

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

JUNE 2018 - VOL. 74 - NO. 6

It's "Blake Wanger" in 2018!

The Commodores' resident thespian garners the prize.

It was a near standing-room-only crowd gathered at Mancini's Char House in St. Paul the late afternoon of Saturday, June 3, for the 2018 Family & Friends Appreciation & BOTY Celebration. Tables had been adorned with centerpieces and favors, beautifully crafted for the ladies by Cathy Ortenburger under the watchful (and admiring) eyes of her husband, BOTY Party Chairman Mark.

Dan True, our 2017 Barbershopper of the Year, welcomed members and guests to our celebration and then introduced our special guests, *Vocality*, the 2007 LOL District Quartet Champions, who instantly exhibited what 12 years of perseverance and hard work can accomplish. (They are once again treading the competition trail, their next stop? ... Orlando!)

After a blessing by the Reverend (and Commodore) David Wall, dinner was served. Following our meal, *Just One More* was brought front-and-center and proceeded to take up where *Vocality* had left off. (And, as Bob Dykstra whispered to me as the boys retired from the virtual spotlight, "If they work hard, they can go as far as they want to.")

New members and their spouses, Bill & Mary Kay Mark, Tom & Holly O'Keefe, were asked to stand



Blake Wanger
Minneapolis Chapter
2018 Barbershopper of the Year

and be recognized. Also making her debut was June Evelyn Richards, four-month-old daughter of Matt & Allison Richards, granddaughter of Andy & Karen Richards, and great-granddaughter of Ebie & the late-and-great Dr. Jim Richards.

Our directors and spouses were then acknowledged, Paul & Becky Wigley, David & Linda Speidel, David & Cassie Bechard, as were, absent and missed, Director Emeritus Gary & Marilyn Jacobson.

A moment of reflection was taken for those Commodores and spouses who have left us in the past year: Glenn Aronson, Bill Ashley, Lou Ann Dykstra, Fritz Herring, Dwight (Wile E) Mennenga, and Bev Slattery.

After David Speidel directed the standing Barbershoppers in *Let Me Call You Sweetheart*, Dan True began the recognition portion of the evening by commending special guest, Kerri Baker the Sound/Lighting Master of Benson Hall.

Thanks to him (and his student-celebration staff) and with all of his overtime hours and innovative cost-saving ideas over the years, our shows have been produced with significantly lower budgets.

At the 2017 Celebration, the COMMO-DEAR award, a *Go to Celebration*, Page 2, Column 1

Celebration from Page 1

new presentation, was introduced by the BOTY Committee. The intent is to honor outstanding friends particularly on the distaff side.

Last year's honoree, **Cathy Ortenburger**, was the recipient. Two ladies were singled (dual?) out this year, **Diana Pinard** and **Judy Olson**, whose efforts for the Commodores are legion, and really require no further elucidation.

After door prizes were awarded to the several lucky ladies, it was time for the long-awaited announcement ... WHO WOULD BE THE 2018 BOTY? Ah, but first, all past recipients present were recognized before Mark Ortenburger read the text lasered into the walnut award-plaque naming ...

BLAKE RICHARD WANGER
2018 BARBERSHOPPER OF THE YEAR



COMMO-DEAR honorees, center from left: Diana Pinard and Judy Olson, flanked from left, by Mark Ortenburger and Dan True



Vocality from left: Jay Althof, Tony Blackwood, David Boyd, and Tom Matchinsky



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

Pitchpipe Perfect — a Perfect Encore

By *Blake Wanger*, 2018 Show Chairman [among other duties].

Neither snow nor rain nor major construction could stop the Commodores from reprising their annual show, *Pitch-pipe Perfect*, last Saturday [June 2].



Blake Wanger

The several hundred audience members, comprised of ticket holders who were unable to attend the April show due to the blizzard, repeat patrons who attended both performances, and many coming to see the show for the first time, were an enthusiastic and appreciative crowd. Every facet of the show garnered glowing praise, in-

cluding the chorus, quartets, small ensembles, and, the guest quartet, **Kordal Kombat**, who received a long, and well-deserved standing ovation at the end of their set. This encore performance was a unique and unprecedented show. A great deal of gratitude must be offered to many for their efforts in pulling off this *coup de theatre*.

The show simply wouldn't have been possible without the wonderful generosity of **Andrea Hendricks**, **Amy Kelsey**, and the **Bethel University Staff**. They made it possible for the chorus to book the space at very short notice and at a steeply reduced rate. Without their generosity, there could not have been an encore performance.

Kerri Baker and the **Bethel tech crew** did outstanding work on an

extremely tight schedule to get the space ready for us. Their work on sound and lights throughout the show was terrific. **Judy Olson** once again oversaw tech operations from the booth and ensured that everything ran smoothly. **Diana Pinard** had to reinvent the ticketing process for this show and find a way to accommodate patrons who already had tickets, whether purchased through her or Bethel, as well as for patrons who would buy tickets at the door.

The list continues with stage manager, **Carol Smith**, who, although unable to attend the performance, continued to offer her wisdom and guidance during rehearsals. **Steve Grady** and **Mark Ortenburger** coordinated efforts to get word of the second show to our patrons
Go to Perfect, Page 3, Column 1

Perfect from Page 2

and added new inserts to the program to keep patrons informed of our upcoming shows. Don Keller did stellar work on the program art and graphic design. Dan Williams helped Mark wrangle all of the red and blue vests needed for the show.

Everyone on the Commodores Board contributed so many thoughtful ideas and offered support in so many ways. Our volunteer ushers did a great job managing the crowd and the logistics of the unconventional ticketing system.

Directors Paul Wigley, David Speidel, and David Bechard got the music fine-tuned and kept the chorus enthusiastic and motivated to put on a great show. Show Chairman Matt Richards continued his strong leadership while juggling work, travel and a newborn baby.

And of course the entire chorus, who rolled with the unexpected

twists and turns of this journey, gave their trust, time energy and delivering what one long-time patron called

dented and challenging logistics, would have been a triumph. But to make it “the best show the

Commodores have ever done” is truly remarkable.

I have received a lot of praise for the script and for my performance as “Dee Sharp,” but what the audience saw and heard on stage is only the peak of the mountain.

And that peak could never have reached the extraordinary heights it did

without a vast, strong and unshakable foundation beneath it. Last Saturday night my pride in, and gratitude for, every single member of this chorus, and all of the impossibly amazing people who support us, soared higher than the tag of *Wait 'Til The Shines Nellie*.

Thank you all. It truly is ...

GREAT to be a COMMODORE!



Kordal Kombat from left: Adam Helgeson - baritone, Ben Israelson - bass, Mark Halverstadt - tenor, and Scott Veerhuis - lead

... the *best annual show the Commodores have ever done, hands down!*

For the 2017 annual show, I wrote one of my corniest puns ever, “It takes a village, people!” The encore performance of *Pitchpipe Perfect* is a truly beautiful example of that *bon mot*. It took every member of the Commodores, their families and friends, about a dozen Bethel staff and students, and *Kordal Kombat* to pull off that show.

Just to do the second performance at



Caught by the staff photographer following the *Pitchpipe Perfect* reprise were from the left Susan & Dan Krekelberg and DiAnn & LeRoy Zimmerman. Dan comes from a Barbershop family. His dad and uncle, Warren and Jules (both deceased), were long-time Commodores. LeRoy, in his later Barbershop years, was a dedicated Commodore who, in 2005, earned the Verne Zwicky Chapter Counselor of the Year Award. Both have stepped down from the Commodore risers and have been sorely missed on Tuesday evenings.



Andy Richards Photo

Matt & Allison, introduce their daughter, June Evelyn Richards, to the Commodore family at the 2018 Family & Friends Appreciation & BOTY Celebration on June 3 (with Great-grandfather Jim looking on unobtrusively from above).

All unattributed photos herein are the work of the Chord-Inator 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**

Chapter Officers

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Past Pres.Denny Maas 952/447-8012
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VP Music /Perform.... Carl Pinard 612/927-9363
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Program VP.....Eric Nelson 612/47-2380
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Through 2018/19

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Kim Ward (Community Rep.).....763/413-9273

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

Section Leaders

Tenor Section LeaderRollie Neve
Lead Section Leader.**Vacant**
Assistant - Dan Smith

Bari Section LeadersDave Speidel
Assistant - Matt Richards

Bass Section Leaders.....Dave Casperson

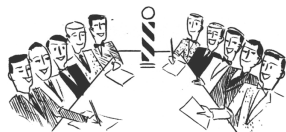
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Sunshine.....Mark Bloomquist
Swipe EditorBill Warp
Tickets/A-Commodears President.....Diana Pinard
Uniform Committee Chairman.....**Vacant**
Uniforms (Dress & Casual).....Dan Williams

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Chapter members are always welcome to attend the Board meetings

By Bill Warp, Secretary

From the meeting of May 10

- The Chapter's 2017 Financial Audit was presented by Treasurer **John Carlotto** and was accepted.

**Bill Warp**

- **Bill Mark**, from the Faribault Chapter, has been accepted as a dual member. **Tom Westman** and **Tom O'Keefe** are

prospective members.

Happy Birthday

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

Happy Anniversary

06/12 Bill & Jean Warp
06/14 Chuck & Bonnie Black Gribble
06/21 Ben & Lynnay Wanggaard (10)
06/22 Ken & Rosie Glover (55)
06/26 John & Char Carlotto
06/27 Rich & Dianne Ongna
07/01 Dennis & Sharyn Maas
07/05 Carl & Diana Pinard
07/07 John & Catherine Lloyd (55)

Note: If your birthday or anniversary date is missing from the lists, please let your humble Editor know.

**May Reenlistments**

Kaleb Smith.....8 yrs.
Terry McClellan.....22 yrs.

- Marketing VP **Steve Grady** is working with Membership VP **Jim Norman** to create a *Commodore Experience* video to aid in new-member recruiting.

- Music & Performance VP **Carl Pinard** announced that a joint Christmas show with the *Twin City Show Chorus* has been scheduled for Sunday, December 2, at Hopkins High School.

- The quartet, *Quorum*, has been booked for the 2019 annual show on Saturday, April 6, 2019 at Bethel's Benson Hall.

The next meeting is June 7 at Wooddale Lutheran.

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
SPECIAL GUESTS
PERRY WHITE
President/CEO
Harmony Foundation
KYLE SNOOK
Regional Director
Harmony Foundation
Details and registration
at bhsopen.com



WELCOME ABOARD!

Tom O'Keefe lives in Apple Valley with his *Sweet Adeline* wife, **Holly**. Born in St. Cloud and a graduate of Patrick Henry High School, he went on to earn a degree at the University of Minnesota.

Tom is a USAF veteran and owns his own business, vending CBD oils and hemp products.

In addition to singing he enjoys golf, pickle ball, biking, and hiking.

Tom sings bass, having performed in school music productions, and later with *Vocal Essence*, the *Minnesota Chorale*, *Shepard of the Valley Church Choir*, and community theater. (He has written, produced, directed, and acted in his own musical.)

At a concert, Tom met **Paul Wigley** and **David Speidel** who enticed him to visit a chapter meeting at HOP.

Russ Casemore lives in Burnsville. A native of Kansas City, Missouri, he graduated from Washington High School and moved on to Pittsburg State College in Pittsburg, Kansas.

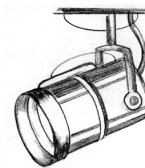
Russ is an instrument engineer at Rebin, a Company under the umbrella of Amazon.

Dancing, biking, tennis, billiards, and golf occupy his spare time.

His background in music is instrumental, having played trumpet in school bands.

His curiosity aroused at a fortuitous meeting with **Denny Maas**, Russ attended a Minneapolis Chapter meeting and after a visit or two decided that Barbershop was something he needed to try. He joins the vaunted Bass Section.

Commodore Spotlight



KERRI Baker is ...



that wizard of staging, sound and lighting who manages the tech crew for all the events at Bethel University's Benson Great Hall. In the years since the Commodores began staging our annual shows at Bethel, Kerri has virtually taken the Commodores under his wing. That in no small way due to the near-unique working relationship he and our show producer, **Judy Olson**, have built. The bottom line is that Kerri's voluntary overtime work and cost-shaving efforts have saved the Commodores a lot of money. **Thank you, Kerri! You are the greatest!**

Jim Richards Memorial Chord Candy # 119

Christmas in June with a Mary Had a Baby tag ... Arr. by David Wright and submitted by Chuck Lower



Jim Richards

In 1986, the Lansdale, Pennsylvania chapter, where I was directing, first qualified for the M-AD fall contest. We were so full of ourselves that we published a tag booklet ("Favorite Tags of Favorite Barbershoppers") to hand out at the convention. I asked Barbershoppers around the Society to submit their favorite tags. We received and included tags from Bill Myers, Rob Hopkins, Lou Perry, Ron Black, David Krause and many others. Here's the David Wright tag submitted by a young guy whom we identified as "St. Louis Super-talent Jim Henry." (Teenager Jim got a kick out of that.)

Editor's Note: The TC Show Chorus with whom we will again be performing next December in our annual Christmas show introduces their Holiday music in the summer. Perhaps the Commodores can emulate them this year with our own Xmas in June.



Chuck Lower

1 2 3 4

He is called King Je-sus, Might-y Coun-sel-or, King Em-man-u-el, Might - y God;

5 6 7 8

Ev-er-last-ing Fath-er, Prince of Peace, Mar-y had a ba-by, my Lord.
my Lord.

Georgia Grind

by Jim Erickson, (Goose) Bumps Baritone

I missed the first concert! I knew all the songs. Some for almost a year. All the choreography—little of which there was. I was ready to perform. Ready, set and GO. Wait ... what? There was a blizzard? Neither rain, nor sleet, nor hail, nor just about anything you can name, including a blizzard of the century or whatever it was. No stopping me. I was going to be there. Period. But, I wasn't there...

You see, my good wife and I had spent a week in **Green Valley, Arizona**, visiting friends, etc., and, as the few years before, had such a good time we decided to rent a nice place for two weeks this past April. Checking the schedule a year in advance (April, 2017) and going by the first part of April for the concert as last year, we assumed that if we rented after the first week of April this year, we'd be able to do the concert and then head to warmer climes. NOT SO FAST, Pardner.

The Universe turned a couple of weeks and moved this year's concert to the middle of April. Again, Wait ... what? Now I am sure many of my readers think I am clairvoyant enough to have forecast the snowstorms and subsequent mammoth blizzard and cunningly planned to miss the first performance out of scheduling necessity because I knew in my séance-misted brain, I would be able to perform in the make-up concert in June. I will leave you to think what you will, but that is what came about.

And a good plan it turned out to be. There was a great audience, the show moved along apace with **Blake Wagner** setting a swift "apace." Energy and enthusiasm were in abundance. With quartets and groups being limited to one song in the competition, nothing was going to slow this show!

But then there were a couple of songs that halted everything. Two of my favorites. And not to slight the other

groups that performed, but these hit me where it matters. Now I wouldn't call myself a "hardened" Barber-shopper. I have sung in many venues including nursing and retirement homes, hospitals, Orchestra Hall, garden parties and on and on. And I could become maybe just a bit blasé about some songs having sung them so many times. Usually the audience moves me beyond that.

At this concert, however, I heard these two groups singing these songs for my first time. Don't misunderstand. I have heard, sung and performed these songs many times. And yet, sometimes the setting, the group, and the talent can offer up a version that bangs it out of the park.



From where I was standing in the chorus, I relaxed to see what these groups had to offer. The songs started out well and pulled me in. But as they progressed, I began to sense a strange feeling. My skin was beginning to tingle. Could it be? And then I broke out fully in swelling goose bumps. Which just grew right up to the song's climax. And then I felt a moment of quiet appreciation just before the audience erupted in wild applause. Me? Goose Bumps? Yeah. You've got it right. This road-weary baritone was melted by the soul and heart-felt delivery of those songs.

In my immediately previous article, I quoted from **Larry Ajer's Stage Presence Notes**. I now refer back to those notes where he said, "Go to the stage to take something from the audience, and to give back more.

'Give!' There must be a real gift back to the audience." I'm not sure how much these groups took something from the audience. I do know, though, they gave back a gift many times over that will not be soon forgotten. Thanks, guys. Thanks from all of us for the gift.

And who were the groups? And what did they sing? Almost forgot to tell you ...

The first was **Hall Pass** with their rendition of *Tonight* from **West Side Story**. Just a bit later, **Under The Hill** sang *Somewhere Over The Rainbow* from **The Wizard Of OZ**. Was I the only one who got those tingly bumps? I really doubt it. Did you? Getting goose bumps all over again.

Overall, I thought the groups raised the bar several notches with their contribution to the one-song competition. Perhaps the format helped as they could concentrate on doing just one song well. Something to think about, I would offer.

Shifting gears right now! Recently, I read about studies that found what makes people happier. A very few of the items may be what you experience being a Commodore. Such as: being in a group of people with similar interests, volunteering, and doing something you enjoy. Oh, there was more, but these three struck me as particularly fitting to those of us who are part of a fine, friendly group such as the Commodores. Not all groups are like this and so this is an unsolicited plug to call you to appreciate all we have in a relatively inexpensive hobby. And no greens fees, fancy clubs, ATV's, jet skis, or big boats. Not that you can't do those, too, but Barbershop singing is pretty reasonably priced. And rewarding, too!

Had a nice chat with Commodore **Gene Heupel**, a faithful *Georgia Grind* reader, and **Karene**, his wife, right after the concert. Good to see those members who didn't perform this time, but were there to take it all in. I will probably get in trouble for this, but his ribs were sore afterwards. You see, he couldn't help humming along with those Commodore tunes he had learned. And *Go to Grind*, Page 6, Column 3

Your Voice ... is Beautiful!

by Mark Ortenburger, Barbershop Maven

In one of the *Barbershop Harmony Society's* recent e-mail communiqués, **Mark Morgan**, our Marketplace Director in Nashville, related a story about something that he said made a profound impact on his life. It came from his first visit to Harmony University in 2016.

The noted **Debbie Cleveland** was the featured speaker at one of the general sessions and, in Mark's words ... "as she began, asked everyone in the auditorium to repeat after her, *My voice is beautiful*. She repeated this a number of times and with each repetition, my voice got stronger, louder, and more confident." Mark went on to say, "I encourage you to repeat that phrase and know that your voice is beautiful, that it matters."

If you'll indulge me I have a story that speaks rather directly to that thought. This past weekend I was a very proud attendee at our granddaughter Madison's graduation ceremony from Shakopee High School. Consequently I wasn't able to sing at

our Annual Show redo since both events took place at the same time. Shakopee Schools have an Interim Superintendent, **Gary Anger**, whose name certainly belies the kind, caring, and gentle soul that he is. He had stepped into the role this school year to help restore the trust that had been severely broken by the previous district superintendent. Near the end of the graduation ceremony when he was due to speak to the graduating class, we were informed that Mr. Anger would be appearing via a taped message.

As he appeared on an enormous overhead screen, he explained that due to the chemotherapy treatments he was undergoing, he just wasn't feeling well enough to be there in person. As we listened and understood the personal health battle he was dealing with, his very upbeat message became very moving indeed.

Mr. Anger talked to the graduates about one of the memorable stories from his childhood, *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*, and how the book, with its important moral lessons, has helped to provide meaningful guidance for him throughout his life. I'm sure this story has been used many times before by any number of commencement speakers but Gary was bound to take us on an unexpected journey. After he related what he took from the book, he

paused briefly and then began to sing a song (from the movie version) *Pure Imagination*. There was no pitch pipe or backing music, he just started singing his own heartfelt rendition.

Here's what I heard. A voice that was courageous, sincere and joyful. It wasn't a rendition that would have the critics rushing to the payphone on the wall (OK, I'm dating myself) to shout, "Stop the Presses. We've just found the next Pavarotti." But guess what, that didn't matter in the least because there wasn't a single person in that audience who was judging him for his singing.

I'm sure he sang because he felt that he could best convey to "his kids" the message from a meaningful story that provided some guidance to him during good times and bad. I'd be willing to bet that 10 years from now, what the graduating class will remember of their ceremony is his moving rendition of that song. *His Voice was Beautiful*.

Come with me and you'll be in a world of pure imagination.

Take a look and you'll see into your imagination.

If you want to view paradise simply look around and view it.

Anything you want to, do it.

Wanna change the world, there's nothing to it.

SUNSHINE HOTLINE



By Mark Bloomquist, Sunshine Chairman

Brooks Bergerson is back home after successful implantation of two cardiac stents. He has dramatically improved, the water retention has abated and he feels good. He hopes to be back with the chorus soon.

Bob Spong is home recovering from his hospitalization for pneumonia. He has been off antibiotics for a week. His appetite is improving and he is feeling better but is slowly regaining strength.

Send your information to me at:
Mbloomquist@meagher.com



Grind from Page 6

when he did, Karene would give him a rib-jab to have him return to being a listener, not a performer. I think we all know the temptation. To hum along, that is. Not to poke Gene in the ribs. Or is it both?

I've said enough. So, on with summer. Do all you can to honor the truth. All the while being aware of where you are and what you are facing. There are just too many adverse possibilities out there to choose the luxury of complacency. And do not despair. This summer will offer many opportunities for me to get into the real depths of the origins of the Georgia Grind. You know how passionate

Capital "B" in Barbershop - Why not?

THOUGHTS FROM BIG SKY COUNTRY

By Russ Born, Peripatetic Bass and Biographer

I had the privilege of being asked to write particularly about the musical background of our dear friend and Brother Commadore, **Lou DeMars!** His success in business, finance, politics, City, County, and community service is the stuff of legend but too voluminous to document herein. However, it is his comparatively arcane musical odyssey that accounts Lou as one of the more accomplished musicians on the Minneapolis Chapter's risers.

Lou's choral experience goes all the way back to his school days in the early 1950s when he joined his first choir at DeLaSalle High School in Minneapolis. Sometime later, Lou and his dad, along with fellow choir members, the Cassidy brothers, formed an all-male octet, *The Upper Classmen*. They sang popular songs of the day and stayed together until college, marriages and life got in the way, disbanding in 1958. Most of you will recall that the Cassidy Brothers (kids/grandkids of the original Cassidy Brothers who sang with Lou), per-

formed on one of our Holiday Shows a few years ago.

The Upper Classmen, with Lou as the primary arranger, performed all over the Twin Cities Metro Area at various community events. One of their favorite annual performances was singing at the Ascension Church St. Patrick's Day celebration. They even had a tryout for the *Lawrence Welk Show*.



Russ Born



Lou DeMars

In 1955, the group started performing at *Jimmy Hegg's Starlight Club* on South 5th Street in downtown Minneapolis. One night, after performing, the group wandered over to a club at 5th and Hennepin and for the first time, heard good Barbershop music being performed by a group known as *The Hut Four*

[Small world!].

During my interview with Lou for this article, he acknowledged that one of his big regrets was not finding out about the *Commodores*, and *Barbershop*, before he was recruited by **Mark Sathé** 16 years ago. Lou has been a loyal Commadore ever since.

While Lou was busy singing his way through high school, he was also becoming proficient playing tenor sax, and occasionally, clarinet and flute! When it came time for college, it was the University of Minnesota for Lou, where he began a major in Music Composition and played in a combo known as *The Flamingos*.

After realizing that he was not gifted with the ability to instantly identify various chords, chord structures, and patterns, he subsequently changed his major to Teaching/Directing, but realized later that he was not cut out to be a teacher. Undaunted, Lou directed his talents to what became a successful business/financial career which later brought him well-earned praise as a highly-respected local politician and community servant.

Along with singing with the Commodores, Lou is active in his church choir and still loves a good jazz group! We are lucky to have Lou as a fine bass and dedicated Barbershopper.

It's in the DNA!

by Paul Paddock, Chapter Cartographer and bass-clef aficionado

I wanted to share this with you! This was one of my dad's quartets in the Norfolk, Virginia, Chapter when he and my mom were still actively involved with Barbershop. I don't think they had a name since they were together for such a short time. The picture was posted in the Hampton Roads-area music newsletter two years ago. It had been taken in 1990.



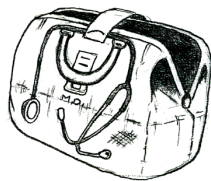
Paul Paddock



Paul Paddock's Dad's quartet from the left: Dave Paddock - baritone, Bruce Evans - lead, Virg Albert - bass, and Gene Hannon - tenor

I don't know if you old-timer Commodores or *Chord-Inator* readers might have crossed paths with any of these gentlemen in the past, but they had some great voices, especially Virg! *Editor's Note: Paul's father is a West Point graduate. Consequently Paul, being a military brat was used to moving and thus was well prepared to do well in GEOGRAPHY, his chosen major in college and the background for his current employment as a map maker.*

Doc's Bag



By Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor

Please Note: Mark Ortenburger and Jim Erickson have both submitted "SHOULD READ" articles for this edition. Your failure to do so will be your loss!



Hardin Olson

It must be said that the Commodores were most fortunate to have a fresh, energetic, highly-polished guest quartet at each of our last two chapter events, *Kordal Kom-bat* at the *Pitchpipe Perfect* reprise on June 2 and *Vocality* at our *Ladies and Friends/BOTY Celebration* the following evening.

What can we say about these two LOL Foursomes? ... only that *THEY CAME TO SING*, and sing they did, doing what they were engaged for, with energy, poise, and feeling, all the while keeping the patter to a much-appreciated minimum and overwhelming their audiences with their exceptional talent.

So again, many thanks and kudos to Adam, Ben, Mark, Scott, and particularly to *Vocality*, Jay, Tony, David, and Tom, who will be competing at International in Orlando next month.

Monday afternoon, June 11, Judy and I, along with **Chuck Guthrie**, his lady, **Pat Gravovac**, and **Bob Dykstra** journeyed to Rochester to have an early dinner with my favorite bass, **Gary Rogness**, his wife, **Ginger** and **Myron Snesrud** and his wife, **Sue**. (Myron sang in the *Gemini Crickets* with Chuck when they won the 1967 LOL District quartet contest.)

Gary, that day, had begun the recovery week of his current biweekly chemotherapy cycle and has been awaiting the results of last week's CT scan that he hopes will continue to show improvement. His blood counts and other laboratory studies are in acceptable range while his only new

LETTERS

Hi Hardin,

John Plazek here. I always love getting the Chord-Inator. Since **Jim Richards'** passing, **Mark Ortenburger** has been graciously sending me a copy of each issue. The writing, photos, "*Jim Richard's Chord Candy*" and the great info about the chapter is fantastic. A fine publication.

complaint is loss of much of his hair.

Gary looks quite good considering the rough road he has traveled these many difficult months. He credits his many friends for helping him weather this malignant storm and is always pleased to hear from them.

Make Gary's day at: 507/900-2000

glogness@yahoo.com or

4119 7th Place NW

Rochester, MN 55901

After completing nearly 20 total years as your Chord-Inator Editor I have arrived at the supremely difficult decision to retire at year's-end. I do so with woeful regret, great trepidation, and an overwhelming sense of loss, with a little fear of the unknown thrown in.

It has been a great ride, making nationwide friends, earning accolades, suffering the slings and arrows of outrageous critics, bowing and scraping to less-compulsive contributors, and having a somewhat-euphoric sense of accomplishment after e-mailing each final draft to *Snap Print's* hard-drive.

I hope that a Commodore (or perhaps a literary-minded spouse) will quickly step up and take the job. It would be most advantageous if the new candidate is familiar with *Microsoft Publisher* and can spell the name RIE-MENSCHNEIDER.

I certainly will make myself available over the ensuing months to coach the new Editor if need be, but unequivocally, the December issue, or perhaps one before, will be my last.

I will be undertaking a new literary project, that of compiling and penning (I can only hunt and peck on the word processor) a modest family history for my kids and grand-kids.

In the May 2018 issue [on] Page 9, I did notice a typo that **Dan True**, LOL President, probably brought to your attention. The photo from the [Lunch Bunch] TFLBMOT with **Gordon Billows** listed as LOL President should have read, "LOL Exec VP".

Everything is always so perfect that I just couldn't resist. **Judd [Orff]** probably gave you the wrong info (Just joking).

Thanks again, Hardin, for putting together this labor of love.

Stay well and keep up the good work!

Editor's Note: John Plazek, 2010 LOL Barbershopper of the Year and 2000 Hall of Fame inductee, although a rock-solid Wisconsinite, has been an avid reader and proselytizer of the Chord-Inator through the later years of my tenure (and on occasion lets me know it, see above). Thanks, John!

Thanks again for another interesting [May] issue. I was pleased to see it included a picture of fellow Winnipeggers **Gordon and Paula Billows**.

I particularly enjoyed **Bob Dykstra's** article on the FLBTMOT as I had the pleasure of attending one of their [then] Friday Luncheons with **Ed Peterka** MANY years ago.

Les Gurr

Editor's Note: Les Gurr, 1970 LOL Barbershopper of the Year and 1999 Hall of Fame inductee has also been a most welcome Chord-Inator subscriber and reader. Thanks to him, I can proudly say that our bulletin is Internationally recognized. Thanks. Les!

April 18 [Misplaced in May, Sorry!]

Good morning, Hardin,

Here's a tag for your consideration (See [Page 5]). I enjoy reading The Chord-inator each month. I envy you Commodores—what an exemplary "healthy chapter!"

In harmony,

Chuck Lower

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

Dr. Hardin Olson, Bulletin Editor
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 Minnetonka, MN 55305
 952/229-4525
olson118@umn.edu

All copy and photos herein without a byline, as well as those opinions and commentaries under his byline, are the sole responsibility of the *Chord-Inator* Editor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Minneapolis Chapter Board or its officers.

Chapter Quartets

BOMP
 Dan Cole.....612/940-4554
 CHORD SMASH
 James Estes.....612/237-3234
 EASY LISTENIN'
 Dan Slattery..... 651/747-6384
 HOT COMMODITY
 Dave Speidel.....612/437-4325
 JUST ONE MORE
 Nate Weimer.....316/204-8756
 RING IT ON
 Andy Richards.....651/639-9312
 RIVER CITY QUARTET
 John Chouinard.....651/343-4145
 MINNESOTA GO-4's
 Harvey Weiss.....763/439-4447
 RANDOM SAMPLE
 Darrell Egertson.....952/943-8737
 SWYPE
 Mark Bloomquist.....952/541-0232
 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 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

- 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 6, **BHS Open at Elk River Golf Club**
- 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.**
- July 1-8, 2018 **International Convention, Orlando, Fla.**

International Level

2018 Barbershopper Of The Year *Blake Wanger*

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

Russ Born
 Jim Erickson
 Les Gurr*
 Chuck Lower*
 Hardin Olson
 Mark Ortenburger
 Paul Paddock
 John Plazek*
 Blake Wanger
 Bill Warp



**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**