

KIWANOTES ONLINE

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
Kiwanis Club of Augusta, Ga., Inc., P.O. Box 102, Augusta, GA 30903
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Scheduled Meetings: Every Monday at 12:30pm at Saint Paul's River Room

Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time.

December 22, 2008

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

December 29 John Patrick How Radio has changed

ATTENDANCE PRIZE

December 29 Larry DeMeyers

TODAY'S MEETING

It was the Monday before Christmas and all through St. Paul's, Kiwanis had gathered to see the decked halls – and share a great lunch and a toast or two. Everyone was in a festive mood and we had lots of guests – even too many to recognize. Traditionally, we can bring our spouse or guests to enjoy our Christmas program and we had a room full.

President Jatho welcomed everyone and blessed our meal. Sybil Surretts took home the attendance prize and several lucky people took home the poinsettia on their table. Our program featured the Garden City Chorus, members of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Lowell Dorn sings with that group – tenor, as near as I could tell.

Barbershop harmony singing is truly an American art form having its roots at the turn of the 20th century. Around that time the local barbershop was not only a place for a shave and a haircut, but a place to 'hang out' - a social gathering place for men. In addition to the daily gossip of the barbershop, singing simple melodies to which others could harmonize became a feature of many barbershops. Consequently, the term 'Barbershop' came to represent this particular style of singing.

A more formal organization of barbershop singers began to form around 1938 when a gentleman by the name of O. C. Cash invited friends who shared his love of

harmonizing to a songfest on the rooftop of a hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma. At each of the next two meetings more men gathered on the rooftop and the grand sounds attracted quite a crowd. When Mr. Cash was interviewed about what was going on, he saw an opportunity to promote his love of vocal harmony on a grander scale and said his 'organization' was the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America – SPEBSQSA. Word of this new 'organization' spread and soon men from all over North America were interested in joining this new society. Today SPEBSQSA is known as the Barbershop Harmony Society and continues to promote and preserve this style of singing.



The Garden City Chorus

Featured next on our program was Dan McCall. Dan is always good for some funny stories and he told a few, but he also reminded us about the real meaning of Christmas.

What do we love about Christmas? Does our delight reside in things?
Or are the feelings in our hearts, the real gift that Christmas brings.
Have a wonderful holiday and a happy and healthy new year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
From
THE KIWANIS CLUB of AUGUSTA