

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

10,000 LAKES DIVISION - LAND O'LAKES DISTRICT

MAY 2015 - VOL.71 - NO. 5

Under the Big Top-April 11, 2015



"The Circus Has Left the Building!"

By Jake [Gary Jacobson], 2015 Show Chair

Commodores, let me congratulate you on another "Barbershop Miracle." This show was well received by those who attended. I hope you felt your efforts on this performance were what you expected. I know personally, I was disappointed in our total attendance at the shows, but that's "Show Biz." We have to evaluate and learn from our experiences. Let's look forward to a greater 2016.

I am in the process of preparing a complete report on the 2015 Annual Show and will make sure you all receive final results. I think the membership in general does not realize what the budget for this Chapter Operation means to each of us. The Annual Show is intended to produce significant income to offset our yearly expenses. This show, along with our other major projects helps us keep operating in the "black". Carl and Diana Pinard [our ticket-sales people], we could not do it without you.

Thank you to all the characters in the show; Rich Ongna, Dan Cole, Blake Wanger, Becky Wigley, Paul Wigley,

and **Ben Hancock**, were great! ("Good Luck" to Ben. He is leaving for Alaska.) To **Judy Olson** and **Carol Smith** another "Thank you!" The jugglers and the clowns were great and special thanks to **Rod Vink** for all his work on the set, even though the Clown Car appeared for a total of 1:49 minutes. Did I mention my wife, **Marilyn**? She is my inspiration; without her I am nothing.

So, what did you learn from this experience? While this show is not considered as a general performance it should help you become better performers. Our singing is improving and our visuals need improving. So between now and the LOL District Convention in Oshkosh, what are you each going to do to get us better contest scores? The Music Team is planning to offer a weekend or concentrated Tuesday chapter meeting for work on visual concepts. Please plan to attend fully this coming event. Dates for this are forthcoming.

While our circus experience is just a memory, we look forward to next year's *Western Journey to Greener Pastures*. Thanks for your energy. Let's do it again!

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 Chapter Officers

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Paul's Potpourri

By Paul Wigley, Director

I recently was reading an article in



Tribune magazine supplement, and it was expounding about habits of people who live to 100 years. The most interesting thing was the number-one habit was finding your

Parade, the Star-

Paul Wigley

tribe. In other words ... who do you hang out with?

The Minneapolis Commodores are the main *tribe* for many of us. We count on fellow Commodores as our best friends, our "go to" people when we want a social night out, the first ones we call when we want to spend a day enjoying another's company. Certainly, singing in the chorus on Tuesday nights is an activity that solidifies our membership in the Commodore *tribe*, but it's the plethora of related activities that makes the Commodores family extraspecial.

It's been so exciting to see what Dave Speidel's work with the Harmony Brigade has meant to the Commodores. That is another *tribe* who can enjoy singing great music in harmony with other guys who know their music very well! Quartets have been forming among the chorus members, and those are experiences that are comparable to nothing else. A quartet is so like family, sharing the best of times, the worst of times, frustration at times, but always sharing love of singing in harmony together.

If you haven't joined the guys at the Legion after chapter meetings on occasion, give it a try! It is another time to share what's happening in your life, or in the life of the Commodores, and to eat pizza, have a beverage, and simply enjoy being part of a loving *tribe*.

If you golf, and are free on Tues-

day mornings (during good weather!), you can join Die Meistersingers as Bill in the pro shop likes to call us! Great fun, golf that is designed for fun, not frustration (hence the Jacobson Lateral Toss and Fairway Fluff), and even a song after lunch. The Parade article emphasized the importance of your tribe being a group that supports healthy behaviors. If there is one thing universally agreed upon, it is that Barbershop singers are immediately recognized as good people! How can anyone not love a Barbershop singer? Being lifted up by so many great men in our Barbershop tribe of Commodores makes all of our lives better.

When life throws us a challenge, we know that our friends in the Commodores will be among our most fervent cheerleaders. In times of crisis, we know we can count on each other to show up.

Time and time again I will tell people that you simply have to be a part of Barbershop to understand. Barbershop singers in general, and the Minneapolis Commodores in particular, provide so much more than just harmony in song. Harmony of spirit, celebration of being together, and never-ending support of each other. These go far beyond any contestplacement results. Being part of a good chorus, a chorus that consistently sings well, and works to get better, is fun. But, being with a Commodores' tribe that makes the quality of all our lives better, and extends our longevity, is a greater reason to celebrate the fact that ...

It Is Great Being A Commodore!



BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



Chapter members are always welcome to attend the Board meetings.

From the meeting of April 16

By Bill Warp, Secretary

• Visit by LOL District President



Steve Zorn who spoke on chapterleadership development, strong media presence via Facebook, etc., the acceptance and welcome of part-time members, the possibility of a Senior

Bill Warp

Chorus competition at Midwinter, possible sources for grants, and how to encourage the more successful chapters to share their means of recruiting and retention.

- Membership: Harvey Weiss presented the New Visitor To Do list.
- Music and Performance: Como Park performance with TC Show Chorus scheduled for August 2; Christmas show will be on Sunday, December 6; 2016 Annual Show probably will be a single afternoon performance; possible one-day retreat on Presentation with Dave McKern.
- Nate Weimer will be taking over the grants-search position.
- Matt Richards is the new Groupanizer Manager.
- The new trailer is on order and the Commodore truck will soon be retired.
- There will be no Board replacement for departed **Ben Hancock** at this time.
- Volunteer needed from the Chapter to set up GiveMN.org.



SUNSHINE HOTLINE



By Rich Ongna, Sunshine Chairman

Phone: 952-829-7009

Email: <u>ddongna@usfamily.net</u>

Bill Ward has been diagnosed



Rich Ongna

with pancreatic cancer in an advanced stage. Please offer your support to him and his wife, Kim, and their family, including our fellow singer,

Conrad, in your

thoughts and prayers as Bill goes through chemotherapy.

Denny Maas went to the hospital with a gall-stone attack the Thursday before our annual show. The doctors removed the stone initially but days later on April 13th it became necessary to remove the gall bladder. Denny is doing well and joined us for some practice time on April 21st.

Ralph Nordquist had coronary bypass surgery on April 14th. It was somewhat of a surprise when the tests on April 13th revealed he had severe blockages and immediate surgery was warranted. The surgery went well and he's recovering nicely at home.

Glenn Retter has been diagnosed with Bell's palsy and is undergoing the necessary treatments.

It was great to see Pete Villwock at the afternoon performance of our annual show. He said he's feeling a little better but wasn't sure if he'd be able to look in on an occasional practice with us.

Leo Odden's family remembered him with a Celebration of Life on Saturday, May 2nd in Maiden Rock, WI at the Maiden Rock Methodist Church. A luncheon followed at the Maiden Rock Inn

Remember: Please keep me informed about who is ailing and don't

Happy Birthday

05/11 Gordy Aumann (75)

05/11 Lance Johnson

05/13 Ardis Von Fischer

05/14 Doris Hall

05/16 John Carlotto

05/19 Linda Lee

05/20 Lisa Sansgaard

05/21 Steve Mangan

05/24 Pat Griffith

05/27 Pete Mitchelson

05/28 James Erickson

06/04 Jeff Sansgaard

06/05 Neal Mortenson

06/07 Gary Jacobson

Commodore Spotlight





is that subtly irascible bass with a wry sense of humor who, when quite suddenly faced with a most-horrific crisis, has responded with unbounded courage and determination—to accept what he may not be able to change but to meet it head on with all of his physical and emotional strength.

The candor and grace Bill exhibited at our chapter meeting on April 21 gave all in attendance a matchless lesson in equanimity.

As he soldiers on in his daunting trek we can honor Bill's fighting spirit with our heartfelt thoughts and prayers for him and for his family. Always, in times like these, a Commodore's family becomes our family.

God bless us ... every one!

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.

FROM THE TOP

By Gordy Aumann, President

Well, it looks like winter is finally



over and spring has invaded Minnesota. With spring comes thoughts of outdoor activities like fishing, camping, golf, and summer vacations. Not for me, though. I work hard all summer long.

Gordy Aumann hard all summer long at my job on a golf course.

This summer, however, we can't take a vacation from the Commodores or our music. We have a number of summer gigs scheduled and we need everyone's effort to keep our performance level up to our standards.

In addition our Music Committee and 2016 Show "Wrangler," Dave Speidel, have begun introducing new music helping us to prepare for an even better 2016 Annual Show! So we've got to keep on top of our music -learning.

The summer shows will include music from our repertoire so rehearsals will be used to keep us sharp while introducing the new music. And then there's Christmas and our show with the Twin Cities Show Chorus on December 6. WOW, what a schedule.!

Happy Anniversary

05/11 Lou & Nan DeMars

05/17 Jerry & Beverly Koch

05/18 Gordon & Barbara Aumann

05/21 Mark & Jeanne Bloomquist

05/24 Mike & Candice Hojan (40)

05/26 Loren & Jane Berthilson

05/27 Rod & Bonnie Vink

06/02 Jim & Kay Foy

06/02 Mark & Cathy Ortenburger

06/02 Dan & Kathy Williams

06/06 Glenn & Barb Aronson



April Reenlistments

Nate Weimer.....2 yrs.

1st Annual Honorary Bloomington Comedy Quartet Contest

Tuesday, May 19, 2015 - 7:00 p.m. until Richfield American Legion Post 435 - 6501
Portland Avenue South - All invited - No
more than two registered quartet members in a competing foursome - FOOD Cash bar - FUN - You don't want to miss it!

Letters

Hi,

The Commodores can still sing up a storm. Nice to hear Barbershop music again. Pete [Benson] is from my hometown, and I remember the Barbershop show when he gave Rachelle her engagement ring! They are a family to be admired in this day and age.

Dave Speidel and I go to the same church, so he was the one to remind me that there is an afternoon show, as I am not happy about driving in unknown territory at night. It was fun.

The Chord-Inator keeps me in touch and I enjoy the funny stuff in columns and articles. I know the Commodores promote humor in their rehearsals and performances. It is wonderful to have and enjoy such an enriching hobby.

I proof-read every day, so I read the newsletter for enjoyment. I think everyone does a great job with the English and grammar and can only say, keep up the good work. That applies to every aspect of the Commodore Chorus.

(Today would have been Pat's 79th birthday.)

All the Best, Jeanie [Collins]

Editor's Note: Pat Collins had an

extended and remarkably diverse musical career, his last stop being a devoted Commodore (and a member of TFLBTMOT.)

Years ago Jeanie and I had a conversation about proof reading. I tried to recruit her for the Chord-Inator but, alas, the rest is history. Yet, the Chord-Inator lives on.

Thanks Jeanie for the capital "Bs" in Barbershop.

Hi Hardin-

Thanks for the lovely e-mail and for a copy [e-mail] of the Chord-Inator. Yes, I saw the copy you sent to Carmen [Thorstad], too. That was very thoughtful of you.

I can't say enough how touching it was to have a row of Commodores sitting in the pew behind us, giving your hearts in song and being such great pals of Carmen. I know he would have been smiling and singing along with you.

Perhaps I will find myself at one of the Tuesday night meetings [of the TC Show Chorus]. But in the meantime, good luck to the ladies of TCSC on the 26th.

Thank you so much for staying in touch with me. It means a lot. Take care.

Jan [Reimer, stepdaughter]

A WAY OUT WEST

By David Speidel, Ass't Director

Don't ask me why, but somehow I



Dave Speidel

have become the Rope Holder for the 2016 Annual Show. Probably because I offered up a show theme at one of our Music Committee meetings and everyone concurred that it was a worthy endeavor with lots of good

musical selections to choose from.

The music committee has agreed to formulate a "team approach" in order to take some of the pressure off yours truly. The wagon wheels are already in motion with the introduction of music selections this month and here is a taste of other songs in the mix.

You can definitely count on these songs to be done by the chorus:

- Don't Fence Me In (Swing)
- Home On the Range (Ballad)
- Smile (Ballad)
- They Call the Wind Mariah (Novelty)

- Ghost Riders (Uptune)
- Little Patch of Heaven (Uptune)

Other selections under consideration include:

- Bury Me Not On the Lone Prairie (*quartet-tbd*)
- Cool Water/Tumblin' Tumble-weeds (Sounds of Renown)
- The Rhythm of Love (*Hot Commodity*)
- Desperado (*Under 91*)
- The Streets of Laredo (quartettbd)

I don't want to disclose too much, but a parody based on a very familiar song from the past will also be in the mix—and paired with a song to be determined for contest purposes in 2016.

My goal is to develop a fairly simple script that takes a group of settlers from Point A to Point B – *but with a route that tends to meander.* Specific cast characters that I am contemplating would include a confused trail boss, scouts, camp cook, an undertaker or two, a gunslinger, and town marshal. You

can imagine the rest. A stop at a saloon might even be in order.

The show location will be Bethel's Benson Great Hall on April 16. Serious consideration is being given to doing a single show in the later afternoon, followed by a combination afterglow/dinner show. The quartet search is also taking shape and if we get who we hope for, it is going to be one exciting show! Stay tuned for more revelations in the coming months.

Ladies Night/BOTY

Sunday, June 7, 2015

Cocktails

Dinner

Entertainment

Columbia Golf Course

Regale your

significant other.

Chord Candy #133

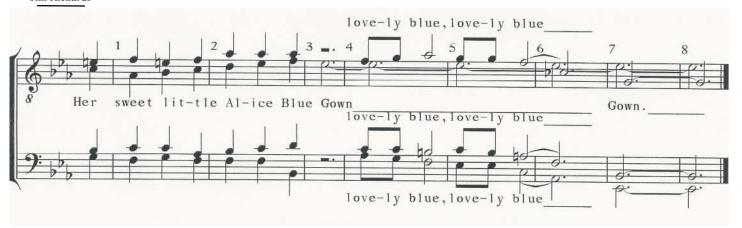
by Dr. Jim Richards, Der Tagmeister

According to Wikipedia Alice Blue Gown was written by Harry Tierney and Joseph McCarthy for the 1919 musical,



Jim Richards

Irene, and introduced on Broadway by Edith Day. The title of the song was inspired by the gray-blue color favored by Alice Roosevelt Longworth, the president's popular daughter. The song was written in July of 1912, just three months after the Titanic sank, so this song qualifies as a genuine antique. Nevertheless, the song would be appropriate today for anyone whose daughter is about to go to her first prom this spring. Lloyd Steinkamp's great arrangement of this song (most likely for Most Happy Fellas) has a tag that was dictated to me by his son, Gary, at Harmony College about a quarter of a century ago. The Lead sings the straight melody through to a 6-measure post. The Tenor goes below the lead on the last three measures. Pretty tricky, eh! The final resolution is an Eb major chord spread over two octaves. Very nice, indeed. Enjoy!





The Benson Family Singers



Gary Jacobson
2015 Show Chairman
AKA "The Spotlight Clown"



The Now & Then singers from Lakeville North High School

Show Time

April 11, 2015

Benson





Kordal Kombat - 2013 LOL District Quartet Champions



Rich Ongna
"The Ringmaster"



Director Paul Wigley and his minions



Experiencing the life of a Clown

圆





Easy Listenin'





And then there's

朴

Afterglow!



Kordal Kombat













Swipe (sans the Wards)



Pinard Photo

The Northern Pines Harmony Brigaders



(Innominate Fill-ins)



(Backup Plan?)

Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, Bozo Baritone

Could you see it? Hear it? Smell it? Taste it? Or maybe even touch it? You saw it, obviously, if you



Jim Erickson

were at the Under the Big Top performance. You just couldn't miss being dazzled by all the colors, watching colorful clown antics, and hearing a rainbow of colorful

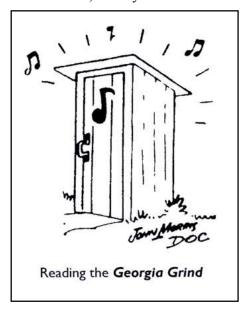
music. And of course, you heard all kinds of actors' Big Top banter. But smell and taste it? Recall, if you will, the Broadway show with the topsy-turvied theatrical phrase for its title, *Roar of the Greasepaint, Smell of the Crowd*.

I know no one could actually hear the greasepaint as we clowns were being face-painted. But once **Marilyn Jacobson** and team completed their deft handiwork, we (now freshly-emerged clowns) heard everything from a little giggle to an outright belly laugh. A garish, smiling clown face will do that. And, I must say, there were some admiring, adoring sighs. Hey, for that I'll have my face painted every day.

But hearing the "roar" of the greasepaint? Only the reactional roar, I guess. No real sound from the paint itself. I did do an inward "roar" as all the colors were being layered on. An inward roar when the **Van Gogh** of clownish grins reminded me of my commitment. "You do realize, don't you, that you will have to wear this glamorization paste for the next 12 hours?" Oops, hadn't thought of my makeup that way. Must be the price of being in show business. Oh, well.

And, I could smell the greasepaint ... a bit. Couldn't really smell the crowd, though, probably because I was too excited to notice. I'm sure they weren't fragrance-free. My nose isn't what it used to be, if it ever was, but I should be able to smell a crowd. Didn't though. To apologize for not having much sense of smell, I used to tell others that "I don't smell too good." It took me awhile, but I finally realized that I should rephrase that with a tweak. "My nose doesn't work too well," seemed closer to what I really meant. (They may have agreed more with the first statement.)

Taste! Men, have you ever kissed



a really fetching girl? One who just projects everything you ever dreamed of? (I don't mean to exclude "woman" but something about "girl" seemed more fitting for this limited purpose.) And then tasted her lipstick? Kind of a hint of a bitterish, hand-lotiony taste. Not so bad that you wanted to stop in mid-kiss. No, no, no. But just enough to rate the kiss as an "8.73" rather than a "10." Now I'm not up to taking on a multi-billion dollar business that does, to my eye, make a girl/ woman more attractive. But I am focusing on taste here. Maybe a lipstick blend of pomegranate and passion fruit flavors would be industry-changing. Call it, "Juicy Fire." Perhaps add a bit of vitamin D and E for health-beauty reasons. Maybe even some fiber of some sort for gastrointestinal vitality. Mmm, I seem to have lost my way just a little.

Let's see. Nothing wrong with my taste, and I could taste the clownred, lip-enhancing coating. More importantly, though, did they make my lips look too "pouty" or make my face look fat? No one, not even Rollie Neve, would tell me the truth. Luckily, kissing a girl was not in my clown script, so no pulling back on her part due to the failings of the lipstick conglomerates. Wait! What did I just say? I was lucky not to be kissing a girl? Could it be the paint fumes have dissolved the passion part of my brain? The little that was left? I can't handle this. Change subjects, I must!

Here's a change. Only rarely does anyone in the audience get to touch the performer. During the performance, that is. And more forbidden is for the performer to touch someone in the audience. Exceptions, of course, but generally. But there's touching. And then there is "touching." When we performers do our bit, and the audience hoots, laughs, giggles, cries, hums along, stands, wildly, or even mildly, applauds, we have touched each other in something quite magical. And very human.

So, here's the deal. If you were fortunate enough to be a part of the production and performance, or maybe someone just sitting out there, you had to experience all senses in some way, each different, but all accounted for.

Go to Grind, Page 9, Column 1

Grind from Page 8

And that happens with every performance. I have been with the Commodores for several years and been a part of each annual show. They have been audience-pleasing and all have been quite different. But there was something about this year's show that delightfully fused the audience with the performers.

Personally, I think the ticket-holders really felt they were actually a part of what was going on. Not just a viewer. For whatever reason, they were drawn in from the beginning and that fine line separating them from the clowns, jugglers, gorilla chasers and the rest, seemed to just fade away as the search for **Gloria the Gorilla** continued. Seeing men step out of their everyday life to become circus folk and forgetting however silly, funny, perplexed and more,

they were willing to be, was show-time glue.

Well, time to put my high-yellow



"Yellow Pants" Erickson Esq.

pants, pointed hat, multi-colored laser-baton flashlight, purple flower and fluorescent suspenders away. Couldn't have had more fun. I'll take off the clown face paint pretty soon, too—Maybe ... uh ... July.

Thanks to all of those behind the scenes who put in countless hours and months for the final production. They do more than most can ever imagine.

And, be sure to MAKE THAT BARBERSHOP BUCKET LIST. The year is marching on, and if you haven't tried singing in a quartet other than rehearsal-required, taken a lesson or more from **Coach James**, or done something that you have only imagined, add it to your list. THEN take steps to do it. Be brave. Try something adventurous! And keep on recruiting. Too, hold fast to that which is good.





Bill Shaw (2nd from rt.) visited the Commodores on May 5. Although emigrating to Arizona 12 years ago he still maintains Minneapolis Chapter membership. He is shown here with fellow Commodores (left to rt.) Dan Cole, Lance Johnson, and Bob Griffith.

Staff photo

GRAMMARIAN JIM'S PEARLS
LOOK SMART! Yeah! You!
Baritone Erickson's general
writing tips to make you look
smarter. DO THIS! Put the comma, period, question mark, etc.,
INSIDE the end quotation mark.
Inside. Inside. Like this:

...taste the "syrup."

Hint: the end quotation mark points to the left. That's where you should put the period, comma, etc. See, you smarter alEditor's Note: Jim Erickson's vignette (at left) is his initial effort in his campaign against the undermining of our citizenry's communication skills by the evils of the cellphone and all its diabolical lookalikes and spin-offs.

As one of Chord-Inator's erudite proofreaders Jim obviously felt that there was absolutely no better place to start his effort than in this hallowed and widely-distributed organ, thereby helping to ease his monthly effort to make this publication suitable for national dissemination.

8th Annual BHS Open

BEST-BALL SCRAMBLE

(18 holes with cart and

post-match buffet)

benefiting

Harmony Foundation

Elk River Country Club
Monday

August 10, <u>2015</u>

12:00 p.m. start

Register on line at

bhsopen.com

Dr. Hardin Olson, Bulletin Editor 3020 St. Albans Mill Road #109 Minnetonka, MN 55305 952/229-4525 olson118@umn.edu

All <u>copy</u> and <u>photos</u> herein without a byline as well as those opinions and commentaries under his byline are the sole responsibility of the *Chord-Inator* editor and do not necessarily reflect the views of those of the Minneapolis Chapter Board or its officers.

Chapter Quartets

EASY LISTENIN'	
Dan Slattery	651/747-6384
FOUR SEASONS	
Rollie Neve	952/470-2129
HOT COMMODITY	
Dave Speidel	612-437-4325
RING IT ON	
Andy Richards	651/639-9312
NOTESWORTHY	
Harvey Weiss	763/439-4447
SWYPE	
Mark Bloomquist	952/541-0232
SOUNDS of RENOWN (VLQ)	
Mark Ortenburger	952/942-8382



CHORD-INATOR

1st Place 2013 PROBE HARD-COPY INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN CONTEST



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



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

Logo courtesy of Bob Clark

1st CLASS POSTAGE HERE

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

To:

LOOKING AHEAD

Chapter Level

- July (TBA), Lake Harriet with TC Show Chorus.
- July 21, Tuesday, Como Park Area Chapters' Singout.
- July 22, Wednesday, **Maple Grove** performance.
- August 2, Como Performance with TC Show Chorus
- August 18, Tuesday, Minnetonka performance.
- December 6, Saturday, Christmas Show.

District Level

• October 23-24, Fall Convention, Oshkosh, Wisconsin

International Level

• June 28 - July 5, 2015, **International** Convention, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

2014 Barbershopper Of The Year Rod Vink

Commodores and others * contributing to this issue.

Gordy Aumann
Jim Erickson
Gary Jacobson
Hardin Olson
Rich Ongna
Jan Reimer *
Jim Richards
Dave Speidel
Bill Warp
Paul Wigley

CHORD-INATOR
MINNEAPOLIS COMMODORES
Minneapolis Chapter of SPEBSQSA
MEETING EVERY TUES –7:00 p.m.
House of Prayer Lutheran Church
7625 Chicago Ave. S.
Richfield, MN 55423
GUESTS ALWAYS WELCOME