

KEEPING THE
WHOLE WORLD SINGING

CHORD-INATOR

BARBERSHOP
HARMONY
SOCIETY



MINNEAPOLIS
COMMODORES

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, CHAPTER
**** A CHAPTER WITH AN ENVIABLE PAST - AN UNBOUNDED FUTURE ****

10,000 LAKES DIVISION - LAND O' LAKES DISTRICT

DECEMBER 2016 - VOL. 72 - NO. 12



"May your days be merry and bright ..."

**Minneapolis, Minn. Chapter
Land O'Lakes District, BHS
Meetings every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
House of Prayer Lutheran Church**

**7625 Chicago Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423**

Chapter Officers

President Gordy Aumann 952/935-8869
Past Pres..... Dan Williams 952/974-0026
Exec. VP..... Denny Maas 952/447-8012
Marketing/PR VPs..... Pete Jarnberg 651/765-9580
Russ Born 406/670-2098
VP Music /Perform..... Carl Pinard 612/927-9363
VP Membership..... Harvey Weiss 763/439-4447
Program VP..... Blake Wanger 414/699-4950
Secretary..... Bill Warp 763/531-2290
Treasurer John Carlotto 952/925-0886

Board Members

Through 2017

Dean Lambert..... 612/727-3909
Matt Richards 651/983-8021
Andy Tate..... 612/825-1942

Through 2016

Andy Cook..... 651/688-6459
Andy Richards..... 651/639-9312

Directors

Director..... Paul Wigley
Assistant Directors: Gary Jacobson, David Speidel

Section Leaders

Tenor Section Leader Rollie Neve
Lead Section Leader. **Vacant**
Assistant - Dan Smith
Bari Section Leaders Dave Speidel
Assistant - Matt Richards
Bass Section Leaders..... Dave Casperson

Committee Chairmen

Altruistic Programs Chairman..... Denny Maas
Audio/Visual Mgr..... Kirk Douglas
2016 Show Chairman..... Dave Speidel
2017 Show Chairman..... Dan Cole
Afterglow Chairman..... Travis Wuttke
Attendance/Sgt.-at-Arms..... **Vacant**
BOTY Party Chairman..... Dick Riemenschneider
Chord-Inator Staff.
Editor Dr. Hardin Olson
Senior Columnist..... Jim Erickson
Artist..... Glenn Retter
Chorus Performance Managers..... John Lloyd
Bob Ostergaard
Grants Research..... **Vacant**
Groupanizer Administrator..... Matt Richards
Harmony Foundation..... Vacant
Historian Mark Bloomquist
Learning Tracks..... Dan Smith
Librarian..... Carl Pinard
Name Tags Dan Slattery
Nut Sales Chairman..... Dick Riemenschneider
Northern Pines Brigade President..... Dave Speidel
Performance Mgr..... Paul Swanson
Presentation Chairman..... Dan True
Quartet Promotion..... Gary Jacobson
Riser Boss..... Dan Cole (Temp.)
Roster..... **Vacant**
Singing Valentines..... Neal Mortenson
Sunshine Rich Ongna
Swipe Editor Bill Warp
Tickets/A-Commodore President..... Diana Pinard
Transportation Mgr..... Dick Hartmann
Uniform Committee Chairman..... **Vacant**
Uniforms (Dress & Casual)..... Dan Williams

From the Prez ...

By Gordy Aumann, President

This is my last article as "The Prez."



Gordy Aumann

I would like to thank you for the privilege of serving such a great organization. The things I'm most proud of are our community out-reach activities.

Our food-shelf benefit concerts have served many families in our area to help them put food on the table and keep a roof over their

Onward and Upward

By Paul Wigley, Director

It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year! The Holiday Show was another celebration of music, humor, fun, and uplifting moments that are the hallmarks of this season! I thank you all for your great preparation, your super performance, and your sharing of how terrific it is to be one who CREATES music, not one who just consumes music.



Paul Wigley

The Commodores are expanding in a number of ways that are very exciting to observe. We have a number of quartets organizing, and others working hard to refine their skills. Furthermore, we have a cadre of singers who will be participating in the *Harmony Brigade* in February and we are enlisting incredibly-talented younger singers who are bringing a new energy and vocal presence to the Commodore sound. It is now time to embark upon what will be a fantastic voyage that will culminate in our annual show.

My end-of-the year "thank-yous" are too numerous to really acknowledge everyone, but there are a few specif-

heads, as well as entertaining the folks who attended. Our summer concerts in the parks also were great community support events, well attended by our chorus singers, and appreciated by our audiences. Our joint Christmas concerts with the *Twin Cities Show Chorus* women have helped us bring joy and meaning to an even larger audience during this busy holiday season, as well as adding joy to our own lives during this special time of the year.

I hope these activities all continue next year as Denny Maas takes over the chorus presidency.

It's great to be a Commodore!

ic folks I'd like to thank at this writing. First of all, **David Speidel**, who is the absolute best associate director I could hope for. Dave's passion, skill, and dedication to the Commodores, and his commitment to the growth and participation of the Harmony Brigade have made the Commodores so much stronger.

Carl (and Diana!) Pinard, who quietly and efficiently take care of so many details such as ordering and distributing music, registering us for contest, organizing tickets, etc., etc. Their collective work can't be given enough of the gratitude it deserves.

The Commodores' board, led by **Gordy Aumann**, who put in hours of extra time and constantly are thinking of ways to make the Commodores more successful in every way: altruistic giving to the community, seeking optimal performance opportunities, maintaining a solid financial footing, fostering social gatherings ... (I could go on forever) riser crew, nut salesmen (thanks, **Dick Riemenschneider!**), *Chord-Inator* editor (!!!). So many people doing so many jobs that make our Minneapolis

Commodore community a better place. It is simply a joy to look back at the end of the year and think, "Yes! It was another good one!"

I am always so thankful and so hum-
Go to Onward, Page 3, Column 1

SUNSHINE HOTLINE



By Rich Ongna, Sunshine Chairman

Phone: 952-829-7009

Email: ddongna@usfamily.net

Neal Mortensen was admitted on Thanksgiving to Unity Hospital for problems arising from an enlarged prostate. He is staying with his son awaiting surgery set on January 6.



Rich Ongna

Kaleb Smith was transported by ambulance to Abbot Northwestern Hospital on Thanksgiving evening with blood clots in both his leg and lungs having developed after the surgery on his knee on November 17. The clots have been dealt with and Kaleb has returned home and is doing well. [He was on the risers at the Christmas show.]

John Hansen is now recovering at home and doing well. The doctors have him doing in-home therapy to strengthen his legs and general health. [He and Caryl attended the Christmas show.]

Al Matchinsky is back at practice again with his usual big smile.

Remember: Please keep me informed about who is ailing and don't assume that I already know because generally I'm in the dark. Help me brighten the days of our ailing members. Just a short note of encouragement or a brief phone call can make the day of a person who's not feeling well.

Onward from Page 2

bled to be able to stand in front of such a wonderful group of men. Your character, citizenship, dedication, talent, and friendship are the best in the world. Thank you all; it IS the most wonderful time of the year-to be a Minneapolis Commodore!



November reenlistments

Denny Maas.....5 yrs.
Mark Bloomquist.....7 yrs.
Gene Heupel.....8 yrs.
Ken Wentworth.....8 yrs.
Blake Wanger.....9 yrs

Happy Anniversary

12/17 Paul & Becky Wigley
12/19 Tony & Debbie Mason
12/21 Denny & Jane Rolloff
12/23 Ken & Judy Knutson
12/30 Bob & Jean Spong
01/05 Russ & Jeni Born

Happy Birthday

12/14 Dave Casperson
12/19 Steve Daniel
12/19 Ken Knutson
12/20 Natalie Lapakko
12/21 Judi Jarnberg
12/21 Hardin Olson
12/21 Lawrence Smalley
12/22 Rollie Neve
12/27 Gene Heupel
12/28 Terry Jean St. Martin
12/29 Laura Jane Dawson
12/29 Chuck McKown
12/29 Ebie Richards
12/29 Bonnie Vink
01/03 Mary Erickson
01/03 Doug Miller
01/06 Connie Ashley
01/09 Caryl Hansen
01/09 Linda McClellan
01/15 Bill Warp

Editor's Note: If your December-birthdays and anniversaries are missing from the above lists please submit the dates to your Editor.

**SUPPORT
HARMONY
FOUNDATION**

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



Chapter members are always welcome to attend the Board meetings.

By Bill Warp, Secretary

From the meeting of November 10

• **Membership:** Members must be more attentive to visitors and guests. The *Buddy System* will be better utilized.



Bill Warp

Andy Tate will be taking over from retiring chairman, **Harvey Weiss**, after a training period.

• **Music and Performance:** The Board is considering adding one mandatory monthly rehearsal in July, August, and September to better prepare for the fall contest.

The 2017 annual-show ticket modification plan is about complete.

There is much music to be learned for the spring show, a real challenge for the members.

• **Marketing:** Co-chairman **Russ Born** is working with **Ev Nau** to implement Ev's *Creative Solutions—How to Sell Ads* program.

• **New Business:** The possibility of simulcasting our Christmas and spring shows was discussed. Copyright laws must be strictly adhered to.

• **Next meeting:** December 8 at Wooddale Lutheran.

**Let's put the
Capital "B" in
Barbershop!**



The Combined Choruses



Twin City Show Chorus



7Days A Cappella



UnFOURgettables



MC Dan True



All
Photos
By
Diana
Pinard



14th Annual Holiday Show

Sleighride!

**Twin Cities
Show Chorus**

Sweet Adelines International

**Minneapolis
Commodores**

Barbershop Harmony Society

UnFOURgettables

Lakeville North High School

7Days A Cappella

University of Minnesota



December 4, 2016 at 3:00 PM

Jefferson H.S. Bloomington, MN

Merry Christmas to all ...



Commodores

Altruistic Purpose Update

By Denny Maas,
Program Coordinator

The Minneapolis Commodores have a long history of giving back to the local community. We give back by sharing profits from our annual show, by singing at food or blood drives and senior care centers, and by individual member contributions. In 2015, 288 pounds of food and about \$1200 were collected at our performances for the local food shelf at Faith Presbyterian Church in Minnetonka.

Our 2016 goal was to increase the number of performances where food donations are collected was met. Collections were identified for four performances. To date \$2355 and 488 pounds of food were collected thanks to the gener-



Denny Maas

osity of the Commodores and our audiences. Our last collection will be made at the Christmas Show. We are hoping our audience will be in the spirit of holiday giving.

In the past, a percentage of our annual show profits has been shared with the University of Minnesota Heart Hospitals (to the tune of nearly \$400,000 over the years) and more recently to the Barbershop Society's *Harmony Foundation*, promoting music programs in secondary schools.

Our 2015-16 profits (\$4500) were shared with YouthLink. This organization works with homeless youth, ages 16-23, to provide food, shelter, educational encouragement, and job opportunities for them. Located in downtown Minneapolis, it serves youth across the Twin Cities. The Commodores suggested that some of the funds be used to expose young people to local artistic events [and maybe even a little Barbershop]. To date, clients have been taken to two plays and

one musical. Such experiences offer hope and inspiration to these young people.

The individual contributions of members of the Minneapolis Chapter are significant. In addition to supporting the churches where they are members, Commodores have supported 33 other organizations, including local blood banks, food shelves, *Habitat for Humanity*, *Meals on Wheels* and *Feed My Starving Children*.

The Commodores have been blessed with beautiful voices and continually try to give back for this blessing by supporting those in need in our community.

Editor's Note: Denny reports that the results of the Food Shelf donations at the December 4 Christmas show were meagre. However, we did not promote the drive properly and a large majority of the attendees were not aware of the campaign. We pledge to do much better next year.



NP Harmony Brigade Update

By Dave Speidel, NPHB President



Dave Speidel

To all quartet enthusiasts, Brigade attendees, and supporters.

I'm happy to announce that we are extremely close to having a full complement of singers for the 5th Annual Northern Pines Harmony Brigade Rally. We have over 80 men registered, but are slightly overloaded with 26 basses! We are looking for a few more leads, baris, and tenors.

I'm also excited to announce that we have a very special family of singers



joining us from Indiana. The Reen Family Singers (father and 4 sons), will be full participants and will be joining us for the Friday School Singouts. They will perform on the Saturday-evening show in addition to LOL District champions, *Kordal Kombat*! You will not want to miss

having a chance to sing with these great kids and their dad, not to mention hanging out and singing with *Kordal Kombat*.

There is still time to learn all of the great music. I am flinging down the gauntlet challenging our North Dakota brothers and our far-southern Wisconsin friends to join us for the fun. Our brothers from *Thunder Bay* look forward to this event every year. So don't be a fence sitter! Go to [Northern Pines Harmony Brigade](http://NorthernPinesHarmonyBrigade.org) or nphb.org/ and get details.



Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, Believable Baritone,

Well, the annual **Christmas Concert** is over and what a **Sleighride** it was. It's always fun to see such a large group of men and women join together and make such fine holiday sounds. And part of the fun for the singers is the energetic rehearsals. **Judy Olson** is always a joy to see in action as she pulls no punches in pumping the very best out of everyone, to the delight of all. And **Dave Spiedel** keeps things moving, too.

Paul Wigley was initially challenged with a couple of the songs he "pianoed" trying to settle with Judy at which bar he should come in. And, "Where the heck is the sheet music?" for another, all to the laughter of the overflowing risers. Those impromptu things that occur like this at rehearsals across the nation do not take a vacation in a joint rehearsal for our Christmas event. For us, that may be some of the best part!

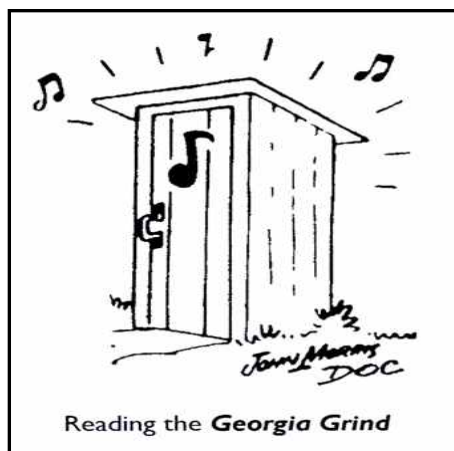
With the stage decorations appropriate to the season, and with everything in place, the concert was off to a great start. Some lively offerings by smaller groups as well as the longer, but no less appealing, toe-tapping, *Come and See What's Hap-'nin' in the Barn* were a real hit with everyone. The featured quartet [*Hot Commodity*] did a fine job and added a dimension not often heard in this sort of choral singing, at least to my recollection. Now I don't remember the site of the Holy Birth ever being called a barn. Stable, yes, and a manger presumably in a stable, yes, but a barn? Regardless, it gave us a fresh imagining of the first Christmas and I can certainly live with that.

Another sound that always pleases me is the women's singing, the men's singing, and then the emotional com-

bination of the two. At this time of year with the themes of the songs involving love and respect of others in so many ways, it is a time to reflect where we have been, where we are, and where we wish to be in the next months and years.

Overall, a great concert filled with songs that touched the funny bone and the heart. And occasionally bringing tears of remembrance.

SPOILER ALERT – Despite my humble suggestion to the **Scrooge-like** exaggeration of an editor, **Hardin Olson**, that we move the article submission date out a few days to allow writers to comment about the concert, he refused. In fact, not only did he refuse, but at



first he acted as though he had never heard my request. Then reluctantly acknowledging he had heard, he replied by moving the date up one day **EARLIER!**

Arrogance. Just plain arrogance. So I had little choice but to gin up the foregoing description of the concert. Waiting for the January issue to mention the concert would have been way too late and would have to be crowded in next to all the New Year resolutions. Pitiful!

So, some of the above details are true because of the rehearsal just before the deadline. The rest are all phony. A fraud! Oh, that doesn't mean that they might not come true, but I will have to leave it to you to sort out truth and fiction after you attend the concert. Failing that, you can just accept what I have scribbled

in fantasy. Sorry to have to spoil your day, but I lay that at the feet of **Scrooge Olson** himself. Do you suppose that he will rush out of his townhouse into the street hoping to share a newfound Christmas spirit? And send **Tiny Jim** a postponement of the article deadline date? And send over a giant Christmas Turkey for Christmases to come?

"Bah Humbug!" would be my reflex, but maybe he will. On the other hand, maybe he will be the Christmas Turkey. Aw Shucks. In my humble, but generous, spirit of the holidays, I'm willing to be kind. Editors need a limited portion of love, too. So Merry Christmas, Hardin and Judy, and a Merry Christmas to all, regular readers especially!

Time to start thinking about new resolutions for moving ahead on that Barbershopper Bucket List. Hold fast to that which is good for the remainder of this year. In the meantime, I have some outrageously interesting leads on new, never before revealed, etchings revealing more about the origins of the Georgia Grind. On to the New Year, 2017.

Editor's Note: Among Jim Erickson's talents is his heretofore latent ability to foresee the future, to wit, the first five paragraphs above. However, his not-so-latent tendency to exact literary revenge with his word processor precludes my asking for his advice regarding financial matters.

**10th Annual
BHS Open
Monday,
August 7, 2017
Elk River Country Club
Scramble Format
For further information
log on to
bhsopen.com**

Jim Richards Memorial Chord Candy #7

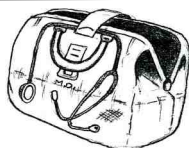
Another little ditty by Burt Szabo - *With Your Song*



Dr. Jim Richards

Burt Szabo - 1993

Doc's Bag



By Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor

The Commodores are about to lose one of their stalwarts. Our Sunshine Chairman and my ever-faithful *Chord-Inator* contributor, **Rich Ongna**, will be moving to Wisconsin to be closer to family located there.

His dedication as a chorus and quartet member is to be admired as is the remarkably proactive way he undertook to revitalize the *Sunshine Hot-*

line column in your *Chord-Inator*. Rich, I feel sure, lives by the credo that anything worth doing is worth doing well and this Editor will miss his monthly submissions. Rich rarely missed a deadline and always had my editorial back.

Godspeed, Rich, you will be missed but keep in touch and drop by if by chance you are in Minneapolis on a Tuesday evening. Might we see you and Dianne on April 1?

Recall that *The Friday Lunch Bunch That Meets On Thursday* (TFLBTMOT) has issued the **Jim**

Richards Matching Funds Challenge to the LOL District Barbershop Community to match the \$50,000 pledge TFLBTMOT has made over the next five years. To date over \$21,000 in matching funds has been pledged.

TFLBTMOT members are now gearing up for the 2017 Barbershop Open on August 7 at the Elk River Golf Club. **Jim Clark** and his quartet, *Storm Front*, will participate in the open and perform at the post-open dinner. Log on to bhsopen.com for updates and details. We hope to see all of you there.

2017 Chapter Officers

President: Denny Maas
Executive VP: To be named
Past-President: Gordy Aumann
Secretary: Bill Warp
Treasurer: John Carlotto
Music/Performance VP: Carl Pinard
Marketing VP: Steve Grady
Membership VP: Harvey Weiss until July, then Andy Culp, now in training
Program VP: Blake Wanger
2017 at-large Board Members:

Dean Lambert
 Matt Richards (Groupanizer)
 Dan Williams

2017-18 at-large Board Members:

Andy Cook
 Andy Richards
 Arne Stefferud

Letters

Hi, Paul [Wigley].

Below is an e-mail that I received this morning [December 5, 2016] from Jack Gillespie. Jack is an amazing trumpet player and arranger. He worked for Fred Waring for 12 years and then hit the Las Vegas circuit. He was the musical conductor and arranger for Johnny Desmond and he's played for almost anyone you can name who played Vegas—Boy, does he have stories. Jack and his wife, Cindy, played trumpet with the *Classic Big Band* when I was singing with them and we've remained good friends.

Thanks and xoxoxox from Cindy and me for the tickets yesterday.

There is a JOY in watching and hearing SINGERS that perform for the LOVE of Singing and just working with others...Good Or-

chestras do the same thing to me....I'm not talking about "Pros" that perform for money....that's totally another Standard...I'm thinking about how much can be accomplished with strong leadership and community cooperation....Everyone on the Stage becomes a "Star" and each person melts into one Big Wonderful Thing. It brings something very special to the AUDIENCE, who can feel the energy, and it goes right back to the PERFORMERS....It's MORE than FUN...The work of it takes seemingly endless hours of preparation, rehearsal, and organization. But the end result is a satisfaction that each performer feels from the sharing & caring....it's great "stuff".... It's so evident in all aspects of what was presented yesterday. Again, thank you for a delightful afternoon.

Judy Olson

When Words Fail, Music Speaks

Dr. Hardin Olson, Bulletin Editor
3020 St. Albans Mill Road #109
Minnetonka, MN 55305
952/229-4525
olson118@umn.edu

All copy and photos herein without a byline, as well as those opinions and commentaries under his byline, are the sole responsibility of the *Chord-Inator* Editor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Minneapolis Chapter Board or its officers.

Chapter Quartets

BOMP

Dan Cole.....612/940-4554

CHORD SMASH

James Estes.....612/237-3234

EASY LISTENIN'

Dan Slattery.....651/747-6384

HOT COMMODITY

Dave Speidel.....612/437-4325

RING IT ON

Andy Richards.....651/639-9312

RIVER CITY QUARTET

John Chouinard.....651/343-4145

MINNESOTA GO-4's

Harvey Weiss.....763/439-4447

RANDOM SAMPLE

Darrell Egerton.....952/943-8737

SWYPE

Mark Bloomquist.....952/541-0232

SOUNDS of RENOWN (VLQ)

Mark Ortenburger.....952/942-8382

CHORD-INATOR

1st Place

**2013 PROBE HARD-COPY
INTERNATIONAL
BULLETIN CONTEST**

**PROBE Hall of Honor
Dr. Hardin Olson
2016**



The *Chord-Inator* is available on the Minneapolis Chapter's website **minneapoliscommodore.org** starting with the January 2006 issue.



*Neither shared with the Girl
Scouts nor dumped by the
Sweet Adelines.*

Logo courtesy of Bob Clark

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

To:

LOOKING AHEAD

- March 9, 2017, Thursday, Coon Rapids Dessert/Coffee performance, 7:00 p.m.
- March 25, Spring Contest, Willmar
- March 30, Tech Rehearsal
- April 1, 2017 - Annual Show with special guests, *Main Street*

District Level

- January 13-14, 2017, Leadership Chord College, UW River Falls, River Falls, Wisconsin

International Level

- January 17-22, 2017, Midwinter Convention, San Antonio, Texas
- July 2-8, 2017, International Convention, Las Vegas, Nevada

**1st CLASS
POSTAGE
HERE**

2016 Barbershopper Of The Year

Bill Ward

**Commodores and others *
contributing to this issue.**

Gordy Aumann
Diana Pinard*
Jim Erickson
Jack Gillespe*
Denny Maas
Hardin Olson
Judy Olson*
Rich Ongna
Dave Speidel
Bill Warp
Paul Wigley
Burt Szabo*

**CHORD-INATOR
MINNEAPOLIS COMMODORES
Minneapolis Chapter of SPEBSQSA
MEETING EVERY TUES -7:00 p.m.
House of Prayer Lutheran Church
7625 Chicago Ave. S.
Richfield, MN 55423
GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME**