

# PROBE motor

Vol. 46, No. 4

[www.harmonize.com/probe](http://www.harmonize.com/probe)

Oct/Dec 2009

## NEW PROBE LOGO APPROVED FOR USE



A couple of months ago, it was requested for a second time that PROBE be able to use the new round BHS logo to go with its own logo as in the past. A color version was sent to them for approval.

I am happy to report that the Society has granted us permission to use this new logo for PROBE in all of its publications. This includes all of PROBE's publications, all the district publications that are edited and published by a PROBE member, and local chapter publications that are edited and published by PROBE members.

Soon there will be high resolution color and greyscale versions on the PROBE website for any member to use in their publications, whether printed or on the web. This will save us the effort of developing a new logo immediately, or of using two separate logos — one for BHS and one for PROBE.

## PRESIDENT STEVE JACKSON ILL

Sadly, we must report that our beloved president, Steve Jackson was hospitalized in serious condition. All details are not known at this time, but suffice it to say that it is a blow to the operations of PROBE and the board of directors. He is also sorely missed as an editor, a mentor, and all around good guy.

He will be returning soon it is hoped. In the meantime, John Elving has assumed the position of President Pro Tem. and also **PROBEmotor** Editor Pro Tem. Please rest assured that he is not going to take over either of these jobs permanently. He's far too busy as it is and his family won't allow it. Neither will his chapter or quartet.

Your well wishes to Steve can be sent to:

Steve Jackson  
c/o Dr. Tony Pranaitis  
12713 W 8th Ave  
Golden, CO 80401-4646  
[tonychiro@juno.com](mailto:tonychiro@juno.com)

Here's a quick update on Steve Jackson. He is now able to communicate by writing, and some verbally. He had

## PROBE NOW A PART OF SOCIETY M&PR COMMITTEE

*In an email to President Steve Jackson, and copied to John Elving, there was another piece of good news for PROBE. Following is an excerpt of the email. JE*

Steven,

I'm proud to announce that PROBE has been given the green light to have a seat on the Society's M&PR Committee. Although this will be advisory position, the collaboration between the two entities will be an asset to us both and to the hundreds of Chapter M&PR Officers. The next face-to-face meeting of the M&PR Committee will be Nov. 6 & 7 at the Mini-Forum at the DFW Hilton in Dallas. Please make an effort to send someone from your BOD.

Please advise me who will be your representative so I can add them to the Committee's email group. Thanks and welcome aboard..

*Philip Maxfield*

Society's Marketing & PR Committee Chairman

*It has been decided by the PROBE Board that we will send one representative to that meeting. Further details will be forthcoming. This committee was formed to fill the gap left when, due to financial woes, Todd Wilson left his position as Director of Marketing for the Society.*

*It has been suggested that PROBE should be an integral part of this effort, if not take the lead in it. After all, that is our job within the Society—Marketing and PR. If you have ideas that we can share with the committee, please send them to one of the PROBE officers.*

some of the tubes taken out of him so he is able to speak some. **That is GREAT NEWS!**

Let's continue to send well wishes to the address at the left. Also, keep Steve in your thoughts and prayers. He is still quite a ways from recovery. In his own words relayed to me by Tony Pranaitis, "It will be quite a while before I'm back in the saddle again."

We are hoping to get a computer systems set up (laptop) so that he can start to feel productive again. When that happens I will let you all know via the PROBE blog. If you are reading this, Steve, get well soon! (*I need the help – Ed Pro Tem.*)

# P.R.O.B.E. LEADERSHIP



**President**  
**PROBEmotor Editor**  
**Steven Jackson**  
215 Cheyenne St. Lot 18  
Golden, CO 80403  
303-384-9269  
[sjjbullead@comcast.net](mailto:sjjbullead@comcast.net)



**Secretary/Treasurer**  
**Dick Girvin**  
34888 Lyn Ave.  
Hemet, CA 92545  
951-926-8644  
[dickgirvin@juno.com](mailto:dickgirvin@juno.com)



**IMM. Past President**  
**IBC Chairman**  
**Lowell Shank**  
2413 Stonebridge Lane  
Bowling Green, KY 42101  
270-202-0515  
[Lowell.Shank@wku.edu](mailto:Lowell.Shank@wku.edu)



**Bulletin Editors VP**  
**E-IBC Chairman**  
**John Elving**  
6806 Peaceful Pines Rd.  
Black Hawk, SD 57718  
605-381-9680  
[leadermanje@gmail.com](mailto:leadermanje@gmail.com)



**Web VP**  
**Patrick Thomas**  
1002 Tanyard Spring Dr.  
Spring Hill, TN 37174-6131  
615-618-5894  
[isingbass@charter.net](mailto:isingbass@charter.net)



**Membership VP**  
**Donald Levering**  
1521 San Carlos Ave.  
Orangel, CA 92865  
714-998-6390  
(cell) 714-915-9902  
[donaldlevering@yahoo.com](mailto:donaldlevering@yahoo.com)



**Marketing/PR VP**  
**PROTY Chairman**  
**Martin Banks**  
9190 Lake Braddock Dr.  
Burke, VA 22015-2137  
703-425-8755  
[mlbanks111@aol.com](mailto:mlbanks111@aol.com)



**Webmaster**  
**Dr. Arnie Wade**  
3628 Sussex Drive NE  
Milledgeville, GA 31061  
912-452-4491  
[arnibari@windstream.net](mailto:arnibari@windstream.net)



**Bulletin Exchange Coordinator**  
**Alexander Edwards**  
535 W. Broadway, #150A  
Glendale, CA 91204  
818-956-1132  
[edwardsalexander@sbcglobal.net](mailto:edwardsalexander@sbcglobal.net)

## PROBE HALL OF HONOR

*Bruce Anderson, Ray Barrett, Herb Bayles,  
Grant Carson, Jerry Coltharp, Lloyd Davis,  
Wade Dexter, Mel Edwards, Leo Fobart,  
Jim Fulks, Harry Gault, Dick Girvin,  
Ray Heller, Bob Hockenbrough,  
Paul Izdepski, Steve Jackson, Terry Jordan,  
Grady Kerr, Art Lane, Deac Martin,  
Bob McDermott, William Moreland,  
John Morris, Roger Morris, Buddy Myers,  
Dee Paris, John Pettersen, Waldo Redekop,  
Craig Rigg, Jerry Roland, Lowell Shank,  
Wilbur Sparks, Stan "Stasch" Sperl,  
Dick Stuart, Jim Styer, John Sugg,  
Staff Taylor, Dick Teeters, Arnold Wade,  
Charlie Wilcox*

## ASK QUESTIONS, GET ANSWERS

*By Lance Lubin, as seen in the Scoops & Swipes  
Voice of the Greater Pinellas Florida Chapter  
Dr. Clare McCreary, Editor*

I HAD to share this with you! This came from a member to the EVG email list. This is how men answer questions in barbershop! I love it! Poor guy! I was laughing on the last one.

**Question:** I have a pitch pipe with one bad note—it's almost half a tone flat. I opened it, cleaned out the dust and belly button lint, and didn't see anything obvious wrong. Does anyone know whether/how these are adjustable?

**Response #1:** "Blow the pitch, hum a 1/2 step higher and start singing."

**Response #2:** "A lot of people don't know this, but they actually make these to fit certain voice parts. Yours is quite rare though, as most "bari pipes" have way more than just one flat note. I would hold on to that one."

Your information could  
be here!

LOOK HERE PEOPLE,  
DO THE WRITE THING  
HELP THE EDITOR WITH NEWS ITEMS  
FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

## BULLETIN EXCHANGE AN IMPORTANT TOOL

Are you exchanging your bulletin with at least one other editor? If not, this is a valuable tool which at present is being under-utilized.

Alexander Edwards, our PROBE Bulletin Exchange Coordinator, has sent the message to all bulletin editors that he will soon be cleaning house of unused editors names and addresses. If your name is on his list and you haven't been exchanging your bulletin, either a printed copy or electronically, you are in jeopardy of being taken off the list.

If you would like to keep your name on that list, please contact Alexander to let him know that you want to be exchanging your bulletin with the others on the list. The caveat is that you must exchange your publication with the list to be kept on.

For those of you that haven't been on the list, but would like to receive bulletins from other editors, please contact our coordinator to make sure you get on the list.

From personal experience, this is a great way to see what other chapters are doing, how other bulletin editors are doing things, and a way to find new material for your own bulletin. OF course you want to make sure you get permission and give proper credit. That's just common sense.

The person to contact is:

Alexander Edwards  
535 W. Broadway, #150A  
Glendale, CA 91204  
818-956-1132  
[edwardsalexander@sbcglobal.net](mailto:edwardsalexander@sbcglobal.net)



With all the panic going on over the H1N1 flu, it is evident that we understand just what it is. The difference between the dreaded bird flu of the past and the swine flu of the present is pretty simple: When you had the bird flu, you needed to get a "tweetment." If you get the swine flu, what you need is "oinkment!"



Guys and Gals,

About three years ago the Society's Marketing & PR Committee developed, promoted, and supported a community service program called **Singing For Life**. The first, **Singing For Life 2008**, was attempted to be held on the same day in May, Society-wide, to get media clout. It worked fairly well, but many chapters complained about the narrowness of the date, so SFL2009 was expanded to any day in May.

So far the program has helped blood donor centers in the US and Canada collect over 4500 units, a potential saving of 13,500 lives. That is pretty good, but it can be much better.

A few things that needs to be made clear:

1. **SFL** is not a **BHS** mandated function. The M&PR Committee created the idea, the PR tools, formed the affiliations with the blood donor organizations, and promotes it, to help the chapters get more visibility in their communities.
2. Unless a chapter wants to recruit its own blood donors, hire the venue, etc., **SFL** is supposed to be the chapters offering entertainment and promotion of the event to the blood donor organization. The chapters support their event... the chapter members are not expected to give blood.

As a proud **PROBE** member, I am seeking PROBE's support of **Singing For Life 2010**.

The webpage is [bbshop.org/blood](http://bbshop.org/blood). Registration will start Oct. 1 and run through Jan. 31.

Community service is always a good source of PR, and **SFL** is a great community service project.

Yours in Harmony,

**Bob Burns**  
Asheville, N.C.

Chairman, **Singing For Life 2010**

WHY NOT ENTER THE  
BULLETIN CONTEST?  
WHILE YOU'RE AT IT,  
ENTER THE PROTY  
CONTEST!

## RAISING THE BAR

by Eric Herr, M-AD VP of Marketing & PR  
[ewh14@comcast.net](mailto:ewh14@comcast.net)

In May, I received an e-mail from our Society's Marketing Director, Todd Wilson, announcing a complete restructuring of marketing and public relations efforts. Much to my dismay, the restructuring also included the elimination of his position as Director of Marketing.

While there will still be some degree of support from Nashville, this news is just one indication of how the economic squeeze is impacting our lives as individuals, as well as the day-to-day operations of organizations like our beloved Barbershop Harmony Society and countless others, nationwide.

The Society's restructuring, while certainly unsettling, nevertheless creates a golden opportunity for all of us at local levels to reexamine our commitment, take ownership of our chapters, and reclaim what we have worked hard to establish. It also presents the perfect opportunity to spread the so-called "gospel of barbershop singing" to all who will listen, like never before.

We have all heard countless laments about dwindling membership, the need to infuse new blood into our ranks, and that various media outlets often don't seem to get our message.

Granted, all of these and related concerns are valid. But, by the same token, if we are to change this direction and chart a new, more positive course, we need to seize the opportunity to attract new members and find more innovative ways to be captains of our own destinies.

It's easy to buy into all the negatives about why nobody can get people to come to chapter meetings, the fact that interest in our hobby is waning in the face of other musical

genres, etc. Fact is, we're all creatures of habit. Repeat an action (positive or negative) enough times and it becomes habitual... it becomes an unconscious, ongoing behavior.

So, here's a positive habit worth considering. Each day, "catch" at least one person with whom you can share your love of barbershopping—the good fellowship and the unquestionable optimism and thrill that comes from raising your voice in song. Believe me when I say that this must be a personal mission on all our parts, if we are to survive as a chapter, let alone an organization.

There are far too many opportunities we all have missed to tell someone about just how great this hobby of ours really is—at work, at home, and in any number of social situations. When was the last time you finally got around to telling a neighbor, a friend, or maybe even a relative that you are a barbershop harmony singer? Chances are, you probably got a reaction something in the order of, "Gee, I never knew that music was still around," or "I love four-part harmony, but never knew how to get involved," or "I didn't know there was Youth in Harmony education!" Sound familiar? If you said yes, I'll bet you're not alone... trust me!

The bottom line is this—there is a wealth of opportunity to be had, if we choose to take advantage. I say the proverbial glass is half-full, not half-empty, and that despite some temporary uncertainty, there is a light at the end of the tunnel that is not an oncoming train.

If we are really committed to the survival of our chapters and indeed of our Barbershop Harmony Society, then now more than ever, we need to depend more on ourselves to "spread the good word" and make a positive difference.

So, don't be bashful—go out there and tell the world about this great hobby of ours. Over time, you'll acquire a natural tendency to focus on the "good stuff!" And you'll likely find that even more of that "good stuff" will come your way. When that happens, **EVERYONE WINS!**

## REMINDER TO ALL BULLETIN EDITORS

Milt Weisman, Bulletin Mentor Chair

If you have any questions about, or would like assistance with, any part of your newsletters, there are highly qualified mentors who are available and eager to work with you.

All it takes is either an e-mail or a phone call to Milt Weisman, at [noonmark@cstone.net](mailto:noonmark@cstone.net) or (434)223-7901.

*This is a great opportunity for anyone wanting to improve what they do as a bulletin editor, whether they publish hard-copy editions or electronic versions of their communications. This is a way to really have your bulletin judged all year long instead of just once a year. Ed. Pro Tem.*



## HERE'S A GREAT IDEA... A SPECIAL GUEST EDITION

How many of you publish a "special edition" of your bulletin just for guest night? I'm sure some of you do, but many haven't even thought of it.

Paul White, editor of the of the San Angelo, Texas Chapter's **Concho Capers** has just published a special edition just for their guest night. It is a welcome edition including an article from the chapter president, one from the chorus director along with other things of interest such as photos of performances. Of particular interest is a page with pictures of the chapter leadership, which some include in our regular publications. The difference is that it is right there for guests to identify key people in the chapter.

If you would like to see what Paul has put together, I'm sure you could request a copy of the six page issue by emailing him at: [conchocapers\\_ed@yahoo.com](mailto:conchocapers_ed@yahoo.com)

## ORDERS FOR VICTORY! “IF OUR CHAPTERS DO NOTHING ELSE, THEY MUST \_\_\_\_\_?”

by Lorin May on [barbershopHQ.com](http://barbershopHQ.com) (Society blog)

This is a **VERY** important post—so important that staff will be meeting to discuss your replies. It’s a little long, but worth it.

If you can fill in the above blank without hesitation, you probably misunderstood the question. Read on, your answer will require some pondering. Your answers could also help focus staff, Society, district and chapter efforts for years to come. We look forward to some thoughtful discussion!

### Commander’s Intent

To paraphrase past Society president Roger Lewis, Men don’t join or leave the Society, they join or leave chapters. Helping our chapters become more successful supersedes all other missions—everything else depends on it. We’re asking you to generate a clear declaration of how we’ll accomplish that mission—deciding what “hill” our chapters must take NOW so we are all in the strengthened position we need to win the rest of the war.

Since 1980, U.S. Army planners have posted a Commander’s Intent statement at the top of every order: Brief, clear language that essentially means, “If you accomplish nothing else, you must \_\_\_\_\_.” For example: “The Fourth Battalion must remove the enemy from Hill 204 or leave only ineffective remnants remaining so we can protect the Fifth Brigade’s flank as they pass north through the line.”

Soldiers must understand the Commander’s Intent so that during the heat of battle, they can generate their own solutions to achieve it. A CI statement is not a slogan or mission statement. They are marching orders specific enough to define victory, general enough to be adapted to individual circumstances.

A Society-wide CI for chapters would essentially declare, “The common characteristic of all thriving chapters is that they are successful at \_\_\_\_\_. Success at \_\_\_\_\_ is so vital to strengthening our chapters that we barbershoppers must focus on it ahead of all other objectives at this time.”

### Commanders Intent for chapters – one example

Here’s my CI and my explanation, given only as an example so you can generate your own:

Commander’s Intent statement: If a chapter does nothing else, it must offer every member personal fulfillment and growth—every week.

My explanation: Whatever else a chapter aspires to achieve, men come to get their “itch” scratched every week. Musical growth and fraternity are important but should not, and in most cases cannot, rest on the talents and charisma of the chorus director or a small team of “doers.” Men receive more fulfillment in a culture that gives all chapter members weekly opportunities to share and develop their

talents in fulfilling roles. The combined efforts and variety lead to an overall more fulfilling chapter experience for all. Fulfilled men give their chapters their best time and efforts; chapters that know how to offer greater fulfillment will sing better, fraternize better, serve their communities better and recruit more men.

### Your turn: Commanders Intent for successful chapters

That’s only one example—I’m hoping your CIs and rationales are entirely different. But do you see how useful a Society-wide CI could be? Let’s generate some discussion! Please answer:

“If we do nothing else within our chapters, we must \_\_\_\_\_.” **EXPLAIN!**

### Caveat: What a Commander’s Intent statement is not

An army CI wouldn’t state that the objective is to “defeat the enemy” or “establish peace in the region”—that’s already understood. Likewise, “Preserve barbershop harmony” or “growth” or “have fun singing,” all strike me as desired ends rather than focused marching orders. (Singing barbershop harmony is what Society chapters do by definition. **But what is the key feature of a chapter that is thriving while it does this?**) A CI summarizes a meaningful HOW—a high-impact objective we can focus on NOW to build stronger chapters and a growing Society.

(I told you that you were probably mistaken if you thought you could answer this without pondering!)

We know there are some great answers out there. Please offer your proposed CI then EXPLAIN! Staff will formally discuss your answers on Sept. 16 and report back.

Fire away!

*Please consider this carefully. If you haven’t already, read the blog (click link below). Pay close attention to the comments and answers. Is this something that can be used in our districts and local chapters? As they say up here in the North, “Ja sure. You betcha!” Send your answers to any of the PROBE Board members. Think carefully before you answer. By all means report back to the Society. (It’s never too late for your input.) You can email them, snail mail them, or comment via the blog ([www.barbershophq.com/?p=1083](http://www.barbershophq.com/?p=1083)). Whichever way you do it, please do it! If nothing else, please read the blog and all the comments there. You will find some very eye opening comments that we all need to take in to account. The Society Marketing and PR Committee will be meeting in November to discuss this very thing, as will a representative from PROBE. They would love to hear your ideas. Ed. Pro Tem.*



# RESOURCE LINKS FOR NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

MARTIN BANKS, MARKETING & PR VP

*This is the first of several resources provided by Martin dealing with resources which each of our non-profit chapters can use. There were far too many in his lists (seven pages) to publish in one edition. Please save this list to compile with the others which will be forth-coming. Ed. Pro Tem.*

## Board Leadership Resources

[www.boardcafe.org](http://www.boardcafe.org) – Board Café is the electronic newsletter exclusively for members of nonprofit boards of directors. Short enough to read over a cup of coffee, Board Café offers a menu of ideas, information, opinion, news, and resources to help board members give and get the most out of board service. Each issue will bring you a cornucopia of “Little Ideas,” as well as one “Big Idea” you can use in your board work.

[www.boardsource.org](http://www.boardsource.org) – BoardSource, formerly the national Center for Nonprofit Boards, is the premier resource for practical information, tools and best practices, training, and leadership development for board members of nonprofit organizations worldwide. Through our highly acclaimed programs and services, BoardSource enables organizations to fulfill their missions by helping build strong and effective boards.

[members4.boardhost.com/PNDtalk/](http://members4.boardhost.com/PNDtalk/) – The Philanthropy News Digest Message Board is open, and we’re talking about funding sources for brick-and-mortar projects, the extent to which marketing efforts drive fund-raising results, the elements of a good newsletter, and much more.

[www.policygovernance.com](http://www.policygovernance.com) – Policy Governance is the world’s most complete theoretical foundation for the board’s role in business, nonprofit (NGO), and government organizations.

## Non-profit Management Resources

[www.allianceonline.org](http://www.allianceonline.org) – The Alliance for Nonprofit Management is the professional association of individuals and organizations devoted to improving the management and governance capacity of nonprofits - to assist nonprofits in fulfilling their mission.

[www.cnm.org](http://www.cnm.org) – The Center for Nonprofit Management helps nonprofit organizations enhance their results by providing educational services, consultation, and information. CNM is a center for the pursuit of excellence in nonprofit management where knowledge is translated into action.

[www.contributionsmagazine.com](http://www.contributionsmagazine.com) – Contributions Magazine is an informative guide to products and services for the nonprofit sector. The magazine includes information about nonprofit management, direct mail, fund-raising, planning giving, volunteers, and much more.

[www.managementhelp.org](http://www.managementhelp.org) – Free Management Library: Complete, highly integrated library for nonprofits and for-profits.

[www.nutsbolts.com](http://www.nutsbolts.com) – Non-Profit Nuts & Bolts strives to be a valuable, information-packed resource for busy, budget-stretching nonprofit professionals; and covers key topics such as fund-raising, volunteer management, public relations, special events, leadership marketing, meetings, staff management, motivation, board relations, team building, time management, committees and technology.

[www.stayexempt.org](http://www.stayexempt.org) – Stay Exempt, a new web site of the Internal Revenue Service, provides the tools and knowledge to help keep your organization’s 501(c)(3) exempt status intact.

[www.councilofnonprofits.org](http://www.councilofnonprofits.org) – National Council of Nonprofits, a network of state and regional nonprofit organizations serving more than 20,000 member organizations, helps small and midsize nonprofits manage and lead more effectively.

[www.pfdf.org](http://www.pfdf.org) – Leader to Leader Institute, established in 1990 as the Peter F. Drucker Foundation for Nonprofit Management, provides leaders with essential wisdom, inspiration, and resources to build vibrant social sector organizations.

*There will be more next issue. Stay tuned as we get these out for your use. – Ed Pro Tem.*

## MY IDEAS FOR YOUTH OUTREACH

By John Kropf, Seattle, Washington, Chapter, Sea Chords,  
John Devitt, EDITOR [from the Oct. 2000 PROBEMoter]

Ideas are useless without some execution. Ever have that nightmare where you are running as hard as you can, but aren’t getting anywhere? I sometimes think that is my problem with Youth Outreach. I have lots of ideas, but find it difficult to put them into play.

I have recently taken some action. My inspiration was Carl Nelson. He teaches a class on nature to a Ballard elementary school every year. The teachers there love him. They and the classes also loved Seventh Heaven as we gave a demonstration of barbershop harmony to them.

Here are my ideas:

1. Have each quartet adopt an elementary school and hold a harmony teaching class each year. Even more, sing at an assembly or a PTA meeting. Start with the unselfish idea of teaching something (barbershop singing) that is native to America.
2. Make it a goal for each quartet to adopt a high school, also. The choral teacher will love for you to make a presentation to her/his class. Perhaps sing at an assembly.
3. We should also adopt a middle school as well as a junior high school. Sound like a busy time? There are four of you. That means each of you has a responsibility to maintain contact with only one school, but include the quartet for the performances.
4. How about including a college, university or private school, too?

## ENTRIES SOLICITED FOR 2009 PROTY CONTEST

MARTIN BANKS, MARKETING & PR VP

It is that time again to be thinking about entering your marketing and public relations efforts in the PROTY contest. This is a very special award given to the best efforts of our local marketing and public relations efforts, given once a year to the person most responsible for that effort.

- The **Public Relations Officer of the Year (PROTY)** award is given to the member, regardless of title, who submits the most inventive and successful promotion for his chapter during the preceding calendar year.
- One PROTY award is for year long marketing/public relations activity.
- A second PROTY award is given for the marketing/public relations effort focused on a single event or activity, i.e. chorus performance, chapter show program, chapter community activity.
- PROBE membership is required for award eligibility.
- Award winners shall not again be eligible to participate for two years.
- Entries may be submitted via a District Coordinator or directly to the PROTY Chairman. There is no elimination of entries at the district level.
- **Deadline for receipt of Calendar Year 2009 PROTY entries by the PROTY Chairman is April 15, 2010.**

Additional information is available at the PROBE website or from:

PROTY Chairman  
Martin L. Banks  
PROBE VP, Marketing and Public Relations  
9190 Lake Braddock Drive  
Burke VA 22015-2137  
(703) 425-8755  
[mlbanks111@aol.com](mailto:mlbanks111@aol.com)



## PUNCTUATION... HOW SHOULD IT BE USED?

*Have you, like me, ever wondered exactly how to use certain punctuation? Maybe you don't want to wade through the manuals to find exactly what you want. There is help on the horizon. I found a website that is very helpful, and since we just recently celebrated National Punctuation Day (September 24) I thought you, too, would like to have the visual help.*

*The website to go to is <http://nationalpunctuationday.com/>. Try it — you'll like it! Here is just one example — the dreaded dash! — Ed. Pro Tem.*

### DASH

*A mark or sign used variously in printed or written matter, especially to note a break, pause, or hesitation; to begin and end parenthetical text; to indicate omission of letters or words; to substitute for certain uses of the colon; and to separate elements of a sentence or a series of sentences, as a question from its answer.*

**ABRUPT CHANGE:** Use dashes to denote an abrupt change in thought in a sentence or an emphatic pause.

*We will fly to Paris in June — if I get a raise.*

*Smith offered a plan — it was unprecedented — to raise revenues.*

**SERIES WITHIN A PHRASE:** When a phrase that would otherwise be set off by commas contains a series of words that must be separated by commas, use dashes to set off the full phrase.

*He listed the qualities — intelligence, humor, conservatism, independence — that he liked in an executive.*

**ATTRIBUTION:** Use a dash before an author's or composer's name at the end of a quotation.

*"Who steals my purse steals trash." — Shakespeare.*

**IN LISTS:** Dashes should be used to introduce individual sections of a list. Capitalize the first word following a dash. Use periods, not semicolons, at the end of each section.

*Jones gave the following reasons:*

- *He never ordered the package.*
- *If he did, it didn't come.*
- *If it did, he sent it back.*

— *The Associated Press Stylebook* —

### Frugalhorn

A SENSIBLE, INEXPENSIVE BRASS INSTRUMENT

### Dill Piccolino

A WIND INSTRUMENT THAT PLAYS ONLY SOUR NOTES

# THE CHAPTER'S BEST PR TOOL...

## ITS CHAPTER BULLETIN

Alexander Edwards, *PROBE* Bulletin Exchange Coordinator

The chapter bulletin is the chapter's best PR tool. When carefully and properly used, it is also the chapter's most effective PR tool. For many barbershoppers, the bulletin is the only window, the only source of information they have on what other barbershoppers are doing. **The Harmonizer** provides information as to what's happening at Society events such as Harmony College and the Society conventions. The various district bulletins cover district events and some even have summaries of and/or excerpts from chapter bulletins within that district. The chapter bulletin, however, remains the primary source of chapter news — what's happening, what's being planned, chapter quartet activities, etc.

When the chapter is healthy and its officers are actively and properly functioning, the bulletin will also contain reports from the various chapter officers and committees, articles on how to improve one's singing and chorus performance and how to make chapter meetings and rehearsals more enjoyable and productive. It will also spotlight the various members — who they are, how they became involved in barbershopping (and particularly in this chapter), what their interests and talents are — and especially any barbershop or other award or special recognition any member might receive.

The district and Society bulletin contests conducted by **PROBE** are just one of the tools provided to help editors see what they're doing well and where and how they could improve. Admittedly the standards are arbitrary. Some areas, such as grammar (spelling, punctuation and sentence structure and phrasing) and lay-out, are relatively objective and easily applied. Others, such as style, are more subjective. In the final analysis, a good bulletin is one which accurately reports chapter news in such a manner as to attract new members and supporters and to retain and encourage the old members.

Another way in which the chapter bulletin can be an effective PR tool is through the Bulletin Exchange program. Exchanging bulletins is a most effective way to broaden members' views and understanding of the barbershop world, to help the chapter membership know what's going on outside the local chapter. It is also a way for a chapter to effectively and timely inform other chapters, especially in the same area, what it is doing, what shows or other barbershop events are being planned. Exchanging chapter bulletins helps chapters learn how other chapters are meeting and resolving common (and perhaps some not so common) problems, underscoring what is being learned and shared at COTS and POD meetings.

Many chapters, in response to rising printing and mailing costs, have replaced or, in a few cases, supplemented their hard copies with on-line editions, available on a web site or emailed as an Adobe, PDF or Word file attachment. The hard copy, however, remains the best way to exchange and

distribute. Not every one has a computer and those who do have computers may not be able to download due to paper shortage or computer or printer problems. Also, for PR effectiveness, there is no substitute for a hard copy in hand.

Yes, it may be difficult or seemingly impossible for small chapters and those with limited resources to print and distribute hard copies to anyone except local members and those expressing an interest (or even those). However, the exchanging of hard copy bulletins between chapters (especially those in the same district and division) and the distribution of hard copies to supporters and friends of barbershopping are two of the best ways to support and encourage barbershop quartet singing in America and every effort should be made to facilitate such printing and distribution. The Society (at both the top and district levels) and those chapters with ample resources can help with grants. Local businesses and other friends are other sources of possible help.

"It's great to be a barbershopper [editor]"

*Alexander*

## IT'S ONLY TEMPORARY

John Elving, *Temporary Editor-in-Cheap*

In an effort to keep things sort of un-normal, you will notice a difference in the *PROBEmotor* this issue. For that I am truly sorry.

We all know how hard it is to replace, even temporarily, someone of Steve Jackson's talent. I'm not even trying. I only do what I can to fill a very large and important void.

It is not known at this time how long Steve will be laid up and unavailable to take on his duties as editor and president. Until that time, or even such time as he can submit one or two ideas for publication, I have willingly taken on those responsibilities.

The last I heard was that Steve hopes to be out of the hospital by Thanksgiving. When he feels up to it I'm sure he will be back at his computer doing what he loves and passing those nuggets on to the rest of us.

If you have ideas for this publication, stories to submit, or just bulletins for me to peruse, please send them to me at [leadermanje@gmail.com](mailto:leadermanje@gmail.com). All submissions are eagerly awaited. Remember, whether it's Steve or me editing, it's your bulletin. We just edit and would rather not write.

Also, if you have items for the board to consider, send them to me also. As President Pro Tem. I will take all the slings and arrows for Steve until he's back in the saddle. (Hurry back Steve!)

Sing-cerely & Humm-bly,

*Jahn*



# DISTRICT BULLETIN EDITOR OF THE YEAR (BETY) CONTEST

## GENERAL GUIDELINES

### Purpose

The purpose of the Bulletin Editor of the Year (BETY) contest is to promote better communication through chapter bulletins. Each judge is enjoined to provide a written critique to each editor judged.

### Conduct

BETY contests should be conducted in the same manner as the International Bulletin Contest (IBC), so that all entrants in the IBC meet eligibility requirements. Click [IBC General Guidelines](#) for conduct of the IBC. A district contest chairman may depart from the IBC rules, for example allowing bimonthlies or entries for which insufficient issues have been published, but if so that should be announced well in advance of the contests with particulars given, and editors of those entries should be made aware that although their entries are eligible for the BETY, they are not eligible for the IBC.

### Scoring

#### Hard-copy

Scoring in BETY contests will be done as it is in the IBC, in three categories, as follows:

Content	800 points
Layout and Reproduction (L&R)	600 points
Grammar and Style (G&S)	600 points
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,000 points</b>

Each issue is allocated one-half of the points: 400 for Content, 300 for L&R, 300 for G&S. Certified judges will be provided by the PROBE Vice President for Bulletin Editors (VP-BE). Judges' scores may be changed by district contest chairmen or international bulletin contest chairman to correct arithmetic errors only.

#### Electronic (formerly On-line)

Scoring in BETY contests will be done as it is in the IBC, in three categories, as follows:

Content	800 points
Design & Graphics (D&G)	600 points
Grammar and Style (G&S)	600 points
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,000 points</b>

Each issue is allocated one-half of the points: 400 for Content, 300 for L&R, 300 for D&G. Certified judges will be provided by the PROBE Vice President for Bulletin Editors (VP-BE). Judges' scores may be changed by district contest chairmen or international bulletin contest chairman to correct arithmetic errors only.

## Administration

In October of each year, each district president should see that a chairman for the coming BETY is appointed or reappointed. The VP-BE will assign judges in plenty of time, and will also identify the chairman of the next IBC, providing his name, address, and phone number. He will enclose a copy of these BETY guidelines. District contest chairmen are encouraged to provide each chapter editor in his respective district with a copy of this form. All expenses of administering BETY contests are the responsibility of the districts. This includes mailing bulletins to judges and providing judges with sufficient postage for return of the marked bulletins. When materials are to be posted between the USA and Canada, cash should be provided instead of postage.

## Schedule and Publicity

BETY contests will take place at the beginning of each calendar year and shall cover bulletins published during the previous calendar year. Notice of the coming BETY contests should be published in the district bulletin in time for editors to enter the contest, and should include the name, address, and phone number of the district contest chairman. Unless there are very good reasons otherwise, the deadline for the district contest chairman to receive bulletins should be January 1. The district contest chairmen should send the bulletins to the judges assigned as soon after January 1 as feasible, and should notify the judges of the date the judged bulletins must be returned in order to announce BETY winners at the districts' spring preliminaries. If a district contest chairman fails to provide a due date, the judges will use March 15 as the date to have the judged bulletins, score sheets and critiques to the district contest chairman.

## Eligibility

In order to qualify for the IBC, editors must have published at least six issues of a monthly bulletin during the contest year, or six months of bulletins on a weekly or biweekly schedule. The editor must also be a member for both the publishing year and the year judged, i.e. bulletins for 2009 being judged in 2010 would need membership in both years. See "Conduct" above.

## Submission of bulletins

Editors of monthly bulletins shall submit for judging six copies of each of two consecutive **HARDCOPY** issues published during the year, or the **URLs** of two consecutive **ELECTRONIC** issues published during the year (three for BETY and three for IBC). If the **ELECTRONIC** issues are on a Members Only page, **Logins** and **Passwords** must be supplied. **No hard-copy print-outs will be accepted for ELECTRONIC judging.** Two copies of each **HARDCOPY** issue must be an off-the-press copy (for the L&R judges); the other four may be photocopies. For weeklies, submit eight consecutive issues, the first four together and the second four together. For biweeklies, submit four consecutive issues, the first two together and the second two together. *Should an editor wish to have score and critique, but his score not be published, he should clearly state that to the district contest chairman.*

## “YA GOTTA KNOW THE TERRITORY”

Brooks Harkey, SWD Director of Membership and Development

In the fall issue of the SWD Roundup, you can read about Brooks Harkey’s unbelievable night with a woman named Kay (that’ll get you searching for it, eh?) In that story Brooks makes brief mention of Facebook, or “FB” in web-speak, as a way to stay in touch with friends. In fact, both the Town North Plano chapter and Brooks with the VM have realized promising results using the social networking site to reach young men with an interest in singing and turn them on to barbershop.

In an to that story, Brooks highlights the role that FB plays in the lives of exactly the kind of young men every chapter in the society would like to attract. On the heels of a tremendously successful guest night in San Marcos, Brooks was able to keep up with the event by reading the posts of FB “friends” on his phone or laptop. Here is Brooks’ overview of the event...

**August 22, 2009** – I know most of you all are not on Facebook, and therefore perhaps out of touch with the fact that over the last few weeks the Marcsmen have been heavily promoting their guest night (last night) and all day retreat today. I recently referred two guys I met in Arlington who will be going to UT, but I’m not sure they got to Austin until tonight so may not have been part of the event.



This morning I found the following posts on Facebook:

2AM: Grant Goulding had a SPECTACULAR time at Marcsmen’s Guest Night! It’s a good problem when the guests outnumber the regulars. :) Very blessed to be a Marcsmen tonight and can’t wait for retreat #1 tomorrow!!! I hope all you Marcsmen come prepared for the choreo. Stretch in the morning! And thanks to the MarcAngels for all your help! We LOVE you ladies!!!!

2AM: Brent Dunavant had a FANTASTIC night at the Marcsmen Guest night. 70+ guests with 50+ guests on the risers! What a sound!! Looking forward to the retreat tomorrow with brand new guys on the risers for the first time! GO MARCSMEN!

2AM: Daniel Perry cannot think of words to express the awesomeness of Marcsmen Guest Night. ...oh yeah: CRUSHED IT!!!!!!

1AM: Manny Lopez WOW..... WE HAD AN AMAZING GUEST NIGHT. 40 PLUS GUYS ALL GUEST AND 5 JOIN ON THE SPOT AND THE REST ARE COMING TO OUR RETREAT TOMORROW. PHOTOS AND A RECORDING TO FOLLOW. THIS IS WHAT IT FEELS TO BE ON A MUSIC HIGH..... GO MARCSMEN!!!!!!!!!!!!!! WE DID SOME

**HARD WORK AND I HOPE THAT WE KEEP GETTING BIGGER AND BIGGER.**

Did the rest of us get too old and decrepit to have that much fun at a guest night singing barbershop? Have the rest of us forgotten how to get excited over something?

Did the rest of us lose the ability to organize such a thing? Do the rest of us not have the capacity to envision and bring such an event about?



Are we gonna let a bunch of kids kick our collective butts? I hope not.

Stay tuned. There are a lot of things we can learn from them and emulate and I intend to spell some of them out.

*Brooks*

*This is one of those things we all too often don’t want to get involved in because we either don’t understand it, or are of the old school. Remember that we all too often keep doing the same things expecting different results.*

*Times do change. It is harder and harder for me to keep up with my almost 15-year-old. Fortunately he still comes to me for some computer advice. And I respect him enough that I will seek his advice when it comes to reaching the younger generation in a quest to bring them in to this great hobby/”ministry” of ours. – Ed Pro Tem*

### (BETY) CONTEST from page 9

#### Judging

BETY contests are judged by a single panel of judges, with one judge assigned to each category. Judges will use the same PROBE category judging forms as are used in the IBC.

#### Ranking contestants

District contest chairmen shall tabulate scores from the judges’ score sheets and determine the final rankings, sending copies to the VP-BE and each judge. In case of ties, the tie will be broken by the Content score. If a tie still exists, the Grammar & Style score will be used as the tie breaker.

#### Announcing contest results

The top winners of a BETY contest should be announced at the district spring convention, and an appropriate article should be published in the district bulletin. Scores need not be published, and the wishes of editors not wanting scores to be published should be honored.

# INFORMATION FOR DISTRICT BULLETIN CONTEST COORDINATORS

## How to run the BETY and IBC

DCCs, here's what you need to do:

1. Get the score sheets reproduced.
2. Affix a score sheet to every monthly or bimonthly bulletin, or one to every group of four weekly or two biweekly bulletins. (A different category score sheet for each of the three bulletins, or groups of bulletins, submitted by each editor.)
3. Fill out the top part of each sheet – name of bulletin, name of bulletin editor, etc.
4. Put one bulletin, or group of bulletins into the three envelopes addressed to the three judges assigned for your district.
5. Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope with sufficient postage (more than you used, for the judges will include critique sheets as well). For Canadian judges, contact them to find out how much cash they will need to mail back the envelopes (Canada does not recognize our postage as valid for mailing from Canada). Write the judges a note, telling them when you must have the judged bulletins back to announce the winner at the district's Spring Convention, and any special instructions. (See "Problems with the BETY.")
6. When you get the judged bulletins back, add the scores, and determine the BETY winner.
7. Arrange to have the BETY winner presented an award at the Spring Convention, and for publicity about the BETY entrants in the district bulletin.
8. Determine which of the BETY entrants are **eligible for the IBC**. (Must have published six monthlies or the equivalent in weeklies or biweeklies during the calendar year.)
9. Determine that the bulletin editor is a member of PROBE for the IBC judging.
10. For the two top scorers, eligible for the IBC, get three more copies of bulletins (clean copies needed for new judges). **These need not be the same issues as entered in the BETY! But they must be consecutive.**
11. Send the IBC entries to the IBC Chairman with score sheets annotated and affixed.
12. Submit a copy of his district BETY scoring summary to the IBC chairman as verification that a district contest was held and that his entrants did, in fact, qualify for the IBC.

Set your BETY deadline early enough so that the judges have time to fairly judge each bulletin and get them back to you in time for awarding the BETY at your District Spring Convention. **The IBC deadline is April 1, PERIOD!**

## Problems with the BETY

In the past, some district contest coordinators simply sent all bulletins received to the judges with no guidance. That has caused problems. For example, bulletins have been sent that did not meet the criteria set forth, i.e. not published by that particular editor for six months, or not enough consecutive issues. Please do not burden our over-taxed judges with having to go through these and deciding whether to disqualify them or not. If the editor just wants comments on how to improve his bulletin, say so in special instructions to the judge. In other words, if editors so wish, they may request their scores not be published.

## HAVE YOU BLOGGED LATELY? IT'S TIME TO COME INTO THE NEW CENTURY

Check the question above. Now answer truthfully. Is it time you started blogging in a small way?

This past year our new Web VP, Patrick Thomas, set up a blog for PROBE. It has been used very scarcely since its inception.

Let me state up front that I am not a big blogger. But I see the possibilities in the sharing of ideas. Will it take the place of the PROBE motor? Or emails? Or telephone calls? The answer to each of those is a resounding NO!

What it does give us, much like the Society blog ([www.barbershophq.com/](http://www.barbershophq.com/)) is a platform to share ideas in the moment and to share them with all PROBE members and interested parties all at the same time.

Now I know that many will look at this and say, "Here's another new thing I don't understand so I just won't use it.

Much like the bulletins we all publish for our chapters or districts, it is another form of communication to keep everyone up to date and informed.

Look at it this way — blogging is a time saver. If we can communicate with one simple post or comment, shouldn't we take advantage of the technology that allows us to do that?

Imagine sending a mass email to well over 100 people. It would take at least three separate emails just to go to all the list (spam filters, you know). Now imagine 1 post to the PROBE blog that could go to all members. I don't know — makes sense to me.

Let's start sharing ideas via the blog. If you have something to discuss, send it to Patrick Thomas or John Elving. We'll post it and then wait for the comments.

## NEW STUDY FINDS POSITIVE BENEFITS OF CHORUSES AND CHORAL SINGING FOR CHILDREN, ADULTS, AND COMMUNITIES

Washington, D.C.— If you enjoy singing with your neighbors, congregation, or classmates, you're taking an increasingly popular path to a successful life. According to a new study by Chorus America, an estimated 32.5 million adults regularly sing in choruses today, up from 23.5 million estimated in 2003. And when children are included, there are 42.6 million Americans singing in choruses in 2009. More than one in five households have at least one singing family member, making choral singing the most popular form of participation in the performing arts for both adults and children.

That's good news because singing in one of the 270,000 choruses in the U.S., such as a community chorus or a school or church choir, is strongly correlated with qualities that are associated with success throughout life, the study finds. Greater civic involvement, discipline, and teamwork are just a few of the attributes fostered by singing with a choral ensemble.

Chorus America first evaluated the benefits of choral singing and its impact on communities in a 2003 study. The results from this latest research support and advance earlier findings that choral singers exhibit increased social skills, civic involvement, volunteerism, philanthropy, and support of other art forms, when compared with non-singers.

"The prototype of a choral singer is how Americans aspire to see themselves today: as active, involved citizens with a broad range of creative interests and concerns for their communities," says Ann Meier Baker, the President and CEO of Chorus America.

### Adults who sing are remarkably good citizens.

A few of the current study's major findings for adult singers include:

- Choral participation remains strong in America with 32.5 million adults regularly singing in at least one of 270,000 choruses nationwide.
- Choral singers exhibit higher levels of civic involvement, with choristers almost 3 times more likely to be officers or committee members of local community organizations such as the PTA.
- Seventy-eight percent of choral singers indicated they "at least sometimes" volunteer their time in their community, while only 50% of the general public say the same.
- Seventy-four percent of choral singers agree or strongly agree that singing in a chorus has helped them become better team leaders or team participants in other areas of their lives; nearly two-thirds agree or strongly agree that being in a chorus has helped them socialize better in other areas of their lives.
- Choral singers donate 2.5 times more money to philanthropic organizations than the general public.
- Ninety-six percent of choral singers surveyed who are eligible voters said they vote regularly in national and local elections; only 70% of the general public cites the same

level of participation.

- Civic engagement also extends to patronage of other art forms, with choral singers at least two times more likely to attend theater, opera, and orchestra performances as well as visit museums and art galleries.

The 2009 study included a new component that explicitly examined the effects choral singing has on childhood development. The results show children who sing in choirs display many of the enhanced social skills found in adult singers, substantiating earlier conclusions that singing in childhood is likely to have an enormous influence on the choices individuals make later in life. Additionally, both parents and educators attribute a significant proportion of a child's academic success to singing in a choir.

### Children who sing in choruses have academic success and valuable life skills.

Several of the study's major findings for young singers include:

- There are approximately 10.1 million American children singing in choruses today.
- The majority of parents surveyed believe multiple skills increased after their child joined a chorus. Seventy-one percent say their child has become more self-confident, 70% say their child's self-discipline has improved, and 69% state their child's memory skills have improved.
- More than 80% of educators surveyed—across multiple academic disciplines—agree with parent assessments that choir participation can enhance numerous aspects of a child's social development and academic success. Educators also observe that children who sing are better participants in group activities, have better emotional expression, and exhibit better emotional management.
- Ninety percent of educators believe singing in a choir can keep some students engaged in school who might otherwise be lost—this is particularly true of educators (94%) who describe the ethnicity of their schools as diverse.
- Children who participate in a chorus get significantly better grades than children who have never sung in a choir. Forty-five percent of parents whose children sing state their child receives "all or mostly A's" in mathematics (vs. 38% of non-choir parents) and 54% get "all or mostly A's" in English and other language arts classes (vs. 43%).

### The decline in choral singing opportunities for children is of concern.

While the 2009 study determined there are numerous academic and social benefits resulting from a child's participation in a chorus, it also pointed to an alarming trend suggesting that these opportunities are not available, or are being reduced or eliminated from schools across the country. More than one in four educators responded that there is no choir program in their schools. Additionally, more than one in five parents said that there were no choral singing opportunities for their children in their communities.

*Continued on page 10*

**CHORUS AMERICA STUDY** *continued from page 10*

A conclusion of the 2003 study was that choral singing is an accessible entry point for arts exposure, with fewer barriers—economic, cultural, and educational—than posed by other art forms. This is still true today, suggesting that the decrease in choral singing opportunities in schools and communities is a missed opportunity for bolstering student achievement and engagement in their schools.

“The data in this report suggests that it would be a mistake not to leverage the benefits that choruses bring to children, adults, and the communities they serve,” observes Todd Estabrook, Chairman of Chorus America. “Simply put, if you’re searching for a group of talented, engaged, and generous community members, you would do well to start with a chorus.”

A large percentage of the American population appears to be drawn to choral singing and the desire to participate in the communal expression, creation, and performance of beautiful music. Whatever motivates choral singers to sing, the data indicates that choral singing is a thriving and growing form of artistic expression in America, and can be acknowledged not just for providing great musical performances, but for advancing many of the positive qualities associated with success in life both for children and adults.

*Chorus America’s mission is to build a dynamic and inclusive choral community so that more people are transformed by the beauty and power of choral singing. Chorus America strengthens choral organizations and provides their leaders with information, research, leadership development, professional training, and advocacy to help them deliver the best possible contributions to their communities and to the choral art. Chorus America provides invaluable news, resources, and expertise delivered in myriad accessible ways, and its programs bring professionals and volunteers together to learn and collaborate in a friendly, supportive environment that promotes networking, information exchange, and shared goals.*

*Chorus America speaks with a strong and unified voice to increase recognition of choral singing as an essential part of society. More than 1,600 choruses, individuals, arts organizations, and businesses are members of Chorus America.*

*The 2009 Chorus Impact Study was produced with funding support from The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, The James Irvine Foundation, The McKnight Foundation, an anonymous donor, and The National Endowment for the Arts.*

*The full report and an executive summary are available online at [www.chorusamerica.org](http://www.chorusamerica.org).*

*This block of white space brought to you by a very lazy editor who couldn't (wouldn't) find anything worthwhile to fill it!*

**IT'S BETY TIME AGAIN...  
TIME TO GET IT TOGETHER**

*John Elving, VP of Bulletin Editors*

Alright all you bulletin editors, whether Hardcopy or Electronic. It's time to get our act together and begin getting all of last year's bulletins together and sorted out. The yearly Bulletin Editor of the Year (BETY) will be on us sooner than we think.

I don't know about you, but January always comes up sooner on my calendar than it does on other people's calendars. At least it seems that way.

When January comes around it can only mean one thing for bulletin editors — time for submission of bulletins for judging in the district BETY contests. These district BETY contests are for all bulletin editors no matter if you publish printed copies or you do it online. They are equally as important and are judged that way.

Let me clarify one thing. If your district doesn't have a BETY coordinator or contest, you are still eligible for a BETY award in your district. We have, or are in the process of, making arrangements with other close by districts to have your bulletin judged. All you need to do is let me know and I will get it done with some other coordinator.

In that respect, there are some districts which don't have a coordinator in place. Actually, there are some districts who have coordinators in place, but are very inactive. If you are in one of those two kinds of districts, please contact your district president and get someone who is a PROBE member and actively will take charge in place.

Elsewhere in this bulletin there are all the guidelines for submitting your bulletin for judging. Please keep in mind the dates that are set by each district. Judging must be done and results back to the coordinators in time for the BETY awards to be given at each district spring convention.

Speaking from my personal experience, having your bulletin judged is one of the best ways of improving what you each do as your chapter bulletin editor. In doing so, you make your bulletin one of the best marketing and public relations tools possible, to say nothing of a great recruiting tool.

Remember, if you have any questions about entering your bulletin in the BETY contests, don't be hesitant to ask. If I can't help you, I know people who can.



*“I love Beethoven,  
especially the poems.”  
~ Ringo Starr*

## PROOFREADING IS A DYING ART

How many times have we read a newspaper, or magazine and seen a headline that just made us cringe. Unfortunately, spell checker doesn't find fault with the sentence structure. All too often what was meant isn't what is there. Following are actual headlines that should make you at least smile.

### **Man Kills Self Before Shooting Wife and Daughter**

This one was caught and called in to the Editorial Room of a large newspaper. They were asked who wrote the headline. It took two or three readings before the editor realized that what he was reading was impossible! They put in a correction the next day.

### **Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says**

Really ? Ya think?

### **Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers**

Now that's taking things a bit far!

### **Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over**

What a guy!

### **Miners Refuse to Work after Death**

No-good-for-nothing' lazy so-and-so's!

### **Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant**

See if that works any better than a fair trial!

### **War Dims Hope for Peace**

I can see where it might have that effect!

### **If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile**

Ya think?

### **Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures**

Who would have thought!

### **Enfield ( London ) Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide**

They may be on to something!

### **Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges**

Finally; something stronger than duct tape!

### **Man Struck By Lightning: Faces Battery Charge**

He probably IS the battery charge.

### **New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group**

Enough said!

### **Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft**

Careful now.

### **Kids Make Nutritious Snacks**

But do they taste like chicken?

### **Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half**

It is Halloween and the Chainsaw Massacre could happen again!

### **Hospitals are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors**

Built especially tall.

### **Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead**

Yes, you did read that correctly.

And finally, my all-time favorite about long-distance runner Craig Virgin's victory in the Atlanta Peachtree Classic race.

### **Virgin holds off 10,000 in Peachtree**

*Now, let's all watch our headlines — unless of course it's April 1. Hopefully this brought a smile to you face knowing that the professional headline writers can often times make silly mistakes. — Ed Pro Tem*

*"An editor is someone who separates the wheat from the chaff and then prints the chaff."*

*~ Adlai E. Stevenson*

# BULLETIN EDITORS' SURVEY

In October of 1998 PROBE motor Editor John Petterson, included this survey. He asked that all bulletin editors fill it out and send in their replies. The response was, in his words, "underwhelming" as only a handful (64) of the nearly 800 in receipt of the bulletin at that time responded.

Things haven't changed much as several times the officers of PROBE have asked for input from the members as to a course of action, or way to aid them, or something else equally important.

Editor Petterson concluded, and his thoughts seem to carry through to today, that:

1. You don't care
2. You got busy and forgot to reply
3. You didn't read your PROBE motor
4. You didn't think your opinion mattered
5. You have to be "begged." (If so, consider it done.)

Take a look at this survey, fill it out and send it back to the editor. If you are a bulletin editor, you need not change anything. If you are in marketing and PR, please consider that all questions are aimed at you, and then do the same.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Member No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State/Province \_\_\_\_\_

ZIP/Postal Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter, not chorus, Name \_\_\_\_\_

District \_\_\_\_\_ Years as BE/M&PR VP \_\_\_\_\_

Have you attended a BE/M&PR Class?  Yes  No

If yes, how many times? \_\_\_\_\_

If no, why not? \_\_\_\_\_

If you have attended, what benefited you most? \_\_\_\_\_

Benefited you the least? \_\_\_\_\_

What subjects would you like to have included? \_\_\_\_\_

If BE/M&PR Classes were offered, would you attend?  
 Yes  No

In either case, why? \_\_\_\_\_

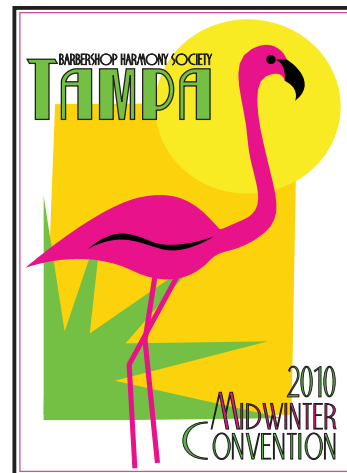
Is there anything you would like to ask PROBE officers to do to help promote BE/M&PR Classes? \_\_\_\_\_

In a different vein, what items of interest would you like to see in PROBE motor that would benefit you as an editor or VP of Marketing & Public Relations? \_\_\_\_\_

Other comments (use additional paper if needed):



**Plan now  
for the  
annual  
PROBE  
meeting in  
Philly!**



## YOUR DUES ARE DUE! (OR SOON WILL BE....)

By Dick Girvin, PROBE Secretary/Treasurer

Unless you have had the foresight to subscribe for a number of years into the future (good planning!), your annual **PROBE** dues will expire on December 31! Sure, December is a long time off, but **NOW is the time to do it (so you won't forget)!**

**PROBE** has **no other revenue source than your dues** to provide for the PROBE motor, the annual bulletin contests (electronic and print), the Annual PR event contest, the ongoing advice to the members via **PROBEmail** and other internet support activities. Your support in the past and the present is sincerely appreciated and we are looking forward to seeing your renewal checks (\$10 per year) in the mail soon.

In case it escaped your notice, several years ago the Society withdrew the service that permitted each chapter to pay your **PROBE** dues as part of their fiscal input even though it is a legitimate chapter expense. Today it is necessary for you to have your chapter (or you) send your check to the **PROBE** treasurer at the below address. In this way we can continue to offer the well-seasoned services to new and present members alike.

Remember, we are counting on you — we have no other means of income other than your dues. Be sure to stay current in the Society's Most Influential Fraternity. So — whip your checkbook and zip a check to **PROBE** for \$10 (\$20 for two years if you'd rather) and shoot it to the address below.

*Dick Girvin*  
PROBE Secretary/Treasurer  
34888 Lyn Ave  
Hemet, CA 92545  
[dickgirvin@juno.com](mailto:dickgirvin@juno.com)



## PROBE HALL OF HONOR NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

By Dick Girvin, Chair Hall of Honor Committee

Top directors and medalist quartet members justifiably receive high praise. But there are many other members who work behind the scenes in non-singing tasks to support our Society and the musical accomplishments. They are the marketing, public relations and bulletin volunteers who help communicate our message and our music, both within the Society and to other music lovers.

**PROBE** wants to recognize the top practitioners among them. And you can help — by nominating them for the prestigious **PROBE Hall of Honor** award, established in 1989.

Nominations are open for persons who will be considered for recognition at each summer's international convention.

A nominee, living or deceased, must have been a **PROBE** member for at least 10 years, and must have made contributions to **PROBE** and its purposes beyond the normal duties of performing PROBE-related functions for a chapter or district.

Any current **PROBE** member may make a nomination. If you're not a member, join now or pass your nomination on through a member. The nomination must be in writing, specifically describing the nominee's services and contributions. Include supporting evidence if available. You also may include letters of support from other persons who know the nominee.

Your nomination need not be extremely sophisticated or professionally prepared. The selection is not based on the presentation, but on the nominee's merits. Further, this is not a competition, but recognition. The deadline is April 30 of each year.

Send your nominations now, before the deadline, to the award committee chairman:

*Dick Girvin*  
Chair Hall of Honor Committee  
34888 Lyn Ave Hemet, CA 92545  
[dickgirvin@juno.com](mailto:dickgirvin@juno.com)

To see a list of previous **PROBE** Hall of Honor winners, see page 2. — Ed Pro Tem.

*The letters "T" and "G" are very close to each other on a keyboard. This recently became all too apparent to me and consequently I will never be ending an article for my bulletin with the phrase "Regards" again.*





# PROBE Membership Form

NOTE: \* indicates required field

First Name:\* \_\_\_\_\_ M.I.: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name:\* \_\_\_\_\_

Address1\* \_\_\_\_\_

Address2: \_\_\_\_\_

City:\* \_\_\_\_\_ State:\* \_\_\_\_\_ Zip:\* \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email:\* \_\_\_\_\_

Society Member #:\* \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter # (if known): \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter:\* \_\_\_\_\_ District:\* \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter Bulletin Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Current Position: \_\_\_\_\_  
(if Editor)

Offices: \_\_\_\_\_

PROBE Member Since: \_\_\_\_\_

Dues are still just \$10 per year.

Make check payable to **PROBE** and send to:

PROBE Treasurer  
Dick Girvin  
34888 Lyn Ave  
Hemet, CA 92545  
[dickgirvin@juno.com](mailto:dickgirvin@juno.com)  
(951) 926-8644

**ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR THE JAN/  
MARCH 2010 IS JAN. 5 - THANKS!**

**PROBEmotor Editor Pro Tem.**

*John Elving*  
6806 Peaceful Pines Rd.  
Black Hawk, SD 57718  
605-381-9680  
[leadermanje@gmail.com](mailto:leadermanje@gmail.com)



**DEADLINE FOR JAN/MARCH 2010 IS JAN. 5 - THANKS!**

**PROBE DUES STILL ONLY  
\$10.00!**

WHEN RENEWING YOUR PROBE  
MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE SEND CHECKS TO:

**DICK GIRVIN**  
34888 Lyn Avenue  
Hemet, CA 92545

**PROBEmotor is published quarterly & distributed by Email to online PROBE members**

**Those not on email will received a printed copy from the PROBE Secretary Dick Girvin. Membership in PROBE is open to all. Dues are \$10.00 per year and are managed by Dick Girvin — payable by individuals or chapters. Correspondence about PROBEmotor content and contributions for publication should be sent to the editor pro tem John Elving. All material in PROBEmotor may be reproduced without permission; please credit the author and the PROBEmotor in all reprints, thanks.**