

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

September 2015 - VOL.71 - NO. 8

The 2015 Annual Nut Sale Is Here!

By Nut Man, Dick Riemenschneider

The beginning of September signals the start of the annual Commodores' Nut-sales Drive. We have been supplementing our chapter's budget for over 30 years by holding these sales. In the nine years I have been leading the nut-sales team, \$86,200 has been added to our treasury, an average of \$9,577 per year, a most critical supplement. It behooves every chapter member to solicit customers from friends, relatives, neighbors, and social and commercial contacts; churches, banks, dental offices, barbershops, etc.

These are top-quality nuts from a local supplier, usually less than two weeks from roaster to customer; a claim unmatched by top-tier grocery and specialty stores. Our prices are competitive with the fancy stores (and, in fact, are lower on some items). A lot of our orders get bigger every year because the nuts are so delicious.

This year's sales campaign is facing the consequences of the drought in the western United States. Most of our almonds are grown in the western states and the almond crop has been hit hard. The wholesale cost of almonds has risen over 65% with less drastic cost increases in cashews, pistachios, and walnuts. Our prices will reflect these increases but not in the case of the almonds to the full 65%. Please don't let the price increases scare you from selling. Remember, yours is a first-class product and our custom-

ers are still getting their money's worth.

Gone this year are the old one one-pound freezer bags for our products. New will be a professional clear, food-grade, poly bag still containing one pound of nuts. The new bags are much thicker, will be heat-sealed, and will have a tear-notch enabling them to be re-sealed after initial opening. This improvement will ensure the products are better protected in an air-tight environment particularly if frozen. The new bags will all feature a label with the Commodore logo and the variety of nut inside.

Returning are the gold-foil gift bags, also heat-sealed, re-closeable, and similarly labeled, but with the addition of a "To" and "From" panel for gift giving. Last year 430 of these bags were sold, adding a lot of class to our product. On the order form be sure that the gift-bag count coincides with the type of nuts in the bag.

This issue of the Chord-Inator includes the 2015 Nut-order Form you will need to get started selling. Make copies of or get extras from me, available via email from me in Excel format, and pass out the forms to your customers. Tell your potential customers about the quality and freshness of the nuts and how their nut purchases will assist the Commodores in our mission. All orders must be prepaid. We do not extend credit.

You may turn in orders to me, Dick Riemenschneider, at chapter meetings, via phone 651-487-9993, or e-mail dmriemen@comcast.net as you get them, using the 2015

Go to Nuts, Page 2, Column 2



Dick
Riemenschneider



Riemenschneider's alter-ego

**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**

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President Gordy Aumann 952/935-8869
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Exec. VP..... Denny Maas 952/447-8012
Co-Marketing/PR VPs.... Russ Born 406/670-2098
Pete Jarnberg 651/765-9580
V P Music /Perform..... Carl Pinard 612/927-9363
V P Membership..... Harvey Weiss 763/439-4447
Program V P Dan Cole 612/376-0779
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Treasurer John Carlotto 952/925-0886

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

Through 2016

Andy Cook..... 651/688-6459
Blake Wanger..... 414/699-4950
Nate Weimer..... 316/204-8756

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Assistant Directors: Gary Jacobson, David Speidel,
James Souhan

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Lead Section Leader..... Gary Jacobson
Assistant - Dan Smith
Bari Section Leaders Dave Speidel
Assistant - Open
Bass Section Leaders..... Jim Richards
Assistant - Dave Casperson

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2015 Show Chairman..... Gary Jacobson
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Nuts from Page 1

Nut Order Form (one per customer). Please ensure that orders have the correct amount of cash or a check (made out to *A-Commodears*). Please turn in your orders as you get them so I am not swamped at the last minute. Please, a legible form makes the process easier. For those who track their own orders I will also have some Salesman Nut-order forms available.

I will work with businesses that would like to give nuts as perquisites for favored customers and to get their logo or message on the foil bags. I will need their label, no larger than 4 x 5 inches, ready to put on the bags. Over 8% of last year's sales were for business promotions.

There are other *very important* ways to assist the nut-sales efforts. In the Riemenschneider garage on November 11-13 over one hundred 20-pound boxes of nuts (2,000 pounds) will be packaged into one-pound bags. Help is needed from many willing Commodores to complete the bagging. Talk to me for details.

We promise delivery to our customers by Thanksgiving, November 26. Tuesday, October 27 is the deadline for orders for Thanksgiving delivery. I will be placing the nut order with the supplier the next day (Wednesday morning) to meet the delivery schedule. A week-by-week countdown will be posted at chapter meetings from September 1 to the deadline.

Nuts will be distributed to all salesmen at the chapter meeting on Tuesday, November 17. On that date I will be placing an order for nuts to be sold at the December 6 Christmas show, *Sing We Now of Christmas*. I will accept other orders at that time for those wishing Christmas delivery.

Begin your sales immediately and be sure to collect the money at the time of the transaction. Only prepaid nuts are ordered. Our vendor makes only one delivery and we receive an

From the prez ...

Barb and I have been on vacation.



Gordy Aumann

Yes, retired folks go on vacation, too. For the last week we were "up north" in Minnesota, goofing off and playing golf on a beautifully manicured links, with eagles soaring overhead. Does it get any better than that?

Now it's back to work (at a golf course, of course) and back to singing. We've got a lot of work to do this late summer and early fall. We have to polish our songs for the LOL District contest in October and begin learning four new pieces for our Christmas show, *Sing We Now of Christmas*, with the ladies of *The Twin Cities Show Chorus*.

Certainly we need every active member back on the risers and working hard! It's really important, guys, that you learn your music outside of Tuesdays' rehearsal times so that we can work to internalize the message of our songs, musically and emotionally, for future audiences (and judges) as we rehearse together. If you recall, that's what Sarah Wigley Johnson taught us so well while working with us a few weeks ago.

If we know our music we can concentrate on its message and make both our contest set and our Christmas Show more meaningful for our audiences. After all, isn't that what we sing for?

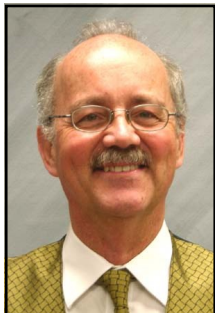
It's great to be a Commodore!

extra 2% discount for payment within 10 days of delivery. *It is essential to collect the money at sale time.* Remember, we purchase, sell, and deliver the freshest nuts of the highest quality. Your sales help the Commodores continue as a first-class Barber-shop chapter.

It's GREAT to be a Commodore!

Hark yee ... the ides of fall

By Paul Wigley, Director



Paul Wigley

Welcome to fall! This time of year always seems like a new start for every activity I'm involved in. Even though my "back-to-school" days are over, there is still a sense that everyone has had an opportunity to get refreshed and rejuvenated during the summer months, and now it's time to get back to business. For the Commodores, that means putting the pedal to the metal and learning new music, refining current repertoire, and changing riser positions, voice parts, etc., etc.

The Commodores are so fortunate to have the recent influx of new members. What great voices, and what great guys! Every Commodore needs to greet these new singers with warmth and gratitude. Committing to a group such as the Minneapolis Commodores is a wonderful opportunity to make new friends, learn new vocal techniques, and make terrific music with other skilled singers. I am always amazed by the consistency of rehearsals and performances by the Commodores, regardless of who are able to be on the risers for a given show date. This summer's performances were all great examples of how fortunate we are to sing in a relatively large chorus. We all know there are conflicts with individual singers during the summer months, but in spite of this, our summer performances were incredible successes that showcased the entertainment value of singing Barbershop!

I also want to thank the guys that sang at Dave Speidel's and Dan Williams' church on Aug. 30. Even with a comparatively small number of singers, it was a great way to say "Thank you!"

to the St. Andrew staff for the times that they generously allow us to rehearse in their space. And then to top it off, a number of us went on to sing at the Twins baseball game just a few hours later. What a great day!

Getting back to our fall schedule, our first order of business was the Fall LOL District contest in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. You guys have been singing the contest package extremely well lately, and I think a couple of things have helped: **James Souhan's** work with vocal technique, and his sharing of new riser positioning; and **Sarah Wigley Johnson's** work on the art of performance. The new riser formation has not only given us better sound, but we all agree that it



Director Wigley (ctr.) just prior to leading the Twin City Area Barbershoppers in the National Anthem at Target Field on August 30.

is simply a lot more fun to sing in a shotgun formation, where you can hear all the parts! Sarah's concept of involvement in the lyrics has given depth to the songs we sing. We just need to remember her quote, "It's not HOW am I doing...but it's WHAT am I doing." Expression, rather than worry, certainly makes music more enjoyable and meaningful. You all have the ability to be expressive (Yes...even you Norwegians!), so just let yourselves go!

After Fall Contest we will be full speed ahead to the Christmas show that will give us the opportunity to learn a couple of new arrangements,

and to also learn some new combined songs with the *Twin Cities Show Chorus*. We also will be joined by the exciting all-men's a cappella group from the University of Minnesota, *Basses Wild*. It's going to be another fun show, and I hope you all can be part of it!

So let's look forward to the start of another "school year" for the Minneapolis Commodores! Keep bringing in new, talented singers, and keep growing in your expectations of yourself...as well as the chorus as a whole. We are very fortunate to all be a part of such a class organization as the Minneapolis Commodores. Thanks for everything that each of you contributes!



**9th Annual
BHS Open
Monday,
August 8, 2016
SCRAMBLE FORMAT
(18 holes with cart and
post-match buffet)
benefiting
Harmony Foundation
Elk River Country Club
12:00 p.m. start
Register on line next
summer
at
bhsopen.com**

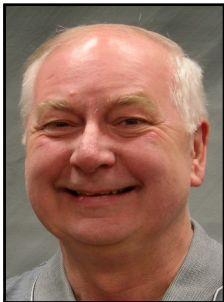
BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



Chapter members are always welcome to attend the Board meetings.

From the meeting of August 20

- **Marketing:** A team will be working to create a more dynamic Facebook presence. **Paul Swanson** would like help for administering the account.



Bill Warp

Mark Ortenburger is chairing a three-man team to work on the Utilization and Production of any and all forms of media used by the Commodores.

The members must be made aware of the importance of sponsorships.

- **Membership:** **Shawn Hunter's** membership application was approved.

On September 17 Committee Chairman **Harvey Weiss** will undergo a familiarization session with the *Give Minnesota* program that will be coming up in November.

- **Music and Performance:** New vests and ties are being considered for the 2016 Annual Show.

Four new charts for the December 6 Christmas show will be introduced in early September.

A performance in memory of **Loren Berthilson** will be scheduled and completed before year's end.

- **Altruistic Purposes:** A director from our current charity, **Youth Link**, will attend our September Board meeting to report how our donations are used.

- **New Business:** A Youth In Harmony event is scheduled for Febru-

ary 6, 2016. **Dan Williams** is the contact person.

Andy Cook has been the trailer-hauler and would like to recruit back-up drivers when he has schedule conflicts. Drivers will be paid at standard mileage rates.

The members of the *Four Seasons Quartet* have offered to sell their sound system to complement the Chapter's equipment. **Dan Cole** will inventory the Chapter's equipment.

- **Old Business:** Dan Cole and Bill Warp will proceed to remove the signage from the old truck to ready it for sale.

Since **Loren** is no longer with us, **John Carlotto** has created a sign-in form for Chapter meetings and other events.

- Next meeting, September 17, at Wooddale Lutheran.



No August Reenlistments

Happy Birthday

- 09/14 Jim Jorgensen
- 09/15 Walter Dawson (70)
- 09/15 Sharyn Maas
- 09/26 Beverly Slattery
- 09/29 Cathy Ortenburger
- 10/03 Guy St. Martin (65)

Happy Anniversary

- 09/15 1962 Jim & Linda Lee
- 09/16 1972 Dan & Susan Krekelberg
- 09/21 1963 Jack & Sharon Beaver
- 09/26 1959 Darrell & Helga Egertson
- 09/30 2007 Joel & BreAnn Rumsch
- 10/06 1956 Bob & Lou Dykstra
- 10/07 1994 Kevin & Janet Huyck
- 10/09 1965 Jim & Judy Windey (50)

SUNSHINE HOTLINE



By Rich Ongna, Sunshine Chairman

Phone: 952-829-7009

Email: ddongna@usfamily.net

The summer has been good to the Commodores in that I am unaware of any additional ailments among us since the last Chord-Inator.



Rich Ongna

Dan Williams had an incident with his bicycle

that resulted in two seriously dislocated fingers that required some stitches. He's back on the risers and doing fine but experienced a challenge using his computer keyboard at work.

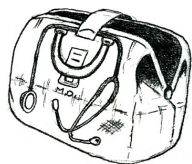
Lou DeMars was down for a short time dealing with a urinary-tract problem but is now back on the risers with us and looking good.

Bill Ward was practicing with us again the last Tuesday of August. He's looking great and indicates he's feeling fine. In case you're not aware you can follow Bill Ward in his battle with cancer on his Facebook account. He posts how he's doing. Here's the link: <https://www.facebook.com/bill.ward.77>

Paul Martz in his fight with cancer can be followed on his Caring Bridge website. He too tells how he's doing. Here's the link: <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/paulmartz/journal> I find both Bill's and Paul's blogs very informative.

Remember: Please inform me about who is ailing and don't assume that I already know because generally I am 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 one is not feeling well.

Doc's Bag



By Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor



Hardin Olson

On Sunday, August 30, the Commodores were privileged to sing at two well-attended liturgical services for the most appreciative congregation of St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie.

As part of the service the singers heard a remarkable sermon by Pastor Christine Ruth entitled, "Where is God in My Sufferings? Whose Fault is It?", in which she placed the blame on "The Usual Suspects", *i.e.* God, other people, self, and the Devil.

As I was listening to Pastor Ruth's thought-provoking words it occurred to me that the 25 Commodores sitting in the choir seats were not unlike her Usual Suspects, most of whom could be counted upon to regularly attend these rather extra-curricular engagements. It caused me to wonder where the other 50 or so Commodores might be on that beautiful late-summer day.

Granted, that the State Fair was in full swing and that there were probably dozens of other reasons why two-thirds of the active Commodore sing-

ers were not sitting on the choir platform with us.

But I have to think that too many of us don't feel the full sense of obligation and dependability that is necessary when belonging to an organization such as ours. We all should be wanting to put our best foot forward to show our audiences how good Barbershop music can be.

We do this by proudly supporting each of these performance opportunities to the maximum, thereby greatly easing our directors' anxiety about who and how many singers will show up for a given performance, showing our audiences that Barbershop (with a capital "B") is a viable exciting art-form, and that it is great to be a Commodore.

Those of you who tend to dismiss **Jim Erickson's** whimsical and debatably-unique literary style must be sure to read this month's current offering. It reveals a serious and caring side of the **Georgia Grind** researcher that may surprise you but will make perusing his current mis-sive most worthwhile and even engender a here to fore latent appreciation of his creative-writing skills.

Jim's dedication and sense of obligation have in no small way been responsible for the more recent success of this publication. He has been and continues to be greatly appreciated in this particular reportorial arena.

WELCOME ABOARD!

Shawn Hunter lives with his wife, **Laura**, in Eagan.



He is a native of Appleton, Wisconsin, and later finished high school in Weyauwega. Shawn earned a degree at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire before moving on for a graduate degree at the University of St. Thomas in the Twin Cities. He is a Technology Executive.

Shawn has always liked to sing but his more formal experience has been limited to church choirs.

In addition to singing his other interests include hunting, fishing, and curling.

Shawn's son, **James**, has also been visiting and hopefully will soon be on our risers with his dad.

Andy Cook gets the Man of Note Award for sponsoring Shawn who will be complementing the intrepid Lead Section.



Left to rt.: Ass't Directors Dave Speidel, Gary Jacobson; guest, James Estes; Director Paul Wigley. *Staff Photo*

A At left, posed with our Commodore directors is **James Estes**, **U** who recently moved to Inver Grove Hts. He served several **G** years at BHS Headquarters in Nashville and is currently actively **S** serving as a Society judge in the Singing Category. He **T** misses singing and is giving the Commodores a close look. Be **V** sure to introduce yourselves and make James welcome.

I **Ray Gatland (rt.)** is a long-time Barbershop- **S** per from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and **I** was in Minneapolis on business. He competed **T** in July at International in Pittsburg with **O** *Carolina Vocal Express* and helped them to a 17th- **R** place finish. **S**



	Customer Name	Bags are	Deluxe	Cashew	Honey Roasted	Almond Raw	Almond Roast & Salt	Pistachios	Trail Mix	Pecans	Walnuts	Dried Apples	Total Due	Total Paid
		\$1.50 each	\$12.50	\$12.50	\$4.50	\$10.00	\$11.00	\$12.50	\$6.50	\$13.00	\$13.00	\$7.50		
1		nuts										NA		
		bags										NA		
2		nuts										NA		
		bags										NA		
3		nuts										NA		
		bags										NA		
4		nuts										NA		
		bags										NA		
5		nuts										NA		
		bags										NA		
6		nuts										NA		
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10		nuts										NA		
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11		nuts										NA		
		bags										NA		
12		nuts										NA		
		bags										NA		
		nuts										NA		
		bags										NA		
	TOTALS													

Revised 8/15

Customer:	_____	Phone:	_____
Address:	_____	Work:	_____
City / State	_____	Zip:	_____

Description	Quantity (pounds) (Apples are per bag)	Price/Lb.	Foil Gift Bag (Add \$1.50 per bag)	Total Amount
Deluxe Mixed Nuts (no peanuts)		@ \$12.50	+	=
Cashews Medium		@ \$12.50	+	=
Honey Roasted Peanuts		@ \$4.50	+	=
Almonds (natural whole raw)		@ \$10.00	+	=
Almonds (salted & roasted-whole)		@ \$11.00	+	=
Pistachios, White		@ \$12.50	+	=
Trail Mix, Deluxe		@ \$6.50	+	=
Pecans, Mammoth		@ \$13.00	+	=
Walnuts, Chopped		@ \$13.00	+	=
Dried Apples (cinnamon flavor) (5 oz package)		@ \$7.50	+	NA =
TOTAL:				

All orders must be prepaid **Orders must be received by October 27th**

Please make checks payable to : The A-Commodears

Delivered to Chorus on Tuesday, November 17th

Salesperson:	_____
Address:	_____
Phone:	_____

Chord Candy #136

by Dr. Jim Richards, Der Tagmeister

The late Earl Moon, arranger, director, medalist baritone, and tag master supreme must have committed to memory all four parts of hundreds of tags. It was his misfortune to have been assigned ground level faculty housing some years ago at Harmony College in St. Joseph, Missouri. There was a quartet of very modest ability outside his bedroom window well after curfew attempting to sing a tag he knew well. Earl tried to sleep through the quartet's struggle without success. To his everlasting credit Earl got out of bed and went outside to help the foursome finally achieve success. His parting comment, "Now go to bed!" Most of all, Earl was a teacher.



Jim Richards

This month's *Chord Candy* is one of Earl's creations and it sings very easily. Being a baritone he inserted a delicious baritone triplet tiddley in Measure 3. The timing of the triplet is shared with the remaining voices such that all reach the last triplet note in the measure simultaneously. Enjoy!

Earl Moon (Popular version)

a- way. _____

In a ging-ham gown, she stole my heart a-way, a-way.

she stole my heart a-way, _____

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The tempo is marked as quarter note = 60. The melody includes a triplet in measure 3. The lyrics are: "In a ging-ham gown, she stole my heart a-way, a-way." and "she stole my heart a-way, _____".

For tunes & the Twins - a beautiful day!



The Greater Twin Cities Area Barbershop Chorus under the direction of Paul Wigley is pictured here singing the *Star Spangled Banner* at Target Field prior to the Minnesota Twins/Houston Astros baseball game on August 30. Staff Photo



Commodores (front row): 2nd from left, Kaleb Smith; (to Wigley's rt.), Lance Johnson and Mark Ortenburger. Staff Photo

On Sunday, August 30, the fans of the *Minnesota Twins* at Target Field in Minneapolis, were rewarded with a beautiful summer afternoon, a cloudless sky, and a temperature in the mid-70s. The good fortune certainly did not end there as the Twins treated the fans to a terrific ballgame.

The game opened with the singing of the National Anthem by the ad hoc *Greater Twin Cities Area Barbershop Chorus*. Pitching for the Twins was erst-while ace, *Ervin Santana*, coming off of a string of six disastrous starts. But, he had his game under control that day, masterfully pitching seven innings of six-hit shutout ball and winning the game, seven to five, after a few hiccoughs by the bullpen crew. The assembled chorus ended their part of the program by singing *God Bless America* during the seventh-inning stretch. All together it was a glorious day for the Twins and for Barbershopping..

Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, Bob-like Baritone?



Jim Erickson

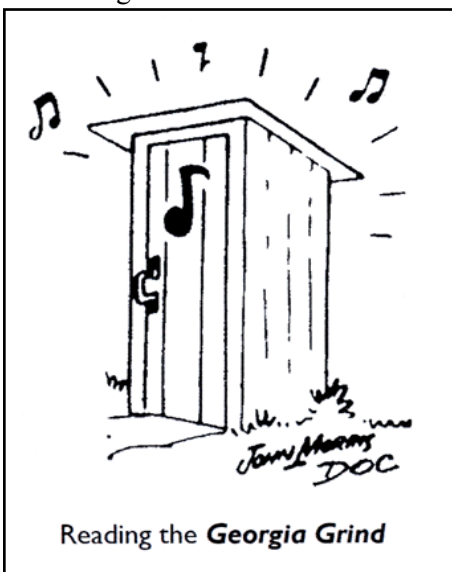
Now that they are proposing to paint the whole outside wall of a multistory building in downtown Minneapolis with images of **Bob Dylan**, you know that time passes and things change. In his words, "*The Times They Are a-Changin'*," a song released in 1964 as a 45 r.p.m. (those under 50, check out 45 r.p.m. in Wikipedia) in a deliberate attempt to spark a song of change back then. Few fail to recognize his name and most, I'm guessing, are aware of some connection to music, and even a sense of which genre he basks in. (Have we come far enough so that I don't have to agonize over whether I should use, "genre in which he basks?") From humble beginnings, he journeyed over the years to become the superstar that he is. And yet, if you could ask him how much that trek changed over the years and changed him, I am surmising that he could fill an evening with story upon story. "The Times They Are a-Changin'."

That song's universal lyrics reflecting the everlasting message of change have had an untold influence on people's views of society. But just as you might long for the way things were, or maybe profess relief that you are no longer in a less than healthy circumstance, times do change. Of that you can be sure. Not how they will change, but that they will.

Kind of like that very shop-worn, tired beyond belief, old-weather response by the conversationally and cleverly challenged. "Don't like the weather today here in Minnesota? Or Ohio? Or Arizona or anywhere else for that matter depending upon where you are, just wait a couple of hours and it will change." OK, maybe in some idyllic spot in the world the weather changes are so miniscule

they are imperceptible, but how on earth, then, do they start a conversation with a stranger in that monotonous spot? "Nice weather today." "Yup. Same as yesterday." "Yup, sure is." "Sure glad we're not in _____." (you fill in) "Yup." "Have another nice day!" "Yup."

So change is inevitable. (Sometimes Erickson becomes a faux pontificator, but his intelligent readers know better.) And some things that have extremely little to no chance of ever happening, still cause a sense of real loss or grief when they become no longer possible. My father and I never had a close relationship it seems. Oh, he made sure I aspired to become educated and helped financially along the way. And there were some good times. Maybe part of it was being the third child later in his



Reading the *Georgia Grind*

life so that much of his enthusiasm had been spent earlier.

And in my younger and teenage years more and more attention went to that diabolically demanding mistress, alcohol. I became what they term, an "adult child of an alcoholic." Later, when I was married with young children, I came face to face with what that was and addressing that realization changed my life. I could either continue the dysfunctional things I had learned growing up, or it was in my power to stop them in their tracks and take a new, healthier path. Amazing what I learned along that new direction and

if you would like to ask me about any aspect of this, I am completely open to that. Don't hesitate, and I truly mean it.

Getting back to inevitable change, when I got the message that my father was possibly dying in the nursing home, I had to drive a few miles to get there. I vividly remember thinking – and choking back tears doing so – that of all the things that a father and son might do some day, they were no longer going to be possible. Absolutely no longer possible. Oh, I realize that he had been in a nursing home for many months and in failing health. I mean he was 86 and not too bad for that age, but still growing more feeble and less engaged.

So my expectations were not unreasonable as I did know that he would no longer be able to get around or respond much. But his death would completely end any remotely remote, even unlikely, possibility. Not that I had great dreams of what we could do together, but even having another chance at a good father-son relationship, was now rapidly fading. That change was now inevitable. And there was nothing I could do to stop or prolong it.

Sorry to get so serious but it seemed time to make a point. Now that summer is ending and changing over to fall, I wanted to inspire you to think about how fast time passes and how little control we have over many things. But we do have some control! There is so much truth in the Serenity Prayer;

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.

And so what should you and I think about. Well, maybe it's this. Appreciate what you have and where you are. But even more so, think about some actions to take to add some meaningful steps in your life before it's too late. That goes for you young guys as well as some the more mature of us.

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The High Sierra Harmony Brigade

By David Speidel, NPHB President



Dave Speidel

Between my business trip to Denmark on the August 14 and then immediately flying on to Reno, Nevada, on August 21 for the High Sierra Harmony Brigade, it seems like I've been absent from regular Commodore chapter meetings for a month. We (Linda and I) took the opportunity to attend the Reno Brigade as a belated 35th wedding-anniversary celebration in addition to my 61st birthday on August 24. I

Grind from Page 9

I have written many times about making that Barbershop Bucket list. Just take some new, challenging Barbershop related steps. But heck, just expand on that and add a general bucket list. I only care that you don't face an unexpected "times they are a-changin'" and then regret that you no longer have the chance to do something on either of those lists. And remember as I said in an earlier article, Brett Favre passed (pun intended) and so does time! You choose!

My aim in writing my articles is to bring some humor to you, maybe catch you off guard, expose you to something you might not have known, and generally entertain you. This article is the most personal and serious one I have ever written for the Chord-Inator and I hope it urges you to think about some things in your life. But I do expect a return to my jovial self next time.

In the meantime, expand that Bucket List, Barbershop or otherwise, and keep on recruiting and holding fast, through all changes, to that which is good.

Good Night **Rollie Neve**, wherever you are!

know it seems a little *unromantic*, but we did spend four more non-Barbershop days in California's Lake Tahoe area afterwards. If you've never been there I would highly recommend it. The breathtaking scenery and great weather was well worth it.

Anyway, back to the High Sierra Brigade. I was joined by fellow Commodore members, **Mark Bloomquist** and **Ken Wentworth** and we thoroughly enjoyed our time. Having learned eight of the 11 songs for our **2015 Northern Pines Brigade** in advance, the pressure was off and it was much easier to sit back and sing with the other 96 participants. The Brigade Rally was held at the



Circus Casino, but with all of our time being committed to the rally I never once was tempted to tangle with any of the one-arm bandits ... just too much singing to do!

More of the Brigades are starting to bring in top-notch quartets as part of their programs. **The New Fangled Four**, 2013 Collegiate Champs and 2015 top-20 finalists, participated by learning all of the music so they could sing with everyone. They also acted as the judging panel and the featured quartet on the show, and conducted a short masters class on Saturday morning. One great story of the weekend was their participation in the Friday-morning school sing-out program. Apparently the local Barbershoppers in Reno have been having a really tough time convincing one of the high-school teachers that Barbershop was a legitimate music art form, but she reluctantly allowed the quartet into her

classroom. The students not only loved the Brigade group, but went bananas after the New Fangled Four finished a more contemporary/jazz number. Not only were the students excited, but so was the *reluctant* teacher who admitted later that the experience had totally transformed her perspective about Barbershop.

Jim Clark (lead for *Storm Front*) made his third appearance as the show-and-contest MC. Jim is also employed by the *Harmony Foundation* and therefore was given time to talk about the success of the foundation and how it is benefiting the youth and our own Barbershop Society. As would be expected, Jim was a great MC and offered plenty of laughs along the way.

Yours truly had the opportunity to direct two of the songs for the show. It's always a thrill to direct a Brigade chorus because it's like trying to hold back a high-strung race horse. We only get eight minutes of rehearsal time per song so I had to be prepared and predict what the most challenging issues were going to be. **Yes!** I have to remind the guys about the message of the music and getting their game-faces on. And **No!** They weren't all Norwegian Lutherans! Another joy of the weekend was getting a chance to sing *Smile* with the *New Fangled Four* and to sing *Barberpole Cats* with Jim Clark.

To conclude, I just want to plug our very own **2016 Northern Pines Brigade**. Our website is officially open for business and we already have some registrations. Our music is ready for distribution (Samples of the music can be heard on the web.). We have the very entertaining *St. Croix Crossing* quartet for our Saturday night show. Also for those who have financial limitations our brigade has a number of scholarships available. The Commodores had about 20 men participating last year so I hope to see those men return and hope more Commodores members will join in. For more information go to www.nphb.org and check us out.

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Logo courtesy of Bob Clark

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LOOKING AHEAD

Chapter Level

- September 17, **Board Meeting at HOP**
- November 12, **Give to the Max Day**
givemn.org
- 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

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

International Level

- July 3-10, 2016, **International Convention, Nashville, Tennessee**

2015 Barbershopper Of The Year
Rich Ongna

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

- Gordy Aumann
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- Hardin Olson
- Rich Ongna
- Jim Richards
- Dave Speidel
- Bill Warp
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