

THE GROVE GANG

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Sylvan Lake WOW!!!!



The whole gang line up to practice for the Saturday evening Show.



Don Craig runs some of the gang through some new songs. Right, Jim DeBusman warm up Sat AM.



L-r. Paul Olguin, Jim DeBusman and Bruce Foreman. Great Coaches all.



Were you unable to attend the Sylvan Lake retreat? Pity. 60 of us or more had a great, informative and fun weekend. The Red Deer chapter with 19 members present hosted the event and did most of the work. Also attending were:

Stampede City chorus with 13, The Grove City Chorus with 14, Medicine Hat, 4, Western Hospitality, with a show in the offing had two, with Randy attending to do some coaching as well. A special group attending were the Saskatoon chapter, who arrived with 7 members. Hot diggity. Good to meet you. See you at your show 8 May09

The highlights? Well there were several. Great coaching sessions for the choruses as well as the quartets. Another highlight was the 3 hour session in breathing. I kid you now, breathing. Well there was a bit more, but that's what David Wilson claimed as he took the stage.

My personal highlights, were the Tags. Each of our guest coaches had some great tags.. Paul who was constantly tagging when he wasn't coaching had a great quote. "TAGS ARE THE FREE CIGARETTES OF BARBERSHOPPING-- HERE TRY THIS, YOU MIGHT LIKE IT" How appropriate. How many of us joined as a result of a tag?

Another great quote from Paul, ' IF IT AIN'T RINGING, IT AIN'T BARBERSHOP'

There were lots of compliments to Div III when Don Craig read an email from Evergreen President Kevin Kelly to Bill Biffle, International President.

It reads as such.

" I have a thought. You REALLY need to come to Alberta next year and witness the Division 3 contest. You will be stunned. It is kind of a time machine back to what barbershop might have been (and could be). Oh the singing isn't that good, but the experience is "inspiring"-that's a judge's word, Mark Magness in

North Dakota-ask him. I was stunned myself. It starts with a party where the six chap-



Paul Erlandson, president of the Host Red Deer Chapter.



ters all get together, 800 miles of distance and eat and sing with each other, not cloistered in some back room rehearsal. Judges are required to attend and join the fun. Saturday morning is chorus and Saturday afternoon is quartet, and then that part is over.

Strange thing, they live for the evening for shows, not the competition. Their quality increases like you've never seen, once there's an audience. They have a sold out show in the evening, where EVERY chorus sings and most quartets. No one has gone home yet. Then they have a combined chorus event with rehearsed music. At 10.00 the evening appears to be done, but no, they all, (100%) head to the afterglow. Choruses perform, choruses join forces, if you know the song, quartets sing, mixed quartets, etc. It goes on another three hours.

Mark was right, it was truly inspiring. If you don't have the budget to make it, I'll pay, or the District, or the Division. It is something you should experience."

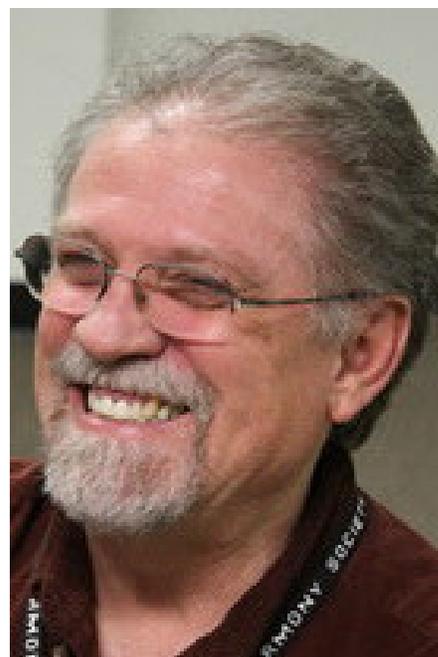
Don finished reading this, with the added good news that our incoming International President, Bill Biffle will indeed attend our DivIII competition , 29,30 May,2009 in Calgary.

One of the great spinoffs of the ABC chorus, which has so influenced our division.

Jim DeBusman one of our four International music specialists at headquarters, did a great job of coaching. He also had some great messages. He started his 40 year love affair with Barbershop, when a friend picked him up and took him to practice for several weeks in a row.. He said that music has been a haven for him, throughout his life. I

Jim also had the good news, that as of 2009, dues for men under 25 will be \$10 for one year. The idea is to get them in the door and get them excited. Paul also added that there would also be no district dues for the same period.

know how you feel Jim.





The finger wiggle. Shaking one finger at a time and eventually all fingers, really warms you up



After wiggling all your fingers, hold out your two hands and feel the difference

Below, Stretch your head to one side and extend the other hand down for several minutes.



David Wilson (above) has is Bachelor of Music, Master of Music and over 20 years as a singer and conductor. He was a singer, who lost his voice and later through Yoga, regained it to the point that he now sings with the Edmonton Opera, among other groups.

- Through 3 hours on Saturday, he taught us how to breath. Three hours? Yup and it was worth every minute. His website is
- Body-breath-voice.com

Left. Sitting on the side of your chair and facing the back. Hold on to the back and take deep sighs. Also wiggle shoulders. You should hear 60 guys all sighing at the same time. Whew!



Top three photos. Bruce Foreman, working with quartets. One of several great tips for quartets. **Look at one person in the audience for a while. Don't glance quickly all over. Your gaze will reach for several yards around the person you are looking at.**



Left. Randy Peters, hams it up for photos during quartet coaching session.



Paul Olguin warm up, Left another stretching exercise.

TAGS



L. Jim DeBusman, Bill Sykes, Robin Saumer and Paul Olguin, quartet a tag Paul has just taught



TAGS?. YOU BET. Morning noon and night. Great tags and great fun.

When we went to our dorm on Saturday night, we were all singing Bruce's latest tag. We were still singing it Sunday morning, when Paul taught us yet another one. Above, Roger likes it.



Don't forget. The Grove City show, 18 April 2009 at the famous Winspear theatre.in Edmonton

Featuring METROPOLIS

Tickets \$25, should be available before Xmas. Make a great stocking stuffer

Check our website

www.evg.org/GroveCity