

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

JANUARY 2015 - VOL. 71 - NO. 1

## "Take me to your leaders...please !"

*Welcome your 2015 Officers & Board Members*



**Russ Born**  
Marketing  
Co-VP



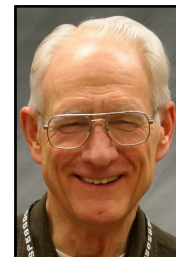
**Denny Maas**  
Executive VP



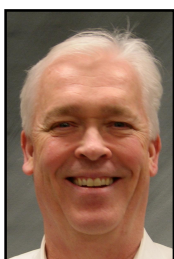
**Gordy Aumann**  
President



**Dan Williams**  
Past-President



**Carl Pinard**  
Music VP



**Pete Jarnberg**  
Marketing  
Co-VP



**Harvey Weiss**  
Membership  
VP



**Dan Cole**  
Program VP



**Bill Warp**  
Secretary



**John Carlotto**  
Treasurer

### *2015 Board Members*



**Ben Hancock**



**Jerry Koch**



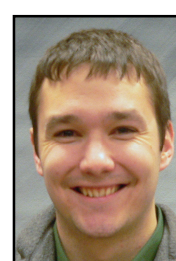
**Vince Trovato**



**Andy Cook**



**Blake Wanger**



**Nate Weimer**

### *2015-16 Board Members*

**Minneapolis, Minn. Chapter  
Land O'Lakes District, BHS  
Meetings every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.  
House of Prayer Lutheran Church  
7025 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**

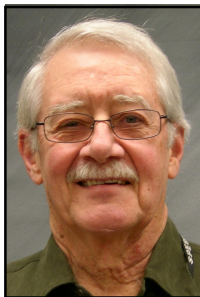
Tenor Section Leader ..... Rollie Neve  
Lead Section Leader ..... Gary Jacobson  
Assistant - Dan Smith  
Bari Section Leaders ..... Dave Speidel  
Assistant - Pete Villwock  
Bass Section Leaders ..... Jim Richards  
Assistant - Dave Casperson

**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  
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Editor ..... Dr. Hardin Olson  
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Bob Ostergaard  
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Roster ..... Dr. Jim Richards  
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Sunshine ..... Rich Ongna  
Swipe Editor ..... Bill Warp  
Tickets/A-Commodears President ..... Diana Pinard  
Transportation Mgr ..... Dick Hartmann  
Uniform Committee Chair-  
man ..... Vacant

**Meet your president...**

Hi! I'm Gordy Aumann, your new Minneapolis Chapter President. Here is a little info about me to help you better understand what I'm all about.



**Gordy Aumann**

I was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and lived in the suburb of Wauwatosa for my years through college. I graduated from General Motors Institute in Flint, Michigan, with a degree in Industrial Engineering and was a co-op student working at AC Spark Plug in Milwaukee until late 1966.

My next stop was in Minneapolis when I was recruited by Honeywell, initially as an engineer and then moving on to marketing and managing in their Aerospace and Defense business.

In late 1993 when I got caught up in corporate down-sizing and was laid-off at Honeywell I became a medical-device manufacturers rep for a couple years and eventually gravitated to fun jobs; selling cars and working in a golf shop.

In 2004 the Commodores caught my ear and after many years of only shower and church-choir singing I was welcomed into our lead section and later became a member of *Sounds of Renown*.

When not Barbershopping I "play" at golf, work part-time at a golf course in the summer and volunteer at the ICA food-shelf in the winter. My wife, Barbara, and I have lived in Minnetonka for 35 years. We have nine grandchildren whom we totally enjoy!

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your President in 2015 and let's get on with singing and having fun. *It's great to be a Commodore!*



**The Future History...  
Of Barbershop**

*By Paul & Becky Wigley, Director & Director's Director*

We just returned from the Midwinter Convention in New Orleans, and it was a fantastic few days! I had never attended a Midwinter before, and I also had the opportunity to judge both the Youth Chorus and the Seniors Quartet Contests.



**Paul Wigley**

Both of these events featured wonderful music-making, and the comparison (as a judge) between two days of nothing but "25-under", and nothing but "55-over" was invigorating!

Among many highlights for me was an opportunity to hear David Wright speak about "The Future History of Barbershop." Here are some highlights from his informative, and extremely inspiring, presentation. I need to give full disclosure (and credit!) to my wife, Becky, for taking such in-depth notes! Here are David's thoughts:

The beginnings of Barbershop harmony were all-inclusive: black/white, rich/poor, city/urban, amateur/professional. New Orleans, where many cultures of music converged, is one of the cradles of Barbershop harmony: ragtime, blues, African and European sounds. Barbershop reached its height in the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and then began to wane until O.C. Cash resurrected it with the *Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America Inc.*

The word "preservation" begs the question of "What is Barbershop harmony?" This is a deeply discussed and highly emotional issue. There were many different influences on this harmonic style from the beginning. As time passed Barbershop harmony became more refined. All of *Go to Future, Page 3, Column 1*

*Future from Page 2*

our past is part of our history and needs to be included. We must embrace our heritage.

David reviewed the characterizing features of Barbershop and encouraged the Society to hang on to these most basic things and keep the name "Barbershop". In looking to the future, let us celebrate the diverse legacy of Barbershop harmony. We must not try to freeze the style as it was in 19XX (you fill in the year). Let's promote quality, public performance, and the personal recreational enjoyment of our special harmony. Barbershop is unique in that it is for all of these purposes.

Look beyond our Society to the greater Barbershop community to see Barbershop harmony as part of the greater world of music. Our society does not own a certain type of music, no one does! The Sweet Adelines and organizations from other countries have had a strong influence on our Society. The international mosaic of music that influences Barbershop makes it vibrant and beautiful. Our vision is for Barbershop to be sung side by side in churches, schools, and wherever music is sung. Nor is it a bad thing when Barbershop quartets and choruses branch out and sing other styles of music

David Wright envisions the Future History of Barbershop to include: the rise of the Youth Movement, greater internationalization of Barbershop singing; a breakdown of gender, age, and racial barriers; inclusion of a wide variety of songs; interaction with other styles of music; and ever increasing quality and high levels of performance.

All of this is in line with our history. We have much to learn from others and they have much to learn from us. Our aim should be to envision an organized, world-wide effort to promulgate Barbershop harmony. The act of harmonizing has magical powers to attract human beings and bring them together. It can change the world and people everywhere will be blessed.

**BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**



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

**From the meeting of December 18**

*By Bill Warp, Secretary*

• **Treasurer:** 2015 Budget accepted; Annual Show receipts budgeted at \$27,000; new trailer not in budget at this time, a suitable model will cost between five and ten thousand dollars.

• **Music/Performance:** March 1 - Food shelf performance at Faith Presbyterian in Minnetonka; March 28 - Spring contest, numbers are *Smile* and *Smile Medley*; discussion of Christmas show, chorus should have been better prepared; *Under the Big Top* tickets to be issued in February; 2016 Show Chairman's position unfilled as yet.

• **Groupanizer Update:** Kinks are being worked out of new version; Jerry Koch has asked to be replaced; the public site per Paul Swanson will soon be on line..

• **Altruistic Purposes:** A meeting is set with the U of M regarding a fund-raiser for the School of Music.

• **Next meeting:** January 15

**Welcome aboard!**

**Tony Lapakko** and his wife, **Natalie**, live in Eagan. Born in Minneapolis, he graduated from Richfield High School and then attended Gustavus Adolphus. Tony is a software engineer.



The piano and flute have been his musical passion, having taken lessons with each instrument for 16 years (including four years of jazz piano)

A tenor, Tony was recruited by **Matt Richards**.. Welcome, Tony!



**November Re-enlistments**

Ben Hancock.....	2 yrs.
Mike Hojan.....	10 yrs.
Dean Lambert .....	10 yrs.
Brian Langren.....	10 yrs.
Bob Duncan.....	11 yrs.
Bill Warp.....	12 yrs.
Chuck Gribble.....	13 yrs.
Jim Ostrander *.....	27 yrs.
Denny Rolloff.....	33 yrs.
Carl Pinard .....	34 yrs.
Paul Wigley.....	37 yrs.
Harlan Mellem.....	38 yrs.
Ray Ensrud.....	39 yrs.
Jim Jorgensen.....	43 yrs.
Roger Meyer.....	43 yrs.
Jim Foy.....	46 yrs.
Dan Slattery.....	46 yrs.
Bill Shaw Jr .....	52 yrs.
Randy Klopfleisch.....	55 yrs.
Doug Miller.....	57 yrs.
Bob Spong.....	59 yrs.
Loren Berthilson.....	67 yrs.

\* Commodore South



*Happy Birthday*

01/14 Paul Martz
01/15 Bill Warp
01/22 Loren Berthilson
01/23 Candice Hojan
01/26 Shirley Retter
01/26 Karen Richards
02/03 Violet Bifulk
02/04 Ray Ensrud
02/06 Jeff Culp (30)
02/06 Martha Smalley
02/06 Judy Windey
02/07 Paul Paddock (25)
02/07 Karen Wentworth
02/08 Sherry Machen Ostergaard
02/08 Glenn Retter (80)

*Happy Anniversary*

01/22 Bob & Sherry Machen Ostergaard (5)
02/04 Daniel & Sheila Cole

SUNSHINE  
HOTLINE



By Rich Ongna, Sunshine Chairman

Phone: 952-829-7009

Email: [ddongna@usfamily.net](mailto:ddongna@usfamily.net)



Rich Ongna

The Commodores express their sympathy to the family of **Leo Odden** who passed away the night of December 31<sup>st</sup> after a short fight with an aggressive cancer. **Sharon** tells me that they will not have a memorial service until sometime later because of Leo's son John as follows:

**John Odden**, Leo's son had both of his kidneys removed on January 6<sup>th</sup>. After 6 weeks of dialysis he will be given a new kidney donated by his best friend.

**Romana Jorgensen**, Jim's wife had a setback with a fall in their home on December 17th. She is now continuing in therapy at Northridge Nursing Home. The duration of her stay is uncertain. Jim tells me that in spite of her trials she was able to get out for a family Christmas gathering with most of their family members at the Champlain Community Center.

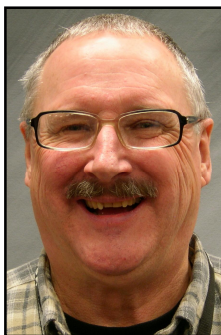
**Remember:** Please keep me informed about who is ailing and don't assume that I already know because generally I'm in the dark. Help me brighten the days of our ailing members. Just a note of encouragement or a brief call can make the day of a person who's not feeling well.



**THE STATE OF THE NUTS**  
**The 2014 sales report**

by *Dick Riemenschneider*, Nut Administrator

The **Commodores** waged an extremely successful Nut Sales Campaign for 2014. The numbers are not all in yet but here is what is known at this time; \$8,000 has already been contributed to the Commodores



Dick Riemenschneider

treasury with another check still to be presented. Seventy-eight Commodores sold product this year up from 69 last year. Bags sold this year numbered 2,680, up 160 from last year. The Christmas-show sales were successful with 97 pounds sold.

I have not yet tabulated the individual sales for 2014 but it appears that the top salesman sold over 200 bags of product. That, gents, is a great sales effort.

So on behalf of all the Commodores I would like to thank the 78 members that sold product this year. This is a very important fund-raiser for the chorus and it's great to see the rising enthusiasm shown by the members for this event.

And, while I am thanking members, I would like to give a special thank you to those members that made the trek to *Haus Riemenschneider* for the nut bagging. All 2,100 pounds of nuts in the first order were bagged in three shifts of three hours each. That is an average of 233 pounds of nuts per hour. You can bet that no peanuts had a chance to sprout under the feet of those stalwart baggers. Those working two bagging shifts were: **Neal Mortenson, Jim Richards, Guy St. Martin, and Rod Vink.** Those working one shift were: **Gordy Aumann, Dan Cole, Gene Heupel, Rollie Neve, Rich Ongna, Mark Ortenburger, and Glenn Retter.**

Also deserving special recognition are those members that own a business and used the Nut Drive to provide our product to some of their customers or staff. **HOBO Incorporated** owned by **Ken Wentworth** purchased 132 bags of product and the foil gift bags. HOB0 is a chemical formulator and manufacturer providing development, manufacturing, and logistical services to sales, service, and manufacturing organizations.

**McClellan Sales Inc.**, owned by **Terry McClellan** purchased 40 bags of nuts and foil bags. McClellan Sales supplies products and services to technicians and tradespeople who have specific needs for tools, supplies and hardware items used to install systems and equipment.

**Broadway Rental and Broadway Party Rental** owned by **Guy St. Martin** purchased 27 bags and the foil gift bags. Broadway Rental has the motto of "Name it...We rent it!". Broadway Party Rental rents quality party and event equipment for large corporate events to small intimate gatherings.

These corporate partners increased our sales a total of 199 pounds. Thank you Ken, Terry, and Guy.

Guys, get ready for next year. The sales effort will kick off on Tuesday, September 1. New for next year, the plastic Ziplock ® freezer bags will be replaced with food grade heavy duty clear plastic "stand bags" complete with heat sealing, tear notches for easy opening, and zip closures. Like the consistent improvement and professionalism of our singing and presentation skills, these bags will elevate the level of professionalism of our sales effort.

If anyone has suggestions for the improvement of this important fund raiser please get your comments to me. In the meantime and as always....**It's Great To Be A Commodore!**



## The lights have dimmed at the Grain Exchange...



LEO ODDEN  
1935 - 2015

The Minneapolis Grain Exchange will never be quite the same again. On New Year's Eve, Leo Odden, long-time Minneapolis Commodore and proprietor of the Grain Exchange Barbershop, passed away peacefully.

Leo had recently been hospitalized for some cardiac problems and during the course of his physicians' evaluations it was determined that he had wide-spread metastatic cancer. With faith and grace he decided against all forms of medical therapy.

The Commodores will miss Leo's calm, unruffled demeanor and his broad infectious smile. Some, Dan Cole for one, will miss his tonsorial skills.

A Celebration of Life/Spring Memorial is planned for May 2 in Hudson, Wisconsin; details in full notice available on March 15.

## Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, *Beknownst Bari*

Be forewarned! I am writing this from western Wisconsin near the Ice



Jim Erickson

Age Trail and wondering if another Ice Age is just around the corner. Perhaps I need to make a sacrifice to the weather gods, sort of like the Aztecs

did way back when. Anything to bring back warmer weather! What with twenty feet of snow and minus-40 degree temps. Well, maybe it just feels that way. Whatever, I am fresh out of virgins to toss in the volcanic pools, so maybe some cheese curds and Leinenkugel's beer would suffice. Could I convince those gods that a virgin is only a virgin once, but cheese curds and beer go on forever? And I believe, contrary to the Polka song, that in heaven, there is beer. And craft beer at that.

But, I had better start writing this New Year's article. Funny how things start out working so well and then in one twist of fate, efforts get really difficult. Years ago I started making slogans for the New Year following the lead of my then barber. He would make up a motivational slogan at the beginning of each year, for instance "Continue to strive in 1995" or "Work to be great in 2008." I thought that fun and clever so I attempted it in 2012. Came up with the rather tepid, "Try all that is new in two thousand one two." Mediocre, but little did I estimate the arduous task in the teens.

It never occurred to me that calendar-year numbers remain at something-teens for several years. Two thousand one, two, three, four, etc., are rhymeful. But when you reach beyond twelve, the numbers all end in "teen." That is, until you reach twenty and then the slogan field becomes fertile once again. The "teens" are

kinda like the dust bowl years back in the 1930s. Dry, dusty and few things sprouting. (NO, I wasn't around for the worst of that.)

So what am I going to do with five more years of teens? "Don't vent your spleen in 2015." Whatever a vented spleen is. (Ask Doc, I guess.) Oh, I know what they mean when they say that, but has anyone really seen a vented spleen? Anyone? Anyone? Now I have been writing these articles for almost ten years and this slogan thing is the worst idea I have ever had. Not the worst writing, just the worst idea. [Debatable!]

Resurrecting one of the old attempts like, "Enjoy the coffee bean in 2013" seemed lame and was rightfully re-



Reading the Georgia Grind

jected back then. OK! I'm done! I have better things to do than this. I have recycling to sort and aluminum cans to crush in that aluminum-can crusher thingy on my garage wall. So, I'll rush to a new slogan. How about, "Perform above the mean in 2016?" Love it or list it, you got it!

(Maybe if one of the "teen" years ended in "-bevy" (Middle English, origin unknown) Like *sixbevy* (originally sixteen). Then I could make some clever remark like, "Harass Rollie Neve in the year, sixbevy." But despite the personal pleasure that would bring, it's not the most inspirational message to live by for a whole year.)

Turning the rudder a bit, the esteemed master of all things good, **Bob Dyk** - Go to *Grind*, Page 6, Column 1

*Grind from Page 5*

**stra**, has caused a bit of unwanted sensitivity in my writing. In a recent article of his, he pointed out that he was changing subject mid-article. I'm too lazy to read his article again, but he said something like, "As Jim Erickson does" and he then went about changing the direction or subject of his article. I guess I should have copyrighted my abrupt change technique or something. Now Bob writes some excellent articles and usually stays with his subject. But he isn't stuck with a monthly **Albatross** around his neck indentured to write a regular article like the **Georgia Grind**.

I have to rely on the tidbits of barbershop [*Capital "B" in Barbershop, please!*] and whatever, to put an article together each month and don't have the luxury of choosing when, and about what, to write. So, I have now become a bit sensitive when I need to jump from one idea to another. And, when someone has exposed what I thought was a pretty subliminal approach. I have two choices. Grumble that he has pulled my robe up, or revel in the thought that not only does he read my articles, he feels free to borrow a twist or two.

Aw, nuts! I'm going to consider it an honor. Bob, please feel free to make even more use of this Erickson method in the future. (Just be sure to mention my name each time) No need to request permission. Awardwinning **Editor Doc Hardin** though, don't get any fancy ideas that you will be given the same latitude. [*Editorial license, my man.*]

Going forth now on a weather beam! (i.e. "on a weather beam" meaning the windward side of a vessel) As I start this year, I feel I am facing the weather-beam wind. Nevertheless, I will keep tacking and head starboard to something Barbershoppy. (OK, now Erickson has put on his dime-store-white captain's cap with the plastic gold braid, and nevertheless, seems to be losing the battle to gain his sea legs.) So, on this new subject, the Commodores continue to make strides

in using ever-expanding technology.

If you look back maybe ten years ago, records and cassettes were learning tools. Nothing was digital. Only in the last year have we seen many singers holding their iPhones to sing, instead of sheet music. I am guessing that downloadable learning tracks, and music have made **Dan Smith's** (and others) jobs much less demanding and time consuming. **Skype-like Apps**, to some degree, have even made it possible to have quartet rehearsals from remote locations. **YouTube** has unlimited opportunities to hear (and see) various quartets, coaches, instructors, choruses and more, to an extent only

**8th Annual  
BHS Open  
benefiting  
Harmony Foundation  
Elk River Country Club  
Monday  
August 10, 2015  
12:00 p.m. start  
Register on line at  
[bhsopen.com](http://bhsopen.com)**

dreamed of not that long ago. The list of the things grows exponentially. But, sometimes I begin to think that we have gone about as far as we can. Then a new, creative idea, technique, or device smacks me in the face in a way that just blows my mind like does that cold weather-beam wind.

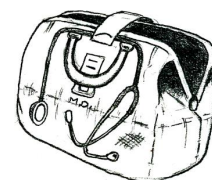
On that note of optimism, however, I am really looking forward to the New Year. So many good opportunities, so many new faces to meet, so many words I haven't used in the Grind.

Now, how about sitting down and

making a list of things you haven't done yet with the Commodores and singing. Try a quartet, learn all of your music right away, work on your technique, get some coaching from our good Super-coach, **James Souhan**, and be determined to have more fun, no matter how little joy you get from it. Further, *I'm going to sit right down and write myself* more findings about the Big Reveal, the origins of Georgia Grind. Then soon, I can "reveal" all I have found over the years.

Finally, 2015 will be a great year to do some expanded recruiting so consider resolving to do so. Singers often hang out in church choirs, Karaoke bars, community-theatre casts, your workplace. And, you can even recruit like **Jim Richards** did by encouraging his son and grandson, **Andy** and **Matt**. Look around. Singers are there. In the meantime, hold fast to that which is good! Happy Year that is New.....

**Doc's  
Bag**



*By Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor*

The Commodores to a man were not satisfied with their performance at last month's Christmas show. The ladies were at their best and were so because their director, **Judy Olson**, has for many years fostered a *Christmas in July* tradition at which time the music and learning tracks for their chorus numbers (not the SATB charts) are introduced. Thus the ladies have months to learn the music. I would suggest that the Commodores inaugurate a similar program.



**Hardin Olson**

\*\*\*\*\*

I hope to get the Chord-Inator back on schedule. It would be a great help if all contributors would faithfully heed the deadlines your bedraggled editor sets. Thanks in advance!

**Northern Pines Harmony Brigade**

*By David Speidel, NPHB President*

The NPHB continues to build momentum; 79 singers from all over the LOL District and the US are registered for a fun weekend of quartetting and fellowship highlighted by a Friday-evening, in-house quartet contest to be judged by **Judy Olson, Judd Orff, and Duane Rygg.**

A Saturday evening show is open to the public and if you choose to attend I guarantee that you won't be disappointed. You'll hear lots of good quality singing from the 79-man Brigade chorus and our good friends and headliners, *Sound Image*, from Willmar, Minnesota. The show will be held on February 21, 7:00 p.m. at the beautiful Crowne Plaza Hotel & Convention

**Northern Pines  
Harmony Brigade  
An eXtreme  
quartetting experience.  
February 20-22, 2015  
Crowne Plaza Hotel  
Plymouth, Minnesota  
Register Now!**

Center, 3131 Campus Dr., Plymouth, MN 55441.

If you wish to stay the night, the hotel has excellent rates considering the very high quality (4.5 rating) of the accommodations which also include a great Sunday morning

breakfast/buffet. The hotel telephone is 763/559-6600 and their e-mail [reservations@cpplymouth.com](mailto:reservations@cpplymouth.com).

For those who are in the Brigade, keep posted on the Commodore Groupanizer Calendar for additional group-practice dates. These are not mandatory. Just trying to give guys an opportunity to sing with *live bodies*. It is good practice to get away from the perfect renditions you hear on the learning CDs.

For advance show ticket purchases contact **Mark Bloomquist**. His e-mail is [mbloomquist@meagher.com](mailto:mbloomquist@meagher.com). For more information call or talk to him at chapter meeting. As we did last year we plan to offer special ticket pricing to our Commodore members.

**Chord Candy #129**

*by Dr. Jim Richards, Der Tagmeister*



**Jim Richards**

Tomorrow morning's forecast is for minus-12 degrees Fahrenheit with wind chills much colder; the timing could not be better! Ebie and I are leaving for the Mid-winter convention in New Orleans and following it up with a cruise to the southern Caribbean. I know it is a tough job, but somebody has to do it! The cold weather does bring to mind a whimsical tag I wrote for the Friday Lunch Bunch that meets on Thursdays. It is meant to console all those who are not escaping Minnesota's harsh winter by going to warmer climes. Another consolation — Check out the TV option for viewing the events of the Mid-winter Convention.

When new snow has fall- en while I'm in pa - jam- as, I  
pull up the cov- ers and dream of Ba- ham- as!

## Quartet Quaffs

### Four Seasons

Christmas has passed into memory, but the memories are nearly always pleasant and bring warm smiles of joy across many faces. We sang a song about Santa having a tummy tuck, and apparently it turned out to be a seasonal success because there were absolutely zero, nada, zippo reports of emergency calls to extricate Santa from even one chimney. Add that to the miracle of reindeer flying and you know every little boy and girl, even the baritones, was delighted beyond measure.



Rollie Neve

Which brings to mind some of the lyrics of those reindeer songs. In "Tummy Tuck," for example, Santa said good-bye to his elves, but his reindeer stayed with him... because Santa liked venison. As I understand it, venison refers to deer, not reindeer. Maybe we have another miracle here, that when a reindeer is processed for food it becomes a deer. Frankly, I don't know how to explain it any other way...perhaps poetic license?

And the New Year burst on the scene amidst great revelry, fanfare, *Auld Lang Syne* and football fatigue. And in an instant a bent over old man was transformed into a baby in diapers, signifying a fresh new start for everyone, need I say baritones included? So we look forward to another Barbershop year with singing valentines and our annual show with a three-ring circus theme on the near horizon. A hearty helping of happy and heavenly harmonious moments harkens to heighten euphoria of a chord-ringing New Year. It's time to insert here-with: It's great to be a Commodore!

To those of us that enjoy the winter in Minnesota, with snowboarding, snowmobiling, ice fishing, cross-country skiing, winter-wonderland scenery, saunas, snowshoeing, warm

crackling fireplaces, no mosquitos and the like, there is no better place to be. However, those who are less enamored with sub-zero temperatures often opt for checking in to warmer climes. Such is the case with our bass, Tom, who is now attempting to get a suntan in Florida.

That puts a hole in our performance calendar, and leaves your writer to only fantasize about the many audiences that will have to postpone entertainment from the *Four Seasons* until the snow melts and the sun is higher in the sky. That will take the major part of the first quarter.

The ongoing investigation into the **Jim Erickson** chord-ringing caper, however, continues with added zeal. In the last issue, you recall, there



was the mention of "A **TINGE OF TERROR.**" We were on the subject of the birch-wood outhouse that is prominently displayed in every article about the **Georgia Grind**. We were searching for the outhouse manufacturer's trade mark (**BJS** - for *Birch John Society*) without success. This suggests that the trade mark is on the inside of the outhouse and also suggests that this entire chord-ringing caper could be an inside job.

We don't know, of course, if this celebrated outhouse is a one or two holer (or even more), and whether or not each hole was covered or not. You see, if a hole is open the overtone series could be negatively affected (an expert opinion from **Jim Richards** is called for here). This could possibly be the solution to our investigation, but too many variables prevent its acceptance. We do know, however, that it must be a baritone on the throne, and that he is

singing. Granting the benefit of doubt, we conclude he is singing in tune, because imperfect tuning destroys the overtone series.

The question then arises, what is he singing? There is insufficient evidence to identify the song, because all we see are notes emanating from the structure and escaping to the atmosphere. So it could be any song, like *After Dark* for instance.

Which raises another question: Is there a light in the outhouse? If so, the song could be *Shine On Me*. Suffice it to say we don't know the title. We do know that the baritone part picks up the left over parts of chords, and those notes by themselves don't make much sense. Oh, no! Suddenly, there's a **TINGE OF TERROR!** Could it be that this baritone, our beloved **Jim Erickson**, is...is...is singing a **BARITONE SOLO?** Oh, perish the thought. I'm terror-stricken.

What will this do to the Minneapolis Commodores? Will it affect our recruiting efforts? **Harvey Weiss**, help me out here. We must come to grips with this possibility. Is it bombshell of an issue that should come before the Board, particularly the newly-installed Board? Should the Music Committee be called into emergency session? This terror has me traumatized. It's difficult for me to go on. I may have to take a sleeping pill to get to sleep tonight.

Barbershop is so pure with well-tuned, ringing chords. The terror of discord is almost more that I can handle. Perhaps an appeal to Baritonia will help. But I don't have access to Baritonia. Woe is me. I'm sorry, dear hearts, but this investigation has hit a barrier that cries for removal before this investigation can continue. It may take some time. In the meantime any assistance and your prayers are solicited. I know some soothing, well-tuned chords will help, and I'll be indulging in that therapy. More in this ongoing saga will evolve in the next issue of the CHORD-INATOR.

**Rollie** for **Dan, Rich, and Tom**



The Minneapolis Commodores proudly present:

# Under The Big Top

APRIL 11, 2015

2 Big Shows!  
3 & 7:30 pm

Benson Great Hall – Bethel  
University, St. Paul, MN



## Lions & Tigers & Bears - OH MY!

Be prepared for non-stop, edge of your seat entertainment, right from the very first pratfall to the final ringing chord. You'll be treated to soaring a-cappella harmonies in the Barbershop style. Did we mention there will be clowns? If you're brave enough to watch **Booming Basses** being fired out of cannons, spine-tingling notes being sung by the high-wire aerialists (our **Tenors**), mayhem in the **Baritone** section as they chase the ever elusive 7th chords, and our **Lion-Taming Leads**, staring down the king of the jungle as they search for the melody, we'll have it all.

Our afternoon show will feature the **Now & Then Singers** from Lakeville North High School and The **Benson Family Singers**. Our evening show will feature 2013 Land O' Lakes District Quartet Champions **Kordal Kombat**, a dynamic young Barbershop quartet that sings classical, gospel, pop, doo wop, jazz and everything in between.

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**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**

- March 1, Food Shelf performance, Faith Presbyterian, Minnetonka.
- March 28, 10,000Lakes Division Contests
- April 9, 2015, Tech rehearsal for “Under the Big Top”, Benson Hall, Bethel University.
- April 11, 2015, “Under the Big Top”. Benson Hall, Bethel University.

**District Level**

**International Level**

**2014 Barbershopper Of The Year  
*Rod Vink***

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

- Gordy Aumann
- Jim Erickson
- Rollie Neve
- Hardin Olson
- Rich Ongna
- Mark Ortenburger
- Jim Richards
- Dave Speidel
- Bill Warp



**CHORD-INATOR**

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