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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

FEBRUARY 2020 - VOL. 76 - NO. 1

From Fearless Leader...



Jamye Casperson

As you can see, a new "Fearless Leader" is in da house! Welcome, Jamye. As before, we will continue with the Fearless Leader

column, just with a new leader. For this month, we thought it would be appropriate just to include Jamye's bio. So here 'tis:

Jamye Casperson has 29 years of experience directing elementary, middle school and high school choirs. She is currently teaching piano and guitar classes and conducting 4 choirs at Lakeville North High School. She has directed musicals at the junior high level and high school level for 25 years. Jamye received her Bachelor's Degree in Music Education at Luther College and earned her Master's Degree in Teaching and Learning from St. Mary's University. She accompanies the adult choir and is the contemporary worship pianist at St. John's Lutheran Church in Lakeville. She has directed children's and community choirs in the area, taught private piano lessons and served as the State 7/8 Honor

Choir chair for ACDA of Minnesota and as the ACDA-MN Repertoire and Standards chair for Middle School choirs in the past. Jamye lives in Lakeville with her husband, **Dave** and has two adult children, **Caitlin** and **Jake**.



Some final thanks for Paul Wigley

Many years ago, I joined the Commodores because they had hired a director whose great musical reputation preceded him and that was the beginning of what has been a lasting and wonderful Barbershop experience with Paul.

Your talent and excitement for your craft was and is infectious, making it easy to catch your spirit and so enjoy singing with

You have taught me more about barbershop and music in general than I have ever learned in my life. Thanks for being a patient coach, mentor, and friend.

*Relentlessly upbeat
Willing all to succeed
With sharing and caring
Wears his heart on his sleeve*

Thank you, Paul, for reigniting my passion for singing and for being such an amazing director, teacher and friend to all of us Commodores and so many others!"

**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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NUT\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

Congrats to **Dick Riemenschneider**, his terrific team, and all those Commodores who sold and/or bought nuts. The nut sale netted a record \$12,000 for the Chapter. THANKS to all.



See you at the Brigade!

It is once again time for the Northern Pines Harmony Brigade to gather for a weekend of fun, laughter, and great comradery singing in pick-up quartets. If you are a member, we will see you there for the whole weekend. If you are not a member, come on down for the **FREE** show on Saturday evening (2/22) at 7:30 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza in Plymouth. The show will feature the 2017 LOL champions, **The Border Project**. I guarantee it will be a GREAT time!





President's Corner



Dave Casperson

Hi, Everyone!

This message marks a number of new beginnings for both me and the Commo-

dores, and I'm excited to start 2020 off with a real bang!

First, although this is not the first article I've written for the Chordinator (it's been quite a while), it is the first I've submitted as the chapter president. I must say that I am humbled to be asked to serve in a leadership position with the Commodores. There are a lot of 'big shoes' to fill when I consider all of the leaders this chapter has had. There are so many guys that I admire in this organization, and my hope is that I can do the position justice, and help move the Commodores forward.

Additionally, we are seeing a change in front-line directors of this chapter. It has been said many times, but I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to **Paul Wigley** for his wonderful directorial leadership for nearly the past 20 years. I am also happy that Paul plans on remaining as an active member of the Commodores

(when he's not in sunny Florida), and we can all look forward to his continuing positive influence on our chorus. He will continue to be invaluable to us as an assistant director and voice coach, as well as being a strong singer with our group.

Along with wishing Paul a fond farewell as our director, I am excited to welcome **Jamye Casperson** as our new director. Many of you have already mentioned to me your appreciation for her energy, enthusiasm and her sense of camaraderie with our group. We will certainly benefit from her energy, her musical insights and her overall direction moving forward, and I hope that you all share a sense of anticipation and excitement about the possibilities that are to come.

In January, a number of Commodores board members attended the Land O' Lakes Leadership Academy (formerly C.O.T.S.) at UW-River Falls. I found the Presidents' Course to be very worthwhile, and I was able to learn a lot of good things about being a chapter leader as well as leadership in general. I learned that part of being an organizational leader is setting a clear vision for the group you are leading. And although the goals and vision I would have for the Commodores is not different from the great work we have been doing, I hope that I can positively impact what we do and how we do it.

To that end, I have been thinking a lot about what kind of vision I have for our chapter. I will share specifics as we go along, but the 'twenty thousand foot view' is this: I would like to see growth in our chapter membership, and I would like to see improvements in our performance, which is the end product that we share with our audiences. There are many things that we can do to realize this vision and will work closely with the board to iron out details and create plans of action.

I would also encourage and welcome each one of you to be an active participant in moving the Commodores forward. I have a completely open door policy toward leading the Commodores, and I hope that you all feel comfortable approaching me with your thoughts, ideas, questions and even concerns, because together we can make sure that the Commodores remains a strong, vibrant organization long into the future.

It's Great To Be A Commodore!

Dave Casperson, President of Minneapolis Commodores

Crescent Cove Selected as New Charity

Following a rigorous selection process, Crescent Cove was chosen as our new charity. Thanks to **Denny Maas**, his entire committee, and the Board for making this possible.

Crescent Cove offers care and support to children and young adults with a shortened life-expectancy, and to their families who love them. Around the United States, there are over 4,700 hospice homes for adults; the Crescent Cove Respite & Hospice Home for Kids is Minnesota's first and only home designed just for children and their unique needs, and just the third of its kind in the United States. A vibrant and joyful home-away-from-home, our goal is to help families feel Embraced, Assured, and Celebrated.

The Minneapolis Commodores are now officially listed as sponsors of Crescent Cove at <https://one.bidpal.net/homeplategala/custom/custom5>. At their recent Gala, a \$2500 cash donation was given and four tickets to the Annual Show were donated to the Silent Auction which added another \$100. Denny and Sharyn Maas also donated to the auction "A Day on Prior Lake which added about \$200 making our total contribution about \$2800.

(Included below an excerpt of Crescent Cove's summary and thank you note to those participating in the event. I also thought you might be interested in seeing some real All Star Baseball Card heroes.)

Crescent Cove "Home Plate" Gala was a Success!

More than 600 guests joined us on Saturday, January 25 for our 8th annual Home Plate Gala! The evening showcased our mission through introducing guests to our Crescent Cove kids, two of our Crescent Cove families, and raising over \$335K to support our \$2M annual operating budget.

Thank you to all who joined us, to our Gala Committee for putting on a fantastic event, to our sponsors including presenting sponsor Risbrudt-Eian Charitable Trust, and to the members of the Harmon Killebrew Hospice Home for Kids Endowment Fund Advisory Committee for honoring Harmon's legacy!

Crescent Cove Kids featured at the Home Plate Gala

Guests at the Home Plate Gala were introduced to ten Crescent Cove kids featured on their very own baseball cards. Each table at the Gala had baseball cards on it. One of the cards is shown below.

The Gala was attended by **Blake Wanger**, (Past President), **Steve Grady** (Marketing VP), **Dave Casperson** (President), **Denny Maas** (Community Outreach Chair), and **Sharyn Maas** (not pictured). The lovely lady we bookend is **Tara Anderson** our Crescent Cove Contact and Event Organizer.

Crescent Cove All-Stars

Our rare girl continues to baffle physicians and their predictions. Tana is a survivor and the sweetest young lady. For her 18th birthday, she went on a cruise, getting out of the country, seeing the ocean, swimming with a dolphin, and petting an iguana all for the first time! She continues to teach the world about inclusion! She's an active girl attending her senior year of high school part-time, going to horse therapy, swim therapy, music therapy, and adapted skiing.

Age	18
Hometown	Cottage Grove
Bats	Right with her buddy
Walk-Up Song	Shake It Off (Taylor Swift)
Position	Creating unique art
Team Color	Purple

Crescent Cove Respite & Hospice Home for Kids
CRESCENTCOVE.ORG



Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, Back-glancing Baritone



Jim Erickson

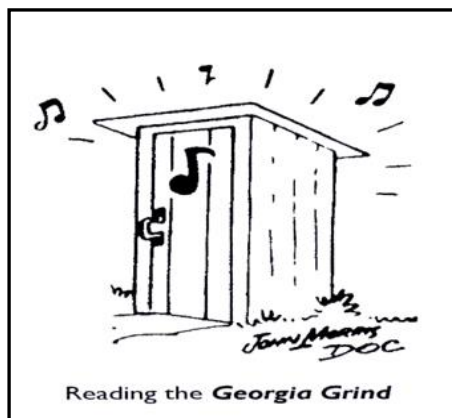
Since the Commodores are singing the “**Lazy Days**” song at their annual spring concert this year, I decided to use an excerpt from the article I wrote in August of 2014. In it I described the **near-tragedy** in my performance of the baritone part in the quartet, **Polar Fourtex**, at the **Harmony Brigade** weekend. The article was written several months after the middle of the winter Brigade. You know, that winter where we endured a colossal season of cold and snow. Being a summer article, you will have to read it juxtaposing cold and warm thoughts, a feat easily accomplished by the intelligent reader you so obviously are. Here goes:

“It IS the Dog Days of Summer! The trees are still brown from last winter’s harassing weather. The skies are green during some pretty rough storms. The water, too, is green from a glorious algae bloom and even though you don’t have to ask, ‘How high’s the water, Momma?’ anymore, levels are just starting to recede from record highs. Here in Minnesota we are adding another zero to our state slogan, so it now reads, ‘Land of 100,000 lakes’ (and some puddles you wouldn’t believe). And with a couple of unusually colder days recently, autumn is already faintly beckoning in the headlights, even though down the road a bit. Man, I’m not ready for this. Not at all!

Now, as a dedicated Barbershopper, you know that it is time to start to get ready for the fall event in which we participate. The upcoming

ing contest. Oh, I know it’s a couple of months or so away, but the honing begins. Cement the right notes, get dynamic where called for, work on those tuning difficulties and our directors will be glad to add to the list just in case you are performance challenged. Something they occasionally have too little time to work in, though, is a healthy mental state. On that contest stage, will you be an energetic, excited singer with the adrenaline flowing positively, or will you be less than at a high level because you are anxious and on the edge of freezing up?

I have been singing in quartets and the Commodores for something over 25 years. Too lazy to get out the info and be definite. And the



last three years, I have sung in the Harmony Brigade events where you are asked to memorize and be able to sing several songs at a pretty high level so that you don’t let your other Brigadiers down when you perform at the event. I must modestly say, over the months before, I probably sing the ten songs assigned well over a thousand times each. Maybe two thousand? Obviously, I don’t keep count, but do know that the repetitions are mind-boggling. Some are just on the difficult or tricky parts where I need to lock in the notes or words. Others just for the fun of it. By the time of the Brigade weekend, I feel I am pretty well set and have enjoyed the musical journey.

Well at last year’s event, the quartet I became a part of was pretty good. Not the top, but ‘middlin’ anyway. And for the second night, we were assigned one of the more difficult songs, but not impossible by any means. I liked the song, liked to sing it, and had learned it well. But, in the last rehearsal before the performance, my mind just turned to mush. Just mush! I could not sing the song. Didn’t know where I was, where to come in, etc. As a baritone, I stand next to the bass in the quartet and even though I had sung this song in quartet practice many times and along with “practice-taped” versions, my training had turned to a muddy hodgepodge of jumbled messiness. I was in panic mode and then some. Not to blame anyone, but this particular bass singing in my ear seemed to just discombobble me. As a last resort, I switched to stand between the tenor and lead. This seemed to help just a little, but I was still in swampland.

Now if I were a horse someone gave to you, I would be one you would certainly want to look in the mouth. Even though a gift! For you younger singers, the horse used to be the main means of transportation decades ago. And if someone were going to sell you a horse back then, you would want to look it in the mouth to see how much the teeth were worn down. That would tell you the estimated age and maybe health of the offered horse. You wouldn’t pay top price for a horse with a limited future. A present-day example is the number of miles on the odometer on the BMW you soooooo desire. If it had 500,000 miles on it, it might be a money pit of repairs regardless of that car’s reputation, and not a good buy. But if it was a gift (and still running OK), you would ignore the over-the-hill odometer reading.

Same with horses' teeth. Young teeth, good buy. Old teeth, good-bye. Free horse gift? Forget about the teeth! You can always eat the horse. Well, maybe in Europe. (Is there a point to this meandering, Erickson?) Even for a baritone, my teeth are getting a bit worn. And this means that it takes me noticeably longer to memorize a song, remember the dynamics, get the choreo down pat (heaven forbid) and all the rest. (Can't immediately remember what the rest is) But, I had this song down cold and with a baritone showy high note at the end, I really had fun with it. But this time?

A recent article by **Harvey Mackay** listed some things that may help with such a mind freeze or choking. And as you get ready to appear on stage, you might keep some of these in mind. Maybe they would have helped me!

Choking can be triggered by thinking too much. Or caring too much. Individuals may really want to do well but instead of getting excited by performing well, they fret over possible failure. In wanting to do really well, they get unraveled by the pressure of the moment. The performance pleasure has vanished. The fear of performing poorly, remains. That attitude is completely counterproductive. Fear of failure is paralyzing and it prevents you from taking the risks necessary to succeed spectacularly.

When you perform, if you choke or start shaking, blushing or having shortness of breath when you're on stage, (or your mind turns to mush beforehand like mine did!) the follow-

ing may help control your anxiety.

- Practice performing through the inevitable slips. It's a performance. If you mess up, the world won't end.
- Practice in front of smaller groups first.
- Relax your muscles.
- Adopt a ritual. Lucky charm? Lucky shoes? Whatever works.
- Don't be a perfectionist, but visualize yourself performing your best. Mackay's Moral is, "Don't let choking suck the life out of your [performing]."

So, how did I do at the Harmony Brigade performance? I was determined to perform regardless of the outcome. As I marched up to the pre-stage position, my mind was still a blank except for my concentrating on the first words and notes. I could at least do that! We got on stage, started well and then things began to fall into place. From somewhere all I had learned and practiced for so many times happened as they should have, culminating in my nailing the showy, high baritone note. Tons of relief came over me as we exited the stage.

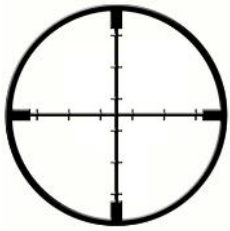
I don't think what I experienced was really a choking in the more usual sense, but whatever it was, the temporary lobotomy was very distressing. What I knew was somewhere in my brain, but I couldn't access it, try as I might. Maybe the message is that if you know your stuff, take a chance, get up there and perform. If you look foolish for failing, use it to write an article to pass on the experience like I just did."

Back now to the future of winter, 2020. So that was my 'tragedy averted' quartet experience with performing "Lazy Day." Hope you get something out of it. And, once again I have to relinquish to the articles ahead, the tantalizing new information I have discovered about the origins of the Georgia Grind. But keep tuned! It will be worth every word.

If you have never done so, this is a good time for a resolution to **MAKE THAT BARBERSHOP BUCKET LIST**. Sing in a quartet. Learn all the Polecats. Perform in a nursing home, before a veterans group, or just about any place where they would enjoy what you have to offer. Keep on recruiting, and hold fast to that which is good!

Oh, and it wouldn't hurt to give our new director, **Jamye Casperson**, a pat on the back, or thumbs up, or some other gesture of appreciation as she throws herself into the honing of the Commodores. She's off to a fine start!

Hunter's Bullseye



Shawn Hunter

Welcome to another year of music and comradery with the greatest hobby you could ever have. Just a

quick reminder that many Commodores will again be participating in the annual Northern Pines Harmony Brigade quartet convention in Plymouth the weekend of February 21. Everyone mark your calendars for Saturday, Feb. 22 for the big, fun-filled show. This year the show is absolutely FREE, so be there! Contact **Dave Speidel** for details.

Welcome to President **Dave Cas-**

person and all new Board members. Welcome, also, to our new directory **Jamye Casperson**. I am looking forward to new, fresh ideas and music throughout 2020 and beyond.

Finally, thanks to **Denny Maas** and his committee for doing a fine job in choosing a really worthwhile new charity for us to sponsor, Crescent Cove.



Paul Paddock

Jim Richards Memorial Chord Candy # 126

"Wassail Wassail all over the town! I put together this tag because what's 12th-Night without a hearty and soulful wassail? The word *wassail* comes from the Anglo-Saxon greeting *Wæs þu hæl*, meaning "be thou hale"—i.e., "be in good health" and often is celebrated around the 5th or 6th or even 17th of January for those still celebrating by the Gregorian calendar. Wassailing involves either going door to door and singing Yule songs/carols, or orchard to orchard reciting incantations, promoting good harvest for the next year. Normally this song is sung boldly and fully, but I wanted to take this back to a swiny jazz-waltz feel for those who would rather celebrate in a more intimate campfire setting. For those who've had enough Swedish Glögg, this could be the perfect setting for you too! I gave the tag some rhythmic layering in the first couple measures much like the random clinking of the glasses or mugs when proposing a toast. A Major is a good solid key for such a tune and tenors have a nice low melody--be soulful with the slide on 'bowl' and eventually crisscross with the leads towards the end. There's more of a presence of 6's in each chord unlike the renditions we all know, adding to the laid-back feel. Bases, rather than 'too' you can open up to a toh or tuh for the low E to carry. Enjoy!

Wassail!

Swing feel

English Traditional arr. Paddock

5

With a was - sail-ing bowl — we'll drink to thee
 da sail-ing do we'll drink to thee

do sail-ing bowl ba we'll drink to thee
 wa ba bowl ba ba drink ba-to thee

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Logo courtesy of Bob Clark

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LOOKING AHEAD

- Feb. 22—Brigade Show, Plymouth
- Apr 25—Annual Show
- Aug 10—Barbershop Open (golf)

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