

# Mid-Atlantic District Association of Quartet Champions

October 8, 2010

Dear Quartet Champ,

Here's to the winners you ALL were this past autumn weekend at the 2011 Mid-Atlantic District Convention in Lancaster, PA. Our 12<sup>th</sup> annual Quartet Champs Association reunion and Saturday Night Show of Champions performance was again very successful. Though our ranks were smaller this year – possibly due to the economy – there were still a total of 48 M-AD Quartet Champs in attendance throughout the weekend representing 35 foursomes that spanned 5 decades ... from the Out-of-Towners (1960) to 'Round Midnight (2010). Thanks to everyone who participated. Here is a weekend recap.

First the quartet results ...

- Our **2011 Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions** are **TOUCHSTONE** with members **Rich Gray** (lead), **Steve White** (bass), **Jay Butterfield** (baritone), and **Robbie Seay** (tenor). They sang "You Keep Coming Back Like A Song", "If I Had You", "When I Look at You", and "Rock It For Me". All of these guys have won the title before. We offer a collective MADAQC congratulation to them as our 66<sup>th</sup> District Quartet Champion since 1945.

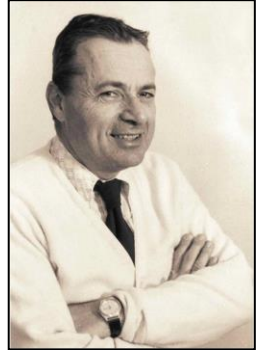
Touchstone



## Now starting from the beginning of the weekend ...

- The Friday evening **Quartet Semifinals** featured 24 quartet competitors including 10 foursomes containing 18 past M-AD quartet champ singers. They were: **John Ward, Joe Hunter, Joe Sawyer, Wayne Adams, Al Fennell, Bob Ramsey, Mike Wallen, Hal Kraft, Mark Sanders, Rick King, Robbie Seay, Rich Gray, Jay Butterfield, Steve White, Shawn Thomas, Tony Colosimo, Ryan Griffith, and Joe Eckert.** Mic-testors for the first round were **'Round Midnight** (**Wayne Grimmer, Jeff Glemboski, T.J. Carollo, and Larry Bomback**).

- Before the announcement of the qualifiers for the Saturday Finals, there was a special tribute to our dear friend **WALTER LATZKO** who passed away on September 10<sup>th</sup>. **Mike Kelly** ran a slide/music show that **Gary Plaag** put together while **Steve White** presented a history of Walter's remarkable life. Walter's wife and soul mate of 56 years, **Marjorie**, was all smiles and some tears in the front row of the audience, telling me later that she greatly appreciated the District's kind gesture. We are all beneficiaries of Walter's talent, artistry, generosity, and friendship ... **he will be greatly missed!**



- Making the Top-10 cut were 13 past champs in 6 quartets: **Crunch Time, Escapade, Down a Fourth!, Tribute, Up All Night, and Touchstone.** Placing 11<sup>th</sup> and mic-testors for the final round was **Hit Parade** who was represented by yet 2 more past champs.



Congratulations to **Hit Parade** (**Hal Kraft, Brad Brooks, Mark Sanders, and Tom Felgen**) who qualified to represent the Mid-Atlantic District at the **International Seniors Quartet Contest** this coming January during the Mid-Winter Convention in Las Vegas.

- Many of the quartet contest sets over the weekend showed incredible wit and imagination, and had the audience holding their sides in laughter. For instance, **Down a Fourth!** performed their first set in enormous inflatable Sumo wrestler suits and sang parodies of "If You Love Sushi" (to the tune of "If You Knew Susie") and "Don't Eat the Egg Foo Yung" (to the tune of "You Make Me Feel So Young"). **Up All Night's** second set were parodies of "Middle-Aged Man" and "Old Folks" as they made light of the ailments that come with maturity ... all in great fun.
- Though a fire alarm had earlier cleared the auditorium for 15 minutes making our first MADAQC Chorus rehearsal start late, 26 champs still showed up to test out their rusty pipes (though you would never have known it by the great sound they made). **Mike Wallen** and

**Jay Butterfield** were again this year's honorary co-Directors and efficiently ran us through our paces, particularly on the newest repertoire song, "*Here's to the Winners*".

- Saturday morning had lots of quartet champs busy in competing choruses including some as Chorus Directors: **Jack Pinto, Bill Colosimo, Rick Taylor, Mike Wallen, Larry Bomback, Chuck Lower, Wayne Grimmer, Mark Paul,** and **Richard Lewellen**. The **Alexandria Harmonizers** under the direction of Joe Cerutti won their 23<sup>rd</sup> **Mid-Atlantic District Chorus Championship** and earning a trip to the International Chorus Contest next July in Kansas City, MO. They sang "*I Get Along Without You Very Well*", and "*Hello, My Baby*".



The **Brothers of Harmony** under the direction of **Jack Pinto** placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and the **Chorus of the Chesapeake** under the direction of **Rick Taylor** finished in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

- At 4:30, the MADAQC Chorus assembled again for a final practice. Jay worked us hard on "*Here's to the Winners*" and then Mike touched on "*This is the Moment*" which sang very well. We were ready.
- The **Quartet Finals** on Saturday evening proved to be quite a shoot out. The score sheets later showed that Crunch Time was leading after the first round, followed by Frank the Dog and Tribute. Touchstone was in 4<sup>th</sup>, but made a big rebound in the Finals.
- The **District Show of Champions** followed the contest and featured **'Round Midnight** who brought to a close their very successful championship year which included a Top-20 (15<sup>th</sup>) placement at the International Contest in Philadelphia. Congrats on a great year, guys!



- The 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place choruses sang and then the **Alexandria Harmonizers** gave a thrilling performance that brought the crowd to its feet with *"Stars and Stripes Forever"*.
- The **MADAQC Chorus** lined up to take the stage. District President **Gary Plaag** was our emcee and read the names of each quartet represented as the men proudly took their places on the risers. A very appreciative District audience applauded loudly. **Larry Reagan** of the Out-of-Towners unexpectedly grabbed the spotlight by taking a tumble on the risers, bruising his knee and spraining an ankle; but, being a seasoned champ, he went on with the show ... not wanting to miss a single moment. His wife, Marion, says he's recovering nicely.
- Jay directed the MADAQC Chorus in *"Here's to the Winners"*, a song made popular by Frank Sinatra in the 1970s and is a stirring toast to all those who try their very best in everything they do.



- Contest Administrator **Dave Cowin** then gave the much-awaited announcement of the quartet contest results as "Round Midnight stood at the ready to hand out hardware and congratulations.



3<sup>rd</sup> place was **Tribute** with **Tony Colosimo, Joe Eckert, Ryan Griffith**, and Steve Griffith (Ryan's dad ... how great is that?!).



2<sup>nd</sup> place was **Crunch Time** with **Shawn Thomas**, Eric Wallen, Matt Fellows, and Brett Thomas.

**Touchstone** was announced as the winners and awarded the traveling **MADAQC/Oriole Four Trophy**, individual **James E. Grant Performance Award** trophies, and shiny blue 2011 District Championship lapel pins. After thanking the audience, coaches, and their wives, they sang one last song. Then arm-in-arm, they stood proudly as Mike directed the MADAQC Chorus in **"This is the Moment"** ... and what a moment it was!



- After hugs and handshakes with the rest of the champs, Mike then directed the entire Mid-Atlantic audience in **"Keep the Whole World Singing"**, bringing to a close another incredible barbershop weekend. It was now off to the hospitality rooms for more fun and a well-deserved liquid libation.



**MADAQC Chorus, Mike directing “Keep the Whole World Singing”**

**Next year**, the Fall Convention will again be in Lancaster. Please make your plans now to join us for the best barbershop harmony on the east coast. Remember that you are forever a part of this District’s great legacy and I look forward to seeing and hearing you again very soon.

Yours in friendship, service, and close championship harmony ... **stay well.**

**Steve**

**MADAQC *de facto* Prez ... and proud champ!**

### Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions

1	1945	<i>New York Police Department Quartet</i>	33	1978	<i>Baltimore &amp; Ohio Connection</i>
2	1946	<i>Harmonees</i>	34	1979	<i>Four Cracker Jacks</i>
3	1947	<i>Four Chords</i>	35	1980	<i>Keystone Congregation</i>
4	1948	<i>Potomac Clippers</i>	36	1981	<i>Vaudeville</i>
5	1949	<i>Columbians</i>	37	1982	<i>The New Yorkers</i>
6	1950	<i>Melloaires</i>	38	1983	<i>Curtain Call</i>
7	1951	<i>Volunteers</i>	39	1984	<i>Pros 'N Cons</i>
8	1952	<i>Jerseymen</i>	40	1985	<i>Alexandria's Ragtime Band</i>
9	1953	<i>Ryth-O-Mats</i>	41	1986	<i>Four Under Par</i>
10	1954	<i>Playtonics</i>	42	1987	<i>Northeast Extension</i>
11	1955	<i>Easternaires</i>	43	1988	<i>Copyright '86</i>
12	1956	<i>Hometown Quartet</i>	44	1989	<i>Tradewinds</i>
13	1957	<i>York-Aires</i>	45	1990	<i>Broadway</i>
14	1958	<i>Oriole Four (also the 1970 International Quartet Champions)</i>	46	1991	<i>Untouchables</i>
15	1959	<i>Checkmates</i>	47	1992	<i>Arcade</i>
16	1960	<i>Out-Of-Towners</i>	48	1993	<i>Doubletake</i>
17	1961	<i>Rocket Tones</i>	49	1994	<i>Bingo Brothers</i>
18	1962	<i>Main Street Four</i>	50	1995	<i>BSQ</i>
19	1963	<i>Yankees</i>	51	1996	<i>The Bay Rum Runners</i>
20	1965	<i>Townsmen</i>	52	1997	<i>Premiere</i>
21	1966	<i>Hallmarks</i>	53	1998	<i>Free Trade Agreement</i>
22	1967	<i>Continental Four</i>	54	1999	<i>Hijinx</i>
23	1968	<i>NOVA Chords</i>	55	2000	<i>Casino</i>
24	1969	<i>Classics</i>	56	2001	<i>Runaway Sound</i>
25	1970	<i>Union Jacks</i>	57	2002	<i>Reveille</i>
26	1971	<i>Exclusives</i>	58	2003	<i>Wheelhouse</i>
27	1972	<i>Regents (also the 1974 International Quartet Champions)</i>	59	2004	<i>Phat Cats</i>
28	1973	<i>Fifth Edition</i>	60	2005	<i>Iguanas in Flight</i>
29	1974	<i>Friends of Yesterday</i>	61	2006	<i>Four Aces</i>
30	1975	<i>Reign-Beaus' End</i>	62	2007	<i>Ringers</i>
31	1976	<i>Sound Revival</i>	63	2008	<i>New Release</i>
32	1977	<i>Sussex Counts</i>	64	2009	<i>Old School</i>
			65	2010	<i>'Round Midnight</i>
			66	2011	<i>Touchstone</i>