

10,000 LAKES DIVISION - LAND O'LAKES DISTRICT

APRIL 2015 - VOL.71 - NO. 4

Under the Big Top!



Commodores at the 10,000 Lakes Division Contest - Stillwater, March 22, 2015

When Stillwater's *Croix Chordsmen* were announced as the winners of the *Most Improved* trophy and the *Plateau AA Chorus Winners* plaque, I thought, "Uh, oh, its going to be a horse race again." Recall, Commodores, the 2011 10,000 Lakes Division Contest. The Chordsmen were deliriously happy when it was announced that they were Most Improved and they practically leapt from their seats when they were named 10,000 Lakes AA Division Champions, scoring a single-panel 433 points.

Commodores were on the edges of their seats, flushed with a communal adrenalin rush and breathlessly awaiting the Minneapolis score—"First Place with 442 points...Minneapolis!," by only <u>9 points</u>. Wow, what a wakeup call.

Well, wise men say that history has a way of repeating itself and that is exactly what happened in Stillwater on March 28, when the Commodores persevered by 28 *double*-panel points (equivalent to 14 single-panel points). We returned home with the full realization that the Com-

modores have a lot of work to do before LOL's Fall Convention in October.

Sixteen quartets crossed the contest stage that day including two nearly all-Commodore quartets: *Swype* finishing 7th with **Ken Wentworth**, **Conrad Ward**, **Mark Bloomquist**, and **Bill Ward**, and *Ring It On!* finishing 10th with **Tony Lapakka**, **John Von Haden** (Northbrook/Menomonee Falls), **Matt Richards**, and **Andy Richards**. **Chuck McKown**, a dual member with Hilltop, sang tenor with *Cranial Cabbage*, the 5th place finishers.

An analysis of the Minneapolis chorus scores showed that our total Music score of 302 was more on the money, a shade over 75%, while Presentation and Singing scores of 274 each (68.5%), reflected the relatively short time spent on developing the performance package of the set. The Commodores have a lot to do before October 24. Thanks to the *Croix Chordsmen* for the well-delivered kick in the egos. We certainly needed it!

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

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	Assistant - Pete Villwock
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manVacant
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The View From the Top

By Gordy Aumann, President

Thanks to all of you who helped

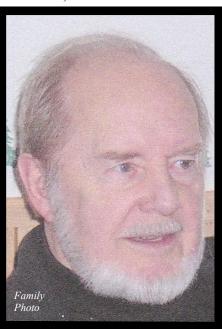


Gordy Aumann

make our Intercongregation Communities Association (ICA) Benefit Concert on March 1, 2015, such a huge success! On that, the first day of Minnesota Food Share month, we raised

224 pounds of food and \$1156 cash (that ICA will be able to double in food value). The ICA Director said this concert served as a fantastic kick-off to the month, and asked if we would consider doing something like this again for the next Food Share month.

Of course, I said we would.



Carmen K. Thorstad 1931-2015

- Loving family man.
- Longtime Commodore in the traditional mold.
- Veteran of 50 years in the U.S. Postal Service, always delivering in every possible way.
- Signed your Editor's SPEBSQSA membership certificate in 1971.

(Don't cry, Little Girl, don't cry!)

SUNSHINE

HOTLINE



By Rich Ongna, Sunshine Chairman

Phone: 952-829-7009

Email: ddongna@usfamily.net

The Commodores extend their sym-



Rich Ongna

pathies to the famofilv Carmen Thorstad who passed away on March 24. He was a devoted Commodore in the past and later an occasional attendee at

TFLBTMOT.

Pat Griffith, Bob's wife, had foot surgery on March 18. It went very well and her healing has progressed to the point she is able to drive again.

Jane Rolloff, Denny's wife, had a heart-ablation procedure done on March 19. It went very well and she is now resuming her normal life style.

Paul Martz has begun his Chemo Therapy treatments in Atlanta, As expected the effects of chemo treatments are challenging so Paul needs our thoughts and prayers. He has set up a Caring Bridge site for reporting status. The website www.caringbridge.org/visit/paulmartz.

John Odden, Leo's son, received his new kidney on Thursday, March 5. Surgery went well and the kidney is functioning properly. John went home on March 8, the donor on the 7th.

The family of Leo Odden is having a memorial service for him on May 2 in Maiden Rock, Wisconsin. The details were in his obituary in the Sunday paper of March 15. I'll remind you of them the week before May 2.

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

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



Chapter members are always welcome to attend the Board meetings.

From the Meeting of March 9

By Bill Warp, Secretary

• Music: Joint Lake Harriet perfor-



July, date to be finalized; the Inner Game of Music retreat proposed by Matchinsky will be rescheduled in the late summer/fall per-

mance with TC Show

Chorus scheduled for

haps with an outside moderator; the 2016 Annual Show is scheduled for April 16, 2016.

- Altruistic Purpose(s): YouthLink has been approved as our philanthropic recipient organization.
- Grant Search: Nate Weimer is taking over the Grants program.
- Membership: Walter Dawson accepted as a new member.
- Truck Replacement: cost for trailer not vet finalized.
- New Business: LOL President Steve Zorn has requested a meeting with the Minneapolis Board to discuss how the Commodores can work for the betterment of the LOL District and in return, what LOL might do in the same vein for the Commodores.



04/11 Chuck & Kelly McKown

04/12 Gene & Karene Heupel (35)

04/22 Jim & Judy Johannsen

04/27 Dick & Sarah Hartmann

04/30 Matt & Allison Richards

WELCOME ABOARD

Walter Dawson, a native of De-



troit. Michigan, lives with his wife. Laura Jane, in Apple Valley. Following high school he earned a BS in Education at Cen-

tral Michigan University. Thereafter, Walter attended the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia, where he began his life's work and now is a retired Episcopal priest.

In his younger days he played the trombone and sang in church choir. Later, while serving a church in Staunton, Virginia, home of the Statler Brothers, Walter became attracted to Barbershopping and more recently found the Commodores on the internet.

Walter has done missionary work in Honduras and works with Camp Chickagami, a Family Camping Center for the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan, in Presque Isle, where the family has a summer home.

Walter joins the undaunted Lead Section.

Happy Birthday

04/12 Janet Johnson

04/14 Char Carlotto

04/15 Barb Aronson

04/15 Jane Huyck

04/16 Dan Slattery (70)

04/18 Kathy Nelson

04/19 Marc Duran

04/19 Sarah Hartmann

04/20 Chuck Gribble (75)

04/20 Romana Jorgensen

04/22 Jamye Casperson

04/24 Bob Dillon

04/26 Walt Macewicz

04/26 Becky Wigley

04/29 Dan Smith

05/04 Dale Lynch

05/05 Roger Meyer

05/06 Kay Foy

05/06 Rich Ongna (75)

05/09 Jim Windey



March Reenlistments

Jerry Koch	10 yrs.
Dave Casperson	12 yrs.
Bob Ostergaard	12 yrs.
John Carlotto	
Jim Erickson	13 yrs.
Mark Ortenburger	14 yrs.
Peter Jarnberg	
Harvey Weiss	16 yrs.
Larry Nelson	18 yrs.
Terry McClellan	
Rod Vink	
Guy St Martin	
JimWindey	
Dan Smith	28 yrs.
Chuck McKown	29 yrs.
Dan True	30 yrs.
David Speidel	
LeRoy Zimmerman	
Gary Jacobson	51 yrs.
Bob Griffith	52 yrs.
JimRichards	
Bob Dykstra	

capital

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

SAVE THE DATE-June 7, 2015

By Dick Riemenschneider, Ladies Night Chair

Plans are underway for the 2015



Dick Riemenschneider

Commodores Ladies Night and Barbershop of the Year event. For those new to the chorus, the members of the Commodores treat their significant others to an evening of good food and drink as a "Thankyou!" for the sup-

port they have provided for us in our four-part harmonious pursuits. Also taking place at this event is the naming of the 2015 Barbershopper of the Year, commonly referred to as the BOTY. The BOTY is a person who has been a Commodore for five years or more and has contributed significantly to the betterment of the chapter.

The event typically starts with a cocktail hour, followed by a sit-down dinner. There is usually entertainment

prior to the naming of the BOTY.

This year's celebration is scheduled for the late afternoon and early evening on Sunday, June 7, and will take



The Great Room

place at the Columbia Manor Reception Hall located at Columbia Golf Course. Columbia Golf Club Manor

was built in 1925 in the Colonial-Revival style. The interior of the Manor retains a great deal of historic integrity, especially in the main-floor Foyer and in the Great Room. The Foyer has extensive painted woodwork, original light fixtures and decorative wrought-iron railings. The Great Room, with its enormous fireplace, shows influences of the Post-Medieval English style, characterized by exposed heavy-timber framing and high- peaked ceilings common in Colonial Revival architecture

This will be an exciting evening of fellowship and camaraderie and a wonderful way for us to thank our partners for their support of our Barbershop endeavors. Further details will be coming soon. I look forward to seeing you there.



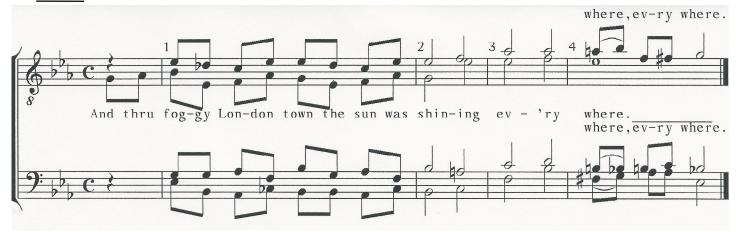
Chord Candy #132

By Dr. Jim Richards, Der Tagmeister"



Jim Richards

A Foggy Day" is a song composed by George and Ira Gershwin. The song was introduced by Fred Astaire in the 1937 film *A Damsel in Distress*. It has since been performed by such notables as Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Dinah Washington, Billy Holiday, Judy Garland, Sarah Vaughn, and many others. I recall it being sung by a Barbershop quartet many years ago but not in contest. At that time this song would not have been considered to be "under the Barbershop umbrella." I expect that it might "Barbershop" quite well by today's standards. The last line of the song provides the lyric for this tag and is probably the reason the song title is popularly recognized as *A Foggy Day in London Town*. Maybe some enterprising quartet or chorus will give this song reconsideration. The tag, at least, sings easily and certainly preserves the Barbershop feel. Give it a try and enjoy!



The Orangu-Tunes sing at the Como Park Zoo

By Dick Riemenschneider, Tenacious

About 125 individuals attended a party that was held on Monday, February 16, 2015, at the Como Zoo in Saint Paul. The event was to announce the name chosen for the newborn orangutan, born on January 7 to mother, Markisa.

Zoo officials chose three names for the baby and asked the public to vote for their favorite. The names Aanjav, meaning unconquerable"; Cinta, meaning "love," and Kemala, meaning "magic stone." All the names are from the Bahasa-Indonesian guage, the native tongue of the country of origin of the Como orangutans. Community members chose the name by donatwinning name was Kemala. pictured: Red-faced Editor.) Zoo officials say the contest raised nearly \$2,000.

Present at the naming party was a Barbershop quartet from the Minneapolis Commodores, members of the Barbershop Harmony Society. The aptly named quartet, OranguTunes, consisted of Gary Jacobson, lead; Rich Ongna, baritone; Lou DeMars, bass; and Dick Riemenschneider, tenor. The quartet

opened the festivities by singing a special version of "Happy Birthday" with original lyrics by Gary as follows:

So today they will name you that's what we've been told.

What a wonderful party you're not very old.

And the news of your birth brings excitement and fame

and the whole world is waiting just



ing money as a way of voting The Orangu-Tunes in action at the Como Park Zoo (left to rt.): Rich for their favorite name. The Ongna, Lou DeMars, Gary Jacobson, and Dick Riemenschneider. (Not may be looking for entertain-

to find out your name.

Happy birthday to you, you're new to the zoo.

What a wonderful party. Happy birthday to you!

After the song zoo officials announced the name of the baby orangutan and then, with Saint Paul dignitaries, spoke about the importance of the orangutan work being done at the zoo. After the tenminute program the quartet provided the closing song, Gorilla of My Dreams in honor of the impending birth of a baby gorilla at the zoo. That particular song also allowed quartet spokesman, Gary, to put in a plug for the Commodores Annual Show, Under the Big Top.

The Commodores thank Nan DeMars for noticing the naming event in the

Star-Tribune and recognizing that the event could be a publicity opportunity for the Commodores. She then called Russ Born and Russ contacted Lindsev Sypnieski, Events Coordinator at the Como Zoo, who then booked the quartet. This quartet performance at the Orangutan Naming could be the start of a nice relationship between the Commodores and the Como Zoo as the zoo has a pregnant gorilla soon to deliver and the staff Photo by Marge Riemenschneider ment for their 100th anniversary celebration this year.

> Editor's Note: My apologies must go to Dick Riemenschneider and to Marge for the inexcusable delay in publishing this worthy piece. It arrived in plenty of time but in the hustle and bustle of the ever-fastapproaching deadline, I just forgot that I had this treasured gem of inspired prose all ready to go.

Mea culpa! Mea culpa!

Tis better to give ...

By Denny Maas, Altruistic Purposes Chairman

As part of our Altruistic-Purpose ef-



Denny Maas

forts, during the last year the Board has been reviewing alternatives for sharing the profits from our annual shows. In the past we have shared more recently with the Barbershop Society's Harmonv **Foundation**

and previously the Minnesota Medical

Foundation's Special Equipment Fund of the University's Variety Club Heart Hospital (to the tune of nearly \$400,000). Our goal was to



find a new and local organization/ charity that would benefit from our philanthropic effort and in addition enhance and broaden the Commodores' musical mission.

At our last meeting, the Board discussed several AP alternatives: the U of M Music Department; a program involving cochlear ear implants for needy youngsters; and Youth-Link. After YouthLink was deemed the most promising choice, a meeting was arranged between me, Gordv Aumann, Harvey Weiss and the YouthLink management team at their facility. Meeting hosts were Frances Roen, Director of Development, Jelena Song, Development and Volunteer

Go to Purposes, Page 6, Column 1

Purposes from Page 5

Coordinator, and Dr. Heather Huseby—all very enthusiastic about working with us.

Yearly, YouthLink provides services to about 2000 of the area's youth, ages 16-23, who are homeless and living on the street. Goals vary between individuals and include completion of drug/alcohol dependency programs, transitioning from the street to school attendance, finding meaningful work, and acceptable, affordable, off-the-street housing.

These young people have no family support but with the assistance provided by Youthlink, most of them are willing to work hard to better themselves and become productive members of our community.

Support is provided through making housing arrangements, maintaining a Food Shelf, offering medical and dental services, and making available a site to develop their artistic talents (voice, dance, and visual arts). YouthLink uses media including 1500 contacts on Twitter and Facebook. In addition, they have an extensive mailing list and internet access is available.

Opportunities available for Commodore promotion of YouthLink include, during our show, setting up a YouthLink table in the Benson Great Hall lobby. Youth Link's WCCO television contacts will promote our show and encouraging their clients interested in vocal music to visit our chapter meetings as well as those of the Twin Cities Show Chorus.

The Bottom Line: Raising money for YouthLink will help them change lives of young men and women who might otherwise be forgotten. Each of our members will have one more reason to be proud to be a Commodore and offer his best performance on April 11 and beyond, to help these young people in need.

Quartet Quaffs

Four Seasons

In the distant past I recall a 3-legged stool that was used to milk cows. That was in the days before milking machines. I have no idea why they used a 3-legged stool and not one with four legs. It must have had something to do with running a dairy farm.

This analogy comes to mind because the *Four Seasons Quartet* is now like a 3-legged stool in search of a fourth leg. Barbershop trios are not too popular, as the sound produced might give someone the impression that we were promulgating a baritone solo. Not wanting to offend any loyal Barbershop audiences with missing notes that not even a baritone could find, the *Four Seasons* sound has been silent since the time of our last *Quaffs*. Sad to say, in the interim, there have not been any titillating investigations into overtone complexities on which to report either.

The thought briefly occurred to me that the internal acoustics of a birchwood outhouse might be worthy of study, but realizing that such a study would involve one-two-three or more, holer models, mitigated its abandonment. So we suffer in silence while the search for singing synergy and a sound solution to satisfy the soul goes on. In the meantime we have the annual show to satiate our appetite for harmony.

It's great to be a Commodore.

1st Annual Bloomington "Memorial" Comedy Quartet Contest

Tuesday, May 19, 2015 - 7:00 p.m. until - Richfield American Legion Post 435 - 6501 Portland Avenue South - All invited - No more than two registered quartet members in a competing foursome - FOOD - Cash bar - Don't miss it!

Ladies Night/BOTY Sunday, June 7, 2015 Cocktails Dinner Entertainment Columbia Golf Course Manor Reception Hall Regale your significant other.

Letters

Hello, Doc.

Enjoy reading the "Chord-Inator" and in doing so, found an error that I suspect has been there for some time. It is under Looking Ahead, District Level, October 23 - 24 Fall Convention. You have it listed as Rochester, Minnesota, and the 2015 LOL Fall District Convention will be held in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

Yes, it was originally scheduled for Rochester, but, with the remodeling of the Civic Center they canceled us out and we were able to reschedule it in Oshkosh on short notice last Spring. Apparently you didn't get the word.

By the way did you know that the first ever [B]arbershop chorus contest in the Society was held in Oshkosh, in July 1946? We are using "Return to Origin" as the slogan for this fall and have attached a copy for your convenience.

Thanks for making the change and keep the Chord-Inator coming.

Bass-fully,

Carl [Grahn]

Editor's Note: Thank you Carl. Could I interest you in job as a proof-reader. We don't offer the customary benefits but we would be willing to offer you two or three times the salaries of the current proofreading staff. Let me know. Thanks again.

Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, Ro-Botic Baritone and Esotericist

FREE BEER! FREE BEER! FREE BEER! Did I get your



Jim Erickson

attention? If so, I just used a simple enticement. That's all. I mean I didn't talk about free flirtations, free chocolate cake, or a free Beemer—just beer. Free? Of course! But, if you have read this far, the offer must have So what's this all

"FREE BEER" offer must have caught your eye. So, what's this all about?

Well, the State of Texas wanted to do something about the growing roadside litter it was facing. How could it say something catchy and familiar to Texans and tie it in with curbing litter? (No pun intended) Texas appealed to Texan-swaggerly emotions by coming up with, "Don't mess with Texas." Over the decade or so after the new anti-littering campaign began, the amount of trash and litter nosedived throughout the state.

That clever slogan was the brainchild of someone who probably didn't rely much, if at all, on computing and apps for tools for the cleverly challenged. I can't figure what took advertising giants so long. Apparently they had cloistered childhoods. Because almost everyone has played the kids game of coming up with a story leaving blanks for an adjective, noun, large number, place to stay, a time, and more. Then next, asking others to come up with any adjective, noun, and so on, to fill in the story blanks. Then the story is read back with the words picked out of the air being inserted into the blanks in the story, the assemblance becomes very entertaining. Sometimes a bit hilarious.

So, how many years did the marketing geniuses take to go back to a very old game that might help them regenerate their wordsmithing livelihood? Whatever, they now want to robotize the power of persuasion or maybe even create robot sales people. Their goal is to come up with the most effective persuasion techniques to get people to click on e-mails. It's as simple a goal as that.

Almost so the clicker is unable to resist Eve's electronic apple and is compelled to do the "click." In other words, according to an article in Fortune Magazine, they want to create a blend of artificial intelligence and linguistics that potential customers just can't help but click. An emotional response would be triggered that would result in a sale. Supposedly, it would take all the guesswork out of writing copy.

With the aim of immediately grabbing and landing prospects, they



want to develop the messages to be as instantly engaging as possible. All tailored by tried and tested emotion-engendering software. Just using specifically chosen words from a database of seductive words that could tantalize the reader just like that children's "fill in the blank" game does.

So what does all that marketing of the future mumbo-jumbo have to do with Barbershop? Perhaps it means that Barbershopping of the future needs to consider things that click from the first glimpse? Even before the first note.

It is no secret that the attention span

of an audience is trending to one of a sound-byte involvement; an "in a nutshell" thirst. Tell me, show me, entertain me, but do it in quick spurts. I guess if we want to stay relevant, we should make some shifts before the ground shifts beneath us. Like the marketers trying to find the most succinct, but abbreviated and effective come-on, Barbershoppers will need to look to making their entertainment be the best.

But how can performers like you and me learn to entice and engage an audience like the robot linguists are trying to do? By really working on drawing the audience in? Become better than even the robot marketeers? You must know that your good looks will only get you so far. It's a new age and we will need to grow with it. Adapt a bit to a sound-byte approach.

But part of the appeal of Barbershop is that it relies on the old-fashioned emotion of love. And hearkens back to earlier times with words that are as touching as they ever were. Again, we are dealing with words, words, words, just like the more crass word-merchants. I have to confess that I don't have any idea how Barbershopping will evolve, but more and more we see changes that must rattle even the most resilient of the old-timer Barbershoppers among us.

And I suppose that's the way it has always been. Except for laptops, TV, tablets, cell phones, e-mail, Facebook and on and on. So, wherever we go from here, it probably won't be as we anticipate. But it will boil down to appealing to the desire to entertain and be entertained.

Man, I have to get over this beingserious streak. Hopefully it will only be a sound-byte, too. Until next time then, hold fast to that which is good, and start recruiting so others can enjoy what you already know is a kick of an experience!

Sad news

The Commodores offer their condolences to Caryl Hansen, John's wife, whose brother passed away on Easter Sunday.

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

All <u>copy</u> and <u>photos</u> 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.

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
RING IT ON	
Andy Richards	651/639-9312
NOTESWORTHY	
Harvey Weiss	763/439-4447
SWYPE	
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



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.



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

Logo courtesy of Bob Clark

1st CLASS POSTAGE HERE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

To:

LOOKING AHEAD

Chapter Level

- April 9, Tech rehearsal for "Under the Big Top," Benson Hall, Bethel University.
- April 11, "Under the Big Top." Benson Hall, Bethel University.
- July (TBA), Lake Harriet with TC Show Chorus.
- July 21, Tuesday, Como Park Area Chapters' Singout.
- July 22, Wednesday, **Maple Grove** performance.
- August 18, Tuesday, Minnetonka performance.
- December 5, Saturday, Christmas Show.

District Level

• October 23-24, Fall Convention, Oshkosh, Wisconsin

International Level

• June 28 - July 5, 2015, **International** Convention, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

2014 Barbershopper Of The Year Rod Vink

Commodores and others * contributing to this issue.

Gordy Aumann

Jim Erickson

Carl Grahn*

Denny Maas

Rollie Neve

Hardin Olson

Rich Ongna

Jim Richards

Dick Riemenschneider

Bill Warp

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