

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

NOVEMBER 2015 - VOL. 71 - NO. 10

Oshkosh B'Gosh...

The Cheeseheads put on a really fine show!

It was on to Wisconsin for the *Fall 2015 Land O'Lakes Convention and Contests* in Oshkosh the weekend of October 22-25. The weather was on the brisk side and the contest venue was some distance from the Best Western Headquarters hotel and the other lodging sites. However, the *Alberta Kimball Auditorium* in the Oshkosh West High School with its broad, deep stage, its unobstructed sight-lines and its magnificent acoustics more than made up for its rather inconvenient location.

Twenty-three quartets vied for the gold Friday evening and all performed quite well. When the dust had settled ten quartets had earned a place in Saturday's quartet finals. With an 89-point spread from top to bottom the top three were separated by only eight points. (What is **Doug Miller's** standard prophetic admonition, "One point per song per judge?")

Finishing 18th was the Minneapolis Chapter's, **Swype**, with tenor, **Ken Wentworth**, lead, **Conrad Ward**, baritone, **Mark Bloomquist**, and **Bill Ward**, bass. They did themselves proud, taking the stage like they owned it, and singing better than ever. Bill Ward continues to fight his

devastating illness like a true champion and absolutely refuses to let anything get in his way.

Because of an unavoidably late start, the ADC Show, scheduled to follow the quartet preliminaries, suffered from a lack of audience. The unusually late hour induced many of Saturday's chorus performers and supporters to forego that performance.



CHORD SMASH, the 2015 LOL Novice AND overall Quartet Champions from left to right: Sam Sather, tenor; Erik Eliason, lead; Scott Perau, bass; and James Estes, baritone.

39 men onstage, came out on top. The *Commodores* placed second comfortably ahead of third-place *Fargo-Moorhead* by 21 points. *St. Croix Valley*, with its best contest performance ever, placed fifth and earned the *Most Improved* trophy.

All in all, it was a well-run convention. The *Oshkosh Chapter* did itself proud.

Starting time for Saturday's chorus contest was 10:00 a.m. At the conclusion of the event a dozen choruses had trod across the stage. The *Commodores* had the largest contingent with 60 men on stage; The *Festival City Chorus* from Milwaukee fielded the lowest number with 14.

Midwest Vocal Express, with an A-level performance and only

**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
TreasurerJohn Carlotto 952/925-0886

Board Members

Through 2017

Dean Lambert.....612/727-3909
Matt Richards651/983-8021
Andy Tate.....612/825-1942

Through 2016

Andy Cook.....651/688-6459
Andy Richards.....651/939-9313
Nate Weimer.....316/204-8756

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 LeadersDave Speidel
Assistant - Matt Richards
Bass Section Leaders.....Jim Richards
Assistant - Dave Caspersen

Committee Chairmen

Altruistic Programs Chairman.....Denny Maas
Audio/Visual Mgr.....Kirk Douglas
2015 Show Chairman.....Gary Jacobson
2016 Show Chairman.....Dave Speidel
Afterglow Chairman.....Travis Wuttke
Attendance/Sgt.-at-Arms.....Vacant
BOTY Party Chairman.....Dick Riemenschneider
Chord-Inator Staff
EditorDr. Hardin Olson
Senior Columnist.....Jim Erickson
Artist.....Glenn Retter
Chorus Performance Managers.....John Lloyd
Bob Ostergaard
Grants Research.....Nate Weimer
Groupanizer Anministrator.....Matt Richards
Harmony Foundation.....Vacant
Historian.....Mark Bloomquist
Learning Tracks.....Dan Smith
Librarian.....Carl Pinard
Name TagsDan 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.)
RosterDr. Jim Richards
Singing Valentines.....Neal Mortenson
SunshineRich Ongna
Swipe EditorBill Warp
Tickets/A-Commodears President.....Diana Pinard
Transportation Mgr.....Dick Hartmann
Uniform Committee Chairman.....Vacant
Uniforms (Dress & Casual).....Dan Williams

Godspeed, Jack ...



**John (Jack) N. Beaver
1940 - 2015**

Jack Beaver, a baritone, was a proud and dedicated Barbershopper for 52 years, most of them as a loyal Bloomington Chapter member before moving to the Commodores some 15 years ago.

Jack could never get away from Barbershop after his chapter meetings because his wife, **Sharon**, an active member of the *Sweet Adelines City of Lakes Chorus*, was always at home eagerly awaiting a report about the evening's activities.

Jack, however, didn't always come right home after the chapter meetings. It was because of the lure of the (in-)famous *Afterglows* at the Richfield American Legion Hall. There he could be found with his usual pitcher of Diet Coke enjoying the banter, the gang and tag singing, the in-the-shell peanuts and, once in a while, even a slice or two of pizza.

Jack's other avocational life centered around his long tenure with the *Zurah Shrine* and its marching band in which he played tuba. It is the sad ironic fact that it was while attending the annual Shrine Convention in New Orleans that Jack passed away, peacefully, in his sleep.

His quiet demeanor and gentle na-

"Where do we go from here, boys...?"

By Paul Wigley, Director (and Society Music Category Specialist)

As most of you Commodores know, I am currently the Music Category Specialist for the *BHS Contest and Judging Committee*. This means I get to do all sorts of things that take a lot of time via e-mail, Facebook, etc., etc.!

But as long as I will only be doing this for just over another year, I thought I might give you a little insight about the types of things that we on the C&J Committee are charged to do. I would also be very interested to hear any and all opinions that you men might have. (Right now you have a pretty direct input-line through me as to where the Barbershop Harmony Society is headed!)

After the Society's recent fall-contest season, all of the Music judges must submit a short write-up on the contests they judged and bring up any topics that might be considered controversial or out of the ordinary. Most of the time these submissions are about what songs or arrangements begin to "NOT" be in the Barbershop style. And then the race is on....

It's a time of moderate (say "extreme?") changes in what we accept as being Barbershop music. However the basic characteristics remain:

- Melody in the *second* tenor (not in first tenor, which is what glee club music presents)
- Only *four* different harmony parts; *no* instrumental accompaniment

Go to Wigley, Page 3, Column 1



ture were complemented by his ever-present, warm, twinkling-eyed smile. He will be missed

Wigley from Page 2

- All parts must be primarily *homophonic*, that is singing word sounds at the same time. Chords should be for the most part within the Barbershop-chord vocabulary (You know when you hear them and there can't be any super *jazzy* chords.)
- And chord-unity and unity and contrast must be contained within the arrangement itself. Those basics we must strive to make every effort to preserve.

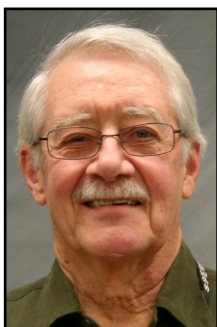
About a contest arrangement we used to say "it needs to have at least 33% Barbershop 7th chords," until the Music judges realized that it was virtually impossible to accurately hear that chord percentage in performances. It depended upon where the chords occurred, how they resolved, etc. So, that "33% rule" was discarded. However, we still want to hear a high percentage of Barbershop 7th chords. We also have a rule about something called secondary dominants. (A chord needs to resolve from a VI or II chord around the *Circle of Fifths*. Just ask **Jim Richards** if you want more information...he'll be happy to explain [I'm sure!])

Recently a very interesting philosophical discussion has begun. Which is the bigger mistake, changing a whole bunch of chords in the original song to make it more Barbershop or to stay more true to the original song, and not use as many Barbershop devices to try to fit a song into our strict style? This is a difficult dialog, because, as a lifelong music educator, I have a passion about being true to the original composer's intentions.

I never felt I had the right, as a conductor, to take great liberties with a composition. My job is to interpret the music in a way that was true to what the composer wanted, and to connect that music with the audience. NOW, as a hardcore Barbershop singer, I also want to sing Barbershop chords that ring, and sing the cool swipes, echoes, and tags that so richly embellish our art form. Where do we

From the Prez ...

By Gordy Aumann, President



Gordy Aumann

Well, Oshkosh is behind us and the Christmas Show is fast approaching. I want to personally thank all of you who worked so hard to present an excellent set of songs for the LOL District Contest. We did our best, and after all second place is quite good. The post-contest evaluations were very interesting to say the least! Where was that Performance judge coming from?

Congratulations must go to *CHORD SMASH*, with our own **James Estes**, for winning the gold in the quartet competition and picking up the novice championship along the way. They blew everybody, competitors and audience, away!

Now, our challenge is to put our best learning hats on and polish our Christmas music. As you long-timers know, we only need to memorize our *Commodores-only* songs. We will use our music folders when singing the SATB charts with the *Twin City Show Chorus*.

Over the next few weeks there will be two rehearsals with the ladies, so keep be alert for announcements about those special times. It's going to be a great show with other small groups joining us. Christmas is a fantastic season. Let's hope we can all of the seats with our families and friends.

draw the line between adding all that fun-Barbershop, and still be true to the original composition? A very compelling question, to say the least.

I'd love to hear your thoughts on this issue, because it will be help determine what we will hear in the future on our Barbershop-contest stages. And as always...it's GREAT to be a COMMODORE!

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



Chapter members are always welcome to attend the Board meetings.

By Bill Warp, Secretary

From the meeting of October 15

- **Membership-Harvey Weiss:** Four new members and 19 repeaters thus far have visited this year.



Bill Warp

- **Music and Performance - Carl Pinard:** The *Hot Commodity Quartet* and others will be performing at a *YouthLink* function on November 2.

The Chapter Board has been invited to attend.

Bob Dykstra has offered to emcee the 2016 Annual Show.

- **Marketing - Peter Jarnberg:** Peter will be taking a grant-writing course [and has?] on October 28.

Denny Maas and **Blake Wanger** will draft and distribute a survey regarding the direction of our chorus and asking suggestions of the members for the most enjoyable and rewarding ways to get there.

• Old Business:

Now that the nut-sale deadline has passed, the *Give-to-the-Max* drive will be promoted beginning November 3.

The purchase of the *Four Seasons* sound equipment has been finalized.

Ken Wentworth has volunteered to be an alternate driver for the riser trailer.

New Business: Paul Swanson explained the *PayPal* procedure. Each transaction costs a fee of 3%. *PayPal* will be available for Christmas-show tickets.

Happy Birthday

- 11/10 Bob Ostergaard
- 11/14 Helga Egertson
- 11/15 Don Bartels
- 11/19 Susan Krekelberg
- 11/23 Barbara Aumann
- 11/24 Russ Born
- 11/26 Jim Johannsen
- 11/26 Diana Pinard
- 11/27 Kelly McKown
- 11/29 Darrell Egertson
- 11/29 Jim Foy
- 12/02 Sheila Cole
- 12/02 Linda Speidel
- 12/03 Jeanne Bloomquist
- 12/05 Judy Knutson
- 12/06 Ben Wanggaard

Happy Anniversary

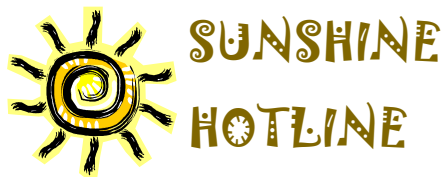
- 11/15 Dan & Beverly Slattery
- 11/19 Ken & Karen Wentworth
- 11/27 Lawrence & Martha Smalley

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

Karin' to go!



Swype is shown here ready to go on stage on chorus-contest Saturday. They gave us a great show on Friday evening when they took 18th place out of 23 in the quartet semi-finals. They performed with a little bit of swagger and great self-confidence.



By Rich Ongna, Sunshine Chairman

Phone: 952-829-7009

Email: ddongna@usfamily.net

The Commodores extend their sym-



Rich Ongna

pathies to **Sharon Beaver** and family in the passing of **Jack** on October 10. A memorial service was held for him on October 31 at Holy Nativity Lutheran Church in New Hope. The Commodores sang in the service.

The Commodores are also planning to sing in the morning service at Trinity Lutheran of Minnehaha Falls on November 15 in tribute to **Loren Berthilson**.

Glenn Retter returned to chorus on October 6, thanks to TPA, after his close call with a mild stroke the preceding week. He is doing well.

AND I'm happy to report that no one is ill of motion sickness after our close encounters with many roundabouts in Oshkosh for LOL District Convention. The West High School auditorium was a great venue and I thought it was a great competition for quartets and choruses.

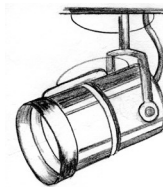
Remember: Please keep me informed about who is ailing and don't assume that I already know because generally I'm in the dark. Help me brighten the days of our ailing members. Just a short note of encouragement or a brief phone call can make the day of a person who's not feeling well.



October Reenlistments

Tony Lapakko..... 2 yrs.

Commodore Spotlight



Dan True is that ...

remarkably dedicated and talented lead-singing Barbershopper who like a cat seems to have a number of lives, the participation and duties of which require quantum amounts of time and energy.

Most amazing is that although he seems fully committed to all of his ventures, he seems rarely conflicted by their schedules.

For example, Dan has been a faithful Commodore and been a valuable resource for our Presentation team.

In addition he has dual membership in the *Hilltop Chapter* where he also is active in their administration.

And for relaxation Dan is currently serving as the *LOL District Executive Vice-President* and is probably looking forward to the time he can get a little rest and relaxation in the *President's* office.

Along the way Dan has worked to become an excellent master of ceremonies as witnessed by his recent appearance at the District Quartet Contest Semi-finals.

Dan's remarkable work ethic is a prime example for all of us. The Commodores are privileged and proud to count him a Minneapolis Chapter member.



SUPPORT HARMONY FOUNDATION

Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, *Based-on-a-True-Story* Baritone

Part Two, Continued from the October issue)



Jim Erickson

As we left the narrative in October: *The horses became anxious, jumpy, wide-eyed with stark terror as Doc unhitched them and vaulted into the carriage,*

his bag banging loudly against the dashboard. A banging that was completely lost in the loudening drums of thunder that almost overwhelmed even Doc's screams to the horses to "Giddy up, damn you, giddy up!" Oh, this was a night that even the biggest fool in hell would not set a foot outside. No one, that is, but Doc.

And then the weather dogs of war were unleashed. And the menacing warriors could no longer be restrained. They started with tree-snapping, barn-tumbling wind gusts. Wham, bang and the terrible damage was done. Then the stones of hail, the size of big, red radishes, were hurled with all the hatred and frustration the fighters could muster. Throwing a blanket over the moon and stars, the darkness was complete.

Except next, the most feared weapon was unleashed like a dagger savagely yanked from its scabbard. Lightning. LIGHTNING. Not the occasional strike at some distance with several seconds between the flash and the corresponding boom. No. Instead, it seemed every lightning bolt-armed soldier threw his eye-blinding spear in a festering shower of laser-light. And once begun, kept on throwing—and throwing—and incessantly throwing!

Now the absolute dark exploded with light from cloud to ground. With each strike, the piercing spears drew closer, evermore blinding. Only the car-

riage top saved Doc a little from the rain and icy stones. And as the storm reached its horrifying peak, it happened. Doc had just topped a small hill when one of the spear bolts hit its mark.

In slow motion, it gathered a huge charge from the nearby clouds, looked for a prominent target and found the small carriage speeding and careening to outfox the storm. An iron brace running the length of the wooden tongue between the two fine steeds was too attractive to resist and all that terrifying power found its target in the iron.

Thrown from the carriage seat like a daring human missile in a circus-cannon act, Doc struggled to stumble to his feet. Several minutes passed as his addled brain foggily



Reading the *Georgia Grind*

tried to figure out what had just happened and what...what to do next?

The carriage was destroyed, the tongue was blown into matchsticks and the whiffletree was almost welded to one wheel rim. The beautiful cinnamon mare shuddered as it lay dying near the barbwire fence. The black had gotten to its feet, but was plainly stunned. Cutting him from the harness, Doc grabbed what reins he could and led the horse away a few steps. As stormy dark dragged on, Black seemed to groggily return to his senses. His glazed eyes looked blearily to Doc for the next com-

mand. Hoisting himself painfully, but agilely, onto Black, Doc looked over to the familiar path back. "OK, buddy, let's head home."

Having wiped out the fist-shaking, belligerent target that had dared to taunt the weather gods, the lightning brigade seemed satisfied with its blinding terror and called a cease-fire. Some recalcitrant soldiers refused to stand down and hurled a few more aimless strikes, but the battle had moved on, only to finally wither and disband a few miles away.

I suppose you are wondering at this point what this has to do with Barbershop singing. You do know that our esteemed, award-winning editor, Doctor Hardin Olson, obstinately demands that every article have some connection to Barbershop [Harken the capital "B"!]. And you are wondering how I am going to get out of this mess. Surgery, horses, lightning, death, no sex? Ah, never fear dear reader. In reading an old history book, I came across the term, "whiffletree." I had no idea what it was. No idea. So I looked it up and from a true story in that history book about a doctor, and a lightning strike to a whiffletree, I ginned up the above. So?

So? A whiffletree is a wooden, axle-like shaft a couple of inches thick or so, maybe five feet long, with iron eyes at each end. I suppose they vary and some are more complex depending on horse numbers, etc., but all seem to focus all the pulling energy of each horse into the rod and in the center of the rod is another eye that attaches to the carriage. Okay. I am not a horse person, much less a carriage reins and tack (?) person. You are excused if you are laughing your guts out. But, I progress. The rod equalizes the power of each horse, focuses it and adjusts it if one horse pulls harder than the other or the pulling is not synchronized. (Boy, this probably sounds really stupid the way I have described it.)

Let's get on with this. Like the team *Go to Grind*, Page 6, Column 1

Grind from Page 5

of horses, a chorus can take its vocal power in many directions and with different strengths and powers. But the director is there to hold the reins and harnesses to equalize the power for the finest result. As with runaway horse teams, he is in charge of keeping things under control as he listens for the best and most balanced performance.

Sections of the chorus can, and do, perform with different strengths, at different paces and with many other variables. But like the whiffletree, if the power can be intelligently focused and equalized, beautiful, beautiful harmony can be created. Whiffletree? Barbershop? Here's a thought. Just think of your director as a wooden shaft and a couple of iron brackets that keeps concentrating the singing power to ever better sound.

Now you are a little more informed than when you started this article. Also, considerably older. But thanks for your attention and patience.

And as with the whiffletree, focus

your energy on recruiting and holding fast, through all life offers, to that which is good. Whew!



Doc Hardy's Buggy

Oh, but was this the end of the Doc Hardy story? Was this night of anxiety, fear, agony, healing, excitement, death and release over? This rutted road, though familiar, held its own pack of trouble and ultimate

testing for those who had paid it but the scantest homage. Like a stiffed lady of the evening, the road would find the means to have its own way when it decided to wreak its own brand of terror.

And was the road alone, the only dark night phantom to torment Doc that night? For Hardy, hardly! Astride his storm-wobbled horse, Doc had just come to Devil's Corner. A vaporous turn in the wooded ravine where some travelers had disappeared, assumed dead. The trees bowed by the dying storm now seemed to hover over Doc like ghostly *whatevers*.

A giant whoosh of wind made the woodpecker holes in the trees moan and whistle like a broken flute. Flinging through the air came an ugly, stump of a limb. Thud, right in front of hooves. Bug-eyed would be a pale description of what Doc saw in his horses' eyes. Doc could cling to the makeshift reins, yeah, but when his spooked ride reared up, the surprised Doc was hurled into the arms of...

To be continued (Maybe, if you beg.)

Chord Candy #138

by Dr. Jim Richards, *Der Tagmeister*

If my memory serves me it was in the mid-1970s and I was riding in a car driven by the late **Lloyd Steinkamp** ("Stud Loincloth" by his friends) on our way to a long forgotten LOL chapter visitation. Lloyd had just learned a **Burt Szabo** tag and he proceeded to teach me, by rote, all four parts. I wrote then down in "Barbershop shorthand" on the back of an envelope. I recall Lloyd's remark indicating that Burt had created his tag as an alternative to the famous "Behind." tag, familiar to almost all Barbershoppers, appearing as Tag #11 on Page 4 of the David Wright *Classic Tags* collection.



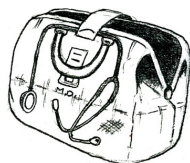
Jim Richards

Getting started on this tag can be a bit tricky. I suggest that you start on Chord #2 (an Eb Major triad) with the Lead's Eb on the root, Tenor and Bass, each on Bb, doubling the 5th two octaves apart, and the Bari's G-nat on the 3rd. Having established that chord, go back to Chord #1 by moving the Tenor and Bari down one half-step to A-nat and Gb, respectively, and the Bass up one half step. Voila! You are on the starting chord, a Cb Barbershop 7th chord where the Lead is on the 3rd. (That chord is the flat VI of the I chord for those who care.) It is a most interesting way of getting started on a classic tag that can provide a great deal of satisfaction for those courageous enough to take the risk. Enjoy!

be - hind. _____

When I leave the world be - hind. be - hind.

Doc's Bag



By Doctor Hardin Olson, Editor

A wonderful Minnesota October, filled with remarkably beautiful weather and a plethora of glorious tee-times, has come and gone again...as has, somewhat ruefully, the 2015 LOL District Fall Convention and Contests.



Hardin Olson

The drive to Oshkosh on Friday, the 22nd, was pleasant and uneventful at least until we (**Rollie Neve** was with me) encountered those confounded round-a-bouts. An occasional circle is tolerable but three in a row was too much.

Finally we reached our destination, the *Hilton Garden Inn*, where we checked in and then wound (literally) our way to the Alberta Kimball Auditorium at West Oshkosh High School.

Unfortunately we missed the first nine quartets but thoroughly enjoyed the last 14. Wanting to get a good rest we skipped the ADC show to get a full-night's sleep before Saturday's impending chorus contest.

The day dawned and 60 stalwart Commodores assembled at the West High band room for warm up and some final fine-tuning.

Leaving the contest stage that afternoon we all felt that we had performed at a higher level than in the past and were sure that we were to be much closer to the elusive "A" level. But alas, our hopes were dashed when our score of 75.4% was announced.

Back in the band room for the A & R (the second session, much to our chagrin) 30 or more Commodores gathered to hear what three of our contest

judges had to say about our performance.

First to expound was a Performance judge who, for my concern for his future safety, shall remain anonymous. Early on, his rather tactless remarks nearly incited a vociferous rebellion when stating that our lack of emotional focus confused him as well as it surely must have confused our audience. Thus our visions of an "A" score in that category were erased. However our other two critics, **Adam Reimnitz** (Music), and **Warren Hettinga** (Singing), were much more considerate with their comments but the results were the same—solidifying our 75.4% score.

Disappointing, yes! But looking on the bright side, five of six of our scores were within five points of one and other, the exception, of course being one Presentation score (see above).

So where do the Commodores go from here? Should we continue on this road having fun with sing-outs, our annual and Christmas shows, and other fun things, all the while underplaying competition?

Or should each member be encouraged to commit to a more rigorous training schedule making chapter meetings a high priority, working in daily learning sessions at home, playing learning CDs while in the car, perhaps taking a voice lesson or two from **James Souhan** or **James Estes**, being on time for chapter meetings, and displaying courtesy, discipline, and total deference to our directors and coaches while on the risers?

The above are attributes of a dedicated Barbershopper who will use them to become the best performer possible for the added benefit of our audiences and to show future contest judges that we deserve to be an "A" level chorus.

Which will it be?

How gratifying it was to have 38 Commodores (along with some

Bloomington members) singing at Jack Beaver's funeral celebration on October 1. The Holy Nativity Church was packed with every seat taken by hundreds of celebrants.

I spoke with Jack's wife, Sharon, after the interment of Jack's ashes in the repository on the church's campus. She was so pleased and grateful for our performance and could hardly believe that so many Commodores had come to pay and sing their respects. Of course that is what Barbershoppers do. She sends her thanks to all of you.

Twenty-fifteen marks the 13th year in this the third stretch of my tenure as editor of the Chord-Inator. It's been a long pleasant journey and I think that with a ton of help I have maintained its quality and repute.

And, I was always certain that if I kept at it long enough, and when all other editors stopped competing, I would win the International Bulletin Contest. Remember 2013?

It has been a great ride and I am most grateful for all of my loyal contributors who still speak to me in spite of my begging and pestering. However my gas gauge is running low and I still yearn for the day when my deadlines will be honored to the letter and I will have no excuse to procrastinate in getting ready for the printer. So, please, I ask you contributors to be considerate of an aging senior citizen.

Some random thoughts...

Since I stopped tending the chapter scrapbooks nothing has been done with them for about eight years. Perhaps a chapter wife would be willing to become the chapter scrap-booker.

Likewise we have a chapter picture board that needs updating. Let's set a time to get it done.

These are things that, including its bulletin, a proud chapter maintains and exhibits thereby espousing our past and helping to insure our future as one of the finest chapters in the Barbershop Harmony Society.

News you can use...

From Carl Pinard, Music VP

The Christmas show this year is going to be spectacular. It's loaded with talent and promises to be a wonderful way to begin the season. So purchase tickets early.

Seating is general admission and beginning this year one can purchase tickets right on the Commodore website. Just sign in to Minneapoliscommodores.org. Click on the Christmas show button. Scroll down, select ticket price, and click on "add to cart." Enter quantity and click on "check out" or "PayPal" depending on method of payment.

Tickets will be mailed so make sure address and phone number are complete. Don't miss this one. It's going to be a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

From Dick Riemenschneider, Nut-sales Chairman

Have you had your nuts today? If you ever passed on nuts because you thought they were fattening you will be relieved to hear that eating nuts is associated with weight loss, not gain. Studies show that people who eat a handful of nuts every day lose more weight than those who skip them.

No longer are nuts relegated to just party mixes and desserts. Spreading the nutty goodness into salads, side dishes, and main courses is a fantastic way to add intriguing taste and texture to meals. Nuts can be puréed to create a smooth, creamy dressing. Pesto, which uses pine nuts as a base, can be enhanced by adding walnuts, pecans or almonds for a new taste sensation.

Throwing a handful of crunchy nuts on a green salad is always a good idea. But why stop there? That nutty topping is equally appealing on cooked vegetables, grains and main courses. A creamy soup can be made more exciting when topped with almond pieces. Stir-fries, curries and pilafs all benefit from a sprinkling of crunchy nuts, as do chicken and fish dishes.

But where do you get these nuts to

enhance your culinary pleasure? Why you can still order nuts from the Commodores if you act before November 17. Just contact your nearest Commodore or email the nut committee directly: Dick Riemenschneider at:

dnriemen@comcast.net

From Harvey Weiss, Give To The Max Day Chairman

Help support the Commodores on Give to the Max Day, Thursday, November 12, all day. Here are the easy steps to make a donation:

- Get on line at www.givemn.org
 - Select DONATE
 - Type in Minneapolis Commodores
 - Click on the black Commodores-logo window to reach the *Donation Page* (has attached video and "Who are we?" info)
 - Select Donation amount
 - Hit continue
 - Fill in your name, etc., and credit card. You will get your tax-deductible receipt in your e-mail the next day.
- The Commodores thank you for your support.



FUNDRAISER

"Give To The Max Day"
Thursday, November 12, 2015

www.givemn.org

(How to Donate, on back)

Don't miss Lakeville Community Theater's production of *Christmas Belles* starring none other than the multitalented star of innumerable Commodore annual shows and the real power behind our esteemed director, the vivacious, the incomparable ... *Becky Wigley!*

Sing we NOW of Christmas

140+

A Cappella Voices
Soaring in Harmony
Featuring

**Twin Cities Show Chorus
and
Minneapolis Commodores**

Vibrant
Girls Quartet
&QUAD
Lakeville North H.S.

Dynamic
and Lively
**BRASS
ENSEMBLE**

High Energy
U of M Mens
A Cappella Ensemble
BASSES WILD

Sunday · December 6th, 2015 · 3 pm
Kennedy High School, Bloomington, MN

Tickets - \$15 · Seniors/Students/Groups - \$12 · Kids under 5 - Free

Minneapolis Commodores



MINNEAPOLIS
COMMODORES

Diana Pinard
pinardbbs@q.com
612.927.9363

minneapoliscommodores.org

Twin Cities Show Chorus



Judy Clement-Lee
judy.leroy.lee@gmail.com
715.426.7975

tcshowchorus.org

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



**1st CLASS
 POSTAGE
 HERE**

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.

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

Logo courtesy of Bob Clark

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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
 NOTES WORTHY
 Harvey Weiss.....763/439-4447
 RANDOM SAMPLE
 Darrell Egertson.....952/943-8737
 SWYPE
 Mark Bloomquist.....952/541-0232
 SOUNDS of RENOWN (VLQ)
 Mark Ortenburger.....952/942-8382

To:

LOOKING AHEAD

- November 12, **Give to the Max Day** givemn.org
 - November 17, Thursday, **Joint rehearsal with TC Chorus at HOP**
 - November 9, **Board Meeting, at Wood-dale Lutheran**
 - December 1, Tuesday, **Joint rehearsal with TC Chorus at Church of Peace Methodist Church, 64th and Xerxes South**
 - December 6, Saturday, **Sing We Now of Christmas with Twin City Show Chorus, Bloomington - Kennedy High School**
 - April 16, 2016, Saturday, **Annual Show**
- District Level**
- January 15-16, 2016, **LOL leadership Training Academy - Lakes Chord College, University of Wisconsin - River Falls**

2015 Barbershopper Of The Year
Rich Ongna

Commodores and others * contributing to this issue.

- Gordy Aumann
- Jim Erickson
- Hardin Olson
- Rich Ongna
- Jim Richards
- Dick Riemenschneider
- Bill Warp
- Harvey Weiss
- 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 beginning with the January 2006 issue.

International Level

- January 26-31, 2016, **Midwinter Convention, Reno, Nevada**
- July 3-10, 2016, **International Convention, Nashville, Tennessee**

**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**