



**Kokomo Men of Note
Program –Meeting Night (8/3/09)**

1st Presbyterian Church - 2000 W. Jefferson Street

Please visit our website: <http://www.kokomo-men-of-note.org>

The mission of the Kokomo Chapter is to promote, encourage, preserve and sing the barbershop style of music; and lead the cause of supporting and encouraging vocal music in our schools and community.

Monday, July 27th Attendance: 23 singers: 4 Tenors, 8 Leads, 4 Baritones, 7 Basses;

And welcome to our guest, Mr. Paul Hutsell from Logansport!

Oxymorons: Sanitary landfill; Alone together; Legally drunk; Silent scream; British fashion. Ray

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Barbara Pulley – August 8th; **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!** Mike & Joyce Lantz – August 5th

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**Program**  
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- 7:00 Warm-up and Polecat tunes
- 7:15 Touch up concert tunes.
- 7:30 Run summer concert show on risers
- 8:30 Break and Business
- 8:45 Repertoire review or new music
- 9:15 Quartetting on Polecat tunes or Show Tunes
- 9:30 KTWWS

Great job by all who sang with the Kokomo Park Band Wednesday night - both pre-concert and Route 66.

Charlie



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**Special Guests:**

Laura Alexander, our scholarship winner and her mother, Brenda Alexander, choral director at Northwestern High School, plus 4 of Laura's friends who sing with her in a quartet, or trio and entertained us beautifully with their songs for our Concert in the Park. In addition, they all went to Northwoods Village across the street from the church and sang for a friend of Tim Farkas who is in Northwoods Village for some rehabilitation. (BTW, Jake made a big hit with the girls.) Ray



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WEEKLY GOALS!

Prepare the musical program for Wednesday's Concert in the Park

- ✓ Sing musically, with confidence!
- ✓ Enjoy what you are singing and convey your enthusiasm to the audience!
- ✓ Listen to each other in your section – match voices – sing as one!
- ✓ Blend and balance with the other parts!
- ✓ Watch Charlie!
- ✓ Have fun with the show!

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**Important Things to Remember When Singing Your Best - Jim DeBusman**

Here are some important things we would like you to discover concerning singing your best. Singing correctly and your very best are the most important things you can do to become the best possible performer. The information below should help you better understand the important fundamentals needed to improve your own voice.

**What Kind of Tone?**

**Undesirable:**

- Nasal - soft palate dropped
- Covered - back of tongue is pulled back into the throat
- Harsh - strained vocal processes (strident/raspy/throaty, etc.)
- Airy - vocal folds are not closed along the edge completely

**Desirable:**

- Resonant - freely produced tones that create overtones
- Good diaphragmatic breath support
- Warm air supporting every tone
- Head Voice involved throughout your range - i.e. forward focus
- Effortless/Released tone without muscle or pushed - Clear & Ringing

**Open Throat:**

Remember to open the throat and relax the lower jaw by relaxing and dropping the chin. The feeling should be in the throat; as if just before a yawn.

**Mental suggestions:**

- inner smile
- sense of surprise
- breathe a golf ball
- create a space between your molars
- speaking words in space

In order to sing the word "Love" correctly, place the tip of your tongue on your lower gum ridge. Then sing the word "let". As you are singing "let", without changing your mouth shape, migrate the "eh" sound to an "uh" sound. Remember the "uh" feeling, and then always sing "love" that way in the future.



**Bring a guest to the next meeting night!**

- August 3<sup>rd</sup> – Monday – Music Team meeting @ 6:00PM
- August 5<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday – KMoN Concert in the Park – Time TBA
- August 10<sup>th</sup> – Monday – BOD meeting @ 6:00PM
- August 31<sup>st</sup> – Monday – Music Team meeting @ 6:00PM
- September 7<sup>th</sup> – Monday – LABOR DAY (No meeting tonight)
- September 14<sup>th</sup> – Monday – BOD meeting @ 6:00PM
- Sept.28<sup>th</sup> – 1st reading of Officers Nominations for 2010
- Oct.5<sup>th</sup> – 2nd reading of Officers Nominations for 2010
- Oct.12<sup>th</sup> – Chapter Voting for 2010 Officers/ Annual Chapter Meeting



**(Partial) BARBERSHOP HISTORY QUIZ # 62**



**QUESTIONS:**

- 4- There is an abundance of references made in books, articles and oral histories as to the powerful relationship between rural barber shops and barbershop harmony during barbershop's golden age (1890 - 1920). From this can we surmise that seldom (or never) was the ring of locked in barbershop 7th chords heard in urban barber shops?
- 5- In addition to providing the premier venues for singing barbershop harmony, in what other ways did late 19th/early 20th century barbers contribute toward the development and improvement of barbershop harmony?

**ANSWERS:**

- 4- Although I cannot definitively say yea or nay on this point, I can say that there's no logical reason to assume it, and, more importantly, it was not indicated to be the case either in Deac Martin's book, *Book of Musical Americana*, or in any other barbershop history source I've ever read.
- 5 - Being at the epicenter of the barbershop harmony universe as they were, barbers with musical talent naturally gravitated toward becoming skilled quartet coaches; the first such coaches I have ever seen referenced in any source. They also served in an important promotional capacity, as they would invite people to stop by their shops at a particular day and time to hear the latest outstanding new quartet.

*Mark Axelrod*