



## COTS PLUS — TOP GUN

January 6-8, 2006

By Don Pyper, COTS coordinator

**T**hey all call it COTS (Chapter Officers Training Seminar) but I call it the greatest musical fellowship event of the year. You don't need to be a chapter officer to attend. Most chapters will help their members financially to support the cost of the weekend which is really a bargain for the participant.

Six of the best meals in North America, two nights of excellent lodging, and the whole experience of being with the greatest people in the world for a whole weekend is a value worth serious consideration.

Three extra courses are offered, Director of the Future, Chapter Communications and Joe Barbershop to whet the appetite of the serious Barbershopper.

Society recognized **Waldo Redekop** has designed a new course in chapter communication which deals with communication of all sorts in your chapter and the impact it can have on your success(es). The whole game of electronic communication alone is worthy of development in our chapters.

It is possible to find new members to invite and communication is the key to success. No one will show up at your chapter's door if you don't communicate the invitation in a respectable manner.

I can only tell you that you ought to be there. If you love harmonizing with others in small groups or large, you ought to be there. You can't buy the excellence of instruction, fellowship, fun, food, excitement of performance, *Harmonize for Speech* pride in helping others, small group idea sharing, beautiful surroundings, and the ultimate sense of accomplishment that you'll get at COTS.

The Joe Barbershop course is a great one for new members or someone who wasn't listening when they told you all about the Barbershop *Harmony Society* you just joined. You will be brought up to date on everything there is to know about barbershopping plus a lot of singing. You'll also get to meet the new *Society CEO, Ed Watson* and our dean the incomparable **Jim DeBusman**.

If you have some members in your chapter who might be able to help with the directing duties, send them to the Director of the Future course. You never know what may come of it.

In addition to all of this is the TOP GUN quartet coaching program which puts our best district quartets on site with us for great fun and singing with the champs activity etc.

The evening show will be spectacular with our quartets, two great choruses and a big surprise headline quartet.

You should be there. ✱

## Leadership Skills, a new track at COTS

By Lowell Shank, DVP CSLI

**L**eadership skills are already an integral part of the following tracks: President, Music and Performance and Chorus Directing. Other tracks incorporate varying amounts of leadership training, however, the Society Leadership requested even more emphasis on Leadership Training at COTS. Why? There appears to be a shortage of trained leaders to take district and Society leadership positions, a situation you may have also experienced at your chapter.

A separate Leadership Skills track, which is new at COTS this year, will be taught by **Bill Hogan**, the Barbershopper who designed the track. The curriculum was developed with input from **Larry Lewis** and **Digger MacDougall**, Barbershoppers who are professional leadership instructors and trainers.

The Leadership Development Track major blocks will deal with the leader as a planner, thinker, motivator, person of influence, communicator and teacher.

Five distinctions of a leader are: 1) know the territory; 2) listen, really listen; 3) create an exciting vision; 4) enroll others in your vision; and 5) be unstoppable. Related to this, students will take a test in class to help do a self analysis.

Consider the leadership track an advanced track for those officers who have attended their specific track previously and think they have no need to attend COTS because there is nothing new to learn. For example, the experienced chapter development officer could learn leadership skills to then become a better candidate for being the next chapter president. Also, chapter counselors and those thinking about being a CC should attend this track.

You can take a computer test titled the *Jung Typology Test* at home that is computer graded and will help you identify your general life style and your style in activities such as in Barbershopping. This test is a simplified version of the *Briggs-Myers Test* wherein you are classified using four criteria: 1) extroversion-introversion; 2) sensing-intuition; 3) thinking-feeling and 4) judging-perceiving.

The instructions to take the free test are to enter the following web address: <[www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/JTypes2.asp](http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/JTypes2.asp)>. The 72-question test, which involves answering yes or no to each question, will appear. I suggest you copy the test and put your answers on paper as well as on the computer. When I attempt to copy the test with my answers noted, the answers disappear. At the end you click "Score it" and wait.

What appears next is "Your type is xxxx" followed by the words that fit the code. The strength of the preferences is given in percentages, for example a 67 in judging is noted as "distinctly expressed judging personality." To get a full explanation and interpretation, click on the "description by D. Keirse" and on the "description by J. Butt." You will also get a list of famous persons who have the same type as you have.

I encourage all of you to take the Jung Typology Test just to satisfy your own curiosity. Now see how the members of your chapter compare, especially those on the board. For those taking the leadership track at COTS, take the test, and take your printouts to class with you. Students, consider this your assignment. I will be there to check off your homework. ✱