

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

FEBRUARY 2024 - VOL. 80 - NO. 1



From the Prez.

Happy 80th Birthday, Minneapolis Commodores!

80 years of friends, service, and song. 80 years of (mostly) in-tune tags, learning what the AES is, and wondering if the "barbershop bank" is overdrawn. 80 years of "are we wearing makeup?" "which tie/pants/shoes are we wearing?" and "what's the first word?" 80 years of history and harmony.

80 years is roughly 42.1 million minutes. That's enough time to:

- Hear **Michael Fink** repeat his Guinness Award Winning Held Note (1 min 43 seconds) 29m+ times. Note: **Tim Waurick** has competition
- Listen to **Don McLean's** "American Pie" 5.06m+ times (or **Gordon Lightfoot's** "The Wreck of the Edmund Fitzger-



Tony Mason

ald" 6.68m+ times or a late 1960's Grateful Dead "Dark Star" jam at least 2.5 times)

- Or, if the average barbershop joke lasts about 30 seconds, tell 84m+ groaners. I take it back - the average barbershop joke is way less than 30 seconds (unless it's a **Bob Dykstra** long-form special. We miss you, Bob, and we miss all of our other departed friends).

"I got my friend a new fridge for his birthday. I can't wait to see his face light up when he opens it".

"A rancher thought he only had 48 cows, but when he rounded them up he had 50".

"I used to be addicted to the hokey pokey, but I turned myself around"

"I'm mad at my wife because she told me I could no longer impersonate a flamingo. I'm putting my foot down!"

"Why are tenors also incredible sailors? Because they like to hit the high c's"

(Editor's Note: OMG, LOL!)

At that rate, one could tell over 210.5m barbershop jokes in the time the Commodores have been a chorus.

All this to say, I am so grateful to share this 80th anniversary with you all. I love being part of an organization with this much history. And I love being part of an organization that is evolving and growing and is well poised to thrive for decades to come.

80 years is a long time, or maybe not that long at all.

Here is to you, my fellow barbershoppers and extended family. Here is to another year/decade/lifetime of singing together.

It's Great to be a Commodore!

Minneapolis, Minn. Chapter
Land O'Lakes District, BHS
Meetings every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.

Benilde St Margaret's
St. Louis Park

Continued Thanks, Benilde-St. Margarets

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Bari Section Leaders Matt Richards
Bass Section Leaders..... Dave Casperson

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2024 Show Chairman..... Tony Mason
Attendance/Sgt.-at-Arms..... Vacant
BOTY Party Chairman..... Blake Wanger

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..... Harvey Weiss
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Presentation Chairman..... Vacant
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Singing Valentines..... Neal Mortenson
Sunshine Mark Bloomquist
Swipe Editor Bill Dahl
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Hunter's Bullseye



Shawn Hunter

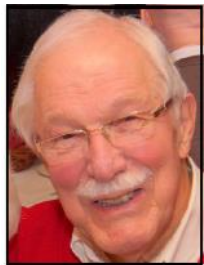
THANK YOU, **Benilde-St. Margaret's** for continuing to give the Commodores a port in the storm during the last few months. The facility is easy to get to, clean and convenient to practice in, and fun and alive with student activities....especially in the fall.

During this period, our Board continues to be hard at work to address security concerns. This included researching and visiting

many alternate facilities. THANK YOU, Board. Keep at it and good luck.

Switching gears, I want to bid a fond farewell to my friend Bob Dykstra. Bob was a great Barbershopper and a wealth of knowledge and history. Bob was fantastic about sharing this knowledge with us all via his great articles in the CHORDinator. I will miss Bob greatly, but I am blessed to have known him.

It's Great to be a Commodore!



Musings of a Barbershop Curmudgeon

Bob Dykstra

As the old Curmudgeon enters his 72nd year of membership in SPEBSQSA, he has decided it's time (past time?) to discontinue his journalistic endeavors. I do so reluctantly. I've very much enjoyed my many years of proof-reading, editing, and writing for the CHORD-INATOR. My proof-reading duties were primarily during the **Dr. Hardin Olson** editorship. He and I had a great time debating matters of grammar and usage and whether or not the word "barbershop" should be capitalized.

I took a crack at editing the CHORD-NATOR during the

1960s but I'm not sure of the exact time period. I know that I was serving as editor in 1968 when our CHORD-INATOR shared Best LOL District Bulletin honors with **George Hegdahl's** Bloomington Woodshedder's Gazette. It was during this period that I started opining on all things barbershop under the rubric *Dyke's Deliberations During Dish-Drying*. I started getting some reaction from readers (oral, written, positive, negative) and I enjoyed the "give and take."

So many years later I offered my services to Dr. Olson and (perhaps) a predecessor or two to provide somewhat regular pieces for the chapter bulletin. I've continued to do the same under the **Shawn Hunter** editorship. In recent years I've usually written under the title *Musings of a Barbershop Curmudgeon*.

I have had musings aplenty after

competing ten times in International quartet competition, earning a fifth-place international chorus medal with the Commodores in 1962, attending fifty-two International Conventions, and singing for almost forty years with two very active "show" quartets. This included taking two USO-sponsored trips with the Hut Four to entertain wounded American service men and women during the Viet Nam conflict, and emceeing dozens of shows for the Minneapolis Chapter, the Land O'Lakes District, the Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association.

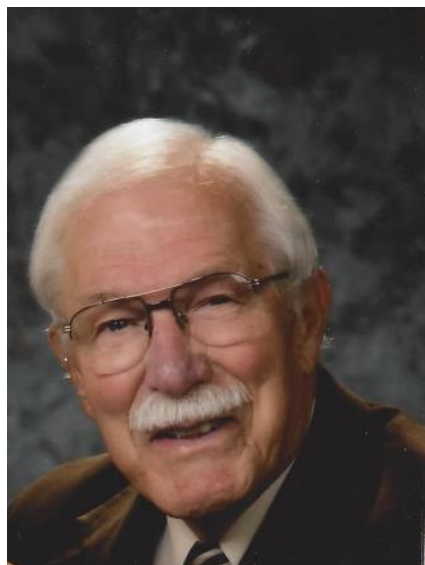
I've had a wonderful time in my various roles with our wonderful CHORD-INATOR. Thanks to everybody who made it such an enjoyable experience.

(Editors note: Thanks, Bob, for all the great articles. R.I.P. We will miss you)



The Happiness Emporium got to sing for now-departed **Darrell Egertson** and the residents of Prairie Bluffs in Eden Prairie last Summer. We had a great time! Darrel sang "The Old Songs" and "Down our Way" with the quartet. Darrell was a long time Commodore and had been a regular at rehearsals.

A Legend Passes



Dr. Robert Dykstra

Dr. Dykstra, age 93, formerly of New Brighton, passed away February 2, 2024. Preceded in death by wife **Lou Ann**, parents **John** and **Anna**, brothers **Cornelius, Henry, Ralph, Sidney, Gerald, Willard**, and **John**, sisters, **Sylvia Wassink** and **Margery Ten Dolle**. Dr. Dykstra had a masters and PHD in Educational Psychology and served on the faculty at the University of Minnesota for 33 years. He was a 71 year member of the Barbershop Harmony Society and performed on USO tours and the **Arlene Francis** and **Ed Sullivan** TV shows with the Hut Four Quartet. He was named to the 1997 Who's Who in the World and was elected to the International Reading Hall of Fame in 1996. Survived by children **Kim DeVoss (Steve)**, **Paul (Karen)**, and **Randy (Heather)**, grandchildren **Chad** and **Matthew Kracher**, **Kylie** and **Savannah Dykstra**, and **Cody Butala**, many nieces and nephews, relatives and friends. Memorial service 11am Saturday, Feb 24 @ St. Andrews Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi with visitation one hour prior. Memorials preferred to University of Wisconsin-River Falls Foundation.

Welcome Bob Jorgensen to the Commodores!

I became acquainted with the Commodores through my high school classmate **Bill Mark** who has been after me to attend a rehearsal with the group for several years. One of my New Years resolutions was to retrieve my musical life which has been dormant for too long, so this presented the opportunity. I enjoyed the first rehearsal singing a variety of songs, becoming acquainted with Barbershop harmony, and making it apparent that I needed to brush up on my musical skills. I started my musical journey with piano lessons at age six continuing on into high school where I transferred those skills into playing the pipe organ, being church organist for two years. I sang in my church youth and adult choirs, and in a church choir and madrigal group during the 1980's but haven't been active musically since then. I am a retired architect having worked for architectural firms in Florida, Iowa, and Minnesota. My hobbies include fishing, biking, hiking, cross-country skiing, horseback riding, dancing, traveling and reading.

- Bob Jorgensen



Russell Hal Born,

known affectionately as "Russ," passed away suddenly on Christmas Eve, leaving a legacy of music, love, and resilience. Born in Minneapolis on November 24, 1951, MN, and raised in Spokane, WA, and Excelsior, MN, Russ graduated from Minnetonka High School in 1970. It was there he discovered his musical talent, forming a barbershop quartet and joining the International Barbershop Harmony Society, an association he cherished for 55 years.

Russ's passion wasn't limited to

music; he was an avid golfer since his high school days and loved aviation, earning his pilot's license as a young man. His academic journey led him to Normandale Community College, where he earned an Associate Degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management. It was there he met **Jeni**, the love of his life. They married in St. Paul, MN, in January 1973 and soon started their family, blessing the world with three wonderful children.

The family lived in various places in the Twin Cities before settling in Red Lodge, MT, in 1990. Russ embarked on a successful career at Satellite Industries in Plymouth, MN, and later founded and operated his own company for nearly 40 years. His entrepreneurial spirit was as strong as his commitment to his family.

In 2020, Russ began treatment for kidney dialysis and, in 2022, underwent the amputation of his lower left leg. Throughout these

challenges, his strength and positive spirit were an inspiration to all.

Russ was an only child, and was preceded in death by his parents, **Harold** and **Virginia**, and his in-laws, **George** and **Millie Nelson**. He leaves behind his beloved wife, **Jeni**; children, **Jocelyn, Bryan** (spouse **Nicole**), and **Matt** (spouse **Carolina**); grandchildren, **Angie, Luke, Eva, Henry**, and **Raffaella**; and numerous cousins on **Jeni's** side.

Russ's life was a melody of love, perseverance, and joy. He was a true hero to us all. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and all who were touched by his kind spirit and enduring optimism.

(Editor's Note: Although all Commodores are naturally friendly, my friend Russ was in a class by himself....always smiling, chatting and upbeat. Godspeed, Russ).



NUTS! - Nut Fundraising Chairman, **Dick Riemenschneider** presents a check for **\$10,500** to Treasurer **Andy Richards** and President **Tony Mason**. Thanks, Dick and congratulations to all the great Commodores who sold, packaged, and delivered nuts in this key, annual fundraiser.



2023 Nut Sales Campaign Recap

Dick Riemenschneider

The 2023 nut sales are complete and the sales netted \$10,500 for the Commodores treasury. Here is a short list of nut sales statistics for your perusal:

- 1,710 pounds sold
- 42 Commodores sold nuts
- 4 friends of the Commodores sold nuts totaling 57 pounds
- The top non-vendor seller was **John Carlotto** – selling 161 pounds
- The top seller was **Ken Wentworth** for his business, ChemQuest, with a purchase of 479 pounds
- Vendor sales totaled 559 pounds
- Gift bag sales totaled 55 pounds
- The foil bag revenue for

vendor sales and gift bag sales netted an additional \$1,228. Readers, this foil bag sale is almost all pure profit, and everyone should be pushing this.

- The average nut sale without the ChemQuest sale was 28 pounds per salespersons

An interesting fact is that in 2006, the first year I coordinated the nut sales, 3,365 pounds of nuts were sold which yielded a profit to the Commodores of \$10,700. It seems the current pricing is getting the chorus a better yield of dollars to nuts sold than years ago.

Most Commodores know that I have resigned from my role as sole coordinator for the annual nut sales. I have been coordinating the nut sales for 18 years. In that 18 years, 41,370 pounds of nuts have been sold and 1,713 pounds of dried apples. In processing the nuts, the product is handled 7 times, each handling listed here: 1) off the truck, 2) up to the bagging table 3) filled bags to storage 4) up to the sorting table from storage to separate into individual orders 5) to the floor for when orders are separated by sales person 6) into my car to deliver 7) into the deliv-

ery location. If anyone is counting, this repetition of nut lifting means that over my 18 years I have lifted over 300,000 pounds, or 150 tons of nuts. My back hurts just thinking of that number. So, not only have I lifted that amount of product, but my garage has also been tied up for the month of November for those 18 years. The good side of all this work is that over those 18 years, \$177,800 has been raised for the treasury.

The nut sales have come a long way from 2006 when I started. In 2006 the nuts were distributed in un-labeled quart freezer bags with friction closures, now in heavy commercial bags with heat sealed closures and with labels on the bags. In my estimation, a product that the Commodores can be proud to sell.

I am very proud of my time as nut sales coordinator and I look forward to a reduced role in the nut sales process. Thank you to the Commodores for allowing me the opportunity and for continuing to sell the product

Faithfully submitted,
Dick Riemenschneider,
Nut Tsar Emeritus

From Fearless Leader 1



Jamye Casperson

Experience the great ABCs of the Commodores

- A: Acoustic Accessible Active Ageless Afterglow
- B: Belong Brainpower BOMP Brigade Brotherhood
- C: Commdores Celebrate Connected Cinematix Commitment
- D: Dynamics Discovery Discipline Develop Dedicated
- E: Energy Educate EasyListening Entertain Established
- F: Friendship Fun Family Fine-tuned Fortunate
- G: Generational Gentlemen Giving Grateful Growth

- H: Heart HallPass History Harmony HappinessEmporium
- I: Intelligence Imaginative Impactful Inspire Inviting
- J: Joy JustOneMore Join Journey Juggernaut
- K: Kindness Knowledgeable Key Keepsake Kinship
- L: Laugh Leadership Living Learn Lyrics
- M: Magic Manners Melodic Motivation Music
- N: Neighborly Nostalgia Noteworthy Naughty Notes
- O: Open Observant Optimism Outstanding Opportunities
- P: Participate Passion People Personality Practice
- Q: Quartets Quality Quick thinking Quintessential Quirky
- R: Read Recharge Recreation Rehearsal Relationships
- S: Swipe Safe Sincere Social Skill
- T: Tags Talent Time Teamwork Trust
- U: United Understanding Unique Uplifting
- V: Voice Valentines Value Veterans Vision
- W: Warmups Welcome Work Worthy Winners
- X: Xtreme (MCX) Xcel Xpressive Xciting Xperient
- Y: Youth Yep Yippee YMCA Young-at-heart
- Z: Zoom amaZing craZy booZe empathiZe



Harvey Weiss

Chapter Outreach

This whole concept is a paradigm shift, in that it expects nothing in return for the outreach activity in a community. Outreach builds a symbiotic relationship with that community to help make an organization an integral part of the demographics.

One example is our Singing Valentines program. Our Valentines quartet's perform free at community schools, senior facilities or restaurants. Why? Just because we love community.

“Outreach”:

An Activity that either creates awareness, or provides a service to a specific (or subset) community that lacks access to what you can provide (Joe Cerutti-BHS Director of Leadership Engagement, Artistic Director, Alexandria Harmonizers, Certified MUS Judge—based on his presentation at the recent BHS Leadership Conference).

Cerutti further clarifies the concept of outreach by asking, *“What specific need is being filled by participating in this event, and what is the specific community or audience being served? If your idea or outreach doesn't answer these questions directly, it is more like you are thinking of something more self-serving, like marketing or public relations.”*

I would like to see the Commodores start moving towards this definition of outreach. It won't bring instant change in a “New York Minute”, but some exploratory experimentation could be included in the discussion of who we are as a Chapter. We don't have to get paid for everything we do.

The following quote copies the essence of the famous **JFK** speech and in my opinion is a summary of this whole new concept of OUTREACH:

“Ask Not what your community can do for you, but rather, ask what you can do for your community.”

So where do we start, he asks? *“Look to a community in need of what we have (musical entertainment) but lacks access to it? We give it freely as a public service to any facility in our selected demographic community. (examples: nursing homes, non-profits, hospitals, fraternal organizations veteran groups)”*

Finally, I heard a story from a barbershopper attending Cerutti's class. The man sang in a small chorus in a small town in Wisconsin that advocates this definition of outreach. He said with a serious face, that they were in essence rewarded for all their community efforts with a 90-page program for their annual show. The program contained ads totaling \$9,000. Wow! You can't make that stuff up.

(P.S.) Joe Cerutti said he gives this talk all over the country as part of his job description.

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Shawn.h.hunter@gmail.com



**1st CLASS
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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'
- Dick Riemenschneider.....651-487-9993
- JUST ONE MORE
- Nate Weimer.....316/204-8756
- SWYPE
- Mark Bloomquist.....952/541-0232
- CINEMATIX
- Steve Grady.....952/334-7500
- HALL PASS
- Dave Casperson.....651/247-6319

LOOKING AHEAD

2024

- Feb 24 Dykstra funeral
- June 2 BOTY
- June 5 New Hope concert
- Summer Summer concert series
- Sept 7 Annual Show, Minnehaha Academy
- Oct 11 Convention
- Dec Christmas Show

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

**CHORD-INATOR
MINNEAPOLIS COMMODORES
Minneapolis Chapter of BHS
MEETING EVERY TUES -7:00 p.m.
LOCATION:
Benilde St Margaret's
St. Louis Park
GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME**