**HGMC ANNUAL MEETING 2013: Presidents Reprot**

WE ARE **T**HE HARRISBURG GAY MEN’S CHORUS! …and by WE I mean our small dedicated group of members. Because we are a small group we rely on each and every one of us to do more than just show up and sing. Most of us are either Board Members, Committee Chairs or active committee members. Those that aren’t active on committee’s often host social events or help out in other ways when it’s needed. Every member of OUR Chorus is crucial to its ongoing success. ***YOU ARE VITAL TO THE HGMC***.

With that thought in mind I would like to focus on the two goals I would like to set for us this season. The first goal is establishing a more **professional tone** to our rehearsals and concerts. A professional rehearsal starts with each member coming prepared to sing the material we will be working on. Our amazing new Artistic Director Jordan Markham has devised a rehearsal schedule detailing what you need to review each week so that we are not wasting our time and can strive to put the quality in our sound that we are more than capable of achieving with the effort and dedication I know we all possess. This requires devoting time each week to review music on your own. Sight reading pieces after the first week is not acceptable. With the schedule and parts available for you to download, there is no excuse for not coming to rehearsal prepared. We all have busy schedules. Our daily lives and careers are demanding, the time we need to put into making the chorus a success is VERY demanding, but I know each of us loves being in this chorus and it’s WORTH the time and effort we need to give to keep us strong and thriving in our community as Harrisburg’s premier Gay Men’s Chorus.

Focus during our rehearsals is an element of professionalism I would also like to see us strive for. I know we are in good hands with Jordan as our new A.D. Jordan will take us where we need to go; he has all the tools to enrich our sound and the quality of our performances. We have chosen Jordan to lead our group and he deserves our respect and professionalism at each rehearsal and concert. Listen to him carefully, as far as Choral music goes, he is wise beyond his years!

**Finally I would like to see each of us set a personal goal to recruit at least one new member this year.** We are in serious need of new blood to keep the chorus vital and flourishing into the future. The benefits to increasing our membership are countless, but let me list a few: more members equals greater audience support and exposure, the more members we have the less the work load for each of us, and we benefit directly by increasing the size of our own community at the HGMC. There are a wealth of talented Gay Men in our fair city, let’s get them on board with us, it’s a WIN WIN!

We have an exciting year ahead, two entertaining fundraisers, our concert weekend featuring the New Jersey Men’s Chorus and our regularly scheduled Winter and Spring Concerts along with other performance opportunities along the way.  ***I am so proud to be part of the Harrisburg Gay Men’s Chorus along with each and every one of you.***  I eagerly await all the thrills and promise of our coming year!

Respectfully Submitted, Aug. 26, 2013

Jeff Mitchell