



Serenader



Volume 54, Issue 4

November 2006

Chapter founded in 1952

Extra! Extra!

Arrington Named Music Director!

Whalen Elected 2007 President!

Musical Directions

By Doug Arrington

I have been a barbershopper for almost 40 years and about half of them have been spent as a New MexiChord. I arrived in Albuquerque just after you had won your first district contest in 1986, and I was able to ride on the very large wave that had been built up by Bill Biffle, Jack Smith, Gill Wallace, and many other great barbershoppers over the preceding three years. I sang with many of you in five international chorus contests and have been proud to be a part of the championship tradition that is the New MexiChords.

We have had many ups and downs in the past 20 years as most volunteer organizations do, and on a few occasions, I have been asked to step in as your interim director – which I have done gladly.

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Incoming President Greetings

By Gil Whalen

It is my pleasure to serve you again as your Chapter President (Ed third term) and be able to contribute to our success in the coming year. Many thanks to Bob Duckett for leading us this year to one of our most successful spring shows, and all his efforts in the directorship and venue issues. I have the distinct feeling that we will be growing again in the coming year.

Heading up our Membership effort as V.P. is J.C. Preston. His enthusiasm and experience in the society will present some good ideas and leadership for membership growth. Tom Hoover will return as Music V.P.

Continued on page 3

Christmas Shows Coming December 9/10

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

Two matinee's and a Saturday evening show, features the New MexiChords and the Sandia HS Continentals. See page 5 for details.

Call 465-6435 for tickets!

The New MexiChords

2006 Board of Directors

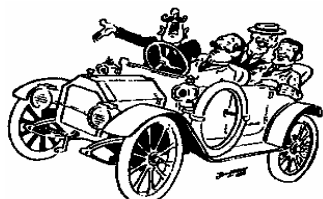
President;	Bob Duckett
VP Performance;	Bob Cochnar
VP Music;	Tom Hoover
VP Membership;	J.C Preston
VP Marketing;	Open
Secretary;	Jay Cousins
Treasurer;	Gil Whalen
Past President;	Gil Whalen

Members at Large

Larry Archambeau
Bill Johnson
Joe McGinn
Arlo Nelson

Music Committee

Music Director;	Doug Arrington
Program Director;	Oz Wehlander
Tenor Section Leader;	Open
Lead Sec Leader;	Joe McGinn
Bari Sec Leader;	Tom Hoover
Bass Sec Leader;	Phil Middleton



**Bring A Guest To
Barbershop**

Riser Etiquette

**Listen, Don't Hum
When the pitch
pipe blows.**

Doug Arrington Continued

However, my job requirements never allowed me to make a long-term commitment, and I never felt I could devote the time required to do everything I thought the job needed. Thus, I was always happy when a new full time director was selected.

Since I am now retired, I felt I did have the time to take on the full time position; and I gladly accepted the offer from the board of directors. I want you all to know how proud I am to be the chorus director of a chapter that has been one of the leading chapters in the Rocky Mountain District since its inception. Several of our members have been district officers and we were instrumental in raising the quality of chorus singing in the district through the late 80's and 90's. We have earned the love and respect of the entire district, and many chapters would love to have our history.

We are a great chapter because we have great members – you – with a great attitude. You are barbershoppers because you love to sing, and the better you sing, the better your attitude is going to be. It's not surprising that I think quality singing is the secret to a successful chapter.

I will be using all the tools I've learned over the past 40 years to help you and the chorus improve. But these tools can only be effectively used if everyone knows all the words and notes of each song! Too difficult? I don't think so. I challenge each of you to set this as your goal for the 2006 Christmas show – there is still time. You will be amazed how much more you will enjoy singing if you, and everyone around you, completely know each song. You will find that singing can be so easy that you may sometimes wonder if you're even singing. And our audiences will be blown away.

So stay current with the rehearsal schedule and work regularly with your learning tracks. With your hard work, we can make this Christmas show our best ever. And you can trust me to do my part. Doug

WHO WAS FRANK THORNE?

Any SPEBSQSA member who's not a member of another chapter is a member of the Frank Thorne Chapter. This is the largest chapter there is. So who is Frank Thorne? Here is an excerpt from "Melodies for Millions", by Will Cook, published in 1965 for the 25th anniversary of the Society.

Frank Thorne, was the International President in 1946 and 1947. He was medium tall, slender, balding, very distinguished, with a mustache; he presented a commanding appearance but at the same time seemed to have a twinkle in his eye. Frank was an excellent business man, being vice president of one corporation and president of several others as well as a member of the board in additional companies.

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Visit our Web Site!

at www.newmexichords.com

Phone Us!

at 505-242-4451

Email Us!

at [sing-
ers@newmexichords.com](mailto:singers@newmexichords.com)

Write Us!

The New MexiChords

P.O. Box 22076

ALBQ, NM 87154

Come sing with us!

The New MexiChords Barbershop Chorus meets every Tuesday from 7 - 10 pm at St John's United Methodist Church choir room at 2626 Arizona NE, one block north of Menaul, and one block east of San Pedro.

Join Us!



Gil Whalen Continued

Tom's organizational ability always gives us the tools to sing better. Also returning for another outstanding year as Performance V.P. is Bob Cochran. Bob's computer-generated publicity and script/music selection always make our shows fun and profitable. Filling the position as V.P. – Marketing is Rick Shankles. Rick's enthusiasm and salesman skills paid off with many ads and tickets sold for both shows in his rookie year. Arlo Nelson will be our Treasurer. As a retired accountant, we can be confident of balanced books and accurate records. Jay Cousins will be our Secretary. The Members-at-Large are Larry Archambeau, Tom Cole, Bill Johnson, and Chuck Levy. The new board will be meeting in December to plan our goals, activities, and budgets for the new year. We are going into 2007 with an intense and fun-filled agenda starting with the Christmas concert – three performances on December 9 and 10. We also have performances at the River-of-Lights at the Bio Park on December 12 and 19. We will be hosting the BHS Mid-Winter Convention being held at the Kiva Auditorium on January 22-27. Please volunteer for duty when our chairman, Mike Taylor, searches for willing helpers. This is an opportunity to show the Society what great hosts we are, and have the opportunity to listen to the top five barbershop quartets in the world! And don't forget the Annual Installation and Awards Banquet on January 20. Another fun-filled opportunity is the Singing Valentines program which takes place February 14. Get those quartets together and start practicing your love songs. Gil

LET'S KEEP THE WHOLE WORLD SINGING!

Mid-Winter in Albuquerque!

Yes, it is true! The BHS Mid-winter will be held at the Kiva Auditorium in the downtown convention center, during the week of January 22-27, and will highlight the top 5 medalist quartets from Indianapolis. More information and reserved seat tickets are available for purchase at the Society website, so don't wait too long to place your order! Mike Taylor will again be the chapter host chairman and he needs all the help he can get from the members. Please contact him and offer your services!

There will be a chapter sponsored golf outing on Wednesday, January 24, 12 noon, at the Isleta Eagle Golf Course, 15 minutes south of downtown. A \$50 entry fee includes lunch, range balls, green fees, cart fees, and prizes. Wives or friends are welcome, but the offer is limited to the first 72 who sign up. Contact *Gil Whalen at 465-6435* if you are interested.

Outgoing President's Memoirs'

By Bob Duckett



Greetings everyone! For many of us, **It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year**, and that happens to be the title of one of the songs we'll be singing in our upcoming Christmas show. I believe this Christmas performance will be one of the

best shows that we have presented since I have been with the New MexiChords. We will be singing some of those old seasonal favorites, as well as a few traditional sacred songs you love to hear. Returning to the stage this year as our guest performers and singers are those entertaining young people from Sandia High School, "The Continentals". So, mark your calendars for December 9 and 10, and order your tickets for the show! It's such a great way to help celebrate the "Most Wonderful Time of the Year."

As most of you know, my term as president of the New MexiChords comes to a close on December 31. This has been a year of many rewards filled with gratifying moments, challenges, and some changes. One of the challenges was preparing for the wonderful show at the Roy Disney Theatre, "Disney at the Disney" and discovering that we would have to master some very difficult music. But, we were up to the challenge and presented a memorable show for young and old. Remember the little kids performing as fish in "Under the Sea"? We've been told that they were the hit of the show and, well...I have to agree!

One of the changes for the chorus is our new director, Doug Arrington. Doug is a long time member of the Society, the New MexiChords, an advocate of barbershop style, and brings a wealth of musical skills to the chorus to prepare us for the Christmas show and the coming year. We are fortunate to have Doug leading us and welcome him to his new role as music director. Another change is our new rehearsal venue at the St. Johns United Methodist Church on 2626 Arizona Street, one block north of Menaul, and one block east of San Pedro. The rehearsal room is perfect for the New MexiChords. It offers superior acoustics, elevated platforms, room to stand, and temperature controls to keep all of us comfortable on Tuesday evenings.

Continued on page 6

New MexiChords

Quartets

**Call 242-4451 to
book!**



Harmonikats

Nick Maxwell

Scott Free

Bill Lemen

Ron Randall

Whatchamacallitz

Oz Wehlander

Joe McGinn

Les Elmer

Mike Taylor

Our more experience singers!

Charlie Jackson	53 years
Chuck Vertrees	53 years
Jim Law	43 years
Phil Middleton	40 years-
Doug Arrington	39 years
Stan Back	38 years
Oz Wehlander	34 years
Loren Kula	34 years
Bill Biffle	32 years



THE NEW MEXICHORDS
INVITE YOU TO JOIN THEM FOR

*The Most Wonderful
Time of the Year*



Our Annual Christmas Concert

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS

Sandia High School Continentals

Saturday, December 9, 2 & 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 10, 2 p.m.

Central United Methodist Church
University at Copper, one block north of Central

\$10 General Admission, Children 6 and Under Free
Senior Group Discounts, Call 465-6435
For Tickets or Information, Call 465-6435



A portion of the proceeds will be contributed to the Road Runner Food Bank

Caring and Sharing

Our thoughts and prayers go out to those who are recovering from injury or illness, especially Loren Kula and Dale Harris.

We hope you all recover quickly!

The New MexiChords

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Editorial comments, articles, donations and address corrections may be sent to the editor;

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Articles without bi-lines are written by the editor and do not necessarily represent the views of the chapter, district or the Society.

Riser Etiquette

Listen, Don't Talk

When a Director is out front

What's the difference between Rush Limbaugh and a baritone?

One of them is loud, offensive, abrasive, and loved by a few miss-guided weirdo's. The other is a TV commentator.

Bob Duckett, Continued

I think it also is worth mentioning that we had a successful year financially with performance revenues garnering some positive funds for the coffers. These funds help to provide us with sheet music, special talent, director's salary, rehearsal venue, advertising and other operating expenses.

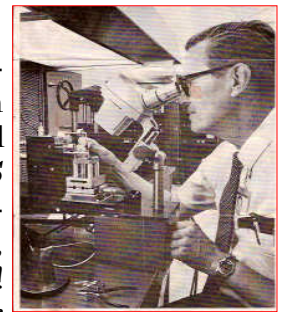
We have just elected a new slate of officers for 2007. Heading up the board will be Gil Whalen, who was President during 2004 and 2005. Other 2007 officers include: Bob Cochnar, Tom Hoover, J.C. Preston, Rick Shankles, Arlo Nelson, Jay Cousins, Larry Archambeau, Bill Johnson and Chuck Levy. I ask all of you to give Gil and the other officers your full support so that 2007 will be another successful year.

In closing, I would like to thank each and every one of you for bringing your musical talents to the chorus, supporting the group by lending a hand whenever it was needed, and most of all, making this year another fine year for the New MexiChords. Thanks again, Bob

Spotlight on Members

Herb Howe

Herb was born and raised in Pittsburg, PA, went to Carrick High School, where he sang and performed in the musical *HMS Pinafore* (Gilbert and Sullivan) -- he lived next to the music teacher, so had an inside track for the part! He worked in a drug store for \$0.15/hr, and later in a printing shop and a carpentry shop. After high school, he learned to be an arc-welder, and worked in a shipyard as a boilermaker building LST's in the early years of WWII. He joined the Navy and served in the south Pacific (New Guinea, near where JFK was sunk), and was assigned to fire control on PT and submarine tenders. After the war, he worked as a streetcar operator in Pittsburg until moving to Albuquerque in 1951. He worked at Sandia Labs in the micro-welding shop (see picture) until he retired in 1985. Herb worked part-time at the Woodcrafter Showroom and still putters in woodworking with Carl Pennington. Hazel, his wife of 45 years, passed away in 1999. He has one son and three grandkids living here in ALBQ. Herb joined the New MexiChords in 1974, sings lead, and has sung in numerous quartets.



Chapter Eternal

Frank Jones

1941-2006

Frank succumbed to a 10 year battle with cancer in Albuquerque on October 20 at age 65.



He sang lead with both the New MexiChords and Duke City Choruses. Frank is survived by his wife Carole, their two sons, and three grandchildren. He will be missed.



Gil Wallace

1922-2006

Gil Wallace, pictured at the far right, passed away on October 15 in

Winnsboro, TX at age 84. Gil was a member of the Albuquerque chapter, the New MexiChords, in the 1950's, a Society member for over 50 years, and the bass of the 1957 international gold medalist quartet, Lads of Enchantment. He is survived by his wife, Dee, their two sons and five grandchildren.

Frank Thorne, Continued—

Frank was a good instrumental musician and a fine singer; he sang bass with the 1942 International Champion *Elastic Four*.

Frank's trademark in the Society was his writing longhand notes in the margins of letters sent to him to mail back as replies. One of his most famous replies was one he addressed to then International Secretary Carroll Adams; at one point on a margin of a letter several pages long, Frank wrote: "Nuts!"

Frank Thorne was one of the most aptly named men; Frank was really "frank!" He had a way of making comments and offering constructive criticism which was startling in its bluntness and brevity, but you remembered what he had to say and you knew he said it for the good of the Society or your own personal good. He was outspoken but never mean or vindictive..

He had a sense of humor too. He was asked by the Executive Committee several years prior to his death to talk to a recalcitrant District President, one who called a lot of us Communists and was really stirring things up. Frank was asked to tone him down.

When reporting on his success he opened the conversation by saying, "I talked to God last night."

He was an excellent correspondent and took great pains to say the right thing and to be as helpful as possible in letters to arrangers and quartet men.

Be Kind to our Guests

Wear your nametag to every rehearsal!

2007 Spring Show

Saturday May 12, 2pm and 7:30

Roy E. Disney Center for Performing Arts

National Hispanic Cultural Center

Reserved seats \$12, \$17, \$22

Call 465-6435 for ticket information.

Serenader Distribution

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Dick Lambert, Bulletin Editor

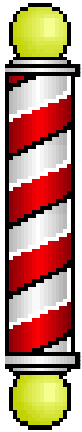
Barbershop Harmony Society

Albuquerque Chapter of SPEBSQSA

2126 Rivers Edge DR NE

Rio Rancho, NM 87144

**Place
Postage
Here**



To Barbershop Harmony Fan

New MexiChords Calendar

COT's, Denver Nov 10 - 12

NMC Christmas Show, CUMC Dec 9 - 10

2007

Installation Banquet Jan 20

BHS Midwinter, Albuquerque Jan 21 -28

RMD Harmony College,
Estes Park, CO Feb 2 -3

Valentine Day Feb 14

RMD Spring Convention,
Ogden, UT Apr 27 - 29

NMC Annual Show, NHCC May 12

BHS International Convention,
Denver Jul 1 - 8

Silverton Music Festival Jul 21

New MexiChords

Mission Statement

The members of the Albuquerque Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society dedicate themselves to:

- Continually seek the joy to be found in singing well in the barbershop style,
- Promote the benefits of our hobby at every available opportunity,
- Provide our community with high quality musical entertainment, and
- Foster continual musical growth and fellowship among the members.

Vision Statement

It is the vision of our chapter to achieve continuous improvement in our music, presentation, and singing, and to achieve a high level of performance.