



Pride Piper Act II

Black Hawk Metro Chapter
Waterloo, Iowa

January/February
Issue 1 2021



BOTY AWARD JONS OLSSON

Barbershopper of the Year Award for 2020 was presented during the Proud Image Chorus' Installation Zoom meeting earlier this month.

The recipient of this award lives in Waterloo with his wife, Ann. He is retired from a career as Director of Fund Raising for non-profit organizations. They have one son, Steve, who is married and also lives in Waterloo.

This award-winner sings lead. He was introduced to a cappella singing in the barbershop style while in high school in 1955. Since then, he formed his own quartet and has sung in other quartets over the years. He originally began singing with the Cedar Falls Chorus, Twin Town, after he saw an advertisement in The Courier. He sang with Twin Town until 1978 when he, and a few other members, left to form a new competition chorus, which became known as The Proud Image Chorus.

Besides holding numerous board positions over these forty plus years, he has been president for the past three years.

His most memorable experience with the Chorus was in 1980 when, under the direction of Steve West, the newly chartered group captured first place at the Central States District Contest in Kansas City.

He describes the best part of singing with the PI is musically achieving a vocal sound which is

attained when expanded chords are locked, bringing joy to the audience.

Besides spending countless hours devoting leadership skills and singing with the Chorus, he is an active member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, a member of the Masonic Lodge and loves fishing.

Congratulations to this well-deserving recipient of Black Hawk Metro's, Proud Image Chorus Barbershopper of the Year for 2020, Jons Olsson!

NEW BOARD MEMBERS INSTALLED

Installation of officers was recently held via Zoom. Past President, Alan Ferden installed the newly elected board members. They were as follows: President – Steve Klawonn, Music VP – Dan Bogart, Membership VP – Eric Boyd, Secretary/Treasurer – Craig Holdiman, Communication VP – Den Craun, Jr., Board Members At Large – Craig Patterson, Don Lubbert, Dave Hamblin, Tony Dehl, Jace Hicok.

Last year's spring concert, PIZAZZ, was cancelled due to the coronavirus. The Chorus is hoping to hold a free, out-door event later this summer and resume their annual shows when it can be done safely. The Proud Image Chorus is under the direction of David Boyd.

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Introducing..... Steve Klawonn, President of the Proud Image Chorus

“Singing is life... the rest is just details”. For barbershoppers and musicians of all kinds, this sentiment helps to sustain us even today, as we

struggle to navigate the world we live in. That is what has been a compass for most of my life as an instrumentalist and a singer. As a result of these influences that started at the early age of five years old, I find myself presented with the privilege of serving the Proud Image Barbershop Chorus as their president for the coming year.

As you might have noticed in the opening paragraph, music has been a huge focus in my life. Honor Choirs all throughout school, twice being selected an All-State singer in Iowa, and singing in Barbershop since I was a junior in high school, have given me opportunity to entertain and give artistic expression to music that speaks to our souls and gives so much meaning in our lives.

I moved to the Cedar Valley five years ago as pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Evansdale AALC. Jerry and Marie Easter have been long time friends through our association with the Barbershop Harmony Society and was encouraged immediately to join the Proud Image. Joining the local chorus in the community in which I live has always been a priority to me. I started with the Wapello Chiefs, now known as the River Valley Harmonizers, in Ottumwa, Iowa. I have also sung in choruses in Houston, and Saint Joseph Missouri before returning home to Ottumwa and directing them for over 10 years.

This Covid-19 pandemic has made life difficult in every way and in the hobby of singing, it is no exception. As we move forward with vaccines and responsible protocols to be as safe as possible, we look forward to being back on the risers and singing in our annual show again and also singing all over the community, putting smiles on the faces of you, the public.

If you are a singer, even if it is just in the shower, you too have the ability to gather with other men to raise our voices together in harmony, making a joyful noise and ringing those beautiful cords. I invite you to contact our Membership VP, Eric Boyd at 319-504-4645 for more information and to make arrangements to join us when it is safe, and get a taste of the fun, fellowship and merriment of making beautiful music together. We have tools to help you be successful and look forward to serving our public again.

REFLECTIONS FROM MARIE

As I reflect on being married to a Barbershopper I honestly have to say it's been all wonderful. Even the numerous times Jerry was gone for weekends, contests, extra rehearsals, editing the newsletter, judging bulletins, being an instructor on the COTS (now called Leadership Training) staff, elevated to Dean at the different schools, serving on the District board, the International Board seems like a pretty long list of involvement.

Jerry joined the Twin Town Chorus in the summer of 1969, my first ever barbershop show was in September that year, and I truly thought I can't believe he likes this! I'll admit I was mildly supportive.

Some little time later, he was asked to serve on the Central States District board, and I went with him to my first ever fall convention, Davenport IA. I knew about 5 people and having 2 young children at home, who stayed the weekend with my brother and family, I thought WOW, what a vacation, just the 2 of us! I quickly found out he was on the go often, meetings, rehearsals etc. My choice was to sit in that hotel room, alone, or open the door and venture out to the lobby. I managed to maneuver through, there were quartets singing, found my voice, introduced myself to a few people, Aitchisons and Lefholzs, were my first friends outside of the chorus.

A whole new and wonderful world was opened to me. From 1969 to about 2012 when his illness took over our life, those years were the ride of my life. I am so thankful for Jerry's barbershop involvement, dear and precious friendships were formed, and still very strong today. The ringing chords I hear still give me the chills.

Here is my encouragement, this COVID-19 pandemic will not last forever, and as soon as The Proud Image can safely gather, sing, entertain again, be supportive and encouraging to the guy in your life that is a member of the chorus. Step out of your comfort zone, get to know those he associates with. Your life will be blessed, have an added meaning, even add a dimension of excitement. Try it, and trust me, you will grow to love barbershop singing.

Singing is life, the rest is just details!!

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UPDATE ON CENTRAL STATE DISTRICT CONVENTIONS*****

Greetings Central States District members!

I wanted to send you an update on our spring convention as well as future convention-related activities. We know that a lot has changed over the last year, so we want to make sure everything is communicated properly.

Spring 2021

The original spring convention in Iowa City has been CANCELLED. This will be replaced with a quartet-only event taking place in Lawrence, Kan. The venue is still getting confirmed, so stay tuned to the CSD website for further information. This event will serve only as an international preliminary contest for Cleveland. All other quartet awards that would normally be handed out in the spring (such as the district senior's championship) will take place at the fall convention instead. It is important to note that this event will not be open to friends, family, or the public. It will be live-streamed through the CSD Facebook account for those that wish to view it.

Both quartet sessions will take place on Saturday, April 24, 2021. The semi-finals will take place late morning, and the finals early evening. This is to limit the need for quartets to get a hotel room. Also, there will be no live evaluations during this event. You will, however, have the opportunity to get feedback from the judges via email and possibly Zoom.

You will see another email coming later this week from Steve Armstrong and the Barbershop Harmony Society regarding this event as well as the other spring events that will be taking place across the Society.

Please know that the district leadership has nothing but the safety of our members as our #1 priority. We will be closely watching the trends of COVID-19, and if, as we get closer to the April event, it does not seem like a good idea, we will cancel. In the event that happens, you will still have the opportunity to submit a

video recording of your quartet if you wish to try and qualify for the planned Cleveland international this summer.

Fall 2021

This fall, we will once again be returning to Lawrence, Kan. as originally scheduled at the beautiful Lied Center! This convention stands to be one of the best that our district has ever seen. We will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Central States District, so many fun events and afterglows are being planned. Additionally, we will be fitting in all of the spring awards that are not taking place in April. That will include things like the small chorus contest, Seniors quartet championship, and more. Please be sure to have the weekend of October 8th on your calendar! We may be modifying the traditional convention schedule to make room for everything, so be on the lookout for more information sometime after the spring quartet event.

Future Conventions:

Our convention team has done a masterful job securing our convention dates all the way through the end of 2027. Additionally, we know where we're headed for 6 of the next 10 conventions! There's no excuse not to make it to one of these great events! You can see information for all of our upcoming conventions [HERE!!](#)

If you have any questions regarding these events, please contact our Director for Contest and Judging, Carter Combs, or Events Vice President, Doug Brott.

I wish nothing for the best for you all during 2021, and hope to sing with you SOON!

Matt Suellentrop
Executive Vice President
Central States District

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SILHOUETTES AUXILLARY by Mary Trettin

It was not long after the Proud Image Chorus chartered, the women behind the men, sprang into action. The Silhouettes was formed to support the hobby of her loved one, both emotionally and financially.

One of the first major undertakings was to create a cookbook to contribute proceeds to the Chorus. Various other fundraisers were held such as the brunch (numerous times), style show, craft sales, bake sales, car wash, auction! Some members may remember Bob Trettin reminisce about the parachute he bought at one of the auctions!

Friendships were created. Our children grew up together, bonds were formed. Memories are cherished by so many who have been a part of The Proud Image Chorus Family!

Ouch!! by Marie Easter

Last evening I enjoyed a delightful phone conversation with the Boyd families; and learned that Charise is scheduled for total knee replacement on Monday, February 1st. Praying for good surgery and healing, and that Charise will soon be back moving with a really great knee and recovery.

And in the mean time Eric will probably be adding extra duties to his workload, like vacuum and mopping floors, this should be an excellent time to him to do a little singing, work on words and notes.

Guys, are you going to let him get ahead of you???

AND LAST, BUT NOT LEAST, FROM OUR DIRECTOR, DAVID BOYD.....

I'd like to highlight a champion from the Proud Image Chorus, lest we forget his love of

our craft, contribution to the chorus, and genuine love for one another. You see, it's about a gentleman, that the Proud Image lost too early, in July of 1990. He epitomized the term brotherhood. His name was Henry Folken. Henry is one of nearly 100 men we've lost since our inception. He fought the good fight only to lose his life to a wretched disease. This brother in song, has indelibly left his mark on our organization. He had a special place in my heart. We were friends and confidants. Like all of our members who have passed away, each was a champion in life and on the risers.

Henry was a six-foot three bass with a booming voice familiar to all of us every Tuesday night. Henry held his position on the risers with great pride and passion. He not only contributed vocally, he arranged, composed and directed the chorus. Never a week passed when his huge hand would embrace mine in a hearty handshake or huge pat on the back. He genuinely wanted to know how I was and welcomed me to another rehearsal. He fondly addressed people as brother. I chose Henry for this article because it was his brotherhood at the end of his life that has touched me for decades. I was at Henry's bedside when he moved to heaven. He took my hand and he told me that the best thing other than his immediate family, was the Proud Image...his fraternity of brothers, and the best thing that had happened to him in his life. He was one of the great men to pass through our ranks. Henry as the old song goes "Though our song is not the same without you"... "There will always be a place for you". I look forward to you teaching me another tag someday...God Bless!

2021 Calendar

January 5 – Installation of Officer

January 12 – Board Meeting

January 19 – Chapter Meeting

February 2 – Board Meeting

February 16 – Chapter Meeting

March 2 – Board Meeting

March 16 – Chapter Meeting

Looking ahead.....At this time, the plan is to hold Board Meetings the first Tuesday of each month and Chapter Meetings the third Tuesday of each month via Zoom.

The Chorus will not be able to offer “Singing Valentines” this year, but it has been a great fund raiser for many years.



A blast from the past.....
Pictured:
Randy Ruehs
Alan Ferden
Lance Banwart
Denny Craun
serenaded a very lucky young lady!

PLEASE NOTE:

Members interested in submitting articles for the **March/April Pride Piper Act II** may do so by calling either Mary at 319-239-1510 or Marie at 319-231-9488 or emailing either: Marie Easter marie.easter@gmail.com or Mary Trettin mytrettin@hotmail.com

DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 16th

*Next edition of the **Pride Piper Act II** will be emailed March 9th.



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