

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

DECEMBER 2017- VOL. 73- NO. 10



*6 We Wish You the Merriest! *9*



In the eyes and ears of many, patron and performer alike, the production of *We Wish You the Merriest* was the finest Christmas program in the long history of the joint holiday performances offered by the combined choruses of the *Minneapolis Commodores* and the *Twin City Show Chorus*. The setting was spectacular and the music, a *cappella* and accompanied, complemented fully the elegance emitting from the stage. For the first time in the history of our joint Christmas shows, we featured a pit band (albeit small) on stage with our 100 singers.

To get the virtually sold-out audience jumping, the combined choruses with the band opened the show with a rousing arrangement of *Come On, It's Christmas*. *Under the Hill*, (VLQ-members under age 35) followed, with one-time Commodore *Greg Volk's* challenging arrangement of *Silver Bells*, while the Commodores exited the stage. *Twin Cities* then took command of the stage with their



After 36 years directing the *Twin City Show Chorus*, Judy Olson is stepping off the podium to pursue her favorite avocations of coaching, show production, and promotion of *Young Women In Harmony*.

five selections highlighted by Renee Craig's arrangement of *I Wonder as I Wander* featuring Sweet Adeline icon *Mary Dick's* heart-warming solo. Their concluding number was *Larry Wright's* arrangement of *You Raise Me Up*.

Came the Commodores turn with their set ending with the hand clapping, toe-tapping *See What's Happening in the Barn*.

Of course, as you might surmise, the *coup de gras* was the combined-chorus program. Leading off was a reprise of *Come On, It's Christmas* with soloists Joy Johnson and Jean Keller. Tony Mason soloed in *Christmas Glory/ Hallelujah*. The wonderful set ended with the Les Brown's lively *We Wish You the Merriest*, Jim Richards' son, Andy, and grandson, Matthew, doing the solo work. (Jim was listening somewhere.)

It was a great afternoon with perfect weather, an appreciative crowd, fine music, and for many, a time to reflect on the blessings of 2017.



We Wish
You the
Merriest!



CHORD SMASH

Bloomington Jefferson
High School
December 3, 2017



PAUL



MARY DICK



JUDY

All show photos
courtesy of
Wayne Rasmussen



**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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Assistant Directors: Gary Jacobson (on leave),
Davie Speidel, Dave Bechard

Section Leaders

Tenor Section LeaderRollie Neve
Lead Section Leader.**Vacant**

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Bari Section LeadersDave Speidel
Assistant - Matt Richards

Bass Section Leaders.....Dave Casperson

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It Takes A Village ... Part 2

By Denny Maas, President

As mentioned in last month's article,



Denny Maas

at the last few Chapter meetings I have been sharing *Tokens of Gratitude* with our members and I will continue to recognize those who are making significant contributions to the chorus.

Andy Cook has been a Board Member for several years. He provides valuable input to Board discussions and regularly attends our meetings. In addition, using his truck, he hauls our risers to performances and helps load and unload them even though encumbered by a knee brace. He often must bring the trailer to his home for overnight storage. Andy does this freely and with good spirit. His is a significant contribution to the our chorus and I really can't give him a big enough "THANK YOU, ANDY."

It is a blessing to have **Dan True** as the MC for our shows. One of my guests at *We Wish You the Merriest* specifically shared with me what a wonderful job Dan had done As you can probably guess, just like we have to practice our music, Dan has to spend time preparing what he is going to say. He is succinct, clever, and much appreciated by our audiences. "THANK YOU, DAN!"

Note: We are also in debt to **Bob Dykstra** who had been our resident MC for the last several years, bringing his wonderful personality, wit, stories, anecdotes, and borrowed material to entertain our audiences. They love you, Bob, as do we! "THANK YOU, BOB!"

Paul Swanson has been a long time contributor to the Board with his work on our web site and *Facebook*. This year he volunteered to take on the role Dan Smith assumed for so many years—making recordings of our repertoire. Paul is a fabulous tenor performing in quartets as well as the chorus. In addition, he is a master at the piano – I can still hear

him playing *Great Balls of Fire* rocking the whole of Benson Hall. *Swanny*, you are the best! "THANK YOU, PAUL!"

Steve Grady fills the role of Marketing VP on the Board. He shares his expertise and is working on bringing new marketing programs to our chapter. At our weekly meetings Steve challenges us to promote our performances and work hard to sell tickets. In addition, utilizing his years of Barbershop experience as a quartet man and a chorus participant, he helps with our choreography as well as taking his place on the risers. Steve is full of energy and wit. And although his battery has only a positive terminal, he charges up those around him. Thanks for supercharging us Steve. "THANK YOU, STEVE!"

Dan Williams' current run on the Board began in 2013, first serving as Executive Vice President, then President in 2014, Past-President in 2015-2016, and lastly filling an empty slot in 2017. With so much Board experience, Dan has been very helpful to me this year. In addition, Dan continues his excellent work coordinating the ordering and distribution of our clothing/uniform needs to keep us looking sharp. "THANK YOU, DAN!"

Gordy Aumann has been on the Board for years, most recently serving as Executive VP in 2014, President in 2015-2016, and Past President in 2017. Serving as Gordy's Executive VP, I was tuned to the responsibilities of Chapter President. (He was also my faithful riser-buddy during my first year as a Commodore.) Gordy also was a member of the committee recommending *YouthLink* to be the recipient of our community altruistic support, and was instrumental in initiating our successful program for ICA Food Shelf collections at our performances. "THANK YOU, GORDY!"

Bob Ostergaard and **John Lloyd** have been the primary contacts working with local communities to schedule chorus performances. These important marketing activities introduce our art-form to many who are not familiar with the Barbershop style and provide the opportunity to expand our food shelf collections. "THANK
Go to *Village*, Page 4, Column 1

**Capital "B" in
Barbershop?
Why not?**

Village from Page 3

YOU, BOB and JOHN!"

Dave Casperson is on the Music Committee and is the Bass Section-Leader. He provides valuable input into decisions made regarding repertoire selection and performance logistics, and works to improve the quality of our bass section's sound. You will often see him on stage soloing vocally with his guitar at our shows (He does a cool Elvis.) His wife, **Jamye**, also did a great job accompanying us on the piano [with Dave on Bass] at *We Wish You the Merriest*. "THANK YOU, DAVE and JAMYE!"

Hardin Olson is the peerless editor of the *Chord-Inator*, without question one of the outstanding chapter newsletters in the Society. He gently (well, not always gently) coaxes contributors to submit their articles, then edits their work, submits each piece to a loyal group of proof readers, adds photos, and produces final copy. In addition, he is by and large the photographer for the Commodores, a "position" he has held for many years, so it's fair to say that he's responsible for documenting our ever-evolving story. "THANK YOU, DOC!"

The genealogy and heritage of our next two men drove them straight into being Chapter Go-Getters. It was a **Jim Richards**/Providence thing.

First, we have **Andy Richards** who is

also on the Board, cutting to the chase providing solid logical comments in Board discussions. This year he accepted the responsibility for managing (with direct assistance from wife, **Karen**) the Afterglow for the 2018 Annual Show. Based on the information he has shared with the Board, they are putting together a package for a great party at a reasonable budget. He is also a strong quartet man and performer in the bass section. We are fortunate to have this very talented man in our chapter. "THANK YOU, ANDY and KAREN!"

Second, we have Andy's son, **Matthew Richards** who not only is a fine singer but one always with an infectious expression of joy on his face. The outstanding performance of *Just One More*, the quartet he sings baritone with, is another example of the way he contributes to the chorus. Matthew and Andy each soloed in *We Wish You the Merriest*. Furthermore, he has volunteered to manage our 2018 annual show, *Pitch Perfect*. He is quite creative and boils with enthusiasm. In addition, Matt martial his technical skills to manage our *Groupanizer* account. He does a fantastic job keeping it running and keeping it current. We are very happy that he has chosen to bless our Minneapolis Chapter with his talent. "THANK YOU, MATT!"

Mark Bloomquist shares his talents in many ways. This year he

took on the *Sunshine Hotline* column following **Rich Ongna's** relocation eastward to Packer country. Mark will be the primary contact for those in the Commodore family, and others of note, having health problems or other serious issues. He maintains contact with those families and shares that information in his column and at chapter meetings so the rest of us can provide our thoughts and prayers. Thank you Mark for bringing a little sunshine to those in need. In addition, Mark is a front row/quartet guy and a charter-member of the *Village People* in the unforgettable *YMCA* number that so energized our recent audiences. "THANK YOU, MARK!"

Since I am probably exceeding my allotted space for this article, I need to wrap it up even though I may have missed mentioning the contributions of many of you. I do offer my apology and will continue to use our chapter meetings to recognize others in 2018. Nevertheless, the tokens that have been given out and the people mentioned in these two articles show that we have a Village of Commodores who are strongly committed to the chorus and are adding their time and energy to our efforts.

In my November article I invited you to join this *Village*. There is lots of work to be done—and all are welcome to join and complement the work of our Village people.

"THANK YOU, DENNY!"



Jim Richards

Jim Richards Memorial Chord Candy #13

This tag was originally a Hal Leonard arrangement I played with my community band back in ol' Virginny. I loved it so I made a 5-part tag out of it, keeping the open fifths and mimicking the full big-band sound (Thanks Hal!). For this 4-part version, I brought the tenor part down an octave, to the lead range, modifying some of the notes so it's comfy for everyone. In turn, I allow the tenor to have the melody. The ending three measures are over a bass hanger in a classic, predictable Barbershop-sounding phrase after the swing portion. Make sure, basses, that "way" is pronounced with an open eh ... for quality longevity! Happy Holidays and enjoy the season!



Paul Paddock

JINGLE BELLS

SWING

RUBATO

ARR. PADDOCK

PHO.

JIN-GLE BELLS

JIN-GLE BELLS

JIN-GLE ALL THE WAY

(JIN-GLE ALL THE WAY)

SUNSHINE HOTLINE



By Mark Bloomquist, Sunshine
Chairman



Mark Bloomquist

All the stars and planets must be in line, all quiet in the health front at this juncture.

Remember: Please keep me updated about those ailing and remember a note, a card, a call, and prayers are always welcome.

Happy Anniversary

11/15 Dan & Beverly Slattery
11/19 Ken & Karen Wentworth
11/27 Lawrence & Martha Smalley*
* Commodore South



December reenlistments

Stephen Daniel
Robert Duncan
Gene Heupal
Kevin Huyck
Gary Jacobson
Dan Krekelberg
Bryan Langren
Dale Lynch
Dennis Maas
Terry McClellan
Charles McKown
Thurman Slack
Larry Smalley*
Kaleb Smith
Eric Traband
Daniel True
Blake Wanger
Kenneth Wentworth
Travis Wuttke
* Commodore South

Editor's Note: International in Nashville, in all its wisdom, has ceased including the years served when reporting renewals. (Our dues dollars at work.)

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



Chapter members are always welcome to attend the Board meetings.

From the meeting of November 7

- October minutes and November Treasurer's report accepted.



Bill Warp

• **Marketing:** Magnetic signs with name and logo are still being considered for the trailer.

Matt Richards and **Don Keller** plan to have graphics for the show completed by April annual show December 31.

• **Steve Grady** is developing the *Marketing Package* for the 2018 *Annual Show & Performance Season* in e-mail and printed form. It will state the mission of the Commodores as well as explaining how best to market ads and sponsorships.

Happy Birthday

12/14 Dave Casperson
12/19 Steve Daniel
12/19 Ken Knutson
12/20 Natalie Lapakko
12/21 Judi Jarnberg
12/21 Hardin Olson
12/21 Lawrence Smalley
12/22 Rollie Neve
12/27 Gene Heupal
12/28 Terry Jean St. Martin
12/29 Laura Jane Dawson
12/29 Chuck McKown
12/29 Ebie Richards
12/29 Bonnie Vink
01/03 Mary Erickson
01/03 Doug Miller
01/09 Caryl Hansen
01/09 Linda McClellan
01/15 Bill Warp

Note: If your birthday or anniversary date is missing from the lists, please let your humble Editor know.



Membership: **Jim Norman** has been added to the Chapter's roster.

Report on Year 2017 recruitment shows, 18 visitors, two new members and 14 members stepping off the risers.

A resolution was passed creating a subcommittee to address the problem of decreasing membership. **Andy Tate** volunteered to serve on the committee.

• **Music & Performance:** There were questions about the schedule of events on convention-Saturday.

Hospitality rooms were poorly attended because of the late schedule of quartet evaluations.

Paul Wigley was pleased with the Commodores' chorus performance.

The annual-show script is ready, more music is coming, a total of 12 numbers will be offered by the chorus.

• **Old Business:** **Dan Williams** and **Andy Cook** have been contacting truant members. Most have been ill or busy with work.

Welcome aboard!

Jim Norman lives in Richfield and works now as a semi-retired substitute teacher. Born in Mankato, Jim graduated from Lake Crystal High with **Paul Wigley**, classmates from grade school on.



At U of M-Mankato he earned bachelor and graduate degrees preparing for a career in Public Administration at the city/county managerial level.

Marathon-running became his passion with 76 marathons on four continents entered into his personal logbook.

Although an experienced singer in church choir and school and community productions, he was a latecomer to Barbershop, joining the Willmar chapter from 1993-98 and later GNU in 1998-9. During his tenure with Willmar, Jim sang in the *Black Oak Boys Quartet* with members from the Montevideo chapter.

Jim will add his mellifluous tones to the vaunted Lead Section.

The 1950s: The Quartet Decade

By Bob Dykstra, *Curmudgeon-at-Large*

As some of you old-timers know, **John Hansen**, 65-year member of our beloved Society and the Minneapolis Chapter, organized a quartet which he named the *Hut Four* at Fort Riley, Kansas, in early 1953. I was fortunate to be the lead singer in the fledgling quartet which also included former Commodore, **Bob Moksnes**, on bari, **Herb Fane** from Cleveland Heights, Ohio, on tenor, and John himself, of course, supporting us with his excellent bass. I might add that organizing a quartet at a military base at that time was encouraged by the Armed Forces/Barbershop Society Collaboration Program, about which I have written in previous *Chord-Inators*. (Recall also that the *Four Teens*, an Air Force quartet, had earned the gold medal in International Quartet Competition the previous summer.)

Roughly six months later, a talent contest, which drew 24 contestants, was held at Fort Riley to select four acts who would fly to New York to compete on an Army-sponsored recruiting show called *Talent Patrol* hosted by Arlene Francis, a well-known TV celebrity at the time. The selected acts from Fort Riley in addition to the *Hut Four* were Jack Knecht, a comedian and dancer; a western swing band; and an instrumental trio sporting two accordions and a concertina. The *Talent Patrol* show on which we appeared was aired live on ABC TV on September 9, 1953. The studio audience selected the winner in a popular manner of the time, the use of an applause meter. We received the loudest applause and thus won the competition.

A few months later we were selected to compete on the nationally-televised (on CBS) *Arthur Godfrey Talent Scout Show*, this time against Army and Air Force talent from various military bases. The reward was that the

winner would appear for a week on Godfrey's daily live radio show which aired on CBS. We were again victorious as measured by audience applause.

I was very surprised that we were chosen as winners in both cases. The acts we competed against were much more polished than we. Modern technology allowed me to recently view the *Talent Patrol* TV show again. (Somebody originally made a kinescope of the show which I later had transferred to a video tape and then eventually to a DVD.) My opinion hasn't changed

and television in the '50s, regularly featured the *Mariners Quartet*, the *Chordettes* and later the *Big Four*. The latter two quartets were of the female persuasion. It's interesting to note, incidentally, that the aforementioned quartets often sang Barbershop harmony.

I mentioned that the *Hut Four* won two TV talent shows in 1953. During the following year at least two other quartets enhanced their popularity and that of their genre by winning the Arthur Godfrey Talent Scouts competition. The *Blackwood Brothers* and the *Statesmen*, both southern gospel quartets, earned the top spots and sang for a week on Godfrey's radio show. Both quartets also recorded songs that gained "play time" on local and national radio stations and sold many records. The *Blackwood Brothers* were probably best known for *Have You Talked to the Man Upstairs*, the *Statesmen* for *This Old House*.

Quartets were also used a great deal for selling products and often took the name of the product as their quartet name. Locally, for example, we had the *Wheaties Quartet*, the *Champion Outboard Motor Quartet*, and the *Ewald Dairy's Golden Guernsey Quartet*. A popular regional

quartet from Iowa billed themselves as the *Vigortones* and sang many shows at the behest of the well-known mineral feeder. And the *Cities Service Green and White Quartet* was well-known nationally for their Barbershop harmonies. These are but a few examples of the many quartets who represented businesses and products and sang under the name of those companies. Many other quartets were hired by companies to sing shows for them but didn't take the name of the company or product as their quartet name. A 1950s Commodore quartet, for example, the *Four Flips*, sang regular gigs for Schweigert Meats. (Current members of the Friday Lunch Bunch That Meets On Thursdays (TFLBTMOT) [and one-time Commodores] **Chuck Guthrie** *Go to 50s Quartets*, Page 7, Col. 1

Post-Ft. Riley "Huts" circa 1956



BOB DYKSTRA	BOB SPONG	JOHN HANSEN	DON SUNDT
Lead	Tenor	Bass	Baritone

these many years later. The other acts simply looked more accomplished and professional.

So why did we win? Why did audiences select us by their applause? I now believe it was largely because of America's obvious love for quartets and four-part harmony in the 1950s. Of course, quartets had been around for a long time before 1950. But I doubt that they had ever been so prevalent or so popular. Radio shows like the ever-popular *Fibber McGee and Molly* and the *Jack Benny Show* featured quartets, the *Kingsmen* and *Sportsmen*, respectively, as regular members of the cast. *Rosemary Clooney's* popular TV show included the *HiLos* on a regular basis. Arthur Godfrey, the king of radio

Doc's Bag



By Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor



Hardin Olson

Because our Christmas show on December 3, with the *Twin City Show Chorus*, was to be my wife, **Judy's**, last hurrah as director of that very special group of ladies, she made every effort to make *We Wish You the Merriest* the best ever of all our joint holiday productions. (Her only disappointment was being unable to convince **Paul Wigley**, to dance in at least one of the production numbers.)

Judy spent long hours listening to countless renditions of dozens of SATB holiday charts. Then she and Paul, working together, chose six of the previously culled numbers for the show.

In a departure from the usual holiday format, it was decided to add an instrumental group on stage with the singers. Like *Topsy*, it just grew until we had, in addition to pianist, **Jamye Casperson**, a bass, flute, two trumpets,

two trombones, and a four-woman, Sweet Adeline rhythm section.

As a result of the hard work of all concerned, the near-sellout crowd (Late-arrival, **Jim Erickson** found a seat in the back row.) was treated to a joyous production, said by many, patron and participant alike, to be the best ever.

Kudos to both choruses, directors, instrumentalists, and a most well-earned thank-you to the staff and stage crew of Bloomington Jefferson High School. Well done!

Those of you who might think **Judy Olson** is retiring completely from the Barbershop scene, FEAR NOT! Free of the virtual 24/7 directorial responsibilities, she will have much more time to do the other things she also loves, coaching presentation and performance, producing and calling Barbershop shows, and, most of all, SINGING!

In what is a somewhat unusual move, she will be stepping *up* on the risers, without missing a beat, after stepping *down* from the director's podium. The reason being that the new director of the *Twin City Show Chorus* is **Denis Allaire**, a exceptionally talented French-Canadian with an unbelievable resume most

notably known in the Twin Cities for earning *Bachelor of Music* and *Master of Choral Conducting* degrees at the U of M and also having been *Music Director/Arranger/Vocalist* for *Voice Trek* for 25 years. **Paul Wigley** knows of him and assures Judy that TC could not have been more fortunate than to have Denis' up front

Good news from **Gary Rogness**. His follow-up scan this week (Dec. 12-13) showed further shrinkage of his tumor and his other tests were in acceptable range. His doctor told him that she was quite pleased with his progress and that there was reason to be more optimistic about his condition.

It was just after his bi-weekly chemo session when Gary returned my call. He and Ginger and their daughter were on their way to dinner. When asked if **Bruce Odell** had made his daily phone call, Gary replied, "Twice!", and related that Bruce was going to be visiting Holland (the one in Europe, not Michigan) for 10 or 12 days. A blarney-filled Irishman, in the Netherlands for 10 or 12 days ... I don't know ... But be assured that he will be calling Gary every day.

E-mail at: glrogness@yahoo.com

Send a card: 4119 7th Place NW
Rochester, MN 55901

Phone: 507/990-2000

50s Quartets from Page 6

and **Joel Kleschold**, sang lead and tenor in that group.)

And think of all the quartets who dominated the national and international entertainment scene in the '50s. I won't try to provide a complete list but I'll mention some who meant the most to me for one reason or another. *The Four Freshmen* were a breath of fresh air musically. The *Mills Brothers* were still very active both in appearances and in the recording industry. The *Jordanaires* were very popular, primarily for singing background to many of Elvis Presley's hits.

We also were blessed with the *Crew Cuts*, the *Four Lads*, and the *Ames Brothers*. All were spreading the joy of quartet singing, albeit their harmonies varied considerably. It's also interesting to note that the *Crew Cuts*

and *Four Lads* were Canadian quartets who were also very popular in our country. Who among us older folk, for example, could ever forget the *Crew Cuts* rendition of *Sh-Boom*?

Society quartets in the fifties also certainly did their share to boost the popularity of quartets and quartet singing among the

masses. Chapter shows typically featured quartets, usually many of them. And a goodly percentage of chapter members typically got themselves involved in quartet singing. The March 1956 issue of the *Harmonizer*, for example, pictured 12 registered active quartets in the Minneapolis chapter alone.

The Society's top quartets were also very visible. Friends of the *Hut Four*, the *Orphans*, from Wichita, Kansas, earned the gold medal in the 1954 International quartet contest held in

Washington, D.C. They accepted an invitation to fly to New York City the very next day to make a guest appearance on the *Ed Sullivan Show*. And the *Buffalo Bills*, 1950 International quartet gold medalists, capped off the "decade of the quartet" by winning the Godfrey Talent Scouts show in 1957, then starring on Broadway in the hit musical, *Music Man* which ran for four years before being made into a movie of the same name in 1962.

So why was the *Hut 4 Quartet* selected by the respective audiences as winners of the Arthur Godfrey and Arlene Francis talent competition in the face of what to me was clearly superior talent?? I can only conclude that America's love affair with quartet singing and with four-part harmony played a very important role.



Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, Baggin' Bari

From a different perspective! Yeah, that's right. A different perspective.



Jim Erickson

And what was it? Well, I was not to appear in this year's Christmas concert due to a new hip and other matters. I did compensate a bit, at least in my mind, by helping bag some of the nut orders for the incessant nut-man, **Dick Riemenschneider**. Cashews, Pistachios, Mixed Nuts and others, some even in gold foil. And best of all, I did so with two of my favorite nut-baggers from past bagging. **Mark Ortenberger** and **John Carlotto**. Perfecting techniques over the years, they waste no time with much chit-chat, focusing on getting just the correct weight in the bag and not one cashew heavier. At least when bagging cashews. Oh, and I met John's twin brother. Who knew? They are pretty much cookies cut from the same dough, but one seemed nicer and more intelligent than the other. You can decide when you meet them whom you think.

But as I was saying, I didn't appear in the Christmas concert this year. I did get a ticket and, as my wife and the rest of the family had conflicts, I attended all alone. Not making it worse, but due to factors beyond my control I arrived just as the concert was to begin. Now I didn't have to try to get one of those front row seats. I have seen the guy's faces too many times already, and the women's countenances would have been enticing, but arriving so late, I found, to my delight, that the auditorium was practically full without more than a handful of empty seats way up in auditorium-heaven. That was fine. I could still see everyone pretty well with my new, prescription, trifocal glasses and the sound was just very pleasantly projected to everyone who wanted to listen. And since I ended up in the very last row, I could close my eyes and float away into the aura of Christmas. Most enjoyable.

Along with the music, it is always fun to see so many friends during the intermission. And sample a cookie and coffee. Or two. Not nearly enough time ever, but enough to cross paths and pleasantries with so many. And that added to the fostering of Christmas spirit as we mark the next few days counting down to what was most exciting as a child and meaningful as an adult. Overall, a holiday success.

Just one more note on the concert. I have always been up on the stage performing and it can be difficult to see how large the audience is, but when I had to search a bit for a seat even way back, I was first surprised,



then really proud of the effort the choruses and performers made to fill the seats. And, it is apparent that this will continue because of the quality of what they receive with each concert they attend. Let's make every effort to keep them coming.

A highlight, if I can call it that with your understanding, was the announced retiring of director, **Judy Olson**. My, My, My! I can't remember a time when Judy didn't appear before a concert, or our annual show, or other similar events to set us straight on where we needed to polish a bit, get some gumption into our singing, be alive and enthusiastic and, well, I could go on and on. When she spoke, you (or we) paid attention. And whatever the topic, she was always on the mark. So, Judy, through my words we give you a hearty standing ovation and, with a twinkle in our eye befitting

the season, we say, "Well done, Judy. Well done." We can't wait to see what you will be up to when you get a chance to catch your breath! [Do not despair, Judy is not disappearing totally from the scene.]

Hey Commodores! Got any plans for the 2018? Oh, I know you will work hard on learning the notes, memorizing lyrics, getting on top of the pitch and that kind of thing. But those things take a lot of effort. Satisfying effort for the most part. But I have question of a little different nature. Are you having fun? Do you feel better at the end of a chapter meeting?

My grandchildren have been heavily into sports which take a good deal of their childhood and younger years away from them. It keeps them out of trouble and builds strong bodies and all of that stuff, but early on I tried to remind them that it is most important to be having a good time at what they are doing. I remind them to have fun and truthfully, I'm not sure whether they take any of Grandpa's words seriously. But maybe they will remember from time to time, especially when things might get a bit tiring and tough, that if I'm not enjoying this, maybe I should broaden my horizon some and see what else is out there. Again I ask you, as a Commodore, are you having fun? If so, show it to the audiences, but just as important is to show it to the guys singing next to you.

Enough preaching. Except to say that in the next year you should stay alert. It seems like so many different pots are being stirred in recent months and you know what they say about stirring things. The more you stir them ...

Support **Toys for Tots** this year, **St. Jude Children's Hospital**, and the many other worthwhile charities that will really make the best of your donations. It will add a ton of meaning to your holidays.

I know. I know. You really want to get an update on my research on the origins of the **Georgia Grind**. With all the surgery and recovery, I have to admit to relaxing my relentless pursuit of information. But come the New Year, the intensity will increase and I will keep you informed. Should be exciting!

Letters

Enjoyed your recent issue. I had dropped out of the Society to pursue my career and was at a loss to know many of the quartet members' names. Your coverage of the ADC show was a great help. Thanks.

Thanks also, for keeping the Harmony Foundation name in print.

Rudy Zarling

Thanks, Hardin, for another great issue. Especially enjoyed since I was mentioned in a favorable way. What a wonderful, heartwarming experience it was for the [Gemini] Crickets - can't believe the response we got and know full well it was more for sympathy than our singing prowess - but we loved it!

Hope to see you both at Midwinter. Hi to Judy.

Chuck [Guthrie]

Editor's Note: This letter is directed to all of our patrons who have so generously supported us in our efforts to pay it forward to the worthy organizations who do so much for the underprivileged in our community.

God's Blessings to all!

Thank you! Thank you!

On behalf of the Minneapolis Commodores I want to thank you for your generosity in supporting Local Community Food Shelves and YouthLink MN for the last 3 years. YouthLink is located in downtown Minneapolis and is providing housing, meals, food, educational, and employment services to youth ages 16-23.

In 2015, we had our first performance where we asked for food shelf donations. Last year, all of our summer performances included food donation collections. Thanks to your generosity, over the last three years, \$5522 and 1109 pounds of food were collected for the ICA, STEP, and YouthLink food shelves. Thanks to your buying tickets to our annual show we have been able to share \$7000 of show-profits with YouthLink. Although Mary and Joseph could not find a sin-

gle room in Bethlehem, you have helped youth seeking shelter from a cold winter night with a room and food to eat.

May God bless you for helping support our efforts to reach out to those who in need. You are the BEST!

Denny Maas

President, Minneapolis Commodores

*Editor's Note: The following two notes are from two faithful Christmas-show patrons directed to our ticket-lady, **Diana Pinard**. Each patron had no check or enough cash and hoped to pay with plastic. We don't offer that option so Diana gave them tickets and asked that they put checks in the mail. They complied promptly—an example of the character and probity of those who love Barbershop, be they singers or simply listeners.*

Diana,

You gave me a huge gift today. Getting my mom to the [Christmas] concert today was a HUGE gift to her. Thanks a million for allowing us to go in!

My mom is in memory care with dementia. She LOVED the concert! I think it's the finest concert she ever saw in her 85 years.

All the best,

Shirley Engelmeier

Please accept the little extra.

Note: The above thank-you was posted on an Alzheimer's Association Christmas card.

Thank you, Diana, it's wonderful to find people that still have trust.

God Bless You.

Diane Archer



From Dan Cole:

2018 Minneapolis Chapter Board

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Exec. VP: (Open)*

Immed. Past-Pres.: Denny Maas

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Treasurer: John Carlotto

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Andy Richards

Andy Cook

Arne Stefferud (to midyear)

2018-19 At Large

Dave Casperson

Paul Paddock

Kim Ward (Community representative)

***Anyone interested in assuming this position, do contact Dan Cole.**

**TFLBTMOT
continues
The Jim Richards
Matching Funds
Challenge
for
Youth In Harmony
at the
11th Annual
BHS Open
Monday,
August 13, 2018
For info log on to
bhsopen.com**

PLEASE NOTE

There will be two LOL Youth Choruses at January's Midwinter Convention, *Prairie Chords* supported by TFLBTMOT dollars, the other from St. Louis Park Middle School supported independently by parents and patrons.

Dr. Hardin Olson, Bulletin Editor
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Minnetonka, MN 55305
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olson118@umn.edu

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.

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
 JUST ONE MORE
 Nate Weimer.....316/204-8756
 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
 THE SHOES
 Andy Richards.....651/639-9312

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 **minneapoliscommodore.org** starting with the January 2006 issue.



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

Logo courtesy of Bob Clark

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

To:

LOOKING AHEAD

- March 24, 2018, Saturday, **10,000 Lakes Division Contest, Stillwater**
- April 14, 2018, **Annual Show, Bethel University**

District Level

- January 12-13, 2018, Friday/Saturday, **Leadership Academy/Lakes Chord College, UW-River Falls, River Falls, Wisconsin**

International Level

- January 16-21, 2018, **Midwinter Convention, Orange County, California**

2017 Barbershopper Of The Year **Dan True**

Commodores and others *
 contributing to this issue.

Diane Archer*
 Mark Bloomquist
 Dan Cole
 Shirley Engelmeier*
 Jim Erickson
 Chuck Guthrie
 Denny Maas
 Hardin Olson
 Paul Paddock
 David Speidel
 Bill Warp
 Paul Wigley



CHORD-INATOR
MINNEAPOLIS COMMODORES
Minneapolis Chapter of SPEBSQSA
MEETING EVERY TUES -7:00 p.m.
House of Prayer Lutheran Church
7625 Chicago Ave. S.
Richfield, MN 55423
GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME