

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

10,000 LAKES DIVISION - LAND O' LAKES DISTRICT

OCTOBER 2013 - VOL. 69 - NO. 9

PAUL ELLINGER'S "WAVE BOX" SINGING

By Harvey Weiss, Membership/Development

" Saturday, September 7, 2013, could be the first day of the rest of our [Barbershop] lives !"



Harvey Weiss

Paul Ellinger, from the Pioneer District, has been criss-crossing the United States promoting new ways to improve Barbershop singing and to rejuvenate chapter recruitment and retention.

Faith Presbyterian Church in Hopkins, was the host site for our all-day training event. About 70 mem-

bers from Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Minnetonka Chapters signed up for the full day of challenging concepts, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

" I've never had a day go by so rapidly. It was full of fun, interactive activities, directed by a man who truly loved what he was doing." said one attendee, a sentiment echoed practically unanimously.

The first item on the agenda, which took us to lunch break, (not the quartet) included Paul's seven steps incorporating the "Wave Box" concept; that is, "what to *think* while you are singing, not what to *do* while you are singing. Google a wave box and imagine you are in a physics class alternately raising and lowering the ends of the box. The material inside moves from one end to the other seamlessly, smoothly returning to the opposite end of the box...back and forth...back and forth. Can you see it? That is a visual concept you can implant in your mind's eye every time you sing.

Part Two of the day, after lunch, dealt with *chapter recruitment* and the related importance of an *altruistic endeavor* to a chapter. Regarding recruitment, in show after show we hear the *cattle-call* plea, "If you would

like to join this fine group go to a (given site) on a (given day) at a (given time)." A much better approach is the *non-cattle call* ploy, "Would it surprise you to know that most of these wonderful singers you see and hear before you don't read music and had never sung before an audience prior to joining our Society." Hearing that more than likely will kindle a spark of an idea that maybe the attendee could perhaps become a part of the group.



Paul Ellinger

The recruiting *coup de gras*, however, is the "*So...where do you like to do your singing?*" interactive dialogue, when you are told by an adoring fan how much he enjoyed the show. In other words denying the prospective recruit the opportunity to say, "No!"

To close the day Paul initiated a discussion of the importance of an altruistic purpose to give real meaning to a chapter's existence. Giving back to a special community charity or foundation virtually will always reap ever-increasing benefits. Paraphrasing Paul's words, supporters and future members are attracted to the idea that not only are we

having fun singing and providing entertainment, but are helping with special needs in our community: for a charity that has no strings attached to the sponsoring group; a family dealing with hardship; victims of a local flood or fire; a benefit performance with all proceeds going to the children's' cancer wing at a local hospital.

These possibilities are endless, but so are the benefits we all reaped from spending a day with **Paul Ellinger**, a man who truly has a vision for the revitalization of Barbershop singing in the whole wide world.

**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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On Yewer Behalf

By Dan Cole, President

*Hot town, summer in the city;
Back of my neck getting burnt
a n d g r i t t y .
Been down, isn't it a pity?
Doesn't seem to be a shadow in
the city.*

**Lyrics from *Summer in the City*
by the *Loving Spoonful***



Dan Cole

Yes, siree, it has been hot and so have our chapter-meeting rehearsals, and most recently, our coaching session with Judy Olson. I am always surprised at how she can get the Commodore Chorus to do things that we hesitate to do and sometimes refuse to accept from our own performance coaches. She's really good.

Gary Jacobson and James Souhan did a great job of recapping the changes and points Judy made regarding good singing first, and performance moves to match the flow of the music to follow. They did a good job of asking us to recall some of the other things she said or had us practice. I couldn't think of anything until this morning as I was reading the latest issue of AARP magazine. You see, there was an article about reimagining yourself. And then I remembered what she said about our faces and performance—**BE SOMEONE ELSE!**

If we can become actors and take on a role, and do it well, our audiences and judges will reward our attempts to be something other than an introverted, stoic Norwegian or a rigid German. If you have ever played charades, you know how awkward and sometimes embarrassing it can be to get up in front of a group and act out clues, but the resulting fun is well worth the effort.

BE SOMEONE ELSE! It's fun!

"MY ENDLESS SUMMER!"

By Paul Wigley, Director

As I begin a new school year (Oh!



Paul Wigley

Hey! Wait a minute! Let's start over!) As we bid summer goodbye, we look to a fresh new year of music making with the Commodores. The past few months have seen a lot of performances for which we can be very proud- a great annual show, wonderful performance at Spring Divisional contest, superbly entertaining shows in Plymouth and Maple Grove, and a great evening at Como. Every one of these performances should give you a smile because of joy the of music we were able to share with so many different audience members. I honestly think of every one of these shows with pride.

So, now it's time to look ahead to another school year (Sorry...it's just a habit!) We have a fantastic opportunity for Commodores-chorus growth following our **Paul Ellinger Workshop** on September 7. This type of activity will strengthen chorus singing, and also strengthen chorus camaraderie and pride. Thanks to all of you who attended! We are working on music for next year's annual show, and Blake Wanger has once again come up with a fantastic variety of music, and exceptionally creative show ideas. (I'm wondering if *aliens* will be appearing again....?) Our Christmas show will include three new songs in the repertoire, so be ready to work extremely hard on getting that music learned. I think we all are ready for new challenges regarding Christmas repertoire and the music team has set the bar much higher than in the past. These new arrangements are wonderful, will be fun to sing, and will give a needed
Go to Wigley, Page 3, Col. 1

Wigley from Page 2

re-energizing burst to our 2013 Christmas show.

And looking to our immediate future, we have Fall Contest in La-crosse. Get ready for a revised riser order, a renewed emphasis on individual vocal improvement, more individual feedback due to audio and video recordings, and higher performances levels as a result of ALL of these factors! We MUST remember that everything we do is focused on the positive: positive progress as a chorus; positive suggestions for individual improvement; positive work habits in rehearsal; and positive laughter and support for each other...all the time! Being GOOD is fun!

I have said this before, but in my travels as a Music Category judge, I have the opportunity to hear and see many choruses throughout the United States; these are the choruses that are vibrant enough to even GO to contest! What I realize, time and time again, is that the Minneapolis Commodores are a very special group of guys; great performers, fantastic human beings, and the best friends that I have in the world. If you were all able to see the comparison in performance between us and the vast majority of choruses in the Society, you would also have a renewed appreciation of the men you are privileged to sing with every Tuesday night. Take advantage of every moment to sing your best, make yourself a better singer, and create the very best music you can.

It is truly great to be a Commodore.



Thanks for the Memories

The Hut Four CD

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Harmony Foundation

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A tribute to my friend

By Bob Dykstra

Harold Ullring, former long-time member and Music Director of the Minneapolis Commodores, passed away in Bradenton, Florida on September 19, 2013, at the age of 81, following a long battle with Parkinson's Disease. Harold joined the Minneapolis Chapter in 1959 following a stint as Music Director of the St. Croix Valley Barbershop chorus while teaching high school music in Hudson, Wisconsin. While directing St. Croix Valley, Harold sang with Bert Bertelson, Doc Stewart, and Tom Lowe in the Croix Chords which had the distinction of being named the official Minneapolis Aquatennial Quartet in 1958 and 1959. This led to an appearance on the nationally-televised "Today Show", then hosted by Dave Garroway, that came to the Twin Cities to cover the annual summer celebration.

Soon after joining the Commodores, Harold took over from Les Mikelson as Music Director, a position he held from 1960-69 and again from 1974-77. The Commodores qualified for the SPEBSQSA International Chorus Contest three times during Harold's tenure as director, earning a fifth-place medal in Kansas City in 1962. In recognition of his exemplary service to the Commodores, Harold was named the chapter's Barbershopper of the Year in 1969. Harold also served as Music Director of the Bloomington Chapter from 1983 to 1987 before moving to Florida, where he directed the Sarasota Chapter and later the Bradenton Chapter until the debilitating effects of Parkinson's Disease forced his retirement.

Harold was also an arranger of note who arranged much of the music

sung by the Commodores during his tenure as Music Director, especially the songs sung by the chorus on the Minneapolis Chapter's annual shows. He loved introducing an arrangement of a song for "next year's show" at the chapter meeting immediately following the current year's annual show. And the chorus soon learned that he liked to perform songs a half-step higher than the key in which they were rehearsed as a means (he said) of keeping them "on key" (or at least closer to on key). He was also known to have a music staff paper next to him in his car while driving

so he could transfer a creative idea to paper without delay. Unfortunately, this practice led on one occasion to Harold's rear-ending another vehicle in the midst of writing a tag, but it certainly illustrated his passion for our wonderful hobby.

Harold was also coach and arranger for a number of quartets over the years.

And he had an uncanny

ability to predict Barbershop contest results, even when not in attendance at the contest site. (I speak from experience on this matter: I lost consistently in our little "pick-'em" contests even though I routinely attended International Contests while he attended only when the chorus was competing). Even when he was no longer physically able to participate actively in chapter activities, he maintained his deep interest in the hobby. He and I spent many hours in telephone conversations discussing current and former quartets and choruses. He was well-known, well-liked, a Barbershop devotee of the first order, and he will be greatly missed.

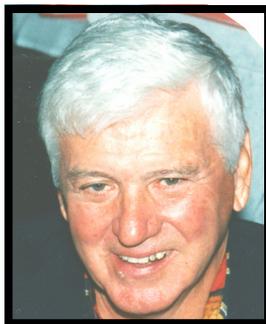
Harold is survived by his wife of 54 years, Kirsten, son, Randy, daughter, Vicki, and grandson, Christopher.



Harold Ullring

ALSO NOTED

Long-time Barbershopper and former Commodore, **Stanley (Stan) Gilbertson**, passed away on August 30 at the age of 87 years.



Stan Gilbertson

An accomplished tenor with the Bloomington Chapter, he earned the 1966 LOL District Quartet Championship with the *Jubilaires*. Shortly thereafter, Stan became a Commodore but mounted the risers for the last time just a few years later before moving to Florida.

Stan, along with his and our good friend, **Dale Lynch**, were mainstays of the local **S. K. Grundy Chapter**, a very exclusive group (with extraordinarily rigid and nearly impossible membership criteria) that meets infrequently and mostly by hearsay.

Robert (Bob) Odegard prominent among the “higher echelons of Minnesota business, politics, and education” passed away at age 92 on September 20.

During his tenure as director of the University of Minnesota Foundation he became a most grateful friend and commender of the Commodores as over the years we contributed nearly \$400,000 to the Variety Club Heart Hospital, an arm of the Foundation. He, along with Drs. **Henry Buchwald**, **Bob Venier**, and **Russ Lucas** were always willing to take time to report on the use of our most-welcome dollars and to thank us for our generous support.



Doc's Bag



By Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor

If any of my readership were disgruntled regarding the seemingly interminable delay of this, the October (aka *September/October*) issue of the Chord-Inator, I hope they will accept my profound apologies.



Hardin Olson

To explain, the last two months have been a whirlwind for this branch of the Olson family. During that span we viewed 17 condominiums, purchased one, sold our Hopkins home (in seven weeks), filled one 12-yard dumpster and three 1 1/2 ton Bagsters (the easiest way to go), held a small-estate sale, moved, and currently are still inundated with a number of unopened boxes. And in my spare time I had my third pacemaker implanted (in 15 minutes under local anesthesia and which for the first time came with a *lifetime* warranty).

Having been running on fumes for so many weeks I am slowly beginning to rekindle the journalistic fire.

And speaking of fire, about ten days ago I received in the mail, the critique packet from **Lowell Shank**, Coordinator of the **2012 PROBE International Bulletin Contest** Personal notes to me were all most laudatory but within them are many suggestions that would have resulted in a much better score in the recent competition; suggestions that I will take heed of in the future.

One judge, however, harkened me back several years when I had the opportunity to visit at Society Headquarters, with then-CEO, Ed Watson, who shares, at least more privately, my loyalty to the Society's late and oft-lamented lyre

logo. In our conversation Ed stated that he didn't care which logo was used so I gladly continue my particular logo crusade. But there is a price and to quote **Milt Weisman**, one of my Layout & Reproduction Category judges, “As I have mentioned at least once before, the Society logo, which is a required element, is missing. And yes, I understand why you might not want to use it. However...”

I didn't and I lost a few points but it was worth it. One virtually universal criticism was that my paragraphs are often too long. Also, one Grammar & Syntax judge, **Warren Donaldson**, reiterated the BHS suggestion that Barbershop, Barber-shopper. etc., be capitalized when referring to our hobby—as recommended in the *PROBE Manual of Style*. Thus providing support for my other crusade.

The cartoon in *Georgia Grind*, Page 11, appears through the courtesy of **Alan Rivers**, editor of *Off the Risers*, the bulletin of the Barry County, Ontario, Chapter. Alan had some very kind words about the Chord-Inator in a July 23 e-mail

All this calendar-year I have been touting the *Fifth Annual Barber-shop Harmony Open*. However, as I was preparing the copy for the article on Page 9, I had occasion to refer to my internet photo storehouse in which all of my BHS Open photos can be viewed. Much to my chagrin, I found the photo files of five previous Opens dating from 2008. Ergo, the 2013 Open was actually *Number Six*.

My first reaction was that I had really erred but then I began to wonder why not a single reader (?) had not called me on it; just further confirming my suspicions that nobody (including my proofreaders?) reads the Chord-Inator anyway.

Ah, well, mine is not to question why...or is it? But, as always, upward and onward.

Board Highlights



Chapter members are always welcome to attend the Board meetings.

Action Items

- At the September meeting a motion setting attendance requirements for participation in the District contest was approved.
- **Walter Macwicz**, an invitee of Kaleb Smith, was approved for membership.
- **Gene Heupel** has asked to be relieved as Groupanizer Administrator and as a Board member. His efforts will be missed but Gene will continue on the risers with the chapter.
- The Christmas Show has been set for Sunday, December 15, at Bloomington-Jefferson High School. There will be one show at 3:00 p.m. Tickets will be \$15.00.

Happy Birthday

- 09/29 Cathy Ortenburger
- 10/03 Guy St. Martin
- 10/09 Paul Jahnke
- 10/16 Pat Hatlestad
- 10/17 Nan DeMars
- 10/17 Leo Odden
- 10/17 Blake Wanger
- 10/18 Bill Kinkel
- 10/20 Glenn Aronson
- 10/20 Sandy Bergersen
- 10/20 Sam LaRoque
- 10/20 Travis Wuttke
- 10/22 Dan True
- 10/29 Andy Cook
- 10/30 Sally Daniel
- 10/30 Karene Heupel
- 10/31 Grayce Jahnke
- 11/01 Tom Dahlen
- 11/05 Vern Johnson
- 11/05 Virginia Johnson
- 11/05 Mark Ortenburger
- 11/08 Marilyn Jacobson
- 11/09 Ken Wentworth

SUNSHINE HOTLINE



By Rich Ongna, Sunshine Chairman

Phone: 952-829-7009 Email: ddongna@usfamily.net

The Commodores extend their sympathies to **Mark Ortenburger** whose father passed away the first week of August.



Rich Ongna

is practicing with the chorus, Sounds of Renown and the Four Seasons again.

Vern Johnson is recovering from Lyme disease and tells me it was not fun. However, he's enjoying spending more time doing his wood carving and is currently preparing for a show. He hopes to be back with the Chorus by Christmas.

Paul Jahnke spent a week in the hospital the beginning of September. He was experiencing debilitating back pain. He has been diagnosed with a compression fracture of lumbar L1 vertebra. Along with the pain meds the doctor has ordered him to keep his activities to a minimum, hence no driving, no standing on risers and much to his chagrin, no competition in La-Crosse. He misses Tuesday nights with the Commodores and hopes to rejoin us before the Christmas show.

I ran into **Carlton Bauer** the other day (we both volunteer at Fairview Southdale Hospital) and learned that his wife **Char** has been dealing with some infection issues and generally having a difficult summer of it health-wise. She spent some time in the hospital as well as the Masonic home.

A number of weeks ago I also took a moment to look in on **Gil Maple**.



Re-enlistments

- **Joel Rumsch**.....3 yrs.
- **Ken Wentworth**.....5 yrs.
- **Sam LaRoque**.....6 yrs.
- **Blake Wanger**.....6 yrs.
- **Dave Wall**.....30 yrs.
- **Neal Mortenson**.....35 yrs.

Happy Anniversary

- 09/12 Roger & Pat Arent
- 09/15 Jim & Linda Lee
- 09/16 Dan & Susan Kregelberg
- 09/19 Harold & Kirsten Ulring
- 09/21 Jack & Sharon Beaver (50)
- 10/06 Bob & Lou Dykstra
- 10/07 Kevin & Janet Huyck
- 10/09 Jim & Judy Windey
- 10/10 Steve & Sally Daniel
- 10/12 Paul & Donna Martz
- 10/15 Larry & Faye Daby
- 10/16 Jim & Ebie Richards (65)
- 10/30 Dave & Catherine Wall

ARE YOU WEARING YOUR "I SING" BUTTON?

at Redeemer Health & Rehabilitation Center. Gil was in good spirits and had just finished leading a Bible study with the other residents. I was fortunate to arrive as they were passing out ice cream cones so we enjoyed a "cool" visit in the midst of the +90° days.

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.

Chord Candy #115

by Dr. Jim Richards, Der Tagmeister



Jim Richards

Contrary motion in harmony is described as movement by two voices in opposite directions. This movement between adjacent chords essentially swaps notes between voice parts while the underlying chord remains essentially fixed. It tends to give the illusion that something harmonically interesting is happening. The intro to the University of Minnesota Rouser uses a nine note duet that functions as a single chord leading to the starting note of the melody. Parallel motion, on the other hand, involves melodic motion by two or more parts in the same direction while maintaining the same basic interval between them. Both of these useful devices appear frequently in our Barbershop literature. This issue of *Chord Candy* contains the tag for a 1923 chestnut called *Pal Of My Dreams*, written by Charles E Roat, arranged by Kirk Roose and sung most recently and notably by *Power Play*. Creative use of both parallel and contrary motion serve to support the lyric line in Measures 4, 5 and 6 as well as in the intro at Measure 1. The result is a string of little duets that should add to your enjoyment as you sing this gem.

“BRIGADE...TEN...HUT!”

By Dave Speidel, Northern Plains Harmony Brigade President



Dave Speidel

The Harmony Brigade is something that every Barbershop-quartet man should attend at least once in a lifetime. The *eXtreme Quartet Experience* was initiated over 20 years ago in North Carolina. Other affiliate Brigades then began springing up across the United States. Brigades exist in North Carolina, Mid-Atlantic Region, New England, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Reno, Nevada, and now down in Texas.

Every year a contingent of these Brigades goes through a rigid music-selection process. Songs are nominated by representatives from each Brigade for the eight core numbers that will become the “heart” of each Brigade in that year. Some Brigades include up to 12 songs while others (like the NPHB) keep the song list at 10. Regardless,

attendees are required to know all of the songs perfectly so that every fellow who comes to a Brigade can have the enjoyment of singing with as many men as he can over the Brigade weekend. The music selections are usually taken from recordings by the best of the best quartets in our Society. Profes-



sional-grade learning tracks (i.e. Tim Tracks) are provided with a song book well in advance for every man to have ample time for learning.

This year, the NPHB will be held at the Crowne Plaza Convention Center in Plymouth, Minnesota. The dates are February 21-22, 2014. We require that attendees stay overnight in order to enjoy the entire event singing into the

wee hours of the morning. Ten superb charts with professional part-predominant learning tracks, two nights’ lodging, five excellent meals, Friday school singouts, Saturday night show, two contests and a Saturday night show are all included. You can’t find a better deal anywhere in our Barbershop Society.

Who can qualify? If you go to our website at www.nphb.org you will find all of the documents regarding our 2014 Brigade. Within those documents you will find forms that include questions regarding your singing experience. When you register, a committee will go through a vetting process to check your singing credentials. If you have limited quartet experience, you will need a reference. Of course all of you know some of the Brigade members in the Commodores. Feel free to talk to any of us and we can give you an indication if we think you can cut the mustard. That would include Paul Swanson, Gary Jacobson, Mark Bloomquist, Ken Wentworth., and me.

So, if you’ are inclined to give it a whirl, sign up now! You’ll want to have all of the time you can to learn your music.

**A - Commodears
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		bags										NA		
	TOTALS	nuts										NA		
		bags										NA		

Revised 8/13

Fore for the Foundation



The 2013 Barbershop Harmony Open

Monday, August 12, was a beautifully sunny and temperate day with wafting zephyr-like breezes, a perfect day for the *Sixth Annual Barbershop Harmony Open* at the Elk River Golf and Country Club. Sixty-four golfers in women's, men's, and mixed foursomes teed off at noon in a shotgun start.

Five years ago after a most successful run for the benefit of the *Make a Wish Foundation*, the members of the *HarmonyWorks Quartet*, I am sure after much soul-searching, decided that since their efforts for *Make a Wish* had far exceeded their expectations, they could, without regret, allow the Open to end as a job well done.

However, **Gary Jacobson, Judd Orff, Tyler Smith** and other members of *The Friday Lunch Bunch That Meets On Thursday* proposed that its members take over the open for the benefit of the Society's *Harmony Foundation*. The staff at the Elk River Club were more than willing to accommodate us and thus, the *Barbershop Harmony Open* was born in 2008.

Early on, **Ryan Killeen**, currently the Harmony Foundation's Senior Director of Development, became an ardent supporter of the Open and has played in the last four events but was unable to participate this year. In his stead he recruited **KJ McAleesejergins**, Harmony Foundation's National Development Officer, to represent the headquarters staff in 2013. At supper KJ gave us an exciting update of the *Youth In Harmony* program especially regarding the burgeoning growth of the Mid-winter Young Men's Chorus competition.



Foundation National Development Officer KJ McAleesejergins

After some adult refreshment, a good meal and entertainment by the **Random Sample** quartet, the fine day came to an end. When the proceeds were counted (and all the bills paid) \$6300 was raised for Harmony Foundation.

Plans are in the works for next year's Open so be sure to mark your calendars for Monday, August 11, 2014. Tee-off time is at noon at the Elk River Golf and Country Club. Make your reservations at bhsopen.com. We'll see you there!



From left to right, Paul Swanson, Paul Wigley, and Mark Ortenburger pose for a moment behind the Commodores' sponsorship sign. The handicap for the group, Hardin Olson (not pictured), apparently had something better to do. *Staff photo*



After the round...tag, anyone? Jim Richards holds harmonious court with (left to rt.) Jim Foy, Mark Ortenburger, Paul Wigley, Paul Swanson, Jim, Joel Kleschold, Charlie Guthrie, and Bob Dykstra. There never can be too many basses. *Staff photo*

Quartet Quaffs

Easy Listenin'

Easy Listenin' has been singing some the last two months. In late August we sang for the 50th Anniversary of an old-time Commodore, Jerry Belsass. Jerry was a member in the 1980s. The venue was the Richfield American Legion, the same place as the regular Tuesday night Afterglow. The crowd was Jerry's family, which numbered about 40 people. The song list included all the love songs in our repertoire plus a couple classic barbershop favorites for good measure. It was a pleasure singing for the very appreciative crowd and visiting with Jerry after the singing.

In early August we sang for a private 90th birthday party for Loraine at the Minnesota Valley Country Club. It was a very small affair with just 20 people and we were surprised to watch Loraine dancing with guests to our barbershop songs.

In Late July we sang for another 90th birthday party at a house in St. Louis Park. The crowd numbered about 35 and George was the birthday boy. George was a friend of one of the original Buffalo Bills and was a keen judge of Barbershop talent, at one time saying between songs that "Those boys (our quartet) are no Buffalo Bills." He did moderate that statement somewhat though as we talked to him after the performance by admitting that "The Buffalo Bills never sang for my birthday but you boys were here".

And finally, on June 22nd we sang for a Sons of Norway dinner in South Minneapolis. If anyone remembers June 22nd, there was a huge storm the night before. In the neighborhood in which we sang there were many trees down blocking streets making getting to the venue difficult. Within two blocks of the venue there were about five big trees blocking streets, including

one that fell on a car a block from the venue. When we arrived there was no host to be seen but we stayed on to await developments. As it turns out the church we were supposed to sing at was without electricity but 15 stalwart Sons of Norway arrived for the event anyway. In the end we sang in the parking lot to those attending while they enjoyed a sandwich tailgating lunch while listening to our barbershop tunes.

Dick Riemenschneider for Dan, Rod, and John

Four Seasons

You've heard the commercial statement "It's hard to stop a Trane." Of course that's an ad for an air conditioning manufacturer, for which your intrepid writer was a representative in my pre-retirement



Rollie Neve

years. It so happens that this statement also applies to the Four Seasons Quartet – it is hard to stop the "Seasons" from performing. The question then becomes: What's so hard that it would keep them from singing? The answer to that question is open-heart surgery. It happened in the tenor voice.

Being asymptomatic, there was no clue that I, the tenor, had any health problems. A physical checkup proved differently, however, and the surprising diagnosis was that the heart needed immediate repair. The aortic valve was only passing 25% of full flow and three blockages called for bypasses. On July 1, 2013, the surgery was performed and hospital time and recovery silenced the Seasons. Not to worry, however, the recovery is going well, and the silence will be broken by the resumption of rehearsals right after Labor Day. There's nothing like the therapy of harmony to speed up the recovery.

That Barbershop is family is confirmed by the cards and prayer support that I received from all of you. My thanks to you for your concerns. It has contributed to the success of the operation and is evident in the recovery process.

Returning to chorus rehearsals for the last two sessions has confirmed that the surgery did no damage to the vocal folds. A little more work on restoring breath support will hasten my return to normal.

The hospital interruption caused a performance cancellation which we will try to reschedule. Music, and in my opinion Barbershop music, is therapy for the soul. Being without it for some six weeks made me better understand this truth. There's little doubt that the anticipation of resuming singing Barbershop contributed to my healing and a smooth recovery. The delightful result of this is that I can anticipate an extension of my barbershop lifespan. Who can ask for more than that? It's great to be a Barbershopper and it's great to be a Commodore.

Rollie Neve for Dan, Rich, and Tom

•••••
 • **More Life With Romana** •
 • Submitted by Jim Jorgensen •
 • One time I overheard Romana •
 • talking on the phone to a friend, •
 • "Jim gets up every morning at 9:00 •
 • a.m. – regardless of what time it is" •
 • • One of those many times when I •
 • was having trouble dealing with •
 • Romana I said, "Romana, what is it •
 • with you? Is it ignorance or apathy?" •
 • She replied, angrily, "I don't •
 • know and I don't care". •
 • • Once one of the kids was marvel- •
 • ing at my using the non-regular •
 • hand. Romana said, "Yeah, he can •
 • do things with his left hand or his •
 • right hand. He's amphibious." •
 • • Some years back, after seeing one •
 • of the kids' report cards showing •
 • one C and four Ds, Romana said, •
 • "Son, it looks to me like you spend •
 • too much time on one subject. •
 •••••

Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, *Balancing Baritone*

Have just been reading about the latest contest judging analysis and the proposed future changes for this fall's contests. Thank goodness those who matter have finally listened to me. Many articles ago, I raised a question as to whether a judge score that falls well beyond the range of scores of the other judges, should be tossed out or treated in a manner that makes it more consistent with the rest of the scores. This was not to take away a judge's "rogue" opinion, but to make sure the "outlier" score was really merited, etc. All right, I don't really believe that what I wrote caused the Society to consider a new approach. In fact, I would be immensely surprised (although pleased) if any one of them had ever heard of the Georgia Grind, much less my questioning their then current scoring process. But I am pleased that something is being done to overcome the disappointment of losing a qualifying position because of one score dragging down an otherwise consistently-rated fine performance.

Those promoting this new process call it "**Scoring Variance Process.**" Others have labeled it "**Instant Replay,**" a term that seems to grate a bit on the official promoters. I suspect the latter label may just stick as slang terms often do, but whatever the case, it is to be in effect soon. You can find out more about this in the e-mail **Livewire** publication of the Society. As with anything, some refinements may be required after the initial introduction. Still, I applaud the attempt to improve achieving a performer's destiny. Wow, that sounds like pretty lofty

language, so I'll end this here except to say I am eagerly awaiting some good, consistent results and then may the chips fall where they might.

And talking about falling chips, have you ever considered making a Barbershop bucket list? Think about it for a minute. What do you want to do in your Barbershop-singing adventure before you lose your ability to stand on the risers for hours on end, sing hour after hour the same difficult passage and on top of that, get the choreo right, all the while smiling and twinkling your eyes? If you don't know, or have aimlessly gone to chapter meetings learning what is put in

to the point, participated in a performance of several songs before a fair-sized audience. You define it, as it's your list. For me, one thing I have always wanted to do was perform in a comedy quartet. Singing in a quartet is challenging enough; being a good (no, *great*) singing quartet while being a sidesplitting funny one? Priceless!

For your list, have you ever wanted to work with young people to show them what Barbershop is all about and introduced them to the lifelong satisfaction it can bring? Attempted to write or arrange a Barbershop song? And it goes on. But this is about you and the amount of interest, courage, and enthusiasm, etc., you have in doing something you might otherwise just let slide. Start your list today! Or as **Goethe** said, "Are you in earnest? Seize this very minute. What you can do, or think you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it. Only engage, and then the mind grows heated. Begin it and the work will be completed." I modestly must admit I couldn't have said it better. So what are you waiting for? Git 'er done!

One last thought on this. As you work on accomplishing your Barbershop bucket list, be sure to concentrate on singing. Do not fall into the trap that **Rollie Neve** sometimes does. Oh, I know he just had some heart surgery and so I should treat him with some respect, but why start now? I was just happy they found a little heart in his chest and not the rumored cold, flinty set of varied veins and valves. (Rollie, note the alliteration for which you are famous. Or infamous?) What was the trap? Now Rollie is a person whose stories, wonderfully told, never suffered from a lack of a studied and unstudied embellishment or two (hundred). So he has to rigorously avoid getting so involved in his stories to the audience, that he forgets he is there to sing. When you are as masterful at storytelling

Go to **Grind**, Page 12, Col. 1



Jim Erickson



Reading the **Georgia Grind**

front of you, maybe it's time to start that list to get ahead of buckling knees, failing vocal cords and that wrinkle-lined scowl of a smile that started creeping across your face after you turned thirty.

I'm here to help. Have you ever really sat down to learn more about the Barbershop-harmony techniques? Sung in a quartet? No, I don't mean one of those quickie, rehearsal time quartets or at the Monday-night quartet sessions or some other impromptu singing. I suppose Valentine quartets do count as you are usually in a group that has been together for more than one rehearsal and you perform for an audience, albeit often small. More

Grind from Page

as he is, I know it's hard keep your focus on songs. But beware the impending pitfall!

Switching gears here. Our esteemed, award-winning editor, **Doc Hardin Olson**, forwarded a picture to me recently that was penned for another Barbershop Chorus publication. It shows an occupied outhouse with musical notes filling the air and someone inside reading the Georgia Grind [From *Off the Riser*, the Barrie County, Ontario, Chapter bulletin, **Alan Rivers**, Editor.] Tickled me! It brought back memories when **Bob Albrecht** (a former Commodore) told me that when he read my column, it was a two-bathroom read. Ah, so! Anyway, it's fun to see others following the Grind and going even further to add graphic art. And part of the fun is seeing that I am syndicated. Can't wait to see how much the royalties will be. Further, more fun that some may consider trying to be really green by making a second, tree-saving use of the paper upon which the winning Chord-Inator is printed. (That is, unless he is viewing the new, electronic version and then I hope that his electronics are not finding a second green use. His choice, I guess, but it ain't Charmin)

Have to meet my word quota insisted upon by Doc Hardin, hard-nosed editor, so here I'll go back to a thought on preparing your bucket list. If you harbor some fears about pursuing your list in earnest, just listen to what **Jimmy Buffet** had to say when asked, "How should a man best face his fears?" He said, "There have been times onstage when fear comes up. You have to acknowledge that you're scared to death and just say, 'Well, here we go.'"

In conclusion, I started this article with a definite target and theme in mind. Having strayed a bit as I wandered down the page, I must now take comfort in a **Sage's** sage

2013 Annual Nut-Sales Drive is off and running

By **Dick Riemenschneider**, Nut Administrator

I'm staring at my computer screen



Dick R.
for
Riemenschneider

and keyboard, munching on my last bag of 2012 Commodores Cashews, and trying to overcome my writers-block to appropriately announce the start of the 2013 Commodores Nut Sales Drive.

Well, these cashews are still delicious even after nine months in the freezer, and that's the way to announce the start of the 2013 Commodores Nut Sales Campaign. Gentlemen, these nuts we sell are an extremely good product. By selling these nuts to our customers we create a win – win situation: the Commodores gain substantial income from this nut sales activity and our customers get a quality product that they absolutely cannot find at any local store. And don't forget about the dried apples we sell. They are a real treat and will keep for up to nine months without any refrigerating or freezing.

The Commodores have been doing an annual nut sales drive as a fund raiser for many years (I have some old Nut Order Forms that date to 1983, and I don't know if there was a Nut Sales Drive prior to that). Over those many years the nut sales effort has contributed significantly to the Commodores treasury. Dur-

advice. Sitting cross-legged in my backyard, next to the barbeque, he said, "To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target." Bullseye! I think I nailed it.

In the meantime, hold fast to that which is good and keep on recruiting!

ing my tenure as Nut Administrator, which dates to 2006, the Nut Sales Drive has contributed a total of \$64,700 to the Commodores treasury (an average of \$9,243 per year).

With the potential of that kind of cash enhancement to the Commodores' treasury, every member should be working at selling these nuts. For those new to the program, these are top quality nuts from a Minnesota supplier. Usually they are less than two weeks from the roaster to the customer, a claim that the top-tier grocery and specialty stores cannot match. Our customers rave about the quality of our product, and our prices are at least competitive with the fancy stores (and in fact, are lower on some items). Our customers are friends and relatives of Commodores members. Some members sell to neighbors, work mates, spouse work mates, or friends from their church. I've heard of orders from members' banks, dentist office, barbershop, or insurance office. A lot of these orders get bigger every year because these nuts are so delicious.

Some statistics from the 2012 Nut Sales Campaign: 45 % of the members sold nuts; the average sales person sold 43.8 pounds; 14 sales persons sold over the average amount; those 14 (30% of the sales persons) sold 68% of the nuts last year. The top sales persons last year were, in order of sales:

Over 150 pounds sold:

Jim Richards, Dan Cole, Denny Rolloff

Over 100 pounds sold:

Pete Villwock, Carl Pinard, John Carlotto

Over 75 pounds sold: D a n Slattery, Jim Johannsen, Carlton Bauer, Dick Riemenschneider

Over 50 pounds sold: L a n c e Johnson, Leo Odden, Ken, Guy St. Martin, Ken Wentworth

Receiving Honorable Mention for sales is the esteemed Chord-Inator *Go to Nuts, Page 13, Col. 1*

Nuts from Page 12

Editor, Hardin Olson for falling a mere 0.8 pounds below the average sales.

Now, great news for this year. Our wholesale cost for nuts has gone down by 7.2 %. If anyone remembers, we had a significant increase in nut cost in 2012. To make the price increase to our customers more acceptable the Commodores accepted a smaller profit margin last year by actually absorbing a portion of the cost increase. This still resulted in an overall price increase of our product of 5.95%. Now this year we can return to previous years profit margins and only increase the cost to customers by 1.1%. The best news with this slight price increase in 2013 is that WE CAN SELL THE SAME AMOUNT OF NUTS AS LAST YEAR BUT MAKE MORE PROFIT!

HOWEVER, remember that only 45 % of the Commodores sold nuts last year. The other 55 % can help by contributing to the sales effort. Also, you 55 - per centers, remember that this nut sales effort is a win – win effort. If you 55 - percenters sold just 5 pounds each the profit to the chorus would increase by about \$1.200. Also, one of our big sellers, Carlton Bauer, has not been active in the chorus for quite some time and his status as a nut salesperson is questionable for this year. Who will step up to fill Carlton's order of over 75 pounds sold?

This issue of the Chord-Inator includes the form you need to get started selling, the 2013 Nut Order Form. Put your name on the bottom of the form on the salesperson line, make copies of the form or get extras from me (also available via email from me in Excel format), and pass out forms to anyone that might buy nuts. As you pass out the forms, tell your potential customers about the quality and freshness of the nuts and how their nut purchase will assist the Commodores in their

mission. As your orders pour in make sure that you get payment from all customers. We do not extend credit. You may turn in orders to me, Dick Riemenschneider, in person at Commodores meetings; via phone (phone: 651-487-9993 or e-mail dmriemen@comcast.net) as you get them; using the 2013 Nut Order Form (one form per customer). Please ensure that orders have the appropriate amount of cash or a check (made out to A-Commodears). Orders don't need to be turned in all at once. As a matter of fact, it is easier if you turn in orders as you get them. That way I don't get swamped at the last minute. Also, a legible form makes the process easier. For those that track their own orders I will also have some Salesman Nut Order forms available.

BARBERSHOP

**The other addictive,
mood-altering,
non-substance.**

Returning this year is the gold-foil gift bag. Each bag has the usual one pound of nuts, but instead of the clear plastic bag the nuts are distributed in a gold-foil gift bag. The foil bag is heat sealed and re-closeable after initial opening. The bag label has a Commodores logo, the type of nuts in the bag and a "To" and "From" for gift giving. Last year 188 bags were sold providing a lot of class to our products. On the Customer Order Form please be sure that the foil gift bag count is on the same line as the type of nuts ordered with the bags.

If you know of any small business that would like to give nuts as a perk for favored customers I will be willing to work with that business to get their logo or message on the gift bags. The business should supply their label, ready to apply to

their bags (a maximum of 4 x 5 inches please).

You can begin selling immediately and be sure to collect the money when the orders are taken. No nuts are stockpiled and only the nuts paid for are ordered. Our vendor makes only one delivery and we receive an extra 2% discount for payment within 10 days of delivery. Thus, it is essential to collect the money when making the sale.

There are other ways to assist the nut sales efforts. On the days of November 13, 14, and 15 over one hundred 20-pound boxes of nuts will be weighed and packaged into one-pound bags for distribution. Help will be needed to complete this bagging. This bagging operation will go on for three days so there is plenty of time to help. Talk to me for details.

We promise delivery to our customers by Thanksgiving. To assure that delivery date is met the very last chorus meeting day to turn in nut orders will be Tuesday, October 29th. I will be placing the nut order with the supplier on the next Wednesday morning to meet the delivery schedule.

For those that absolutely need to get another order I will accept extra-special, supernumerary, one-time-only, procrastinators special late orders until December 3rd, as that is the date when I need to get the last order submitted to ensure product for sale at the Christmas show.

This deadline is 9 weeks from now. I will post the week-by-week countdown to the deadline at the next nine chorus meetings. Don't put off starting to sell. The nuts will be distributed to all sales persons at the chapter meeting on Tuesday, November 19th. Remember, we sell and deliver nuts of very high quality and freshness. Any sale helps the Commodores continue as a first class Barbershop singing organization

**CHORD-INATOR
MINNEAPOLIS COMMODORES
Minneapolis Chapter of SPEBSQSA**

Dr. Hardin Olson, Bulletin Editor
306 13th. Ave. N.
Hopkins, MN 55343
952/930-9443
olson118@umn.edu

MEETING EVERY TUES -7:00 PM
House of Prayer Lutheran Church
7625 Chicago Ave. S.
Richfield, MN 55423

GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME



*Neither shared with the Girl
Scouts nor dumped by the
Sweet Adelines.*

Logo courtesy of Bob Clark

**1st CLASS
POSTAGE
HERE**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Chapter Quartets

EASY LISTENIN'	
Dan Slattery.....	651/747-6384
FOUR SEASONS	
Rollie Neve.....	952/470-2129
GOOD NEWS!	
Rod Johnson.....	612/978-8237
HAPPINESS EMPORIUM.....	1975 IQC
Rod Johnson.....	612/978-8237
HOT COMMODITY	
Dave Speidel.....	612-437-4325
MINNESOTA GO-4'S	
Harvey Weiss.....	763/439-4447
NOTESWORTHY	
Harvey Weiss.....	763/439-4447
SOUNDS of RENOWN.....	VLQ
Mark Ortenburger.....	952/942-8382
TETRA	
Jim Erickson.....	952-934-9692
TRIPLE Q.....	VLQ
Dave Speidel.....	952/941-7153
TURNING POINT	
Judd Orff.....	651/439-3108

To:

LOOKING AHEAD
Chapter Level

- November 10, **Food Shelf Fundraiser**
- December 15, Sunday - **Christmas Concert**, 3:00 p.m., Bloomington-Jefferson High School

- **March 22, 2014, Annual Show**
District Level

- October 25-27, **Fall Convention**,
La Crosse, Wisconsin
International Level

- January 28 - February 1, **Midwinter Convention**, Long Beach, California

Barbershopper Of The Year
John Carlotto

**Commodores and others *
contributing to this issue.**

Dan Cole

Bob Dykstra
Jim Erickson
Ken Glover
Jim Jorgenson
Rollie Neve
Hardin Olson
Mark Ortenburger
Rich Ongna
Jim Richards
Dick Riemenschneider
Dave Speidel
Harvey Weiss



The *Chord-Inator* is available on the Minneapolis Chapter's website, minneapoliscommodores.org beginning with the January 2006 issue.



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