



Singing every Thursday at 7:00 PM, Community  
United Methodist Church of Olathe



Visit us at our official web site:

<http://barbershopsingingmontrose.yolasite.com/>

MAY 2015

Vol. 31 Number 5

## GENE BOND

Gene Bond left this world to sing with the Celestial Chorus in the sky. Gene, better known as Geno, succumbed to a long fight with diabetes. He never gave up. Just before his passing, Geno renewed his membership with 27 membership years and 11 Men of Notes under his belt. Only one person is credited with more recruitments.

Gene served as Chapter Secretary for years, and was recognized for his contribution in 1990 as Barbershopper of the Year. He later served as our Chapter President in 1999 and 2000.

Geno sang bass in the long-running Silver Haired Daddies for many years, even after losing his left leg.

Gene was a friend, a fighter, a dedicated member, a true Barbershopper, and a heck of a bass. We all miss him.

## The Service for Gene

*It was joyous but so emotional*

Gene Bond was a truly loved member of the Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus. That love was expressed by the huge member turnout to remember and honor Gene. The number of members required adding 5 or 6 chairs to the Methodist Church choir loft to accommodate the barbershoppers.

Of course the Church was packed. Gene was revered by many folks from different backgrounds who remembered him for different reasons. It was wonderful to hear stories about his past. The well-done and well planned exhibition of Gene's many accomplishments deserves a special mention and special thank you to Renae and his family. The number of medals, awards, articles, etc. etc. was stunning. Gene never bragged about his life. He was humble. He did what he did because he did.

After the moving service (yes, it was hard to sing a couple of songs with and for Gene during the service), many enjoyed the 'birthday party' in the Fellowship room. Ice cream, cake, and cookies set the tone for Gene's request that this should be more like a barbershop afterglow. So it was. The chorus members finished some cake and ice cream before singing a half-dozen real barbershop songs, many PoleCat songs and some from the other books.

- Those who knew Gene know how important his birthdays were. Gene would make it well known about a month before to make sure no one would forget and have plenty of time to prepare a party. This final party, with a tribute and display of his life, may have been just as important to him. The medical diagnosis about a month before his passing was that he might make it 2 more days. Gene was sure that was not enough time. He wanted to make sure Ranea, his Church, and his barbershoppers would not forget his last party and have sufficient time to prepare. They didn't forget. And they never will.

CANYON CHORDS is the official monthly publication of the Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus known as the Montrose, Colorado, chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Opinions stated in this bulletin are not necessarily those of the Chapter, the Editor, or possibly even the stated author.

2015 CHAPTER OFFICERS  
(Term expires 12/31 in year shown after office)

PRESIDENT (2015)

John Taylor

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Larry Wilkinson

SECRETARY (2016)

Chuck Frush

TREASURER (2016)

Rex Pierson

PROGRAM VP (2015)

Larry Cooper

MEMBERSHIP VP (2016)

Del Dyck

PUBLIC RELATIONS VP (2015)

Dennis Olmstead

MUSIC VP (2015)

Carol Morrell

COMMUNICATIONS VP (???)

Bill Sutton

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE (1 year terms)

Bob Brethouwer

John Thrasher

MUSICAL DIRECTOR:

MaryAnn Rathburn

Tom Chamberlain, Emeritus

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

Carol Morrell

SERGEANT AT ARMS

Bob Brethouwer

SUNSHINE GUY

Rex Pierson

CHAPTER HISTORIAN

Tom Chamberlain

And of course there was the perennial discussion about high dues and what we get for them and should we raise Chapter dues so we don't have to worry about paying our Director. That's what we talked about. And talked some more.

# Splinters from the Board

Notice: These are NOT the official minutes and merely present a tongue in cheek observation of our Board Meetings. Official minutes may be found on our website.



Some of you may have noticed that we did not have an April board meeting. Instead we ate and drank beer and probably accomplished more than a meeting might have. But this time we had a meeting, but since we didn't last month, the meeting place was not reserved. Just another of those

pesky assumptions that tend to bite one's posterior when least expected. But as hoped and counted on, dumb luck again came to the rescue of lack of planning and after some scrambling and grumbling, the meeting after dinner at Daveto's happened.

Being out of meeting practice and general lack of basic knowledge of the rules set out by Robert, the group fell quickly into the bothersome habit of talking a lot about nothing and doing the same. As such, the meeting groaned on to the point where adjournment became more important than accomplishment. However and because of, we are assured there will be a list of 'action items' prepared for the next meeting so that something will be done by somebody other than eating and going home.

Some discussion about the 'Give back to the Community' effort at Delta United Methodist Church and if similar efforts should occur in Cedaredge, Eckert, Olathe, and Montrose. Everyone said "sure" and no one said they would do it. We are big on that.

Preliminary data on the March Show indicates that we probably made a pretty good profit this year. Thanks mainly to some closer attention to spending, we may be in the black. Some expenses are still pending and some of the ticket sales has not been reported, but we, or some, or many are optimistic. That is good.

As it should have been, a rather intense discussion about the continuation of a donor/supporter program and who should be responsible and who should help and should it still be tied to the show took up the last few minutes of the meeting, after attempts to adjourn. Efforts to solicit donor contributions on a yearly basis seems to have fallen flat as the current emphasis was again placed on the Show with free tickets and a listing of donors in the program. The result was about as it has been in the past 10 years with the same folks contributing the same amount. No real decision about the future. We will just kick it down the road and hope for the best. Some call it a punt.

# Community 'Give Back' Concert at Delta United Methodist Church

*Yes, it was successful, and yes, we should do more of them*

In the first of a hopefully series, the men of the Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus were joined by the women of DelRose Sweet Adelines to 'give back' music to the Delta community. The intention was to thank the area for past and future support, and to provide a fund raising opportunity to a supporting Church. We hope to do more for other Churches in the near future.

Special thanks go to the Church pastor, Carol Rhan, for all her help and encouragement. Larry Cooper did his usual excellent job as our emcee introducing our songs and recognizing our supporters. MaryAnn, our cherished director did most of the arm waving with some help from Tom Chamberlain, and Larry Cooper. Carol Morrell provided the upbeat for 'Spiritual Medley' by keeping the time with castanets. She is GOOD at it. .

The DelRose chapter kicked off the entertainment with several songs, all well done to the standards of a competing chorus. They are always a pleasure to listen to and to join with in activities. We, the men, filled the Church choir loft with about as many men as we have members. It was great! We all looked swell in black stuff with red or white accent ties and hankies. Wow, we should be proud. Plus we sounded as good as we ever sound, maybe better. We even got a standing ovation for our rendition of 'America The Beautiful' with MaryAnn singing the lyrics while the chorus provided the counter melody of 'Let Freedom Ring' created by old friend Joe Liles. It made keeping a dry eye difficult.

The Church took a collection to support a charity chosen by the Pastor. Almost \$300 was raised. That was the reason for the concert.

After an hour of good singing, most of the guys and gals wandered down to CB's Tavern in Delta for a sandwich, a snack, a soda, coffee, or even a beer. That should be a tradition ... not necessarily CB's but getting together after a fun evening for more fun.

We tried something different this time by allowing members to use music during the performance. Carol supplied identical black notebooks to minimize any distraction. The logic for this concert was to allow new guys or guys not able to be on our annual Show to participate with us on stage. There has been no official judgement about the success of using music but some comments were that relying on sheet music reduced the emotional connection with the song. That makes sense. If one is concentrating on reading the sheet, one is more concerned with saying the correct words rather than feeling what they mean. This is an observation we need to consider in the future. Good music is emotional as well as being correct. When we sing with emotion, we sing better.



Gary Wilson	June 12
Rod Ragsdale	June 16
Dennis Olmstead	June 19
Don Barnett	June 23

*We don't stop singing because we get old,  
we get old because we stop singing.*

Birthdays are good for you.  
The more you have, the  
longer you live.



## Chapter Quartets

# FOURMATA

Contact: Bill Sutton 874-9280

## ROCKY ROAD

Contact: Vern Dockter

970-210-1793



The Give Back Concert at Delta United Methodist Church



DelRose Sweet Adelines



Warming up before the concert

Don't forget the Tap Night at Horsefly Brewery on **Tuesday evening, June 2, 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.** Each pint sold during that period will return a buck to the Black Canyon Barbershop Chorus. The food is excellent and the atmosphere is made for fun. Come on down and we might sing a song or two.

# Dr. Bob retires

*Hope you all saw the April 26 issue of The Montrose Daily Press*

Dr. Bob deserved and received a TWO page testimony of his 50 years providing medical care to the Montrose community. His history is studded with his accomplishments, all are minimized by his humble personality. He was honored as 'Distinguished Person of the Year' by the Montrose County Commissioners. That is an honor to treasure. Bob dismissed it by calling it 15 minutes of fame. Bob touched more people in his career than most of us can even imagine. If you haven't congratulated him on his retirement, do it. Now he has time to play golf, paint, watch TV, ride his scooter, gamble, and sing every day. What a deal. No more pesky patients to interfere with his fun and hobbies.

We are proud and pleased to have him singing with us.



Taken photo taken on one of many motorcycle trips to Canada. This is on the shore of Kootenay Lake near Ainsworth Hot Springs. Of course this was when we were much younger.



## Teach the Children to Sing

Stamp  
here



### CHAPTER MISSION STATEMENT

"Flourishing and growing as individuals, as a chorus, and as a chapter by singing in an atmosphere of musical excellence and by promoting harmony in our lives, our relationships, and our community."

THE CANYON CHORDS  
BULLETIN EDITOR/PUBLISHER

*Bill Sutton*

*1943 Spring Drive*

*Delta CO 81416*

*Phone/FAX 874-9280*

*e-mail: williesut@aol.com*

1943 Spring Drive

Delta, CO 81416

RETURN REQUESTED

COMPLIMENTARY  
COPY

**Keep the Whole World Singing**

## The President's Corner with John Taylor

Our Board (Bored) meetings seem to get bogged down with a number of the group expounding on the matters at hand, yet perhaps not making a motion that would call the question and advance the proceedings in a timely manner. As president, I can take blame for that. However, I do like to give time to each issue and allow Board members to hear varying viewpoints before voting.

There are some of us that start wishing the meeting was over, right after the usual fine meal at Daveto's. (It's a tradition for older gentlemen to take a nap after a meal, isn't it?) Motions for adjournment start coming right after approval of the minutes and the treasurer's report, but unfortunately before serious business is settled.

It was suggested at the last meeting that I come up with a list of "ACTION ITEMS" that are presented BEFORE the next meeting, so Board members can contemplate the items and prepare their concise remarks. These action items are to be made available to the entire membership as well as the Board, so Board members can get input from the general membership. Action items will have priority in the agenda.

Keep watching for ACTION ITEMS to be posted before the next Board meeting on June 9, 2015, at Daveto's Restaurant in Delta. Meal at 6:00 p.m. Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

