

Alexandria Harmonizers 70th Anniversary Throwback Thursdays

No. 34 – 2004 The Cotton is High

Alexandria Harmonizers, International Chorus Fourth Place Bronze Medal
66th Annual International Convention and Contests, SPEBSQSA,
Louisville KY, June 27-July 4, 2004



Musical Director **Richard Lewellen**

Associate Director **Terry Reynolds**

Chapter President **Ken Fess**

96 men awarded Fourth Place Bronze Medals, singing:

“Lazybones,” **David Wright**, Arranger, and

“Summertime,” **Steve Jamison**, Arranger

The seventh Music Director of the Harmonizers, **Richard Lewellen**, took the Harmonizers to two successive Fourth Place finishes in Louisville and Salt Lake City with the same song set. The Harmonizers had great fun wearing river shirts and dungarees, with bare feet, all covered in mud, to simulate field hands, sweating in the noon day sun.

2004 Louisville. *The Harmonizer* commented: “But give the penny-pinching award to the **Alexandria Harmonizers**...rumored to have outfitted each of their 96 men on stage for less than \$10--total.” And more: “Quick-find the director... (many) directors are limiting their direction to the rehearsal hall, blending into the background while on stage. If you hadn’t been paying attention, you’d never have spotted **Richard Lewellen** of the **Alexandria Harmonizers**...”

2005 Salt Lake City. *The Harmonizer* commented on a certain someone playing “Lazybones” in the aisle of the 20,000-seat Latter Day Saints Conference Center: “One can only guess why performance guru and perpetual front-row man **Gary Plaag** chose to lie down...rather than sing during his chorus’ biggest six minutes of

*the year. Perhaps he simply had the clout to snag a spot upwind from the rest of the **Alexandria Harmonizers** during their sultry summer set. Considering the record-breaking July heat outside, who is to say that all those sweat rings on stage were fake?"*

Richard Lewellen is an accomplished music director, coach, quartet man, and Singing Category Judge. He sang baritone with the International Medalist Quartet **Riptide** and the 2005 Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champion **Four Aces**. Richard directed the **Alexandria Harmonizers** for four years (2003-2006) and, in more recent times, directs the **Fairfax Jubil-Aires**. In January 2007, **Joe Cerutti, Jr.** became the eighth Music Director of the Harmonizers.

Historical Tagline:

2004 -- Three Harmonizers were in the inaugural class of the Society Hall of Honor: **Bud Arberg**, **Dean Snyder**, and **Wilbur Sparks**. The Society Board changed our official name for almost all practical purposes to Barbershop Harmony Society. SPEBSQSA, Inc. remains the legal name.

2005 -- After 60 years of using "SPEBSQSA," our new logo features "BHS" in a new contemporary design.

2007 -- After 49 years in Wisconsin, we can no longer call Kenosha home. The Society opened its new headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee on September 4th in a renovated 36,000 square foot, four-story building at 110 7th Avenue North.

2008 – The Society held the International Convention in Nashville to show off the new digs.