

KEEPING THE
WHOLE WORLD SINGING

CHORD-INATOR

BARBERSHOP
HARMONY
SOCIETY



MINNEAPOLIS
COMMODORES

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

10,000 LAKES DIVISION - LAND O' LAKES DISTRICT

MAY 2016 - VOL.72 - NO. 5

MOST IMPROVED ... WOW!



Bob Fricke Photo

April 30 was a beautiful day in Nicollet, Minnesota, a perfect setting for the 10,000 Lakes/Southwest Division Convention & Contests and International Quartet Preliminaries. Nicollet High School is a first-class venue and the Mankato chapter members ran a virtually glitch-free convention.

Seventeen quartets and ten choruses took part in the contests and after all shots were fired three LOL quartets, *Chord Smash*, *Underground*, and *Midnight Croon*, qualified for the July International contest in Nashville, the *Great Northern Chorus* (Hilltop) was named the 10,000 Lakes Division Champion, and the *Minneapolis Commodores* in second place were cited as the *Most Improved Chorus*. *Ruckus*, consisting of members from *Westminster* and *Hilltop* were the 10,000 Lakes Quartet Champions but had elected not to compete in the International Prelims.

All competing choruses earned the right to compete at the District Contest in Appleton, Wisconsin, in October. Quartets competing in Appleton will be announced when all LOL Division quartet scores are tallied.

Upon leaving the contest stage that Saturday virtually all the Commodore, and Director **Paul Wigley**, were quite pleased with our performance. The audience had been quite receptive and appreciative of both numbers as we seemed to have connected quite well with them. It is always desirable to perform toward the end of a contest when the audience is near maximum.

A pleasant surprise awaited the assembled Commodores at the post-contest chorus evaluations as judges **Mark Hale**, **Greg Caetano**, **Tim Brooks**, and candidate judge, **Rasmus Krigström** (Lead of *Ringmasters*, 2012 International gold-medalists) complimented us with meaningful and *most-constructive* criticism.

Singing in the penultimate position in the contest, the Commodores heard only one competing chorus, that of GNU. Their performance of *Santa Fe* from the Broadway play, *Newsies*, was *over-the-top magnificent*. It's just too bad that GNU doesn't market itself as a premier *Barbershop* organization. They could do themselves and our Society a great service.

**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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James Estes

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- Lead Section Leader.**Vacant**
Assistant - Dan Smith
- Bari Section LeadersDave Speidel
Assistant - Matt Richards
- Bass Section Leaders.....**Vacant**
Assistant - Dave Caspersen

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From the Prez ...

By Gordy Aumann, President



Gordy Aumann

Well, another Division contest has come and gone. The Mankato crew hosted another successful event at Nicollet High School with their usual efficiency. Our chorus, small but mighty, did a fantastic job, and was voted the most improved in the large-chorus category. See, guys. Paul is right. Hard work does pay off.

Chord Smash (with our new lead-section leader [and assistant director] **James Estes**), earned 2nd place in the 10,000 Lakes Division Quartet Contest and qualified for International in July in Nashville.

Now it's on to *Comedy Quartet Night* on May 24 at the Richfield American Legion Post. This is an inter-chapter event and will be a great night of singing, so get your quartet together and come join the festivities. Our summer is filling up fast with performances scheduled at Como (twice) and Centennial Lakes in July and then in Minnetonka in August. Check our website for the dates as well as for other later-scheduled events.

**9th Annual
BHS Open
Monday,
August 8, 2016
SCRAMBLE FORMAT
to benefit
Harmony Foundation
Elk River Country Club
Register on line next
summer at
bhsopen.com**

Editor's Note: I received the following missive almost exactly a year ago and apparently downloaded it neglecting to include the author's name. In the usual rush to deadline I misfiled it only to serendipitously find it this week while searching for some other more mundane files. After inquiring unsuccessfully of Dan Cole, Mark Ortenburger, and Dick Riemenschneider, a great light flashed before my tired eyes and the name "Wigley" appeared. What you read below, but with an update regarding Nicollet and the editing of a few typos, is what was lying at the bottom of my "IN" box for the last year. (Title is mine, apologies to the author.)

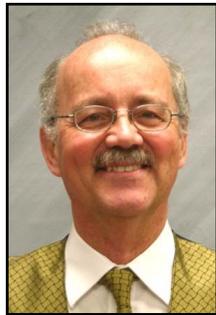
The Lakeville Scrolls

By Paul Wigley, Director

I recently was reading an article in the *Parade* magazine supplement about habits of people that live to 100 years of age. The most interesting thing was that the number-one habit was "finding your tribe." In other words, with whom who do you hang out?

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, or the first ones we call if 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 Commodore family special.

It's been so exciting to see what **Dave Speidel's** work with the *Harmony Brigade* has meant to the Commodores, another tribe that can enjoy singing great music in harmony with other men that know their music very *Go to Scrolls, Page 3, Column 1*



Paul Wigley

Scrolls from Page 2

well! Quartets have been forming among the chorus members, and those are experiences that are incomparable to anything else. A quartet is so like a family, sharing best of times, the worst of times, and frustration at times, but always sharing love of singing harmoniously together.

If you haven't joined the guys at the Legion after chapter meeting on occasion, give it a try! These *afterglows* allow you to share what's happening in your life, and in the lives of fellow Commodores, and provide the opportunity to eat pizza, have a beverage, and simply enjoy being part of a loving tribe.

If you play golf, and are free on Tuesday mornings (weather permitting!), you can join *Die Meistersingers* as the staff at *Crystal Lake Golf Course* pro-shop likes to call us. Great fun, golf that is designed for fun, not frustration (no score-keeping and mulligans allowed), and even a song or two after lunch. The Parade article emphasized the importance of your tribe being a group that supports healthy behaviors. If there is one thing that is universal in agreement, it is the fact 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 Commodore friends will be among our most fervent cheerleaders. In times of crisis, we know we can count on each other to *be there*.

Time and again I will tell people that you simply have to be a part of it 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 contest-placement results. Being part of a good chorus, a chorus

that consistently sings well, and works to get better, is fun. But, being with a *Commodore 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!*

AND NOW ... FOR THE LATEST NEWS!

Thanks to all of you who competed in Nicollet at the Divisional contest. It was a wonderful performance, with tremendous positive feedback from everyone that heard us! I heard a distinctively different sound from the Commodores, a warmer, more focused, more musical, and more artistic sound.

We are on a course of improvement that is exciting. We will be spending



more time in sectionals working on unit blend and matching of sound (NOTE ... NOT working on words and notes!). We can now begin working on the great wealth of music that **Dan Cole** has in mind for next year's show. I promise you, it will be fun stuff to work on! We will now be enhancing our choral/vocal skills, learning new music, and polishing repertoire for a HOST of summer performances. As always, keep bringing guests to share this wonderful hobby.

We have been so fortunate recently to add a number of very good singers to our riser corps. Keep up the good work. Don't be shy! How many guys have said, "Gosh, I only wish I would have started singing in a chorus like this many years earlier?" Do your friends a favor, and get them singing NOW!

Welcome Aboard

Jim Ostrander lives in Woodbury



with his wife, **Pat** (lead of *4 Star Collection*, 1997 Sweet Adeline Queens of Harmony). Born in Minneapolis, he graduated from high school in Ortonville before moving

on to St. Cloud State University where he earned a Bachelor of Elective Studies degree.

Jim is retired after serving in the United States Army for 35 years.

A choir-singer since age five, and later taking part in some school musicals, Jim was eventually recruited through a friend, into the Little Falls Chapter of the Society. Some years later after moving to the Twin Cities area he affiliated with the Bloomington Chapter.

In addition to Barbershopping Jim has a passion for camping.

After the Bloomington Chapter turned in its charter about two years ago it seemed logical to Jim to continue Barbershopping with the Commodores as the two chapters shared many similar traits.

The Bass Section will be welcoming Jim.

**Let's put the
capital
"B"
in Barbershop
as the
PROBE
Style Manual
Suggests!**

**SUNSHINE
HOTLINE**



By Rich Ongna, Sunshine Chairman
Phone: 952-829-7009
Email: ddongna@usfamily.net

Glenn Retter is recovering from his laser vocal-cord surgery and being seen at chapter meetings although not singing for a while yet.



Rich Ongna

Paul Paddock suffered a broken collar bone in April while playing ultimate Frisbee and felt bad that he had to miss performing in our annual show.

The Commodores extend their sympathies to **Dick & Marge Riemenschneider** in the passing of her mother on April 9th.

The Commodores extend their sympathies to **Jim Jorgensen** in the passing of his wife, **Romana**, on April 5th.

We also extend our sympathies to **Al & Karen Matchinsky** in the passing of her mother in March. Al himself has been experiencing some health issues that are affecting the optic nerve of his right eye.



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 F. & Candice Hojan
- 05/27 Rod & Bonnie Vink
- 06/02 James & Kay Foy
- 06/02 Mark & Cathy Ortenburger
- 06/02 Dan & Kathy Williams
- 06/06 Glenn & Barb Aronson
- 06/06 John & Caryl Hansen
- 06/06 Andy & Karen Richards (35)

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS



Chapter members are always welcome to attend the Board meetings.

From the meeting of April 21

By Bill Warp, Secretary

• **Membership:** The first meeting each month will be designated Guest Nights.



Bill Warp

A suggestion was made to obtain an on-stage name-board for our summer concerts.

• **Membership:** Octet challenges will resume in May.

The final Annual Show Report will be available next month. Ticket sales for show and afterglow were below expectations.

The 2017 annual show will be chaired by, **Dan Cole**, the theme being music of the 60s, 70s, and 80s.

James Estes has agreed to become an assistant director.

• **Marketing:** A Go-To-Meeting connection for members who can't attend a meeting in person is being considered. (Cont. next column.)

Happy Birthday

- 05/11 Gordy Aumann
- 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 Mangano
- 05/24 Pat Griffith
- 05/27 Pete Mitchelson
- 05/28 James Erickson
- 05/28 Marge Riemenschneider
- 06/04 Jeff Sansgaard
- 06/05 Neal Mortenson
- 06/07 Gary Jacobson

A plan is afoot to recruit Commodores for a summer-performance group to entertain at senior-centers.

A flyer with firm dates is needed to promote summer performances.

• **Old Business:** About 40 Chorus Surveys have been received; most are favorable.

• **Next meeting is May 12, 2016.**



April Reenlistments

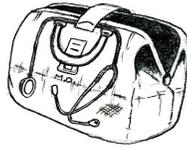
- Walter Dawson.....2 yrs.
- Dave Casperson.....13 yrs.
- Bob Ostergaard.....13 yrs.
- James Erickson.....14 yrs.
- John Carlotto.....15 yrs.
- Mark Ortenburger,,,,,,15 yrs.
- Peter Jarnberg.....17 yrs.
- Harvey Weiss.....17 yrs.
- Terry McClellan.....20 yrs.
- Rod Vink.....22 yrs.
- Guy St Martin.....25 yrs.
- Jim Windey.....27 yrs.
- Charles McKown.....30 yrs.
- Dan Smith.....30 yrs.
- Dan True.....31 yrs.
- David Speidel.....41 yrs.
- LeRoy Zimmerman.....44 yrs.
- Gary Jacobson.....52 yrs.
- Robert Griffith.....53 yrs.
- Bob Dykstra.....64 yrs.

Pack a Lunch ...

Bob Dykstra, Curmudgeon at Large

If I've read correctly the Harmonet Reporter's summary of the results of the current cycle of contests designed to qualify quartets for this summer's international contest, folks better pack a lunch (and perhaps dinner) if they want to observe the entire quarter-finals competition. It appears to me that 63 quartets have qualified and plan to compete in Nashville. And remember ... the Society in its infinite wisdom decided some years ago to remove time limits from competition performances, a decision with which I've never been comfortable, and which now leads me to suggest that convention attendees also bring along a seat cushion and a pillow.

Doc's Bag



By Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor

The announcement following the contest evaluations April 30 in Nicollet, that **James Estes** was going to be an assistant director of the *Commodore Chorus* was greeted with enthusiasm by all those who attended the evals.



Hardin Olson

To have another talented director... (Singing Judge, and vocal technician) in the Commodore camp is a blessing and gives testimony that we are a worthy group, who with good work, are capable of enhancing our abilities and reaching our full potential.

Welcome, James!

Now if we can encourage **Gary Jacobson** to return to us on Tuesday evenings (He's been thinking about it.), the Commodores will indeed have a nonpareil directorial complement. Onward and upward!

Wasn't it a pleasant surprise to see former Commodore assistant director and concert-trianglist, **Carl Bloedel**, in

Nicollet on Contest Saturday. He has hardly changed and there is absolutely no reason why he couldn't commute to HOP from Mankato on Tuesday evenings. Let's hope!

Have you met the *Undercover Commodore*?

Recall that when the Bloomington Chapter turned in its charter about two years or so ago several of their members, **Harlan Mellem, Darrell Egertson, Dean Lambert**, transferred their memberships to the Minneapolis Chapter.

Well, it seems that there was another Bloomington member who transferred with hardly any ado at all. At least none of which came to my attention (I have great difficulty mining information virtually all the time as you may have heard my ranting on occasion).

So please welcome **Jim Ostrander**, long-time Barbershopper and welcome addition to the Bass Section. You may have heard of, and heard, his Sweet-Adeline wife, **Pat**, whose magnificent lead-voice led the *Four Star Collection* to become the Sweet-Ad Queens of Harmony some years ago.

You will have the opportunity to meet Jim and Pat at the *Ladies Night/BOTY* event on the 22nd.

Early in April, CEO of *Harmony Foundation*, **Clark Caldwell**, announced the departure of **Ryan Killeen**, Director of Development, from the Foundation. Ryan will be entering as an investor and leader in a family business.

To quote from Clarke's announcement:

... Ryan will be leaving the Foundation for Florida to serve on the board of a school his daughter will be attending, and will assume a leadership role in a family endeavor. However, in his true classy and selfless style, he will continue in his position until September 30, 2016, to finish the campaign and the fiscal year. His presence will ensure that our goals and plans for 2016 stay on track.

Everyone at the Foundation will miss him terribly, but the tremendous work that he has done will live on. He, as much as anyone, wants to see the Foundation continue to grow and flourish. A great gift he has given us is raising the quality and excitement of this position for another outstanding development leader to stand on his shoulders ...

The TFLBTMOT members particularly echo Clarke's sentiments and extend their warmest good-luck wishes to a great Barbershop friend.



CHORD SMASH



HOT COMMODITY



SWYPE

Commodores competing in Nicollet

James Estes of *CHORD SMASH* (far right) is the only Commodore in that foursome. The group won 2nd Place in the contest and will be going to the International contest in Nashville in July.

Thanks to **Bob & Bill Fricke**, Editors of the LOL District bulletin, *The Pitch Piper*, for the beautiful contest photos.



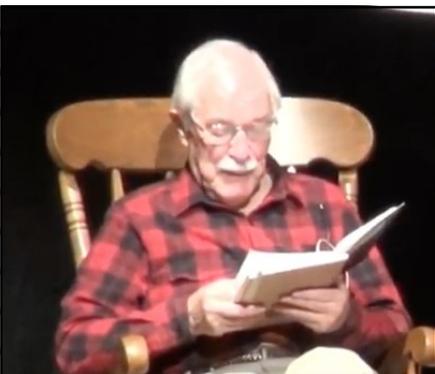
The COMMODORES readying for the Oregon Trail

1880-Way Out West-2016



The North Metro Boys Choir

Benson Great Hall - April 16



Bob Dykstra



Under 35



The COMMODORES ...home again.



ARTISTIC LICENSE from left: Lead Rich Brenner, Tenor Todd Kidder, Bass Jason Dyer, and Bari Gabe Caretto



HOT COMMODITY from left: Tenor Paul Swanson, Lead Tony Mason, Bass Ben Wanggaard, and Bari Dave Speidel



SWYPE from left: Tenor Ken Wentworth, Lead Conrad Ward, Bass Bill Ward, and Bari Mark Bloomquist



EASY LISTENIN' from left: Tenor Dick Riemenschneider, Bass Rod Vink, Lead Dan Slattery, and Bari John Carlotto



1st Act Emcee Dan True

All
Way Out West
 Photos
 By
 Annette
 Kisser
 THANK YOU!



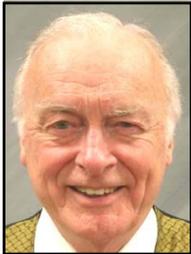
Ghost Rider Dave Casperson



Trail Boss **Dave Speidel** (foreground) and some of the settlers about to head 'em up and move 'em out on the Oregon Trail.

SOUNDS OF RENOWN back row from left: Andy Tate, Mike Hojan, Dave Wall, Rob Harter, Carl Pinard; front row; Rollie Neve, Dan Williams, Mark Ortenburger, John Carlotto, and Dick Riemenschneider.

Jim Richards Memorial Chord Candy #1



Dr. Jim Richards

When the subject of *Tags* comes up, virtually all Commodores, LOL Barbershoppers, and throngs of other Society members immediately think of our departed *Tagmeister*, **Dr. Jim Richards**. So when **Mark Bloomquist**, baritone of *Swype*, approached me recently offering to supply tags for future *Chord Candy* I thought why not continue it in Jim's memory. There was a technical glitch in Mark's initial submission but it will be corrected and the chart will appear in next month's issue.

In the meantime below is a tag that I first heard years ago with *Hold-That-Tiger* **Gary Rogness**, singing bass. Since its bass part is completely within my truncated vocal range I have become quite partial to it. So, as Jim would say ... Enjoy!

Any of you wishing to submit a future tag for *Chord Candy*, please do so in hard-copy, PDF or JPEG format with or without accompanying text.

The musical score is written for voice and bass. It consists of two systems of staves. The first system has a treble clef staff with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody starts with a quarter note on G4, followed by quarter notes on A4, B4, and C5. The lyrics are: "Please don't give my dad-dy no more wine, no more". The second system continues the melody with a quarter note on B4, followed by quarter notes on A4, G4, and F#4. The lyrics are: "mine, all mine. He may be no good, but he's all mine." The bass line consists of a series of quarter notes on the same pitch as the melody. The score ends with a double bar line.

Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, *Bi-directional Baritone*



Jim Erickson

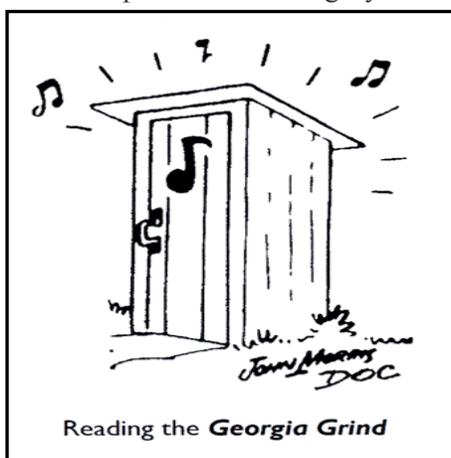
No Whining! Doc Hardy will return as will the most recent information on the Georgia-Grind origins research quest. Just not here ... today. But, in their place I have to take a little time to write about something equally as exciting. Have you felt it? I sensed it at the first rehearsal after the recent contest. I thought I could see expressions on faces that I hadn't noticed for some time. Oh, I know that one judge thought the chorus faces were alive with enthusiastic and appropriate expression for 70% of the Commodore singers. But perhaps that was part truly felt and partly *performance persona*. And I don't quibble with the judge's perception. It sounded about right to me even if I couldn't view the contest chorus.

Maybe for those expression-challenged singers we could get one of those cardboard smiling faces and they could hold that in front of them to create an artificial engaging presence. A manufactured face, but at least better than the stoic, somber, "I think I'm smiling" face they exhibit. Can the rest of their body and brain be so detached from their face, that they can't join the other 70% for a stellar presentation? With the approximately 50 singers we had, that means that about 15 singers (more for full chorus) need to step up with an improved performance. Way too many if we are to give the audience an experience worth seeing and hearing.

But no, I'm not talking about that. I think the improved score gave us an encouragement that maybe we have turned a corner and are on an upward path. Scores are one thing and they have their place, but if we look only to the score, we miss a whole circus of exciting avenues. Very frankly, I

get a ton of satisfaction, even more, when someone comes up after a performance and says, "You guys are great. Fun performance, great sound, and it looks like you were really having fun up there." With apologies to the younger members of our chorus, I suspect many in the audience who come to our concerts and outings, think they are going to hear a bunch of old, fuddy-duddys belt out some tired, old songs. And then they hear a chorus like ours and they have to hit "reset" on their mental computers.

Even more so, if someone of musical and performance integrity com-



Reading the **Georgia Grind**

pliments us and points out some specific areas where we grabbed their musical longings, that is "joy supreme," to quote a former teacher of mine. They have received what we hoped to deliver.

OK, so what is it that I sensed in that last chorus rehearsal? We were pleased with the improvement, of course, but there seemed to be an uplifted feeling that we were headed in a new and engaging direction. Sections seemed to sing crisply with less fuzziness, the songs had returned to fun-to-sing, and slap me if I'm wrong, but was there a new intention to sing in tune, singing the right notes with the right words? Perhaps even listen to and watch for the director's directions? So, I'll throw down a gauntlet.

Don't just sing the songs expecting to learn them more completely at some future date. I challenge you to

take an inaudible breath to begin each song, know the words, know the notes, and pay attention to maintaining pitch. Right now. At the Git-Go. And then, dammit, get that face working. Think of that first ride in a bright red sports car, that first love from years ago, your wife, your kids and grandkids, your team winning the Super, (can I say it?) Bowl, that trophy fish caught, finishing *War and Peace*, or whatever in your life ever gave you a reason to break out into a really grand expression. If your life is devoid of anything like these, then just look in the mirror and fake enthusiasm until it registers on your handsome countenance. You can do it. Will you?

Did it again! I was going to write about something and got sidetracked. And baritones can be distracted. Probably due to the stress of having to deal with an arranger's malicious hatred of the baritone part and his attempt to vocally stomp on us by incongruous leaps, nonsensical note combinations, disjointed key changes and solo aridity. Now, let me see. What was I writing about?

Creativity. Yeah, that's it. In a recent book, *Originals - How Non-Conformists Move the World*, (Adam Grant) he writes "The unique combination of broad and deep experience is critical to creativity." In a study of every Nobel Prize-winning scientist with typical scientists of the same time (1901-2005), winners were dramatically more likely to be involved in the arts than less accomplished scientists. Below are listed the odds.

<u>Artistic Hobby</u>	<u>Odds</u>
Music: playing, composing, conducting	2x
Arts: drawing, painting, print-making, sculpting	7x
Crafts: woodworking, mechanics, electronics, glassblowing	7.5x
Writing: poetry, plays, novels, essays, books	12x

Go to **Grind**, Page 10, Column 1

Grind from Page 9

Performing: actors, dancers, 22x magicians

In addition to the above, it became apparent that interest in arts among entrepreneurs, inventors, and eminent scientists reflected their curiosity and aptitude. Generally, people open to new ways of looking at science and business tend to be fascinated by expression of ideas and emotions through images, sounds, and words. A certain kind of original person seeks out exposure to the arts, but the arts also serve in turn as a powerful source of creative insight.

An example was given that Galileo made his astonishing discovery of mountains on the moon even though his telescope was too weak to support that finding. He recognized the zig-zag pattern separating light and dark areas of the moon. Others saw the same thing, but Galileo discerned the light and dark region's implications. His depth of experience in physics and astronomy and experience in painting and drawing, along with artistic training focusing on representations of light and dark, gave him the ability to detect mountains where others did not. Novel ideas and exposure are often the result of broadened knowledge of which arts are a significant part.

So maybe, just maybe, all the things you are exposed to, participate in, drudge through, delight in, (I'll add an etc., here) each time you rehearse, congregate, and perform, not only help you become a creative person in so many ways, but become a clever application to what you continually learn as a Barbershopper. And may just make you a star at work or whatever endeavors you are part of. Who knows? Maybe you will someday be nominated for a Nobel Prize. As someone involved in the arts, the above statistics are certainly in your favor.

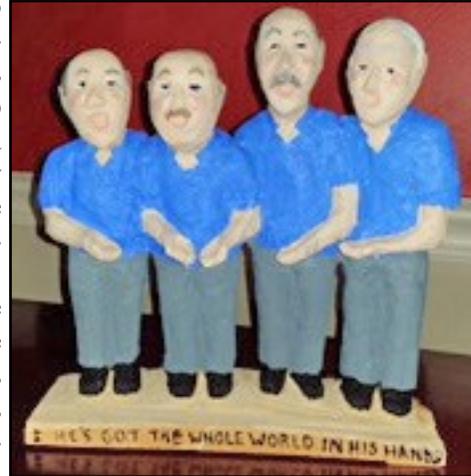
While waiting to be nominated, please remember to keep recruiting new singers. Mention to them the

**On BOARD with the
NEW DAY QUARTET**

Dr. Tom Hallin, former bass in the Commodores just a few years ago and a man of many talents, hand carved this representation of the **New Day Quartet**. The inscription, *He's Got The Whole World In His Hands*, refers to the song the quartet

often sang to show our listeners how the parts of a Barbershop song are arranged and then finally sung in complete harmony by joining all the parts. No matter the makeup of the audience, this song was always received enthusiastically.

The quartet sang for several years a couple of decades ago until retirement resulted in parting of the ways. Talking to two of the members not long ago, we all agreed that being in that quartet was a highlight of our lives. Always a fun time and even more so when our wives joined us for a get-together dinner, other outing, or just rehearsals at one of our houses topped off with coffee and fresh-bakies. We sang everywhere: at church gatherings and services, nursing homes, commercial and senior events, a *Music-Man* musical, onstage concerts at **Orchestra Hall** in Minneapolis with the **Minnetonka Clippers**, and



The NEW DAY QUARTET from left to rt: Don Mosher, Thurm Slack, Tom Hallin, and Jim Erickson.

best path to a Nobel Prize nomination is through becoming a Commodore. Hold fast to that which is good and begin to cultivate that smile and enthusiasm for the fall contest. Seventy per cent involvement is clearly not enough. Pick up a cheap mirror and practice developing a million dollar smile! Start now. Now. N.O.W. You smile, others will smile back. Even judges.

many more venues.

As you view the carving photo from left to right you see:

Don Mosher, tenor, a member of the Clippers until he moved away.

Thurm Slack, lead, recently returning to Minneapolis is now a Commodore (inactive) having been in various quartets and choruses, and having held chapter and district positions in LOL and elsewhere. Many of our long-time members remembered Thurm when he attended a rehearsal or two some time ago.

Tom Hallin, bass, who many Commodores know and remember, sang with the Commodores several years

before retiring to Florida.

And yours truly, **Jim Erickson**, the [esotericist] baritone, and the figure on the far right of the photo.

Tom wanted me to note that he created me with the "best build." I can only modestly say I really appreciate his true-to-life representation. And I am still an active Commodore, some continuing hopeful rumors to the contrary. This close kind of life association brings a heartfelt meaning to that lyric, "That old quartet of mine." Linger-ing fond memories.

Jim Erickson



Letters

Thanks so much, I miss the Chord-inator. My last name is spelled Odland and you have the correct e-mail.

After being transferred in 1969, Gary sang in Chicago from 1970-1973, then the Philadelphia area for 14 years with the *Bucks County Chapter* and he had a quartet, *The Vocal Tradition*, all that time. We then lived in Phoenix from 1987-1994 where he also had a quartet and then moved on to York, Pennsylvania, 1994-1998.

All those years he was with Honeywell (I also, I was a draftsman).

We moved to Pierre, South Dakota, when he retired. He also had a quartet there but developed kidney cancer in 2005 and passed in 2006 just after we had moved to Groton, SD to be near our daughter, JoDee, and also to be near an oncologist.

Thanks for adding me

Susan Odland

Editor's Note: Gary Odland was an ultra-active Commodore in the 60s. Susan somehow was dropped from our e-mail bulletin list some time ago but thanks to Jim Foy she was found hence the above e-mail.

Hi, Jim.

I was quite surprised to find your name on the Commodore list from International and pleasantly surprised to receive your reservations to our Ladies Night/BOTY celebration on May 22 ...

Greetings Hardin...

Yes, I have been an inactive member ever since the Bloomington chapter closed. I did have a paid up membership for one year with the Commodores, but due to a change of address that didn't seem to catch up with me and the Society, my membership was allowed to lapse. Once I found out the error I corrected it and am, once again, a Commodore.

Because I have been battling some

health issues lately, along with my church council and executive committee meetings that fall on Tuesdays and Thursdays, I have found it difficult to find my way to HOP for a "get acquainted" meeting. I have also been patiently waiting for the chapter show to be done and over with so I can come in and be on an even keel with the rest of the bass section with new music to learn.

Right now I'm fighting bronchitis and have opted to stay home until I am comfortable being around people again. Coughing all night long basically sucks.

Thanks for your note, and I will pass your greeting on to Pat.

JimO (sic)

*Editor's Note: It was purely an accident that I found **Jim Ostrander's** name among those of the Commodores on International's master roster. That discovery prompted the first of the above two e-mails.*

The Minneapolis Commodores invite you to...

2nd Annual Comedy Quartet Event

(Formerly Bloomington Chapter Event)

Tuesday, May 24, 2016

At 7:00 p.m.

Mpls./Richfield American Legion Post 435

6501 – Portland Av S, Richfield MN

(Cash bar and food/snacks provided)

This is an Inter-Chapter event with invites to members of Bloomington, Fari-bault, Frank Thorne, Greater St. Paul, Grundy, Hilltop GNU, Minnetonka, St.

Croix & Minneapolis

Register your quartet with Dan Cole at danjcole02@gmail.com

For more information call Dan at #612-940-4554

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

All copy and photos 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

- BOMP
 Dan Cole.....612/940-4554
 CHORD SMASH
 James Estes.....612/237-3234
 EASY LISTENIN'
 Dan Slattery.....651/747-6384
 HOT COMMODITY
 Dave Speidel.....612/437-4325
 RING IT ON
 Andy Richards.....651/639-9312
 RIVER CITY QUARTET
 John Chouinard.....651/343-4145
 MINNESOTA GO-4's
 Harvey Weiss.....763/439-4447
 RANDOM SAMPLE
 Darrell Egertson.....952/943-8737
 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 minneapoliscommodore.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

- May 22, Sunday - **Ladies Night, 5:30 -9:00 p.m., Richfield Legion Hall**
- May 24, Tuesday - **Comedy Quartet Night, Richfield Legion Post**
- July 19, Tuesday, **Lake Como**
- July 25, Monday, **Centennial Lakes**
- August 7, Sunday, **Lake Como**
- August 16, Tuesday- **Minnetonka**
- December 4, Sunday - **Christmas Show with Twin City Show Chorus**
- April 1, 2017 - **Annual Show with special guests, Main Street**

District Level

- October 21-22, 2016 - **2016 Fall LOL District Convention**

International Level

- July 3-10, 2016 - **International Convention, Nashville, Tennessee**

2015 Barbershopper Of The Year
Rich Ongna

Commodores and others * contributing to this issue.

- Gordy Aumann
- Bob Dykstra
- Jim Erickson
- Jim Jorgensen
- Susan Odland*
- Hardin Olson
- Rich Ongna
- Jim Ostrander
- 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