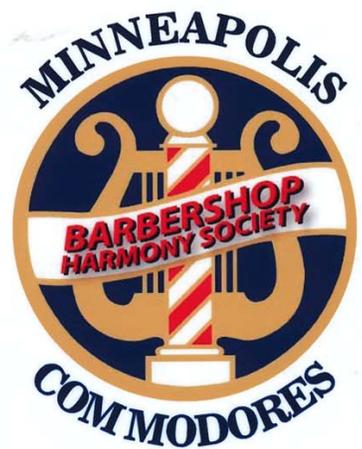


**MINNEAPOLIS  
COMMODORES**

# CHORD-INATOR

**BARBERSHOP  
HARMONY  
SOCIETY**



OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, CHAPTER  
\*\*\*\* A CHAPTER WITH AN ENVIABLE PAST - AN UNBOUNDED FUTURE \*\*\*\*

10,000 LAKES DIVISION - LAND O' LAKES DISTRICT

DECEMBER 2013 - VOL. 69 - NO. 11

## Meet your 2013 Minneapolis Chapter Officers and Board



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**2014 Board  
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**2014 Board  
Dan Slattery**



**2014-15 Board  
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**2014-15 Board  
Vince Trovato**

Not pictured: Ken Jones 2014-15 Board

**Merry Christmas / Happy Hanukkah**

**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, Minn. 55423**

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Past Pres.....Dan Slattery 651-747-6384  
Exec. VP.....Dan Williams 952/974-0026  
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Bill Ward 763/413-9273  
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Steve Mangan.....952/715-0206  
Paul Martz.....952/435-3159

**Through 2014**

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Gene Heupel.....612/309-3127  
Mike Hojan.....952/435-6647

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Gary Jacobson  
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Assistant-Kevin Huyck  
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Assistant - Dan Smith  
Bari Section Leaders .....Dave Speidel  
Assistant-Pete Villwock  
Bass Section Leaders.....Jim Richards  
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**On Yewer Behalf**

By Dan Cole, President

It's December! It's the most wonderful time of the year. It's the Holiday month. We have a million songs about the holidays: *Home for the Holidays, O Holy Night, Silent Night, White Christmas, Blue Christmas, Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas, A Holly Jolly Christmas, I Want a Hippopotamus For Christma, The Twelve Days of Christmas (a Commodore favorite), etc., etc.* And we finish off on New Year's Eve with *Auld Lang Syne.*



Dan Cole

Turn on the radio and you'll hear all of these songs played over and over throughout the month.

It is indeed a very special holiday month. No other month during the year creates such a stir.

So I went to my trusty Webster dictionary and looked up the word "holiday" and it defines its origins as being *holidei*: a religious festival: see Holy Day. So that settles the ongoing controversy. Yes, it is Christmas, and yes, it is a Holiday (holy day). So let's enjoy it, and celebrate it, and sing about it, and spread that joy with everyone we can this season.

Wait, I'm not done. We just had another one of those holidays in November called Thanksgiving Day. We usually spend that day with people who are the closest to us, giving thanks for the blessings of another year, and sharing memories of all the times we have spent with each other. I know we all have something to be thankful for, past and present.

Then, no sooner has the turkey and pie been devoured, when the gift buying frenzy begins. And that brings to mind an old Shaker Dance Song with this message:

**Barbershop is...**

By Paul Wigley, Director

Quick question for all those of you that belong to a Barbershop chorus: what IS Barbershop, anyway? What makes Barber-shop different from stuff on *The Sing Off* or from stuff *The Whiffenpoofs* sing, or from stuff the *Four Freshman* sing, or from stuff *Manhattan Transfer* sings? As I enter this new phase of my personal Barbershop career, Category Specialist for the Music Category, I am constantly thinking about *BARBER-SHOP* music.



Paul Wigley

Within the Barbershop Harmony

*'Tis the gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free  
'Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be,  
And when we find ourselves in the place just right,  
'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.  
When true simplicity is gained,  
To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,  
To turn, turn will be our delight,  
Till by turning, turning we come 'round right.*

So, as I said, it is December. It is the last month of my term as President of the Board and I want to thank the other members of the board for their participation and involvement in keeping the Minneapolis Commodores Chorus viable and vibrant as the Chapter edges toward its 70<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary in 2014. I am honored to have served as your president this past year and thank all the Commodores for their support. Thank you one and all. *E Pluribus Unum!*

IGTBAC

Go to **Wigley**, Page 3, Column 1

**Wigley** from Page 2

Society, the Music Category is responsible for preservation of the Barbershop style. So, how many of you really know what the Barbershop style is? The Music Category description is approximately 16 pages long! That is a plethora of specific rules to define true Barbershop! My goal as Category Specialist is to cull these rules down to a highly-edited format that all Barbershoppers can readily understand. So, here goes:

First, Barbershop has no instrumental accompaniment. (So far, you are all still following me, right?) Second, Barbershop is written with four-part chords (technically, four different guys singing different parts, everyone still OK?) Third, Barbershop is primarily homophonic; this means all four part-singers are singing the same words/rhythms at the same time, like a hymn in church. Oops! I've just lost a bunch of you! Some of you are asking, "What about the bum-bum-bums that basses get to sing?" or "What about the echo parts on Sweet Adeline?" Well,

those are OK, they are part of our original Barbershop style maintained from the old days.

A fourth aspect of TRUE Barbershop is that the melody of the song is sung by the second tenor, the first (highest) tenor harmonizes a part above the melody (Is everyone still following all this all right?) This is one thing that really distinguishes Barbershop from glee clubs, the *Four Freshman*, and others.

Now, these four characteristics I have just defined are very easy to see and hear when a quartet or chorus is performing, and they are absolutely fundamental to defining the style of Barbershop. Next comes the very tricky part, and the part where things get confusing for most people (especially people that do not have a broad knowledge of music theory and chord structure).

Thus the *fifth* characteristic of Barbershop is the predominance of dominant 7<sup>th</sup> chords. (The early rule stated that 33% of a Barbershop chart HAD to be dominant 7<sup>th</sup> chords, but that really became too nebulous to accurately define.) A dominant 7<sup>th</sup> chord would be spelled "C-E-G-Bb" (for example.)

from *The Music Man*.

The controversy about the arrangements of more contemporary songs we are hearing at contest (and thus the controversy about preservation of Barbershop style) is really manifested in the newer chords that we are beginning to hear from our arrangers. More "jazzy" chords are being used, and while they are fun to hear and fun (but difficult!) to sing, they begin to stray from the true historical sound of Barbershop.

I am going to continue this discussion in my next article, so be ready for more music theory, because it's going to get a LOT more complicated! I would LOVE to hear any and all feedback from members of the Commodores on what is perceived to be TRUE Barbershop style, and what we really think MUST be preserved to keep this genre of music thriving.

It's going to be a crazy next three years for me as *the leader* of this Music Category that is the true guardian of our unique style. Help me! (Just kidding, it's going to be great fun!) It's great to be a Commodore, and a member of the BARBERSHOP Harmony Society!

## SUNSHINE HOTLINE



By *Rich Ongna*, Sunshine Chairman

Phone: 952-829-7009

Email: [ddongna@usfamily.net](mailto:ddongna@usfamily.net)



**Rich Ongna**

The Commodores extend their sympathies to the family of the late **Rudy and Grace Stenson**. Grace, 96, passed away on December 12<sup>th</sup> shortly after

having been diagnosed with Cancer.

Other than the sad news stated above I have nothing to report.

Either we're all doing exceptionally well, health wise, or the new Affordable Health Care Act is doing amazing things.

Let's not forget that we still have some people in the process of healing, namely, **Pat Griffith**, **Bob's** wife, **Mary MacLaughlin**, **Dale Lynch's** good friend, **Connie Ashley**, **Bill's** wife, **Paul Jahnke**, **Vern Johnson**, and **Char Bauer**, **Carlton's** wife, but there are no special concerns that I'm aware of now.

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year** to each of you. Let's sing & ring and bring joy, health and happiness bring to all the people we come in contact with this year.

**Remember:** Please keep me informed about who is ailing and don't assume that I already know because generally I'm in the dark.

Help me brighten the days of our ailing members. Just a short note of encouragement or a brief phone call can make the day of a person who's not feeling well.

## Happy Anniversary

- 12/17 Paul & Becky Wigley
- 12/21 Denny & Jane Rolloff
- 12/23 Ken & Judy Knutson (50)
- 12/30 Bob & Jean Spong
- 01/05 Russ and Jeni Born

Let's put the  
"B"  
In Barbershop

## Happy Birthday

- 12/14 Dave Casperson
- 12/19 Steve Daniel
- 12/21 Judi Jarnberg
- 12/19 Ken Knutson
- 12/21 Hardin Olson
- 12/21 Lawrence Smalley\*
- 12/22 Rollie Neve
- 12/24 John Bergseth
- 12/24 Jim Scheller
- 12/27 Gene Heupel
- 12/28 Terry Jean St.Martin
- 12/29 Chuck McKown
- 12/29 Ebie Richards
- 12/29 Bonnie Vink
- 12/30 Faye Daby
- \* Commodore South



### November Reenlistments

Bill Ward.....	4 yrs.
Conrad Ward.....	4 yrs.
Gene Heupel.....	5 yrs.
Ken Jones.....	9 yrs.
Tom Dahlen.....	14 yrs.
Dale Lynch.....	14 yrs.
Larry Nelson.....	17 yrs.
Jim Johannsen.....	18 yrs.
Vern Johnson.....	21 yrs.
Wes Hatlestad.....	29 yrs.
Bill Ashley.....	39 yrs.
Rollie Neve.....	46 yrs.
John Hansen.....	62 yrs.
Loren Berthilson.....	66 yrs.

## Board Highlights



Chapter members are always welcome to attend the Board meetings.

### From the meeting of Nov. 21

#### Action Items

- **Paul Paddock** accepted for membership

## Welcome Aboard!

**Paul Paddock** is a graduate student at the University of Minnesota. A native Virginian, Paul went to the University of North Carolina - Asheville prior to his move to Minneapolis.



Exposed to Barber-shop at a young age, who found the Commodores on the Internet and decided to give us a try,

Born into a musical family, Paul

started piano at nine and vocalizing at ten. In school he played in numerous productions from *Annie* through *Anything Goes*, *Footloose*, *Grease*, *Happy Days*, *The Mystery of Edwin Drood* to *Snoopy*. Paul also has a long resume in school and church choirs.

Jazz piano, soccer, basketball, running, volleyball, 3D and die-cast modeling are a few of his other interests. Paul will often play piano for jazz bands and community events.

His bright face and enthusiasm will be a big plus for the bass section.

## Gary Jacobson's 2014 Resolutions

- We all make resolutions but **this year will be different!**
- I will continue to try to become a **"Healthier Happier Me."**
- I will become a **better member** of the Commodores
- I will **practice my music** at least 15 minutes a day
- I will work on my **show music** and memorize and use my **learning tracks**.
- I will get **more involved in my Chapter**.
- I will offer **my help** rather than waiting to be asked.
- I will practice on getting **new members** for our chorus.
- I will **learn all names** of our Chapter members (one of my downfalls).
- I will practice being **ready to sing** at the sound of the "Pitch Pipe."
- I will practice being an **attentive** member on the risers.
- I will take **shorter breaks** and be on the risers **on time**.
- I will take time to **"visit"** with all new members or guests.
- I will make time to be **"positive"** in my dealings with the chorus.
- I will make sure I tell the "leadership", whether a Board Member or Musical Leader, how much **I appreciate** their service to the Chapter.
- I will practice being a **"Better, more Active Face"** in our Chorus.
- I will encourage **quartet involvement**.
- I will strive for 100% **attendance** (understanding work and family and health take priority).
- I will strive to give more to my **community and nonprofit organizations**.
- I am aware that Singing has helped me live a **better life**.

While you may not identify with all of my resolutions, take note of all the things that **you** can do to make a difference during this year of 2014.

*Happy New Year!*

*"It's Great to Be a Commodore!"*

## Got to Get ready... Company's Coming!

By Carl Pinard,

Why is regular chorus attendance important? How are you important to the chorus? Why is your absence so detrimental to our success? Having worked for 11 years as a flooring specialist in a big-box hardware store, let me use my experience there to pose a reasonable analogy to our music.



Carl Pinard

Let's say that you are tired of the flooring in your bathroom and you want to replace it with ceramic tile. You're pretty handy so you decide to do it yourself. You get a book or two on the subject and you visit several stores to see what's available and what it will cost. You select a tile, develop a design and go out and purchase everything you think you need. You bring your materials, tools, and other supplies home and begin to the project. Time is of the essence because company is coming in a few days and the bathroom must be ready for the guests.

After removing the toilet, the vanity, and the old floor you start to lay the new floor. The cement board goes down first and about half way through you realize that you don't have enough screws to finish the job. So it's back to the store for additional screws.

Thus begins a virtual merry-go-round of trips to the hardware store for screws, trowels, more Thin-Set mortar (because the first batch set while you were running to the store), tile with the same caliber number (mis-matched caliber numbers result in uneven grout lines), tile cutter, spacers, grout, all the things necessary for a first-class job.

Finally after all the stops and starts, re-dos, delays and trips to and from the hardware store for the missing pieces, the job is done; however your company is coming in one day and you still haven't set the toilet.

We are all principals in this story. In our absence from rehearsals we are the missing trowel, the lost tile cutter, and the hidden spacers. Each of us is very important to the chorus because each of us sings a little differently, similarly analogous to the caliber of ceramic tile.

Now, put yourself in the place of your director. His project is to put together several songs for a per-

### 66 years a Commodore!



Loren Berthilson (rt.) is shown here receiving his 66-year membership card from Chapter Secretary, Ken Glover, on November 12.

formance in the near future (Company is coming!). He has, in the Commodores, about eighty different materials, tools, and supplies (you and me). He begins rehearsals and he can only get so far because he is missing some screws (some might call these baritones), or a trowel.

Just like the Thin-Set mortar, our director can only solidify so much of the song until he gets the trowel or the screws. And then he has to begin all over again. It is so important for all of us to be at rehearsal from the point of caliber (rendering the same lyric, and the same note at the same time). We all want our performances to be superb. We want straight grout lines. If we are

not there it becomes impossible for the director to fit together all the pieces.

Our voices and our faces are important tiles in the mosaic of every song that we sing. Attendance at rehearsals is the only way to keep our grout lines straight. Company is invariably coming for the Min-

## Doc's Bag



By Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor

Having an annoying cold and laryngitis this past week allowed me to forego my riser station for the Christmas show and take a very comfortable seat in the back-center of the auditorium from which I was able to enjoy the show and to try to take some worthy photos of the production.

It was a special treat and I can't tell you how proud I was of everybody involved. All groups performed admirably and there was hardly a trice of white-space in either half of the show.

\*\*\*\*\*

Judging by the size and response of our Christmas Show audience, the production was an unqualified success. Many hands of both Sweet Adelines and Commodores contributed in countless ways to insure a memorable outcome but one Commodore in particular deserves your special kudos. The winds were in his face and the current ran against him but he persevered and the result was a memorable show on December 15.

So the next time you see **Dan Slattery** give him a Barbershop hug and a sincere "Well done!"

Can't wait 'til next year!



Judy Olson and Paul Wigley out front after the Grand Finale

“Happy Holidays!”

Christmas 2013

With Tidings of Comfort and Joy



The Minneapolis Commodores in Concert



The Twin Cities Show Chorus at the ready



Our special guests, *The Now and Then Singers* (with their sit-in accompanist, Mr. Paul Wigley)



*3 Nice Girls*



*Cider n Spice*



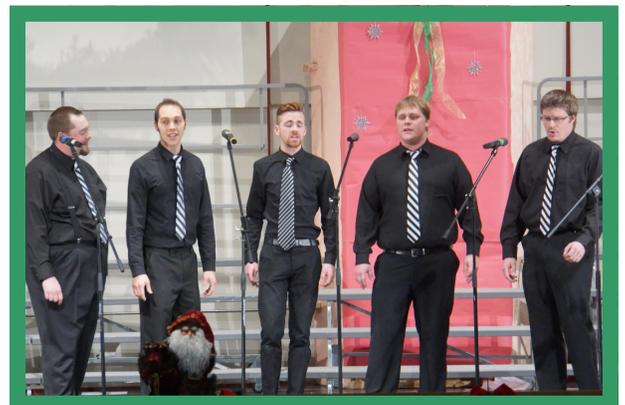
*Hot Commodity*



*Sounds of Renown*



*Easy Listenin'*



*35-Undercappella*

### Harmony Brigade News

By David Speidel, Ass't Director

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Northern Pines Harmony Brigade will be a "GO" as we have reached our target of at least 60 singers. The dates for the Brigade are February 21-23 and the Crowne Plaza Hotel & Conference Center in Plymouth, Minnesota, is the venue. Registration includes the Friday school singouts, the Friday-night quartet contest, the Saturday General Assembly, the Saturday-afternoon show rehearsal, the Saturday-evening show with the Top-10 Quartet finals followed by a "let-it-all-out" afterglow/social.



Needless to say, there will be lots

of quartet singing during all of the in-between times. For the Saturday evening show we will have *Vocality* as our guest headliners with another quartet or two to be determined.

We couldn't pull this function off if it weren't for the enthusiastic support of other Brigadiers from all over the US. We have men coming from California, Oregon, New Mexico, Texas, Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Michigan, Maryland and of course the LOL District. Our goal is to raise the awareness in the LOL district so that we can routinely attract 120 attendees – mainly from our own district. Those of us who have attended some of the other Brigades can't fully explain the amount of fun that you have amidst that many good singers. It is almost like going

to an *honors* music camp, where everyone is fully prepared to sing their appropriate parts.

You will hear more about the event as the time draws near because we will be marketing tickets to our Saturday-evening show. At the show you will be welcome to "hang" with the guys and get a taste for what a Brigade is all about.

If any of you think you can learn 10 songs in time, additional registrations will be accepted (and there might be some scholarship funds available to qualified singers i.e. if finances are an issue). But do it soon as you will need much spare time in the next two months to learn all of the great music on our program.

### Chord Candy #117

by Dr. Jim Richards, Der Tagmeister



Jim Richards

This month's Chord Candy is in the form of a Christmas greeting from Chord-Inator reader, Burt Szabo, in sunny Orlando, FL. The message of the lyric speaks to us all. The music is simple enough for all to sight read. It is written in the key of G and the first chord is a G-Major triad. What could be simpler? The bass and tenor sing the G root, the lead sings the 5th and bari the 3rd. Now that you're started, finish it off and celebrate the season! We really appreciate your offering, Burt, but right now those of us in frozen Minnesota might appreciate some of your warm weather even more.

## Season's Greetings to All!

Burt Szabo

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains measures 1 through 4, with lyrics: "Tis the time to sing with Yule - tide mirth:". The second system contains measures 5 through 10, with lyrics: "Joy to all! And Peace on Earth!". The score includes a treble clef and a bass clef. Measure numbers 1 through 10 are indicated above the notes. The lyrics are placed below the notes. The music is simple, using mostly quarter and eighth notes.

# Quartet Quaffs

## Four Seasons

The month of November brings us to that time of the year when we give thanks for all the blessings we have. Although there are many things that don't qualify for our thanks, those that do far outnumber those that don't.



Rollie Neve

Thanksgiving, therefore, is a wonderful time of the year when we gather in family groups to rejoice with our families, feast on turkey and all the trimmings, do a little singing, have fun, play games and take time, as they say, "to smell the roses." And through it all we "accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative – and don't mess with Mr. in between." Those, of course, are words from that famous old 40s song, *Accentuate the Positive*, that the *Four Seasons* are now learning to entertain our 2014 show audiences. We would love to have it become a vehicle to pass the positives of the Christmas/Thanksgiving season on for the whole year. With harmony added, that's got to be a winning combination.

The power and beauty of music is legendary. It's always a thrill to see the reaction in the faces of the audience when we are performing. Reinforcement of this was confirmed in the *Four Seasons* performance before 40 senior citizens at the Edina Care Center on a Friday morning in the middle of November. Faces brightened, some smiles spread warmly, and some lip-syncing were indications that the music was making an impact.

Of course, a little humor in between songs was an added benefit. Engaging the gathering in group singing furthered the enjoyment and even learning a little choreography was not beyond their capabilities. So

both audience and quartet were lifted in soul and spirit by the magic of music, especially in the Barbershop style.

It's now time to look ahead to the Christmas performances and our Christmas Show. Santa has his snow, and it will be hard to work up a sweat in the below-average temperatures we are enjoying because of *global warming*. Warm hearts will prevail when we sing those beautiful Christmas songs that proclaim the birth of Jesus—the reason for the season.

It occurred to me that Santa would have a difficult time filling his bag with presents for baritones, particularly that foundational baritone, our beloved JIM ERICKSON. Perhaps an iPhone app that previews a Baritonia visit would be appropriate and then maybe a noise suppressor to remind him that heavy-baritone volume tends to distort Barbershop 7th chords.

Probably the most desired of all, however, would be a book of Barbershop arrangements with baritone solos. You can almost see it now - Jim singing his heart out as he sings with the book of arrangements in front of him. In the background would be a *frogger*-CD humming the other three parts (to get a live-humming performance of the other parts borders on the impossible). Come to think of it, this scenario could only happen in Baritonia.

Another thought of a possible gift popped into my mind; a secret Orphan Annie decoding ring that would play the note that's left over for the baritone to sing to complete a chord. Actually, the options for baritone gifts are only limited by one's imagination. I'm sure Santa will come through for the baritones, aren't you? So all you good boys and girls and mommies and daddies and grandmas and grandpas have a Merry Christmas, y'all hear?

Being a Barbershopper and a Commodore is GREAT!

**Rollie for Dan, Rich and Tom**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Sounds of Renown

Continuing the several years of benefit performances, the VLQ\*—**Sounds of Renown**—performed some joyous sounds of the season. Again, this was done as part of another successful fundraiser. The **Intercongregation Communities Association (ICA)** based in Minnetonka partnered with **Maynard's Restaurant** in Excelsior to raise funds for stocking ICA's food shelves. The economy has shown steady signs of improving, but there are many who are still in great need.

**Renown** entertained by circulating throughout the restaurant, and singing many Christmas songs as well as popular Barbershop songs. Even a couple of birthday songs! Diners stopped eating for a bit and listened happily as we sang. Smiles, laughter, and even a few tears emerged as the VLQ circled the tables to sing face to face with those there. That is up close and personal Barbershop singing at its best!

The VLQers have gotten used to singing over the clatter of knives and forks against dishes, tinkling glasses and lively conversation (always challenging), but the listeners welcomed the musical interlude. You know, you start singing and in a Barbershop instant, over an hour has passed. More than our allotted time, but who's keeping track. As we were departing the manager said, "Thank you so much! Everyone just loved hearing you again." VLQ members, **Ken Wentworth, Dick Rienschneider, Dan Williams, Rollie Neve, Bob Ostergaard, Mark Ortenburger, Bill Ward, John Carlotto and Jim Erickson** were pleased to be a part of this very worthwhile event. And best of all, the almost \$20,000 raised went to help stock food shelves for ICA. Superb!

**Jim Erickson**

\* VLQ: Very Large Quartet



# Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, *Bona-Fide Bari*

Lots of comments on last month's article about the last minute assembling of one Commodore's contest outfit. I think maybe it struck close to home for many. Showing up with an outfit, but being wrong in some respect, is another similar embarrassment. Not that this was a mistake, but I remember when the Commodores performed one year as hobos with tramp-style costumes. Following the same format, we wore the shabby clothes for our district contest piece.

And one of the judges criticized us because one man was wearing shoes that were too new. Not all of us, but just one.

Justified critique? Well, my father-in-law had rather large feet and during the depression (the 1930s one), town folks who knew of his large feet would often direct large-footed hobos to his house for shoes more likely to fit.

Now my father-in-law had a job that required him to wear suits and dress shoes in good repair. And this was an important thing back then. If your shoes weren't shined and in good shape, it was a sign that you weren't a man who deserved respect. Maybe not poor, but questionable. And everyone was hypersensitive to that in those times. If, as a single man, women might pass you by if they thought you weren't good husband material because of holes in your shoes or lack of a good shine.

As I write this, I wonder what the younger guys are thinking. With the

casual approach to business clothes and perhaps having several pairs of shoes, none needing a real shine, your shoes would be acceptable even if they were less than shined. I know that's not much of a sentence, but you get the idea. Well-maintained shoes were everything!

So, when a hobo knocked at my father-in-law's door seeking any pair of larger-than-usual shoes, he sometimes walked away in some still pretty good looking, though worn, shoes. Further, recalling the fairly recent crash of Wall Street about the time of our hobo performances, it wouldn't be out of the question that some investment banker had fallen on hard times and was bumming it, even though he was just unable to part with his \$800 Italian-leather shoes. A man

about. I know you have seen the Salvation Army red kettles, the Toys for Tots drive ads, the St. Jude-cancer-children commercials and more. All of these are pleas to help these organizations reach to children and their families who could not otherwise have a little something special at this special time of year. Although the economy is improving, there are still many who are struggling to catch up. And as hard as it is to face the day-to-day plodding to just try to stay even, it is immensely harder to look into the faces of your own kids or child relatives and think that they may pass through this season without even the smallest of gifts. So please keep your ears, eyes and wallets open in the next several days. Don't walk past a single kettle without dropping at least your coins

in, bills are better, and if you keep in mind the joy some needy person will receive, you, too, will experience a rush of the holiday spirit. And, don't confuse that with the usual holiday rush so many complain about.

Don't take this as a seasonal complaint, but due to an overdose of lute-fisk and lefsa, I am sleepy beyond comprehension. So I will compensate by ending this article now. Probably the

shortest article I have written, and that, dear readers, is my present to you. Something you have always wanted, right? Except for **Dick Riemenschneider**. He relies on my articles to put him to sleep at night and a usual article is good for 8-10 nights. Guess he'll just have to buy a bottle of Nyquil. Sorry, Dick. Kind of like Santa, I have a little something for everyone. Even **Rolie Neve**, who was on his best behavior this past month.

Have yourself a fulfilling holiday time and in the meantime, hold fast to that which is good and keep on recruiting!



Jim Erickson

**LOL District  
Leadership Training Academy  
&  
Lakes Chord College  
UW River Falls  
River Falls, Wisconsin  
January 3-4, 2014  
Contact: Dave Sylte (507) 433-0004  
[sylte0004@msn.com](mailto:sylte0004@msn.com)  
"Something for every Barbershopper!"**

can only give up just so much, right?

All of which leads me to a conclusion. (Wish I could remember what it was.) I guess it was that even though you show up in life in what could be perfectly justifiable and appropriate attire, there would be someone out there who will find fault with it. Not usually contest judges, but someone with what he considers "refined" taste.

Is it important to dress properly if you are performing? Topic for another time, I guess. For now, however, there is holiday spirit to talk

## LETTERS

Dear Hardin,

I love to continue receiving my *Chord-Inator* each month. I really enjoy keeping up with what's happening with the Commodores! Hard to believe I have been in Arizona for 10 years now.

I am writing to expand on Mr. **Norm Wolf's** letter [in last month's (November) issue] regarding Barbershop opportunities in the Phoenix area. Norm covered almost all of the choruses except one. I'm sure he must have forgotten that there is a West Side to Phoenix.

On the West side of Phoenix, in the Del Webb retirement communities, we have the *Sun Cities Desert Aires Chorus!* We rehearse on Tuesday afternoons from 12:30 to 3:30 pm. Our chorus is currently looking for a new director and is being directed by 49-year member and second-generation Barbershopper from the Minneapolis Commodores, **Bill Shaw, Jr.** I am filling in as Interim Director until we can find a suitable replacement.

For any female Barbershop singers visiting, there are plenty of *Sweet Adeline* opportunities. I am also directing the *Westwind Harmony Sweet Adeline Chorus* in Sun City West. There is also a little chorus over on the East side, I think they go by the name: *Scottsdale Chorus*. (Marsha sings with both choruses). They did a fantastic job placing second at the International Contest in Hawaii last month.

Anyone visiting the Phoenix area on a Monday or Tuesday looking for Barbershop – please look us up! We would be happy to help you find what you are looking for.

Still proud to be a Commodore!

Sincerely

**Bill Shaw Jr.**

623-764-8072

PS – Any Sweet Adeline visiting

Las Vegas – our daughter Cathie is directing the Las Vegas Celebrity City Chorus (current Regional Champions). Look us up and we can give you information on them as well.

**Marsha Shaw's** cell: 623-262-0105

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*"If you have nothing to be thankful for, make up your mind that there is something wrong with you."* I love

this anonymous quote, because it always puts me back on track to more positive thinking. As another holiday season approaches, I again look at the Minneapolis Commodores and see how thankful I am for such a great group of men.

The performance at the Thanksgiving Concert and Food Drive Benefit was a perfect example of the spirit of the Commodores. It was so rewarding to be able to use our collective musical gifts for a worthwhile cause. I think all of us that were there also would say without a doubt that we received much more than we gave. We gave our singing, and we received gratitude, warm wishes, hugs, and the knowledge that we were part of an altruistic event to help out people that are truly in need.

I'm thankful for a chorus that finds a way to balance great music-making with lots of social activity. Many of us spend much time outside of chorus rehearsals just enjoying each other's company. I can honestly say my best friends are members of the Minneapolis Commodores.

Barbershop singing is a hobby, not a business, and although we are dedicated to making ourselves as good at our hobby as we can possibly be, we also realize that friendships and personal connections will be the most important things in our lives. When I hear stories about our quartets that sing for guys having health problems, or other shut-ins, I just feel humbled to be around men that put such a priority on giving music—and joy—to others! These

are stories of thankfulness; men that share their gifts of music and voice with others...

Every man that walks into our chapter meetings is entering a place that he will be thankful for. I love those of you that find the positive in everything we do! It's contagious! Don't you feel that being positive in your life is just another way of giving thanks? So, *make up your mind that you have something to be thankful for!* I'm certainly thankful for the Minneapolis Commodores, and it's GREAT to BE a Commodore!

**Jim Erickson**

[Thanks for the missive, Jim.]



### LEST WE FORGET

On November 22 long-time Barbershopper and good friend of many of us old-time Commodores, **Richard (Rich) Williams**, passed away peacefully surrounded by his loving family.

Rich was a Barbershop brat. His father, **Joe**, was a charter member of the Minneapolis Chapter, its second president (1945), and its third Barbershopper of the Year (1954). It didn't take Rich long to follow in his dad's footsteps, becoming president in 1965 and BOTY in 1970.

Rich was a US Navy veteran having flown dive bombers during the latter part of World War II.

Rich and his wife of over 60 years, **Delyte**, retired to Florida in 1995. Following her death some years ago, the family moved Rich back to Minneapolis.

He is buried at Fort Snelling National Cemetery

