

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

NOVEMBER 2017- VOL. 73- NO. 9

## Missed it ... by that much!

Wow! It couldn't have been much closer,; only *three-tenths of a percentage-point* kept us from going to the 2018 International Contest in Orlando. By the time this goes to print most of you will have heard the director's impressions, but I also want to make sure that everyone knows that certainly neither Dave Bechard nor I were disappointed in the Commodore performance. I was very pleased as we exited the stage and actually thought that we were going to score in the 78-79% range. Indeed, some of the judges actually put down those kinds of numbers.

I was glad that we did get to hear Fargo. As I listened to their performance, I knew that it was going to be very tight. I was impressed with their sound-quality despite their lack of a big-bass sound. It was clean. I also looked at Linda and could tell what she was thinking. She has a good ear and I could tell that she was tilting her score for Fargo. I remember thinking to myself, "If we beat this chorus, it means that we did one heck of a job." Well, we almost did! They beat us in the Singing category, but we actually beat them in the Music and Performance categories.

Something that jumped out at me during the evaluations was that there was absolutely no mention either of *sync* issues or of glaring *intonation* problems. That was huge! Virtually all three judges at our evaluations commented that they wanted *More! More! More!* of what we are already doing. Well, what are those things that we are

doing quite well?

- We are developing the melodic line that includes effective contrasts in dynamics and is making the music interesting to the listener. *We just need to do more!*



Poor JAKE, having to spend his first winter in that subzero icebox called Fargo. However, *Great Plains Harmony* member, Brian Swor (left) and Music Director, Sheila Childs (ctr.), have pledged to keep JAKE safe and warm until he returns to Minneapolis next fall. Having completed the temporary transfer, Commodore Mark Bloomquist (rt.) looks on.

- We are doing some similar things with word color, varying word stress within phrases. *We just need to do more!*

- We are developing excellent music plans that demonstrate contrasts in different sections of the charts. *We just need to do more!*

- We demonstrated well-supported sound quality in our softs (particularly in the ballad). The same goes for our mediums and louds. *We just need to do more!*

- We exhibited good synchronization in the up-tune but need to do more to contrast the rhythm differences within the charts. *We just need to do more!*

trast the rhythm differences within the charts. *We just need to do more!*

- We presented an effective visual performance. But more work is needed internalizing lyrics in a conversation-like manner. Think of yourselves on stage in a theatrical production, delivering lines as though conversing with others in the production. Bring it to life! *We just need to do more!*

What can we take away from this district contest? Our experiment with taking a different approach toward contest and yet not leaving anyone out was, in my opinion, a *Go to Missed it ... , Page 3, Column 2*





*Gemini Crickets*, the 1967 Champs, sang up a storm without a hitch. They are (left to rt.) Don Werthman - tenor, Rod Johnson - lead, Myron Sniesrud - bass, and Chuck Guthrie - bari.



Having just been introduced as the newly-crowned 2017 LOL District Champion Quartet, *The Border Project* (left to rt.) are Matthew Hall - bass, Robb Thiel - tenor, Paul Hultgren - lead, and Patrick Boehm - bari.



*Chord Smash*, with (left to rt.) Eric Eliason - lead, Scott Perau - bass, James Estes - bari, and Sam Sather - tenor are virtually all uniquely talented, winning the 2015 LOL District Championship and continuing to surprise their grateful audiences.



*Just One More* was formed just over a year ago and with unbounded enthusiasm and hard work managed a 9th-place finish in last month's contest. Indeed, this is a special group as the baritone is none other than the grandson of Commodore and Society icon, *Dr. Jim Richards*, whom we lost almost two years ago.

The Richards legacy is alive and well in the vocal chords of Matt and his dad, Andy, both actively quartetting Commodores. Above from the left are Matt Richards - bari, Ben Wanggaard - bass, Tony Lopakka - lead, and Nate Weimer - tenor.



*Downstate Express*, Champions in 1982 with (left to rt.) Ed Wirtz - tenor, Bruce Odell - lead, Gary Rogness (in costume) - bass and Dick "Trep" Trep-tow - bari. They just could not leave the stage without unleashing the ferocious "Tiger."

## Snapshots from the 2017 LOL District Fall Convention



*Ruckus*, 2016 Champions served notice that they are still around. From left they are Matthew Gray -tenor, Jay Fahl - lead, Paul Tabone - bass, and Sam Papageorge - bari.

## Rochester, Minnesota Oct. 27-28, 2017



The Shoppach quads are growing up having turned sixteen. Their sound is maturing as Julia, Kelsey, Ian, and Anika (above) continue to mesmerize their fans all around the country.



*Grand Design* from left with Leonard Huls - tenor, Don Hettinga - lead, Matt Hall - bass, and Derrick Glenna - bari celebrate the 5-year anniversary of their 2012 District Championship.



*Peoples Choice*, 1982 Champs, pictured here (left to rt.) planning another attack, are Mark McLaurin - bari, Gordon Moe - bass, Gary Jacobson - lead, and Brent Gerber - tenor.



*St. Croix Crossing* will be making its seemingly (to them) perennial trip to the Midwinter Convention's 2018 Seniors Quartet Competition, this time in Orange County, having won every medal except gold. Pictured from left are Randy Lieble - tenor, Dan Heike - lead, Steve Hardy - bari, and Jared Hoke - bass.



*Kordal Kombat*, the 2013 Champions, are taking short shrift from no one. The boys from the left are Mark Halverstadt - tenor, Scott Veenhuis - lead, Ben Israelson - bass, and Adam Helgeson - bari. Their energy and skill continue to amaze.



Led by Judy Olson on the far right, an impromptu group of *Kordal Kombat* trekkies swing to one of their favorite quartet's up-tunes (above).

All photos this page  
taken by Staff.



**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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Past Pres. ....Gordy Aumann 952/935-8869  
Marketing/PR VP.....Steve Grady.....952/334-7500  
VP Music /Perform.... Carl Pinard 612/927-9363  
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Program VP.....Blake Wanger 414/699-4950  
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Treasurer .....John Carlotto 952/925-0886

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Matt Richards .....651/983-8021  
*Through 2017-18*

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

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

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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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2017 Show Chairman.....Dan Cole  
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Attendance/Sgt.-at-Arms.....

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Singing Valentines.....Neal Mortenson

Sunshine.....Mark Bloomquist

*Swipe* Editor .....Bill Warp

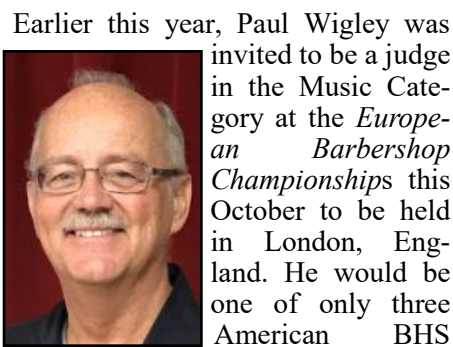
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Transportation Mgr.....Dick Hartmann

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Uniforms (Dress & Casual).....Dan Williams

## Welcome home!



**Paul Wigley**

Earlier this year, Paul Wigley was invited to be a judge in the Music Category at the *European Barbershop Championships* this October to be held in London, England. He would be one of only three American BHS judges asked to participate, one in each of the three Society adjudicating categories (Music, Presentation, Singing). The schedule, of course, conflicted with our LOL District Contest Week so Paul had a difficult, one might say problematic, decision to make.

However, exhibiting the utmost confidence in the skills of his two assistant directors, **David(s) Speidel** and **Bechard**, Paul, with little or no ambivalence, embraced the challenging opportunity across the briny.

After nearly a full (enjoyable but fatiguing) week of virtual 24/7 judging, Paul returned on the Monday (October 30) following our contest, faced with daily/nightly pit-band rehearsals preparing for the premiere, the next weekend, of Lakeville

### *Missed it ... , From Page 1*

success. It does prove that there needs to be some accountability by everyone on the risers who wants to sing. This philosophy should be taken to heart by everyone regardless if the music is for contest or for other performances. We never had a rehearsal that was totally focused on contest. I can guarantee you that Fargo invested much more time during rehearsals than we did. I don't regret that we made the effort to keep everyone engaged during the lead-up to contest. **To me, the big take away from this venture is that we've proven that we can improve.** It just takes a little more personal ownership by every one of us and a commitment to bring the best quality performance that we can to our audiences.

David Speidel

North High School's fall musical, *Shrek*.

At last, on Tuesday, November 7, Paul was warmly re-introduced at our Chapter meeting, working our music, with renewed vigor, for *We Wish You the Merriest* Christmas show on Sunday, December 3.

Needless to say, having reviewed the DVD of our contest performance, he was quite pleased with our performance in Rochester, extolling the efforts of our co-directors and thanking the Commodores for their hard work.

**Home is the sailor ... home from the sea ...**

*From Requiem, R.L. Stevenson*

## It Takes A Village

*By Denny Maas, President*

At the last few meetings, I have been sharing *Tokens of Gratitude* with members. These were created by Doug Johnson. I will continue doing this at future meetings. The persons' contributions, recognized to date, are those of which all of you are well aware. However there are others making significant contributions to the Chorus, who you may not be aware of.



**Denny Maas**

One such person is **Neil Mortenson**. If you ever lost something at a performance or a chapter meeting, there is a good chance that Neil found it and gave it back to you the next time we were together. After each time we are together, Neil searches the area and at HOP he verifies that every door in the building is locked. This means he doesn't leave until after you finish talking or singing with your quartet. He patiently waits until you are done. Thank you Neil!

Another is **Bill Warp** our Secretary. Bill does a fantastic job of keeping accurate and complete minutes of our Board Meetings, filing required documents with the BHS, and recognizing each member's BHS anniversary. Thank you Bill!

*Go to Village on Page 4, Column 2*

## SUNSHINE HOTLINE



By Mark Bloomquist, Sunshine  
Chairman



Mark Bloomquist

On November, **Jim Erickson** had his hip replacement surgery and now is back home healing and recovering well. With a new hip and a repaired back he will be a formidable

force on the risers in the days to come.

We were glad to see **Don Bartels** on the risers this past week after missing several rehearsals and our contest. He is feeling much better and now has only a urinary tract infection to deal with, which we hope resolves soon.

We were glad also to see **John Hansen** as a spectator at the district contest in Rochester. He had a new CPAP device to address his sleep apnea.

Sad news from **Paula Pettis**, daughter of deceased Commodore and avid TFLBTMOT member, **Russ Pettis**. Her mother, **Alice**, passed away peacefully on November 10. Services were held at Christ The King Lutheran Church on Tuesday,

## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



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

### From the meeting of October 12

By Bill Warp,



Bill Warp

• **Treasurer** - The report was approved.

• **Marketing** - Signage for the trailer was discussed, magnetic signs being considered. Full-wrap stenciling is quite costly.

The 2018 Annual Show and Season Programs are in process. **Don Keller** and **Matt Richards** are working on artwork for the Show.

• **Membership** - Renewals are slow for no apparent reason.

• **Music & Presentation:** Feedback on the pre-contest retreats and the quartet *intraviews* conducted by **Paul Wigley** has been decidedly positive.

*Chord Smash* will appear with us on the Christmas show.

• **Old Business:** **Dan Williams** and **Andy Cook** have been following up with absent members. The great majority deal with illness and work.

The Afterglow following the April show will be back at *Grumpy's*.

*Kaleb Smith* has volunteered to help **Mark Bloomquist** with the *Sunshine Report*.

• **Next Meeting** - November 9 at Wooddale Lutheran.

### Capital "B" in Barbershop - Why Not?

More people will be recognized next month since there are still many villagers I have not mentioned. However, there is a ton of work to be done and we need more of you to join this *Village of Contributors*. Please consider volunteering to help us with the work that needs to be done to keep our village running smoothly.

## Happy Anniversary

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



### Oct./Nov. reenlistments

Tony Mason  
Alan Matchinsky  
Terry McClellan  
Chuck McKown  
Kaleb Smith

## Happy Birthday

11/10 Bob Ostergaard  
11/14 Helga Egertson  
11/15 Don Bartels  
11/19 Susan Krekelberg  
11/23 Barbara Aumann  
11/24 Russ Born  
11/26 Jim Johannsen  
11/26 Diana Pinard  
11/27 Kelly McKown  
11/29 Darrell Egertson  
11/29 Jim Foy  
12/02 Sheila Cole  
12/02 Linda Speidel  
12/03 Jeanne Bloomquist  
12/05 Judy Knutson  
12/06 Ben Wanggaard

*Editor's Note: If your November birthdays and anniversaries are missing from the above lists please submit the dates to your Editor.*

### Village from Page 2

Another is **Carl Pinard**, our Music VP. Carl coordinates all music-related activities. This includes all of our performances. He works with the Directors, the Show Chair, and the Board to ensure that all activities are properly planned and managed. This includes ensuring the licenses are in place for all songs that we sing. If Carl spent half the hours that he spends as the Music VP as a Walmart Greeter, I would guess he could take Diana on a long cruise of her choice! Thank you Carl for your dedication and leadership!

Another is **Blake Wanger**, our Program VP. His work at chapter meetings is obvious—he keeps us on schedule and shares his energy. In addition, Blake is a creative force for our shows. He not only participates as an actor, he also frequently writes the scripts. Thanks, Blake, for your creative genius!

Another is **John Carlotto**, our Treasurer, who I often look to as the voice of reason at Board meetings. The fact that he always keeps his cool despite the temperature of the debate makes whatever he says something I take seriously. In addition, he keeps the books, writes the checks, and files the required financial reports. The guy is incredulous and his work meticulous. Thanks, John, for being our fiscal hero!



# Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, Biting-Apple Baritone

If you have read either of my last articles you know that I have had some back surgery. Am further anticipating some hip surgery. Talking with **Doc Olson** (Gynecologic Specialist Doctor to the Commodores and incessant curmudgeon

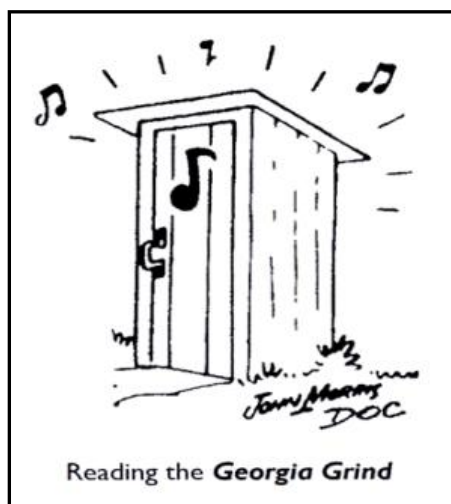
editor) has not helped physically heal what surgery did, or hopefully will. Emotionally, yes. He is like the Tylenol for Severe Arthritis I have been taking daily to ease the hip thing. In hopes of, and my search for, a cure, or at least some soothing home remedy, I decided to follow that aged wisdom of "An apple a day keeps the doctor away." You may know what little luck I have had following those wizened purveyors of hopeful platitudes, but hope springs eternal. (Dang, that "springs eternal" is just another of those plats!)

Anyway, it's fall and time for juicy, tasty, crunchy apples this region is noted for. So, from our cabin on Lake Wissota near Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, (Home of Leinenkugels Beer) my wife, Mary, and I headed just a couple miles away to where the limestone hills and mounds foster some of the best apples around. Orchards there are aplenty, but we narrow it down to two or three, the most recent being Bushel & a Peck. With fairly new owners, many changes have been made to the Orchard's store.

Improved sales area, more parking, playground for the kids, orchard rides. And this year, they added an enlarged bakery and a large room for all to taste some fresh apple pie, and all other things apple. Along with some coffee. And, even some wine. But, the large room is also for live entertainment. Oh, I suppose when the Packers are playing, the darkened TV set will be dialed to the green and yellow game and everyone will be mesmerized right up to the final seconds. Even without Rogers. Sales will stop, orchard rides temporarily halted,

crying kids banished to the playground. All until the game is over. Then some on-site, live entertainment can resume.

(This is an aside.) Since no one in Wisconsin wears anything but a green/yellow Packers shirt, even to bed with one of those foam cheese-head "hats" as a pillow, or possibly a red and white shirt for UW, I am researching a cross between the green of the Granny Smith apple and the yellow of the Golden Delicious, aiming for an apple with stripes of those colors. My fortune would be made in Wisconsin. I wonder if there could even be apple blemishes in the shape of a "P" to cinch an even



greater fortune. (End of aside.)

Now, let's see. Where was I again? Ahhhh yes. I was headed to the apple store to buy me some home remedies in the form of McIntosh, Honeycrisp, Cortland (doesn't brown when cut) or whatever sample tasted best. Inside the front door, I noticed a program board listing the upcoming live entertainment and what caught my eye was that a Barbershop quartet was performing today. A non-descript quartet and no singers named. So, we headed into the newly added entertainment venue to see who was singing in this quartet.

Three years ago, I sang for an evening with the **Northern Lights Chorus** that meets in Colfax, Wisconsin. At that rehearsal, they invited me to join them in a fun night called the "Bloomer [Wis.] Bash" where many quartets made up of singers singing other than their usual part, performed to a full house of listeners. Not part

of the regular program, but as a last minute addition, I joined three others to form a quartet and perform a song or two.

At the orchard, I looked across the room to see who the Barbershoppers were and immediately recognized **Neil Segerstrom**, lead, and **Pat Hogan**, tenor. Two of those guys I had sung with at the Bloomer Bash. The baritone, **Craig Schulz**, was gracious enough to step aside at Neil's suggestion and let me sing a few songs. Now these guys were warmed up having sung intermittently for about two and a half hours. Me, nada. But it was fine, and fun. In the meantime, my wife was texting my daughter saying something like, "You won't believe what Dad is doing right now at the apple orchard."

From a list of about twenty to thirty songs, there were standard *Barberpole Cats* and other pretty familiar songs. But I stuck safely to the polecats knowing that some songs have the same title, but quite different arrangements. I think it tickled everyone that this was such a happenstance thing. So much the better. Confirming the spelling of their names, I asked, "By the way, what's the name of your quartet?" Neil pondered a moment and muttered, "Well, the **Apple Orchard Quartet** I guess." Seemed appropriate to me!

Now you are probably wondering why I didn't mention who sang bass. It turns out that the bass at the rehearsal for the **Bloomer Bash** was the same one who mentioned to me then that he was an avid reader (I can only modestly admit) of the **Georgia Grind**, and still reads that first in every issue, that being the case ever since **Jim Richards**, our departed good friend, provided us with his last **Chord Candy** article. Again, I was pleased that others outside our chorus get and read the Chord-Inator, and especially the Grind. After trading a few words, the bass, **Wilbur Hoppe**, asked if this orchard performance would be mentioned in my next article. Never one to show my hand, I said something clever like, "You never know." To which he answered, "Well, whatever you do, don't put us in that toilet that is a part of your arti-

Go to **Grind**, Page 6, Column 1

## Jim Richards Memorial Chord Candy #12

*Christmas Time is Here* by Vince Guaraldi, arr. by Paul Paddock



**Jim  
Richards**

It's almost that time of year again, when you start hearing Christmas tunes in the air (whether you like it or not)! This is one of my favorite holiday tunes, being partly a jazz buff myself. I remember preparing for a 2-3 hour guest appearance at the White House my senior year of college, and a gorgeous arrangement of this tune was part of our repertoire, arranged by *Audrey Snyder*, a well known and talented arranger for *Hal Leonard Music*. It had a lot of leafy layering effects & inspired me to whip out a couple of different takes on the tune in tag form. This particular tag was written literally 10 minutes before hitting the mountainous roads to DC from North Carolina.

Lead has the melody, and takes the group on a different path. The tune revolves around majortry to crush those; if you have the major-7th part of the chord clashing with the tonic; take a step back and sink yourself into the surrounding sounds. The faint but sweet lock will reveal itself to you.



**Paul  
Paddock**

Instead of repeating the I-6b chords, I decided to take it farther and capitalize on a minor-7 version of the VII (In the Bb scale, A is the 7th tone.), making this more ponderous and like you're looking forward to the season, I take it in and back out of G-major. G major really works here because the key is the relative minor of the scale, and to have it in major form makes it even cooler! Each beat has the right verbal emphasis too, like CHILD-ren & FAV-orite (rhythmically abbreviated to fav'rite). And you end back in Bb, but in a sweet Bb major 9 chord. Psychologically, it seems like it could go somewhere else after the end, which is the idea! It helps to start slowing down on the tenors' galloping trek to the ending vigil note. Have fun with this tag!

### Grind from Page 5

cles.” (He refers to the cartoon drawing of the outhouse, with the musical notes wafting up into the sky, that appears in the middle of each of my articles.)

Wilbur, I had never considered that until you mentioned the possibility. And then the wheels started turning. Put someone into the outhouse? Or maybe a few people? How about a quartet? And thus was born the idea of inducting noted (pun intended) individuals or groups into the **Order of the Georgia Grind Outhouse**

(OGGO). You are certainly familiar with many of the great movements in history and my intention here is that there will be many good movements resulting from residing in the Outhouse. So, as the honored initial occupants, I hereby induct the original members of the **2017 Apple Orchard Quartet** into OGGO. A plaque with your quartet information and honoring all will be installed in an appropriate location inside the Outhouse and I will notify you when the installation ceremony will take place.

I think the apple-remedy is kicking

in now, so I will end this by saying that in today's world, always stay aware of where you are and where the nearest exit is. Everywhere. And hold mightily to that which is good. As ambassadors of goodwill through singing endeavors, we can do so much by spreading our talent to as many as will listen. And that seems ever more important in the months and years ahead. As far as the search for the origins of the Georgia Grind, I will forsake apple orchards soon, but I think I hear the siren's call of the vineyards. Until next time...





# Scatter Gunning from the Catbird Seat

By Dick Riemenschneider, *Man of All Seasons (especially golf)*

The article headline is a title I stole from a long-time sports columnist for the St. Paul *Pioneer Press* named **Don Riley**. Don, for 30-years in the Press, wrote a sports column called *Eye Opener*. He was known for indulging in bits of exaggeration in his sports columns and voicing opinions that tended to “stir the pot” in the local sports world. He was also known for the opening line in some columns, *I’ll mouth off and you peons will listen and learn*. And occasionally his column was headed with the banner, *Scatter Gunning from the Catbird Seat*.

“Scatter Gunning” refers to the ever-widening pattern that a load of shot-gun pellets has as it distances itself from the gun-barrel, which in other words, is a metaphor for the wide-topic pattern his columns may include, whether exaggerated or not. And *Catbird Seat* in this case may include literary and sports background. The first recorded usage of the term occurred in a humorous 1942 short-story by **James Thurber** titled *The Catbird Seat*, which featured a character, Mrs. Barrows, who liked to use the phrase. Another character in the story, **Joey Hart**, explains that Mrs. Barrows must have picked up the expression from **Red Barber**, the baseball broadcaster, and that to Barber “sitting in the catbird seat” meant “sitting pretty,” like a batter with three balls and no strikes.

So enough of the explanation and on with the topic. As you may or may not know I am an avid golfer. Avid in my case meaning I participate frequently but at a very low level of skill [NOT!]. I also read golf magazines. There is an article in the latest *Golf Magazine* entitled *We Beat Europe*,

which is about the 2016 Ryder Cup golf matches at our local Hazeltine Golf Course. Now the Ryder Cup matches are very big deals that take place every two years between the best professional golfers from the United States and Europe. In the three years just prior to 2016, the Europeans had won consecutive matches—2016 was surely the year for the U.S. to put up or shut up.

After the first round matches the U.S. was up 9½ to 6½ going into the next day, Sunday. The players met on Saturday evening for an informal team-building and inspirational session. Each player gave a short talk about what the sport and/or the contest meant to them. When it came

*change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it. And so it is with you. ... We are in charge of our attitudes.*

So what does this have to do with the Commodores? Well, we are just back from the LOL District Contest in Rochester. It is well known that we were beaten by Fargo by 5-points and scored 76.4. My opinion of the Commodores performance at the contest is that we sang at the highest level since I joined the chorus in 1998, and that includes our District Contest score of 78.5 in 2008 and our International Score of 77.0 in 2009. We may think that the judges were a low-scoring panel, but remember, it is the same panel that scored Fargo. And don’t forget, Fargo sang a fine contest set.

How do we, the Commodores, react to this apparent upset? We can blame the judges and partake in all the usual griping after a contest or we can change our attitude and change the way we approach our participation in the Commodore Chorus. As a way to create a positive out of this turn of events we can pledge to do just one thing to improve our performance on the risers. What might that one thing be? Well, that varies by individual; for some it might be to work on the *cathedral of sound* with our vocal instrument, for others it might be *more effort learning notes and words*, for others it might be *listening twice as hard* to other voices in the group to improve section and chorus unity.

It could be any one of a dozen other things. But the main thing is to chose one action item and stick with it until it becomes automatic, then re-evaluate and pick one more thing until it, too, becomes automatic ... then another and another ... The end result will be better singing from each individual and, thus, a better chorus sound. If you are unsure what point to focus on, I’m sure **Mr. Wigley** would be happy to help you.

Just one thing improved by each member will have a quantitative effect on our chorus sound. Let’s all pledge to make at least one [or more?] little improvement.



Dick  
Riemenschneider

**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](http://bhsopen.com)**

time for **Brandt Snedeker** to speak he, instead of ad-libbing, pulled out his smart phone saying there was a quote in the phone that helped him at times when he felt like he was under a lot of pressure. The quote was from **Chuck Swindoll**, a noted evangelical-Christian pastor, author, educator, and radio host. It follows:

*The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It will make or break a company, a church, a home. We cannot*

# Doc's Bag



By Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor

Well, the Barbershop fireworks are over for another year in Rochester, Minnesota. When the LOL District convention reconvenes next October in the amazing and completely remodeled *Mayo Civic Center*, all the hallways will be open, free of construction materials, and unsightly detours. There will be absolutely nothing to grouse about. (Now, if they only had moving walkways in the skyways ... Oh, well.)

Certainly, it was disappointing to beaced out by Fargo—and poor JAKE will have to endure the coming North Dakota winter. Actually the Commodores and Fargo were in a virtual tie to qualify for International, we, outpointing them in Music and Performance, and they by a few more points (five out of 600 total) in the Singing category.

It is a good bet that the post-contest evals of both choruses were practically identical and you can be reasonably sure that they will be working this next year on the same things as the Commodores.

Our challenge lies before us, and the recipe for success remains the same, practice faithfully at home at least a few minutes daily, making every effort to be at HOP, fully prepared and ready to go, each Tuesday evening. (The quartet evaluation program adopted in preparation for this past competition paid significant dividends and should be retained and promoted.)

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Few would disagree that this year's ADC Show was near, if not at the top, of all of its predecessors. From the 2016-champions, *Ruckus*, on down to the 1967-champions, *Gemini Crickets*, each foursome had its *best feet* forward.

*Grand Design*, the 2012 champs, sang certainly as well, or even better, as

they ever have—and *Vocality*, winners in 2007, demonstrated quite effectively that they will be well-prepared to mount a 2018-competition campaign.

However, like vintage wine, it was the old-timers who really tickled the auditory palates of the voracious audience. The *Gemini Crickets* seemed to pick right up where they left off 40 or more years ago. Lead **Rod Johnson**, in particular, having continued singing for 40-plus years with the 1975 International Quartet Champions, *Happiness Emporium*, once again brought his formidable voice to the table. **Myron Sniesrud**, **Don Werthman**, and **Chuck Guthrie** were not far behind. (Guthrie and Johnson have Commodore roots.)

*Downstate Express*, celebrating their 1982 LOL District Championship, were again in top form. Happily for the audience (maybe not for Bass **Gary Rogness**), the iconic tiger-mask had been located, allowing the audience to roar with laughter at what has become a favorite, *Hold That Tiger*. Lead, **Bruce Odell**, had sung with post-1972 LOL Champions, the *Roadrunners*. (My wife, **Judy**, coached *Downstate* early-on and convinced them that they were ready for prime time. The rest, you might tritely say, is history—witness the quartet's 2004 International Seniors Championship.)

And of course, who can forget the 1992 Champions, the *Peoples Choice* and their re-creation of *Desert Storm*. Lead **Gary Jacobson's** uniform might be a bit snug but that had no effect on the performance. (Gary has become a wonderful asset in the Minneapolis Chapter as an assistant director and all-around coach since leaving Fargo.)

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The most memorable (and heart-warming) moments I experienced during the Rochester Convention occurred during Friday night's ADC Show when *Downstate Express*, all with glowing smiles (Yes, Gary, too.) strode proudly on stage for their 35th Anniversary performance.

Watching **Gary Rogness**, ramrod

straight, confidently take his position, the audience sensed that they were in for a special treat, and indeed it was. After a number or two, when the tiger tiger-mask was unveiled, the audience cheered, just like old times.

But the boys were yet to be finished. Gary stood center-mike and with three-part accompaniment, delivered a beautifully-moving solo rendition of *Precious Lord*.

Those who don't know Gary are not aware of the life-or-death battle he has been waging against the merciless cancer ravaging his body or especially the chemotherapy that saps his strength and makes life barely worth living for about a week after each twice-monthly treatment.

Yet he carries on, looking forward to each "good week" after rebounding from the previous chemo ... always thankful for all of his Barbershop friends like his favorite lead, **Bruce Odell**, who calls him every single day without fail.

*That tells much of what Barbershop is all about and, by the way, you might offer a prayer for Gary when you have a moment.*

## LETTERS

Doc

Thank you for including me on the Chord-Inator [e-mailing list]. If I tell you that I saw your picture, you know I did read it.

Great to see you—and we cannot, and do not, simply mourn the passing of Fritz. However, I will miss breakfasts with him.

Dean Shepersky

*Editors Note: Dean is a retired local druggist who, some years ago, while no longer singing with the Commodores, maintained his close friendship with Fritz Herring.*

*Fritz was a fun-loving yet scholarly man who, as I recall, sang for a while, in the under-achieving, yet surprisingly-busy, all-Commodore comedy quartet, **The Diplomats**.*

*He later was employed as a messenger for Eastern Union delivering over 2500 singing telegrams*  
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*Letters from Page 10*

throughout his post-retirement years. To my surprise Fritz was hired by the Twin City Show Chorus to highlight my wife Judy's 57th birthday party.

Some years ago upon entering the Federal Court House on Fourth Federal Court House on Fourth Street,

dressed for a gig in a cowboy suit with two toy pistols hanging from his waist, he was quickly arrested, handcuffed, and led away. The situation was resolved under circumstances of which I am unaware but needless to say, a well-written story in the Star-Tribune turned Fritz into a local folk-hero of some stature.

His memorial service nine days after his death was held on September 30. It was well-attended and the vignettes shared about his life testified to the fact that, indeed, he was a man of all seasons. God rest you, Fritz!



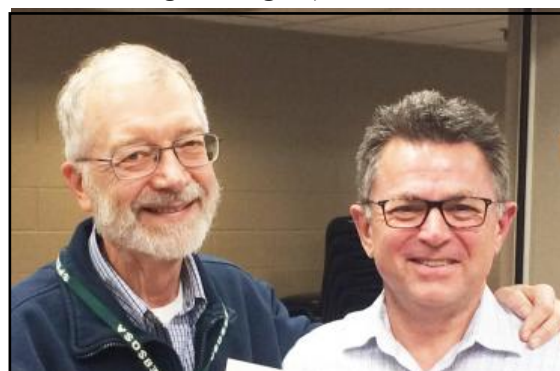
At the request of Bob Spong, three members of the *Roadrunners* quartet, here with stand-in lead, Bob Dykstra, assembled at the November 16th meeting of the Lunch Bunch (TFLBTMOT) to reminisce about their Barbershop experiences. Some weeks ago, Spong initiated a *My Life in Barbershop* series, asking Lunch Bunch members and others to relate their Barbershop experiences at the weekly get-togethers. Steve Zorn has been recording each one and has arranged to put them out on YouTube. That week was the *Roadrunners* turn. To see this and all the others so far, google "YouTube" and type in: <history of members of the Friday lunch Bunch that meets on Thursday> You will be amazed at their stories.

(Pictured above from left are Ron Thomley - tenor, Dykstra - stand-in lead, Norm Wolfe - bass, and Dwight "Wile-E" Mennenga - bari.)

## Speaking of Pictures



Mark Ortenburger (left) is seen here accepting his "Token" from President Denny Maas at the October 31 chapter meeting (refer to *It Takes a Village* on Page 3.)



Commodore treasurer, John Carlotto (left) accepts a check on November 7, for the amount of \$1004, from LOL District President Dan True. This was the quarterly remittance from the *Harmony Foundation* for the rebate generated from a percentage of the total Commodore donations to the Foundation in the last months. This is an easy way to benefit your chapter or district as well as the Foundation.

**TWIN CITIES SHOW CHORUS & MINNEAPOLIS COMMODORES**

*We Wish  
You the  
Merriest!*

**3:00pm Sunday  
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TICKETS: \$15 before December 2nd  
or \$17 at the door  
Children Under 5 FREE

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Jefferson H.S.**

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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

### 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

- November 28, Tuesday, **Christmas Concert rehearsal with TC Show Chorus**
- December 3, Sunday, **Christmas Concert**
- March 24, 2018, Saturday, **!0,000 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**

**1st CLASS  
 POSTAGE  
 HERE**

### 2017 Barbershopper Of The Year **Dan True**

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

Mark Bloomquist  
 Jim Erickson  
 Denny Maas  
 Hardin Olson  
 Paul Paddock  
 Dick Riemenschneider  
 Dean Sherersky\*  
 David Speidel  
 Bill Warp  
 Paul Wigley



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