

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

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President's Corner



Blake Wanger

Summer Dreams

The weather has finally warmed up (at last) and it's time for the Commodores to come out and play! For the next three months the chorus will be traveling around the metro area sharing our ringing chords with communities across the Twin Cities. Our summer performance schedule is listed on page 8.

I always love the summer performances because we are able to visit amazing places and share the joy of harmony with so many people. This year we have a diverse selection of fun and beautiful music including songs by Elvis, the Beatles and even Pentatonix. Audiences will hear every-

thing from rock and roll to spirituals to showtunes. The chorus will be showcased along with our amazing quartets and maybe even a VLQ (very large quartet - small ensemble with more than four members) or two!

It doesn't get much better than spending a warm summer afternoon or evening outside in a beautiful park sharing wonderful music with others. And of course, once the show is done, it's time for afterglow. Members of the chorus, their friends and families make their way to a local restaurant to celebrate the performance and enjoy some food and refreshments. Honestly one of my favorite experiences as a barbershopper is when we are sitting around a table at afterglow, and we break out into song. We don't do it too much out of respect for the other patrons at the restaurant, but it is amazing to see other customers turn in surprise and watch us sing, usually with big smiles on their faces. There is always a lot of applause and often requests to sing more. I love those moments because, for a few brief seconds, the world becomes a place of pure harmony and joy. To me, music is one of the most magical things in the world and I love be-

ing a part of those small moments that end up being a really wonderful surprise in someone else's day. I hope that when others see and hear the Commodores sing, at a show or at an afterglow, they see how joyful we are, and that that in turn inspires them to seek out joy in their own lives, in whatever form it may take.

Summer is here. And that means school is out, the days are long and warm, and there's no curfew, so come on out and share a moment (or many) of joy with the Commodores!



**SUPPORT
HARMONY
FOUNDATION**

**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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Andy Richards.....651/639-9312

Through 2019/20

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Lead Section Leader.**Vacant**
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Bass Section Leaders.....Dave Casperson

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Uniform Committee Chairman.....**Vacant**
Uniforms (Dress & Casual).....Dan Williams

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

Chapter members are always welcome to attend the Board meetings

**Bill Warp****May Commodores Board Meeting****Marketing Report (Grady)**

- Kirk Douglas has finished Annual show videos
- Working with Casperson to create a recruiting video and brochure
- Working with Ortenburger to create invitation business

Membership Report (Casperson)

- 103 Active members
- Dave Paxson has renewed his Commodores membership
- Working with Music committee to schedule a guest night.
- Tom O'Keefe resigning (creating an at-large board vacancy)

Music and Performance Report (Pinard)

- Discussed current and future staffing needs and schedules
- Discussed Committee finances
- Discussed date of annual show

Other

- Chris Rosch wants to volunteer for Commodores in Admin or Social Services position
- Discussed Harmony U representation
- Discussed LOL district organization and Spring Convention

***Passed to the Eternal Stage
with Perfect Overtones***

- Rollie Neve
- Tony Mortenson

New Members

- Dave Paxson



2019 Barbershopper of the Year (BOTY) Banquet



2019 BOTY—Dan Williams



Minneapolis homeless youth drop-in center celebrates renovation, \$6 million fundraising campaign.

Youthlink expanding

By Kelly Smith, Star Tribune, 6/6/19

Angelique Ford showed up looking for help on the edge of downtown Minneapolis, with only a suitcase and \$60.

Inside YouthLink, she found a one-stop shop for homeless teens like her, providing essentials from free meals, lockers and showers to housing assistance.

“I’ve never heard of a program like this in my life,” said Ford, who is now 23 and works as an outreach worker at the nonprofit, helping teens in situations like she was in a few years ago. “It’s empowering; who thought you could come to this place and get all of these resources?”

The center, the largest and longest-running drop-in center for homeless youth in Minnesota, is expanding its services to help more teens and young adults after completing a \$6 million fundraising campaign and a major renovation.

On Wednesday, elected officials, staff and supporters celebrated the makeover and the end of a three-year fund-raising campaign, which wrapped up last fall with a \$1.4 million donation from the Golden Valley-based Peter J. King Family Foundation. The nonprofit honored that “milestone gift” by rededicating the building, located off Linden Avenue W. near Interstate 394, with the foundation’s name.

The former jewelry factory, once known for its dark, windowless rooms with raggedy couches, has been transformed with windows, skylights, an open design, colorful walls and new carpet. The renovation, which finished a year ago, means more space to cook free meals, more rooms for mental health counseling and a new career center.

“It’s a really historic day,” said Heather Huseby, the executive director.

Homelessness has reached a [record high](#) in Minnesota, according to a report this year by Wilder Research. Youth under the age of 24 make up nearly half of the state’s 10,200 homeless people, and the number of homeless youth on their own increased 1% in 2018.

More homeless youth drop-in centers and shelters have opened up recently — from [St. Cloud to Duluth](#). And more communities are adopting the drop-in model, Huseby said, since it helps teens more holistically by connecting them to services and other nonprofits.

“They’re a hidden population,” Huseby said of homeless youth. “It’s a problem we think we can solve.”

YouthLink has grown since starting in Minneapolis four decades ago as a city and Hennepin County program. Now, the nonprofit works with nearly 2,000 people, ages 16 to 24, each year and about half of its revenue comes from the

city, Hennepin County and the state. YouthLink operates programs at four housing facilities, including the newest one, [Downtown View](#) — a 46-unit building opened last year by Project for Pride in Living next to the drop-in center.

There’s space in the renovated drop-in center for clients to take art classes, pick up donated clothing and visit a food shelf.

“We’ve come so far,” said Jose Acuña, the outreach supervisor.

Each week, Ford and other outreach workers fan out across downtown to hand out fliers and basic essentials like toothbrushes and socks at light rail stations, the Minneapolis Central Library and Nicollet Mall. She said she’s met teens who were kicked out by their parents after coming out as gay or transgender. Other teens don’t have any family support. Some teens are just too proud to ask for help, said Derion Enge, 21, another outreach worker.

“They’re used to surviving,” Enge said.

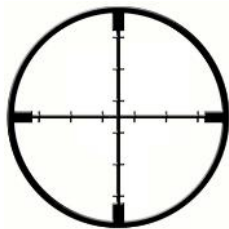
He, too, was determined to make it on his own after moving to Minneapolis a year ago, but he said he slept in his car or couch-surfed to make ends meet. After a Bloomington-based nonprofit, Oasis for Youth, helped connect him to YouthLink, he now has his own apartment and works several jobs.

“It really did change my life,” he said. “I can help the next person; just believe in yourself a little more.”

Editors Note: Youthlink has been the main charity supported by The Commodores for many years. We should be proud of the program and our participation in it!



Hunter's Bullseye



Shawn Hunter

Congrats, Commodores on a great performance at the Spring convention. Our scores showed great improvement, reflecting the tallest scores in recent history. We were awarded overall and AAA champion status. Congrats to the entire chorus and directors for putting in the hard work and putting on a GREAT SHOW for the audience!



Jim Richards Memorial Chord Candy # 123



Paul Paddock

A thrilling chase.... a wondrous place.... This is one of the tunes you are probably hearing throughout your everyday environment now that the long-awaited live-action movie version of Walt Disney's 'Aladdin' has entered the theaters. Part of the love story between an orphaned 'street-rat' and sultan's daughter, this classic tune takes you on a magic carpet ride to fulfill the wanderlust and see places beyond your dreams. Though it's meant to fly you everywhere, I decided to gradually activate the landing gear and give this more of a sleek jazz feel à la Manhattan Transfer. Picture it as a slow swing number that's almost up and you and your partner's parting would be such sweet sorrow. This take will leave you with a good feeling; that doo-wop sort of mood stays catching. Channel your inner Barry White because you know it's all about that bass especially at the end--you got no hurry

and lots of liberties to take! The upper 3 voices are especially tight, as their close harmony chords go beyond the conventional 7th with tenor melody and end in a light-hearted, abbreviated Db6. Note the blue note on 'with', tenors; it's a little low for you, but I think you'll deeply appreciate it. Simmer on it for a bit before it's Barry's turn. I debated whether or not to give basses A-naturals on "whole new" instead of Ebs, as this also works in the sequence--called chord substitution for you fellow jazz theorists out there. I left the Eb for aural contrast, though you're certainly free to try either option. Bari and lead, this will be easy for you between 4 notes. Enjoy!

A WHOLE NEW WORLD

Menken/Rice
Arr. Paddock

RIT.

LET ME SHARE THIS WHOLE NEW WORLD WITH YOU

8A - DOOM

A WHOLE NEW WORLD WITH YOU

SLOW, SWEET, SWINGY 8THS

FREELY

Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, Bereaved Baritone



Jim Erickson

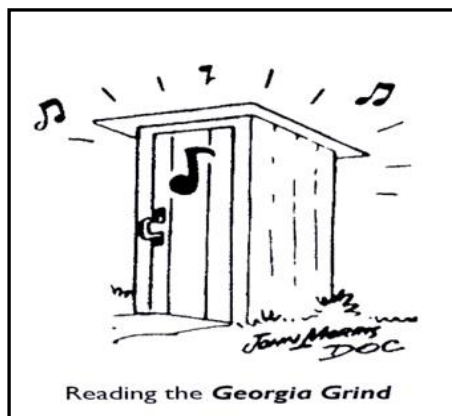
Another good Barbershopper friend has left us. One who spent many, many years singing in the Barbershop style. And the last time I saw him a few weeks ago, rehearsal had ended for the evening. There he was.

Helping take down and move the recently acquired risers to their storage space. At our prior facility and with the older, more cumbersome risers, some take down, lifting, carrying, and placing on movable racks was necessary. Those risers were awkward to deal with and had some weight to them. Riser Crew Volunteers know full well the efforts required. At a time when many Commodores have relinquished riser duties to the younger due to age and physical limitations, **Rollie Neve** persisted in actively assisting weekly storing those old risers.

My mind can no longer recall when I met Rollie, nor can it really recall when we started to tease each other. Years ago, I know for sure. We both sang years on end in the VLQ, Sounds of Renown, and probably tried to get the other to laugh or find a come-back to some remark all that time. Both of us were in quartets and maybe that was the connection as I knew the rest of his quartet members. Doesn't really matter as it seems whenever we chatted, it was with his slight smile knowing we would have a fun, insulting exchange, and his eyes would twinkle as he enjoyed the engagement.

Many monikers for me did he come up with, the last naming me as the "foundational baritone," whatever that means. He seemed to love it, though. Sort of a faux praise with a touch of stealthy sarcasm and irony. This was probably most evident when he would write an article for the Chord-Inator not too many years ago. He rarely failed to make a poke at me sometimes in direct and other times not so evident.

Let me explain something here. Rollie and I had an unwritten pact. We agreed that if either of us said or did something in articles, etc., that the other felt was uncalled for or was hurtful in some way, it would be rectified appropriately, whether by apology, future abstinence, or whatever could be respectfully done. Oh, we traded many veiled remarks, told stories—most untrue or exaggerated—and such. I loved to make up stories about him and in turn, I would have to read stories or comments about me. After which, I would be greeted with that quirky smirk at the next rehearsal or encounter. But never, to my recollection, did we ever experience anything other than getting a big kick out of the jab. I think it was out of respect for each other and a friendship that endured for so many years. We often differed greatly on some of our personal be-



liefs. And yet, it was and is a treasured relationship. One I will add to the growing list of those who have passed on and yet still linger as an important part of my life. Thanks, Rollie. Getting to know you is something I will long remember.

Switching subjects, the naming of new riser sections is a neat endeavor. **Mark Ortenburger** has come up with some fun and informative ideas about the naming. Maybe even a resource to find out the background of the various names and references on the new risers. That would give us an entertaining way to see what the riser signs represent.

And speaking of new riser signs, there is one for the VLQ, Sounds of Re-

nown, mentioned above. **Joe Hauser** was instrumental in forming the group. He got several, maybe ten initially, of us together to sing and be coached by former interim Commodores Director, **Brent Graham**. It was a fun group of guys and while we enjoyed singing together, we also learned better singing techniques of all kinds. And how to appear in performances, contests, and other singouts. There are so many aspects of Barbershop singing and we touched on many of them as we prepared for outings. As I recall, we sang for veterans, in nursing homes, the annual concerts, Singing Valentines, and so many of the engagements with which Barbershoppers are familiar. The aim was to turn good singers into much better singers and, hand in hand with that, to reflect that training when singing in the larger chorus.

Brent commented at the time that what the VLQ was doing by having a coach meet with the VLQ for weekly sessions was unusual and a surprise to other groups he coached from time to time. Some adjustments of the regularity of rehearsals, vacations, etc., were made over the years, but it was the commitment to the group that made this special.

After my heart surgery in 2006, the SOR appeared at my house and standing weakly outside on my deck, I listened as they sang some of the many tunes we had learned. That was one of the thoughtful things the group did over the years, but since this time it was a personal appearance for me, it went right to my healing heart and I am certain lopped several days off my recovery time. Music, as you have probably learned by now, is a great remedy for all kinds of ailments, but especially when produced by those you have come to know through song.

Well, I will wrap this up and head out into this sunny day. Remember to kindly hold fast to that which is good. Say, "Nice Job" more than you ever have. And lastly, as you sip those iced teas, consider taking some risks to fulfill your personal Barbershopper Bucket List items. And once in a while, keep those in mind who have gone on before us.

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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.

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BOMP
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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
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 the Girl Scouts nor dumped by the
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Logo courtesy of Bob Clark

**1st CLASS
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To:

LOOKING AHEAD

Jun. 09 - Arboretum
 July 09 - COMO
 Jul. 18 – Shakopee
 Aug. 04 – COMO w/TCSC
 Aug. 14 – Maple Grove
 Oct. 25/26 – District Convention
 Dec. 7—Christmas Show
 March 28—Spring Convention
 Apr 25—Annual Show

The *Chord-Inator* is available on
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**CHORD-INATOR
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 MEETING EVERY TUES –7:00 p.m.
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GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME**