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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

OCTOBER 2019 - VOL. 75 - NO. 5

## From Fearless Leader...



Paul Wigley

As I hurriedly write this message (before leaving for Australia), I once again reflect on what an amazing organization the Minneapolis Commodores truly is.

The percentage of members that participate on some level- by participate I mean: board members, music team members, section leaders, attendance takers, membership greeters, riser crews, nut salesmen, performance organizers/recruiters, quartet singers, show chairmen/committee members, etc, etc. This level of true participation by ALL of you is the best indicator of the strength of this chapter.

I was talking with someone not a member of the Commodores, and he was remarking about the administrative and support strength of this chapter. I think back to the day we assembled the new risers, and the amount of people (and tools and 'foremen') was amazing! Those risers were assembled and ready to go in a fraction of the time that it normally would have taken. All because of the large percentage

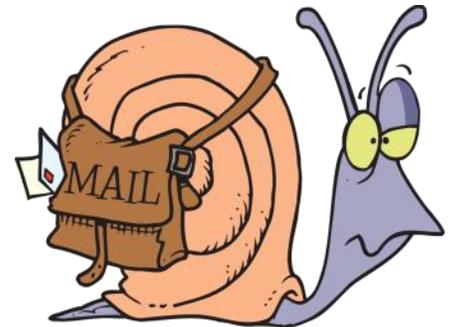
of members that showed up to help! The stories could go on and on about so many Commodores going 'above and beyond the call of duty'.

The Australian barbershop contest also features a school that takes place for three days after the contest is finished. I am leading four hours of directing techniques...but you can be sure that I will also talk about the concept of "everyone in harmony". And no, I'm not necessarily talking about the new BHS vision- I'll be talking about 'everyone in harmony' within their own chapters! The Minneapolis Commodores are a prime example of what terrific musical opportunities can await all of us, when everyone contributes at some level.

I am SO excited for the convention in Rochester this fall! The focus on renewing barbershop connections with other chapters, and celebrating this style of music on a District level is super exciting. Plus...our songs aren't too bad, either!! I can't wait to share a few of my experiences with the Australian barbershoppers with you all - it will be a blast!

It is truly great to be a Commodore!

## Last Snail-mail Issues



*Special note to our readers who receive the CHORDinator via U.S. Mail....in order to save costs and make sure everyone gets each and every best, high-quality, color issue, we will be discontinuing U.S. mail distribution at the end of the year. If you currently receive the newsletter in the mail, please send your e-mail address to [shawn.h.hunter@gmail.com](mailto:shawn.h.hunter@gmail.com).*

**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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**President's Corner**



**Blake Wanger**

**New Conventions**

Preparations for the Commodores upcoming visit to Rochester, Minnesota for the Land O' Lakes District Fall Convention are in full swing

and excitement is building on the risers. Former Great Northern Union director **Pete Benson** has paid the chorus three visits and has one remaining, and his expert ears and masterful musical mind have helped us fine tune our two convention songs and take our performance to the next level. This is a really exciting convention for us because on this occasion the Commodores will look to blend old traditions and new conventions in perfect harmony, both on stage and off.

On stage, we will be a singing our usual pairing of a rousing uptune and a beautiful ballad. However we are thrilled to have the opportunity to sing a new ballad, *Something Good* from *The Sound of Music*. This is a song that is not only new to us, but new to the society as well. At this point, only one other chorus in the entire society, the outstanding **Ambassadors of Harmony**, currently has permission to sing *Something Good*, as it was arranged by **David Wright**, a member of that chapter. David was kind enough to grant us permission to sing the song, and in a fun twist, he will

also be in the pit watching our performance as a judge. Having the chance to be one of only two BHS choruses in the entire world to sing this magical ballad is a really special thrill for the Commodores. And when we take to the stage, we will also look especially dashing in our snappy new vests, which just arrived last week. This all adds up to create our most exciting convention package in recent memory.

The Commodores will also be introducing some new conventions off the stage as well. **Steve Grady**, our marketing VP, has spearheaded a fun new initiative to encourage camaraderie among members of all of the chapters at convention by challenging members of each chapter to sing as many of our classic polecat songs with as many members of other chapters as possible. The Commodores will be the ambassadors of this program and take the lead on inviting members from other chapters to sing with us. Hopefully this new initiative will help bring convention back to what it was always intended to be about: people getting together to celebrate the joy of harmony in music and life.

We hope that many of our friends and family will make the trip down to Rochester to support us and all of the other great chapters in the district as well. Convention weekend is meant to be celebration of what barbershopping is all about, on stage and off. And that is one simple word... *Harmony*. It is great to be a Commode and it will be great to share the joy of harmony with our wonderful Land O' Lakes District family in Rochester in just a few short weeks!

## Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, Backward-looking Baritone



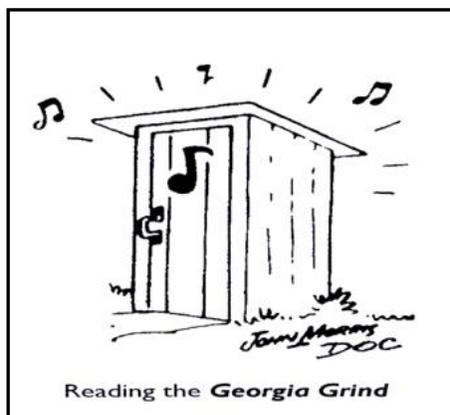
**Jim Erickson**

some, maybe most, of what you are about to read may tip-toe around the truth. Actual facts may suddenly seem like alternative facts. If some of this rubs you the wrong way, well, I apologize if your interpretation of my presentation somehow offends you.

Let's just assume he is retiring. My first hint about the prowess of Paul came when **Tom Hallin**, bass in the former quartet of which I was baritone, the **New Day Quartet**, told me about the new, really good Commodores director. That was just shy of twenty years ago. Our quartet had dissolved a couple of years or so earlier with the lead, **Thurm Slack** and his wife, **Joyce**, decided to spend a few years touring the United States in a home on wheels. We had performed together for several years and now I found myself away from quartet and Barbershop singing. For what seemed way too many years. I had not sung in a barbershop chorus regularly ever, but only by occasional visit when our quartet would drop in or as a show quartet for the **Minnetonka Clippers**.

Once I attended a rehearsal with the Commodores with Paul directing, though, I was hooked. And hooked I have remained. I appreciated his policy of inclusion, his humor and general approach to singing. Over the years, there have been many memorable experiences

with Paul, but a couple stand out in my memory. The first was when the Commodores in 2006—combined with the Mason City **River City Chorus** members (then as dual member Commodores)—became eligible to go to the **International Contest** at the **Pepsi Center in Denver**. About 150 “Commodores” were approaching the final minutes before the curtains would open. Then Paul stood in front of this expansive chorus, smiled, and said something to the effect that our performance would only last very few minutes. For many this could be the height of their overall Barbershop career. And so, take it all in. Relish the opening of the curtains, soak up the roar and applause from the thousands in the audience, look out on



the lights and faces of everyone there, and don't miss a moment of this top-of-the-mountain time. Oh, and I'm pretty sure he encouraged us to sing our best. (p.s. – We finished in the Top Twenty Barbershop choruses in the world.)

But on rare, rare occasions, Paul would exhibit a bit of anger. Especially a rehearsal or two before a major event when he felt the chorus was not reaching the level he had come to hear and expect. One occurrence of lesser importance was when there seemed to be a lot of chatter during a rehearsal when Paul was trying to emphasize some important point. He began to blow his stack at those chatterers by an-

grily threatening, if they continued to ignore his sound advice and just talk as they pleased, to **NOT TALK TO THE CHORUS AT ALL!** Followed by a very extended pregnant pause during which no one muttered a word. All movement stopped! And when I could stand it no longer, I began to slowly clap my hands to affirm his threat that he would talk no more during practice. It caught him so off guard that he jerked his head up to the baritone section where he zeroed in on me, scowled, and then all he could do was laugh. And throw a pointed insult at me—something about the **Georgia Grind!** I loved that moment, it let us move on, and all without any lasting damage.

Back to his retiring, I have heard rumors—again fourth-hand—that he is really retiring to pursue his goal of becoming a top judge in all categories so that he can be a one-man show at contests. If true, I admire his ambition. For one thing, it would save listening to comments from many judges who say the same things every year. I'm sure you can recite them in your sleep. For another, it would save thousands of dollars providing dining, rooms, transportation and all the many expenses that go with the entertaining life of a Barbershop judge. Now we have had hints of the finer things in life that Paul appreciates on a daily basis, but even taking that into account, it would be a huge savings. Again, this is only a rumor I heard from an impeachable source. But, where there's a sweet fragrance, there is usually perfume.

There is so much more appreciation of Paul's constant dedication and his countless contributions to each of us. But, I will leave that to all of you to express. For me, thanks Paul for all you are. A truly heartfelt thanks. *It's great to be a Wigley Commodore!*

## Congratulations to the newly-elected Minneapolis Commodores 2020 Board of Directors

President **Dave Casperson**

Im. Past President **Blake Wanger**

Treasurer **Andy Richards**

Secretary **Bill Warp**

Music/Performance **Carl Pinard**

Marketing **Steve Grady**

Membership **Neal Mortenson**

Program **Bill Dahl**

Technology **Paul Swanson**

### At Large Board Members

2019-2020 Term **Shawn Hunter** and **Harvey Weiss**

2020-2021 Term **Dan Slattery** and **Dan Williams**

## A Special Thank-you

The Commodore Chorus is a very special group and to say Thank You doesn't seem to be enough. Singing for Brooks's memorial service was wonderful! He loved being part of the chorus for 37 years. Always commenting to me "great rehearsal tonight!" Thank You for being his friends and bringing music into his life. - Sandy Bergersen

## Last Call for NUTS!

As Nutmaster **Dick Riemenschneider** points out: Only a couple of more weeks to go, boys! Please push for those final nut sales for this all-important fundraiser. The order form is provided on the next page in case you ran out. Sell, Sell, SELL!



## John F. Hansen

Alas, our Brother in Harmony has left us. John was in Army Special Services 1952-54 where he formed the Hut Four quartet that sang around the country & did 2 USO tours during the Vietnam War.

John married Caryl Cordes June 6, 1959. He taught in Edina elementary schools for 18 years, was in real estate agent & financial service planner.

Music was driving passion - John always had a song or joke. He will be greatly missed.



# Minneapolis Commodores

## 2019 Nut Order Form

Customer: required field \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: optional \_\_\_\_\_

Address: optional \_\_\_\_\_

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Description	Quantity (pounds) (Apples are per bag)	Price/Lb.	Foil Gift Bag (Add \$1.50 per bag)	Total Amount
Deluxe Mixed Nuts (no peanuts)	_____	@ \$13.00	+ _____ =	_____
Cashews Medium	_____	@ \$13.00	+ _____ =	_____
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Butter Toasted Peanuts ( NEW ITEM )	_____	@ \$5.00	+ _____ =	_____
Almonds (natural whole raw)	_____	@ \$10.50	+ _____ =	_____
Almonds (salted & roasted-whole)	_____	@ \$11.00	+ _____ =	_____
Pistachios, White	_____	@ \$12.50	+ _____ =	_____
Trail Mix, Deluxe	_____	@ \$7.00	+ _____ =	_____
Pecans, Mammoth	_____	@ \$14.00	+ _____ =	_____
Walnuts, Chopped	_____	@ \$13.50	+ _____ =	_____
Dried Apples (cinnamon flavor) (5 oz package)	_____	@ \$8.00	+ NA =	_____
<b>TOTAL:</b>	_____		_____ =	_____

**All orders must be prepaid**

Please make checks payable to : **Minneapolis Chapter**

Orders submitted by October 29th will be available to customers prior to Thanksgiving

Orders submitted by November 19th will be available prior of Christmas

First delivery to Chorus on Tuesday, November 19th and 26th

Second delivery to Chorus on December 10th and 17th

**Salesperson:** required field \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Logo courtesy of Bob Clark*

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**Chapter Quartets**

**To:**

- BOMP
- Dan Cole.....612/940-4554
- CHORD SMASH
- James Estes.....612/237-3234
- EASY LISTENIN'
- Dan Slattery..... 651/747-6384
- 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
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- 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

**LOOKING AHEAD**

- Oct. 25/26 – District Convention
- Dec. 7—Christmas Show
- March 28, 2020—District Contest  
— St. Cloud
- Apr 25—Annual Show
- Aug 10—Barbershop Open (golf)

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

**CHORD-INATOR  
MINNEAPOLIS COMMODORES  
Minneapolis Chapter of BHS  
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Church of St. Peter  
6730 Nicollet Avenue South  
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