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# CHORD-INATOR

BARBERSHOP  
HARMONY  
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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 2016 - VOL.72 - NO. 9

## Fore more for Youth In Harmony!



### 2016 BHS Open drives (and putts) on!

By Gary Jacobson – *The Friday Lunch Bunch That Meets On Thursday (TFLBTMOT)*

On this past August 8 (and for the ninth consecutive year), a group of Twin Cities Area Barbershoppers sponsored the Annual Barbershop Open at the Elk River Golf Club in Elk River, Minnesota. The group known as *The Friday Lunch Bunch That Meets On Thursday* (TFLBTMOT) is made up of members from the Twin Cities-area Chapters of the Barbershop Harmony Society. One of its more recent endeavors is to raise funds for the Youth-In-Harmony young-men's chorus program sponsored by Society's affiliate, *Harmony Foundation*. [See Judd Orff's article following on Page 2.]

**Jim Clark**, lead-singer of the International champions, *Storm Front*, representing Harmony Foundation, participated in this year's Open and after dinner gave us an update on the objective of our fund-raising efforts. In this program entitled *Youth Festival*, young men's choruses come from around the world to compete at the Society's annual Midwinter Convention. From modest beginnings, over the last few years, the program has grown near-exponentially until in Reno last January, 16 youth-choruses, with a total of 343 participants, performed. The *Diocesan Boys School Choir* alone brought 56 singers from Hong

Kong and, incidentally, earned a superior rating.

TFLBTMOT has pledged \$10,000 this year to the *Youth Festival* and we are pleased to announce that with the \$7500 raised in this year's open along with funds raised at the weekly luncheons (in attempts to stifle Dan Cole's weekly Minneapolis-chapter reports), TFLBTMOT has met its goal. These monies will go to defray the expenses of one youth chorus at the San Antonio Midwinter Convention next January.

The golf tournament next year will again be held at the Elk River Club on August 7, 2017, our tournament's 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. We encourage men's, women's and mixed teams. Registration, including golf, cart, prizes, free range-balls and a buffet, is \$100/per person. We also solicit Hole Sponsorships, ranging from \$100 and up. This is a non-profit event with all proceeds going to the *Harmony Foundation*.

A special event for the 2017 Open is being planned and we will be limiting our golfers to the first 144 players. Jim Clark, and *Storm Front* will be participating in next year's Open and will be performing at "**The 19<sup>th</sup> Hole Party**" which non-golfers may also want to attend.

Now, won't that be a fun event? Click on [bhsopen.com](http://bhsopen.com) for more information or contact Gary Jacobson at [Garvjake677@gmail.com](mailto:Garvjake677@gmail.com).

**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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James Estes

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# TFLBTMOT throws down the gauntlet

By Judd Orff,

On Thursday, August 25, 2016, *The Friday Lunch Bunch That Meets On Thursday* (TFLBTMOT),



**Judd Orff**

meeting for its weekly lunch at the *Moose on Monroe*, considered and adopted a proposal to immortalize International and LOL District Hall of Fame member, longtime TFLBTMOT member, and beloved Minneapolis Commodore, **Dr. Jim Richards**, by means of the “*Jim Richards Challenge*.”

TFLBTMOT has pledged **\$50,000** to *Harmony Foundation International* to support Barbershop Youth Outreach programs and is challenging the Land O’ Lakes District membership to honor Dr. Jim by generating a matching \$50,000 in new money, thereby generating at least **\$100,000** for the programs. Any new gifts – from enrolling new donors to increases from current donors – will count toward this most remarkable challenge.

Jim Richards epitomized what it is to be a Barbershopper – quartet and chorus singer, chapter leader, district

leader, Society leader, Harmony University instructor, singing judge, tag master, lifelong learner and teacher of Barbershop craft, Harmony Foundation donor, Dixieland-band regular, ad infinitum. Jim gave selflessly to Barbershop decade after decade. His passion and dedication deserve to be celebrated in such a way as to attempt to match and honor the scope of the impact he had on each of our lives.

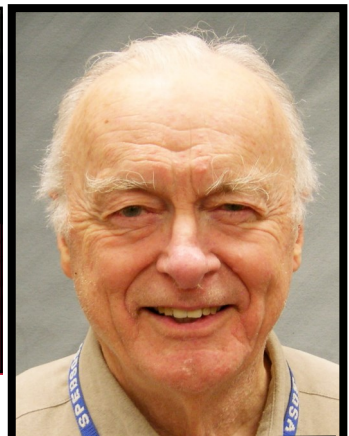
This is a big challenge, but so was our Lunch Bunch effort to raise \$10,000 to sponsor a youth chorus next January in San Antonio. As of last week, that \$10,000 is in the bank at Harmony Foundation for support of a youth chorus for the 2017 San Antonio Midwinter Convention.

Attending our luncheon this day was **Jim Clark**, Harmony Foundation Regional Director and lead of *Storm Front*. He has been our guide in this effort and has pledged Harmony Foundation’s help to make our dream a reality through fundraising visits in LOL, media blasts and updates, and helping promote the TFLBTMOT funding efforts, particularly the BHS Open in 2017. *Storm Front* will be playing in next year’s Golf Tournament and will provide entertainment at the after-Open meal.

Please consider an extra gift to TFLBTMOT to help make this endeavor come to fruition. TFLBTMOT has issued a daunting challenge—How will you answer?



**A smiling Jim Clark (center) accepts the final-balance check from equally-delighted Dan Cole (rt.). Looking on and also flashing their choppers are (left to rt.) Judd Orff, Steve Zorn, and Gary Jacobson.,**



**Dr. Jim Richards  
1925 - 2016**

8/29/16

Dear Friday Lunch Bunch,

What an inspirational pleasure to spend time with you last week! This campaign you are launching is going to be an inspiration to thousands. To paraphrase the Bard, “this few...this happy few...this band of brothers...”, you are going to make a greater difference than you can possibly imagine.

We’re going to make our friend, Jim Richards, proud. I’ll be right there with you, every step of the way. Thank you all! We’ll be talking soon,

Jim Clark

## From the Prez ...

By Gordy Aumann, President

Barb and I just got back from our week up north at our Quadna time-share condo. The devastation there from a vicious July windstorm was evident all around the area. Most noticeable was the number of trees lost. Reports were of 60 to 70-mile winds striking in the early-morning hours, a rude awakening for many of the local populace. Our condo was undamaged but even more importantly (for some), the golf course was spared, so all was fine for us.

It was most disappointing when we were rained out, for the second time in two years, at our scheduled Minnetonka Music in the Park outdoor show on August 16, but because we showed up and were ready to sing when the performance was cancelled, we were paid!

We were also invited to be on their schedule next August, a request we couldn’t refuse. Following the cancellation the Commodores reconvened at the Hopkins American Legion Club for an impromptu rehearsal/performance/afterglow. (We made their evening in more ways than one and the

## “Ask not what the Commodores can do for you ...”

By Paul Wigley, Director

It’s no secret that the Minneapolis Commodores have had a very successful combination of strong administrative leadership, proud traditions, warm camaraderie, musical achievement, and variety of programming during the past year. I always marvel at the thought of so many Commodores contributing extra time to ensure this ongoing chapter success. When visitors talk about the success of this chapter, they are talking about all of these facets put together. I ask each of you what ways can you all contribute your special skill set above and beyond the basic goal of Tuesday night attendance?

I know that right now I am looking for more of you who would be interested in getting involved in musical leadership. With the busy schedules of our current musical leaders, the needs for choreography assistants, the evolving roles for section leaders, etc., I’d be most interested in hearing from any of you who would like to become more involved in musical leadership. I do not want to make the mistake of assuming that just because you haven’t been asked, we don’t want and need your help! Many times we simply don’t know

Commodores will be welcomed for a reprise anytime.)

So our summer shows are now over and it's time to concentrate on the LOL District competition in Appleton, Wisconsin, on October 22. Then before we know it, it will be December 4 and time for our Christmas show. Can our annual show be far behind? (And oh, I almost forgot, we have a food-shelf benefit concert in Plymouth on November 13.)

IT'S GREAT TO BE A COMMODORE.



Paul Wigley

what kinds of musical talent new members bring to the chapter from year to year.

While on the subject of musical leadership, I must take time to sincerely thank **James Estes** for his contributions to the significant improvement of the Minneapolis Commodores. Unfortunately, work opportunities are taking him to California at the end of this month, and we will no longer be able to enjoy his talent, musical pacing, dedication to making great music, and friendly manner in front of our chorus. I have been so happy to work with James these past few months, and we all are much better because of the time he spent as one of us. My goal for these next months is to simply make James proud of the Commodores, and to let him know that his efforts and approach will not be forgotten. Thank you, James Estes—you are a true talent and we are all grateful for your time with us!

As the Commodores approach this new year (It seems like groups such as ours always seem to follow the school year!), I sincerely thank you all for being a part of this chapter and chorus. I’ve said many times how humbling it is to be entrusted with the musical leadership of such a magnificent group. I look forward to all of you *re-setting* your level of commitment, and taking a good look at your own individual preparation and contribution to the Commodores.

My question to singers has always been this: “How would we sound if everyone had the preparation and commitment that you have?” This can be a very encouraging statement! Attendance and music learning are things that only YOU know how well you are doing! Pride in performance is a must ... and we all know that we can be individually proud of our work when we are sufficiently prepared. It is SO exciting when we rehearse new music, and it’s obvious that a majority of you have looked and listened to all of it in advance!

Go to **Wigley**, Page 4, Column 1



**August Reenlistments**

Shawn Hunter.....2 yrs.

*Happy Birthday*

- 09/01 Jodie Grady
- 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 Jim & Linda Lee
- 09/16 Dan & Susan Krekelberg
- 09/26 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)

**SUPPORT  
HARMONY  
FOUNDATION**

*Wigley from Page 3*

That is what will enable our constant quest for musical excellence to continue and to improve. Attendance and preparation: How are you doing?

Keep encouraging your friends who are great singers to join us. We've added some tremendous voices the past few months; keep up the good work! New voices, younger members ... this will ensure the ongoing success of the Minneapolis Commodores for decades to come! The opportunity for guys like us to MAKE music is something our current world needs! Celebrate and share what we do.

It is a wonderful thing to be a part of the Minneapolis Commodores.

**BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**



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

*By Bill Warp, Secretary*

**From the Meeting August 11, 2016**



Bill Warp

• **Treasurer's Report:** The annual-show afterglow netted \$280.67.

• **Membership:** The LOL District is combining Marketing and Membership positions and recommends chapters doing the same. Chairman Harvey Weiss suggests calling the committee *Chapter Support and Development* if permitted by the Society's standard bylaws.

**Steve Grady** was accepted for membership.

**Andy Richards** will be monitoring chapter-meeting attendance particularly regarding member retention.

**Harvey Weiss** will resign his chairmanship as of July 15, 2017.

• **Music and Performance:** Seventy or more Commodores will be competing in Appleton.

An extra chorus rehearsal may be called for September 15, site to be determined.

New Christmas music will soon be available.

Nine chorus songs have been selected for the 2017 annual show.

Show date for 2018 is April 14.

• **Marketing:** Ev Nau's *Creative Solutions -How to sell Ads* program will be presented on September 13.

• **Old Business:** Report of the Chapter Survey results will be presented in the next few weeks.

• Next meeting September 8, 2016, at Wooddale Lutheran Church.

**SUNSHINE  
HOTLINE**



*By Rich Ongna,  
Sushine Chairman*

Phone: 952-829-7009

Email: ddongna@usfamily.net



Rich Ongna

**Jim Johannsen** suffered a light stroke the evening of August 26. After two days in the hospital he returned home, is doing well and is already back playing golf.

The Commodores extend their sympathies to the family of **Jim & Mary Erickson** in the passing of Mary's sister, **Carol**. She died in early August.

The Commodores also extend their sympathies to the family of **John & Char Carlotto** in the passing of Char's sister, **LoAnne**. She died on August 15 at the age of 69.

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

**Barbershop!**  
"B"  
**Forever**

*Errata*

**From the July issue:**

Page 6 - Top photo caption on the right should have read ... Frances Roen.

Page 9 - Half way down Column 1, EarthLink News should have read ... **YouthLink** News.

Your editor offers his apologies and extends his regrets. (Thanks also to the after-the-fact proof readers.)

## 2016 NUT-SALES KICK-OFF

By Dick Riemenschneider – Nut Administrator



Dick Riemenschneider

Labor Day Weekend has come and gone and so has the traditional summer season. Labor Day is a time that we associate with certain yearly activities in our lives stopping or slowing down and other things beginning again. Things that stop or slow down are our annual summer vacations, trips to the cabin or the lake, time at the local beach, and summer recreational programs. Things that begin again are school for the kids, football, a renewal of church activities, and a definite shorting of the daylight hours.

There is one other thing that is certain to start on the day after Labor Day and that is the Annual Commodores Nut Sales Campaign. For those new to the Commodores the Nut Sales are one of our major funding sources contributing \$11,300 to our treasury last year.

The premise is simple. Members take orders for one pound bags of nuts to be delivered at a later date. When orders are complete the appropriate amount of bulk nuts are ordered and the bulk nuts are broken down into one-pound bags. The nuts are then distributed to the member salesman to deliver to the customers. Since this is a “wholesale product in / retail prod-

uct out” operation the Commodores take the profits on the sales.

The Commodores have been doing an annual nut sales drive as a fund raiser for many years (I have some old Nut Order Forms that date to 1983, and I don’t know if there was a Nut Sales Drive prior to that). Over those many years the nut sales effort has contributed significantly to the Commodores treasury. During my tenure as Nut Administrator, which dates to 2006, the Nut Sales Drive has contributed a total of \$97,750 to the Commodores treasury (an average of \$9,775 per year).

With the potential of that kind of cash enhancement to the Commodores’ treasury, every member should be working at selling these nuts. For those new to the program, these are top quality nuts from a Minnesota supplier. Usually they are less than two weeks from the roaster to the customer, a claim that the top-tier grocery and specialty stores cannot match.

Our customers rave about the quality of our product, and our prices are at least competitive with the fancy stores (and in fact, are lower on some items). Our customers are friends and relatives of Commodores members. Some members sell to neighbors, work mates, spouse work mates, or friends from their church. I’ve heard of orders from members’ banks, dentist office, barbershop, or insurance office. A lot of these orders get bigger every year because these nuts are so delicious.

Just like last year the nuts will be in heavy-duty heat-sealed plastic bags with professional looking labels. We also offer foil gift bags with the Commodores information on the back and a greeting label on the front complete with a “From” and “To” for gift giving. The cost for the foil bag is \$1.50.

We also have a relationship with several businesses that order a quantity of nuts in the foil bag as a holiday favor to their vendors or even their employees. For business customers we offer custom labels on the front side of the bag with the business name and logo to promote their business. If you think a business you deal with might like this as a favor for their vendors or customers please promote this to them. The additional cost is still only \$1.50 for the foil bag.

You can begin selling immediately and be sure to collect the money when the order is taken. No nuts are stockpiled and only the nuts paid for are ordered. Our vendor makes only one delivery and we receive an extra 2% discount for payment within 10 days of delivery. Thus, it is essential to collect the money when making the sale.

Most of our customers look forward to our nut sales every year. They like the very high quality of the product we sell and, of course, many like to support the Commodores. The deadline for Thanksgiving delivery is at the meeting on Tuesday, October 25. Please start selling immediately.

It’s GREAT to be a Commodore!

## Welcome aboard!

**Steve Grady** and his wife, **Jodie**, live in Chanhassen. A native of Grand Rapids, Michigan, after high school he earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees in electrical engineering at the University of Illinois. He lists his occupation as marketing and is self-employed with his



own company, *Enviro-Control*.

For 45 years Steve has been a singer, in choral groups, a cappella ensembles, and church choirs. Attracted to Barbershopping in high school and through college, over the years he has been a member of three different Barbershop chapters, each of which he competed with Internationally. Also along the way, Steve has performed in many school productions and some community theater.

**Dave Speidel** gets the prize for encouraging Steve to get involved with the Commodores and the tenor section will benefit from his vocal expertise. He also hopes to share his ideas about stage presence as well as to help the chapter with business and marketing strategies.

Steve is impressed with the Commodores’ friendliness and musicality and the meeting format although he would like to see more quartet/small-group singing. *Welcome, Steve!*



The winning ladies' team (from left): Marilyn Jacobson, Becky Wigley, Sheila Cole, and Nan DeMars.



Miss TFLBTMOT 2016 with two old guys.



Bill Warp, Gordy Aumann (rear left), Don Keller, and Andy Cook display their Grand Prize, Doc's Dulcet Delights (sea-salt caramels).



Let me tell you about the Jim Richards Challenge.



Lead on, Jake, lead on!



Jim Foy shows off his Marilyn Jacobson prize painting.



Judd Orff displays his prize, The Original Rules of Golf put together by Don Keller.



How many in this quartet? From left, Jim Foy, Jim Clark, Jim Lee, Bob Dykstra, and Dick Riemenschneider.



Lou collects for making the longest putt.

Staff Photos



The Minneapolis Commodores, as guests, appearing with the Twin City Show Chorus at Como Pavilion on Sunday, August 7.

Diana Pinard Photo

**A look back at the 1962**

**Commodore show**

By Bob Dykstra, *Curmudgeon-at-Large*

I recently came across the Memorandum of Agreement between the Regents of the University of Minnesota and the Minneapolis Chapter of SPEBSQSA pertaining to the February 10, 1962, annual Parade of Quartets to be held at Northrop Auditorium on the U of M campus. The agreement was signed on behalf of our chapter by two iconic Commodores, **Ed Peterka** as 1961 chapter president, and **Bruce Churchill** as 1962 Show Chairman. A few items of the agreement caught my attention from a historical perspective.

Tickets were to be priced at \$3.50, \$3.00, \$2.50, and \$1.50. Were all tickets to be sold the gross income from ticket sales would have been \$13,807. (I expect almost all were sold as was the case for several shows during our Northrop-as-a-venue years). Show expenses were projected at \$3,300 including advertising costs of \$900 in such publications as the *Minneapolis Star & Tribune*, the *St. Paul Pioneer Dispatch & Press*,

*The Minnesota Daily, Jewish World, Symphony*, and *Visitor*. (We obviously cast a wide advertising net in those days).

Show proceeds were to be divided as follows: (1) Presentation expenses, not to exceed \$3,250 were to be paid first; (2) The next \$500 of receipts were to be donated to the *Variety Club Heart Hospital Special Equipment Fund* [established by the Commodores]; (3) The next \$2,750 were to be paid to the Minneapolis Chapter; (4) Ticket sales in excess of \$6,500 were to be divided with 42.5% being awarded to the Minneapolis Chapter and 57.5% to the *Variety Club Heart Hospital Special Equipment Fund*. It is interesting to note in this regard that according to the 1962 annual show program a total of more than \$60,000 had been donated from receipts from previous shows.

The Memorandum of Agreement also included the estimate that 287 passes would be distributed. A partial list of projected recipients (and the estimated number of passes they would be awarded) included: (1) eight to music critics; (2) 28 to the University's Concerts and Lectures Department; (3) 16 to the University President and Minnesota Governor; (4) 44 to the Parade Chairman; (5) 50 to special contributors; and (6) 85 to the chapter (chorus members

involved in the show perhaps?)

A glance at the 1962 show program reveals that Bruce Churchill's show theme was "Stadium Harmony" which honored the Minnesota Vikings, Twins, and Gophers. Local quartets performing on the show included the *Southridge Jubilaires*, the *Mel-O-Dons*, the *Hut Four*, and the *Atomic Bums*. Visiting quartets were the *Gay Nineties*, and soon-to-be International Champions, the *Four Renegades*, and the *Town and Country Four*. The Commodore Chorus sang under the direction of **Harold Ulring**.

The show program also included a proclamation from Minneapolis Mayor, Arthur Naftalin, in which he proclaimed February 5-10, 1962 as "Harmony Week" and urged every citizen of the community to rededicate himself (sic) to a new spirit of friendship and harmony with his neighbor.

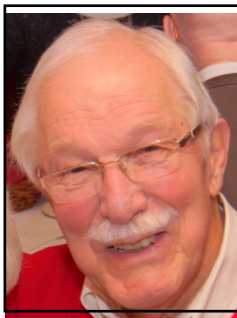
Re-examining the Memorandum of Agreement and the 1962 Show Program reminded me of what a big deal our annual show was in the early 1960s. I think that Northrop Auditorium held about 4600 seats and we came very close to selling out our single 8:00 show on more than a few occasions. Ah.....those were the glory days of our beloved Barbershop hobby.



special occasions. A glance at the lyrics quickly conveyed to me that the song was almost assuredly composed in recognition and celebration of the chartering of the City of Lakes Sweet Adelines Chapter in April 1952, which signaled to all that the women of the Twin Cities area were about to share with their male counterparts the love of Barbershop.

Randine was the first musical director of what was first named the Minnesota No. 1 Chapter of Sweet Adelines, but was re-named the City of Lakes Chapter just a year later. Since discovering this piece of music I've been trying without success to find anybody who remembers singing it or has any familiarity with it. I've passed a copy of the music on to Caryl Hansen (wife of John) and Abbie Rye (an acquaintance of Dale Lynch), both of whom were charter members of the chorus. Neither recalls the song or has any recollection of singing it.

Go to *Sweet Adelines*, Page 8, Column 1



Bob Dykstra

**Sweet Adelines sing Barbershop, too!**

*An end of summer bonus by the Curmudgeon-at-Large*

My goal in recent months has been to fill up the recycle can before it is picked up every other week. As a result, I've spent a fair amount of time re-examining my treasure trove of Barbershop memorabilia. A few weeks ago I came across a piece of sheet music that grabbed my attention. Closer examination revealed it to be an original song (both music and lyrics) by Randine Hatlestad, wife and mother, respectively, of late ex-Commodores, Jerry and Wes Hatlestad. The song was titled *We are Your Own Sweet Adelines* and carried a Notary Public's stamp and signature dated October 21, 1952.

I have no idea how I came into possession of this rare gem and my immediate regret upon discovering it was that I didn't find it in time to pass it on to Wes, who would have loved it and doubtless added it to his solo repertoire for

*Sweet Adelines* from Page 7

The lyrics go like this:

*We're going to harmonize songs that are gay.  
 We love to vocalize the Barbershop way.  
 Tho' we've not met in a barbershop yet,  
 We sing sweet music you'll never forget.  
 But we don't need a shave and whiskers don't show,  
 And we don't cut our hair...we want it to grow.  
 We wear size sixes instead of nines,  
 We are your own SWEET ADELINES.*

Our editor, Doc Hardin, will be thrilled to hear that the capitalization of Barbershop in the second line was in the original music as was the non-capitalization of barbershop

in line three. Randine Hatlestad was obviously way ahead of the times. [Hear! Hear!]

I will pass the original composition on to one of Randine's grandchildren (Wes's children) once I've exhausted my research efforts to find evidence of its ever being sung. I also plan to contact Sweet Adelines International Headquarters to ask whether or not they would like a copy or might even have a copy in their archives. But for now I'm just enjoying immensely saving this wonderful glimpse of the past in our beloved hobby from the recycle can.

*Editor's Note: Wouldn't it be ironic if the chart was published and made available for sale.*

**A reunion of sorts (kind of?)**



Most of the *Roadrunners* (from left to rt.): Ron Thomley, tenor; a fill-in lead in shades who wishes to remain anonymous; Norm Wolf, bass; and Dwight (Wiley) Mennenga, baritone. *Staff Photo*

When the members of the *Friday Lunch Bunch That Meets On Thursday* gathered at the *Moose on Monroe* on August 18 for their weekly meal, they had no idea

that they would be graced by a surprise visit of three-fourths of the LOL District's 1972 quartet champions, the *Roadrunners*.

**Ron Thomley**, later, with **Bob Dykstra**, **Wes Hatlestad**, and **John Hansen**, formed the much loved and ever peripatetic *Salty Dogs*.

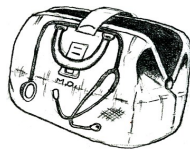
**Norm Wolf** has retired to Arizona where he sings in an extremely busy quartet, so much so that when he returns to Minnesota in the summer-times he just takes it easy.

**Wiley** has been plagued with serious back problems necessitating several complex surgical procedures. He always gave his best with his comedic-baritone antics so much so that on one occasion he fractured a wrist while taking a pratfall.

**Ron Stong**, lead, left the Barbershop scene realizing full well that he could never have so much fun again.

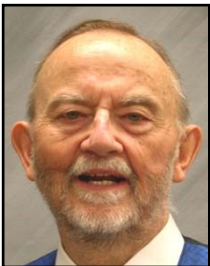
Certainly the *Roadrunners* have left an indelible mark in the Minneapolis Chapter's history and in that of the LOL District. (The Editor still misses you guys!)

**Doc's Bag**



By Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor

I, like virtually all of the Commodores, was devastated that our newest assistant director, **James Estes**, has a job transfer requiring a move to California at the end of September.



**Hardin Olson** Barbershop craftsmen like James are like rare jewels, difficult to find, coveted, and treated most carefully when discovered; we

were most fortunate to have him with us albeit for such a short time.

We can only wish him the best of good fortune and offer him the reassurance that he will always be welcome to return to the Minneapolis Chapter should the fates decree.

We love you, James, Godspeed!  
 \*\*\*\*\*

Hat's off to TFLBTMOT for it's decision to establish the *Jim Richards Challenge* and to Jim Clark for conceiving the idea.

However, the *Challenge* may not be the only means of memorializing Jim. Some time ago Jim met with Society CEO, Marty Monson, to discuss a plan to modify the spiral staircase in the Nashville headquar-

ters. The five bannister-rails enclosing the stairs, by plan or fortuitously, represent a musical staff. Apparently it was Jim's idea to embellish the staff-like rails with musical notes and text, perhaps *Keep the Whole World Singing*. We shall see.

Undaunted, TFLBTMOT will be pushing on. With smart planning and a good publicity campaign, the challenge is certainly doable. The past publicity efforts have been suboptimal relying mainly on word of mouth with limited success. But now with the Foundation in our corner and the participation of *Storm Front* the prospects of attracting greater participation in the Open will be significantly improved for even greater benefit of countless young singers.



# Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, Boatless Baritone

Leonardo DiCaprio was WRONG! Remember what Leonardo said to his



Jim Erickson

newly met, well-bred love interest played by **Kate Winslet** in the movie, **TITANIC**? My fading recollection is that he was swishing through the iceberg-cold water as the

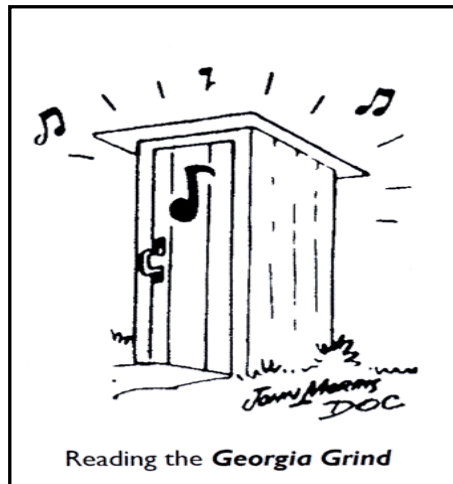
ship was rapidly filling. As he struggled to rescue this damsel in distress (actually they were both in distress, but his role was to be cool-headed in the face of the unsinkable, but quickly sinking, behemoth), she had a quirky enough mind in the middle of all this, to ask him how he could stand that to-the-bone freezing water. He nonchalantly replied something like, "Aw, shucks, ma'am, my dad used to take me ice fishing on **Lake Wissota** when I was a kid. We just got used to the icy stuff." Brave and hardy young man. Beautiful and smart young woman. And in the movie, at least beauty was saved.

Lake Wissota ... where our cabin is and where I am quietly dipping my toes into the gently, warming water. Early morning ... And the lake is so shiny and flawlessly smooth, even the finest plate-glass mirror would shatter in envy. Lake Wissota ... this next year it will be celebrating 100 years since its creation by the completion of the hydroelectric dam on the Chippewa River near Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. The "lake" soon was filled to its present level and has been a source of pride for all those 100 years. Thanks to Leonardo and Kate, the lake received even a bit more publicity in the movie.

Oh, I really hate to type what I am next going to. But ... Leonardo had it wrong! Lake Wissota was actually created years *after* the Titanic sought the bottom of the ocean. Years after!

Not really his fault, cuz he was just reciting the script. His writers were the culprits. But, it made a good story and regardless, I am enjoying the 6000 wet acres of "shiny and warm" this morning.

Another story. (I have taken some liberty with this, but have tried to stay faithful to the gist of the facts.) At a rehearsal or two ago, **Rod Vink** tapped me on the shoulder and related that when he read my last article it brought him right back to a quartet singout some time ago. I had written about dementia and how, among other things, it destroys memories, and then, how important and lasting is the musical connec-



tion to the mind.

As many of us have done, Rod and his quartet were performing for a group of nursing home residents by singing a variety of songs. Upon finishing, the staff was giving the parting thanks and appreciation when one of them mentioned that there was a group of residents who were unable, for various reasons, to join the audience where the quartet had performed. "Would you be willing to stay a little longer and sing for them?," she asked. No Barbershopper ever says "No!," to being asked to sing just a few more songs. Nor did this quartet. So they headed down the hall to another, smaller room.

In it were just a few residents, all in wheelchairs and for the most part, unresponsive. Two or three were

facing the wall without any apparent complaint.

This was going to be tough, not because of an audience whose minds were in another world, but rather because of the realization of what these residents had lost, the memories, their families, and all the moments once precious to them. Tough! Tough! Tough! But, as is true of most Barbershoppers, the quartet was there to perform. No matter what they felt inside, the performing commandment mandates setting personal feelings aside and mustering a performing persona ... and so they did.

After a number or two in the little room with no detectable recognition by the audience of what was going on, the foursome noticed one resident whose nurse had turned him away from the wall aiming him toward the quartet. The move didn't seem to make a difference as the expressionless face remained blank.

Rod announced the next song, *This Little Light Of Mine*, and the quartet resumed singing. In a few moments, the nurse realized this resident's lips were beginning to move in time with the song. Leaning closer, she began to hear the words the resident was saying. AND singing. "This little light of mine, I'm goin' to let it shine." The nurse uttered a quiet gasp and the quartet immediately noticed. (Personally, I'm surprised they could continue.)

Reaching a dramatic ending, there was no applause, except for that of a nurse or two perhaps. It was then that the nurse attending the singing resident faced him and said, "George, I didn't know you could sing. Where did you learn that song?" Barely changing his expression, he said, "My mother taught it to me when I was just a little boy." Astounded, the nurse could scarcely speak. With a quivering voice and moving close to the quartet she said, "George has not spoken one word for the two years I've been taking care of him. And *Go to Grind, Page 10,*

**Grind from Page**

now he spoke and he sang the words right along with you. That is a wonder!"

I believe George returned to his other world when the quartet departed. I can only hope, though, that the musical connection that brought about this glimmer of his mother and what she had taught him so long ago, made for some other warm memories. Maybe a song or two in his future would do the same again.

Thanks, Rod, for sharing t his story. It's great fun to write an article and then be able to enhance it later by adding another's personal experience. I think most of us will never begin to comprehend the impact we have on the world by sharing our singing talents with others. But as in the above story, in big ways and some very small ways, we can make a joyful difference. Sing on, Barbershoppers! Sing on!

And with the therapeutic benefits of

singing, you can keep some balance in your life! So, sing with a spirited group of Barbershoppers—men like the *Minneapolis Commodores*. If you are already a Commodore, make, and act on, that Barbershopper Bucket List. Some have told me about doing so to their great excitement and satisfaction!

Don't forget to hold fast to that which is good, and trust me, the research on the origins of the *Georgia Grind* continues unabated.

**Jim Richards Memorial Chord Candy #3**

Submitted by Brent Graham



Dr. Jim Richards

... "I wrote this tag some 30 years ago. I was inspired by Val Hicks' original chart and created my own arrangement of this wonderful song. The 'burn' of the lead F# against the tenor G in Measures 2 and 3 evokes the longing for that love of long ago. I'm sure Jim would have really enjoyed this one!"

*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. Brent has broken the ice as the first contributor from afar, so jump in, the water's fine ( ... a little cold maybe, here in Minnesota).*



Brent Graham

**Time Was (tag)**

Arranger: BRENT GRAHAM

(Tenor melody)

a - gain. \_\_\_\_\_ If \_\_\_\_\_

Our love will grow a - (Our love will grow a - gain.) \_\_\_\_\_

a - gain. \_\_\_\_\_

a - gain, grow a - gain. \_\_\_\_\_

then. \_\_\_\_\_

we love as we did, back (Time was and time is a - gain.) \_\_\_\_\_

then. \_\_\_\_\_

# LETTERS

Hi Hardin.

Congratulations on your PROBE award. It is much earned and deserved. I was a member of PROBE for several years being both chapter and district bulletin editor.

Thanks again for another interesting issue. I am particularly in agreement with page one and have printed page one and will pass it on to our bulletin editor.

It appears the term BARBERSHOP is being replaced by other non-Society references. In fact my own chapter no longer opens our meetings with *The Old Songs* nor closes with *Keep the Whole World Singing*. In fact our present president recently addressed us as *choristers* rather than Barbershoppers. Much to my disgust as a 63-year member.

Sing-cerely,

Les Gurr

*Editor's Note: Les Gurr is a Winnipeg, Manitoba, Barbershopper and a longtime friend of Bob Dykstra's. He was LOL Barbershopper of the Year in 1970 and was elevated to the LOL Hall of Fame in 1999.*

*Les has been an avid reader and supporter of the Chord-Inator and a supplier of the most interesting and beautiful YouTube and other electronic clips.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Hi Hardin,

It's been a long time since I've communicated with you, but I want you to know that your bulletin is one that I read regularly. And this latest issue has been a particular joy to me because PROBE finally got it right in selecting you as a new member of the PROBE Hall of Honor. Your bulletin always shows the depth of interest of your members and their joy of being Barbershoppers (with a capital B), and your continuing efforts in maintaining the quality of the Chord-

inator. Keep up the good work.

Dick Cote

Editor Emeritus, Fullerton, CA Barbershop *Clippin's*

2011 inductee - PROBE Hall of Honor

*Editor's Note: Dick Cote's long tenure as Clippin's editor resulted in a half-dozen or so top-five PROBE International Bulletin Contest wins including one gold medal. Dick has been a reader of and the west-coast cheer leader for the Chord-Inator for a dozen or more years.*

\*\*\*\*\*

Please let me begin by saying "Thank You" for such a terrific evening last week. And thank you for giving me a chance to be both an audience member and a participant!

I am also so grateful for the time you gave me to share with you about Harmony Foundation, and to talk a bit more about the successes that our donors are making possible through our Society's Educational and Outreach programs.

If you are receiving this e-mail as a member of the Minneapolis Chapter, but were not able to join us yesterday, or if you were there but didn't have the opportunity to complete a pledge card yourself, please call me

or reply to this email today. (*And yes! I'll be certain to get you the new Legacy of Harmony CD as a thank-you gift.*)

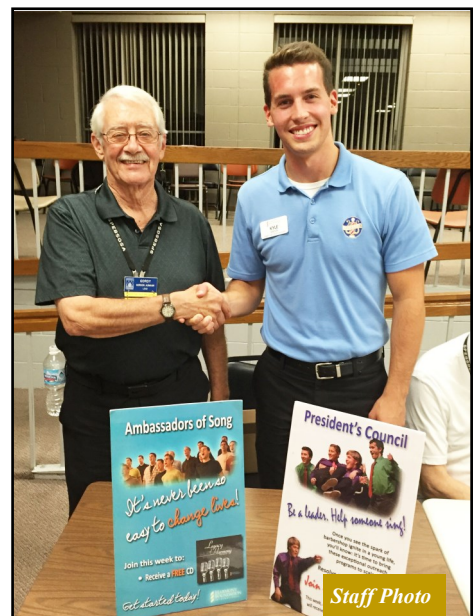
I have included a link to a very funny, yet special video below; please feel free to forward on to anyone who you think might enjoy it! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y1Psr5Cm7ag&index=4&list=PLJ1alnVMvPGOr2CTnCoDTTo2-DDJ4d0TOw>

As mentioned, we're currently seeing around a 21 percent giving participation across our Society's membership including all levels. With the amazing stories of what has been achieved over the last few years with only 21 percent, can you imagine what is possible by improving that [donation rate] to 25, 30 or even 50 percent? You can help us reach those goals by joining *Ambassadors of Song* or *President's Council* with simply logging on to our website [www.harmonyfoundation.org/donorinfo](http://www.harmonyfoundation.org/donorinfo) today!

Many thanks for your consideration, and thanks again for a wonderful rehearsal ... I'm hoping our paths cross again soon!

Kyle Snook  
Harmony Foundation  
Donor Care Center Associate

**10th Annual  
BHS Open  
Monday,  
August 7, 2017  
SCRAMBLE FORMAT  
to benefit  
Harmony Foundation's  
Youth Festival  
Elk River Country Club  
For further information  
log on to  
[bhsopen.com](http://bhsopen.com)**



President Gordy Aumann welcomes Kyle Snook to the 8/23 Minneapolis Chapter meeting.

**Dr. Hardin Olson, Bulletin Editor**  
 3020 St. Albans Mill Road #109  
 Minnetonka, MN 55305  
 952/229-4525  
[olson118@umn.edu](mailto:olson118@umn.edu)



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All copy and photos herein without a byline, as well as those opinions and commentaries under his byline, are the sole responsibility of the *Chord-Inator* Editor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Minneapolis Chapter Board or its officers.

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

*Logo courtesy of Bob Clark*

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**Chapter Quartets**

- BOMP  
 Dan Cole.....612/940-4554  
 CHORD SMASH  
 James Estes.....612/237-3234  
 EASY LISTENIN'  
 Dan Slattery.....651/747-6384  
 HOT COMMODITY  
 Dave Speidel.....612/437-4325  
 RING IT ON  
 Andy Richards.....651/639-9312  
 RIVER CITY QUARTET  
 John Chouinard.....651/343-4145  
 MINNESOTA GO-4's  
 Harvey Weiss.....763/439-4447  
 RANDOM SAMPLE  
 Darrell Egertson.....952/943-8737  
 SWYPE  
 Mark Bloomquist.....952/541-0232  
 SOUNDS of RENOWN (VLQ)  
 Mark Ortenburger.....952/942-8382

**To:**

**LOOKING AHEAD**

- September 20, **Guest Night #2**
- November 13, Sunday, **Messiah Methodist Church, Plymouth, for IOCP Foodshelf**
- December 4, Sunday - **Christmas Show with Twin City Show Chorus**
- March 9, 2017, Thursday, **Coon Rapids Dessert/Coffee performance, 7:00 p.m./**
- 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 Clark\*
- Dick Cote\*
- Bob Dykstra
- Jim Erickson
- Brent Graham\*
- Les Gurr\*
- Gary Jacobson
- Hardin Olson
- Rich Ongna
- Dick Riemenschneider
- Kyle Snook\*
- Bill Warp
- Paul Wigley

**District Level**

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

**International Level**

- January 17-22, 2017, **Midwinter Convention, San Antonio, Texas**
- July 2-8, 2017, **International Convention, Las Vegas, Nevada**

**CHORD-INATOR**  
*1st Place*  
**2013 PROBE HARD-COPY INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN CONTEST**

**PROBE Hall of Honor**  
**Dr. Hardin Olson**  
**2016**



The *Chord-Inator* is available on the Minneapolis Chapter's website [minneapoliscommodores.org](http://minneapoliscommodores.org) beginning with the January 2006 issue.

**CHORD-INATOR**  
**MINNEAPOLIS COMMODORES**  
**Minneapolis Chapter of SPEBSQSA**  
**MEETING EVERY TUES -7:00 p.m.**  
**House of Prayer Lutheran Church**  
**7625 Chicago Ave. S.**  
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