

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

APRIL 2019 - VOL. 75 - NO. 2



## President's Corner



Blake Wanger

The Minneapolis Commodores chorus celebrated its 75th anniversary in grand style, with our *Diamond Jubilee* annual show, at Bethel University's Benson Great Hall.

The show was a retrospective look through the previous 8 decades of Commodores history and American music. As we moved from Sinatra to the Beatles to Eric Clapton and Pentatonix, one thing was clear to me. Through times of war and peace, scarcity and prosperity, struggle and progress, the Minneapolis Commodores have always been committed to harmony, in our music, among our members, and within our community. And that remains true today.

We continue to ring glorious chords, and improve our vocal technique with the help of our trio of talented directors. In the coming weeks, we will be introducing exciting music for the 2020 show which is already well into the planning stages. Our numerous quartets and VLQs all sang wonderfully at the annual show and several of our quartets will be taking to the stage at the spring convention alongside many other talented district quartets.

Camaraderie continues to be at the heart of the Commodores experience. Members also continue to enjoy socializing during rehearsal and at afterglow. The upcoming spring and fall conventions, multi-chapter performances at Como Park and a Minnesota Twins game will be great opportunities to further build camaraderie.

The Commodores continue to support YouthLink and other local organizations. In a stroke of serendipity, our new home, St. Peter's Catholic Church is also celebrating their 75th birthday this year, and I have already discussed with the church's business manager the possibility of the

chorus joining in the celebration with the church.

Our commitment to harmony on and off the risers is one of the things that makes me most proud to be President of the Minneapolis Commodores. The show was a perfect example of that. We sang beautifully, supported one another through the sad news of longtime member **Hardin Olson's** passing, and raised money to support our charitable partner.

Standing on the stage at the end of the show, ringing the timeless chords of "Keep America Singing" arm in arm with current members, our guest quartets Happiness Emporium and Quorum, and so many former Commodores was an forgettable moment of harmony in every sense of the word. And I don't think it's any secret why the chorus is still going strong after 75 years - harmony never gets old. Thank you to Show Chairman **Steve Grady** and everyone else in the Commodores family, and to our amazing audience for making our 75th birthday celebration one for the books. The huge, cumbersome, wonderful scrapbooks, to be precise.

**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.....Dave Casperson 952/324922  
Program VP.....Eric Nelson  
Secretary.....Bill Warp 763/531-2290  
Treasurer .....John Carlotto 952/925-0886  
VP Technology.....Paul Swanson

#### Board Members

Through 2019

Paul Paddock.....757/784-6440  
Kim Ward (Community Rep.).....763/413-9273  
Andy Richards.....651/639-9312

Through 2019/20

Shawn Hunter.....651/341-1373  
Tom O'Keefe.....xxx

#### Directors

Director.....Paul Wigley  
Assistant Directors: Dave 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

Altruistic Programs Chairman.....Denny Maas  
Audio/Visual Mgr.....Kirk Douglas  
2020 Show Chairman.....Andy Richards  
Afterglow Chairman.....Kaleb Smith  
Attendance/Sgt.-at-Arms.....**Vacant**  
BOTY Party Chairman.....Mark Ortenburger

#### Chord-Inator Staff

Editor .....Shawn Hunter  
Senior Columnist.....Jim Erickson  
Artist.....Glenn Retter  
Chorus Manager.....Dan Slattery  
Assistant - Neal Mortenson  
Chorus Performance Managers.....John Lloyd  
.. Bob Ostergaard  
Harvey Weiss

Grants Research.....**Vacant**  
Groupanizer Administrator.....Matt Richards  
Harmony Foundation.....**Vacant**  
Historian .....**Vacant**  
Learning Tracks.....Dan Smith  
Librarian.....Carl Pinard  
Name Tags .....Dan Slattery  
Nut Sales Chairman.....Dick Riemenschneider  
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-Commodears President.....Diana Pinard  
Uniform Committee Chairman.....**Vacant**  
Uniforms (Dress & Casual).....Dan Williams



Hardin Olson

## Farewell, Doc

As you all know, our friend, mentor, editor, fellow singer, and general cut-up has passed to the great quartet stage beyond the stars.

What a blessing to have lived and associated with such a great, warm human being. Thanks to all of you who made his funeral such an uplifting celebration of life.

Farewell, Doc. We will never forget you as we try to emulate your joy of life in everything we do.

Last December, a group of Commodores joined by some members of the Northern Pines Harmony Brigade sang the opening hymn (*Precious Lord*) for the funeral service of **Mark Bloomquist's** mother in law, **Fay Reuter**.

Thank you to those who participated – you know who you are. The family made a donation to the chorus which was accompanied by the following note:

*Please accept this honorarium on behalf of Fay's family. Your group's performance was a joy to behold and anyone who was here made a comment about how wonderful your group was.*

*Also, please thank each and every participant for starting Fay's send-off in such a soul stirring manner!*

s/ Nancy Kodadek



## Dan Slattery—Lead singer extraordinaire for 50 years!

Congrats to **Dan Slattery** for achieving this most auspicious milestone. At a recent rehearsal, LOL District representative **Steve Zorn** presented Dan with a certificate celebrating Dan's 50th anniversary with Society. Dan is a true friend and mentor to the entire chorus and we are lucky to have him. Congrats!











# HARMONY



Paul Wigley

<i>synonyms:</i>	concord, accord, agreement, peace, amity, friendship, fellowship, comradeship, solidarity, cooperation, understanding, consensus, unity, sympathy, rapport, goodwill, unison, union, concert, oneness
------------------	---

These synonyms for the word 'harmony' bring a smile to my face. They make me feel good. I also realize this is why I belong to the Minneapolis Commodores.

Every Tuesday night, I feel so incredibly lucky to be able to socialize face-to-face with men that I consider to be great friends, and men that share my love of singing and making great music. Harmony. In this tweet-laced and Facebook-tainted world, I NEED to be able to look friends right in the eye and talk about the universal unity we achieve through singing together! Harmony.

Everyone on the risers with the Commodores realizes that there are all sorts of political stances contained within the chorus. But, singing together erases all of those divisions. If only the entire country, the entire world, could sing together- we'd all be happier, safer, and more loving. Harmony. We need to celebrate the simple joy of singing, making music- rather than just consuming it. Unfortunately, there are not enough forces encouraging

us to MAKE music these days. Educational funding at all levels continues to ignore the impact that music, and all arts, have on our quality of life.

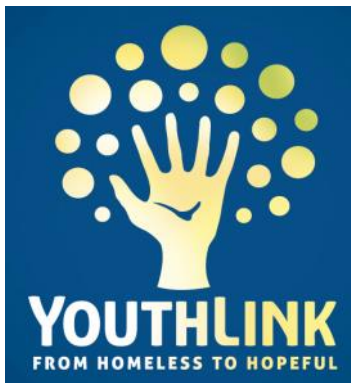
In our efforts to spread harmony, the Commodores are looking at a unique approach to our LOL Fall Convention. In talking to many members of the Commodores, the 'contest' portion of convention weekend was becoming more and more frustrating...and not much fun. Contest can (unfortunately!) bring out the worst of us- wanting the other groups to not sound great (so we can beat them!), wanting to strut around with our "we are better than you" egos, not even thinking of chatting with someone that we are competing against, etc, etc. The opportunity for celebration of our barbershop harmony, with singers from the entire LOL district, simply didn't really exist.

We would drive to the contest, sing a couple of songs, get the results and evals (which pretty much seemed the same from year to year!), and then we'd go back

home. Not much singing with other people, not much time to share stories among chorus members, not much...fun!! So, we are going to tweak our approach (NOT throwing the baby out with the bathwater!) On the day of 'contest' we will change our schedule to allow us to listen to more of our barbershop brethren. We also have plans to encourage more polecat and tag singing among ALL the chorus singers that are attending the convention. More singing, more harmony.

We still are not backing away from our never-ending goal of improving as a chorus. We plan on bringing in more outside coaching, and we plan on developing a more unique package to put on the performance stage. All Commodores need to be assured that we will NEVER stop our efforts to grow- both musically and with membership. Singing in harmony with each other is the best gift we can give. It is great to be in HARMONY with all of the Minneapolis Commodores!

Paul Wigley



**SUPPORT  
HARMONY  
FOUNDATION**



# Georgia Grind

- Jim Erickson, *Beyond Baritone*

So long, good friend. You added so much to many of our journeys.



**Jim Erickson**

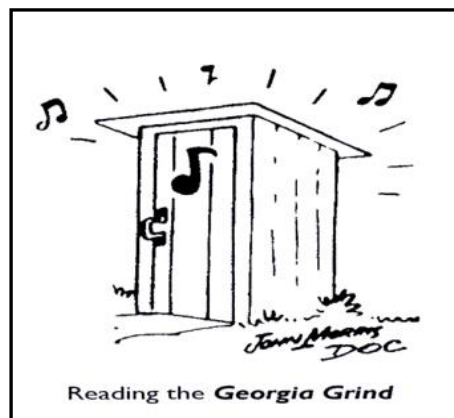
**Doc Hardin Olson** passed away just a few days ago as I write this and although he was no longer groveling to get us to submit our articles or information, his presence was still felt in so many ways. For me, I always enjoyed calling Doc to go over the proof-reading results for each monthly Chord-Inator draft. Sometimes those phone conversations ran up to about two hours. There were that many necessary corrections or rewritings.

But often, we spent time joking, insulting each other, telling stories, talking about future articles, arguing about some interpretation or word and, oh, I think you get the gist. Sometimes I won the argument. Others, I just told him he was the editor and could do what he pleased knowing that I thought differently. And still other times when facing my insistence (or perhaps he finally saw the light), he would not concede, but tell me he was tired and was just giving in to satisfy me. When I would discover a needed correction, he would say that he left that in for me to find to see if I was paying attention. Bowing to an editor is never a pleasant stance, but in Doc's case, I never felt the lesser for it.

Most fun for me were the times he taught me something new about writing, a special word, or some background unfamiliar to me. And to think this went on every month for about 14 years.

With only a very few times when issues were combined, etc., that translates to something over 150 sessions. That's a bunch of editorial work, but lots and lots of banter, learning, and just plain fun.

I was fortunate enough to visit Doc a couple of days before he died. The morphine to ease the pain had kicked in and he was mostly what I will call very sleepy. He could only mumble a couple of words at best when he did awaken a bit. His good wife, **Judy**, was right there comforting him and translating for us. As we were about to leave, I felt I just had to say something to lovingly tease him or try to get a last chuckle out of him. (Just like we always did.) I touched his hand and said something like, "Doc, I



know you like to read my stuff and I just finished my latest Georgia Grind article. I wondered if you could take a look at it." His eyes opened, he pondered what I had said for a moment, and then said, 'Bout time!'. That's a memory that will never leave me.

Doc, you will be missed, you will be remembered, and you will be and are wished so much more on your way. Godspeed.

Man! Lucky for me I have a few other things to talk about now. The show. So much to tell but mostly a piecemeal of items.

Let's start with the stage setting. The tall, tall panels lit with LED lights that displayed patterns, different colors that could be programmed to change, the large screen behind used so effectively for videos, pictures and other information, the original, hugely oversized, authentic scrapbooks used as props that contain, I understand, matter gathered by **Bob Dykstra** and **Doc Hardin** over many years. All contributed to what many called the best concert in years. And, they said that last year, so even better.

Personally, I think the fast pace of the production with each group singing one song between the chorus songs, was a winner. That stood out when I asked friends and others what they liked about our show. Of course, they raved about the singing and I don't mean to slight that. But, they thoroughly got a kick out of the many times they were "tricked" by the unexpected. Like when **Jim Richards'** video of dueling banjos came live from screen to actual singers to finish the song. Topping that off was **Andy Richards** emotional telling the audience that the guy on the screen was his dad. And then **Matt Richards** saying that Jim was his grandfather. Touching, yet very fun surprises.

Another was the powerful presentation of "Do You Hear The People Sing" from Les Mis which ended with the chorus marching ahead toward the audience with resounding determination. Only to be followed by a crowd favorite of "Sing" that scurried through a today-sounding song ending with an enthusiastic fist salute with the lights immediately out. OK, it was planned, but when the song ended and the lights went out, we all slumped in exhaustion from the wild-bounding song, only to have the lights flood the

stage again catching all of us slumped over and spent. Never ones to fail, though, the chorus abruptly stood, smiled and accepted the enthusiastic applause.

One last thing. When the former Commodores, long time members and others once part thereof, were invited onstage to join us in the ending song, I was one of fortunate

few that were asked to greet those singers when they made their way up the stairs to the stage. And then I was the one who was surprised! Seeing guys that I hadn't seen for such a long time as well as others that were close to me in the past. Shaking their hand again was a special treat that I was privileged to share.

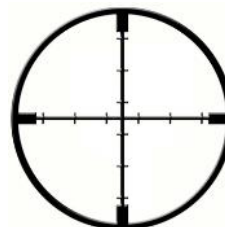
Remember to hold fast to that which is good. Guard the truth and the integrity of facts. Don't forget to use the words, "Nice Job" more than you ever have. And lastly, step up this summer to take some risks to fulfill your personal Barbershop-per Bucket List items.

## NUTS!

Nut Sales Chair, **Dick Reimenschneider**, recently presented a check to President **Blake Wanger** in the amount of **\$11,450** for another successful season of nut sales. Thanks, Dick and EVERYONE who sold nuts for this important fundraiser.



## Hunter's Bullseye



## A Year of Change



**Shawn Hunter**

through lots of change.

Our huge 75th anniversary show was an enormous success. Many, many positive comments have poured in, many emphasizing how much our audience enjoys hearing a variety of Chapter quartets and small groups....even as much as (or more) that the "professional" quartets! This is a testament to our hard work, our great directors, and our spirit of commrad-erie.

As 2019 marches steadily on, our Chapter is certainly going

We are also saying goodbye to a couple of key people. **Doc**, of course, we be greatly missed by everyone. Our "Crazy Little" director, Dave Bechard, is moving on to set up housekeeping in Iowa, having decided that he likes corn more than Walleye! Seriously, we will all miss Dave and his "shadow" director too! Dave assured me that he will keep attending the Brigade so look for him there. Good luck, Dave.

Finally, as discussed by Paul and others, we are switching our convention focus to fun and commrad-erie (while still striving for excellence). Look for more information and announcements as this new focus solidifies throughout the year.

**Shawn Hunter, Bulletin Editor**  
 4125 Country View Dr.  
 Eagan, MN 55123  
 (651) 341-1373  
[Shawn.h.hunter@gmail.com](mailto:Shawn.h.hunter@gmail.com)

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



*This logo is neither shared with  
 the Girl Scouts nor dumped by the  
 Sweet Adelines.*

*Logo courtesy of Bob Clark*

**1st CLASS  
 POSTAGE  
 HERE**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

**To:**

### LOOKING AHEAD

May 04 – Division Convention –  
 Stillwater  
 Jun. 09 - Arboretum  
 July 09 - COMO  
 Jul. 18 – Shakopee  
 Aug. 04 – COMO w/TCSC  
 Aug. 14 – Maple Grove  
 Oct. 25/26 – District Convention

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

**CHORD-INATOR  
 MINNEAPOLIS COMMODORES  
 Minneapolis Chapter of BHS  
 MEETING EVERY TUES –7:00 p.m.  
 Church of St. Peter  
 6730 Nicollet Avenue South  
 Richfield MN 55423  
GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME**