

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

JUNE 2017 - VOL. 73 - NO. 5

## No lie ... it's Dan True!

### "Barbershopper of the Year"

On Sunday afternoon, June 4, an overflow crowd of 120 Commodores and friends gathered at *Mancini's Char House* in St. Paul for the Minneapolis Chapter's 2017 *Family & Friends Appreciation Night*.

Following a pleasant social hour complete with Mancini's hors d'oeuvre buffet and after Party Chairman **Mark Ortenburger's** call to order, the crowd was blitzed by a raucous rendition of *In the Navy* reprising the cast of the *Village People* from our recent annual show, still led by that shy introverted **Gary Cooper**, who this time, however, was accoutered in Naval officers' dress whites.

When the audience finally caught their collective breath, Emcee **Dan Cole** introduced our special guest quartet, *CHORD SMASH*, with our very good friend and erstwhile assistant director, **James Estes** singing baritone. The foursome led us on an attenuated four-part journey with a stop at Broadway's *Hamilton* for a costumed rendition of *I'll Be Back* and finishing with *The Devil Went Down to Georgia*, featuring a violin, two guitars, and James on the cowbell (with great vigor).

Dan then called upon our resident-reverend, **Dave Wall**, to offer grace which he did, musically, with the attendees

participating in singing the blessing, "For life and health and daily food ..." before the meal commenced. The wait-staff was amazing, negotiating the narrow walkways with

armloads of warm plates loaded with hot-off-the-grill medium-rare steak, sautéed Walleye and roasted chicken.

As dessert was being served *Just One More* was introduced. This quartet, featuring Commodores **Matt Richards**, **Ben Wanggaard**, **Tony Lapakko**, and **Nate Weimer**, formed about a year ago earning the Novice championship at the 10,000 Lakes Division Contest this past March. (They sang their four-chart set totally without instruments.)

At this juncture first-time attendees were acknowledged, our directors

and their wives were introduced, a moment of silence offered for those Commodores who had passed on in the last year, with Dan introducing four special ladies who have contributed so much in support of the Commodores: **Judy Olson** for her enthusiasm when virtually producing our special shows and coaching the members to perform at even higher levels, **Diana Pinard** for her work (along with **Carl**) with tickets, contest and hotel reservations and *Go to True, Page 2, Column 1*



Dan & Karen True

*True from Page 1*

so many other arcane details, **Carol Smith** who as stage manager keeps the boys in line at rehearsals and during our productions, and **Marge Riemenschneider** for being the power (on the distaff side) behind the annual *Nut Sales* campaigns, otherwise managed so capably by her husband,

Next on the docket **Dave Bechard** directed the standing Commodores as they serenaded their wives and friends with a chorus of *Let Me Call You Sweetheart*.

As the senior-most past Barbershopper of the Year present, **Bob Spong** was commissioned to draw the names of the lucky ladies who would take home the Aveda gift products the Ortenburgers had arranged for, followed by a \$50-dollar VISA gift card won by **Jamye Casperson**.

At last it became time to unveil the 2017 Minneapolis Chapter's Barbershopper of the Year. Following the

introduction of the past BOTYs in attendance and in a departure from past years in an effort to make the evening more of a ladies and guests affair, the "skit" plan had been shelved. Thus, the presentation was conducted by Mark Ortenburger beginning with his announcement of **Dan True** as the honoree followed by his simple reading of the prose lasered on the award plaque.

With the help of **Conrad Ward** and his mother, **Kim**, the son and wife of the deceased 2017 BOTY recipient, **Bill Ward**, Dan was presented with the plaque while his wife, **Karen**, accepted a floral bouquet. The applause was thunderous and the congratulations plethoric, with well-deserved "Well done!" in heartfelt tribute to Dan and Karen.

To summarize, the evening was certainly remarkable thanks to the extra-hard work, (from securing the venue, sending out the invitations, keeping track of the responses, selecting

the menu, and planning the program, to crafting the table decorations), Mark and Cathy put forth to make it so successful. *Thanks so much, you two, for a memorable celebration so well done ala the Ortenburger style.*

Editor's Note: In what was an unscheduled total surprise to virtually everyone present, **Cathy Ortenburger** was presented with the special gift of an engraved jewelry box for her loving support provided to Mark throughout his noteworthy Barbershop odyssey. The engraving read as follows:

*Catherine Ortenburger ...  
Commo-Dear ... 2017*

And what better way to honor a supremely dedicated Barbershopper than to recognize the loving devotion (by thought and deed) of his wife. Perhaps this could become an annual award at future Appreciation events as there are any number of Commodore partners also have earned such recognition.

**COMMODORE**  
**FAMILY**  
**APPRECIATION**  
**NIGHT**  
**2017**  
**Mancini's**  
**Char House**  
**St. Paul, Minn.**  
**June 4, 2017**



**Dan True**  
Barbershopper of the Year



**Party Chairman Mark Ortenburger with Mrs. Kim Ward** as he reads the inscription lasered on the award.



**Just One More:** Matt Richards, Ben Wanggaard, Tony Lapakko, and Nate Weimer



**Steve Mangan**



**James Estes**



**Dan Cole**  
Emcee



**Dave Wall**  
"The Reverend"



**"IN THE NAVY"**



**CHORD SMASH**



**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  
Chapter Officers**

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Past Pres. ....Gordy Aumann 952/935-8869  
Marketing/PR VP.....Steve Grady.....952/334-7500  
VP Music /Perform... Carl Pinard 612/927-9363  
VP Membership.....Harvey Weiss 763/439-4447  
Program VP.....Blake Wanger 414/699-4950  
Secretary.....Bill Warp 763/531-2290  
Treasurer .....John Carlotto 952/925-0886

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Andy Tate.....612/825-1942

*Through 2017-18*

Andy Cook.....651/688-6459  
Andy Richards.....651/639-9312  
Arne Stefferud.....651/772-4367

#### Directors

Director.....Paul Wigley  
Assistant Directors: Gary Jacobson (on leave),  
Davie Speidel, Dave Bechard

#### Section Leaders

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

Assistant - Dan Smith

Bari Section Leaders .....Dave Speidel  
Assistant - Matt Richards

Bass Section Leaders.....Dave Casperson

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Audio/Visual Mgr.....Kirk Douglas  
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Uniforms (Dress & Casual).....Dan Williams

## Energy - Giver? Taker? Sharer?

*By Denny Maas, President*



**Denny Maas**

Each time we sing together, I see our directors sharing their energy with us. Regardless of what happened to them that day or how tired they may really be, each freely shares all of his energy as if it were the first thing he was doing that day. They move quickly to their position, make a quick spin to face us with a wonderful charming smile. When they speak, their voices are filled with enthusiasm. This sharing continues until our final song and we leave the building.

Their actions remind me of the time I spent training auditors on how to audit IBM's operating system software. The challenge was to keep the class awake for two days while teaching about a topic that is tedious and boring. At the end of each day, I had left all the energy I started with in the class room. I was drained but the auditors were awake. Mission accomplished.

This has made me question whether we are draining energy from our directors or are we sharing our energy? As a result, I asked our Aussie visitors regarding their observations of the chorus. Both John and Paul are music historians and they spend much of their time watching musicians perform. They both agreed that many of us are often pretty laid back and not really giving back much energy to the directors. This supported my own observation.

If there is one thing I remember about the 2016 Member Survey it is we absolutely love our directors. Although, this survey was done before Dave Bechard came on board, he fits our model like a matched glove. Since we love our directors, my challenge to the chorus is that

## Add a bass ... and mix!

*By Paul Wigley, Director*

I want to thank all of you for your patience, acceptance, celebration, and excitement about the new riser placement concept. (Well, at least the majority of you have celebrated it—ha ha!) There are a number of reasons why I am excited about this new singing arrangement. First of all, it is simply a good idea to mix things up every now and then. While it is very easy to conduct rehearsal after rehearsal with no changes, eventually things get a bit stale. It's a very well-known fact among choral directors that ANY change in standing order will bring about immediate improvement, at least for a while.

The second reason for new voice placement is that we are following what seems to be the current *best practice* in the Barbershop world. Most of our top level choruses are using voice placement, with wider spacing between singers, as a means *Go to Wigley, Page 4, Column 1*

we each do our best to share our energy with them every time we meet. If you accept my challenge, here are some things you can do:

- Arrive at practices/performance **prepared**—know your music.
- **Focus** on **singing** and remember to have fun—put any problems or concerns you had during the day behind you. Think of it as music *yoga*.
- Work on maintaining an energetic **posture/body language** throughout your practice or performance.
- Smile** more than once—**laugh** often.

Let's all try and give back more energy than we receive from our wonderful directors whenever we're on the risers. **Let's recharge our directors!**

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



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

*By Bill Warp, Secretary*

### From the meeting of May 11



Bill Warp

**Treasurer:** The completed April audit for Fiscal-2016 was turned over to Treasurer John Carlotto.

**Marketing:** The committee is working on a better marketing program uti-

lizing informative business cards, e-mail formats, and bulletin inserts promoting our events and performances.

**Membership:** The *Visitors' Night Packets* will be ready for distribution at the June 6 Guest Night. HOP will highlight our Guest Night on their outside announcement board.

**Music Performance:** August 12 will be the date of the first mandatory rehearsal for those electing to compete at the Fall LOL District Contest in October.

Competitors must be off paper with *Something Big* by June 20 and will be required to carry their parts in a quartet.

*Battle Hymn, God Bless America, and This is My Country* will make

up the combined chorus repertoire at the Como singout. The Commodores will sing *Crazy Little Thing Called Love, My Girl, and YMCA*.

The Christmas show with the *Twin City Show Chorus* will be on December 3 tentatively at Bloomington – Jefferson High School.

The Chapter broke even on the *Comedy Quartet Night*.

**Old Business:** The old truck has yet to be disposed of but non-starting is a problem.

**New Business:** A motion was passed mandating limited ticket support of a limited number of shows of other area chapters.

A motion was passed to provide tuition for an assistant director to attend the 2017 Directors College.

A motion was passed to add one or two Board seats for interested *non-Barbershoppers*.

### Wigley from Page 3

to a better ensemble sound. We are still tweaking our arrangement, but out front there is a clear improvement in blend and, especially, in *tuning*.

Another reason for the new riser placement is that we are using the *shotgun* approach for performances. The shotgun formation provides all of you a much better chance to hear the wonderful harmony that the Minneapolis Commodores create. Why do you sing Barbershop? Of course, to hear the HARMONY! I have even used some basic math to space various parts as efficiently as possible. That gets difficult with significantly different numbers of singers among the four sections.

The final argument for the new riser placement is that it raises the bar for every Commodore on the risers. When you are surrounded by voice parts other than your own, it challenges everyone to really, really know their music quite well! It doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand that the first piece of a successful choral ensemble is, "Know your words and notes." Wow! What a concept.

This is not meant to imply that we are moving away from becoming the *inclusive* chorus that we are all so

proud of. But, being an inclusive chorus does not mean that we can be a chorus that is overly lenient with *incorrect notes and words*. That is the most basic building block for good singing that exists, and we all are proud of the fact that the Commodores are a VERY good chorus. And, we want to continue to improve!

I would not be able to even head down this road of slightly more individual challenge if we didn't have a means to help you all improve individually. But we do have help, and it's all on Groupanizer. Enormous amounts of time and money are spent to make good learning tracks available, so it's a simple process to get help. We also are blessed with a wealth of musical leadership, which in the future, will hopefully provide some individual vocal-coaching help for those interested.

Improvement, pride, the CHALLENGE from the Fargo chorus, better singing leading to better music-making---these are all inspiring ideas that keep my love of the Commodores burning. Thank you ALL for your tremendous efforts to make this chorus even better!

It is great to be a Commodore!

Happy 60th  
Steve Grady



At Chapter meeting on May 16, Steve Grady's wife, Jodie, surprised him and the assembled Commodores, with a scrumptious carrot cake for his 60th birthday. A fine time was had by all. Thank you, Jodie!



# SUNSHINE HOTLINE



By Rich Ongna, Sunshine Chairman

Phone: 952-829-7009

Email: [ddongna@usfamily.net](mailto:ddongna@usfamily.net)

**Gil Maple**, a former lead with the Minneapolis Commodores, has been dealing with some health issues lately that took him pretty low for awhile. The good news, he lost weight, reduced his medications and is feeling much better. **Mary Ann** says he is sharp of mind again.



Rich Ongna

**Glenn Retter** returned home on May 5<sup>th</sup> after 5 weeks in the hospital. **Shirley** tells me he is still fed though a feeding tube in his stomach because he hasn't regained his ability to swallow. They're hoping that he will regain it and a stronger voice but she says that may take a couple of months with diligent voice therapy exercises

Congratulations to **Jim & Judy Johannsen** who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on Saturday, April 22.

The Commodores extend their sympathies to **Connie Ashley** whose husband **Bill** passed away April 30<sup>th</sup> in New Hampton, IA from an apparent heart attack and possible blood clot in his lung. Bill was a former baritone and Sunshine Chairman with the Commodores.

Although not a member of the Minneapolis Chapter, Rochester's **Gary**



Gary Rogness, in and out of costume.

**Rogness** has been a much-loved and special friend of many past and present Commodores. Sadly, this magnificent bass, notorious for his *Hold That Tiger* role with the 1982 LOL District Champion quartet, *Downstate Express*, has been afflicted with advanced colon cancer and began chemotherapy on June 1. Apparently his medical team is optimistic. Nonetheless, we certainly must keep him in our thoughts and prayers.

*This is my final Sunshine Hotline for the Minneapolis Commodores for as some of you know we're moving out of state to be nearer our children. It's been a privilege to serve the Commodore community is this capacity over the last several years and I'm going to miss you guys. I've learned a great deal about singing from the Barbershop fraternity and our great directors who are elite, as far as I'm concerned, not only as skilled musicians but as persons of exemplary character.*

**Editor's Note:** In many ways, Rich, you have set the bar quite high. You will be missed and certainly not forgotten. God bless you and Dianne.

No April/May reenlistments

**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**  
featuring a 19th-hole  
performance  
by

**STORM FRONT**

For further information  
and registration  
log on to  
[bhsopen.com](http://bhsopen.com)

## Happy Birthday

06/10 Bob Duncan  
06/14 Bryan Langren  
06/14 Karen McCarville  
06/19 Paul Swanson  
06/21 Kevin Huyck  
06/24 Karen Matchinsky  
06/27 Bob Spong  
07/09 DiAnn Zimmerman

## Happy Anniversary

Bill & Jean Warp  
Chuck & Bonnie Black Gribble  
Ben & Lynnay Wanggaard  
Ken & Rosie Glover  
John & Char Carlotto  
Rich & Dianne Ongna  
Dennis & Sharyn Maas (50 yrs.)  
Carl & Diana Pinard (50 yrs.)  
John & Catherine Lloyd

**PLEASE NOTE:** If your birthday or anniversary dates are missing from this list, please notify the Editor to update your records so you won't be missed next time.

**SUPPORT**  
**HARMONY**  
**FOUNDATION**



**BOMP** (left to rt.) Jim Johannsen, Dan Cole, Andy Cook, and Harvey Weiss



Emcee  
Gary Jacobson

## 3rd Annual



**JUST ONE WYPE** (left to rt.): Mark Bloomquist, Andy Richards, Tony Lapakko, and Nate Weimer



**SWYPE** (left to rt.): Ken Wentworth, Conrad Ward, Andy Richards, and Mark Bloomquist



**JUST ONE MORE** (left to rt.): Nate Weimer, Ben Wanggaard, Matt Richards, and Tony Lapakko



**NOTE'ORIOUS** (left to rt.): Duane Rygg, Steve Zorn, Ron Riley, and Grant Warning

COMEDY

QUARTET

CONTEST

*Here's to the winners!*



**FIRST PLACE FUZZY WICKS** (left to rt.): Steve Grady, Gary Jacobson, Lance Johnson, and Dave Speidel



**SECOND PLACE QUADRUPLE PLY** (left to rt.): Ken Wentworth, Conrad Ward, Ben Wanggaard, and Matt Richards



**THIRD PLACE THE HITS** (left to rt.): Chuck Guthrie, Jim Hedding, Joel Kleschold, and Darrell Egertson

**Here come da judges ...**



You call these guys judges? Never before in the revered annals of the *Annual* (nee *Bloomington*) *Comedy Quartet Contest* has a more incompetent cadre of so called adjudicators been assembled. Ridicule, condescension, vituperation, humiliation, intimidation, were the bywords as this smug, haughty crew continually trampled on virtually every self-respecting ego in our parade of uniquely talented foursomes. (Egads; the shame!)

However, in an amazing empathetic turnabout *CRANIAL CABBAGE* (above from left to rt.): Roger Stanfield, Jim Emery, Bruce Watson, and Chuck McKown) put on a welcome display of their rare talents as accomplished comedic songsters (although not always in strict Barbershop style). Belated well-earned huzzahs for you boys!



## A Visitors Night to remember

By Blake Wanger, Program Vice President

On Tuesday evening, June 6, the Commodores put their collective best feet forward and welcomed several enthusiastic guests (six of whom officially registered and took home the guest packets), to the premier of the Minneapolis Chapter's newly-formatted *Guests Night*, introducing them to a well-orchestrated view of the goings-on in a typical chapter meeting.

The well-planned, revitalized program put together by Membership VP, **Harvey Weiss**, with input from the Board members [especially Program VP, **Blake Wanger**], and the Music Committee, ran smoothly without a hitch.

Emcee **Blake Wanger** called the house to order and evening began with the chorus greeting the assembled visitors with their newly-adopted welcoming/closing song, *Hello/Goodbye* (by the *Beatles*), led by assistant director, **Gary Jacobson**. Each guest was then introduced individually either by the Commodore sponsoring him or, for those who sought us out on their own, by a member appointed to do so. Not surprisingly as it

turned out, the visitors professed a wonderfully wide range of musical experience coming from a variety of backgrounds. The introductions were "clapped" off with the traditional and brief, *This is your welcome song, it isn't very long. Hey!*

At this juncture our guests were invited to mount the risers, along with the members, for a learning session. Taught was a very short but beautifully moving tag brought by assistant director, **Dave Bechard**. Next on the agenda, neophytes in the audience got a taste of the quartet experience, though not exactly in the classic Barbershop style, courtesy of our favorite and always enjoyable Bebop foursome, **BOMP**.

It then became time for Blake to introduce Director **Paul Wigley**, who, with the *Barberpole Cat* chart, Honey/Little Eyes Medley, conducted a learning session for the visitors (a remedial session for many a Commodore) stressing some ins and outs of the Barbershop form. Reading from their welcome packets, the visitors appeared to be responding quite well to the challenge.

A glimpse of more traditional quarteting was provided by **Just One More**, a group who in March were named *10,000 Lakes Division Novice Quartet Champions*. They gave what has become their usual rousing performance with several challenging numbers much to the amazement of the newcomers...

*There's a Meeting Here Tonight*

At May 16's chapter meeting the Commodores were visited by two Aussies, John Kearney and Paul Markota, whom Denny and Sharyn Maas had met on their recent trip to the Island Continent.

Both are lecturers on the history of modern music. Their initial meeting with Denny and Sharyn actually occurring on a Royal Caribbean Lines cruise from Australia to New Zealand on which both men were lecturing at the time. Paul regularly contracts with the line to lecture at sea.

opened an abbreviated Commodore Chorus concert following which the floor was opened to questions from the guests covering a variety of topics, including chorus and District and International leadership structure, chapter dues and other expenses, among other things.

At that point it was *Keep America Singing* under the direction of assistant director, **Dave Speidel**, and then a celebration with cookies and refreshments, before members and visitors alike headed for home or adjourned to the to the Richfield Legion Post for the customary afterglow. Visitors and chorus members alike agreed it was an enjoyable and informative experience, all leaving smiling and hopefully eager to return for another Barbershop experience.



## A LETTER

To all Commodores

My most sincere gratitude goes out to all who were in attendance at last evening's *Guest Night*. You made it a fun, entertaining and informative night. I think our guests got the idea that we are a fun group to sing with.

Special kudos must go to all who had some responsibilities in performing or informing. You know who you are, and Ringmaster **Blake [Wanger]** made it all go so smoothly and proficiently. He is really good at what he does for us.

I am looking forward to seeing some of these fellows return in the next few weeks. They will each receive a short note thanking them for attending and encouraging them to pay us an early return visit to experience a regular chapter meeting and rehearsal. Also they might get a feel for the real Barbershop world, if they would come to Osseo next Tuesday.

I was really glad to see **Eric Nelsen** back in the groove and look forward to his numerous talents in the coming weeks and months.

Harvey

## A visit from down under



Aussie music historians John Kearney (left) and Paul Markota (rt.) paid Denny (and Sharyn) Maas a return visit on May 16.

# VOCALITY- From The Porch for Youth In Harmony



By Jay Althof, *Vocality Tenor*

A few years ago we (the *Vocality Quartet*) were commenting at a rehearsal about the number of friends and family who told us they wished they could hear us perform in the Twin Cities area. While we have been fortunate to perform many, many places across the mid-west and beyond, it had been some time since we had been asked to perform locally. Then last summer we thought it would be fun to hold a free concert “**From The Porch**” of Lake Avenue Studios in White Bear Lake. (Lake Avenue Studios being a euphemism for Jay’s home.) So we set a date and let our friends and family know hoping for good weather.

By chance, a couple of weeks before the show, we became aware of a fundraiser that the Great Northern Union (GNU) Barbershop chapter was holding to assist one of their members, **Jermaine Fritz**, with legal support for his pending immigration to the United States. We thought it would be a nice opportunity to let our audience know they could help support Jermaine, if they chose, through a free-will offering.

The weather was beautiful last year and we had a fine time performing.

and we had a great time performing. The audience seemed to really enjoy it and they generously contributed over \$500. Over the following months we had many people ask if we were going to do another concert

tion, Vocality learned of a special fund being created as a memorial for Barbershop icon, **Dr. Jim Richards**, its main purpose being to support the *Youth In Harmony* program of the *Barbershop Harmony Society* and in which TFLBTMOT was quite active.



*Vocality (left to rt.): David Boyd, Jay Althof, Tom Matchinsky, and Tony Blackwood.*

*From The Porch* this coming summer. We said, “Absolutely!”

Well, for the last several years a group of Twin City Barbershoppers, calling themselves, *The Friday Lunch Bunch That Meets on Thursday (TFLBTMOT)*, with representatives from all of the area chapters, has been sponsoring an annual *Barbershop Open* at a local golf club. The express purpose of the Open has been to raise money for the *YIH* program, an endeavor that provided room and board expenses for 500 young men competing in the *Youth Chorus Festival* at the *Barbershop Harmony Society’s Midwinter Convention* in Reno, last January.

At last fall’s LOL District Conven-

Almost instantly we thought: *Our next concert From The Porch would be a great opportunity to help raise funds for this very worthy cause.* The guys from TFLBTMOT had the foundation work started with the support of the

Land O’ Lakes District and Harmony Foundation.

So now, Vocality has the opportunity to help fund the foundation and hope many, many Barbershoppers and their friends and families will join us on July 22 between 3:00 and 5:00 p.m. at 4671 Lake Avenue in White Bear Lake to hear and watch Vocality perform and also make donations. Bring your lawn chair and any beverage and join us for a great time!

*Editor’s Note: Special thanks to Jay, Tony, David, and Tom from the members of TFLBTMOT for your touch of class. As with your fine music, your gesture here is widely appreciated and will inspire others to support our talented youth.*



# Another Small-world Barbershopping Experience

By Bob Dykstra, Curmudgeon-at-Large

The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of



Bob Dykstra

Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America was founded on April 11, 1938. Consequently, we Barbershoppers now celebrate each

April 11 as Barber-

shop Quartet Day.

I personally celebrated this year's event by harmonizing a few songs and talking a great deal about our prior quartet experiences with three fellow Barbershop octogenarians, **Jim Angell**, **Joel Kleschold**, and **Ron Thomley**. One of the ways the Barbershop Harmony Society publicizes the event is to make arrangements with the television morning news show, *Fox and Friends*, to feature a top-notch Barbershop quartet during their April 11 telecast. I'm not sure how long this has been going on, but during the past two years (2015 and 2016), former BHS quartet gold medalists, *Crossroads* and *Storm Front*, represented our Society and current Sweet Adeline fifth-place medalist, *ClassRing*, represented the distaff side of Barbershop quartetting.

This year's featured quartet on *Fox and Friends* was a mixed quartet of teenagers from Waukesha, Wisconsin who call themselves *Vintage Mix*. The quartet includes three sixteen-year-old girls and a sixteen-year-old boy, all of whom share the same last name. **Anika**, **Ian**, **Julia**, and **Kelsey Shoppach** just happen to be quadruplets. They sing a variety of music but developed a special affinity for Barbershop harmony after attend-

ing an annual show of the *Midwest Vocal Express* from nearby Greendale, one of the Barbershop Society's premier choruses.

This new-found interest coupled with outstanding talent led to *Vintage Mix's* performing at the past few International Barbershop Summer and Midwinter conventions as well as at several Society district conventions and shows (including last year's *St. Croix Valley* show). They have become very well known



Shirley Oppenorth

in Barbershop circles.

What does this have to do with me and my choice of the phrase "small world" in the title of this piece? Well, before I joined my first Barbershop chapter 65 years ago, I sang in a quartet of recent high school graduates in Cedar Grove, Wisconsin.



*Vintage Mix* (left to rt.): Julia, Kelsey, Anika, and Ian at the 2016 Midwinter in Reno

sin, fifty miles or so from the current home of the *Vintage Mix* quadruplets, and ten miles or so from a very

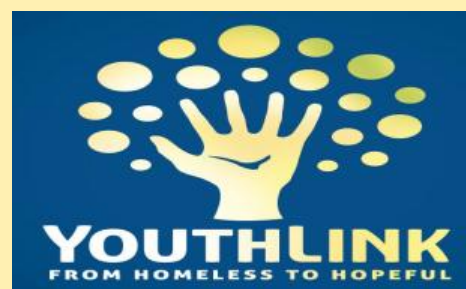
active-at-the-time Barbershop chapter in Sheboygan. Those of us who met in Cedar Grove sang from music loaned to us by the Sheboygan chapter, so we gained an introduction to and love for Barbershop chords.

(It was this brief taste of Barbershop quartetting which led to my joining the *Hut Four Quartet* at Fort Riley and the Junction City, Kansas Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America in 1953.)

One of the members of that pre-Society quartet in Cedar Grove was **Conrad (Connie) Oppenorth**, a good friend, and a fellow attendee of the Sheboygan County Normal School in Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin. Wisconsin normal schools at the time were two-year teacher-training schools designed to prepare teachers for rural schools, many of which were "one-room." Another attendee at the Normal School during my last year there, following Connie's graduation, was his sister, **Shirley**, who often caught a ride with me to and from the school.

Enrollment that academic year (1951-52) totaled 42 prospective teachers in the first-year and second-year classes combined. In leafing through the 1952 Normal School Yearbook, *The Cadet*, recently, I was reminded that Shirley was known for her artistic and musical talent and that she had written me a personal message in the yearbook as was a custom of the times. So imagine my surprise and delight when I discovered recently that Shirley, who passed away four years ago, was the paternal grandmother of the *Shoppach quadruplets*...i.e. *Vintage Mix*.

Small world, isn't it!



# Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, *Bucking Baritone*

I am writing this article to confirm that I have been in line with the trends of the universe in my pursuing the mythical secrets of the origins of the Georgia Grind. Whatever it is, the Grind is veiled in the haziness of myth, only a tiny part of which have I been able to pierce. But bucking a universal intelligence, pierce I did. Now let me tell you what spurred this thinking after reading a fairly recent article by **Tim Duff** in the **Lakeshore Weekly News** (March 16, 2017) Tim tells that technology is overtaking truth in cyberspace.

He called upon the wisdom of **John Maynard Keynes**, the great and prescient demand-side economist. John, anticipating the environmental debate, said, "We are capable of shutting off the sun and stars because they don't pay a dividend. The enemy of the truth is very often not the lie: deliberate, contrived and dishonest; but the myth, persistent, persuasive and unrealistic. Belief in myths allows the comfort of opinion without the comfort of thought."

Tim goes on to ask, "Are we beholden to each other, must we take care of

each other, or is every man for himself? The Internet, like the **Colt 45** of the **Old West**, has become the great equalizer, when technology overtakes truth. Man cheats in his own way and he is only honest who is not discovered."

Now, I have been writing this Georgia Grind stuff for well over ten years. In fact the favorite song, *Georgia Grind On My Mind*, was written and sung by **Ray Charles** in



honor of my dedicated efforts. (Is this a myth created in my own mind? Not until the lack of truth in my statement is discovered will I be labeled less than honest. Now I know some of you have been hard-pressed to winnow out if there is any truth in the chaff of the Grind. Even one little truth. Well, good luck with that.

Like the **Herman the German** statue

on the bluffs of the burg of **New Ulm, Minnesota**, I stand forthright and bold in proclaiming that my stories have not been myth. Oooooorrr have they? Would I rob you, my fellow reader, of the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought. I think not. My aim has always been to think of the comfort of the reader. Kind of the **Marriot** of the article world. A chocolate-on-your-pillow comfort as you drift to the land of myth.

On the other hand, there seems to be an element of cosmic truth in every myth. Just as I have pursued the origins of the Georgia Grind, I urge you to sift through the GG myths and arrive at the remote, snow-blown Siberian railroad station that represents the barren, teeth-shattering truth. Or just have a Captain Morgan Spiced Rum and Cola in Grand Cayman and seek truth in the bottom of a tall glass. It seems to work either way.

The Barbershop Bucket List is no myth; and holding fast to that which is good is one of those guides that lives easily in both the world of truth and the comfort of myths. Stay awake for many reasons, but one is to miss as little of the good life as you can. And by the time I see you again, I may be beginning the transition from practically all-human man, to transformer man with high tech, replaceable parts. But that is just for another day.



May 11 was a special day for the members of TFLBTMOT, that being the appearance of **Perry White**, honoring our group by making his very first official visit (too **OUR LUNCHEON**) as the newly appointed CEO of the **Harmony Foundation**. He is shown here on the left, accepting his TFLBTMOT uniform shirt from Gary Jacobson and on the right, joining Jim Clark, the Foundation's Regional Director, as they tag in on *Goodbye My Coney Island Baby*. (Perry has a noteworthy musical background but is actually a neophyte Barbershopper.)



## Jim Richards Memorial Chord Candy # 12

*Steal Away* a spiritual arranged by B. Chilcott, rearranged by Paul Paddock



Dr. Jim Richards

"Watch out, this one's a high one! Inspired by the version done by the *King's Singers*, which I've sung with my ensemble in Asheville, North Carolina, it puts a contemporary perspective on the spiritual. It emphasizes constructive dissonance (not consonance) to put strength and sound out at those altitudes, just like a trumpet quartet would. Really crush the slide at the end. It's meant to sound the proverbial trumpet and if you know the spiritual, the focus is wishful thinking about the Promised Land during hardships. Do this one with your friends at the afterglow and you'll wow everyone around you! Enjoy!"



Paul Paddock

**Steal Away**

Spiritual  
arr. Bob Chilcott  
rearr. Paul Paddock

## En garde, Fargo

Forsooth, your gauntlet has been picked up, brandished on high, and the Commodore loins have been girded for the upcoming joust on the melodic fields of the *Duchy of Rochester*.

Our minions under the command of **Paul, Duke of Wigley** and his battle-hardened generals, **Sir Gary of Jacobsonia**, **Sir David of Speidelton**, and **Sir Dave, the Younger, of Bechardville**, together, have each declared by his sacred oath that the wind-buffed, flood-ravaged forces of the *Principality of Fargo* shall not now or ever prevail in the arduous trials of harmonious combat.

To ensure that the knights of the *Dukedom of Wigley* cannot falter, the Duke's armorers, under the leadership of **Sir Mark of Ortenburg**, have unveiled "**The JAKE**", a weapon of considerable power, unconventional in nature, that engenders an *inner force that when with them*, makes its possessors virtually invincible.

Defeat and the loss of "The Jake"

**Meet "The JAKE"**

**Minneapolis Commodores**

Minneapolis Commodores – Great Plains Harmony  
Traveling Trophy

would make for a long, hard, seemingly endless winter of discontent. Ergo, we must not fail our idolized Duke who has provided us with all necessary accouterments with which when diligently and properly uti-

lized, will lead us to glorious, well-fought and well-earned victory. Sound the trumpets, beat the tocsins, unfurl the banners ... **ONWARD BROTHERS, ON TO ROCHESTER AND GLORY!**

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

#### Chapter Level

- June 25, Sunday, **Landscape Arboretum, 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.**
- July 18, Tuesday, **Como Park Area Singout, Noon** (Call Time)
- July 27, Thursday, **Hopkins, 6:00 p.m.**
- August 2, Wednesday, **St. Louis Park, 6:00 p.m.**
- **August 12, Saturday, First mandatory competition rehearsal** (Details later.)
- August 20, Sunday, **Twins Singout, noon**
- August 22, Tuesday, **Minnetonka, 5:30 p.m.**

#### District Level

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

#### International Level

- July 2-8, **International Convention, Las Vegas, Nevada**

**1st CLASS  
 POSTAGE  
 HERE**

### 2016 Barbershopper Of The Year

***Bill Ward***

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

Jay Althof\*  
 Bob Dykstra  
 Jim Erickson  
 Denny Maas  
 Hardin Olson  
 Rich Ongna  
 Paul Paddock  
 Blake Wanger  
 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**