

KEEPING THE  
WHOLE WORLD SINGING

# CHORD-INATOR

BARBERSHOP  
HARMONY  
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MINNEAPOLIS  
COMMODORES

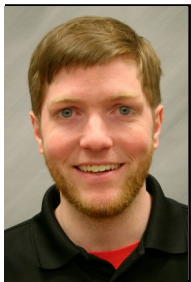
OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, CHAPTER  
\*\*\*\* A CHAPTER WITH AN ENVIABLE PAST - AN UNBOUNDED FUTURE \*\*\*\*

10,000 LAKES DIVISION - LAND O' LAKES

DECEMBER 2018 - VOL. 74 - NO. 9



## President's Corner



Blake Wanger

### 'Twas The Night Before Christmas Show

'Twas the night  
before the Christ-  
mas show,  
In my little house  
In a chair I was sitting,  
With keyboard and mouse;  
The tux pants were hung in the  
closet with care,  
With the shirt and the tie I had  
chosen to wear;  
When what to my wandering  
mind should appear,  
But memories of a most wonder-  
ful year;  
Of Pitch Pipe Perfect, our annual

show  
That couldn't be stopped by a  
freak April snow,  
Of a fabulous summer with mu-  
sic galore,  
Como Park, Target Field, and so  
many more,  
Of charitable giving, a generous  
deed,  
To Food shelves and YouthLink  
for children in need,  
Of singing at contest in dapper  
attire,  
(Though we wish that our scores  
were a little bit higher)  
Of VLQs and quartets and their  
sparkling chords  
And several competing and win-  
ning awards  
Of world-class coaching, no ifs,  
ands or buts,  
And afterglow pizzas and truck-  
loads of nuts,  
Of Paul, Dave and Dave and their  
skillful direction,  
As they taught us, and led us, and

called us by section;  
"Now Tenors, now leads, now  
baris and basses!  
With joy in your hearts and with  
smiles on your faces,  
Ring out the chords, to the back  
of the hall,  
Sing away, sing away, sing away  
all!"  
Twas' a year full of harmony,  
friendship and fun,  
And next year will be yet another  
great one;  
And I have to exclaim, for this  
poem to end right,  
IT's GREAT TO BE A COM-  
MODORE, AND TO ALL A  
GOODNIGHT!

Capital "B" in  
Barbershop?  
Why not?

**Minneapolis, Minn. Chapter  
Land O'Lakes District, BHS  
Meetings every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.  
House of Prayer Lutheran Church  
7625 Chicago Avenue South  
Richfield, MN 55423**

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*Through 2019/20*

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Lead Section Leader. ....**Vacant**  
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Bari Section Leaders .....Dave Speidel  
Assistant - Matt Richards  
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Uniform Committee Chairman.....**Vacant**  
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## Notes from Show Chair Steve Grady

Now that we have celebrated the season with our Holiday Show it is time to turn our attention to our 2019 Annual Show. Since



**Steve Grady**

we already started the music this summer, we know this show will be fun to sing and entertaining for our patrons. The show is constructed to celebrate the 8 decades of history and accomplishments of our chorus and quartets.

Believe it or not, we have only 16 rehearsals to get the show ready. In December we will rollout Hey Look Me Over which is the show opener. We lose two rehearsals on Christmas and New Year's, so everyone needs to listen to the learning track and get this song memorized. There will be choreography on several songs in the show including Hey Look Me Over, so we need to get off the spots early in the process.

We are going to end the show by inviting all past Commodores to join us on stage for a mass

sing. So please reach out to every inactive and past Commodores you know and invite them to the show.

We also have the goal to double our Sponsorships and Ad sales this year. So over the next few weeks, please put together the list of business owners and companies that you will approach with our 2019 Program sponsorship package. It will be easy to present the opportunity to help the Commodores share our mission to provide harmony in our community.

**SUPPORT  
HARMONY  
FOUNDATION**



## A Message from Fearless Leader

### Gratitude



Paul Wigley

This might surprise a lot of you, but I'm not a big fan of tattoos (OK...maybe you're not surprised!) So, it was with a little trepidation that I learned our daughter was getting a tattoo. But, not to worry, because it was small, and it was on her foot. But, my concerns turned from a bit of worry (was she going to start becoming a rebel?!) to love and pride (which I've always had for her!) So, why the change of heart? I learned that her tattoo was simply a script of the word "gratitude". I was so proud that her lifetime statement (those tattoos are with you a long time!) was one of gratitude. If only we could all live our lives with that one simple word guiding our decisions.

At this time of year, I think we all think back with gratitude for the people that have been such positive influences on our lives. Naturally, my first thought is for my brother, who was always so kind, full of laughter, and support for **Becky, Sarah** and myself. This is a tough time of year to realize that we can't celebrate Christmas with him. But I still think of our times together with nothing but the most gratitude that I can feel in my heart.

Now, let's start thinking about the Commodores that are owed warm thoughts...and gratitude. I know I'm going to miss a lot of people,

so I apologize in advance for that. First of all, let's thank **Shawn Hunter** for taking on the position of bulletin editor! What a scary thought- to replace **Hardin Olson** - the International Champion bulletin editor! But Shawn is carrying on a task that is critical to solid barbershop choruses- communications! Thanks, Shawn...and thanks, Doc, for years and years of dedication that went far above and beyond the call of duty. Your accolades were hard-earned and well-deserved!

As musical director, this year has only highlighted the incredible musical leadership we have in **David Speidel** and **David Bechard**. To have associate directors like both of these men is a director's dream! Dave Speidel and his long barbershop history contribute immensely to consistent pursuit of excellence by the Commodores. "Going through the motions" is just not acceptable to Speidel- and he clearly states his expectations of success. Dave S. also deserves gratitude for his untiring efforts to keep expanding the success of the Northern Pines Harmony Brigade! David Bechard is such a treasure! His musical expertise, his positive energy, and his youthful good looks (OK...that's about enough...) make singing pure pleasure! Dave B. has so much on his musical plate, but he brings that smile, that intensity for true, expressive singing, and the desire for continuous growth, to every rehearsal. What gratitude for these two associate directors that have taken on more and more musical leadership.

I am unable to take the time to thank all the Commodores' administration, but suffice it to say

that the Minneapolis Commodores are blessed with men that are so willing to give so much time to ensure the success of this chorus. The board, all the various show committees, music teams, nut salesmen, riser crews and drivers, ticket salesmen and coordinators, tech/Groupanizer specialists, quartet singers, and on and on...gratitude! We all need to thank each other, because (luckily!) there are very few Commodores that **ONLY** show up and sing! So many activities needed to be a successful chorus. Thanks to all of you for going the extra mile, and contributing the extra time to make the Minneapolis Commodores an ensemble to be celebrated with exuberance!

Thanks again to all of you for your concern for each other, your support for each other in difficult and sad times, and for your dedication in making this a musical organization we can all be proud of. I have so much gratitude for the Minneapolis Commodores. It is GREAT to be a part of it all!  
Paul Wigley



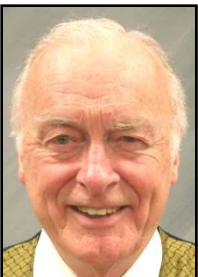
## Quartet News

In this new column, I plan to highlight news from our various quartets. For this issue, however, I will take the liberty of crowing about our newest quartet, **Silver Screen**. Our leader, **Steve Grady** sings tenor, **Shawn Hunter** is lead, **Dave Speidel** is bass and we are joined by GNU baritone **Ricky Chaddock**. This senior quartet competed for the first time at the recent District contest, finishing 2nd of the 4 senior quartets. All 4 are members of the Northern Pines Harmony brigade, looking forward to many more outings including the Brigade gathering in February.




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## *Jim Richards Memorial Chord Candy # 121*



**Jim Richards**

This tag was built spur-of-the-moment as one of the first tags with which I started experimenting in college, thinking that a scissors maneuver would make so much sense. I made this evident in the bass and baritone parts; bass starts higher than the baritone (note stems up vs. down) and the 2 parts proceed mirror-image to 'Day' where tenor and bass hang for the lead-baritone duet. Tenor has the melody. The tag is much like the tag of a Holiday Bells medley tune I currently practice with the Minnesota Chorale, part of their Holiday Heralds program, but the differences are F7 instead of F chords in the first measure, no C chords, scissors, inverted Bb ending chord, and the add-in 'Christmas Day' at the very end. Perfect as an opener into the holiday season!



**Paul Paddock**

## Silver Bells

Jay Livingston, Ray Evans  
arr. Paul Paddock





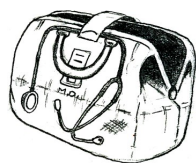
10/14 Ralph Nordquist  
 10/16 Andy Richards  
 10/17 Nan DeMars  
 10/17 Blake Wanger  
 10/20 Sandy Bergersen  
 10/20 Travis Wuttke  
 10/22 Dan True  
 10/26 LeRoy Zimmerman  
 10/29 Andy Cook

10/30 Sally Daniel  
 10/30 Karene Heupel  
 10/31 Nancy Dillon  
 11/01 Tom Dahlen  
 11/05 Mark Ortenburger  
 11/08 Marilyn Jacobson  
 11/09 Ken Wentworth



09/12/1981 Shawn & Laura Hunter  
 09/15/1962 James & Linda Lee  
 09/16/1972 Dan & Susan Krekelberg  
 09/21/1963 Jack & Sharon Beaver  
 09/26/1959 Darrell J & Helga Egertson  
 09/30/7777 Joel & BreAnn Rumsch  
 10/06/1956 Robert & Lou Dykstra  
 10/07/1994 Kevin R. & Janet Huyck  
 10/09/1965 Jim & Judy Windey <- 50th anniversary  
 10/10 Stephen L & Sally Daniel  
 10/14 Dean R. & Kristen Lambert  
 10/16 Tony & Natalie Lapakko  
 10/29 Kirk & Teresa Douglas  
 10/30 David & Catherine Wall

## Doc's Bag



Hardin Olson

by Dr. Hardin Olson,  
 Editor Emeritus

I could not have been more pleased and relieved to receive new editor **Shawn Hunter's** e-mail accepting the challenge of editing the *Chord-Inator*. My hoped-for Christmas present came early this year so I am able to stop feeling guilty for abandoning my literary post on such short notice.

I knew immediately that our bulletin would be in capable and caring hands when, after I thanked Shawn for taking the job, he succinctly replied in a no-nonsense tone, "*It's about time I did something worthwhile around here!*"

Of course he has only been Barbershopping for about 2 1/2 years so you wouldn't expect he'd had enough time to really delve deeply into the hobby.

**WRONG!** He has become a

work-horse lead singer in the *Commodore Chorus*, an avid member of the *Northern Pines Harmony Brigade*, and a competitor in the *Silver Screen* quartet, with Commodore-mates **Steve Grady** and **Dave Speidel** and GNU's **Ricky Chaddock**, placing second of the four senior quartets in the 2018 LOL District Quartet Contest. (Bulletin editing will probably be just a welcome monthly or bimonthly diversion if only for respite to continue his quest to become a champion of four-part perfection.)

Beyond his musical prowess Shawn serves as an exemplar of the consummate ideal of the ever-contributing group-member who can be counted on to step up when group needs arise. This is an attribute to be greatly appreciated and much admired.

\*\*\*\*\*

I had a most-welcome conversation this morning (Thursday, Nov. 29) with my favorite bass,

**Gary Rogness**, who, undaunted, continues his arduous battle with colon cancer.

His chemotherapy routine has been switched from a two-week to a three-week cycle enabling him enjoy a pleasant third week after each course. Gary's next good week will be over Christmas.

The next Week 3 will be in January during the first-annual convention of the newly-formed *Society for the Preservation and Propagation of Barbershop Quartet Singing in the United States*. All members of Gary's quartet, the 2003 International Seniors Champions, *Downstate Express*, plan to be in San Antonio for that inaugural event.

Gary's sense of humor and the loving support of all his friends continue to be his best weapons against this relentless cancer. Contact Gary at 507/990-2000 or e-mail at [glrogness@yahoo.com](mailto:glrogness@yahoo.com).



# Georgia Grind

by Jim Erickson, *Beknowing Baritone*



**Jim Erickson**

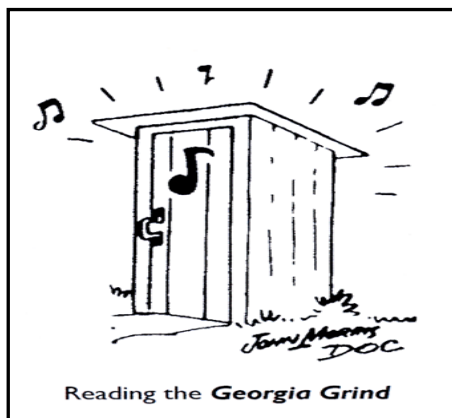
A BIG welcome to our new editor, **Shawn Hunter**. Many of us despaired of never having the Chord-Inator, or some semblance thereof, exist in our futures. From my experience, it takes a special and gifted person to fill the position of editor. And, it takes a bunch of interested writers and “information providers” to make a publication worthy of its readers. So, here’s my request to you. Let’s all get behind Shawn to move this bulletin along to become as good as it can be. From the start!

Here is a list of things you can do to make this a solid, entertaining source of Commodore matters:

- Be open to writing articles you think might be of interest. Take a step or two away from just saying “It’s Great to be a Commodore.” Write about how it is great. Resist the temptation to preach, “Don’t talk on the Risers.” Stretch the writer within you and add your part to the Chord.
- Instead of leaning heavily on the volunteer crew of proof-readers (“volunteer” FYI means “unpaid.”), think about brushing up just a bit on your writing skills. Grammar, punctuation, etc. For instance, replace your efforts to bring excitement to your writing using way too many exclamation points, by describing what exciting thoughts you are trying to convey!
- Help the editor by telling him about any information printed

in error. Dates, phone numbers, and on and on.

- Get articles in on time or in advance of the deadline if possible to relieve Editor Hunter of having to grovel like former editor, Doc, had to constantly do. Each month Doc was forced to get out his grovel dumptruck to search for a current month’s load of whatever his groveling could bring. Not fun. Even though he did it so well.
- The list could go on some more, but how about my just adding, “Tell the editor, ‘Nice job’ more often than not.”



You will become a bigger, better person for doing so.

Changing subjects, I suppose it may be a little early to talk about goals for the new year, but I am concerned about the trend of dwindling membership. We used to be a much larger chorus, as I understand, and whether or not present societal trends lean toward fewer singers becoming involved, we must make an earnest effort to become more inclusive and expansive. I remember maybe ten years ago I was talking with **Dan True** about the size of the chorus. Excited about our prospects of achieving 100 members seemingly within our optimistic reach, we talked about the impression we would make with that large chorus of enthusiastic

singers. It wasn’t to be. Not that we were alone. Perhaps comparable. Perhaps not, but outdoor enthusiasts and experts have seen the number of fishermen, hunters, and other pursuits become less appealing to younger generations for a myriad of reasons. Efforts are now being made to see what is occurring and how to reverse, or at least stabilize, this trend for many of these activities, Barber-shoppers included. Look around. Is there someone you hear singing or paying attention to music in some way? Could you encourage them to look into the fun and challenge of singing with the Commodores? Then be courageous. Step up and ask them.

Switching subjects once again, in the past I have come up with a slogan for the new year. My barber used to do it to inspire him with something catchy to think about during the year. So here goes. Well, in a minute. But doing this in the teen years, like 2019, is tricky because they all end with “teen.” I’m looking ahead plenty for 2020. See how easy that was. But 2019? Again, here goes. “Rise above all the lyin, in two thousand one nie-un.”

What’s that? You can do better? OK, big boy, send me your better saying using the nineteen. Don’t force and wedge the words around like I did to come up with your version. Then I will pick from one of the thousands of messages I receive and honor your submission next month. Be mindful that there are the likes of **Mark Ortenburger** out there who are not only clever, but take these challenges very seriously.

Good luck! Yeah, right.

## ANNUAL NUT SALES WINDING DOWN

by *Dick Riemenschneider – Nut Administrator*

The 2018 Commodores Nut sales event is winding down. Preliminary estimates show sales are down slightly from last year. At first review that might seem like bad news, however there is one big factor to consider when rating this year's effort. For several years one of our members bought significant amounts of nuts for his business as a holiday give-away. Last year's order from him was 213 pounds. This year he decided that after six years it was time for his business to try something new as a customer gratuity. So the real bottom line for sales indicates that our general membership actually increased their sales. As a result I issue a HUGE THANK YOU to all the members who upped their sales effort this year.



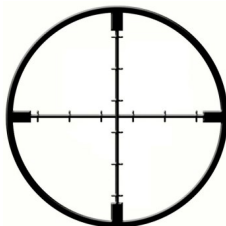
Dick  
Riemenschneider

Speaking of great effort on behalf of the Nut Drive, on Wednesday, November 7, 10 stalwart Commodores and two wives gathered at the Riemenschneider Nut House to engage in bagging the 1,870 pounds of nuts that were delivered that morning. When the smoke cleared at 4:00 PM that day a new world's record of 1,695 pounds of nuts had been bagged, including a new world's record of 1,055 pounds in the morning shift from 9:00 AM to Noon. The bagging crew was: **John Carlotto, Dan Cole, Jim Erickson, Gene Heupel, Neal Mortenson, Ron Neujahr, Mark Ortenburger, and Andy and Karen Richards.** Also a great thank you to my bride,

**Marge Riemenschneider**, who ably staffed the heat sealer for the record breaking morning. All baggers were invited for a lunch of **Marge's** famous chili with caramel brownies for dessert.

Also deserving accolades for this years Nut Sales Effort are **Skip and Teri Cook of Minnesota Harvest Orchard**, located in Jordan, Minnesota. Skip and Teri bought the dried apple business 2 years ago and have really stepped up their sales effort for this product. The reason for the thank you to them is they reduced their wholesale price to the Commodores by \$0.50 per bag, thus increasing our profit by the same amount. Please remember Skip and Teri as friends of the Commodores as you look for a fall apple orchard junket.

## Hunter's Bullseye



Howdy, folks. As Jim pointed out in his Georgia Grind article above, this is my first crack as editor, so please be gentle. As



Shawn Hunter

most of you know, I recently retired so I am happy to devote some of my newly-discovered free time to helping out more, including the newsletter.

Those of you who know me, and especially those who sing around me, know that I do not take myself too seriously. I also enjoy a good joke or even a funny comment. So you should come to expect that my monthly editorial comments will include a bit of humor. I will endeavour to keep it clean.....BUT NO PROMISES! :-)

I could rattle on and on about the chorus that I love, but I will spare you in this my first issue. Suffice it to say that the Commodores are a class act and I am lucky to have you all in my life. I thought I knew a thing or two about singing, but all of the directors have taught be a TON since I joined. Paul, of course, is a master teacher and knowledgeable as the day is long. I love it when he throws out gems like, "...can you believe the arranger put in an augmented C7 followed by a diminished Gm9?!!!". Say WHAT?? (jk, Paul!)

Anyway, thanks to all of you for the newsletter content, advice, and kind words. Thanks especially to Doc for his continuing guidance and patience. If you have suggestions for the newsletter, I am all ears!

Finally, here's wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Looking forward to 2019 with you all.

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### Chapter Quartets

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 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  
 SILVER SCREEN  
 Steve Grady.....952/334-7500



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 POSTAGE  
 HERE**

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**To:**

### LOOKING AHEAD

- February 22-23, Northern Pines Harmony Brigade, **Plymouth.**
- April 6, 2019, , **Benson Great Hall, Bethel—3:00 p.m.**  
District Level

### International Level

- January 22-27, 2019 **2019 Midwinter Convention, Nashville, Tenn.**

The *Chord-Inator* is available on the Minneapolis Chapter's website [minneapoliscommodore.org](http://minneapoliscommodore.org) starting with the January 2006 issue.

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