

KEEPING THE  
WHOLE WORLD SINGING

# CHORD-INATOR

BARBERSHOP  
HARMONY  
SOCIETY



MINNEAPOLIS  
COMMODORES

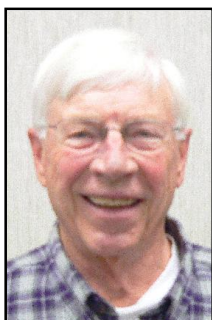
OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, CHAPTER  
\*\*\*\* A CHAPTER WITH AN ENVIABLE PAST - AN UNBOUNDED FUTURE \*\*\*\*

10,000 LAKES DIVISION - LAND O' LAKES DISTRICT

OCTOBER 2014 - VOL.70 - NO. 9

## WELCOME ABOARD!

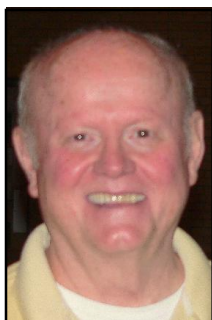
**Darrell Egertson** lives with his wife, **Helga**, in Bloomington.



**Harold Ulring** originally recruited Darrell for the Commodores where he became an avid quartet man. After a long hiatus Darrell joined the Bloomington Chapter and became the baritone of *Random Sample*.

He has sung in church choirs since age six and performed in junior high school plays. When not singing Darrell will look for a golf course.

**Alan Matchinsky** and **Karen**, his wife, live in Apple Valley.



A Barbershopper since 1969, Al has a remarkable musical resumé: singer and director of church choir, a member of the *Dakota Valley Symphonic Chorus*, a technical director/stage manager for numerous Barbershop shows, a director of the *Minnetonka Clippers Chorus* and more recently of the *Bloomington Good Times Chorus*.

Al's son, Tom, is the baritone in *Vocality*, 2007 LOL District Champs.

**Chuck Guthrie** and Pat (SO), live in Lakeville.



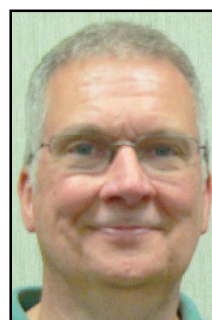
A musician of note since high school and before, Chuck became a Barbershopper and a Commodore in 1952. He later becoming a charter member and director of the Rochester Chapter. His quartet, *Gemini Crickets*, were LOL District Champions in 1968 and competed several times at International quartet competitions.

**Jim McCarville** and his wife, **Karen**, live in Lindstrom, Minnesota. He is a retired 3M engineer.



A trumpet player, Jim served in the U of M marching band, the South Dakota Symphony, the St. Paul Chamber Orchestra, and several brass bands and ensembles. Jim has sung in choir for years but it was his wife, a *TC Show Chorus* member, who suggested that on Tuesday evenings he ought to try the Commodores.

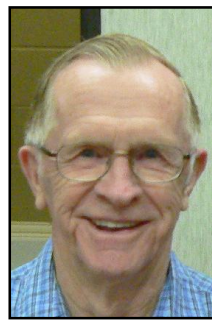
**Dean Lambert** and his wife, **Kristen**, live in Minneapolis.



Born in Minneapolis he graduated from Roosevelt High School and moved on to the University of Minnesota.

Dean has sung in the Trinity Lutheran Choir for many years and just happened to run into the *Random Sample Quartet* at the *Highland Fest* in St. Paul. From there it was a short jump to the Bloomington Chapter and now to the Commodores.

**Harlan Mellem** lives in Bloomington and is a retired mechanical designer.



In high school in Thief River Falls he sang in the choir and a boys' octet.

In addition Harlan has sung tenor and bass in church choirs for over 50 years.

Some years ago he attended a Bloomington Chapter show and was hooked. Harlan has been *Random Sample's* tenor for more years than he can remember.

**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 ..... Dan Williams 952/974-0026  
Past Pres. .... Dan Cole 612/376-0779  
Exec. VP ..... Gordy Aumann 952/935-8869  
Co-Marketing/PR V P ..... Russ Born 406/670-2098  
Bill Ward 763/413-9273  
V P Music /Perform ..... Carl Pinard 612-927-9363  
V P Membership ..... Harvey Weiss 763/439-4447  
Program V P ..... Peter Jarnberg 651/765-9580  
Secretary ..... Bill Warp 763/531-2290  
Treasurer ..... John Carlotto 952-925-0886

**Board Members**

*Through 2014*

Chuck Gribble ..... 612/377-5140  
Mike Hojan ..... 952/435-6647  
Dan Slattery ..... 651-747-6384

*Through 2015*

Jerry Koch ..... 952/929-5069  
Denny Maas ..... 952/447-8012  
Vince Trovato ..... 952/937-8824

**Directors**

Director ..... Paul Wigley  
Assistant Directors  
Gary Jacobson  
David Speidel  
James Souhan

**Section Leaders**

Tenor Section Leader ..... Rollie Neve  
Lead Section Leader ..... Gary Jacobson  
Assistant - Dan Smith  
Bari Section Leaders ..... Dave Speidel  
Assistant - Pete Villwock  
Bass Section Leaders ..... Jim Richards  
Assistant - Dave Casperson

**Committee Chairmen**

Altruistic Programs Chairman ..... Denny Maas  
Audio/Visual Mgr ..... Kirk Douglas  
2014 Show Chairman ..... Blake Wanger  
2015 Show Chairman ..... Gary Jacobson  
Afterglow Chairman ..... Travis Wuttke  
Attendance/Sgt.-at-Arms ..... Loren Berthilson  
BOTY Party Chairman ..... Dan Cole  
*Chord-Inator Staff*  
Editor ..... Dr. Hardin Olson  
Senior Columnist ..... Jim Erickson  
Artist ..... Glenn Retter  
Chorus Performance Managers ..... John Lloyd  
Bob Ostergaard  
Groupanizer Manager ..... Jerry Koch  
Harmony Foundation ..... Jack Beaver  
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 ..... Dr. Jim Richards  
Singing Valentines ..... Neal Mortenson  
Sunshine ..... Rich Ongna  
*Swipe* Editor ..... Bill Warp  
Tickets/A-Commodears President ..... Diana Pinard  
Transportation Mgr ..... Dick Hartmann  
Uniform Committee Chairman ..... Vacant  
Uniforms (Dress & Casual) ..... Dan Williams

**BEING CONNECTED**

*By Dan Williams, President*

Looking back through history, ways to communicate or connect with others have certainly changed. Cave paintings, drums, smoke signals, the telegraph and telephone, newspapers and magazines, radio and television, the internet; well, the list goes on. Social media are all the rage with Facebook and Utube. As performers, we communicate the feeling of the moment with our music, facial expressions, and body language.



**Dan Williams**

While our ability to communicate has improved with advancements in technology, I'm not so sure we have improved our ability to connect with one another. In fact, I wonder if smart phones and computers have caused our personal connections with people to decline. I often see my wife texting with someone, back and forth, back and forth, back and forth. In my mind, it would be easier and faster just to call the person and actually have a conversation.

I recall a recent TV ad where the VP of Sales was handing out airline tickets to his sales staff to enable them to actually visit their customers rather than just e-mailing or texting them. Like salesmen we need to get to know our customers again.

As Commodeors, do we know each other? Are we connected? Can you name all of the members in the chorus? How about just your section? We certainly are connected through the music we sing. Sometimes, we even appear to be connected with choreographic moves. As we prepare for our upcoming events, make an effort to get to know someone with whom you are unacquainted. Say hello to a visitor and help that person feel welcome and connected. We want, and need, them to return.

**Count Our Blessings**

*By Paul Wigley, Director*

At this point, it looks like the Commodeors will have about 78 guys on stage at the Fall District Contest in Rochester. This is terrific! For those who missed my judging report at the September 30 chapter meeting, the average size of a competing chorus after the first two weekends of district competition were completed, was 22 men. I count my blessings every single week of Commodeors' rehearsal, when we can have such a full complement of singers on the risers, and can make such fulfilling music *week after week!*

We all need to count our blessings particularly when we think about the opportunity we have when we meet each Tuesday. We can COUNT on knowing that we will be making great music and enjoying great fellowship as we share this music-making. We all need to count our blessings that we have such tremendous depth in our musical leadership. Without a doubt we have FOUR directors that less fortunate chapters would love to have as front-line directors! We have administrative leadership that is constantly assessing what's best for the musical and social growth of the chorus. We have so many volunteers that do so many jobs such as Groupanizer management, website work, riser setup, HOP coordination, membership organization, videotaping, learning track access, nut sales, bulletin editor (an International Champion, by the way!), and on and on.

It can sound boastful when talking about the broad base of involvement that the Commodeors can count on for their success; but I am truly talking about it because we all need to reflect on the blessings that every man that is a part of this chorus  
*Go to Blessings, Page 3, Column 3*



**Paul Wigley**



SUNSHINE  
HOTLINE



By Rich Ongna, Sunshine Chairman  
Phone: 952-829-7009  
Email: [ddongna@usfamily.net](mailto:ddongna@usfamily.net)

Keep **Kaleb Smith** in your thoughts and prayers as he is facing dental work involving root canals and crowns.



Rich Ongna

Also keep **Romana Jorgensen** in your prayers as **Jim** informed me that she has fallen twice recently. She was then having some difficulty walking. The doctor's exams revealed a small crack in a vertebra but no other obvious issues.

**Larry Nelson** had eyelid surgery on October 8. As of this writing I do not know his status.

**Sharyn Maas**, **Denny's** wife had double-knee replacement on Septem-

ber 25. After a short period of therapy at the Masonic Home she is expected to return home.

**Jim Windey** spent 10 days in a Colorado hospital with shortness of breath and fever. He was released to home under **Judy's** watchful eye on October 1. His doctors had not yet fully determined the cause of his problem and had prescribed fulltime oxygen therapy while they do further testing. It was **Jim & Judy's** 49<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on October 9. Why not send them a card. [**Lance Johnson** reported on September 7 that Jim is doing well (without oxygen) and is about back to normal.]

**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.

*Blessings from Page 2*

brings to the organization. As I write this, I can see the faces of all of these people that I just mentioned, and I see smiles! Smiles at knowing we are all part of something so very special, and that is evidenced by participation! We have a lot of men singing at contest! Honestly, that makes me more excited than the possibility of being a champion (which is also a distinct possibility!).

Our approach to participation has always been based upon trust. We trust that singers will come to rehearsal prepared, and that they will come to rehearsal AFTER they have fulfilled their family responsibilities and their job obligations. I firmly believe that this thinking keeps the Commodores' family alive and vibrant. Trust, unfortunately, seems to be a rare commodity these days- but we trust members of the Commodores to contribute to the best of their abilities.

So, let's count our blessings every Tuesday, and at Fall Contest, and at the Seniors performance, and the Food Shelf performance, and the Christmas Show. I feel very fortunate to have such great friends, and great musicians, as members of the Minneapolis Commodores.

**BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**



*Chapter members are always welcome to attend the Board meetings.*

**From the meeting of September 18**

*By Bill Warp, Secretary*

- Membership: New member orientation is on Groupanizer.
- Music and Performance: Members are urged to support the food drive sponsored by the Mormon church at our November 9 performance.
- Marketing: The chapter's 503 Non-profit status is secure through 2015 when it must be renewed.

*Go to Board, Page 4, Column 1*

**The Block Stops Here**

**Bob Reed**, sixty-plus-year member of the Barbershop Harmony Society and former member of the Minneapolis Commodores, passed away in Montevideo, Minnesota, on October 5 at the age of 89. Bob was very active and involved in the Minneapolis Chapter during the 1950s before a job transfer took him to Montevideo, where he continued his commitment to his favorite hobby.

While a member of the Commodores he was a loyal baritone in the chorus and an enthusiastic and most capable quartet singer as well. His *Lake Aires Quartet*, for example, earned the silver medal in Land O'Lakes District competition in 1954 and were Quarter Finalists in International Competition in Columbus, Ohio, in 1958. He also organized a family quartet called *Three Chips and a Block* in which Bob sang bass and his three oldest children sang the other three parts.

The lead was none other than five-year-old **Marcia [Starnes]**, who grew up to earn two International Sweet Adelines Quartet gold medals with *Music Gallery* (1982) and *Four Star Collection* (1998).

When Bob moved to Montevideo, he expanded his Barbershop horizons by becoming Musical Director of both the *Montevideo Sweet Adelines Chorus* and the *Fiesta City Barbershop Chorus*. He also kept his hand (and voice) in quartetting by organizing the popular show quartet, the *Music Makers*, who sang throughout the region for many, many years.

Bob will be greatly missed by his multitude of friends in the Montevideo area where he was very active in community affairs. He will also be missed by his countless Barber-shopping friends throughout the Land O'Lakes District and the Barbershop Harmony Society at large.

Bob Dykstra

*Board from Page 3*

- 70th anniversary project: Dan Cole has set Sunday, November 16, for the celebration; site to be finalized.



**Bill Warp**

- Truck replacement: Decals have been removed from the truck. Dan Cole is pricing suitably sized trailers that will accommodate our risers and other equipment.

- *City of Lakes Chorus* will be singing for us prior to their departure for their International contest in Baltimore.

# Happy Birthday

- 10/12 Noah Miller
- 10/14 Ralph Nordquist
- 10/16 Andy Richards
- 10/17 Leo Odden
- 10/17 Nan DeMars
- 10/17 Blake Wanger
- 10/20 Glenn Aronson (80)
- 10/20 Sandy Bergersen
- 10/20 Sam LaRoque
- 10/20 Travis Wuttke
- 10/22 Dan True (55)
- 10/26 LeRoy Zimmerman
- 10/29 Andy Cook
- 10/30 Sally Daniel
- 10/30 Karene Heupel

- 11/01 Tom Dahlen (70)
- 11/04 Jeremy Reynolds (75)
- 11/05 Mark Ortenburger
- 11/08 Marilyn Jacobson
- 11/09 Ken Wentworth

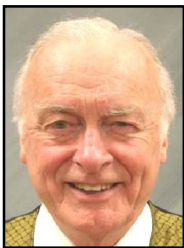
# Happy Anniversary

- 10/10 Steve & Sally Daniel
- 10/12 Paul & Donna Martz
- 10/16 Jim & Ebie Richards
- 10/29 Kirk & Teresa Douglas
- 10/30 Dave & Catherine Wall (20)



## Chord Candy #126

by Dr. Jim Richards, Der Tagmeister



**Jim Richards**

Tags are like viruses, especially the very good tags. They are infectious and contagious, inviting tag enthusiasts to sing them repeatedly. Tags are also like viruses in that they tend to mutate into different versions of the same theme. These versions are offered by people who (1) did not learn them perfectly from the original or (2) people who think they can offer an improvement. I plead guilty to being one of the latter in the case of this gorgeous tag by John Muir, taught to me recently by Barbershopper and tagger supreme, Hugo Fuegen. Starting with a unison melody the harmony spreads first to a duet in measure 1 followed by Barbershop 7th on “sweet”, a “Moon 9th” on “song” followed immediately by a “Chinese 7th” on “keeps.” This brilliant harmonization hooked me instantly. My “improvement” consists only of swapping the order of the first two chords in Measure 2 that results in preserving the original tenor melody of the song for those two notes. Sing both versions and you may be the judge of whether I should be called a #1 or a #2. Enjoy!

John Muir

John Muir (JDR Rev)

# Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, Buttoned Baritone

Sometimes the past can catch up with you in unexpected ways. I was reminiscing about all the girls I had dated at the same time, how I took two to the same dance and convinced them that I was really with just one of them but that my mother had made me promise to attend to the other as she had a severe and tragic secret she could tell no one about. Except a mother, of course.

And the reminiscent list goes on and on about sex, lies and GoPro cameras. (OK, back in my youth, correction, middle age, in the late 1980s, there was an intriguing movie by the title, "Sex, Lies and Video Tapes." Thought I would update the idea for you younger readers by referring to GoPro. The sex and lies part will never change, but visual recording devices inevitably will.) Progressing on, I have to admit that the first part of this paragraph falls under the "lies" category. But it kind of leads you into what I wanted to get at. (I just put this last sentence in to irritate faux grammarians)

Which is, that I was helping set up a room for an annual presentation at the History Center where I volunteer. (My good wife, **Mary**, forced me to volunteer) I was moving chairs, getting handout flyers, etc., when this young, highly-degreed museum consultant asked me to help with the projection screen to be used for the slideshow presentation. Oh, I know they no longer use "slides." Can't even buy the film for taking slide pictures anymore, and even if you could, where would you get them processed? Some *high-falutin* film lab, I suppose. It's all digital and computer production nowadays. Ha! Still looks the same on the screen.



Jim Erickson

But I progress. He said, "I've tried and tried to extend the screen out of the upside down window shade looking tube. I can lift the hooky thing up high, but can't unroll the white, sparkly curtain. Must be broken! Do you know how these operate and how to fix the danged thing?" Hey, I grew up in an era where we had to solve practical problems and perform challenging tasks like slopping the hogs. Nowadays, they just microwave the pre-baked bacon. (Not that I ever slopped hogs. I just grew up in a farming community. I knew some girls who did, though. They're probably managing 1000-pig corporate-



Reading the *Georgia Grind*

owned hog farms and making a fortune. Or, still slopping hogs.) But, could I operate a slide projector screen? Ho, ho! Piece of two-layer chocolate cake.

It took me a few minutes to survey the cantankerous piece of ancient equipment (not part of the History Center collection). Now in high school, I was NOT one of those capable wizards on the Visual Aids Team who would come into a classroom and set up the movie projector, then wind the film-leader into the many cogs and spindles so that it could project to the biology class, in jumpy fashion, a film on the metamorphosis of the tsetse fly. But I did watch them at their craft and later had some similar equipment of my own. So, I was confident I could tackle this impasse.

Hmmmm. There seems to be a handle here, and look, there's a rather large button at the top of it. Wonder if that could have something to do with the operation of this device. Pushing the button, and forcefully (I used to be on the football team) trying to move the screen tube down, I heard this rusty, metal on metal, screech. Didn't move much, but a flashback to how these things operated kept me on task. Another forceful push and the handle broke free of the rusted grip to slide fairly easily down the upright, hooky-thingy, base rod. When at precisely the right position, I stopped, grabbed the handle on the top of the sparkly screen and pulled it all the way up to the top of the hooky arm.

Amazed, the consultant said, "Oh, I guess I just didn't push the button hard enough." Yeah, right. And you didn't have the wealth of knowledge of all things aiding the visual, that some of us have accumulated over the years. Persistence pays! Too, someday I will learn how to make that flip-pity computer of mine project a picture on the wall. Maybe tomorrow.

I can now hear the voice of our **truculent editor, Doc Hardin**, screaming in the background of my mind. "Erickson, what, in any conceivable universe, does this have to do with Barbershop?" [Note the Capitol "B".] Oh, c'mon Doc! Can't I write just one article without having it relate to Barbershop somehow? No? Well, here goes.

The *sexiest* part of Barbershopping of which I will not *lie* to you, is that if you *persist* in the pursuit of excellence, you will entertain your audience with such reality of feeling, that it will be a *GoPro* camera, in your face, experience. Just like being there for real! (I hate it when I have to telegraph the deeper meaning of my articles in such a bald-faced fashion, whatever that means.)

Or, as **Rollie Neve** says, "If you are agitated and confused by what I have said, then my job here is done." Have to say, I long to "Roll as Rollie Neve *Go to Grind, Page 6, Column 1*



## Baritone at Bloomer Bash

By Jim Erickson, Humble Baritone

Being in Wisconsin for much of the summertime the past few years, I have often thought about visiting the **Northern Light Chorus** that meets in Colfax, WI. Something always seemed to conflict, but I was determined to attend this summer. Well, again the summer sped on and it seemed “maybe next summer.” Then a chance meeting and singing with a fine lead, **Neil Segerstrom**, (new to Barbershopping), coaxed me to give it another shot.

I arrived in Colfax about a half hour before the chapter meeting after a 45-minute drive (about same as time on 494 to HOP). Quietly interrupting a meeting of the officers, they insisted I join them. They explained, the Northern Light Chorus has about 20 members and some of them travel from within a 50 mile or so radius.

This night, the chorus of 20 was breaking up into 10 quartets to perform at their annual “Bloomer (Wisconsin) Bash Quartet Showcase,” a contest in which performers sometimes sing the quartet

part they were born with, and at other times sing a completely different part. Bass sings lead, etc. I repeat, a chorus of 20 broke up into 10 quartets. (The Bash has been going on since 1976!) Let’s see. With the Commodores, take 80 as the number, divide by 2 and come up with 40 quartets. Think we could do it?

It was a fun night and they even asked me just before going on “stage” to fill in for a missing baritone. I knew the song by title, but

hearty meal catered by **Fat Boy Catering** of Bloomer and then on to the contest. Our newly formed quartet, the “**Last Minute Quartet**” was not qualified to compete as two of the members were in a registered quartet or something like that. So..... **Anita LeCleire**, great MC, asked us to be the Mike Testers for the event (since the original quartet had some sickness problem). Now, I don’t think they meant this as an insult, but they didn’t even have a mike. I guess we were just “testers.” And, we were second

choice at that. Beats me what we ultimately were testing, but I received a nice introduction by Darrell and then we sang a polecat that we had only sung together twice before. Polite, no it was enthusiastic, applause and then on to the contest.

As you can imagine with such a mix of members and parts, some quartets were much better than others, but all were cheered and laughter and appreciation rang throughout this room of friendly, fun-loving listeners.

On our way home, Mary and I talked about how many connections we had made with this bunch, and how engaging and warmly receptive everyone was.

To top it all off, I met **Wilbur Hoppe**, a long-time member of LOL, and another, **Frank Steinmetz**. As did some of the other NLers, these two named Commodore after Commodore they had come to know over the years. OK, I’ll say the trite thing. “Small world after all.” And even better, Wilbur told me that he always reads my **Georgia Grind** articles (hard copy version). Always! Awww, he did say that he turns first to the little-known **Jim Richards** page to sample Jim’s **Chord Candy**, and then turns to the GG. (Maybe I’ll try putting in a tag or so. Would that change Wilbur’s order?) Go to **Boomer**, Page 7, Column 1



Erickson’s other quartet (left to rt.): Pat Hogan, tenor; Darrell Hoepner, bass; Neil Segerstrom, lead; Jim Erickson, bari. Erickson photo

they were going to sing a different version. So different that I stood up there trying to listen to the chords, words, decipher the heretofore unseen sheet music, smile, and look confident, all the while woodshedding that bummer with all my life. It went well enough that there was enthusiastic applause at the end. I think they were being nice so that I might come to more meetings.

The evening ended with my singing in a quartet with **Neil, Darrell Hoepner** and **Pat Hogan**. We sounded good enough to be invited to sing at the “Bash.” Scroll ahead to the next Tuesday night when my wife, **Mary**, and I strolled in the door of the Bloomer VFW. We were immediately welcomed by several singers and their wives. I lost my wife to a chat group of women while I got up to speed on the evening’s schedule. A

### Grind from Page 5

Rolls!” Now I have been telling you, the last several months, to make that Barbershop Bucket List. Just to make sure you know what I mean, think about some things that you would like to do in Barbershopping, but haven’t gotten up the courage to do yet. Write them down. Then pick the easiest and do it! Just do it! If you fail, so what. Life is short. Do Barbershopping first.

In the meantime, **Keep Recruiting** and hold fast to that which is good. Oh, doggone it, I was going to tell you more about the Big Georgia Grind Reveal. Forgot about that. Well, next time for sure!

# Quartet Quaffs

## Sounds of Renown (VLQ)

*Editor's Note: This is the third leg of the October Erickson Trilogy that should satisfy Jim's journalistic urges at least until November.*

## Happy Trails to Brent

The VLQ met with **Brent Graham** in mid-September, one of his last times as our coach. But this was not like the rehearsals that have been going on continuously for something like ten years. No, this was held at Davanni's Pizza Parlor in Eden Prairie. And all members, past and present, if they could make it, were there! It was especially fun to see **Luther Romo** and

trek from Wisconsin, and the late **Joe Hauser** was missed but not without many fond and funny memories and stories of Joe's part in the *Sounds of Renown* (which he named).

Huge pizzas were downed with great lust, along with a bit of amber fluid flowing, too. However, the real heartbeat of the evening was echoed in the laughter, the memories, in learning a few tags, and just talking about the old times and many shared performances. As usual, Brent had some Barbershop history to relate about such things as the tags we were singing and the characters and circumstances behind them. We will really miss that.

Then it was time to share personal

As the evening was regretfully hastening to an end, I think Brent finally began to sense the reality that his tenure as coach of the VLQ was over as he turned a little philosophical about this whole Barbershop thing. I am paraphrasing him, but Brent said that we might have different religious views, opposing political bents, huge occupational diversity, and many more differences, but when we come together to sing as Barbershoppers, differences are set aside as we then join together for the one unifying purpose of creating magical musical harmony. At the core, that is what's great about being a Barbershopper.

To close, we sang a tag we had just learned, *May our paths meet again, meet again some time*. Some things really sock you in the soul! Then with handshakes, pats on the back, and an abundance of smiles, Brent and the VLQ went their separate ways in the chase of some future ringing chords.

*By Jim Erickson, VLQ Baritone*



Brent and the VLQ crew (left to rt.): Rollie Neve, Ken Wentworth, Brian Langren, John Carlotto, Pete Jarnberg (behind John Carlotto), Dan Williams, Mark Ortenburger, Rob Hartert (behind Mark), Curt Brekke, Brent Graham, Jim Erickson, Bill Ward, Bob Ostergaard, and Luther Romo.

*Riemenschneider Photo*

**Curt Brekke** who had been early members and who are no longer rehearsing with the VLQ and the Commodores. (Hadn't seen them for some time.) **Vince Formosa**, a very early member, was unable to make the long

stories. Brent asked each VLQer to tell how he first became aware of Barbershop and how he got into his first group. So many differing twists and turns from all, but a pretty common thread was that a Barbershopper urged them to come to a chapter meeting to see [and hear] for themselves what a thrill it is. (Is there a message in there somewhere?)

Although he had hinted at it before, Brent again revealed how often he has found himself with some other far-flung singing group, telling them about this rather unique VLQ that has met regularly for years, the main purpose being to improve each member's singing techniques, even paying for the privilege! Of course it almost goes without saying that the group has earned its share of fun and friendship while participating in a variety of performances.

## Four Seasons

Picture if you will, a delightful Sunday afternoon in late September with the fall colors cascading across the country side, a clear blue sky with puffs of snow-white clouds slowly rolling by, a temperature of 75 degrees, a humidity of 52 percent, a steady barometer at 30.08 inches of mercury, a gentle breeze, and a mirror-smooth lake, all with little or no background noise except for the occasional rustle of leaves and the sounds of songbirds drifting in and out of earshot.



Rollie Neve

That is what the *Four Seasons* experienced on the last September day at Dan and Carol's summer home on Wisconsin's Lake Wapogasset. This was the scene as we walked down to Dan's pontoon boat for a water-borne cruise to the Waterside Bar and Grill for dinner before our scheduled 7:00 *Go to Quaffs*, Page 8, Column 1

### Boomer from

A Georgia Grind tag..... I'll have to think about that.

Many others made this Colfax Connection one to fondly remember. Our district contest and concerts are coming up, so my future Tuesdays will be with the Commodores. But, I hope to get together with NL after the long winter. Thanks for everything, guys!

One final note. This chorus (and parts thereof) is heavily involved in community outreach all year. Quite a group!



*Quaffs from Page 7*

p.m. appearance at Apple River Community Church's *Parade of Talent Show* in Amery, Wisconsin.

Docking at the Waterside's slip, we proceeded to an outdoor table and placed our orders for food and beverages. The beautiful day allowed for an outdoor venue and its relative quiet compared to the roar inside the restaurant because the Viking/Atlanta football was being telecast on the big screen. The food was delivered and while enjoying our menu selections, the waitress came by with a basket of *jello shots*.

Believe it or not I did not know what a jello shot was. It turned out to be a small plastic cups of jello that had been spiked with alcohol and delivered to the patrons, compliments of the house, whenever the Vikings scored. The Vikings scored and we all sucked up a shot. They scored again and we repeated the process. Then the Vikings scored again, and we did it again. Then it occurred to us that maybe too many jello shots might affect our singing. So even

though the Vikings kept scoring, we deferred, not wanting to go to church with too much jello on our breaths.

Nice gesture of those Wisconsin folks to reward us for Viking scores. I guess you call that good sportsmanship. Before reboarding the pontoon boat we received appreciative hugs from our waitress for singing *Let Me Call You Sweetheart* and warm thanks for singing *Heart of My Heart* to a couple at a neighboring table celebrating their twenty-third wedding anniversary.

We arrived at the Apple River Community Church in ample time to get our name on the clip-board list of performing artists, landing in the tenth spot, out of about 20 participants, in the order of appearance. Included in the mix were singers (another male quartet, duettists, a vocalist with an accordionist), a poetry reading by a 91-year-old lady,



an accomplished xylophone player and a harmonica player. It was something like an *Ed Sullivan Show*.

Performers at all skill levels made joyful sounds to the delight of about 150 souls. We sang *Glory Land Way* and *Step Into the Water*, sprinkling a little humor in between. It was great fun and a lot of the old-time Gospel hymns were performed. That lively church puts on a similar show on the last Sunday of every month.

All of the above have put a damper on the ongoing research project dealing with overtone analysis and the search for truth in the case of **Jim Erickson's** accusation of over-singing by yours truly. Never worry, dear hearts, about this research, because we will "grind it out." We did note that when we brought up the subject among the folks in Wisconsin, the reaction was, "Jim who?" It's obvious, therefore, that the answer will come easily or quickly. So keep *tuned* and look excitedly for the next issue of the Chord-Inator.

*In the meantime enjoy being a Commodore.*

# Doc's Bag



*By Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor*

On the following page you will find a list of Commodores and spouses who have given to the *Harmony Foundation*, and through the Foundation's Donor Choice program have directed a portion of their contributions to be returned to the Minneapolis Chapter.

However, for a chapter as large as ours, the donor list is embarrassingly short, realizing, of course, that economic pressures remain with us (in spite of what some politicians are saying).

None the less, a well meaning Barbershopper can, for as little a pledge as ten dollars a month, become an Ambassador of Song and direct that thirty-six of those dollars be returned

to our chapter annually. Donor Choice also applies to un-contracted general gifts to the foundation.

I am embarrassed to say that my Ambassador of Song pledge must have automatically terminated when we moved last year. I have just put in a call for **Ryan Killeen** to see if he can expedite my reinstatement.

Try it, you'll like it!

**Northern Pines  
Harmony Brigade  
An eXtreme  
quartetting experience.  
February 20-22, 2015  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Plymouth, Minnesota  
Register Now!  
[www.nphb.org](http://www.nphb.org)**

# LETTERS

Reminder: Early-bird Choreography, Tuesdays, 6:00-7:00 p.m. . Any members competing in Rochester and who have not seen this plan yet... **SHOULD BE ATTENDING!** Only a few rehearsals remain. We don't want to peak too early but we all need to practice. The plan is on *Groupanizer* in the *Document* section under *Smile Medley Visual Plan*.

Jake

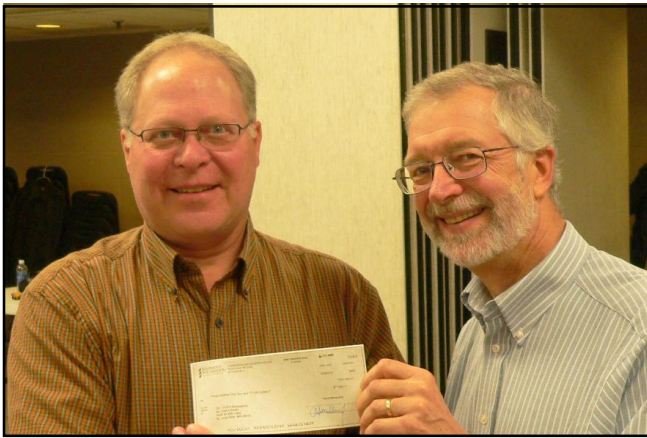
\*\*\*\*\*

Dear LOL Barbershoppers,

The 2015 learning packets (10 top-quality charts & CDs) are ready for the *Brigade Convention* here in the Twin Cities.. Over 40 men from all over the U.S. have already registered, Don't pass up this opportunity to sing in as many quartets as your heart desires.

Dave Speidel, NPHB President





President Dan Williams presents a Donor Choice check from *Harmony Foundation* generated from the giving to the Foundation by the following Commodores and spouses:

- |                          |                     |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| John Carlotto            | Jim & Ebie Richards |
| Dan & Sheila Cole        | Dan Slattery        |
| Jim & Mary Erickson      | Dave Speidel        |
| Gary & Marilyn Jacobson  | Paul Swanson        |
| Peter Jarnberg           | Harvey Weiss        |
| Bryan Langren            |                     |
| Mark & Cathy Ortenburger |                     |



A surprise visitor at the September 7 Minneapolis Chapter meeting was longtime Commodore and now dual member, Bill Shaw, shown here with old friend and quartet mate, Dan Slattery. Bill is singing Barbershop and directing Sweet Adelines in the Phoenix area.

**Let's put the**  
**capital**  
**"B"**  
**in Barbershop**

*A Cappella Rocks the Holidays*

With  
The Minneapolis Commodores and  
The Twin Cities Show Chorus

Kennedy High School, Bloomington, MN

**December 7, 2014**  
**3:00 pm**

Come join two of the premiere choruses in the Twin Cities for a winter wonderland of soaring four-part and eight-part a cappella harmonies. If that's not enough to lift your holiday spirits, you'll also be entertained by a variety of quartets performing family-friendly holiday music for this special time of year. Our program will include:

**Believe**

**Baby It's Cold Outside**

**I'll Be Home For Christmas**

**I Saw Three Ships**

**Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree**

**Joy to the World**

**You're a Mean One Mr. Grinch**



**For Ticket Information contact:**  
 Diana Pinard [pinardbbs@q.com](mailto:pinardbbs@q.com) 612.927.9363  
 Monica Baker [Bakersmon8325@yahoo.com](mailto:Bakersmon8325@yahoo.com) 952.884.8810  
[tcshowchorus.org](http://tcshowchorus.org) / [minneapoliscommidores.org](http://minneapoliscommidores.org)  
 Or find us on Facebook ←

**Dr. Hardin Olson, Bulletin Editor**  
**3020 St. Albans Mill Road #109**  
**Minnetonka, MN 55305**  
**952/229-4525**  
**[olson118@umn.edu](mailto: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 those of the Minneapolis Chapter Board or its officers.



**1st CLASS  
 POSTAGE  
 HERE**

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

*Logo courtesy of Bob Clark*

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Chapter Quartets**

- EASY LISTENIN'  
 Dan Slattery..... 651/747-6384
- FOUR SEASONS  
 Rollie Neve.....952/470-2129
- HOT COMMODITY  
 Dave Speidel.....612-437-4325
- MINNESOTA GO-4'S  
 Harvey Weiss.....763/439-4447
- NOTESWORTHY  
 Harvey Weiss.....763/439-4447
- SKYPE  
 Mark Bloomquist.....952/541-0232
- SOUNDS of RENOWN.....VLQ  
 Mark Ortenburger.....952/942-8382
- TRIPLE Q.....VLQ  
 Dave Speidel.....952/941-7153
- TURNING POINT  
 Judd Orff.....651/439-3108

**To:**

**LOOKING AHEAD**

**Chapter Level**

- November 2, Sunday, 2:30 p.m., **Lakeville Senior Resource Coalition, St. John's Luth. Church, 20165 Heath Ave. (Hwy 50)**
- December 7, Sunday, **Christmas Show with TCSC**

**District Level**

- October 24-25, **Fall Convention, Rochester**

**International Level**

- January 6-10, 2015, **Midwinter Convention, New Orleans, Louisiana**

**2014 Barbershopper Of The Year  
 Rod Vink**

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

- Jim Erickson
- Gary Jacobson
- Rollie Neve
- Hardin Olson
- Rich Ongna
- Jim Richards
- Dave Speidel
- Bill Warp
- Dan Williams
- Paul Wigley



**CHORD-INATOR**

*1st Place*  
**2013 PROBE HARD-COPY  
 INTERNATIONAL  
 BULLETIN CONTEST**



The *Chord-Inator* is available on the Minneapolis Chapter's website **[minneapoliscommodores.org](http://minneapoliscommodores.org)** beginning with the January 2006 issue.

**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**