‘Twas “SNOW” business like show business ...

at Bethel’s Benson Great Hall on Saturday, April 14.

To paraphrase Carl Sandburg from The People, Yes (1936), “Sometime they’ll give a show and nobody will come.”
LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

The Minneapolis Commodores Present

Pitch a Perfect
Settle the Score

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

MAESTRO PAUL

NORTHERN PINERS

Front Row: Jim Norman, David Bechard, Dave Casperson, Ben Wanggaard, Mark Bloomquist, Tony Lapakko, Kevin Huyck, David Speidel
Back Row: Shawn Hunter, Andy Richards, Nate Weimer, Dick Riemenschneider, Dean Lambert, Mark Ortenburger, Matt Richards, Paul Paddock, and Ken Wentworth

UNDER THE HILL

From the left: David Bechard, Nate Weimer, Conrad Ward, Tony Lapakko, Matt Richards, Ben Wanggaard, Blake Wanger, Travis Wuttke, and Paul Paddock
ROCKIN’ DORES
Andy Richards - Dan Cole - Matt Richards - Paul Swanson

BOMP!
Mark Bloomquist - Dan Cole - Andy Cook—Harvey Weiss

JUST ONE MORE
Matt Richards - Ben Wanggaard - Tony Lapakko - Nate Weimer

SWYPE
Mark Bloomquist - Ken Wentworth - Conrad Ward - Andy Richards

HALL PASS
David Bechard - Tony Mason - Dave Casperson - Paul Wigley
(Might someone be a little short on the “Ahh …?”)

EASY LISTENIN’
Dick Riemenschneider - Rod Vink - Dan Slattery - John Carlotto

Faces, everybody!

INSTANT CLASSIC
Kohl Kitzmiller - Kyle Kitzmiller - Theo Hicks - David Zimmerman

Photos
Pages 2-3
by Kirk Douglas
Home Video

SILVER SCREEN
Steve Grady - Shawn Hunter - Andy Richards - Mark Bloomquist

And more faces ...
Chapter members are always welcome to attend the Board meetings.

by Bill Warp, Secretary

From the April 19 meeting

• Monies paid for the cancelled Afterglow tickets will be refunded at buyers’ requests.
• Afterglow ticket sales for future shows will be cut off prior to show dates to establish exact number of attendees.
• The generous offer from the Bethel staff for an annual-show reprise, without rental fees on Saturday on June 2, was enthusiastically accepted.
• Steve Grady will be chairing the 2019 Annual Show Committee. That production will celebrate the chartering of the Minneapolis Chapter in 1944.
• There will be two pre-LOL District contest retreats scheduled for August 25 and Sept 22 at the United Methodist Church of Peace on 64th and Xerxes South. Kevin Keller and James Estes are scheduled to be our guest coaches.
• The Commodores are again looking forward to scheduling a Christmas show with the Twin City Show Chorus.
• Paul Wigley is planning to embark on a program to improve unit sound in the chorus by working with groups of three singers.

April re-enlistments
Nate Weimer………………….4 yrs
Ben Wanggaard………………7 yrs
Kaleb Smith…………………..8 yrs

WELCOME ABOARD

Jeff Bemis was born in Rice Lake, Wisconsin, in 1956 during a record snow storm (over three feet in two days) and currently living in Birchwood, Wisconsin. He, a Navy veteran, is grounded in electronics, radio technology and has a BA in IT. Jeff has played the baritone in school bands and first found Barbershop in 1995 in a mixed octet. In 1996 he joined the Hillsboro chapter before moving to Salem, Oregon, and joining the Senate Aires Chorus. In 2007, it was back to Wisconsin and a short stint with the Dunn County Chapter.

Last February found Jeff singing in the NP Harmony Brigade where he met Nate Weimer and several other well-motivated gregarious Commodores. Impressed, Jeff will drive 3-hours both ways from Birchwood to bring his fine bass voice to join us at HOP each Tuesday evening.
Pitch Pipe Perfect Gets Praise... and an Encore Performance!

By Blake Wanger, President

Neither wind nor cold nor freak April blizzard could stop the Minneapolis Commodores’ 2018 annual show, Pitch Pipe Perfect, from being a smashing success. The small but enthusiastic audience was effusive in their praise of the music, that included nine different genres, and the reality-singing-competition motif of the show.

Guest quartet Instant Classic braved the weather to travel from Indiana to deliver an outstanding performance. Moreover they obviously enjoyed their cameos as guest judges in the competition and in the finale, when they shared the stage with the Commodores for a show-stopping performance of This Could Be The Start of Something Big.

Many more than a few audience members said Pitch Pipe Perfect was among the best Commodore shows they had ever seen. The only downside was that so many patrons were homebound because of the miserable weather/driving conditions.

However, every snow cloud has a silver lining, and I am thrilled to report that Commodores will be giving a reprise performance of Pitch Pipe Perfect on Saturday, June 2! In our show, the two competing cho-ruses were offered lifelines, called “Encores,” that allowed each chorus to sing one extra song in any one round of the competition as an extra chance to win that round. This time, it was Bethel University that threw the Commodores a lifeline by making us an extremely generous offer allowing us to present an unprecedented encore performance of our annual show on Saturday June 7th at 7:00 p.m. at Bethel’s Benson Great Hall. All ticket holders who were unable to attend the April performance will be able to attend the encore performance at no additional cost. Patrons who still have their tickets in their possession should bring them to Bethel on the day of the show. Those who were planning to pick their tickets up at will call will be able to do just that. Any members or patrons who no longer have their tickets need not worry, as we will have, at Bethel, on show evening, a master list of ticket buyers. You will just need to check in and get your tickets.

For those who do not already have tickets, additional tickets will be for sale through Bethel’s website: tickets.bethel.edu. A link to that website will also be available on the Minneapolis Commodores’ website. All additional tickets will cost $20 and will also be available at the door.

It is important to note that due to the unique logistics of this second show, there will be no reserved seating for either existing ticket holders or new ticket buyers. However, there are plenty of good seats on the main floor as well as in the balcony to accommodate the expected crowd.

As of writing this article, we have not yet confirmed a guest quartet for this second performance. We are in talks with several highly acclaimed quartets and hope to make a formal announcement in the near future.

The Commodores hope you will take advantage of this unique opportunity and join us at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 2, at Bethel for the special encore performance of Pitch Pipe Perfect. We are absolutely thrilled that not even an April blizzard was able to stop us from sharing our annual show with all of our patrons. We are also extremely grateful to Bethel, and in particular to Kerri Baker and his tech crew for their generosity and all of their hard work on our behalf.

We look forward to seeing you at the encore performance in June!
Note: If your birthday or anniversary date is missing from the lists, please let your humble Editor know.

Brooks Bergerson remains at home waiting for the green light to undergo a diagnostic MRI for his heart condition on May 30. (A nuclear stress test had been considered but the alternate radiological study is likely to be more revealing.) Brooks has lost 22 pounds of water weight and the swelling in his lower legs and ankles is much improved. He is comfortable but not at full capacity. His new-model CPAP mask is working well for him.

Let's keep Sandy and Brooks in our thoughts and prayers.

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

Happy Birthday

05/11 Gordy Aumann
05/11 Lance Johnson
05/16 John Carlotto
05/21 Steve Mangan
05/24 Pat Griffith
05/27 Pete Mitchelson
05/28 Jim Erickson
05/28 Marge Riemenschneider
06/05 Neal Mortenson

Happy Anniversary

05/11 Lou & Nan DeMars
05/17 Gerald & Beverly Koch
05/18 Gordon & Barbara Aumann
05/21 Mark & Jeanne Bloomquist

During the early morning of May 1, Beverly Slattery, Dan’s wife of 48 years, passed unexpectedly and peacefully away. She had been dealing with some serious medical issues but her death was still a shock.

On Thursday, May 10, a heart-warming celebration of Beverly’s life was held in the presence of a standing-room-only gathering of relatives and friends, at the Washburn-McReavy Coon Rapids Chapel.

The service was conducted by Reverend David Wall, a fellow Minneapolis Commodore with Bev’s husband, Dan.

Music for the occasion was provided by a remarkable cadre of active and retired Commodores. Led by newest assistant director, David Bechard, the assembly sang You Raise Me Up and The Irish Blessing. Following the service a late luncheon was served at Willy McCoy’s in Champlain.

Beverly was a Commodore Sweetheart in every sense of the word, attending virtually all Commodore performances and events for 49 years without fail, be it snow, rain, illness, you name it, and she could be seen cheering and urging us on.

1946 - BEVERLY SLATTERY - 2018

TFLBTMOT continues
The Jim Richards Matching Funds Challenge for YOUTH IN HARMONY at the 11th Annual BHS OPEN Monday, August 6, 2018 Elk River Golf &Country Club Details and registration at bhsopen.com
“I DON’T CARE WHAT THE WEATHERMAN SAYS…”
by Paul Wigley, Director

THE SHOW WENT ON! A blizzard that shut down the Guthrie Theatre, the Minnesota Orchestra, the Ordway Center, and basically … everything …, did NOT stop the Minneapolis Commo-dores from having their annual show on April 14! (But it did stop a fair number of our audience members, unfortunately.)

At the Thursday tech rehearsal, the discussion took place about canceling the show, or not. At that point, the storm was a warning, but it did not look as severe as it later turned out to be. So many arrangements (and financial investments) had been made, that it was decided that we would carry on with the show. Also, the Instant Classic quartet had committed, and was going to be flying in on Friday (comfortably before the blizzard.)

Saturday morning there was some snow on the roads, but we arrived early enough at Bethel that it wasn’t a big issue. (Fortunately I HAD planned ahead and gotten a hotel room only 1/2 mile from Bethel, just in case I didn’t feel like battling the snow all the way back to Lakeville … I’m getting too old for that stuff!)

The Instant Classic guys arrived, and told me that it was a miserable drive to get to Bethel, and at that point I looked outside for the first time. YIKES! It became clear that no one in their right mind would actually drive to a show in that weather (I was wrong, they did!) But it was a drastically smaller crowd than usual that was treated to a fantastic show!

What amazed me was the commitment from Commodore singers; I was prepared to have a number of guys say it was impossible to get to the show, but I think we only had one that did not venture out (So, we’ve got one guy with some common sense!).

Sometimes life gives you a lemon, and you make lemonade. We ended up having a wonderful dinner with Dave and Linda Speidel at Lindey’s, a steakhouse very close to Bethel. After that great meal, we plowed our way to our nearby hotel, and breathed a sigh of relief as we checked into our room!

The GREAT news —June 2 is the Encore Performance for our fine show! Due to the generosity of Bethel, and (again) the great commitment from the Commodores, we are able to do the entire show, all small groups included!

This will certainly be a show I will never forget! And I’m sure that no Commodores will ever forget it, either! Happily, everyone arrived home safely, and we are all ready to celebrate summer (Boy, are we ever ready!).

It’s great to be a Commodore ( … even when it’s a little crazy).

Doc’s Bag

By Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor

This afternoon (May 7) I just finished a nice conversation with Basso-basso Profundo Gary Rogness. He is in the fourth or fifth round of his newest chemotherapy regimen. His blood counts/chemistries are in order and he feels reasonably well except for the two or three bad days after each chemo round. He and Ginger are looking forward to the GNU show on the 19th so all you local “Tiger” fans will have an opportunity to reconnect with the Southern Bass-man.

Gary’s determination and sense of humor are unmatched but he will tell you that he doesn’t think he could make it without the love and prayers of so many caring friends.

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At the 2018 Sweet Adelines Northern Lights Region 6 Convention held in Minneapolis during the April 20-22 weekend, Judy Olson was surprised when she was called forward to receive the region’s Shining Star Award.

Initiated in 2015, its intent is to honor those special members who have served Region 6 and their chapters so well and often have served in hard-working International positions.

The first honoree was Carol Grimmer from Mankato’s Minnesota Valley Chorus, followed in 2016 by

Bonnie Rust from City of Lakes. Last year’s recipient was Mary Dick, also from City of Lakes and Judy’s dear friend of 53-years. It was Mary (See above.) who lovingly presented the 2018 award to Judy.

Judy has certainly earned her way, getting her ticket punched at all Sweet Adeline levels, but her salient motivating forces have been her 36 years as the proud director of the Twin City Show Chorus and her boundless passion about the loss of music and arts opportunities in our public schools. Let it be said:

She has a dream …
Everything You Always Wanted to Know About TFLBTMOT

by Dr. Bob Dykstra, Curmudgeon-at-Large

Each Thursday 20 to 25 Barbershop-pers from the various Twin City area chapters meet from approximately 11:30 to 1:00 downstairs at the Moose on Monroe Bar & Grill. They gather to sing, chat, and share details of what’s going on in each chapter.

The group now known as The Friday Lunch Bunch that Meets on Thursday was organized in the early-to-mid 1960s as a means of sharing information about Barbershop activities in the various chapters in the Twin Cities area. It was largely the brain child of Olaf Lee and Ed Peterka, with help from Bruce Churchill, stalwarts in the Minneapolis Chapter.

At that time area chapters included Minneapolis, St. Paul, Minnetonka, St. Croix Valley, Bloomington, and Roseville (assuming we organized before that chapter merged with St. Paul in 1965). Later participants were the Anoka County Chapter which chartered in 1984 and the Hilltop Chapter which chartered in 1986. The luncheon group has met consistently once every week (except for holidays) for approximately 53 years and is still going strong.

I am the only current attendee who has been involved from the very beginning. I’m not sure how accurate my memories are, but I’ll do my best to provide a bit of history. Our first meeting place was the Elks Club then located on Fifth St. in downtown Minneapolis. Over the years we changed meeting places many times. The ones I remember included the afore-mentioned Elks Club, the Fair Oaks Hotel (or some such place on the outer edges of downtown Minneapolis), the Nankin Restaurant in downtown Minneapolis, the Twin Motor Inn at University and Prior in St. Paul, the Moose Lodge in Northeast Minneapolis, another restaurant near the Moose Lodge whose name escapes me, the restaurant on E. Hennepin which is now named the Conga Latin Bistro, Elsie’s Restaurant and Bowling Alleys in northeast Minneapolis, the Legends Café on E. Hennepin, and for the past many years the Moose on Monroe.

The structure of our meetings has changed little over the years. Early birds have always enjoyed a cocktail or two and a lot of quartet singing before it’s time for lunch and the formal meeting. The meeting begins with a bit of humor provided by our most recent leader, Dan Cole, followed by learning and singing a tag (a legacy of the late great Dr. Jim Richards), reports from chapter representatives in attendance, and gang-singing of an old chestnut or two or three or four.

We also register weekly, each member throwing fifty cents into the suitably-engraved and logoed Ed Peterka Memorial Cylinder, hoping that his name will be drawn the following week to win 80% of the accumulated fortune, the remainder going to the Harmony Foundation of the Barbershop Harmony Society. If your name is drawn and you are not in attendance, whatever you would have won is carried over to the next meeting. That little ploy to encourage regular attendance has been going on since we started meeting those 50-some years ago. years ago.

One major change in recent years has been the practice of making monetary contributions either to hear a report from the Minneapolis Chapter or to prevent the report from being given. This entertaining bit of tomfoolery began some years back when the late Minneapolis Commodore, Joe Houser, typically presented the Minneapolis Chapter report and, in the view of some, may have gotten a little long-winded in so doing. The practice continues today when it is usually Dan Cole’s silence or verbosity which is purchased. This bidding is done all in fun and has proven to be a tremendous fund-raiser. And don’t worry, Commodores. The cagey Dan Cole gets your message across one way or another no matter what the results of the bidding.

Our other major fund-raiser is our Go to TFLBTMOT, Page 9, Col. 1...
sponsorship of the Barbershop Harmony Open golf tournament which is held every August. Gary Jacobson and Judd Orff have shepherded this event since its inception in 2008 which was the year we took over sponsorship from what had been the HarmonyWorks Open for the previous seventeen years.

Our primary charity is now and has been for many years, Harmony Foundation, to which we have contributed, according to our do-everything leader, Dan Cole, a whopping $52,614 since 2002. During the same period we have given approximately $5,000 to support Harmony Explosion Camps and other activities designed to provide singing opportunities for young people. We are now involved in fulfilling a pledge to contribute to Harmony Foundation up to $50,000 in honor and memory of Jim Richards to match contributions made by our colleagues in the Land O’ Lakes District.

The rather cumbersome group name we now employ came about a number of years back when we were meeting at the Legends on E. Hennepin. We were still meeting every Friday at the Legends on E. Hennepin. We were still meeting every Friday as had been our practice since the beginning of the organization. Some other group wanted to use the restaurant as its regular Friday meeting place and we were asked to move to Thursday. We agreed to give it a try and the rest is history.

We’ve found that the move has resulted in more regular attendance because we don’t lose members to Friday trips to the lake or other weekend destinations. Somebody soon coined the name (I wish I could tell you who) [Could we say Jim Richards?] The Friday Lunch Bunch that Meets on Thursday which we’ve shortened to the very comfortable TFLBTMOT. Our beloved Barbershop Society’s founder, O.C. Cash, who named it the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Singing in America (which quickly became known as SPEBSQSA) would certainly have approved of the name.

One of our recent activities, suggested by Bob Spong and which has spurred a lot of interest, is asking each member to give us his “Barbershop story.” As you can well imagine, creativity has flourished as each individual shares what Barbershopping has meant to him and how he became a Barbershopper. Steve Zorn has recorded and uploaded a video of each presentation, all of which can be accessed, thanks to Tyler Smith, by visiting the home page of the Land O’Lakes District.

We invite any and all Barbershoppers, whether from the local area or afar, to come join the fun. We’re a very compatible group, individuals of which differ greatly in their Barbershop experience.

We have attendees who have been Society members for over sixty years and those whose length of membership is just a fraction of that. We have International quartet champions, District quartet champions, past chapter and district presidents, esteemed bulletin editors, individuals who have sung in multiple quartets and those who have never had that experience, loyal active chorus members and members of the Frank Thorne Chapter, but we all share a love of Barbershopping. Moreover, we have been fortunate for a number of years now to have a great hostess, Joanie.

Give us a try and let’s keep the Friday Lunch Bunch that Meets on Thursday going for another 50 years.

**Jim Richards Memorial Chord Candy #118**

*I’m alone with my memories of you … Arr. by Kevin Keller (Original chart by Johnson (W)/MacGregor (M) 1931*

A few years ago, Paul Olguin wrote 100 tags in 100 days. Right after I retired, I thought that would be a noble goal. I made it to 13 in 75 days and quit! I would pick up a songbook at random in my library, open it to a page at random, and then arrange a tag for that song. This is one of the more accessible, learnable, teachable, singable, yadda yadda yadda tags of those 13.

The line is from *When the Moon Comes Over the Mountain* made famous [as her theme song] by Kate Smith back in the later 1930s. According to Google, Kate had a hand in composing the lyrics. *Enjoy!*

Kevin

3. **WHEN THE MOON COMES OVER THE MOUNTAIN**

Tenor Lead

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

Logo courtesy of Bob Clark

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

To:

LOOKING AHEAD

- June 2, Saturday, Pitch Pipe Perfect Reprise, Benson Great Hall, Bethel University, 7:00
- 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 - United Methodist Church of Peace, 64th & Xerxes, Richfield
- September 22, Saturday, Retreat - United Methodist, Richfield District Level
- October 26-27, Fri/Sat, LOL District Fall Convention, Rochester, Minn.

International Level

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

2017 Barbershopper Of The Year

Dan True

Commodores and others *

contributing to this issue:

- Mark Bloomquist
- Bob Dykstra
- Kevin Keller*
- Hardin Olson
- Mark Ortenburger
- Blake Wanger
- Paul Wigley

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