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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

AUGUST 2022 - VOL. 78 - NO. 4



President's Corner



Barber- shop is a Business tool!

Harvey Weiss I thought for this edition I would look back at some of the articles I wrote for the Pitch Piper from 2013-2016, as the District Membership Director. I was looking for specific references that were written by **Harvey MacKay**, (see credits below) regarding his ideas on how to become better leaders in the business world. To me, many of his concepts also applied to our world of barbershop. Believe it...running the world of barbershop harmony is a business!

The first concept I thought was pertinent to our world is change. Like death and taxes, we will all eventually experience change.

These comments ran in the September October 2016 issue: If leaders don't change, they struggle, and many a business died when they were late to adapt. (i.e. online shopping). MacKay's advice is to have fun with change, looking at it as a new suit or a new car. Wear for a while, drive it around, and change it if it doesn't work for you.

He ends all his articles with a MacKay Maxim (aphorism) or a sound principle. He ends his "change" article with: "**Vive la difference. Benefit from it.**"

BHS has tried valiantly to keep up with the generational VALUES CHANGES with their re-branding efforts; i.e. fresh new charts; Harmony for Everyone; Mid-Winter Youth Festivals; Next Generation Quartet contests; mixed chorus and quartet events and much more. Still, new memberships have not kept up with declining numbers. Membership in North America was approximately 20,000 in 2018, down from 22,000 in 2015. (700 are women-BHS website) I couldn't find the 2022 numbers.

So finally, where do we go with all this confusion and turmoil

about our ability to maintain our "hobby"? I will leave you with another aphorism from Harvey MacKay. He said; "**A dream is just a dream. A goal is a dream with a plan and a deadline.**"

(Permission granted for publication. Harvey MacKay articles appear in the Star Tribune in the Business Section. He is the author of "How To Swim With The Sharks.")

Take care. See you at rehearsals and performances!

The Harvenor

**Minneapolis, Minn. Chapter
Land O'Lakes District, BHS**
Meetings every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.
 Mayflower Congregational Church
 106 Diamond Lake Rd E
 Minneapolis, MN 55419



Dick Riemenschneider

TIME TO GO NUTS!

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Fellow Commodores, it is time for the 2022 version of the famous or notorious Commodore Nut Sales. All veteran Commodores know this is a major fund raiser for the chorus. Just how major you might ask? Well, since the 2005 campaign the nut sales have contributed \$167,400.00 to the Commodores check book, or an average of \$9,258.82 per year. The last two years have been below the average because of COVID related issues but still added a significant amount to our financial resources.

How does the sale event work you ask? Members sell nuts to friends, relatives, people you conduct business with like your barber or insurance agent, and anyone else you regularly see. The sales are for delivery of product in mid-November. Collect the payment when getting the order and give the order and payment to the Nut Coordinator. When the product is delivered to chorus, in one-pound sealed clear plastic packages, you deliver to your customers.

The products we sell are top quality, equal or better than any nuts sold at the finest shops in town. And in addition to getting top quality product our customers provide support for our chorus. That’s a win-win!

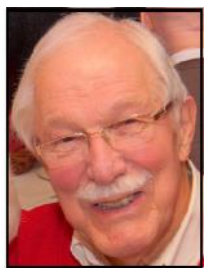
Another great source of sales is to businesses that might want to give a small gift to favored customers at the holiday season. These nuts are delivered to customers in a foil bag with the business message on the front and Commodores’ info on the back. Last year business sales totaled 432 pounds of product, or almost 30% of total sales. Several years ago one such business even called to say the Commodores sales-person did not contact them and will there be a nut sales, as their customers were asking.

Sales prices are not finalized at press time so the Customer Nut Order Form is not available yet but will be sent to all Commodores when it is ready.

If there are any questions regarding the sales process talk to me at a chorus meeting or call.

Remember.....sell, sell, sell!

It’s GREAT to be a Commodore!



Bob Dykstra

Musings from a Barbershop Curmudgeon

Commodore
Membership VP
Neal Mortenson

presented me with my Barbershop Harmony Society membership card recently at a meeting of the Friday Lunch Bunch That Meets on Thursday. He called special attention to the fact that I was now a 70-year card-carrying member of our beloved Society. I decided to look back at how this wonderful journey began.

The year was 1952. I was drafted on the day that **Dwight D. Eisenhower** was elected as the 34th president of the United States, and was assigned to Fort Riley, Kansas for basic training. I was pleased with the election results because Ike had promised that if elected he would visit Korea to attempt to bring resolution to the armed conflict that raged between North and South Korea and now involved the United States as well. Army inductees were increasingly being sent to Korea following basic training and I assumed that would likely be my fate as well. So I fervently hoped for a quick end to the conflict. As it turned out, President Eisenhower did travel to Korea, the fighting ended on July 27, 1953, and I never left Fort Riley.

Early in my army days, I attended a night of Barbershop harmony organized on base by **John Hansen**, a fellow recruit who had been assigned to Special Services. During the evening of harmonizing John invited anybody interested in joining him in organizing a quartet to see him. I indicated my interest and was selected as the quartet lead.

Fellow recruits **Bob Moksnes** from Beaver Dam, Wisconsin and **Herb Fane** from Cleveland Heights, Ohio were chosen as baritone and tenor, respectively. John named the quartet the **Hut Four** and we started singing around Fort Riley. Very soon we came to the attention of a restaurateur and Barbershopper named **Sam Cohen** from nearby Junction City, Kansas, who invited us to join his chapter.

We quickly agreed and my long Barbershop journey was underway. I'm not sure that the chapter met on a regular basis. I know we never attended a meeting so I have no memory of the chapter whatsoever. Our sole contact with the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America (today's Barbershop Harmony Society) was Sam Cohen. He drove us to shows and contests and invited us to dine at his restaurant and partake of his renowned chicken entrees. Sam was not a quartet man, however, and knew very little about competition rules nor the nuances of quartet harmony. We, the Hut Four, were also almost totally inexperienced so we entered Barbershop quartet competition "flying blind."

Our first taste of competition was the Central States District Regional Quartet Contest held in Longmont, Colorado the first weekend in May 1953. Our inexperience and lack of savvy were on full display as we performed to a middle-of-the-pack finish. Our next competition was the Central States District contest in Pittsburg, Kansas, where we placed a respectable fourth. Our last contest while at Fort Riley was the regional contest at Omaha in May 1954 at which we failed to qualify for international competition in Washington D.C.

The Hut Four fared much better in

non-Barbershop competition. We placed first among military acts on both the **Arthur Godfrey Talent Scouts** and **Talent Patrol** shows on national TV, for example. Both were army recruiting shows which largely defined our service role at Fort Riley. During our stay there we performed more than 75 times on base, at nearby Kansas State University, on Central States District Barbershop shows, at various clubs in nearby Junction City and Manhattan, and the like.

In writing these remembrances I also reviewed what was going on in our country and the world 70 years ago. **Jonas Salk** developed an effective vaccine for fighting polio in 1952. Television had become a powerful force in spreading the news about world events such as the death of **King George VI** of England and his daughter **Elizabeth**'s ascension to the throne. Another example of television's reach and influence was its coverage of **Richard Nixon**'s 1952 "Checkers" speech which attracted sixty million viewers (a record at the time) and which had a major influence on the 1952 presidential election and Nixon's subsequent political career. At the same time television was spreading its wings with the introduction of such soon-to-become staples as "The Jackie Gleason Show" and "The Today Show."

Dykstra (Cont'd)

My research also suggested that television's increasing popularity and availability may have had somewhat of a negative effect on Barbershopping. An agenda item at the 1953 fall meeting of the Central States District Association of Chapters called attention to the membership decline in the Society in general and the Central States District in particular. The minutes of the meeting quoted District Vice President **Fred Taylor** to the effect that television had just arrived in his area, was cutting into chapter show attendance, and perhaps was part of the reason for the Society's membership decline. Can you imagine? Television was just arriving in rural America as I started my Barbershop journey.

Just one more comment about life in 1952. When I was drafted I left my teaching position in a one-room school just outside Plymouth, Wisconsin to become a private E-1 in the U.S. Army. As a result, my monthly take-home pay dropped from \$250 to \$78. It's also interesting to note that gasoline sold for \$.27 per gallon, a bit of a change from today.

Now what was Barbershopping like when I joined SPEBSQSA? The most obvious difference from today was the lack of chorus competition. As a consequence chapter meetings were quite different. They involved more quartet activities, more interchapter get-togethers, less or no standing on risers, few vocal exercises, little high-level coaching, little choreography practice or other activities associated with competition. In short, Barbershop nights were more a meeting, less a chorus rehearsal.

That was all to change. The first international chorus competition took place in Detroit at the 1953 convention a few months after I joined the Society. However, since not all districts were represented, the winning Grand Rapids chorus was merely crowned the convention champion. The first actual SPEBSQSA International Champion Chorus, the Singing Capitol Chorus, was crowned the following year in their home city of Washington, D.C.

I sensed a bit of irony in the fact that the Four Teens, a military quartet representing the Central States District, were the reigning International Quartet Champions when the Hut Four and I joined the Society. Their high level of success set a very high bar for us and other military quartets to follow.

I should also point out that Society "watchdogs" were already at work in the very early days of my Society membership, decrying the tendency of quartets to push the borders of Barbershop harmony. Many of us who watched the 2022 quartet contest recently voiced our concerns in that regard, wondering whether our judging rules and regulations had changed to accommodate the Society's new participants. The music just seemed so different, so "non-Barbershoppy." It's probably of some comfort to realize that similar expressions of concern were quite common in 1954 following the annual convention in Washington, D.C.

In his regular column entitled "Do You Remember?" in the December 1954 issue of the *Harmonizer*, **George O'Brien** described the reaction of certain Society members to the songs sung by the 1954 medalists when offered the opportunity to perform on national radio

following the contest. (The Gold Medal Orphans quartet also appeared on the very popular "Ed Sullivan" show). Apparently, the society's best foursomes strayed from "Simon pure Barbershop" when they didn't have contest judges evaluating every chord. O'Brien writes that he was bombarded with mail from his "old time cronies" (his words): "What are they doing to us? We've been sabotaged! It just ain't Barbershop." In their words, "Old time Barbershop harmony was deteriorating into a modern style of hokum." So the concerns of my cronies and me about "the lack of Barbershop" sung in Charlotte a few weeks ago are far from revolutionary.

I'd like to close this account of my "return to my roots" by taking a look at Society membership at the time I joined. I located membership data for October 31, 1954. Society membership totaled 22,609. Breaking the data down by district yielded some interesting and surprising results. The Land O'Lakes district had two of the top four chapters in the Society in terms of membership. Sheboygan was number two with 159 on their roster, Minneapolis ranked fourth with 141. Sheboygan's chapter membership was really quite astounding given that the city's population at the time probably was somewhere between 40,000 and 50,000.

Thus ends my trip back in time. I was reminded all over again about what good fortune accompanied my military experience and my introduction to the world's greatest hobby. Those first two years of my involvement in Barbershopping certainly left me wanting more... might I say a whole lot more!!!



Dan Cole

It is with a sad and heavy heart, yet filled with gratefulness, acceptance, peace, love, joy, grief and unending memories that I share the news that Daniel J. Cole peacefully passed away on August 3rd at age 77, at home surrounded with love by his family. Dan, of Minneapolis, was born on Febru-

ary 15, 1945 in St. Cloud, MN. He graduated from Cathedral High School and St. Cloud State University. He is survived by Sheila, his wife of 55 years, and daughter Tiffany (John) Albrecht, granddaughters Grace and Rose, son Nathan, brother Jack (Karen) of Lonsdale, brother-in-law Neil Miles of Canada, and several nieces, nephews and cousins. He was preceded in death by parents, Burnnie and Florence Cole, brother James and sisters, Rita [Jim] Baron, CA and Janet Patricia Miles, Canada. Married in 1967, he was a lead singer and bassist for The Greenmen and

while raising the family he and Sheila had a rock band, Music Live by Live Music, performing weekend gigs mostly in the St. Cloud area. Dan retired as a probation officer of Hennepin County. In retirement, singing barbershop harmony was one of his passions, during which time he served in leadership positions with the Minneapolis Commodores for 20 years and founded the do-wop quartet, BOMP!. Our family is planning a gathering (afterglow) at a later date to honor Dan's request.



Denny Rolloff

Dennis (Denny) Raymond Rolloff, age 86, of Shakopee, passed away on Saturday, July 16, 2022 at NC Little Memorial Hospice, Edina.

Denny was born in New Ulm, MN, graduating from New Ulm High

School in 1953 before entering military service. In 1957 he was honorably discharged from the 11th Airborne Division shortly before he met and married his bride Jane in 1958. He worked many years starting as a lineman for Northwestern Bell and continued with AT&T before going into business for himself for 14 years. He loved barbershop singing with the Minneapolis Commodores, and traveled the country and world singing in concerts and competitions. Denny will be remembered for his beautiful singing voice, his incredible memory and stories, many fishing vacation adventures, and his friendly service as a telephone technician.

He will be missed by his children,

Debora (Mark), David, Denise (Douglas) and Dana (Eric); grandchildren, Tad (Jackie), Jessica (Nicholas) and Isaac (Kylie), Jacob (Heather), Michael (Shelby), Luke (Kelly), Samuel (Talia), Thomas and Kristina, Leah (Jonathan) and Chloe (Bryant); and nine great-grandchildren. He is also survived by sisters, June Westcott and Betty Carlson.

Denny is preceded in death by his wife, Jane (Bode) Rolloff; and his parents, Raymond and Glorina (Schulz) Rolloff.



Gary Lee Jacobson

Gary Lee Jacobson: June 7, 1937 - July 25, 2022. On Monday, July 25, 2022, Gary Jacobson, loving husband and father of three children, passed away at age 85. Gary was born June 7, 1937 in Wahpeton, ND to Lyle "Bill" and Verone (Benson) Jacobson. Gary graduated from Wahpeton High School in

1955 and attended the State School of Science, Wahpeton and Yankton College, earning a Master in Social Work from the University of California, Berkeley. During his service in the Marines, he played in the West Coast Marine Corps band and sang in the "Dress Blues" quartet. Gary was a member of the Barbershop Quartet Society for 57 years, thrilling chorus and quartet audiences with great entertainment and ringing chords. After retiring from teaching social work at Moorhead State University, he became a PGA Assistant Professional at Rose Creek golf course in Fargo. He was preceded in death

by his father, Lyle, and his mother, Verone. Gary is survived by his wife Marilyn, his three children, Steve (Sonia) Jacobson, Pam (Paul) Welsh and Eric (Mary) Jacobson, grandchildren Zachery Jacobson; Sam, Paige, and Parker Welsh; and Joey Jacobson, his brother Ron (Connie) Jacobson, sisters JoAnn Klein, Cathy (William) Zinn, Deborah Johnson, and Jayne (Randy) Bauer.

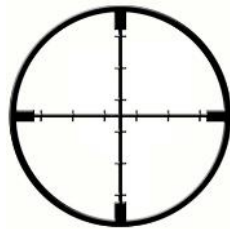


Robert Lewis Griffith

Robert Lewis Griffith, age 89, died April 26, 2022 of pancreatic liver cancer. Survived by wife of 61 years Patricia (nee Hitchcock), Daughters Deb Griffith, Julie Zimmerman (Mark) and Kristin Griffith, Grandchildren

Alex and Miranda. The family thanks all the staff at Masonic TCU and Assisted Living and Methodist Hospital comfort station. "Keep The Whole World Singing".

Hunter's Bullseye



Shawn Hunter

As we wrap up another joyous summer of singing, I am struck with how many Brothers we have lost lately. I was honored to share this Earth and sing with each of these amazing men. Early in my BHS career, I was paired with **Bob Griffith** and as emoting exercise, we took turns singing a love song gazing longingly in each others eyes. **Gary Jacobson** was a hoot and encouraged me to get involved and sing in one of our Comedy Nights as well as Harmony Brigade. **Denny Rolloff** was my roommate at the Appleton convention and we shared many stories....and beers! Finally, **Dan Cole** was a true friend, fellow golfer, and part-time BOMP-mate, always quick with a quip and encouraging deeper involvement. I will miss all of them.

Shawn Hunter, Bulletin Editor
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Shawn.h.hunter@gmail.com



**1st CLASS
POSTAGE
HERE**

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

Logo courtesy of Bob Clark

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Chapter Quartets

To:

- BOMP
- Mark Ortenberger.....952-250-0968
- EASY LISTENIN'
- Dan Slattery..... 651/747-6384
- JUST ONE MORE
- Nate Weimer.....316/204-8756
- SWYPE
- Mark Bloomquist.....952/541-0232
- SILVER SCREEN
- Steve Grady.....952/334-7500
- HALL PASS
- Dave Casperson.....651/247-6319

LOOKING AHEAD

- Aug 25—Hastings
- Aug 28—Twins Game
- Sep 13—Como
- Oct 14—LOL Convention, Bloomington

The *Chord-Inator* is available on the Minneapolis Chapter's website minneapoliscommodores.org

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