

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 ****

Teeing off for Harmony Foundation

Just over eight years ago, after many years of raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for the *Make-a-Wish* Foundation, the *Harmony Works Quartet* with great regret, ceased the sponsorship of the perennial *Harmony Works Open* golf event held each summer at the Elk River (Minnesota) Golf Club.

Gary Jacobson, Judd Orff and other members of *The Friday Lunch Bunch That Meets On Thursday (TFLBTMOT)*, saw continuing the Open as an opportunity to raise funds for the *Harmony Foundation*. Contact was made with the staff of the Elk River Golf Club who agreed with the idea and hence, the *Barbershop Harmony Open* was born.

The Ninth Annual Barbershop Harmony Open is scheduled for Monday, August 8, 2016, at Elk River. This year's open has a particularly special meaning for the TFLBTMOT members because of the heartfelt loss of our *Tagmeister*, **Jim Richards**. It was he who brought us a tag to each luncheon meeting, expounding on its origins, its oft-tricky progressions and harmonic surprises. In addition, each August Jim would compile a booklet of 18 tags for each Open registrant; that each foursome could use

while awaiting their next tee shots.

Last year through the Open, complemented by money collected for/against silencing the weekly Minneapolis Chapter reports, TFLBTMOT sent \$9,000 to the Foundation.

This year we hope to raise at least \$10,000 so we can become official sponsors of the Midwinter Youth Harmony Festival. Like too many things Barbershop, the Open has been an overly well-kept secret so we would urge all of you golfing Barbershoppers *and significant others* to register for the August Open and even consider a

sponsorship. Log on to [bhsopen](http://bhsopen.com) for complete details and help us support the Foundation's YIH program and honor the memory of our dear Barbershopper friend, **Jim Richards**.

Registration is simple. Just go to bhsopen.com and follow the prompts. If you have a conflict or don't golf (Lord save us!) you may elect to become an Open sponsor and have your name and perhaps your business logo emblazoned on a sign at one tee box or another.



**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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- Exec. VP Denny Maas 952/447-8012
- Marketing/PR VPs.....Pete Jarnberg 651/765-9580
Russ Born 406/670-2098
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Through 2016

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- Lead Section Leader.**Vacant**
Assistant - Dan Smith
- Bari Section LeadersDave Speidel
Assistant - Matt Richards
- Bass Section Leaders.....Dave Casperson

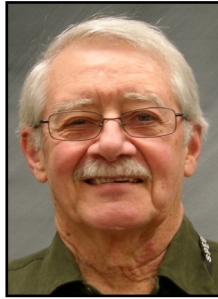
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From the Prez ...

By Gordy Aumann, President

The weather is surely acting like summer these days, with passing thunderstorms and some much appreciated warm days for golf. We Commodores do not take the summer off, so our Music Team and performance managers have a pretty full schedule lined up for us.



Gordy Aumann

We begin with being a part of the St. Paul-hosted mass chorus sing at the Como Park pavilion on July 19, then it's on to the Centennial Lakes Amphitheater in Edina on July 25, and then back to Como with the ladies of the Twin Cities Show Chorus on Sunday, August 7.

Our final summer show, as of this date, will be at the Minnetonka Amphitheater on Tuesday, August 16. I hope all of you singers will be able to take part in these performances because two will be benefitting food-shelf programs. This is the slow time of the year for food-shelf donations and we want to do all we can to see that the shelves get filled. Stay tuned.

Happy Anniversary

- 07/13 Bill & Marsha Shaw
- 07/20 Brooks & Sandy Bergersen
- 07/20 Dave & Jamye Casperson (25)
- 07/22 Jim & Mary Erickson (55)
- 07/23 Tom & Bonnie Dahlen (50)
- 07/29 Bill & Connie Ashley (10)
- 08/04 Alan & Karen Matchinsky
- 08/05 Larry & Kathy Nelson
- 08/05 Dan & Carol Smith
- 08/08 Fred & Ardis Von Fischer



June Reenlistments

- Eric Nelsen.....2 yrs.
- Ralph Nordquist3 yrs.
- Andy Richards3 yrs.
- Gordon Aumann13 yrs.
- Glenn Retter.....13 yrs.
- Rob Hartert.....14 yrs.
- Lou DeMars.....15 yrs.
- Richard Hartmann.....15 yrs.
- John Lloyd.....15 yrs.
- Steve Daniel.....17 yrs.
- Dan Cole.....18 yrs.
- Dick Riemenschneider.....19 yrs.
- Travis Wuttke.....19 yrs.
- Kevin Huyck.....21 yrs.
- Dan Kregelberg.....22 yrs.
- Ken Knutson.....31 yrs.
- Lance Johnson.....37 yrs.
- Peter Mitchelson.....39 yrs.
- Russ Born.....42 yrs.
- Hardin Olson.....46 yrs.
- Lawrence Smalley.....49 yrs.
- Fred Von Fisher.....54 yrs.

Chuck Guthrie...64 yrs.

Happy Birthday

- 07/10 Brooks Bergersen
- 07/10 James Souhan
- 07/12 John Hansen
- 07/14 Beverly Koch
- 07/16 Dianne Ongna
- 07/14 Paul Wigley
- 07/15 Harvey Weiss
- 07/16 Jim McCarville (75)
- 07/17 Lou DeMars (80)
- 07/17 Jim Lee
- 07/19 Bill Ashley
- 07/27 Ken Glover
- 07/27 Larry Nelson
- 07/28 Marsha Shaw
- 07/30 Brenda Duncan
- 08/01 Karen True
- 08/07 Debbie Mason
- 08/07 Connie Miller
- 08/09 Jean Warp

**SUNSHINE
HOTLINE**



By Rich Ongna, Sunshine Chairman
Phone: 952-829-7009
Email: ddongna@usfamily.net

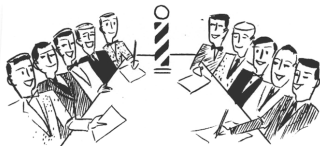
It seems that the Commodore community is in good health as this issue goes to press. Let's hope and pray that the good fortune continues.



Rich Ongna

Remember: Please keep me informed about who is ailing and don't assume 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 brief phone call can make the day of a person not feeling well

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



Chapter members are always welcome to attend the Board meetings.

By Bill Warp, Secretary

From the meeting of June 9

• **Membership:** Harvey Weiss and his crew were commended for the excellent job at Guest Night. Resolutions passed to make the first Tuesday of each month Visitors Night and the first Tuesday in June an all-out recruiting night with special guests, etc. Each visitor will go home with a learning CD.

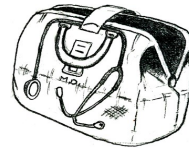
Eric Nelsen was approved as a new member.

Harvey is constructing a one-page



Bill Warp

Doc's Bag



By Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor

An editorialist should always try to be positive when presenting his views to the public but there are occasions when his pronouncements may take on a modicum of negativity. This may be said to be one of those times.



Hardin Olson

At last week's TFLBTMOT (*The Friday Lunch Bunch That Meets On Thursday*) luncheon on June 16, **Doug Carnes**, director of the *Great Northern Union Chorus* and occasional visitor to the luncheon, announced that his chapter was forming an "all-LOL District chorus" under his directorship. In essence the chorus is issuing an open invitation to all LOL Barbershoppers to join the *Hilltop Chorus* to sing two numbers at the LOL District Convention sometime after the competition is completed and the results announced.

Those interested would register with GNU and have access to charts and learning-CDs of the selected numbers.

recruiting handout about the requirements for membership.

• **Music & Performance:** The Commodores will be singing three new SATB numbers with the *TC Show Chorus* in the Xmas show.

The Como massed-sing repertoire includes the *Minnesota Rouser Medley*, *God Bless America*, and *Battle Hymn*.

There will be a gratis hospitality room at the fall contest with a cash bar. Chapters may bring snacks and cheese/cold cut plates but nothing hot.

A Chorus Dinner in Appleton is

Certainly any chapter has the right to invite anyone they choose to perform with them in a non-competitive setting. However, it appears to me that an acceptable *All District Chorus* would mandate a modicum of communication with the other chapters and directors in the District prior to announcing its formation.

Similarly, not long ago, the Hilltop Chapter (GNU) made it known that they were forming an *LOL Youth Chorus*, again without inviting input from other chapters and directors. Now this may or may not be a fine idea but I have to ask if this were to be an *All District Chorus*, were the other District chapters notified and other directors invited to participate?

There is frequent conversation in Barbershop circles about improving inter-chapter amity and community but as is often the case the walk is usually much more difficult than the talk and the results end up in the "Ready...Fire...Aim!" category.

Have any of you readers given any thought as to why the *Great Northern Union Chorus* was selected by International to be its bellwether chorus at the Nashville Convention this month? Yes? No?

Well, it seems to me that it would have been logical to select the retiring International Champion *West Go to Bag*, Page 4, Column 1

being considered.

• **Marketing:** Ev Nau's program, *Creative Solutions—How to Sell Ads*, will be introduced to the membership.

A name has yet to be chosen for the Christmas Show.

• **Old Business:** A report on the chorus survey will be forthcoming.

Suggestions wanted regarding grant solicitation.

• **New Business:** The **Richards family** will be establishing a *Harmony University Scholarship* in Jim's name.

Bag from Page 3

minster Chorus to fill this prestigious, one might say, golden opportunity to promote *authentic* Barbershop. Westminster will be in Nashville to perform their swansong as retiring champions anyway, so why not let them be our *ad hoc* ambassadors of harmony (with apologies to Dr. Jim Henry).

A cynic might say that there is probably more than a little conflict of interest in the highest echelons of the Society's administration.

Odds and Ends

I have always relied on our dear departed friend, **Jim Richards**, to keep me supplied with the current birthdays and anniversaries of our membership for publication in the *Chord-Inator*. Needless to say, I miss the monthly "Here they are, Hardin. Cheers!" in my in-box.

Although **Andy (Richards)** has spent long hours trying to unlock the secrets of Jim's arcane computer system, it has been to no avail. I do have last year's lists but am missing the data from newer members. So, I would ask all members joining in the last six months to forward to me your birth and anniversary dates for future use in the chapter bulletin.

The front-page article about the 2016 BHS Open was supposed to have appeared in the May/June issue of the LOL District bulletin, *The Pitch Piper*. Regrettably there was a mishap at the printers and it did not appear. The misfire put a damper on our publicity efforts but hopefully we will do better next year.

June 7th—a day That Will Live In Infamy (NO, that was December 7th, stupid !)

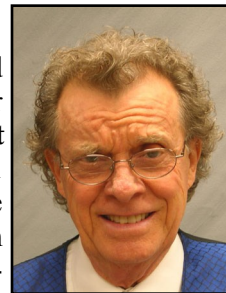
By Harvey Weiss, Membership Vice President



Guests and sponsors (standing) and a portion of the audience at House of Peace on June 7.

June 7th, 2016, was a memorable day as well, with the Commodores hosting their first official guest/visitor event in quite some time. It was an evening full of singing, basic vocal instruction, and good Commodore camaraderie.

The overflow crowd, helped the **15 visitors** (with their take-home **Barberpole Cat** CDs in hand) sing from their hearts and experience four-part harmony with some of the best in the business.



Harvey Weiss

Assistant Director **James Estes** helped us through a great tag, ably assisted by his quartet, **Chord Smash**, followed by a slew of **Barberpole Cat** numbers directed by Director, Paul Wigley.

After short explanations of how the

Minneapolis Chapter operates, Program VP **Blake Wanger** introduced our second guests, four-time Senior Quartet Medalists, **St. Croix Crossing**, for a romp through a set of numbers that were sung with precision and eagerly received by a most appreciative audience. It was great to see we can have humor in our music as well.

The Commodores Chorus finished the evening by singing for the visitors, ending with them joining us in the Barbershop standard, "**Keep America Singing.**"

Treats, plus a big-picture birthday cake for **Gary Jacobson**, ended the evening on a sweet note (insert "**Smile!**") with many comments overheard that it was a great night to be a Barbershopper!

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

Patricia Hatlestad, beloved widow of the Commodores' **Wes Hatlestad** passed away suddenly on Sunday, June 26, after a short, unexpected but most virulent illness.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, July 7, at Morris Neilson Funeral Home in Richfield, prayers at 5:00 p.m., visitation to follow.



The beat goes on... the Paul Wigley Story

Editor's Note: Recall that in the last issue, at the behest of his cousin, Carol Norman, U of M student Paul Wigley had just joined the Campus Ministries as their piano player. The story continues...

He [Paul] got the job and on his first retreat with the group, met **Becky Bucher**, a guitar-playing member of an ecumenical singing group within the Ministries. From the outset there seemed to be a kind of mutual attraction and the couple was seen to be a campus *item* from then on.



Becky Bucher and friend. *Wigley Photo*

After leaving the U of M Paul moved on to the University of Northern Iowa for a Masters of Music degree. In 1977 he accepted a teaching position as assistant choral director at Mason City High School. By a twist of fate, the head choral director was **Ron Phillips**, a member of SPESQSA, a judge in the Singing category, a district quartet champion and an International quartet semifinalist. So when boss Ron said to Paul, "You're coming to Barbershop chorus practice with me." Paul had little choice but to humor his superior and sample the fruits of the Barbershop Style.

What did the fates have in store for

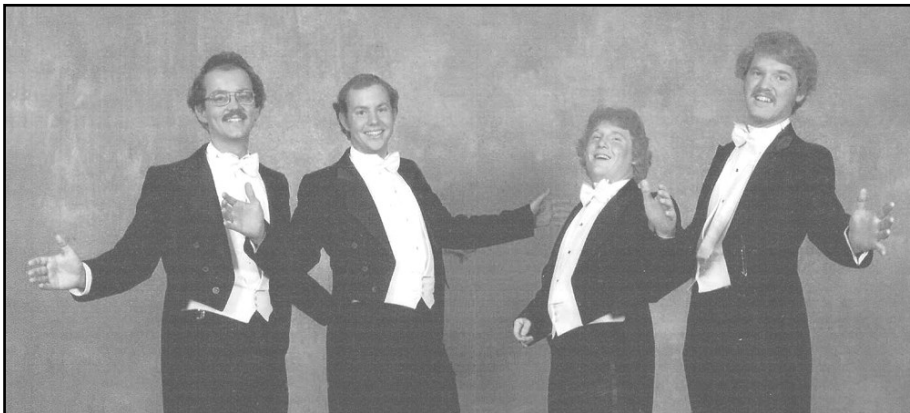
Paul Wigley? Would he dip his toe in the barbershop waters? Would it be too hot, too cold, or just right? And what of Becky Bucher? Learn the answer to these intriguing questions and more in the next issues of your Chord-inator. Don't miss them!

[And here it is!]

In last month's episode we left Paul Wigley about to be exposed to the mysteries of the Barbershop sound, and you, the readers, wondering what became of **Becky Bucher**.

As you recall, it was 1977 and Paul was contemplating a move to Iowa. Becky Bucher, apprehensive about Paul going to Iowa alone, led Paul to the altar in Starbuck, Minnesota, on December 17th. Shortly thereafter in early 1978, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Wigley departed Minnesota and arrived in Mason City where Paul had accepted a position as Assistant Choral Director at Mason City High School. At this time, his boss **Ron**, a Barbershopper of significant note, convinced Paul to visit the **River City Chorus** where he became enthralled with the art form. Soon after joining the chorus, Paul was introduced to **David Boyd** and **Gary "Mel" Eliason**.

"You should find a tenor and form a quartet.", Phillips decreed and the **Favorite Sons** was born when ten-



The **Favorite Sons** (Left to Right): Paul Wigley, bari; Mel Eliason, bass; David Boyd, lead; and Kevin Lincicum, tenor, at their first competition. Mel Eliason now sings bass with *Harmony Works* and is an inactive member of the Minneapolis Commodores. *Wigley Photo*

or **Kevin Lincicum** was recruited. Not wasting any time they won the novice crown in their first contest in

1979 and were the mike testers for the finals.

A trip to **Harmony College** in 1980 and meeting teachers like **Jim Richards** only compounded their enthusiasm and soon thereafter they were traveling to Minneapolis for coaching by the likes of **Richards, Bob Spong** and.... **Judy Olson**. (Paul still remembers the goose bumps he got when Judy used the phrase, "Now... when you sing at International ...")

That fall *Favorite Sons*, in their second contest, won the Central States Quartet Championship. The next spring they qualified for International where they managed a 29th place finish even after immediately following the roar of applause for the soon to be International champions, **Chicago News**. In 1982, they qualified for International in Pittsburgh and sweated out a 21st place finish which gave them another shot at mike testing, this time on the BIG stage.

On February 3, 1983, the lives of Paul and Becky were changed forever with the arrival of their daughter, Sarah, the apple of Paul's eye destined to become the unofficial "Sweetheart" of the Commodores.

Job changes necessitated the amicable dissolution of the "Sons" in 1983. It seems that Paul, lured by the economic potential of private industry and perhaps further motivated by another mouth to feed, accepted a position as manager of Design Lighting Center in Algona, Iowa. The Wigleys moved to Algona and Paul assumed the directorship of the small **Algona Chorus** which had finished dead last

five years before and given up competition since. Encouraging them *Go to Wigley, Page 6, Column 1*

Wigley from Page 5

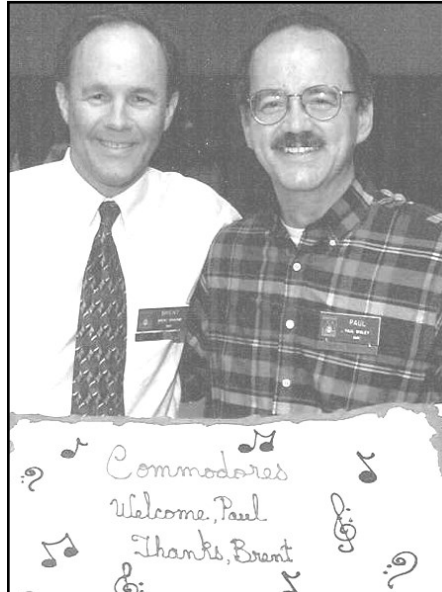
to compete again, Paul led Algona to a third place finish, a prelude to a long string of small-chorus championships.

At about the same time, Paul took an interest in the judging program, specifically in the Interpretation category. At that time certification was quite difficult mainly due to cumbersome communications and a more rigorous and lengthy practice judging program. In addition, all expenses incurred at that time were out of pocket.

In 1986 Paul was certified in the Interpretation category. He recalls that his first assignment was at the Cardinal District International Prelims where one of the first quartets he had to give an evaluation to was the **Interstate Rivals**, later to be International champs and made up of multiple future past champions, the likes of **Joe Connelly, Kip Buckner, Paul Gilman, and Jay Hawkins**, an intimidating group to say the least. It was also at this time that Paul, with mixed emotions, left the Algona chorus (which had a very capable new director) to commute to Mason City and resume directing the River City Chorus.

The next several years provided a host of adventures and accomplishments for Paul: in 1990 named to the Interpretation category board of review and appointed to the National Youth Outreach committee; in 1991

teaching at the first Directors College in Racine and judging his first International contest in Louisville where due to a miscalculation of the cutoff number, 65 quartets had to be judged in the quarter finals; in 1992 being certified as a judge in the new Music category; in 1994 judging the Pittsburgh International and named



Brent Graham & Paul - May 2000, Paul's Commodore debut. Staff Photo

to the Music Category Board of Review; in 1997 judging the Indianapolis International; and in 1998 judging the European Open Choral championships in Stockholm, Sweden, featuring both men's and women's Barbershop quartets and choruses.

In 1999, the new millennium began a year early for the Commodores when the Wigleys were drawn

back to Minnesota.

"THE BEST THING WE EVER DID," says Paul. About two weeks after judging the Anaheim International, Paul faced his first students at Lakeville High School. In December 2000, his vocal jazz group at Lakeville, the **Now and Then Singers**, sang on a Christmas show with the **Twin City Sweet Adelines**. Paul was delighted to see director **Judy Olson** who had coached his quartet and chorus 20 years earlier.

That spring, old friend **Bob Peterson** talked with Paul about his plans to step down as director of the Minneapolis Commodores. Paul was interested and anxious to get back to Barber-shopping after a year's hiatus, but felt he could not start until after the end of the school year. Impressed with the warmth, openness, and philosophy of the Commodore search committee, Paul accepted their offer. Enter **Brent Graham** as an inspiring interim director holding the reins until Paul made his Commodore debut that May.

The rest is history. Paul Wigley has re-instilled the high level of Commodore Pride of past years and has been a magnet for a host of talented new singers. His musical talents, people skills and aura of humility are exemplary if not unique and without question, Paul really means it when he says, "IT'S GREAT TO BE A COMMODORE!"



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Jim Richards Memorial Chord Candy #3

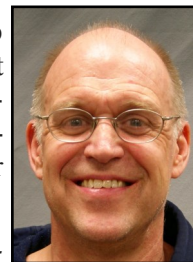
Submitted by Mark Bloomquist



Dr. Jim Richards

Here is a pleasant tag to a pleasant song composed by Barry, Maurice and Robin Gibb of the *Bee Gees*. I received this tag from the *Tagmeister* himself, **Jim Richards**. I don't know if he wrote it. It is not exactly his style: no sharps or flats, no diminished sevenths. But there is a Chinese 7th! Try to find it. Then teach this to your non-Barbershop friends. Everyone knows the melody and the chords tune nicely, even for novices. [Thanks to Dan Smith for the *Finale* rendition below.]

Editor's Note: Readers are invited to submit favorite tags for publication here. A narrative, as above, about why a certain tag is selected will make it even more interesting.



Mark Bloomquist

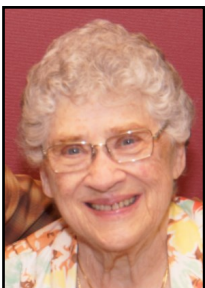
Tenor Lead

Bari Bass

Jim lives on...

By Ebie Richards

On May 27 a letter, addressed to Jim, arrived from the *City of Lakes Sweet Adeline Chapter*. His name had been drawn on a daily draw for their fundraiser. It contained a check for \$100. Since Jim's name is no longer on my checking account, the bank could not honor it.



Ebie

On May 28, I received a call from the Richfield United Methodist Church [where the *Twin City Show Chorus* holds their weekly chapter meetings] that they had just discovered, in their Lost and Found, Jims hat, an Irish

patch-work tam. Jim had sewn his calling-card on the lining! It must have been there nearly two years since the Commodores rehearsed with the TC Show Chorus for a Christmas show.

Long story short, the check was returned and reissued and Andy now wears his dads hat.. "All's well that ends well." Jim lives on!

Editor's Note: Just a few days ago Ebie received a photo from Jim's long-time Barbershop compatriot, Bill Biffle—a wonderful (and probably last) picture ever taken of Jim playing the bass at the midwinter convention in Reno.

More recently **Marilyn Jacobson** made a painting from a picture of Jim at the bass with the *Dixie-dores* at Gary Jacobson's *Under the Big*



Top show in April 2015.

The original was given to son, Andy Richards, but Marilyn presented a copy to Ebie.



Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, *Un-beleagured Baritone*,



Jim Erickson

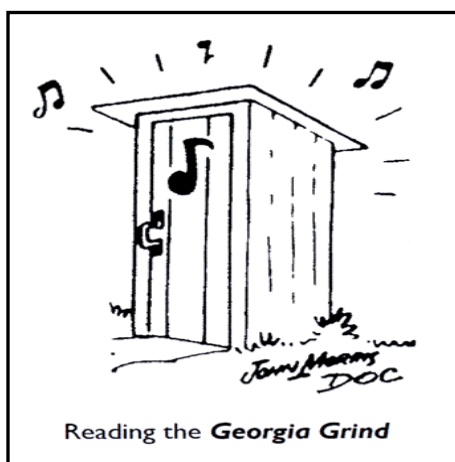
It's summertime and I'm writing this from the comfort of the **Genealogy Library in Chippewa County's Historical Museum** in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. No real relation (pun) between summer and genealogy but I felt the need to broaden your sense of the exotic areas from which I labor to create the *Grind*. Yeah, no place too wondrous for my readers is my mantra when choosing a writing nook. Next nook may be at the **Leinies Lodge**, home of **Leinenkugel's Beer**. We'll see. Wish they sold cheese curds there. Six sentences into my article and already, I'm rambling. [Back in the *old grind*]

Back on track now. Last month I mentioned using the good spirits gained from the annual **Bloomington Memorial Comedy Quartet Contest** to entice new members. Have you? If not, here's another thought about gently encouraging new members to consider the many benefits of the Barbershopper's life.

I'll get to that thought in a minute if it doesn't become clear sooner, but I just finished reading the book, *So What Are The Guys Doing?*, by **David J. Figura**. Don't recall why I put that on my "to read" list, but the library told me my book request was in and would I pick up the book in a few days. So I did. Now, this book is really more for those men in their middle age, a time for me that was

way before even my "Good 'ol Days." In writing his book, Figura engaged in more than 50 heartfelt conversations with men, mostly about the importance of getting and keeping their male friends in their lives.

What he found was that a lot of men struggle during middle-age and beyond keeping some balance in their lives—balance between career, marriage, child-raising, and on and on. All those "expected" things if one is to be perceived as a responsible per-



Reading the *Georgia Grind*

son. But, so many did these only by sacrificing or ignoring certain other things that could bring real meaning and enjoyment to their lives—a real lop-sided non-balance, detrimental to the satisfaction of their lives. And most didn't begin to realize there were so many other men just like them.

David Letterman, who retired many months ago, recently started appearing in public a bit. Many, as was I, were shocked to see him, at first hardly recognizable, with a bushy, white beard and longer hair. Letterman turned hippie? As it turns out, not so much. But in an interview released just days ago, he talked about what it was like to be retired from years of an intense comedic career and long time night-

ly show host, among other similar career pursuits. With a relaxed smile on his face and that chuckle that erupts when he suddenly realizes the irony of a situation, he told of the years of making decisions always in favor of burnishing and exceeding the demands of his career. Then along came his (unexpected?) baby boy late in Letterman's life. After the shock and surprise, I imagine he had quite a chuckle at this twist. And then as the boy grew, you could see the pride and awe Letterman felt for this new circumstance in his life.

David had gone from a lifetime of a heavily career-weighted agenda, to one where, a few years before actual retirement and then retirement, his life began to open to the joys of fatherhood and the freedom from career requirements. He told of having to be clean-shaven all his life. Being now free from that, he had let his beard begin to grow. And grow. To where, at first glance, he was unrecognizable.

And he started to spend his life enjoying so many things he had earlier dismissed. Was he pleased with the return of some balance to his life? Well, just look at that smile beneath his whitish beard. That should tell you all you need to know.

So what is the take-away from all this. Well for you, and for all those you hope to encourage to join the Barbershopping life (hopefully with the Commodores), singing in a fun chorus and being in the company of so many men that you become friends with, or at least become well-acquainted with, offers some real balance in a man's life.

And at the expense of being a little prejudiced, the Commodores can become a group of men with well *Go to Grind, Page 9, Column 1*

Grind from Page

regarded male relationships. Oh, of course the singing is the mainstay of the group, but getting together regularly with a bunch of men to create some good times, experiences, laughter, and involvement, can begin to fulfill that need for wholesome balance.

But here is the thing. I believe that if you haven't been somehow involved with Barbershopping during your life (and here I mean from teenager, or under 35, or over 35 to say maybe 50), now would be a good time to join the Commodores (or other chorus or quartet). Some say they want to wait until they are retired. Probably a mistake as some "retirements" happen piecemeal or wind down with some consulting or other part-time jobs. And when those finally end, too many fun years have been wasted.

I don't think you want to arrive at the doorstep of any form of retirement saying, "Now, at long last, I'm going to start singing." Why not begin to add this balance dimension to your life where you are now and nourish it into your retirement. Or if you are not in the pre-retirement years yet, ask those younger guys about what they get out of singing with a group of other males. And then explore joining regardless of your age.

In a nutshell, then, tell prospective members of the benefits of regular outings with other men, of the balance singing can bring to their lives, and the good times that come with growing their circle of Barbershop friends. For those who could use a little "balancing" in their otherwise driven lives, bring some new facets to life. And, as I pointed out

in a recent article, adding a completely different pursuit to your life makes you ever so much better at your primary responsibilities. Remember more Nobel Prizes are awarded to those with broadened life interests. And failing that, one can become just an outright more-interesting person if one joins the Commodores.

Hope this gives another thing to think about in your present, or prospective, involvement with the Commodores. As they say, "Try it. You'll like it." Balance your life, grow your group of male friends, and hold fast to that which is good.

For me, I am excited to see what this summer offers in adventurous opportunities while researching the origins of the *Georgia Grind*. Even in the genealogy library. More later.

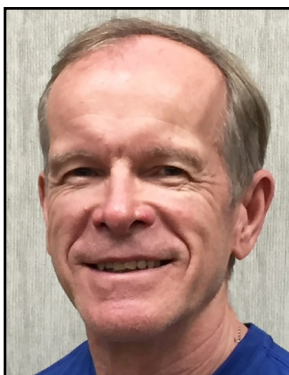


Steve Grady

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

Logo courtesy of Bob Clark

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To:

LOOKING AHEAD

- July 19, Tuesday, **Lake Como**
- July 25, Monday, **Centennial Lakes**
- August 7, Sunday, **Lake Como**
- August 16, Tuesday- **Minnetonka**
- December 4, Sunday - **Christmas Show with Twin City Show Chorus**
- April 1, 2017 - **Annual Show with special guests, Main Street**

2015 Barbershopper Of The Year
Rich Ongna

Commodores and others * contributing to this issue.

- Gordy Aumann
- Jim Erickson
- Tony Mason
- Hardin Olson
- Rich Ongna
- Bill Warp
- Harvey Weiss

District Level

- October 21-22, 2016 - **2016 Fall LOL District Convention**

International Level

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

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