public relations tool

Public relations and marketing are tied together intimately with the quality of our singing. This we experienced hearing the **Ambassadors of Harmony**, St. Charles, Missouri sing at the Central States District (CSD) 2006 Fall Convention and Contests in Wichita. We were "Wowed" by their wonderful and exciting singing. In the contest, the chorus earned 1680 points out of a possible 1800 for a 93.3% average. **The Ambassadors of Harmony** will represent CSD at the 2007 International Convention and Contests in Denver next July.

We wanted more and more of their singing at the convention Saturday evening Harmony Showcase Spectacular! We heard this 160 men chorus sing and perform four-part a cappella music in unity and in sync with their vowels and chords tuned. The choreography was precise, energetic and complemented the singing. To hear these men sing is an inspiration.

Improved singing is our best public relations and marketing tool we have. I believe a big way we can increase our attendance at our spring show is by improving our singing and doing even better than we are. Let's start moving towards what the **Ambassadors of Harmony** and what the **Heart of America Chorus** of Kansas City does.

The judges at the CSD convention and contests encouraged us to improve our intonation and breath support, focusing our eyes on our director at all times regardless of the choreography, sing as a unit which involves tuning our vowels, increase our energy level on ballads, and remain in sync. These are some of the comments I heard and understood.

From my point of view, the judges' comments might be summed up by using the quote from football coach **Mark Mangino** about his team's performance last Saturday as quoted in *The Wichita Eagle*. He said, "I could tell early on that our offense was not in sync." He said that the team was more 'More like the sound of 11 violins out of tune.' So, what goes for playing football as a team also applies to singing as a chorus.

Our challenge? Develop a chapter strategy to implement what our music team teaches us. This is to improve our musicianship, singing as a unit and increase the entertainment value of our presentations. This is the challenge for each of us. Let's have a show and concert that people feel they cannot miss!

**Harvey Kiser** V.P, Marketing and Public Relations 🎵



Terry Nanninga, Tom Fish, Bill Bunyan and Brian Arthaud-Day enjoyed singing tags at CSD.



Sharon Purvis, Janet Kiser and Karen Nanninga applying makeup to Tom Fish, John Desper and Bob Swenson. before and at the CSD Convention.

Photo by Harvey Kiser



Joan Thomson spent part of her day helping make sure everyone looked their best. Here she is helping Mark Robb with his flower.



## Meet your director, Ken Lang

I was raised on a farm about a mile from Green, Kansas., and to this day, I believe my mother knew my destiny before my third birthday. She tells the story of finding me behind the kitchen door, moving to the music that was playing on the radio when I was a toddler. From then on, I was the musician.

My first recollection of public performance came when I was the soloist in a 'Tom Thumb Wedding' my first grade teacher staged while at Green Elementary. The reviews made my mother's buttons pop, and soon after that the music lessons began. My sister **Carolyn**, who is two years older and I spent every Saturday morning with a local teacher learning to sing every gospel duet under the sun. It seems we performed at all the churches in a 50 mile radius of Clay Center at least two or three times. My younger brother **Ron** was thrown into the mix when he was still too young to pronounce the words, and we were a trio. So, we made the church circuit again.

My mother got involved in starting a 4-H group near our farm, and of course we all joined at the first opportunity. I think it was her idea of another venue to show off our talents. County and State 4-H days were huge events at our house, and showing the relatives the blue ribbons made more buttons pop.

I started piano lessons before my hands could reach an octave, which meant more time was devoted to Saturday morning lessons. It also meant that one hour of every day was devoted to practice. This really didn't please my dad too much because I was now of the age where the chores were also in my schedule. I was also driving a tractor and helping with the farming at the age of nine, so you can imagine his delight when I had to leave the field to serve my time at the piano. At that tender age, I can still remember some of the family 'discussions'. My dad was a patient man.

Our lives were changed forever when my dad passed away. I was about to enter high school and my hero was gone.

**Jim Martyn**, the high school music teacher, called during that summer and wanted to start a boy's barbershop quartet. The timing could not have been better. What an experience to hear the chords ring when everybody is in tune. This was a 'kick in the pants'. During our four years in high school, we sang on several barbershop shows with some of the greats at that time. The '**Kippers**' were awesome.

After graduation I enrolled at Kansas Technical Institute in Salina. Computers were just coming on the scene and they told me I could make a lot of money learning to repair them. After a year, I missed the involvement in music and transferred to Cloud County Junior College. From there I attended Kansas State University and graduated with a teaching degree in 1972.

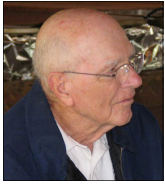
My first teaching job was at Phillipsburg High School and three years later I was at Manhattan High School. While at Manhattan, **Dave Brown** called to see if I was interested in singing barbershop music again. **Dave** was the Bari in our high school quartet. I jumped in with both feet and shortly after that our local chapter was chartered. About a year later, I was asked to be the director.

I took over the music department at Clay Center when **Jim Martyn** retired in 1979. During the next 25 years I had the privilege of teaching all three of my daughters the joys of singing. **Angie, Amy**, and **Kimberly** were active in music all four years. **Angie** and **Kimberly** both were in quartets.

By the way, I think my mother is a pretty smart woman.

My wife, **Cindy** and I have been married nearly twelve years, and I am enjoying my early retirement from teaching. You know, the grand kids are getting about the age to start singing. I think I'll try to work that in between tee times.

**Ken Lang** Director 🎵



## Meet member, George Dickerhoof

I first started singing at age five in church and began harmonizing in the second grade. My mother and father were both very musical as my father played the guitar, violin and the organ and my mother played the piano.

I learned to play the saxophone in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade and played in the school band until I graduated from high school. I was in a swing band and played for dances in the southeast part of Kansas. I have always sung in the church choir.

I was drafted into the Army, became a radio operator and spent most of the time in Korea in 1952 -1953 during the Korean War.

**Dorothy** and I were married in Albuquerque New Mexico in 1956. We have 3 children, 5 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild.

I graduated from Kansas State in 1957 in Agronomy but was a Social Worker most of my career. I enjoy playing golf and am a sports enthusiast attending all KSU home games of football, basketball, volleyball and baseball and sometimes some of the high school games.

In 1962, while living in Modesto California, I was invited to the local barbershop chorus on a guest night and was hooked on barbershop singing. I joined the **Modesto** chapter and sang in their chorus until I moved to Chanute Kansas in 1967. There wasn't a barbershop chorus within 100 miles of Chanute so I dropped my membership until 1981, at which time a friend and I attended a chapter meeting in Kansas City, where a member suggested we start a chapter in Chanute. We followed his suggestion, chartering **Southeast Kansas Shavers** in 1982 and I became the first president. In 1987 I moved to Tucson Arizona and became a member of the large (110 voice) **Sunshine Chorus** until moving to Manhattan in 1992.

In Modesto, Chanute and Tucson I sang in several quartets and substituted in others. I have always sung baritone as I enjoy the harmony and it fits my voice. I have been to contests 11 times in the various chapters and try to attend all the chapter sing outs. I enjoy the barbershop style of singing and will continue to sing as long as my voice holds out.

**George Dickerhoof** Bari ♪

## Meet member, Pete Cooper



I was born and raised in rural, northwestern Connecticut, and was formally introduced to music with piano lessons for several years during grade school. The net result of those is I can't "play" the piano, but I can read music, and peck out my part when learning to sing a song. In high school and college I participated in glee clubs, then joined a community mixed chorus in the New London, Connecticut area while I was living and working there for a short time.

While pursuing graduate work in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania I joined a German-American club and sang in its men's chorus. We sang some songs in German, and most of us learned them phonetically. The most important aspect of the club is that's where I met my wife **Helen**, who has always been supportive of my barbershopping activities. It was also while we were in the Bethlehem area that our two daughters were born.

We moved to Manhattan in 1966, so that this year we're celebrating 40 years of enjoying this community. I was on the faculty of the Department of Civil Engineering at K-State until I retired in December 1999. After about 10 years in Manhattan I heard that a barbershop singing group was forming in town. As soon as my schedule permitted, I attended a meeting of this group, and have been attending ever since as a charter member of the Chapter. It might be of interest to note that, for perhaps the first year, I often sat beside **Gene Wiley** in the baritone section, of all places.

In 1980 I accepted an invitation to join "**The Silver Lining**" with **Bob Swenson** (T), **Bill Hanson** (L) and **Tom Hart** (B). I knew nothing about quartetting, but they were reasonably patient as I learned. We rehearsed fairly regularly and performed for groups occasionally over a period of several years. Although we've been inactive for twenty years or so, we have continued to maintain our registration with the Society.

The "**Manhattan Music Machine**", with **Myron Calhoun** (T), **Bob Swenson** (L), and **Jim Lindquist** (B) was registered in 1985. **Don Thomson** filled in when **Myron** accepted an overseas assignment, and has been with us ever since. The fact that we've been together for 21 years is less due to the quality of our music; I think, and more a testament to the fact that we get along together and enjoy each other's company.

I've been an active chorus member for the past 30 years, and have held every office on the Board, including several years in some of them. I have greatly enjoyed singing in the "**Little Apple Chorus**", especially in the past few years as we've gotten more members.

**Pete Cooper** Bass ♪



**Chorus members are practicing hard for the contest in Wichita**

Photo by Harvey Kiser

## 2007 Officers

The following members were elected to serve on the 2007 Board at the September 28th chapter meeting.

President.....**Bob Swenson**  
 Vice-President / Chapter Development  
 and Membership.....**Bill Hanson**  
 Vice President / Music  
 and Performance.....**Tom Fish**  
 Vice-President / Public Relations..... **Harvey Kiser**

Secretary.....**Pat Caffey**  
 Treasurer.....**Bill Bunyan**  
 Members at large:.....**Don Thomson**  
**Jim Lindquist**  
**Chuck Marr**  
**Loren Alexander**  
**John Thomason**



Axtell, Kansas 66403

1379 26th Road

Karen Nanninga

**Chapter meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.  
Quartet/polecat practice begins at 7:00 p.m.**

### **Calendar of Events:**

October 12	Chapter Meeting
<b>October 19</b>	<b>Guest Night</b>
October 26	Chapter Meeting
November 2	Chapter Meeting
November 9	Chapter Meeting
November 13	Board Meeting
November 16	Chapter Meeting

**Deadline for submitting articles for the next  
InCider is November 13**

### **Upcoming Events**

**Christmas Caroling  
and Installation Banquet December 14**

**Chapter Retreat February 3, 2007**

**Pictured in the nameplate of this edition is**

**Vocal Spectrum**

Thanks to the following for contributing articles—  
**Bob Swenson, Tom Fish, Steve Fisher, Harvey  
Kiser, Terry Nanninga, Pat Caffey, Ken Lang,  
George Dickerhoof, Gary Drake, Don Thomson  
and Pete Cooper**