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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

FEBRUARY 2017- VOL. 73- NO. 2

Midwinter Memories – WOW!

Mark Ortenburger finds it impossible to oversell the San Antonio experience!

Cathy and I just returned from our first Midwinter Convention and I'm at the point where I'm about to exhaust all the superlatives I know. It was an amazing weekend full of old friends, new friends and a number of gold-medal moments. A few very special ones came from the opening concert on Thursday night with its extraordinary line-up. A standout memory for me came from **Signature**, 2016 fourth-place International medalists singing their show stopping *Change is Gonna Come*, which might just be the best, most moving thing I've ever heard. There was also **Tim Waurick** "filling-in" for **Joe Connelly** (who wasn't there because he was actually flooded in) in **Keepsake**. Tim didn't miss a beat and proved why he's a very special talent, but we all knew that already. Along with **Forefront**, **Four Voices**, **Main Street**, and many others, the convention was certainly off and running.

My other standout memory came from an opportunity I had to participate in the 200-man *All-District Chorus*. We learned three great songs before heading to San Antonio where we rehearsed on Thursday and Friday night (10 p. m.-midnight) and again before leading off the Saturday night show. This was a really neat experience from so

many different perspectives. **Donny Rose**, current head of *Harmony University*, among about a thousand other things he does, was our director. Over the course of the two nighttime rehearsals we were coached by:

Forefront, *Pratt Street Power*, and *Main Street's Tony DeRosa*. All these guys were wonderful coaches and if you ever have a chance to get some coaching from Tony, don't miss the opportunity. I'm convinced that he wakes up funny and stays that way until he goes to bed. Our April 1 audience is going to hear some wonderful singing and over-the-top humor from *Main Street*. Don't let your friends miss this show.



Signature from left to right: Tenor Will Rodriguez, Lead Daniel Cochrane, Bass Dan Walz, and Bari Matt Clancy, singing *Change is Gonna Come*.

There were a couple of lessons that I can take from the coaching experience. Number one is that there's nothing new under the sun. Everything we heard in San Antonio from this amazing group of musicians is the same stuff, albeit maybe told in a little different way, we've heard from our own esteemed directors. We should cherish the opportunity we have once a week to have the kind of music leadership in our chapter, men who work so hard to make us better and to give us individual and collective gold-medal moments.

The second lesson that stands out came from our *Go to WOW*, Page 2, Column 1

Iron Hand ... *Iron Heart*

By Paul Wigley, Director

This is going to be an article that I really hoped I would not be writing so soon. The entire Commodores family is grieving the loss of Bill Ward. Bill was the epitome of grace under fire, of humor in the face of challenges, of joy in spite of pain, and unconditional love for everyone who knew him. His open acceptance of his difficult journey inspired all of us, and I will miss every part of his soul that he shared.

But Bill's passing has also highlighted the profound impact that singing can have on all of our lives. Bill lived to sing. His passion in his last months was to find one more moment to SING with his quartet *Swype*, with the *Commodores*, or with any *Harmony Brigade* that he could get to. This passion for singing exemplifies the very best that our Barbershop hobby has to offer, real connections with other people we love. I want to emphasize REAL because our social-media-controlled world gives us far too few opportunities for true face-to-face (or voice-to-voice!) interaction. Bill Ward cherished those moments, especially quartetting, when he con-

nected in an honest, real way with his friends. In the case of *Swype*, it was even more significant because of his opportunity to sing with his son, **Conrad**. It simply cannot get



William Jay Ward
1959 - 2017

more special and unforgettable than that.

Any person who thinks the Minneapolis Commodores are simply about showing up on a Tuesday night, singing a bit, and going home ... is not getting it. If you are a

member of the Commodores, you are missing out if you don't occasionally participate in "going to the Legion" after rehearsal, going to the designated watering hole after a performance, going to the BOTY banquet, going to a District convention, or any other of the various social occasions where the Commodores have REAL interaction-face to face (and voice-to-voice!). The best musical moments I've had in Barbershop were special not for the moment itself, but special because of the people with whom I was able to share those moments! My memories of Bill Ward ... and many, many other Commodores that have passed on ... always bring me a smile because every memory is a fond one. Every memory is connected to a wonderful musical moment.

I am so extremely proud of the philosophy of inclusion that the Commodores embrace. In moments like these when we mourn the passing of one of our own, it is clear that we embrace what is truly important. It is not about winning a contest, it is not about showing the world how wonderful we are ... it is about love. Love of music, love of singing, and most importantly, love for each other. I will celebrate Bill Ward's life with a renewed exuberance for every moment I get to spend with my fellow Commodores. I hope you all join me.

WOW from Page 1

All-District Chorus Director, **Donny Rose**. He mentioned that one of the things that drives him crazy is seeing clinicians settle for OK ("That was nice.") from a senior group but demanding a much higher performance level from a younger group. The result, quite predictably, is that each group lives up to the expectations that have been set. Donny's goal for us was to sing at a very high level even though we had never sung together before.

Did we remember everything we'd been taught? No, but I'm sure we did a lot better because he helped us believe what we could be if we chose to. The same lesson applies in

our own chapter where our directors work very hard to set high expectations. It's ultimately up to each one of us to choose to sing better. (It's a whole lot more fun that way!)

I had a couple of additional gold-medal moments that came Saturday. I was waiting for our final chorus rehearsal to start when I heard some singing, which of course I had to investigate. I followed the sound to a room (the doors were open) and found **Signature** and **Forefront** rehearsing *Kiss From a Rose*, the song they were going to sing that evening. Certainly the best private concert I ever had.

And finally, there was one of the focal points for the event, the *Youth*

part of the convention. The 700 kids, singing in boys, girls, and mixed ensembles throughout the event, joined together in a combined chorus. Since everyone couldn't fit on the stage, a large number were arrayed down each of the aisles in the theater.

We, in the audience, were treated to lively four-wall-surround-sound from a chorus of enthusiastic voices. It was hard to tell who was having a better time, the audience or the kids. I do know that there is a group of 700 young people whose lives were changed forever over that special weekend and who will be returning home to spread the gospel of ever-harmonious Barbershop. Me too! (*Costa Mesa in Jan. 2018, anyone?*)

Thoughts from Big Sky Country!

By Russ Born, Peripatetic Commodore

As I sit here this Sunday evening, January 30, Jeni and I find ourselves recovering from our 25-day, 5469 mile, 16-state trip that culminated in a fantastic week in San Antonio, Texas, where we attended the Society's Midwinter Convention and Con-



Russ Born

tests! We have SO many great memories of our time in San Antonio! They started with our early arrival on the Sunday of convention week so that we could spend time walking down "Memory Lane" as we visited our old neighborhood and ate at our favorite Tex-Mex Restaurant, *Martha's*, located near the home my folks had in northwest San Antonio.

One of my best memories of our time in San Antonio was singing with *The Chordsmen* Barbershop Chorus, directed by my old friend and golf partner, **Artie Dolt**. Artie now has a new chorus called *Friends in Harmony* that he, and 19 friends, founded in September 2014. Having *Fun* was their #1 goal and each new member was assured of sharing the true *Barbershop Experience*. In a little over two years, the chorus has grown to 130 members, the majority of whom are new to Barbershopping. Having attended two of their recent meetings, I can attest that they do have fun and they do sing quite well. Be sure to visit *Friends* if you ever have the opportunity

On Tuesday, we rendezvoused with Randy and Stephanie Klopffleisch. Randy is an expatriate Commodore now living in California. We spent the day driving up to the German settlement of Fredericksburg (about 70 miles northwest of San Antonio in the Texas Hill Country where we enjoyed fine German cuisine (and beer). We

had to forego visits to the *Chester Nimitz Museum* and the *George H.W. Bush Museum of the Pacific War*.

Leaving Fredericksburg, we drove to the nearby *LBJ Ranch*. The Visitor Center was closed, but we were able to get close enough to the Ranch to see the house, out-buildings and the cemetery where LBJ is buried. It is a truly beautiful place.

On Wednesday the Convention got into high gear with the Keynote Address by **Deke Sharon**, the *Godfather of Contemporary A Cappella*, who, when he's not producing the *Pitch Perfect* movies or *The Sing Off*, spends a lot of time promoting and supporting Barbershopping! His presentation was terrific, motivating everyone in the room and furnishing a perfect start to what was to become a fantastic convention experience!

The *Thursday Night Show* opened with the Association of Senior Quartet Champions Chorus (including our own Bob Griffith) along with a performance by the 2016 Senior Champions, *High Priority*. The Chorus was directed by **Joe Liles**. I knew Joe from my first visit to the San Antonio *Chordsmen* as a high-school senior in 1970 when Joe was their director. He went on to serve the Society as Director of Musical Services and Society CEO becoming known and loved by all in the Land O'Lakes District. He and **Jim Richards** were the closest of friends for decades.

Then came the quartets and, oh my, did we get entertained, starting with LOL District's own *Vintage Mix* (the quadruplets from Milwaukee) and *Boardwalk* (terrific entertainers who would make great headliners for the Commodores). A highlight for me was *Pratt Street Power*, the current 2016 Int'l Youth Quartet Champions, destined for greater achievements. The same applies to *Signature*, the 2014 Int'l fourth-place Medalist Quartet.

Then came a parade of past champi-

ons, *Four Voices*, *Keepsake*, and the 2016 gold-medalists, *Forefront*. It was very special to hear *The Buzz*, the 2005 Sweet Adeline Queens of Harmony. Holding their own with this august company was *Main Street*, 2016 third-place Int'l Medalists and the headline quartet for the Commodores annual show on April 1. Capping the evening was the heartwarming performance by *The Children's Chorus of San Antonio*, a fitting end to a wonderful evening.

Friday was our "Long Day" but not as long as that for **Paul Wigley** and his fellow judges as they adjudicated the 25 Choruses that competed in the *Youth and Senior Chorus Festival*. This year, the Society added a new twist to the competition by adding five Seniors Choruses representing five Districts. I liked the idea but I think it detracts from the Youth Festival and would be better served as a separate Senior Chorus Festival. We need to be letting those kids remain in the spotlight without having to share it with seniors. This marathon contest, in two sessions, started at 11 a.m. and even with getting done early, didn't finish until 9 p.m. That is a LONG DAY, especially for the judges!

Saturday was a really fun day as 24 Senior quartets took to the stage. The highlight was cheering on the incomparable *St. Croix Crossing*, who had finished second in the last two Seniors contests. Everyone in our "group" had their fingers crossed but when the medalist spots were announced, our boys placed third, **seven points out of First Place!** (The top four spots were separated by only 11 points.). This was by far the closest contest I have ever seen! We all thought SCX had it this year; they sang beautifully, but it just wasn't meant to be.

The Grand Finale was the Saturday Night Show that, emphasizing *YOUTH*, opened with *The Ladies*, the current Sweet Adeline Rising Star Champions. Following were reprises of several of the groups that had per-

*Go to **Big Sky**, Page 4, Column 1*

Big Sky from Page 3

formed on the Thursday Night Show including *Main Street* (Again, incredibly entertaining!).

Forefront collaborating with *Signature* performed an eight-part rendition of *Kiss From a Rose*, not traditional Barbershop, but none-the-less one of the highlights of the evening. The *Audience Favorites* from Thursday's Youth Chorus Contest, *The Treble Makers*, a high-school-girls chorus from Chandler, Arizona, performed and again thrilled the audience. The young ladies performed flawlessly on both occasions with a student direc-

tor, their mentor and director, **Lori Lyford**, being detained at home for a serious family emergency.

The ultimate HIGHLIGHT OF THE ENTIRE CONVENTION was the final Convention event as those of us in the audience were surrounded by 600 young singers (400 boys and 200 girls) as they sang to us. I get goosebumps just thinking about that experience. These kids are our future and they will do us proud.

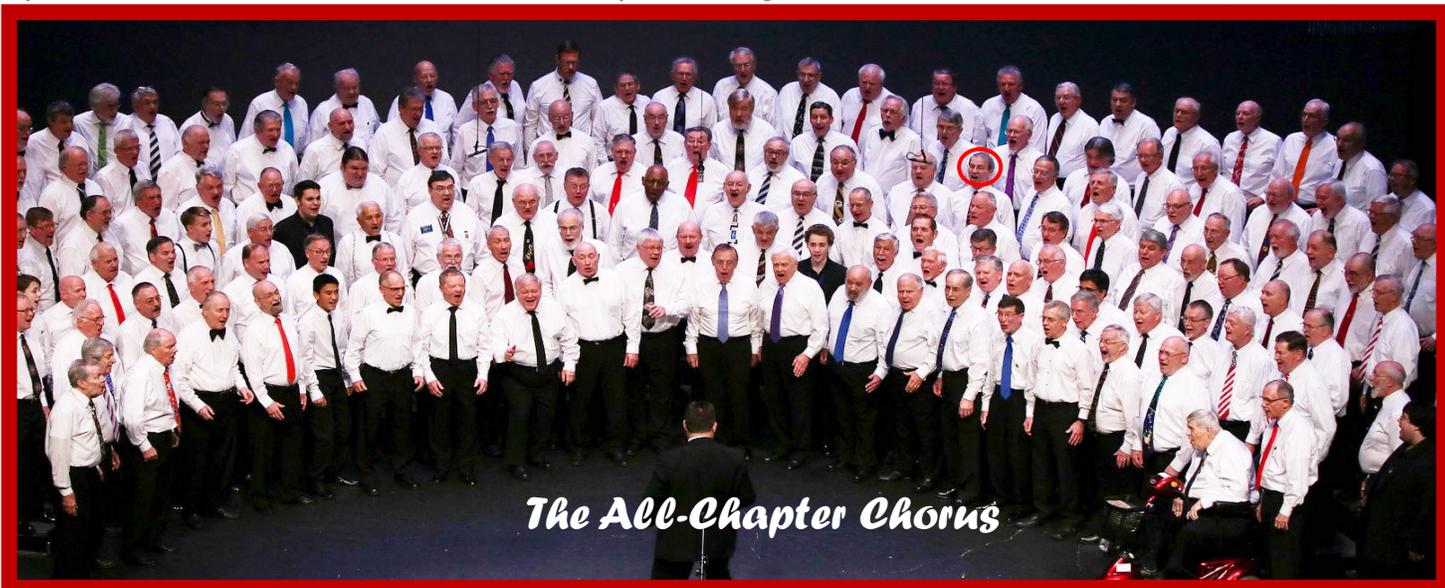
In closing, while all the activities we participated in were tons of fun, the very best part of our time in San Antonio was being able to spend time

with our fellow Commodores and their spouses, the Shaws, Klopfleisches, Ortenburgers Coles, Wigleys, Olsons, and LOL president Dan True. Hopefully we can all convene again in Costa Mesa, California, in January 2018.

One final note, we left to head back to Montana on Tuesday, January 24. As we drove out of San Antonio, it was 82 degrees. That evening in Amarillo it was 43 degrees with wind gusts at 50 mph. Reality had set in. Now, back in Red Lodge, all we've seen is SNOW, SNOW, SNOW along with COLD air. We want to go back to San Antonio, SOON!



Appearing herein with members of *The Friday Lunch Bunch That Meets On Thursday (TFLBTMOT)* is Terry Ghiselli, Co-director of the *Encore Accapella Chorus* that hails from San Antonio's Independent Home School Program and is composed of young people ages nine to 19. This was the chorus sponsored by TFLBTMOT in the *Youth Chorus Festival*. Pictured with Terry from left to right are Lunch Bunchers Chuck Guthrie, Dan Cole, Judd Orff, and Russ



Commodore Mark Ortenburger, with the white shirt and festive tie (circled here in red), was one of the reported 72 basses in the group. Indeed, their sound was manly and all appeared to have thoroughly memorized their charts. (Never too many basses!) Lorin May/BHS Photo



On Thursday, after the evening show, the vaunted Society Dixieland Players gathered in the bar of the Hilton Palacio Del Rio for their annual Midwinter get-together. On a sad note, for the first time in many years the group had to recruit a new bass player. Past Society President, Hall of Fame member, and revered Minneapolis Commodore, Dr. Jim Richards, had passed away just a few days after his last appearance with the group at the 2016 Midwinter in Reno. During the course of the evening, trumpet player and spokesman, Bill Biffle, lead the group in a tribute to Jim when they played Jim's traditional solo piece, *Back Home in Indiana*, the only one Jim really knew, said a smiling Biffle.

Pictured above, left to right, are Eddie Holt, Bill Biffle, Steve Delehanty, Chad Bennett, Larry Triplet, and C.J. Sams. Trombonist (not pictured) is Lee Taylor. And, no doubt, somewhere Jim Richards was smiling.



Barbershoppers were able have their own full-sized neon signs, like the one pictured outside of the Barbershoppers' Shop, for only \$850. Unfortunately your Editor's Home Owners Association forbids such signs. Needless to say he was quite downtrodden. (Now that's a Barbershop logo!)

All "Staff" photos on this page.

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2017 Midwinter



Judy and I had a very pleasant visit with Society Executive Director Marty Monson following a Harmony University presentation. Somehow the subject of logos came up and he admitted to being mystified as to why the lyre logo had been replaced by a much less traditional design. (Misery, from my point of view, certainly loves all the company it can engender.)



LOL District President Dan True (left) with Becky Wigley and her judge husband, Paul, who rests his ears on break from the infamous adjudicating pit.



Judy Olson (rt.) and Sandi Wright have been friends through Sweet Adelines for years while Dr. David Wright has supplied the *Twin City Show Chorus* with innumerable arrangements along their way.



Pratt Street Power - 2016 Int'l Youth Quartet Champions



Main Street - 2016 Int'l 3rd-place Champions



Joe Liles as he directs and solos with the AISQC Chorus.



Forefront - 2016 Int'l Gold-Medalists



Your Editor (lower left) assimilating every word as Dr. David Wright expounds on the history of the Society's judging system, a lecture sponsored by Harmony University.

Photos this page courtesy of Lorin May/BHS



St, Croix Crossing - 2017 3rd-place Seniors Quartet Champions (only seven points out of first place).



Vintage Mix



Signature with Forefront in a stirring joint performance of Kiss From a Rose.

**Minneapolis, Minn. Chapter
Land O'Lakes District, BHS
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7625 Chicago Avenue South
Richfield, MN 55423
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Through 2017-18

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Arne Stefferud.....651/772-4367

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Assistant Directors: Gary Jacobson, David Speidel

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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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**Commodore
Spotlight**

*By Mark Ortenburger,
Guest Columnist*



**Dick
Riemen-
Schneider
is ...**



... one Commodore about whom it is fair to say that our Tuesday evening attendance would be a lot smaller if all we had to look forward to was the music. Not that having a chance to sing with others isn't a pretty powerful draw all by itself, but we know that the camaraderie that exists in our chapter is a pretty powerful part of what keeps many of us coming back. Part of that camaraderie comes from the willingness of so many to make contributions of their time and expertise whenever the need arises.

With those thoughts in mind I would like to focus on one of our very own remarkable Commodores, **Dick Riemenschneider**, who, along with his wonderful wife, Marge, is responsible for the fact that we show up on a specific Tuesday night in November and find our orders of almonds, pistachios, cashews, and trail mix, all neatly bagged and ready to distribute to our customers. Their time-contributions every year are easily in the hundreds of hours.

A behind-the-scenes look would suggest that this is not just a process that consumes a few weeks during the November packing and distribution season ("Crunch Time"). Dick puts in many, many hours long before November ever rolls around.

All the supplies have to be procured. Labels have to be designed, printed, and applied to the bags. Dick has to coordinate closely with our supplier to understand pricing that changes year to year to figure out how we need to modify our own prices. Or-

ders have to be entered and processed to keep track of every detail.

As the season approaches, Dick and Marge basically turn their home into a full-blown bagging and storage operation. It's only partially true that when Dick and Marge moved 18 months ago they did so with consideration for a house that would support the needs for handling the Commodore Nut Operation.

Dick must handle each case of nuts multiple times (unloading the truck, stacking and storing, bringing them to the packing operation, taking the full cases back to storage, packing individual orders, loading the car to bring to HOP, unloading the car and sorting by individual buyer, etc.) And if the whole physical procurement, packaging, and distribution weren't enough, he also serves as Chief Marketing Officer to keep encouraging us to sell as many nuts as possible. Dick also uses the "off-season" to think about, and then implement, ways of improving the process to enhance operational efficiency and quality of the final product (special foil bags, heat sealing, custom bags, etc.).

Lest you think this is the only contribution Dick makes to the chapter, recognize that he also has been coordinating the Ladies Night/ BOTY celebrations (even bringing his whole family to pitch in when the situation called for it a few years ago) and any number of other "whatever needs to be done" things. In his spare time, when he's not golfing, he also sings with *Easy Listenin'*, the *Sounds of Renown*, and the *Harmony Brigade*.

The next time you see him, make sure to express your own gratitude for everything he does. It would also be nice to send Marge a note of thanks as well. The two of them exemplify what being a part of the Commodore family is all about. If you need an example of people who go way above and beyond the call of duty, look no further. We are all much the richer for their generosity.

SUNSHINE HOTLINE



By Rich Ongna, Sunshine Chairman

Phone: 952-829-7009

Email: ddongna@usfamily.net

Bill Ward, our 2016 BOTY and bass in SWYPE, lost his 22 month fight with Pancreatic Cancer on February 4. The Commodores extend their sympathies to **Kim, Conrad** and the rest of his family.



Rich Ongna

Ken Wentworth, tenor in SWYPE, unexpectedly lost his father on February 4. The Commodores extend their sympathies to Ken's family. I think we have to be extra supportive of the entire SWYPE family as they go through this difficult time.

Bonnie Vink, Rod's wife has been diagnosed with breast cancer in an advanced stage. They need our thoughts and prayers as they go forward with this challenge.

Neal Mortensen had prostate surgery on January 5. It went very well and he said it's just a matter of some healing-time now. He hopes to return to the risers soon.

John Hansen has been dealing with a serious open sore on his ankle for a number of weeks. He tells me it is extremely painful and it's difficult to let Caryl clean it and change the dressing.

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 well.



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



Chapter members are always welcome to attend the Board meetings.

From the meeting of January 9

By Andy Richards for Bill Warp, Secretary

- **Mark Ortenburger** reported on the Simulcast Project for streaming Commodore shows to senior living centers. Motion approved to continue with the grant proposal.
- **Dan Cole** presented the 2017 annual show/afterglow budget.
- Turning the annual-show program into a sort of yearbook listing all scheduled performances was suggested by **Steve Grady**. Copies would be distributed at all of that year's singouts.
- **Eric Traban** and **Al Matchinsky** have requested temporary leaves of absence. **Ken Wentworth** has resigned from the Chapter.
- The first Tuesday of each month starting in June will be a relatively low-key guest night.
- **Harvey Weiss** desires to be replaced as Membership Chairman.
- There will be 12 hours of mandatory rehearsal for those singing in the Division contest on March 25.
- Members approved to handle money for the chapter are **Carlotto**, the **Pinards**, **Riemenschneider**, **Slatery**, **Williams**, and **Wuttke**.
- Next meeting **February 9**.



No January reenlistments.

SUPPORT
HARMONY
FOUNDATION

Happy Birthday

- 02/12 Lou Dykstra
- 02/15 Dan Cole
- 02/15 Jerry Koch
- 02/21 Terry McClellan
- 02/26 Bob Dykstra
- 02/27 Dan Williams
- 03/01 Kaleb Smith
- 03/02 Rosie Glover
- 03/02 Dick Riemenschneider
- 03/05 Bonnie Black Gribble
- 03/05 Denny Maas
- 03/06 Mark Bloomquist
- 03/07 Catherine Lloyd
- 03/08 Jeni Born

Happy Anniversary

- 02/12 Peter & Judi Jarnberg
- 02/15 Terry & Linda McClellan
- 02/19 Jim & Karen McCarville

TFLBTMOT
continues
The Jim Richards
Matching Funds
Challenge
at the
10th Annual
BHS Open
Monday,
August 7, 2017
Elk River Country Club
Scramble Format
to benefit
Harmony Foundation's
Youth Festival
For further information
log on to
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Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, *Begin to Bang Baritone*

Editor's Note: To quote the punchline from a very old joke in the psychological vein, "There has got to be a pony in here somewhere!"



Jim Erickson

Many articles ago, I wrote about sayings that could be used to spur on your adventure into the next year. Being compulsive about squeezing every bit of efficiency out of every minute, I am not taking the time to search back to when and what that article was. I am assuming that if you, dear reader, have enough free hours to read my scribblings, well you certainly have time to do your own research to find the pearls of my past articles. Oh, I know some would label it laziness on my part. But I prefer to call it efficient use of life-time. And, although some would speak differently behind my back about how I seem to be growingly headed toward a repeat of my childhood, I am just growing older. How about "playful?" Yeah, I like that term better. Anyway, I progress.

Let's see...I will attempt to come up with a couple sample sayings. How about, "Heading to great in 2008?" Or, "Find the fun in 2001?" Being a pretty intelligent person, I'm sure you get the idea. But the "teens" present kind a unique rhyming challenge and there are seven "teens." Never fear. Brave Baritone is here. So I'm going to try this one on for size, "Bang the tambourine in 2017." Calls for all kinds of interpretation, doesn't it?

I don't even play the tambourine. I have banged one against my hip a few times when a musical group was formed and they quickly realized that I was instrumentally challenged. In one instance, I was assigned one "bang" at the end of the song. I nailed it. Okay, I am also rhythm challenged, as they quickly perceived. But one

bang at the end of a song can be done anytime within a couple of seconds and the audience buys that it is artistic expression even if not to the beat of the song. And, if you need further proof, just ask my wife, **Mary**, about my sense of rhythm when I attempt the polka.

Polka aside, I will do my best at piercing the veil, the veil of Erickson obfuscation, and tell you what the rhyme means for the next year. I don't mean the literal tambourine bang. Instead it is a euphemism. (Here I have to explain that a euphemism is substituting an inoffensive expression for one that originally was more unpleasant. That's what I



Reading the **Georgia Grind**

am going to do. I hope.) And my less coarse expression would be something like, "I will seek to take advantage of many musical possibilities in the next year." Contrary to what I said above, I can play a few different musical instruments. Play meaning some I have done quite well, others at the strum-along level. What are they?

Bass clarinet, banjo, ukulele, and others. And for Christmas this year, my good wife gave me a harmonica. I can already play "Twinkle, Twinkle" fairly well. She prefers to have me practice in a room far from our most-used rooms so I can concentrate on developing my harmonic skills. And she is a musician, too. For instance, she plays the turkey baster. A very difficult instrument to

master. And those are expensive if you want a finely-made baster. But I

seem to have lost my way. I guess it was about seeking many musical possibilities. My start so far has been good. There are the Commodores' rehearsals, of course, and some large-quartet possibilities. One very nice opportunity was to sing in an octet at the funeral for a long-time fan of the Commodores. And there will be more opportunities of all kinds. I just have to stay alert for them. Might I suggest you do the same this year? Expand that bucket list and join me in banging the tambourine.

Usually I don't digress when writing my articles, but here I will make an exception. I know this next thing is not strictly "banging the tambourine," but it is a musical expansion. (Because I said it was.) This last Sunday, Mary and I led a group to the **Old Log Theatre** to see the show, **Million Dollar Quartet**. It's about four legends—**Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Elvis Presley**—who gather just before Christmas in 1956 at the **Sun Records** studio in Memphis. They had been launched there although they were pretty much just starting to gain momentum. Word of the impromptu jam session soon leaked out and a newspaper man who was there wrote, "This quartet could sell a million." Leading to their being dubbed the Million Dollar Quartet. Unfortunately, this was their only performance as a quartet making the event even more special.

I won't go into much more detail except to say that it has been years since I have so thoroughly enjoyed a production such as this. It just fired along and about when you thought it was possibly winding down, it would take off to more laughs and excitement. And I thought Eric Morris, as Jerry Lee Lewis, was outrageously funny
*Go to **Grind**, Page 10, Column 1*

Jim Richards Memorial Chord Candy # 9

The Chapel Tag arranged by Paul Paddock from E. Pressley



Dr. Jim Richards

This tag was a simple inspiration piggy-backed off of good times at Harmony University. It begins as a classic stair-splitting motion and mimics the nature of the original recording. The tenor grace note is a slip; the D is on the downbeat with the rest of the chord. The tag also works without it, but Elvis would sing it unconsciously with. In this one, you also see counter-melody action going on in the bass at the end. *Enjoy!*



Paul Paddock



You saw me cry-ing in the cha - pel. Get down on your knees and pray.

Doc's Bag



By Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor



Hardin Olson

What can one say about the not unexpected yet still tragic loss of our gallant and loved friend, Bill Ward. Paul says it best on Page 2; Bill lived Barbershop to the max and virtually died in harness after a daunting battle, he will be missed and long remembered. Rest easy, Bill.

After experiencing another of the youth-promoting Midwinter Conventions I can only wonder at the amazing turn-about the Society has experienced in the last few years. Whether by design or by coincidence, CEO **Marty Monson** should be credited with instilling or at least vigorously promoting the Society's youth movement.

Complementing the Society's efforts has been enlisting the participation of such greats as **Deke Sharon** and **Francisco Nunez** who promote and enhance the legitimacy of the Barbershop genre.

Not to be forgotten is the amazing work the staff of the *Harmony*

Foundation has done, sparking the overwhelming generosity of the members of the *Legacy of Harmony*, *President's Council*, and *Ambassadors of Harmony*.

Thanks to these efforts 700 young people had the time of their lives in San Antonio last month.

I would be remiss if I failed to offer my profound thanks to **Lorin May**, Editor of the *Harmonizer*, for his generosity in providing me with access to his entire file of San Antonio Midwinter photos, several of which you see reprinted in this issue. They add much welcomed class to the Chord-Inator. Thanks, again, Lorin!

Grind from Page 9

and wild on the piano. This is one I would like to see again! And if you don't plan to see many other shows this year, definitely do not miss this one.

I should mention the Old Log, too. It has been in operation generating many stars for decades. It was sold not all that long ago and the new owners updated the facilities keeping intact much of the original atmosphere, but making some nice improvements. We had a fine

lunch before the performance and upon our questioning, the waitress described how the restaurant and bar is now open to the public during more restaurant/bar-like hours. So the staff was accommodating, the food was good, the facilities were well done, and the show was just outstanding. Just outstanding! Can you tell we loved it?

Add to this year's Barbershop Bucket List that you will go see

Million Dollar Quartet. I will even go so far as to guarantee your enjoyment of that show. If you aren't thrilled, I will give you an I.O.U. for the tickets. Hold fast to that which is good, of course. And "Believe it or don't" (as they used to say in **Mad Magazine**), but I met with those four legends after the show and they gave me a ton of information about the origin of the Georgia Grind. More on that next time! Keep involved ...



The Minneapolis Commodores Present:

Barbershop Rocks

Saturday, April 1, 2017

One show only – 3:00 p.m.

Bethel University, St. Paul

POP!

This show is going to be an unforgettable a cappella musical sensation. If you're a boomer (or even a boomer wanna-be) you'll immediately recognize YOUR MUSIC. We'll have you dancing in the aisles (no really!) to MY GIRL, DAYDREAM, WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM MY FRIENDS, CRAZY LITTLE THING CALLED LOVE, WHEN I FALL IN LOVE, and many more of YOUR favorites. Joining us on stage will be International Medalist quartet - **MAINSTREET** - who are bringing their unique comedy and fantastic singing to the Twin Cities for the very first time!

For Ticket Information:

Minneapoliscommodores.org,

Call 612.927.9363, Email: pinardbbs@q.com

ROCK!

DOO WOP!



The Minneapolis Commodores are proud supporters of YouthLink MN
youthlink@youthlinkmn.org

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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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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

To:

LOOKING AHEAD

- March 4, Saturday, **Food Shelf Benefit, Faith Church, Minnetonka**
- March 9, Thursday, **Coon Rapids Desert/Coffee performance, 7:00 p.m.**
- March 25, Saturday, **Spring Contest, Willmar**
- March 30, Thursday, **Tech Rehearsal**
- April 1, Saturday, **Annual Show with special guests, Main Street**
- June 25, Sunday, **Landscape Arboretum, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.**
- July 18, Tuesday, **Como Park Area Singout**
- July 27, Thursday, **Hopkins**
- August 2, Wednesday, **St. Louis Park**
- August 27, Tuesday, **Minnetonka**

District Level

- May 5-6, **2017 Spring Convention & Int'l Prelims, Stevens Point, Wisconsin.**

International Level

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

**2016 Barbershopper Of The Year
 Bill Ward**

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

- Russ Born
- Jim Erickson
- Lorin May*
- Hardin Olson
- Rich Ongna
- Mark Ortenburger
- Andy Richards
- Paul Wigley



CHORD-INATOR
1st Place
**2013 PROBE HARD-COPY
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 Dr. Hardin Olson
 2016**

The *Chord-Inator* is available on the Minneapolis Chapter's website minneapoliscommodores.org starting with the January 2006 issue.

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