



Attacks & Releases

Official News Publication of the Illinois District, a state of close harmony

Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

Kids! What's the matter with these kids today?!

With apologies to *Bye Bye Birdie* lyricist Lee Adams, tell that to about 800 Illinois high schoolers who attended four different Youth in Harmony festivals throughout the state last fall. In fact, more kids showed up for these musical festivals than barber-shoppers did at our fall convention! The gatherings began last September 23 in the Sterling-Rock Falls area. Over 200 students from nearby schools gathered for a day of learning more about the barber-shop style. Then, in October began a spate of festivals, starting at Fox Valley High School, on the 17th. While we don't have the exact numbers, a festival drawing from Chicago area west suburban schools ought to have garnered 200 or more.

The big festivals (in terms of numbers, not energy) took place within a hundred miles of each other in a space of 10 days. The first was held Monday, Oct. 19, at Eastern Illinois University and was hosted by the Coles County Chapter headquartered in Mattoon. Coordinators for the event were Dave Clausing of Mattoon and Tom Woodall of Charleston. The facilities in the EIU student union were perfect for the 264 students in attendance and for their teachers.

Clinicians for the events consisted of two quartets: **Ethel**, for the girls, and **Lunch Break** for the boys. Both



quartets traveled considerable distance during the middle of the week. In particular, **Lunch Break** is headquartered out of Nashville, Tenn., and one of their members (baritone Drew Ellis) lives and teaches in northern Alabama. The quartet drove all night to be present because another of the members (tenor Shane Scott) was preaching a sermon Sunday evening. Don't



let anybody tell you that members of our Society's better quartets (Dixie District Champions and 12th place 2009 International semifinalists) aren't willing to sacrifice for the chance to share their talents.

While the ladies' quartet may not have had to travel quite so far, they hail from four different locales — Champaign, Danville, Streator, and St. Louis. They, too, invested considerable amount of their time and talent to head the huge girls' chorus. (How would you like the responsibility of whipping a gross of teenagers [no pun intended] into performance shape in eight hours?) Compliments also go to members of the Coles County Chapter who assisted, and briefly performed, during the day.

Members of the two quartets split time in two locations with their respective mass choruses and broke up into smaller sections at other times. Teachers who brought the students had the opportunity to sit in on the rehearsals and watch the rehearsal techniques. Later in the afternoon, Tom Woodall convened a meeting with them and presented segments from the famous Dave Stevens Harmony College video presentation in which he humorously explains the musical essence of barber-shop. Woodall also showed a couple of other videos demonstrating quartet techniques.

After a mad dash off to local eateries, the students reassembled in the Grand Ballroom for their concert. The room was filled with students, teachers, parents, friends, and barber-shop fans to witness what the students had learned during the day. Rich Hansen from Mt. Zion High School and pioneer in forming these Illinois youth festivals served as the evening's Master of Ceremonies.

First up was a quartet — **The Muppets** — from Charleston High School. Surprisingly, this high school was unable to send any students during the day because of scheduling issues, but the music teacher there wanted the recently formed girls' quartet to get an opportunity to perform.

Then came the boys' chorus, with assistance by men from the Coles County Barber-shop Chorus Ensemble. Shane Scott directed "Hush," Eddie Holt directed "Driving Me Crazy," and Mike O'Neil directed "Banana Boat Song."

After the boys finished, the girls paraded and paraded and paraded onto stage, crowding onto risers and spilling off to the sides. Joanna Combs directed "Ain't That Good News" and Becky McDuffee directed two Beatles tunes -- "All My Lovin'" and "When I'm 64."

Both of the clinician quartets got the chance to practice what they preached. **Ethel** showcased a wide variety of a cappella music with lots of energy and pizzazz. Then came **Lunch Break** who couldn't sing a serious song if they tried to. When they weren't spinning around on the floor and gallivanting about the stage, they were cutting up even the most tender of ballads. The one song they did straight was still anything but. Near the end, Eddie Holt pulled out his clarinet and wowed the audience with a Pete Fountainesque rendition of "Basin Street Blues," with the other quartet men harmonizing to his "licorice stick" lead.



Lunch Break
(top)

Ethel
(bottom)

Schools attending the Sixth Annual Southeaster Illinois Youth in Harmony Festival

- Casey-Westfield
- Central A&M
- Cumberland
- Dieterich
- East Richland
- Kansas
- Oakland
- Oblong
- Paris Cooperative
- Shelbyville
- West Vigo, Indiana

YIH Revisited

A mere 10 days later, another, bigger group of high school students met in downtown Bloomington at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts (BCPA). This festival was in its 11th year, and it keeps getting more prestigious. We say that because rather than utilize a quartet as a clinician, the organizers usually bring in powerhouse music educators in the barbershop style. This time it was **Gene Cokcroft**, tenor of 1961 Champions **Suntones** and long-time musical genius, and **Tori Postma**, a Sweet Adelines (SA) quartet champion singer and SA official who is currently chair of a newly-formed Young Women in Harmony committee.

Over 300 high schoolers, with their supervising teachers, were in attendance at the festival held at the BCPA. The facility is perfectly suited to this event with lots of rehearsal space for choruses; lots of adjoining rooms for the sectional, ensemble, and quartetting coaching sessions; and plenty of space for dining. The stage and auditorium aren't too shabby either as the BCPA organization has invested hugely in restoring and updating the facility.



Gene Cokcroft



Tori Postma

As with the festival at EIU, the one in Bloomington was scripted to the second, thanks to the coordinating efforts of Rich Hansen, Michelle Adams, and Greg Gray. A number of men from the Bloomington **Sound of Illinois** chorus and women from the SA **Vermillion Valley Chorus** lent their voices and expertise to the high schoolers. Two quartets did provide some sectional help — **Sound Opportunity** from the Bloomington Chapter and **Front and Center** from the Vermillion Valley Chapter (SA). Throughout the day, individual groups were coached by Tim Woodall, Joe Sullivan, Rich Knight, Kathy Filipiak, Gena Sommer, and Martha Scheffler.

For the teachers, special sessions were held with each of the guest clinicians. Gene Cokcroft met with the teachers and with an octet from LeRoy High School. He pulled out four boys to form a quartet and then began the instruction process to make their sound just a little tighter, just a little more energetic, just a little more entertaining. Tori Postma gave a presentation from the Sweet Adelines that showed how its organization is reaching out to young girl singers.

Late in the afternoon, the various groups that had been working with coaches got the chance to perform for their fellow students. A girls group from LeRoy High School performed followed by a girls' quartet called **4 Times 4** from Peoria, Springfield, and Bradley Bourbonnaisse high schools. Both SA and BHS quartets may have members from different chapters, but rarely do you see a set of high school students from such distant schools making the effort to travel for practices. Boys' octets from Dunlap High School and LeRoy High School showed what they had been working on during the day with Tim Woodall and Joe Sullivan. Rich Knight's group from Mt. Zion High School, known as **Some Assembly Required**, added Rich Hansen to their group to complete the afternoon session.

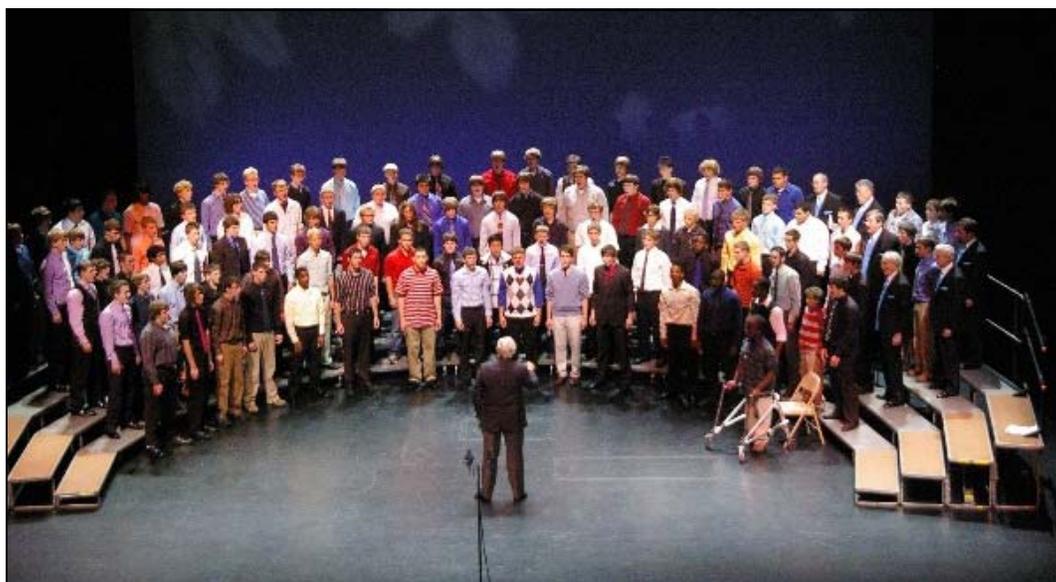
The evening was given over to demonstration performances by the choruses. Jeff Bowyer, Illinois District VP for Music and Performance, served as Master of Ceremonies. Tori Postma directed the girls in two Beatles tunes "When I'm 64" and "All My Lovin'." Some of the Beatles material is almost 50 years old, so no wonder these kids consider these songs the same way we do turn of the century songs that are the foundation

Schools attending the 11th Annual Central Illinois Youth in Harmony Fall Festival

Argenta-Oreana
Bloomington Central
Catholic
Champaign-Centennial
Dunlap
El Paso-Gridley
Eureka
Fieldcrest
Heyworth
LeRoy
Mt. Zion
Pekin
Prairie-Central
Springfield High
Urbana

of our style. The boys presented an old barbershop favorite — “Darkness on the Delta” — and also turned to a more contemporary styling with Billy Joel’s “For the Longest Time.”

After the high schoolers got the chance to perform, the adults took over. Both sectional quartets **Front & Center** and **Sound Opportunity** sang as did their respective choruses — the **Vermillion Valley Show Chorus** and the **Sound of Illinois Chorus**.



Boys' Chorus,
directed by Gene
Cokecroft
(top)



Girls' Chorus,
directed by Tori
Postma
(left)

Earlier, we said that the Central Illinois YIH Festival tends to bring in top-named individuals as clinicians. That’s certainly true of Gene and Tori, but planners had arranged for the popular quartet **Three Men and a Melody** to appear as clinicians as well. Two of the members are music educators in the Kansas City area. Because of parent-teacher conference schedules, they had to opt out of appearing, a move which threw organizers into a bit of a tizzy. Then someone suggested they try for this pretty good quartet out of the St. Louis area. I think they’re called **Vocal Spectrum**. Gosh and be glory, **VS** was available and agreed to drive up I-55 for a half-hour performance before a bunch of amped up high schoolers. They didn’t disappoint. They demonstrated some of the most deceptively easy vocal production, sound synchronization, and musical accuracy that these kids will hear anywhere by anybody. Once again, don’t let anyone tell you that top-line quartets aren’t willing to help out when it comes to presenting our style to a new generation of singers.

The evening show was capped with a combined performance (from the seats since they all couldn’t fit on the stage) of “America the Beautiful” by the boys’ and girls’ choruses.

Next time you see some guys from Sterling-Rock Falls, Fox Valley, Coles County, and Bloomington (plus a couple of other chapter members who helped), thank them for doing their part to “preserve and encourage.”

— Craig Rigg

SOUND OF ILLINOIS
presents 68th Annual Show

PIRATES
on the high C's

Special Guest Quartet:

STORM FRONT

2009 International Quartet
3rd Place Medalists.



Saturday, February 20, 2010 7:00p.m.

Sunday, February 21, 2010 2:00p.m.

Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts
Downtown, Bloomington, IL

Ticket Prices: \$19.50, \$17.50, & \$14.50

*BCPA Restoration Fee \$1.00/ticket will be added.

Tickets are available at:

- + BCPA box office reserved seating at www.artsblooming.org
- + Mail order to: 600 N. East Street, Bloomington, IL 61701
- + Phone: 309-434-2777 + Toll-free: 866-686-9541
- + Fax: 309-434-2778

[/www.soundofillinois.com](http://www.soundofillinois.com)



*This event is partially supported by a grant
from the Illinois Arts Council, a state agency.*



Greetings, District Barbershoppers!

This message is being sent to you with a personal invitation to attend IDAH, the Illinois District Academy of Harmony, in Bloomington on March 13.

This school is the only educational event held in the district devoted to you, Joe Barbershopper. It affords you and the members of your chapter the opportunity to grow in the musical and leadership skills you use within your chapter every week.

Your IDAH Committee is committed to insuring that you, your quartet and your chorus receive the finest teaching and coaching available within our Barbershop Harmony Society.

To keep costs to you and your chapter as low as possible, we have designed the event to take place entirely within one day. No overnight stay is required. The entire event (registration, classes, coaching sessions, meals, general sessions and the afterglow) take place under one roof, the Double Tree Hotel in Bloomington, Illinois. There will be a fantastic afterglow following the event which includes our current district quartet champions **Off the Record**; our chorus champs, Bloomington's **Sound of Illinois**; and our guest quartet, **Masterpiece**, current sixth place international medalists.

Please consider supporting the growth of your chapter and the Illinois District with your attendance at this outstanding event. All information — class descriptions, instructors, coaching, and registration — can be found on our district web page at:

<http://www.illinoisdistrict.org/index.cfm?pid=23>

Please direct your questions and concerns to any member of the IDAH team.

Don Smit: SMITDONF@aol.com

Jeff Bowyer: jeff.bowyer@plantpioneer.com

Bob Squires: bobsingslead@aol.com

The IDAH registration form is now active and up on line for everyone to fill out and send in. Don't delay. Send it in today! Thanks, and we hope to see and sing with you at IDAH 2010 in Bloomington in March.

What: Illinois District Academy of Harmony (IDAH) 2010

When: March 13, 2010

Headstart quartet coaching is available Friday night

Where: Double Tree Hotel, Bloomington, IL

Who: Individuals, Quartets, Choruses, Directors

Why: Fun Coaching Education Entertainment More Fun

Cost: \$85 for general students

\$75 for each chorus member

\$85 each member for your quartet

Featured Quartet: Masterpiece

Including: Mark Hale

lead of Masterpiece and director of Masters of Harmony

*** Coaching for quartets and choruses**

*** Classes for individuals**

Register securely online (VISA/MasterCard Only)



IDAH Class Descriptions

*** Vocal Production** — Examine the human voice and analyze how sound is produced. This hands-on approach will allow students to hear and identify vocal qualities (tone, placement, color) and how to match sounds within a quartet and chorus.

*** History of Barbershop** — Travel from our roots over the years and into the present through the sights and sounds of the legends and leaders of our Society. Discover how our hobby evolved and the men who helped shape our Society.

*** How To Have the Chapter YOU want** — We've brought back one of our most popular courses which will enable you to make a difference in your chapter. Learn creative ideas and methods that can help shape the future of your chapter through increased growth and community involvement. A must for every barbershopper.

*** Show Production** — Learn the ABC's of putting your chapter's best entertainment foot forward. Let a show production pro show you ways to help your chapter, large or small, use their talents to produce your best shows ever. Shows that will have your audiences coming back for more every year.

*** Big League Tags** — Two hours of hands-on vocal kicks. Sing your part or learn a new part to some of the most popular tags in Society history, written by our Society legends. This class will find you asking for more.

*** Filling Those Show Seats** — You've put together a great show, but you never seem to get the people into the seats. This class will provide new, creative methods for you and your show committee to develop a plan to reach that Standing Room Only experience. Tried everything? Wait until you hear these fresh new ideas that will insure the success you've been looking for.

IDAH Staff Instructors

Dan Signor — Vocal Production

Dan returns to IDAH as a resident of the Northeastern District. An active voice teacher and ensemble coach, Dan has been barbershopping for 15 years in the New England area. Dan's credits include certified Singing judge, chorus director, district quartet champion and a member of the NED Music and Performance Committee.

A 15-year veteran vocal music teacher, Dan currently teaches vocal music in grades 7 through 12 in Lebanon, New Hampshire. This finds him directing six different vocal groups, along with directing a community based a cappella choir. Students of his class will appreciate his relaxed teaching style and quick wit.

Grady Kerr — History of Barbershop

Grady Kerr joins us for his first visit to IDAH from Irving, Texas where he is a member of the Vocal Majority Chorus, having earned three gold medals with this world renowned group. An award winning publication editor for his chapter, the Southwestern District and the Association of International Quartet Champions, he has been presented with many awards on the chapter, district and international level.

Grady has been greatly involved in the history of the BHS with his writings and has served as SWD historian for 23 years. A veteran of the BHS COTS faculty, he teaches history around the country at various schools. Currently Grady serves the Society as chairman of the Society Archives Committee and also the official Barbershop Harmony Society Historian.

Steve Shannon — How To Have the Chapter You Want and Big League Tags

Steve is back with us again by popular demand. He has done, and continues to, do it all. A barbershopper since 1963 and resident of Houston, Texas, Steve has travelled Society-wide to bring his vast amount of knowledge and problem solving ability to barbershoppers everywhere.

Arranger, chorus director, quartet man, coach and emcee, Steve has helped create and re-start dozens of chapters as well as been the driving force behind our Society YIH and Conductor Workshop programs.

Syl Wetle — Show Production and Filling Seats For Your Show

A long time barbershop figure in Illinois, Syl has done about everything imaginable at the chapter and district level. Syl was the driving force in the development of chapters in Wood Dale, Northbrook and Lake County. A past president of the Illinois District, he has been a COTS instructor since the programs start and successfully developed the prototype for the current Society Standing Ovation Program.

An avid quartet man, Syl has been involved with chapter show production, script writing and emceeing for many years. He currently is a veteran staff member at our BHS Harmony University where he has taught show production and show script writing for over 20 years. Syl is the catalyst and producer of years of successful Harmony University shows.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is IDAH?

IDAH, the Illinois District Academy of Harmony, is the major music education school sponsored by the Illinois District and the Music and Performance committee. It will take place in Bloomington at the Double Tree Hotel on Saturday, March 13, 2010.

How much time is involved?

The school is conveniently located two hours from almost any point in the district. We start at 9:00 a.m. Classes and general sessions, along with a lunch, dinner and afterglow fill up the entire day. You will be on your way home by 8:30 p.m. You will have no added costs for an overnight stay.

Why would I want to attend ?

You name it, we've got it! Choose three classes (two hours in length) from an expanded variety of interesting subjects, from tag singing to how to creating successful performances. Quartet coaching and chorus coaching is offered for all levels. This is a fun event and an opportunity to spend an entire day with other Barbershoppers from around the district, as well as an opportunity to mingle and share that fun with a staff of experts from all over our great Society.

Can I bring my quartet?

Absolutely! A staff of 15 experienced coaches, most are certified judges, are waiting to provide your quartet with the tools you need to become better performers. The cost for your quartet is \$85 per man. As an added incentive, if your quartet is among the first 10 Illinois quartets to register, our district Quartet Champions Association will give you a \$50 contribution after your quartet completes all of the coaching sessions.

What's available for my chorus?

Glad you asked. That same staff of coaches will be available to work with your chorus, and at a reduced cost with your director attending FREE.. Such a deal ! .

How much will all of this cost?

We think that you will agree that the cost for the value received cannot be found anywhere around.

A full day of barbershop focused classes, intensive quartet and chorus coaching, plus two meals (lunch & dinner) and a great afterglow. All for the low cost of \$85 for general students, \$75 for each chorus member, and \$85 each for your quartet .

What about that Afterglow?

More Fun! You will not want to miss this festive wrap up to an exciting, fun-filled day of barber-shopping. Selected quartets will be invited to sing, plus we will have the added feature of OFF THE RECORD, current district quartet champions and the Sound of Illinois, our district chorus champs. Top that off with a performance by our guest coaching quartet, MASTERPIECE. These guys are all former gold medal champions and recently placed 6th in Anaheim last summer.



MASTERPIECE

Chorus Director Workshop Intensive

by Jay Giallombardo

Illinois District VP Chorus Director Development

The first Illinois District Chorus Director Workshop Intensive, known as CDWI, was a big success. On Saturday, Nov. 14, 2009, two CDWI certified trainers, combined with the efforts of 25 chorus members from the Northbrook Chapter, spent an intensive day of training for five Illinois District chorus directors.

Participating in the event were front line directors Bob Campion from Carbondale, Mike Drake from Springfield, Dale Fiste from Bureau County, and assistant directors Greg Caetano from Northbrook, and Jack Chan from Kankakee.

Certified trainers were Bob Pyper from Ontario, Canada (**Northern Lights**) and Byron Myers from St. Joseph, Mo. (**Voices of Liberty**). The day-long activities included round-table discussion, which covered director and leadership issues in depth. Unique to this program is the method of “guided discovery” rather than just a lecture or presentation of methods or skills. The trainer guides the director using a “question-answer” approach to discovering and solidifying skills possessed and through inquiry that delves into areas for improvement or the application of different methods to elicit the desired response.

So the director does not just learn a few techniques but actually is set on the path of being a problem solver: having a goal in sight and then using a variety of methods to accomplish that goal, be it a musical skill or a necessary organizational approach for the benefit of the member, chorus, and chapter.

In the afternoon, each director worked with a volunteer chorus provided by Northbrook Chapter. These men devoted a full day for the sole purpose of providing a chorus for the director to apply his newly acquired skills. Each participating chorus member is to be commended for his contribution to this effort.

Bob Robson, currently the National Vice-Chairman of the Society-wide CDWI program, which has trained over 1,000 directors over the many years of the program’s existence, said the following:

The Chorus Director Workshop Intensive (CDWI) program is an extremely informative and successful training program for directors. It allows directors to assess and to discuss philosophies of directing and helps them to understand who they are and why they choose to be directors. In addition, during the workshop, they have opportunities to develop their own directing skills.

Certified trainer Bob Pyper, making his first visit to the Illinois District for CDWI, said:

This CDWI process is one of the most significant programs available to directors to enhance their conducting and rehearsal (teaching) skills. And they undertake this training in order to make the experience for the men on the risers, each and every week, the most enriching experience possible.

And Byron Myers, the other trainer for the program, added:

Historically, CDWI goes back not quite 15 years, but it remains the only continuous, successful Society Director training program and has a 90+ percent success rate.

That’s not all! Here are some comments from some of the participating directors:

What a wonderful experience the CDWI was. I found that the instructors were very helpful in improving my directing skills. I’ve continued to watch the videos of my directing and their critiques of me and have practiced what they taught in front of the mirror and have used these new skills in front of my chorus. Again, it was a wonderful ex-

perience, and I would be willing to participate again.

Bob Campion, Chorus Director, Carbondale

The “in your face” morning session was dead on! I consider the time spent to be worthwhile, and I think if we had more directors willing to participate, a lot of the on-going (chapter and individual) participation problems we have in the Illinois District would go away.

Dale Fiste, Chorus Director, Bureau County

The Illinois District is committed to enhancing director education for the betterment and benefit of each individual chapter member. This makes members and chapters stronger for a vibrant and dynamic Illinois District.

It is my hope that every director will take the opportunity to be one of the five directors in the next CDWI to be held in 2010. I know that you will find it an excellent experience and ultimately beneficial, not only to yourself as a director but also to the members of your chapter.

Thanks to all for making the first CDWI event a success. We look forward to doing more and more in the future.



**CDWI trainers
(left to right)
Bob Pyper
Byron Myers**

**Class of 2009 CDWI
(left to right)**

**Jack Chan
Bob Pyper
Bob Campion
Mike Drake
Greg Caetano
Byron Myers
Dale Fiste**



Sound of Illinois Christmas Family Affair

by Jim Stahly



The Sound of Illinois performance at the 2009 *Sounds of Christmas* shows in Bloomington featured members of The Harry Lovell family. From left: Thad Lovell, Will Lovell, Harry Lovell, Rhys Lovell and Dave Huisman. Harry is a 31-year member of SOI, and his sons Thad and Rhys joined **SOI** for Sounds of Christmas, as did Harry's six-year-old grandson Will (Thad is Dad) and son-in-law Dave.

The family was part of the **Sound of Illinois** performance Dec. 11 at *Sounds of Christmas*. This two-show event features local talent and the venue is the atrium at State Farm's Corporate Headquarters. The 2009 event was the 27th year, and **SOI** has performed every year, this time singing "It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year" and "Mary Did You Know?" For about the past 10 years, **SOI** has invited non-members to commit to two months of rehearsals and join the chorus for the program. Thirteen guests were on the risers, bringing the performing group to 97.

VOCE Quartet introduces new bass singer

VOCE Quartet, 11th place mic-testers in Anaheim, is pleased to announce their new bass singer is **Dave Kindinger**, bass of the 1994 International Championship Quartet the **Jokers Wild**.

Rounding out VOCE are brothers Keith and Paul Harris, lead and baritone respectively, and tenor Stephen Wilde, tenor of the 1994 International Championship Quartet the **Jokers Wild**. Keith is an opera singer living in NYC. Paul, a barbershopper since early childhood, is one of the youngest District Quartet Champions in Society history. Steve is an actor and producer living in NYC.

Come visit www.vocequartet.com to see their new interactive web site! VOCE is accepting show requests and is looking forward to singing for you.

☐ **WWW.VOCEQUARTET.COM**

✉ **INFO@VOCEQUARTET.COM**

☎ **608.438.3299**

VOCE

President Cowin appoints Ethics Committee

President Dave Cowin has appointed a district Ethics Committee, hoping that this is one committee that has absolutely nothing to do. Chairing the committee will be past District and International President Bob Cearnal. Serving on the committee with Cearnal will be past Illinois District Presidents Joe Sullivan and Jerry McDonough and past Society Board Member Greg Caetano. Anyone who wishes to view or use the complaint form may go to the district web page and follow the link.