

KEEPING THE  
WHOLE WORLD SINGING

# CHORD-INATOR

BARBERSHOP  
HARMONY  
SOCIETY



OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, CHAPTER  
\*\*\*\* A CHAPTER WITH AN ENVIABLE PAST - AN UNBOUNDED FUTURE \*\*\*\*

10,000 LAKES DIVISION - LAND O'LAKES

MARCH 2018 - VOL. 74 - NO. 3

## 2018 Northern Pines Harmony Brigade



Crown Plaza Hotel in Plymouth, Minnesota, February 23-24, 2018



Commodores participating (left to rt.): Front Row, Mark Ortenburger, Mark Bloomquist, David Speidel, Kevin Huyck, Matt Richards, 2nd Row, David Bechard, Ben Hancock (on TDY in Alaska), Nate Weimer, Tony Lapakko Andy Richards, 3rd Row, James Estes (TDY in San Francisco), Dave Casperson, Dick Riemenschneider, Ken Wentworth, Jeff Culp, 4th Row. Dean Lambert, Shawn Hunter, Paul Paddock, Ben Wanggaard.



The vocal music program at Lakeville North High School, as you can see, is in the capable hands of its Director, Jamye Casperson, seen here leading the group in a thrilling arrangement of *Nothin' Gonna Stumble My Feet I* by Greg Gillian. Paul Wigley, the previous director and a significant progenitor of the vocal program could not be more proud.



Jamye Casperson (ctr.) with Commodores Mark Bloomquist (lft.) and Ken Wentworth.



This foursome had the honor of being the first randomly-selected group to sing in public at the 2018 Rally (lt. to rt.) Commodores Bill Mark & Tony Lapakko, Ron Cowan, and Leo Pusateri.



Ken Wentworth with substitute music teacher Amy Buck.



"Baritones to the back of the bus, PLEASE!", exclaims trip monitor Randy Rogers.



The class at Bloomington Jefferson.



On stage at Bloomington Kennedy with Randy Rogers directing.

### Brigade Wrap-up

By Dave Speidel, NPHB President

The Northern Pines Harmony Brigade wrapped up another successful Rally despite the untimely winter storm that blew in on Saturday. For sure it diminished attendance for the evening show, but it didn't diminish our spirits. We had a very strong registration this year with 80 attendees. Of those 80, four were from Alaska including our own Ben Hancock. His whole quartet, *Lost at C* (Clever name!), came down for the event.



David Speidel

We gave them an opportunity to sing two songs on the program and their tenor, Phil Brewer, directed *Bare Necessities*. Another notable attendee was Greg Hilliard from Tallahassee, Florida. Not only is he a great tenor, but he also directed and displayed a great sense of command of his assigned chart. As to be expected, we had a great support from the Commodores, 18 guys made the commitment and performed admirably. Our own boys *Just One More* were also featured on the show and did a fine job, *Yes Indeed!*

It was great fun having *Chord Smash* fulfill duties at the Rally in their capacity as contest judges, directors, and of course, as our headline quartet. This was their first experience at a

Harmony Brigade and they were amazed at how well everyone was prepared. What was also cool is that they made an honest attempt to be familiar with several of the songs featured this year so were able to sing in quartets with many of our attendees. They made it known that they would like to come back again for another round. The *Pizza Afterglow* was a hoot. I stopped looking at the clock ... but I think I got to bed at a reasonable hour. I can't say that would be true for some of my other partners-in-crime. Anyway, a great time was had by all and we are already making plans for 2019!

All Brigade photos by staff

## "Here's to the winners!"



The gathering of 2018 NPHB champions!



Heath Mueller - Michael Tate - Joel Prather - Matt Richards



Ben Wanggaard - John Von Haden - Phil Brewer  
Mark Bloomquist



Scott Monte - Ben Wanggaard - Wendell Keith - Phil Hedtke



Phil Hedtke - Ben Brekke - Andy Richards - Dean Lambert



David Bechard - Bob Lepage - Jeff Bemis - Ron Reimer



### Special Guests - CHORDSMASH

Sam Sather - Erik Eliason - James Estes - Scott Perau



President David Speidel invites you to  
the 2019 Northern Pines Harmony Bri-  
gade Rally February 22-23, 2019 at the

**CROWN PLAZA HOTEL** in Plymouth, Minnesota.



Emcee  
Bob Dykstra



### Just One More

Matt Richards - Ben Wanggaard - Tony Lapakko - Nate Weimer

All  
photos  
by  
staff



Greg Hilliard - Merlin Friesen - Ernie Peters - David Short

**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**

President.....Blake Wanger 414/699-4950  
Past Pres. ....Denny Maas 952/447-8012  
Marketing/PR VP.....Steve Grady 952/334-7500  
VP Music /Perform... Carl Pinard 612/927-9363  
VP Membership.....Jim Norman 612/242-9330  
Program VP.....Eric Nelson 612/47-2380  
Secretary.....Bill Warp 763/531-2290  
Treasurer .....John Carlotto 952/925-0886

#### **Board Members**

*Through 2018*

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

*Through 2018/19*

Dave Casperson.....651/432-4922  
Paul Paddock.....757/784-6440  
Kim Ward (Community Rep.).....763/413-9273

#### **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

#### **Committee Chairmen**

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2017 Show Chairman.....Dan Cole  
2018 Show Chairman.....Matt Richards  
2019 Show Chairman.....Steve Grady  
Afterglow Chairman.....Andy Richards  
Attendance/Sgt.-at-Arms.....**Vacant**  
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.. Bob Ostergaard  
Harvey Weiss

Grants Research.....**Vacant**

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Harmony Foundation.....**Vacant**

Historian.....**Vacant**

Learning Tracks.....Dan Smith

Librarian.....Carl Pinard

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Northern Pines Brigade President.....Dave Speidel

Performance Mgr.....Paul Swanson

Presentation Chairman.....Dan True

Quartet Promotion.....Gary Jacobson

Riser Boss(temp).....Dan Cole

Roster (pending).....Andy Richards

Singing Valentines.....Neal Mortenson

Sunshine.....Mark Bloomquist

Swipe Editor .....Bill Warp

Tickets/A-Commodore President.....Diana Pinard

Uniform Committee Chairman.....**Vacant**

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

## **The Minneapolis Commodores - Mission, Values and Vision**

*By Blake Wanger, President*

As the Minneapolis Commodores



**Blake Wanger**

embark on another exciting year of songs, shows and service, I think it is important to remind ourselves of what it is at the very foundation of everything we do as a chorus.

### **Mission Statement**

(Adapted from the Barbershop Harmony Society): *The Minneapolis Commodores bring men together in harmony and fellowship to enrich lives through singing.*

Harmony and fellowship are the bases for all we do. We strive to create harmony, both musical and human, much in the same way as we try to blend four different pitches to create a perfectly-ringing Barbershop 7<sup>th</sup> chord So, too, do we endeavor to blend the different and diverse lives of all of our members to create a strong and joyous fellowship. Many of our number cite camaraderie as one of their favorite parts of the Commodore experience. Yet, just as we always work to improve our musical harmonies, we will also continue to explore more ideas to strengthen our human harmony.

Pay special attention to the phrase "enrich lives" and note that it does not say "Enrich *our* lives". The Minneapolis Commodores are equally committed to enriching the lives of others, as well as our own, through our public performances, our fundraisers such as the March 4 ICA Food Shelf Benefit, our support of Youth In Harmony, and our ongoing partnership with *YouthLink*. With our concerts and shows, our fellowship and service, we have numerous reasons to be Commodores.

**Values Statement** (What the Commodores value as an organization):

*1. Having an inclusive membership policy that accepts all men who love to sing and wish to harmonize with others.*

*2. The idea that no singer should be left behind.*

*3. Respecting each chapter member, his unique abilities and whatever he is able to, and chooses to, to contribute to the betterment of our organization.*

*4. Fellowship and friendship in a welcoming environment.*

*5. The joy of singing and ringing chords in four-part Barbershop style.*

*6. The sense of accomplishment that comes from learning and growing as singers and performers.*

*7. Our audiences, who deserve a high quality musical experience from us whenever we have the opportunity to perform.*

*8. The opportunity to sing music that is predominantly in the Barbershop style but also may incorporate a broad range of other a cappella styles.*

I firmly believe that the inclusive membership policy of the Minneapolis Chapter is one of our greatest strengths. We exhibit the consummate proof that ordinary people can make extraordinary music. Our members run the gamut of musical experience from those highly-trained and lettered, to men who, prior to joining our chapter, may have only sung in the shower. And yet, despite our disparate musical backgrounds, and our less-than-strict attendance requirements, we manage to come together and sing at a level that delights our audiences and would make a majority of chapters in our Society a bit green with envy.

The Board has recently introduced initiatives such as the new attendance policy, quartet interviews and Saturday retreats in an effort to maintain our inclusive membership policy while still ensuring that we are singing to our highest potential. All three of those initiatives first went into effect leading up to Fall Contest last year, and our contest scores and the feedback from the judges exhibited notable improvement. The near-unique ability of our chorus to produce a very high quality sound while welcoming *all* Go to **Mission, Page 5, Column 1**

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

## "It's a Small World After All!"

By Paul Wigley, Director

Sometimes life just brings people together in happy circumstances and it certainly happens often in the Barbershop world, especially after you've been a member for forty years! One of these happy circumstances



happened a couple of weeks ago at the University of Illinois. Our daughter, Sarah, was co-directing the opera *Don Giovanni* for the Illinois Lyric Theatre. It so happens that Sarah is a good friend of Jean Del Santo, the wife of our very own Commodore, Bill Warp. So, Jean thought it would be a great road trip to see this opera (because she is on the voice faculty at the University of Minnesota, and obviously an opera expert). As coincidence would have it, Bill Warp went to the University of Illinois ... and the first opera he ever saw was .... *Don Giovanni*! Bill also remembers seeing performances at Illinois' beautiful Krannert Center for Performing Arts.

(Hopefully you're all still with me so far ... this may turn into my version of *Georgia Grind*!) So, we had an evening at the opera with Bill Warp and Jean Del Santo at the University of Illinois. Now, Illinois just happens to also have been attended by fellow Commodores **Dan Williams** and **Steve Grady**! So now I find myself with a daughter that is an assistant professor of voice and coordinator of musical theatre at the same university that was attended by

and collaboration between musical theater and opera (That is not easily done, as you can imagine!). So the world is small enough to connect Barbershop singing, opera performance, and musical theatre performance in many ways! Music is music, all forms and styles, and the weekend in Champaign-Urbana was a great testament to that truism.

One last story about the weekend centered on the after-party following the Saturday night performance of *Don Giovanni*. The president of the University of Illinois was there as were the provost, the head of the school of music, major benefactors, and a raft of mucky-mucks! Just when we were leaving, one of Sarah's fellow lyric-theatre professors said, "Hey, we can't go, we haven't sung a tag yet!" So, Sarah and the other three professors at LyricTheatre@Illinois all gathered around ... and I taught them one last tag before we all said good-night. Barbershop was alive and well!



The Beauteous Sarah Wigley seen here with her dad, Paul, on the left and Illinois alumnus and Minneapolis Commodore, Bill Warp, on the right. Wigley Photo

three current Commodores!

To go further, Jean Del Santo now has coordinated Sarah and her co-worker, opera star **Nathan Gunn**, to come back to the U of M and do a masterclass for area voice teachers on musical-theatre vocal technique

We just never know what adventures our years of Barbershop singing will lead us to! (And isn't it wonderful to have two lovely and talented divas in the same family?)

### Mission from Page 4

men who like to sing confirms why we should all be very proud to be Commodores!

**Vision Statement** (*Where we hope to be as an organization*): *We believe that if we continue to promote the values noted above, we will foster membership growth in our chapter and a growing and more diverse audience, that together, will enhance, well into the future, the basis for a strong and vibrant organization.*

As for our audiences, in recent years we have expanded our yearly performance schedule, numbering more than a dozen or more performances all over the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. This summer, we will continue to grow our audience base by adding performances in even more communities and will be returning to the Landscape Arboretum for a second year.

These are more than opportunities to perform, as often in the cities and towns where we appear, our performances are a highlight of the year. The Board is also exploring new ideas to increase ticket sales for our annual and Christmas shows and to attract audience members from a wider geographic area.

The Minneapolis Commodores mission, values, and vision statements paint a clear picture of an organization that has a lot of fun and does a lot of good. While there is always room for growth and improvement, I think we should all be extremely proud of the music we make, the fellowship we share, and the service we offer. It really is GREAT to be a COMMODORE!



## Happy Birthday

03/14 Nancy Cook  
03/17 Ken Jones  
03/17 Dan Krekelberg  
03/17 Tony Mason  
03/17 Carol Smith  
03/18 Judy Johannsen  
03/22 Bob Griffith  
03/23 Dean Lambert  
03/24 Bill Shaw  
03/26 Tony Lapakko  
03/27 Matt Richards  
03/30 Rod Vink  
04/04 Judy Olson  
04/04 Jean Spong

## Happy Anniversary

04/09 Hardin & Judy Olson

**PLEASE NOTE:** If your birthday/anniversary dates are missing, please notify the Editor so you won't be missed next time.



## BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

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

*By Andy Richards for Bill Warp*

### From meeting of March 8

• **Membership:** A discussion was held regarding the anxieties and fears potential new members express after standing on the risers and singing with such *great* singers. A better “pre-boarding process” should be developed, best to be begun by the recruiting member.



Andy Richards

Brief off-topic discussion was held re: acquainting newer members about the importance of *need for* and *responsibilities of* chapter-leadership succession.

• **Marketing:** Three-hundred show posters have been printed and 1000 annual show programs ordered.

A sponsor link was created by Paul Swanson to ease ad sales.

Our show has been added to the Bethel website.

Fifty unsold comp show tickets will be reserved for Bethel students.

The 2019 annual show, at Bethel, will mark the Minneapolis Chapter’s 75th anniversary—possible title *Diamond Jubilee: Greatest Hits*.

Other venues with quality comparable to Bethel’s will be investigated for 2020 and beyond.

A motion was passed to provide \$200 for Facebook promotion of show.

**Music & Performance:** Performance schedule is set for 2019.

Comedy Quartet Night will be held in May, date to be determined.

Two pre-District retreats have been scheduled, August 18 and September (?) with coaches James Estes and Kevin Keller.

Quartet Interviews begin March 13 with one of three random charts.

The Christmas show is planned for December 2, 2018. Details pending. TCSC participation with their new director to be determined.

**New Business:** Denny Maas wants YouthLink to be promoted in our flyers (although the Commodores have not been invited to the pending celebration).

The Chorus Manager’s duties are to be defined.

Thanks to **Andy Cook** for his dedicated riser-hauling avocation.

**Next Meeting:** Monthly schedule may be changed back wto the third Thursday of each month.

## SUNSHINE HOTLINE



*By Mark Bloomquist, Sunshine Chairman*

**Andy Cook** continues to recover from his knee replacement surgery and now appears to be up more than he is down at our chapter meetings.



Mark Bloomquist

**Caleb Smith** had his gall bladder removed on February 27 and was up and able to attend our recent food-shelf performance as a spectator. We hope to see him at rehearsal soon and then back up on the risers. Caleb and his family would appreciate your thoughts and prayers during his recovery.

It was great to see **John Hansen** in the audience at our food-shelf performance. John is at home and continues to rehab and work on his leg strength. Feel free to reach out to John and let him know you miss him on the risers.

Our sympathies go out to **Rod** and **Bonnie Vink** on the recent death of Bonnie’s brother, **David Benshoof** of White Bear Lake.



## Jim Richards Memorial Chord Candy #116



Jim Richards

St. Patrick’s Day is upon us which means some tags o’ the Irish. So, here we have a tag inspired by Jim Richards’ Blarney Stone tag, which he wrote based on an experience he had had in Ireland about the tradition of kissing the famous stone for the gift of eloquence. This version has meatier chords and was turned into a shorter question. I gave Tenor the melody, untouched from Jim’s tag. You’ll notice similar flavoring to the fabulous Irish baritone group, *The High Kings*, with greater emphasis on the Pentatonic Scale plus or minus some Bb’s and E’s. Watch out for the tenor-lead switch and note the lead’s F-post at the end. Watch the lead & bass maneuver the 8th notes on *kissing*. Enjoy!



Paul Paddock

### Blarney Stone

Jim Richards arr. Paul Paddock

Should one gain el-o-quence by kis-sing the (stone) old Blar-ney Stone?

# Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, Bitinerant Baritone

They let Erickson in? THEY LET ERICKSON IN!? Oh yes they did, and even with an invitation, verbal that it was. I longed to Put It Down so here's how it went down. (You, dear reader, have astutely noticed that from hours of watching the Olympics Half-Pipers, I have glommed onto some of the hip—if talking about “hip” is hip anymore—snowboarders' lingo.) After the eighth “**Hearts in Harmony**” concert last February in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, I talked with the quartet guys and the upshot was they invited me to sing at the 2018 concert in the participating quartet's assembled chorus that appeared a few times throughout the concert. Gladly, I accepted. A little background?

Well, the concerts are to raise funds for local organizations that could really use some help. The net proceeds this year went to the **Free Clinic in the Chippewa Valley** offering medical services to the less fortunate. In a nutshell, good was the cause, the singers, the venue, and so many other facets. And it was fun. With three main quartets, a high-school quartet, the **Northern Lights Chorus**, directed by **Dan Heike** of the World Champion Seniors Quartet, **St. Croix Crossing**, and the assembled quartets chorus (plus yours truly), the packed auditorium of the *Heyde Center for the Arts* heard the Barbershop sound at its local best.

Having met and performed with members of the Northern Lights, it is always great to cross paths with that friendly bunch. Music Committee take note, but a most enthusiastically received song by a quartet was the one accompanied by two of the high school singers who flipped and clicked plastic cups on a table set up next to the quartet. The very quick, complicated syncopated rhythm to the tune grew in intensity until the crowd roared, shouted and applauded at end.



Jim Erickson

Now my memory, knowledge and laziness prohibit relating to you how such a combination came about, but I understand that syncopating cups to music appeared on a TV show or movie recently and was quickly picked up and perfected by two of the high schooler boys for this concert. The crowd loved it, the boys beamed, and I would have to consult our director and contest judge, **Paul Wigley**, but perhaps this will become a new category in the future Barbershop International Contests. Maybe, Quartets and their Cups? [Not to be confused with *in their cups*.]

Oh, feces! I wanted to get to this



next subject sooner. Maybe this will be continued in my next article. Anyway, rummaging through archived sheet music to see if I had a copy of *Can you feel the love tonight*, I came across some typewritten notes on yellowed paper entitled, “**Notes on Ajer's Stage Presence Comments to Hilltop Singers 9/8/89.**” I first thought this had been typed by an actual typewriter. I mean the ones that weigh 40 pounds, have enameled siding, a roller for paper, bell, and give off that clacking sound each time you hit a key, rightly or wrongly. Looking closer, though, I didn't see any typos, etc., and have to believe it was a computer printer of vintage around 1989, of course.

The topic was familiar but the speaker's name was not one I recognized. So, I turned to the Yoda of all things Barbershop, **Editor and alleged Doctor, Hardin Olson**, for

some information. He quickly responded with some background and sought out even more from Larry Ajer's widowed wife, **Kim (Dykstra) DeVoss**, who gave us a lot of information. I will try to tell you something about him along with some his expertise on stage presence, but, as you know, I have never conquered the requirement of writing short articles and this could mean I am set for the next six month's missives on this topic alone. You are warned that I am merely a conveyor of his thoughts and some may not be applicable to Barbershopping as it exists today. Brighter lights than mine will have to make that determination.

So, in no particular order except for following the yellowed notes and presumably his presentation outline, here goes. And, I am eliminating quotation marks. My word processor only allows a few quotations on each document and I have probably exceeded that already. So fair warning. What follows is directly quoted or paraphrased. And with that explanation, I am almost at the Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor and Boy Spot-welder, article word limit. So, let's start.

Quote!

Stage Presence Comments

Be yourself. Relax. Let arms fall where they naturally do. Always lead with your shoulder when making a motion, not just your arm. Have a smoothness of motion, freedom of action.

Most difficult activity occurs when there is no activity and most difficult singing occurs when you are not singing. [Sounds like Erickson's kind of logic!]

Focus your presence somewhere in your audience. You can aim your eyes on some point, changing occasionally, but your singing presence can fill the auditorium or particular parts of it. Whatever the case, move your singing presence out into the audience.

No energy before the curtain goes up. [Not sure what he meant here. Maybe little energy perceptible from the audience] Fear is not good. But, nervousness is okay.

Go to **Grind**, Page 8, Column 1

## Doc's Bag



By Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor

February 22 was a *Gold Medal Day* in Northeast Minneapolis when members of three of the Barbershop Harmony Society's International Seniors Champion Quartets dropped in at the *Moose On Monroe* to have lunch with the assembled regulars of *The Friday Lunch Bunch That Meets On Thursday*.



Hardin Olson

Representing the 1990 senior-champion *Grandma's Beaus* was baritone **Bob Griffith**, the lone-surviving

### Grind from Page 7

And no matter what, the audience always applauds. Magic arises—the energy the audience gives to you and they always give without condition. As a singer, your responsibility is to take the gift, color it, shape it, and put all you have into it. We gift back more to them and they, then, leave with it. *Unquote!*

This article has reached the end. Almost. More on Ajer's next time. No induction to the **Order of the Georgia Grind Outhouse (OGGO)** this month. No space. Did I ever tell you the outhouse is a two-holer? Just like the one at our cabin? As before, guard the truth and fight ignorance. And be present. As they say, "If you see something, say something." I think we are getting a little better at it and not so hesitant to report things out of the ordinary. But, too many have died by lapses in what is right in front of us. And cell phones aren't the only things to blame for our blinders.

I have an upcoming expedition during which I hope to uncover more about the origins of the Georgia Grind. And I re-subscribed to the *Archaeology* magazine hoping to add that to my tool-belt of research tools. Until next time, hold fast to that which is good and the truth.



Here are the Senior gold-medalists from right to left: Bob Griffith, Gary Rogness, Bruce Odell, Ed Wirtz, and Steve Hardy.

member of that landmark group. (How can you forget **Merrill Miller's** arrangement of *Dueling Banjos*, the riotous antics of tenor **Mike Stump**, or, of course, the tags of Barbershop icon, **Dr. Jim Richards**—all alumni of the Lunch Bunch).

Three members of the 2003 winning foursome, *Downstate Express*, received the *Man-Mile Award* driving all the way from Wisconsin and southern Minnesota (by way of Mystic Lake Casino). See photo below. All three thoroughly enjoyed themselves, **Ed Wirtz** saying that he plans to visit often as the weather warms.

**Bruce Odell**, the neo-Wisconsinite, has passed off his *Joe Barbershop* presentation and is on a modified Barbershop hiatus but will likely show up in October's when District times roll around.

Who can forget bass **Gary Rogness** meowing his audiences from behind his tiger mask? As you know, if you follow the *Chord-Inator*, Gary is ill with metastatic colon cancer but has been doing remarkably well on chemotherapy. However, this week his white count is down so no more chemo before March 20. Contact Gary at [glrogness@yahoo.com](mailto:glrogness@yahoo.com) or 507/990-2000.

**Steve Hardy**, the baritone and only member of the current (2018)



Pictured here are three-quarters of the *Downstate Express*, the 2003 Seniors champs. From the left are Ed Wirtz, Gary Rogness, and Bruce Odell. Missing is Dick "Trep" Treptow, the baritone (What else would you expect?)

champion *St. Croix Crossing* present at lunch, probably has the proud distinction of earning the most 2nd place medals in Society quartet competition.

**Kyle Snook**, a Regional Director of the *Harmony Foundation* also lunched with *FLBTMOT* for the first time on the 22nd, witnessing its members buying the silence of your Editor for \$220, the monies

to be donated to the Foundation. (Kyle has pledged to return.)

### Dinner and a show with Instant Classic!

Join us for the Afterglow, immediately following our annual show on April 14<sup>th</sup>. We're back at Grumpy's this year, just a couple miles from Bethel, south on Snelling.

Dinner will be served this year, and our guest quartet, 2015 International Champions Instant Classic, will be sure to please.

The cost remains \$20.00, which includes a full taco bar, with beef, chicken, fajita veg mix, and all the fixings. There will also be a cash bar. (A full bar, including domestic and premium beer.)

Tickets are available now!

Cash or check. (Please make checks out to me.)

Thanks.

Andy Richards  
1943 9<sup>th</sup> Street NE  
New Brighton, MN 55112  
[richards.andy@comcast.net](mailto:richards.andy@comcast.net)  
651-500-2737

**\*\* Looking for quartets to open for Instant Classic. Let me know.**

## Letters

Dick [Riemenschneider],

I thank you guys for helping to make my 90th a special day! I'm sure it was not easy for you to keep the commitment and that makes it even more special.

I enjoyed meeting young Richards. I may have known him as a youngster but don't remember that.

My daughter says I should keep the special nut bag with the special personal label, but at 90 one is not really collecting things.

The nuts will disappear and I do thank you for them.

Hope your quartet is back together and that Dan continues to improve.

Happy Valentines Singing.

Cordially,

Eunice Hamre

\*\*\*\*\*

Thanks, all [Paul, David, Steve] for helping break in the two [Singing] Valentine Virgins—one new Barber-shopper (me) and one (Wigley) “seasoned, veteran” Barbershopper.

That was my first “real” quartet experience and it was heap-big-fun. Thanks to Steve for organizing, thanks to Dave for driving, and thanks to Paul for, well, just putting up with me.

Oh, and thanks once again for humoring me and following me all the way up the scale on Mary Lou! ... (Paul would probably say something like, “That is not the first time a quartet did that, and probably won't be the last!”).

Shawn [Hunter]



Paul Wigley, David Speidel, Shawn, and Steve Grady  
Quartet Photo

**SUPPORT**  
**HARMONY FOUNDATION**

The Minneapolis Commodores Present

# PITCH PIPE PERFECT

SETTLE THE SCORE

**Saturday April 14, 2018 3:00pm**  
**Bethel University Benson Great Hall**

Join us for a high-energy, friendly a cappella sing-off competition featuring our fill-the-hall harmonies of your favorite songs and styles from yesterday and today!

**For information and Tickets:**  
[www.minneapoliscommodores.org](http://www.minneapoliscommodores.org) or  
[tickets.bethel.edu](http://tickets.bethel.edu)

We support Twin Cities Charities including Youthlink

Graphic art and design of our marketing and promotional materials has and is being done by Don Keller, professional graphic artist (See below). Don has been doing the work pro bono and has been doing a fabulous job for us. He would be most appreciative of any leads or jobs you can provide as he works independently. His website contains a collection of the type of work that he has done which includes walk-through eyeball ... GOLF COURSE ILLUSTRATIONS/Tournament awards and Memory Montages which make great gifts for celebrating birthdays or other special days.

Denny Maas, Altruistic Programs Chairman

**"I enjoy making posters and flyers for the Commodores..... The Pitch Pipe Perfect artwork was a lot of fun, I'm looking forward to the show."**

His website is a **PORTFOLIO OF HIS WORK** which includes  
**EYE SURGERY ILLUSTRATIONS... BROCHURE DESIGN....**  
**GOLF COURSE ILLUSTRATIONS TOURNAMENT AWARDS**  
**and MEMORY MONTAGES** (great gifts for  
**MOTHER'S DAY**, birthdays or other special days.)

Don's WEBSITE ADDRESS is:  
<http://artofcourse.com/KELLER-PORTFOLIO-WELCOME>

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

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### 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

- March 24, Saturday, **10,000 Lakes Division Contest**, Nicollet, Minn.
- April 12, Thursday, **Tech Rehearsal**, Bethel University
- April 14, **Annual Show**, Bethel University
- June 3, Sunday, **Appreciation & BOTY Celebration**
- June 14, Thursday, **Roseville Performance**
- June 24, Sunday, **Arboretum Performance**
- July 10, Tuesday, **Area Chapter Singout**, Como Park
- July 18, Wednesday, **Hastings Performance**
- August 5, Sunday, **Sing at Como Park with the TC Show Chorus**.
- August 25, Saturday, **Retreat - TBD**
- September 22, Saturday, **Retreat - TBD**

#### District Level

- May 4-5, Fri/Sat, **LOL District Spring Convention and Internat'l Prelims**, Franklin, Wisconsin
- October 26-27, Fri/Sat, **LOL District Fall Convention**, Rochester, Minn.

#### International Level

- July 1-8, **2018 International Convention**, Orlando, Fla.

**1st CLASS  
 POSTAGE  
 HERE**

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

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

Mark Bloomquist  
 Jim Erickson  
 Shawn Hunter  
 Hardin Olson  
 Andy Richards  
 Dick Riemenschneider  
 Blake Wanger  
 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**