

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

JUNE 2016 - VOL.72 - NO. 6

## “Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!”

Thus, with the above quote from Admiral David Farragut at Mobile Bay in 1864, began the spot-on tribute, emblazoned on an eye-catching plaque, to the Minneapolis Chapter's 2016 Barbershopper of the Year ...

*No, not Admiral Farragut, but our own 2016 Barbershopper of the Year---a special gentleman of many talents and accomplishments who accepts life's challenges head-on and allows no one or circumstance to deter him from his goals.*

*Husband, father, soon-to-be grandfather, highly successful entrepreneurial businessman, pilot, handyman, 1929 Ford Street Rod restorer/builder, piano, banjo, and guitar player, Barbershopper, quartet/Brigade-man—he is a man of vision and courage, with unassailable ethics and the indomitable will to succeed because it is the “right” thing to do.*

*Therefore, it is with the particular pride and harmonious love that the Minneapolis Commodores name William Jay Ward as their 2016 Barbershopper of the Year.*

The venue for the Ladies Night/BOTY event this year was the Richfield American Legion Post 435. Eighty-three Barbershoppers, wives and significant others were in attendance. All the ladies were welcomed and adorned with prim nosegays. Then, after a lively social hour and a remarkably fine meal (the salmon was exceptional) prefaced by grace offered by Reverend Dave Wall, the business

portion of the evening began.

Four ladies were cited for their efforts at supporting our chapter in the last year: **Diana Pinard** for her ongoing struggle with ticket sales and keeping Carl in line at our weekly chapter meetings; **Marge Riemenschneider** for her hard work with the nut-sales program and keeping Dick's nose to the Barbershop grindstone; **Carol Smith** for stage managing our annual shows and encouraging Dan to make the weekly trek from Wisconsin to our chapter meetings; and to **Judy Olson** for her remarkable technical skills in show production and keeping “your Editor” from packing it in.



A surprised and happy Bill Ward savors the totally unexpected recognition with his beaming wife, Kim. It was she who conspired with Event Chairman Dick Riemenschneider to maintain the secrecy of Bill's impending award.

Three ladies, **Helga Egertson**, **Judy Olson**, and **Terry St. Martin**, were recipients of gift-certificate door prizes.

All seemed to agree that the evening's special entertainment was excellent. **Velma & Roxy** from *Special Kay Entertainment* brought the house down singing and spreading their copious lip-rouged calling-cards much to the feigned chagrin of **Rod Vink** and **Blake Wanger**.

At last came the eagerly-anticipated highlight of the evening. The past BOTY winners in attendance were acknowledged and **Mark Ortenburger** and **Rich Ongna** took over presenting the clever skit introducing the 2016 Barbershopper of the Year. When suspicions were con-  
*Go to BOTY, Page 2, Column 1*

**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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Lead Section Leader..... **Vacant**  
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Assistant - Matt Richards

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Assistant - Dave Caspersen

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Uniforms (Dress & Casual)..... Dan Williams

**BOTY from Page 1**

firmed and the announcement made you can be sure there were lumps in many throats and a few teary eyes throughout the gathering. It was quite a moving experience.

The path ahead may well become even more daunting for Bill Ward but he can always be certain that the love and prayers of his fellow Commodores will always be with him.

*Please note: All Ladies Night/BOTY photos, with exceptions, are thanks to Dick Riemenschneider.*



Blake Wanger with his battle scar.



Velma & Roxy



The Lucky Ladies (from left to rt.): Judy Olson, Terry St. Martin, and Helga Egertson. Pinard Photo



BILL at the moment of truth. Pinard Photo

**From the Prez ...**

*By Gordy Aumann, President*

On Tuesday May 24, 2016 the Commodores once again hosted Comedy Quartet Night at the Richfield American Legion. This is an event that the former Bloomington chapter hosted at their meeting place for many (did I hear 30) years. We now have some former Bloomington



Gordy Aumann

guys singing with us and they rounded up some of their buddies for a good-old reunion and some fun singing. About 150 Barbershoppers, wives, and friends, made it a rousing good evening. Our emcee, Gary Jacobson, kept the evening rolling and the prizes coming. Thanks also to Dan Cole for coordinating the entertainment and to Carl Pinard for managing the door prizes and raffle tickets. We plan to keep this an annual inter-chapter event as long as there is interest.



**SUNSHINE  
HOTLINE**



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

**Paul Paddock's** collar bone is on the mend. He has returned to practice with his arm in a sling and we're glad to see him and his big smile on the risers again.



Rich Ongna

The Commodores extend their sympathies to **Linda DeCarlo** and her family on the passing of her husband **Norm** on May 8. Norm was a Commodore past-president as well as the 1984 BOTY. He sang bass with baritone **Jim Richards** in the **Men of A-Chord** quartet.

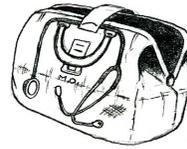
The Commodores extend their sympathies to **Dan & Bev Slattery** on the passing of Dan's mother, Lucille, on May 20 at the age of 91.

The Commodores also extend their sympathies to **Denny & Sharyn Maas** whose sister-in-law, Kathy Maas, passed away on May 19.

**Remember:** Please keep me informed about who is ailing and don't assume 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 brief phone call can make the day of a person not feeling well.

**Norman D. DeCarlo**  
**1929-2016**  
**Barbershopper**  
**Commodore BOTY**  
**and past**  
**president**

**Doc's  
Bag**



By Dr. Hardin Olson, Editor

**Norm DeCarlo** was a gregarious fun-loving man with a fine bass voice. His stories about Commodore crow, dentist Dr. Bob Brown, were always hilarious.



Hardin Olson

Norm had a remarkable resemblance to **Norm Wolf**, the bass of the Minneapolis Chapter's *Roadrunners* quartet, LOL District Champions in 1972.

It was often said in jest (sort of) that Norm Wolf came in second to Norm DeCarlo in the Norm Wolf *Look-Alike Contest*. When asked about it, Wolf (and DeCarlo) would often nod in agreement.

Both Norms have been missed, Wolf moving to Arizona and DeCarlo falling away from the Minneapolis Chapter 25 or more years ago.

\*\*\*\*\*

Although last month's *Ladies Night/BOTY* evening was successful overall, there were some unforeseen glitches. The nearby rock band that was due to quit at 6:00 p.m. played until 7:00 and there was no available

in-house sound system for our skit and the culmination of the award ceremony. However the fine meals exceeded the expectations of most everyone. All things considered, it was an enjoyable and quite memorable evening.

However, there were some other little upsets that I am embarrassed to mention. My record keeping was a little suspect as I failed to enter a few names on the Excel record so as a result Judy (Olson) was short of name tags and not enough meals had been ordered. However, some with reservations were unable to attend so there was no unsolvable problem.

Judy, as usual, did a fine job with the name tags but my sojourn out east a few days before the dinner drew me away from her influence regarding proper maintenance of the Excel file. My bad!

\*\*\*\*\*

I am sorry that this issue is bereft of several of its regular monthly features. But with Memorial Day weekend and other more pressing obligations a number of my contributors didn't have the opportunity to get something to me.

On the other hand, perhaps in my dotage I have lost the energy to beg, kowtow, and grovel. In the future I'll work harder to bolster my mendicity. Look for improvement in July but don't hold your breath.

*Happy Birthday*

- 06/10 Bob Duncan
- 06/12 Rod Hall
- 06/14 Bryan Langren
- 06/14 Karen McCarville
- 06/19 Paul Swanson
- 06/21 Kevin Huyck
- 06/24 Karen Matchinsky
- 06/27 Bob Spong
- 07/06 Ben Hancock
- 07/09 Bill Ward
- 07/09 DiAnn Zimmerman



*Happy Anniversary*

- 06/12/1994 Bill & Jean Warp
- 06/14/2001 Chuck & Bonnie Black Gribble
- 06/16/1979 Joe & Violet Bifulk
- 06/21/2008 Ben & Lynnay Wanggaard
- 06/22/1963 Ken & Rosie Glover
- 06/26/1971 John & Char Carlotto
- 06/27/1964 Rich & Dianne Ongna
- 07/01/1967 Dennis & Sharyn Maas
- 07/05/1967 Carl & Diana Pinard
- 07/07/1963 John & Catherine Lloyd
- 07/07/2012 Jeff & Lisa Sansgaard

## The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Comedy Quartet Night

By Jake Jacobson, Ass't Director

On Tuesday, May 24, the Richfield American Legion Post 435 was the setting for our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Comedy Quartet Night, formerly the Bloomington Chapter Comedy Quartet Night. Last year the Commodores elected to assume the sponsorship and thus memorialize the fun-filled event that the recently-disbanded Bloomington Chapter hosted so successfully for so many years.

This was an inter-chapter event, with members of the Minneapolis, GNU, St. Paul, Bloomington, Polk County, St. Croix Valley, and Frank Thorn chapters attending. The crowd was estimated to be about 125. The evening was filled with singing, friendly visiting, and a very friendly competition for the coveted title of 2016 Comedy Quartet Champion. Door prizes and munchies were a part of the evening, along with your favorite



Gary Jacobson

adult beverages.

The prizes included tickets to the Commodore/TC Show Chorus Christmas Show, the Commodores 2017 Annual Show as well as two bags of *Doc's Dulcet Delights* (sea-salt caramels by your editor), that **Dave Speidel** and **Ray Ensrud** were coerced into taking home. Raffles for cash and two original paintings by **Marilyn Jacobson** were held.

Our special guest judges were *Crani-cabbage* from GNU. They had the somewhat-daunting task of replacing the since-retired *Salty Dogs* as adjudicators of these nail-biting competitions but did so with aplomb and grace as did their well-traveled predecessors.

There were five official entries in this year's contest:

• *House of Chords* with **Tony Ma-son, Dave Caspersen, Paul Wigley, and Nate Weimer.**

• *Just 4 Fungi's* with **Andy Cook, Dan Cole, Mark Bloomquist, and Ken Wentworth.**

• *Das Flugelmeisters* with **Jake Ja-cobson, Paul Swanson, Dave**

**Speidel, and Dick Riemenschneider.**

• *Under the Stars* with **Tony LaPakko, Ben Wanggard, Matt Richards, and Nate Weimer.**

• *Cowboy Joes* with **Neal Mortenson, Bill Ward, Mark Bloomquist, and Dick Riemenschneider.**

Following the formal contest there was an "Open Mic" session for organized quartets to perform. *Swype, Note'orious, Hot Commodity, Bomp,* and other "pick-up quartets" sang tags and a variety of favorite songs.

There was a three-way tie for **3rd Place**, all three receiving equal but dissimilar marks: *Cowboy Joes, Under the Stars, and Just 4 Fungi's.*

**2nd Place** with *Don't Worry, Be Happy Medley* was *House of Chords.*

**1st Place** with *Here Comes the German Band* was *Die Flugelmeisters.*

Judges gave a complete critique of all competitors using a detailed scoring system that seemed to be completely understood by all ... **NOT!!** The fun-filled celebration went on into the evening (at least until 9:30 p.m.). Let's do it again next year!

*It's Great to be a Barbershopper!*



House of Chords



Cowboy Joes



Just 4 Fungi's

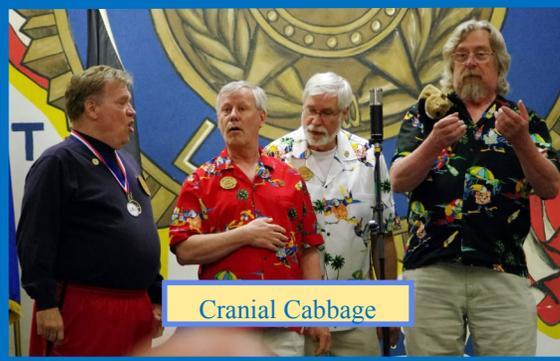
**9th Annual BHS Open Monday, August 8, 2016**  
**SCRAMBLE FORMAT to benefit Harmony Foundation Elk River Country Club**  
 Register on line next summer at [bhsopen.com](http://bhsopen.com)



Under the Stars



**2nd ANNUAL COMEDY QUARTET NIGHT & PARADE OF QUARTETS 5/24/2016**  
*Photos all by Wayne Rasmussen*



### Jim Richards Memorial Chord Candy #2



Dr. Jim Richards

Submitted by "your Editor"

Not too long, perhaps a year or two, after joining the Minneapolis Chapter in 1971, I was introduced to this tag originally credited to the *Four Nubbins*, 1960 *Central States Quartet Champions*. Ironically it was in the home of **Norm DeCarlo** who at that time was living only a few blocks from our place. It has a simple lead line that even I was able to carry with some fidelity. About a year or two ago I asked Jim if he had a copy of the tag and virtually by return e-mail I had it in hand. He embellished Measure 4 somewhat as I remember the quarter notes in the bass line had originally moved up to F. Try it, you might like it. "Enjoy!"

(Mark Bloomquist will be submitting a favorite tag next month.)

Well, I'm mov- in' up the King's Highway. High-way, High-way.

# Georgia Grind

By Jim Erickson, Belly Laugher Baritone

In my last article I said the following:



Jim Erickson

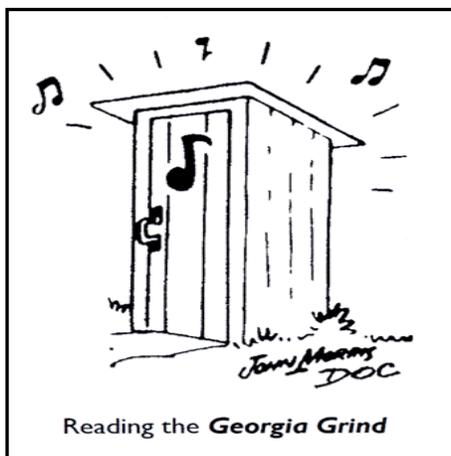
*OK, so what is it that I sensed in that last chorus rehearsal? We were pleased with the improvement [as Most-Improved Chorus], of course, but there seemed to be an uplifted feeling that we were headed in a new and engaging direction. Sections seemed to sing crisply with less fuzziness, the songs had 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!"

Sounds inspiring, right? Headed in a new direction. Singing crisply. Singing in tune with the right notes and right words. Yeah, all of that and more. Just like leaving church after a powerful sermon that hit right to the heart, no matter how small. And while traipsing down the church stairs, you slip on a banana, the seat of your fine suit rips apart, you knock over a little old lady, and as you lay sprawled on the bottom step, a fine parishioner fails to see you and dumps his scalding after-service coffee all over you.

Oh, this last guy transgressed by taking his coffee outside where it might litter or worse. And the transgression was that a large sign over the coffee urn plainly ordered that "No drinks shall be taken outside this Hall of

Friends." Now, I have no inkling of the person's background who made the sign, but apparently "drinks" was an everyday word for him, whereas in church, maybe a more appropriate term would be "beverages." Somehow "drinks" implies after church service Margaritas, Old Fashions, Gin & Tonics, or perhaps a Manhattan or Martini being served in the Hall of Friends so that everyone may become ever more friendly. Converting Folgers into Gallo? Well, anyway he transgressed, he spilled, he soaked, and then he received the forgiveness he eagerly sought. Even while he sti-



Reading the Georgia Grind

fled a chuckle at the split pants.

So let's see now. I was going somewhere with this. Ah right. Fine sermon. Banana. Sprawled like a slap in the face. As a comparison, after the Zenith of our inspired contest performance and the glow for weeks afterwards, we eagerly anticipated our next event, the Bloomington Memorial Comedy Quartet Contest. This is a contest that has also had years to improve, fine-tune, polish, attract only the finest in quartet comedy and reach heights previously thought unattainable. But who would want that anyway?

Meeting the Barbershoporialy [sic] demands, everyone stepped up to the stage. (See, this is a play on "stepped up to the plate," like in baseball.) And then tripped. In a good way. Like the song says, "Make 'em Laugh" and that they did.

The night had everything. Wrong notes, off-the-cuff lyrics, faces that smiled on the stage and in the audience like only **Paul Wigley** and **Gary Jacobson** could dream of, no discernable pitch, blends that only a Yugo-type blender could concoct, marching, and a high-pitched, in-your-face solo by **Harvey Weiss** that didn't shatter any glasses but a few in the audience left with shattered eardrums. Yes, everything. And the audience ate it up.

Achieving the dubious honor of winning such a contest being judged by semi-sober, impeachable judges is not everyone's stein of beer, but someone had to do it. And the judges even had the guts to give an evaluation of the top (?) quartets. Stronger stomachs have they, than I. But the Barbershoppers disguised as German Barons, or turn-of-the-previous-century (or perhaps it should be the penultimate century?) military marchers, were deemed to be the winners. (I have decided to withhold their names to save them the extreme embarrassment. But one of their names rhymes with "climbing spider.") And even though their costumes showed they spared every expense in design and material, their music was, well, pretty much in tune, occasionally syncopated, sometimes in coordinated rhythm, and often with the right notes. And the choreography! Yes, well I repeat, "And the choreography ..."

All in all a casual, relaxed, funny evening. and a chance to meet some Barbershoppers from other choruses and get together once again with old friends. Laughter, they say, is good medicine and with a little imbibing-of-choice along with a good buffet, I would say we should be in pretty good shape for the summer.

Use whatever good spirits you gained from the comedy night to entice some potential members to join us [on June 7] for some great singing. Hold fast to that which is good, of course, and smile. Even fake smiles do you some good so the experts say. But please draw the line at pained smiles!

MINNEAPOLIS  
COMMODORES

CHORD-INATOR



Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America

OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA CHAPTER  
\*\*\*\* A CHAPTER WITH AN ENVIABLE PAST - AN UNBOUNDED FUTURE \*\*\*\*4

10,000 LAKES DIVISION – LAND O’LAKES DISTRICT:

AUGUST -SEPTEMBER 2004 – VOL. 60 – NO. 8

# Hey, Mister Leader man!

Paul Wigley was, truly, born to become a musician. With his noteworthy genetic makeup he was predestined to find himself ensconced in the bosom of a most melodious family. In spite of having to be dragged “kicking and screaming” to piano lessons in the fourth grade, he soon realized that music would indeed become his way of life.

Inspired and encouraged by many family members; his paternal grandmother, herself an accomplished singer, pianist and organist; a paternal aunt who also was a church organist; a piano-playing maternal aunt who played “classics” by ear; his mother, **Francys**, who played a “good trumpet” and also sang in her college choir; and his dad, **Richard**, who sang bass to the Welch hymns in the old country church, Paul started on the road to becoming in his own words “a music nerd”.

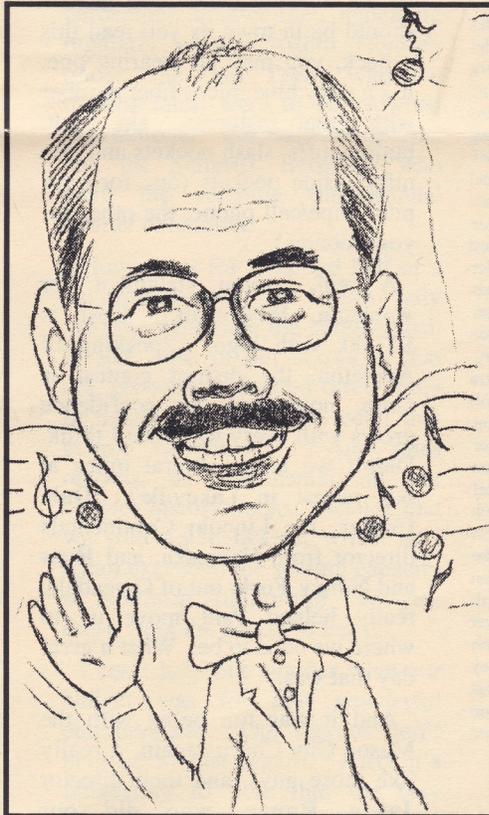
Some of Paul’s fondest childhood memories centered on the musical heritage of his Welch forebears. Most memorable were the old Welch hymn-sings called *Gymanfa Ganu*, which had in the distant past spawned the 4-part hymn. All of the area Welch folk would gather and sing the old hymns at the top of their voices in Welch as well

as in English impressing young Paul with their passion and skill.

The years passed. In the fifth grade it was trumpet lessons, in the eighth grade it was rock band gigs, in high school in Lake Crystal it was the band and choir and some composing, and at the University of Minnesota it was the Marching Band and Concert Choir as well as playing piano and guitar at Campus Ministries.

Older brother, Owen, to some extent has mirrored Paul’s harmonious journey. He, too, took up the trumpet and the two of them grew up idolizing Herb Alpert and later the great talents of Maynard Ferguson. Owen still plays with the Lake Crystal Community Band and can be seen frequently playing along with Brother Paul in the U of M Alumni Band on football game days. (Look for them in the tailgate lots.)

Also attending the University of Minnesota concurrently with Paul was his cousin, Carol Norman, who was quite active in Campus Ministries. It so happened that the group was in need of a piano player and Carol immediately



Leader Man Paul Wigley

thought of Cousin Paul.

Please go to **Wigley**, Page 7, Column 1

*Editor’s Note: The Commodores have a veritable multitude of new voices on the risers since this series of articles was published 10 years ago. The “newbies” might enjoy reading about our director’s family and background. (He had more hair then.) Part 2 will appear next month. (The caricature is by our own Glenn Retter.)*

**Dr. Hardin Olson, Bulletin Editor**  
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 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

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*1st Place*  
**2013 PROBE HARD-COPY**  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
**BULLETIN CONTEST**



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*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**

- 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
- Jim Erickson
- Gary Jacobson
- Hardin Olson
- Rich Ongna
- Carl Pinard
- Wayne Rasmussen\*

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