



# A Bulletin for Every Barbershopper in the Mid-Atlantic District

October/November/December 2010

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## The Future is What You Make It

by **Dick Powell**,  
Executive VP,  
Operations Team  
Chair

I am honored and humbled to have been elected to lead the Mid-Atlantic District as your President in 2011. I know that I, the House of Delegates, the Board, and the Operations Team take very seriously our responsibility to guide the affairs of the District as stewards of a 65-year heritage of harmony, fellowship, and accomplishment.

It has been traditional in the past for incoming District presidents to establish a unique theme for their administration. However, I believe the course set by President **Gary Plaag** over the last two years has been and remains sound and appropriate. While planning for a brighter future, we have challenged and scrutinized our operations and found ways to provide required services despite difficult economic times. I see no reason to change this strategy and believe we should stay the course set

by Gary. I am convinced that doing so will result in the provision of quality services to our chapters and members, creation of a solid financial basis for future operations, and the ascendency of a new generation of leaders for our District and Society.

We are certainly not without challenges to face and overcome. However, each challenge presents us with opportunities to explore innovative ways to meet customer needs and opens possibilities for extraordinary accomplishments. In that regard I hope you will feel free to advise me and EVP-elect **Bill Colosimo** on issues of concern to you as this year comes to a close and in the year to come. Your advice and counsel as members of the Mid-Atlantic District is vital and will always be welcome.

No one succeeds by themselves. I am fortunate to have served for the last two years as EVP under the leadership of President Gary Plaag. His vision, commitment, determination, and concern for the well being of our District have been an inspiration. I am fortunate that he will remain on the Board as Immediate Past President to advise me in the year ahead. He has also graciously consented to serve as our VP for Youth-in-Harmony, a program vital

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### CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Go to [www.barbershop.org](http://www.barbershop.org) to the "members only" section to update your address. Or, make sure your Chapter Secretary gets your change of address.

## President's Report . . .



As most of you know, this is my last "Mid'l Antics" article as your District President. Thank you for allowing me the honor of serving in this capacity for the past two years and serving as the Executive VP for the 2 years prior to that. I've met and worked with so many awesome members of our district in these capacities and I'm eager to maintain those relationships long into the future. I am looking forward to working as counselor and sounding board for the incoming President and Executive VP, as well as the incoming Board of Directors and Operations Team, as I move to the Immediate Past President position. Please note that while I am stepping out of the President position, I am stepping back into the District VP for Youth In Harmony position. As many of you may recall

I held that position for 8 years, from 1995 until 2002. I'm looking forward to going back to work in the area that I found to be inspiring and highly rewarding. For me nothing beats the opportunity to touch the heart of a child by letting him/her experience the joy of this hobby we call "barbershop harmony."

I also thank all the members of the M-AD Board of Directors and Operations Team who have served during my tenure. To thank everyone individually and recount what each has done to contribute to the success of the District would cause this article to take up nearly the entire newsletter, so I won't do that. I will say that the District is in very good hands as Executive **Dick Powell** steps up to the District President role and Board Member-At-Large and Music & Performance VP **Bill Colosimo** moves into the Executive VP position. These two gentlemen are intrepid stewards of our District's assets and resources and will do a fine job of leading us into the future.

So, as I transition things over to Dick and Bill before the end of the year, I ask that you continue to offer them your suggestions, concerns, ideas, and support. With your input the District will be best able to face the future and continue to prosper in the face of financial and economic challenges. Please be as gentle with Dick and Bill as you have been with me.

Again, thank you for your support over the past 4 years!

## To my friends in the Mid-Atlantic District . . .

I'm sorry to say I need to resign from my job as editor of the "Mid'l Antics." Family obligations have become such that I can't spend the time required in producing this newsletter. I will work closely with my successor to ensure a smooth transition. I have used Adobe InDesign CS3 to compose and produce the PDF files for the printer, and will provide any details that are needed to assist in file transfer.

I've enjoyed producing the "Mid'l Antics" the last five years, and have worked with some wonderful barbershoppers. I'm sure my replacement will also have a rewarding experience. The job entails some editing of materials provided by District officers, selection of general interest articles from our great District Bulletin editors, and interaction with a very competent and cooperative printer.

Please contact **Dick Powell** (rpowell74@verizon.net) if you are interested in this position. This has been a fantastic experience, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have been a voice for the greatest District in the BHS.

Thanks so much,

~Linda

## In Memory of Walter Latzko

### A LIFE OF MUSIC REMEMBERED . . .



**February 9, 1924 – September 10, 2010**

A memorial service was held on October 9, 2010, in the Blooming Grove United Church of Christ.

Walter is a member of the Barbershop Hall of Fame. He leaves a legacy of 1,226 arrangements for barbershop quartets and choruses of which 94 are medleys. He is considered to be one of the greatest barbershop arrangers ever.

Walter was a joke-writer and musician, having written for Arthur Godfrey's radio and TV shows, Jack Sterling's CBS morning radio show, Garry Moore, and Durward Kirby. He was the arranger and coach for the *Chordettes* who were regular performers on the Godfrey shows. He married one of the *Chordettes*, Marjorie, in 1953. She sang on the famous recording "Mr. Sandman."

Below is a letter to **Joe DeFelice** from Marjorie Latzko thanking all who were able to attend.

Dear Joe:

I am moved to hear that you had hoped to get to Walter's memorial, and I am sorry that circumstances prevented you from coming. There were quite a few people there.

Alan Wile, Bob Wachter, Chuck Harner and Ron Knickerbocker came, so the Mid-Atlantic District was well-represented. It's a long drive, I know, and they just turned around and headed back home afterwards.

Gene Cokeroff and Iris were there, and, of course, Ken Hatton, who gave the tribute for the barbershoppers as well as being a close friend. Gene spoke and then read a letter written to me from Ed Watson and the BHS.

There was so much music. *The Classic Choral Society* sang (Walter had been their director for 32 years) "How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place", a chorus from Faure's Requiem, a lovely soprano solo (beautiful voice) from Faure's Requiem, and the hymn "How Great Thou Art."

My daughter played a selection by Brahms on the piano.

My son, Jeff, had prepared several audio-visual presentations. The first one was of the *Chordettes* singing "True Love Goes On and On", then the next one was Remembering Time... pictures of family and friends with the musical background of the *Suntones* singing, "As Time Goes By", *Bluegrass Student Union* singing "Stardust", and *Buffalo Bills* singing "Remembering Time."

Walter finished his last arrangement, 1226, called "I've Found A New Baby," in his nursing home bed. Kenny recorded it singing all four parts, and that was played while seeing pictures of Walter's printout, him working at the computer, and him in the nursing home bed with the laptop computer to finish it.

The final presentation was about Walter and me, engagement, wedding, young family and our family on our 55th wedding anniversary...all with the background music of *Bluegrass Student Union* singing Walter's and my favorite song "All The Things You Are."

Many people spoke to me afterwards on what a beautiful service it was. We videotaped it and are going to make CDs for family and friends who couldn't be here.

Walter and I had a wonderful life together.

Thanks again for all your help in getting the word out, and for just being a good friend.

Sincerely, Marjorie

From an article on the BHS Web site, "From Lederhosen To Barbershop: Walter Latzko," where he reflects on a life in music, the great quartets he's known, and his wonderful wife of 56 years, Margie. Walter closed with the following:

*Barbershopping has been an important part of my life. I can't think of any organization that has the brotherhood, the love, the "doing things for each other", that the world of Barbershop has. I have been particularly blessed that way. And I will never, never forget it. The friendships all over that I've made are very precious, very special to me! Summing up, - I'm a very, VERY lucky guy!*



## Music and “Fun” REPRISE! FOURTH AND FINAL IN A SERIES

by **Bill Colosimo**, DVP, Music & Performance and Board Member-at-Large

### “MAKING MUSIC” AND “HAVING FUN”

Throughout last year and into 2010, as your District VP of Music & Performance, I have authored a series of columns on “Music and Fun.” As a lifelong barbershopper, it has been my intention to share with you my passion to spread the message that making great, high-quality vocal music together is fun! The series’ 2010 “reprise” concludes here.

Linking “singing” and “fun” in these writings has prompted me (and I hope you, too!) to be more vigilant in discovering whether my hypothesis is really true; whether improving singing quality by our ensembles really does result in more fun...for us, for our patrons, and, perhaps most important of all, for the public at large which is the source of our new membership. Three examples from recent months encourage me that our efforts really do pay dividends!

#### **First impressions DO count!...but they can be changed!**

I recently made a presentation to a host of experienced music educators in the Virginia suburbs to lay the groundwork for an exciting proposed workshop on a cappella singing, with barbershop as the primary vehicle, for nearly 500 students county-wide. Even with the initial presentations before County music administrators having gone well, it was the success of this presentation—convincing the rank-and-file middle and high school educators of the value of the workshop—which would be necessary to insure “buy in” by the teachers to both encourage their students to attend and attend themselves! As an educator, I knew the level of resistance teachers would have to the prospects of “another obligation,” and I also knew the level of skepticism I would face—despite the tireless and systematic efforts of our Youth In Harmony leadership (at all levels) to introduce quality barbershop singing and widely accepted, fundamental singing principles to educators—as I began my “pitch.”

So I began with a “bombshell.” “How many of you,” I asked, “have heard barbershop performed live?” Five tentative hands of the twenty-five present rose. “Thank you,” I said. “Now... how many of you have heard bad barbershop performed live?” Virtually every hand shot up.

This made perfect sense to me. Amid the nervous chuckles as all the hands were raised, it became clear. What “first impressions” these educators had about what they had seen and heard live at some point in their lives had so imprinted on their minds that they were—out of either courtesy to me or sheer embarrassment—unwilling to even admit that they had heard our artform performed! And these folks are not, generally,

ignorant of the potential for the barbershop style to be sung well...they just hadn’t witnessed it firsthand!

What might seem to you a “disastrous opener” was quite intentional on my part. Other than its inherent shock value, it was designed to lay the groundwork for identifying with them (and for them to identify with each other) so that the remainder of the presentation—with only forty minutes left to garner their support—would be a real “eye opener” they could all experience by the time we were done.

In the next forty minutes, using terrific video clips of our fine youth clinicians, top young quartets (including our own *Round Midnight*, *Road Trip* and the great International Champs *Four Voices* and *Vocal Spectrum*), top youth camp choruses (from our own Harmony College-East, the *Alexandria Harmonizers’* Youth Festival, the Buckeye Youth Camp in Ohio, and the terrific “Next Generation” choruses from recent Harmony Universities), along with careful explanations of how we teach and perform with attention to fundamentally sound vocal principles designed to enhance their students’ skills in all their singing, I could sense a real shift of attitude in the room.

The quality of the examples shown, the skill of the musical direction displayed, the obvious fun the participating students exhibited, and the testimonials by music educators included in the professional quality YIH video from our Web site, did the trick! At the conclusion of my presentation, I asked, simply, “How many of you would enthusiastically select students to attend the workshop...and consider attending yourselves?”

Every hand went up. No kidding. Presentation over, goal achieved, smiles all around. (The County music education staff, both encouraged and empowered, are now finalizing the date and location of what is sure to be a successful workshop!)

But the lesson was clear: it is the quality of the product which makes a profound impression on our public. And our public includes knowledgeable musicians, teachers and performers, who may be swayed—one way or the other—to consider either participating in or promoting (particularly among young people) our great artform!

**Young people’s reactions tell the tale...** The second experience which convinced me of the validity of my hypothesis—that better quality singing results in more fun!—came in the recent collaboration of my *Singing Capital Chorus* and the student vocal ensembles from Gaithersburg High School, hosted at the School in the form of their Fifth Annual A Capella Festival, which we helped sponsor from its start. Each Fall, all the GHS vocal groups, including several student barbershop quartets, are joined by our men’s chorus to produce a great evening of a cappella entertainment. For many who attend (nearly 300 this year!), this is their first exposure to live barbershop harmony performance.

As the *Singing Capital Chorus* and its quartets (and “Capital Assets,” our VLQ) sing each year, I have noticed—as our intensive work to improve our quality of performance over the last several years has begun to produce very positive results—a dramatic and universal increase in the sincere, heartfelt positive response from the audience. The students themselves

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are all seated in the audience as we perform along with their families and guests, many of whom are musicians themselves! Admittedly, when we began appearing at GHS five years ago, the response was—well—“polite.” But not this year! Measured by the applause generated, the positive constructive comments from patrons, and the students’ enthusiastic desire to sing tags with us at the “afterglow” reception, quality barbershop singing generated the desired results! And, oh, what fun we had singing with those enthusiastic young men and women in the lobby. Not only was there enthusiastic interest expressed in attending our upcoming show, but a few patrons spoke with our members about the potential of visiting us at an upcoming guest night! Another home run hit by quality barbershop performance!

**Publicizing pride in our quality encourages others, too!** My final “clincher” confirms that our artform, when performed well, can instill in others a satisfying positive response. The explosion of social media, like Facebook, as a vehicle to share with our family, friends and the general public, gives us the opportunity to post photos and videos of our most proud performance moments (copyright-cleared, of course!). I have been shameless about using this resource, with loads of content on my Facebook profile (which is viewable by all my “friends” from all over the world) showing clips of our Chorus and quartets and notices of upcoming shows and guest nights. Admittedly, I select our best quality material to post. From our performance of the Star Spangled Banner for the Washington Nationals to videos of all kinds which feature quality barbershop, a visitor to my “page” can see and hear the fun we’re having!

Following is the recent message I received from a long-lost high school classmate who is among my Facebook “friends.” Its power is self-evident, as we all hope to touch others and inspire them to “give us a try”... especially if our product is good!

*“Bill, just wanted to thank you. Having you on my Facebook page (and viewing your barbershop posts) led to my husband heading back to join a barbershop group tonight. He hasn’t been singing since our kids were young—he gave up the barbershopping to be at home with all of us. Now everyone is gone and I am so excited for him to have this in his life again. So, thanks for sharing on your page.”*

*Thank you!*

Thank you so much for the privilege of serving you as your M&P VP and Board Member at Large for the last two years. I am humbled and privileged to have been elected to serve as your Executive Vice President in 2011. I look forward to continuing to learn from you and encourage all of us to work toward continued improvement in our musical quality...and our fun in making great music together!

Please know, whatever your viewpoint, that I remain your advocate to provide whatever resources you or your Chapter may need to succeed musically. I welcome your feedback along the way; so feel free to email [billcatps@aol.com](mailto:billcatps@aol.com) or call me at 571-213-7376. I’d love to hear from you!



## Harmony Foundation and the Capenos Challenge

by Alan Wile, VP Financial Development

At the International Convention in Philadelphia Warren Capenos, a member of the Seneca Land District (SLD), issued a \$250,000 challenge to raise an additional \$250,000 by year’s end. In response, the Harmony Foundation is actively recruiting new President’s Council members and asking current members to increase the level of their annual donation so that it will count against the “Capenos Challenge.” Of course any donation in any category will help. Please consider “giving back” to your Society in the months that remain to enable the Harmony Foundation to meet this challenge. It’s an achievable goal ... and we can do it!

You may ask, “How does the Mid-Atlantic District stack up against the other districts in terms of charitable giving to the Society?” The answer is “close to the top in every category ... but not #1 in any one of them.” Here’s how we’re doing (based on donations received during the first eight months of 2010):

CATEGORY	RANK	DISTRICT	AMOUNT
Member Donations	1	FWD	\$158,411
	2	MAD	\$63,536
Chapter Donations	1	FWD	\$4,013
	2	MAD	\$955
Total Donations	1	FWD	\$162,424
	2	MAD	\$64,491

Founders Club (# of Active Members)	1	SUN	56
	4	MAD	40
Ambassadors of Song (# of Active Members)	1	SUN	44
	5 (tie)	MAD	26
President’s Council (# of Active Members)	1	FWD	72
	3	MAD	65

Legend: FWD (Far West District); MAD (Mid-Atlantic District); SUN (Sunshine District)

Through your thoughtful and considered generosity, our district can add significantly not only to the amount but also to our standing among our district peers. Contributions should be sent to Harmony Foundation International, Inc., 110 Seventh Ave. N., suite 200, Nashville, TN 37203; questions by phone or e-mail may be addressed to 615-823-5611, 866-706-8021, or [hf@harmonyfoundation.org](mailto:hf@harmonyfoundation.org); the website link is <http://www.harmonyfoundation.org/>.

You can read more about Harmony Foundation at the following link: <http://www.MidAtlanticDistrict.com?Code=EndowmentFunds>



## Good Directing Habits

by **Roger Tarpy**, DVP Chorus Director  
Development

In past columns, I've provided both practical tips (for example, the so-called tool box) as well as discussions about the many intangible things that directors need to bring to their job (set goals, exercise leadership, use humor, create a vision).

Here, I'd like to present a (woefully incomplete) list of habits (strategies, behaviors, attitudes) that impact powerfully on any group of singers. These are neither practical in the limited sense of a rehearsal "tool," nor abstract like the concept "leadership." They are general behaviors or attitudes, but they have rather specific effects. And they are absolutely critical to effective directing. If you want to keep your singers' respect, grow the chorus, and stimulate great music, you'll need to take these points to heart.

**Look in each singer's eyes as he performs. The whole chorus; all of the time.** Ever carry on a conversation with someone who can't or won't look you in the eye? Irritating isn't it. Eye contact is critical to human communication. Without it, the interpersonal bonds just spiral out of control. Your mood, not to mention the emotions of the song, won't be evident unless you make eye contact with your chorus members at all times. Singers feel validated when they have this kind of direct connection to their director.

**Don't mouth the words.** Want to guarantee sync problems in your music? Want to eliminate dynamic changes? Want to counteract the otherwise positive effect of all your nice hand gestures? Want to insure that your directing patterns are exaggerated and therefore that the singing is choppy, raucous, and under pitch? Want to train your singers to be thoroughly dependent on you for the lyrics? If any of these is your goal, then just mouth the words. Incidentally, sarcasm aside, mouthing the words not only has these negative effects, it also precludes you from doing some positive things with your lips, such as occasionally modeling a good "oh" vowel, or casting a silent word of appreciation after a particularly nice swipe.

**Don't talk. Maximize the singing.** I'm guessing that if you actually measured the minutes spent singing versus non-singing during an average rehearsal, you'd be amazed at the amount of time wasted. Be concise in your instructions, avoid relinquishing the floor to "talkers," keep the rehearsal varied and fast-paced. It's tough to do, and very tiring. However, if you have trouble with "riser discipline," if you're not making much progress in learning music, or if you're dissatisfied with the quality of the singing, then too much talking on your part could be a big part of the problem.

**Praise your singers.** Lots. Be genuine, not false, but make them know that their efforts are appreciated. They didn't give up their evening to be told that they are..... not singing well, not learning the music, not getting to rehearsal on time, not turning their diphthongs appropriately, not smiling, not staying on pitch, not cooperating with the management team ..... (pick your favorite message). It may be, of course, that they are late, flat, unprepared, uncooperative, and thoroughly deadpan. But your job is to train them to perform at a higher level (slowly maybe, with guile and humor almost assuredly), rather than to denigrate them. Without

showing genuine appreciation, you are almost surely teaching them to trust in their own failure. With appropriate praise, on the other hand, rehearsals become more productive and enjoyable. And guess what: The singing gets better.

**Don't blame your singers; blame yourself if things aren't to your liking.** Imagine explaining a difficult and abstract idea to a young child and finding that the kid just doesn't understand. Would you accuse him or her of being stupid and/or uncooperative? Of course not. You'd try to explain the idea in a different way, hoping for a breakthrough of some sort. This is a bit like rehearsing a chorus. Your singers don't intentionally sing flat, or poorly, or without feeling. They might not even know that they're doing it. So rather than blame them, spend your time figuring out how better to teach them. Think about using an alternative approach, a different language, a more effective tool.

**Don't expect that your singers will improve just because you tell them to practice at home.** The average singer will, almost surely, never live up to your expectations in this regard. Face it: You're probably the most gung-ho member of your chorus, so it stands to reason that just about everyone else is a slacker compared to you. Giving the chorus a general admonition, such as "practice at home," will doom to failure all but your most dedicated musicians, because most singers won't recognize where to begin, when they're going wrong, and whether they're getting better. Does that mean that you must settle for "whatever goes"? Of course not. For instance, you'll increase the likelihood of your members working at home if you give them short, "doable" assignments, that are concise, clear, limited, and have a means for them to assess their own progress. But the real answer to this problem depends more on the intangible conditions that only you control—how much fun are they having, how inspired are they to improve, how good are their learning materials, how appreciated do they feel for being members of your chorus? In short, if you want them to get fired up, be a more inspiring leader. If you want them to work harder to learn the music, make sure they have fun at rehearsal.

One final thought. The three most important activities in which good directors engage are **planning the rehearsal, planning the rehearsal, and planning the rehearsal**. In detail, no less.

## Chorus Director Wanted!

The Easton, MD Chapter *Bay Country Chorus* is seeking a chorus director. We have 30 active members and are working to expand membership. We are constantly seeking to improve our singing and performance skills. We have a strong Board of Directors and a membership that supports the chapter and enjoys singing together. We produce a well-received annual show and are considering contests/competition as longer-term goals. We meet Monday evenings at the Talbot County Senior Center in Easton, MD. Our new director should have previous directing experience, a music education or commensurate experience, and excellent training, people, and motivational skills.

**Interested persons can obtain more information by contacting:** Ed Wadley, Music/Performance Vice- President, 41 Londonderry Drive, Easton, MD 21601; 410-770-9672; [elwadley@gmail.com](mailto:elwadley@gmail.com).



## The Power of Networking

by **Eric Herr**, DVP Marketing & PR

**W**e all know that there are no hard and fast rules when it comes to public relations. Finding innovative ways to attract good singers into our chapters, or just getting folks to attend our shows must

always involve thinking outside the box and constantly conjuring up new ideas. It's not enough to bask in the glow of a great guest night, cheer at record show attendance figures, or delight in getting a shot in the local paper or on the tube during an evening newscast. Networking, or meeting new people through business to business events, community activities, church groups and other organizations, is a sure fire way to keep barbershop singing in the public eye. It involves getting out our comfort zones, getting off line, off our feet and out the door to spread the gospel of barbershopping to everyone who will listen. It's about encouraging others to introduce you to people they know and so on... you get the drift!

Chances are, when you make a habit of networking, you'll discover that it can often pay off in some big and at times, unexpected dividends! Case in point: The activities director of a Lancaster area retirement community I had contacted was kind enough to promote our M-AD convention to her residents. Unfortunately, due to another commitment, she was unable to personally attend. She sent me an e-mail to that effect, on Monday, following the contest. On the way back to the Lancaster area from her other commitment, a couple of quartets making their way home from the convention serenaded her and her family during lunch at a local restaurant. "It really made my day," she said. She may have missed our great convention, but the memories from her serendipitous "Close Encounter of the Barbershop Harmony Kind" at the restaurant will most assuredly linger on for many years to come. More to the point, you can bet her story will be told over and over again and that in turn, just takes the message about our hobby to a whole new level!

Great PR is 24/7 and it always means keeping our ears to the tracks for both internal and external promotional opportunities! Instead of a quick text message, an e-mail or a posting on Facebook or Twitter, try making that personal one-on-one connection in the form of a phone call, a handshake, or a hand written follow-up note to someone you recently met. The end result of your extra "personal touch" is sure to have a huge positive impact!

Engage anyone you meet in conversation about barbershop singing and express to them what being a barbershoper has meant to you. Then be a good listener. You never know how receptive a total stranger might be to joining our membership ranks unless you introduce the topic... right? At the very least, even if that stranger "Can't Carry a Tune in a Bucket," you'll probably tack on a few extra ticket sales at your next show.

Networking tends to have a domino effect. When you smile and make a good impression, there's little doubt you'll get a positive buzz going! So take the plunge and think like Nike, "Just Do It."

## The Future is . . . (cont'd from pg. 1)

to our future. Gary and I will be joined by many other fine men to plan and provide administrative and musical services for the chapters and members of the District. FYI, here is the lineup of key positions for 2011:

President — Dick Powell  
 Immediate Past President — Gary Plaag  
 Executive Vice President — Bill Colosimo  
 Secretary — Keith Jones  
 Treasurer — Bob Eckman  
 Board Member at Large — Rich Ashby  
 Board Member at Large — Ig Jakovac  
 Board Member at Large — Hardman Jones  
 Board Member at Large — Dennis Ritchey  
 VP Events — Walter Griffith  
 VP C&J — John Santora  
 VP CDD — Maurice DeBar  
 VP YIH — Gary Plaag  
 VP CSLT — Chuck Harner  
 VP Membership — Christian Hunter  
 VP Marketing & PR — Eric Herr  
 VP Music & Performance — Ig Jakovac  
 VP Financial Development — Alan Wile  
 VP Northern Division — Oley Olson  
 VP Atlantic Division — Neil Keihm  
 VP Western Division — Don Myers  
 VP Southern Division — Jere Richardson  
 CIO — Mike Kelly

The coming year will have challenges galore. In the face of those challenges we each get to choose how we will act. Our choices will reveal our character and define our future. If each of us chooses to act in harmony with the fundamental principles of singing well, having fun, and serving others there is no limit to what we can accomplish together.

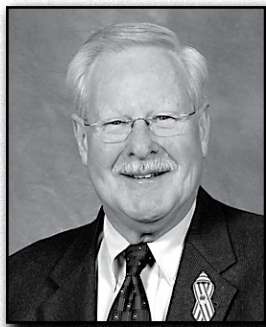


## Northern Division Thoughts

by **George "Oley" Olson**,  
 Northern Division Vice President

**M**embership must be "Job One" for your chapter. [If you have not read about our Society President **Bill Biffle's** "Job One" program, do it now! Go to <http://www.barbershop.org/membershipresources>. It outlines a membership program that will, if followed consistently, make your chapter grow—guaranteed!] This was brought home very dramatically at the House of Delegates meeting in Lancaster. One of our PA Chapter Counselors, **Tony D'Angelo**, asked for a minute to speak to the delegates. Tony explained that he had the unfortunate duty to have picked up the charter for the Scranton, PA Chapter, one of our early chapters formed in 1948. Over the years the Scranton Chapter had not put an emphasis on continually recruiting new members and, as a result, their membership dwindled as they grew older—down to one member.

(continued on page 13)



## Contest & Judging Update

by **Chuck Harner**, DVP Contest and Judging

Congratulations to our 2011 M-AD Champions *Touchstone* and the *Alexandria Harmonizers*. Although only 9 of our 17 District Conventions have been completed as of the date that this article was written, I expect that

*Hamilton Square* will get an invitation to join the Harmonizers in Kansas City. *Dundalk* is currently on the bubble, but may also qualify for Kansas City. Visit the "Harmonet Reporter" Web site at <http://www.harmonize.ws/HarmonetReporter/scores/2010/Fall/Chorus/SUM10DCH.HTM> to keep posted on the unofficial listing of what choruses qualify for Kansas City.

Congratulations to *Hit Parade*, who will be the M-AD representative to the International Seniors Quartet Contest in Las Vegas in January. I expect that *Legacy* and *Youth Reclamation Project* will also get invited to compete in Las Vegas. *Dockside Harmony* is currently on the bubble, but again could get an invitation. Keep watching the "Harmonet Reporter" Web site to see what's happening.

Our Spring Convention will be held at the Harrisburg, PA Hilton from March 11–13, 2011. As in 2010, the International Preliminary Quartet Contest (Prelims) Semi-Finals and M-AD Seniors Quartet Contest will be conducted on Friday night only. Saturday morning will again feature a Chorus Festival. Certain choruses, who have already been invited by President **Gary Plaag**, will be judged by the weekend's panel in an adjudication style format. What that means is they will receive scores, but the results will only be known to them—no Official Scoring Summary will be produced. They will receive coaching evaluations in the hopes that this effort will help them improve in the Division Contests so that they may attain the scores required for participation in the 2011 M-AD Fall Convention. In 2010, all choruses that participated and entered their Division Contest, qualified for the recent Fall contest.

Saturday at noon, the youth quartets and ensembles will again be adjudicated by a separate panel of judges. **DON'T MISS THIS ENTHRALLING ANNUAL EXPERIENCE.** Saturday evening will feature the Prelims Finals and Qualifiers Show.

The Division Contests are set for:

Northern	April 30, 2011	Morristown-Beard School, Morristown, NJ
Atlantic	May 20-21, 2011	Dover, DE Sheraton
Southern	May 27-28, 2011	Reston, VA Hyatt
Western	June 3-4, 2011	Camp Hill, PA Radisson

As we get closer to these contests, more information will be posted to the M-AD Web site concerning the contestant entry opening and closing dates for all of the events.

### SO YOU WANT TO BE A JUDGE?

Your time is NOW. Every three years following the completion of Category School, new judge applications are received. Go to <http://barbershop.org/competitions/contest-a-judging-system.html> and then select Contest and Judging Handbook. APPLICANT AND

CANDIDATE REGULATIONS are found on pages 12-10 through 12-14, and the forms are found on pages 18-1 through 18-4. The M-AD DRCJ is **Chuck Harner**, VP C&J. Please ensure that he has all of your forms NO LATER THAN December 1, 2010, so that he can complete his portion of the application process and get the paperwork to the Category Specialists by December 31.

Until the next time, *Keep Those Chords Ringing*.



## Are You Ready for 2011?

by **Hardman Jones**, DVP Chapter Support & Leadership Training

The year 2011 is just around the corner and it will come with many opportunities and challenges. The Leadership Academy programs this year will provide chapter leaders with the

information and tools to lead and develop a strong administration, have more entertaining performances, and have more fun doing what we do best—singing. Give your 2011 Officers and Board members your strongest support possible. They can't do it without your full participation and involvement. Chapters need great leaders and great followers. You can be both.

As 2010 comes to a close, the new Officers and Board will begin transitioning to the new year. This is an important time in the chapter's life. It is important to develop a plan for the new year. Please read **Stephen Rafe's** article, "Transitioning Your New Board," on the next page.

The Mid-Atlantic District has been extremely fortunate to have a strong and talented Leadership Academy faculty again in 2010. We are grateful to these men for their willingness to share their time and talents to help us be better leaders and singers. Special thanks goes to all of the 2010 faculty members.

The Leadership Academy coordinators, **Jere Richardson**, **Neil Keihm**, and **Oley Olson** have done another great job to make the three Leadership Academy programs a success. Our special thanks goes to each one of them.

The Chapter Counselor program was in full swing in 2010. New Chapter Counselors were trained in the Northern, Atlantic, and Southern Divisions. Chapter Counselors are the first and direct point of contact between the Chapter and the District. The Chapter Counselor provides encouragement and assistance through regular contact and communications. They also provide a valuable service to chapters through education, planning support, and identifying resources. Contact your Division Vice President if you are interested in becoming a Chapter Counselor.

This is my last year as your Vice President for Chapter Support and Leadership Training (CSLT) and it has been my privilege and honor to have been able to serve in this capacity. Many thanks to the members of the CSLT committee and support group: **Jere Richardson**, **Neil Keihm**, **Don Springer**, **Oley Olson**, **Terry Jordan**, **Joe Stangl**, **Bill Ennis**, **Joe Berger**, and **Dick Powell** for their great ideas and support of the CSLT activities over the past two years. I look forward to working with **Chuck Harner** who will be the new CSLT VP for 2011.





## Youth In Harmony Excitement on the Horizon!

by **Mike Fasano**, DVP Youth In Harmony

We had a great Barbershop Harmony Youth Quartet Camp this June at Harmony College East (HCE). A total of 10 youth quartets participated along with 10 coaches. The students received over 6 hrs. of quartet coaching across all three Society judging categories and they performed both as individual quartets and in a large ensemble on the big stage; to the delight of the attending HCE adult barbershoppers, of course. The seeds have been sown in the minds and hearts of these young singers and I look forward to the day in the future when they have settled down and have time to come back and join the ranks on our risers. I encourage you to continue to support your local youth choral programs in every way that you can. Exposing our District youth to the fun and excitement of barbershop harmony is the only way we can expect to perpetuate our artform. Please note that I DIDN'T say "Go out and recruit young singers"... Support their programs and expose them to the artform... sow the seeds now and hopefully, when they are adults and have time, they will come back and sing with our local chapters.

Speaking of the future, we have a couple of exciting things on the horizon. First, we are exploring changes to the Barbershop Youth Quartet Adjudication program for this year. We are strongly looking into the possibility of holding a single, large adjudication to be held on Saturday, March 12, 2011, in Harrisburg, PA. This is the Saturday and same location of the M-AD International Preliminary Contest Weekend! This event would take the place of the regional youth quartet adjudications. Further details will be forthcoming through the District publications and on the District Web site.

Second, we have a number of barbershop harmony festivals taking place throughout the District. Loudon County, VA; Alexandria, VA; Rahway, NJ; and Norfolk, VA (to name the ones that I know of) are already in the works. I will see that the District Web site is updated with the dates and contact information for each of these events in the hopes that you will be able to add some singers from your own hometown to these events.

Finally, I am happy to announce that I will be handing the reins of the YIH program to the very capable **Gary Plaag**. Gary has a great vision for the program. Combined with his prior experience and knowledge of the YIH program and philosophy, the program is in great hands!



## Transitioning Your New Board

As your chapter begins to transition the new Board members into your leadership through joint meetings, a team approach will help the process run smoothly. This involves having two or more of the current officers work with their incoming counterparts "off-line," separate from the entire Board.

For example, Chapter Development can collaborate with Marketing & PR on planning those ventures that involve both—such as Guest Night / Open House. Likewise, Music & Performance can collaborate with both Chapter Development and Marketing & PR, to publicize events which also provide opportunities to recruit. And, of course, there are many other possibilities. These informal team collaborations can save the rest of the Board a lot of time and can accomplish "staff work" more efficiently. Such sessions can also help to develop individuals' leadership skills, sense of belonging, and the awareness that their voices do, indeed, matter.

The steps that follow work best when accompanied by a knowledge of how to function successfully in teams to get each job done. And that can be gained through attendance at the Leadership Academy.

All teams succeed best when their organizations have a clear vision; mission, goals, and objectives; and have the resources (time, funds, and knowledge) to address any given issue effectively. That's where both entire Boards play a key role. Once they have laid these out in advance and set reasonable ranges on the time and money to be expended, the informal teams can begin the off-line work on strategic planning that leads to developing more specific priorities, budgets, and timetables.

After the informal groupings have developed their recommendations, they can submit those to a Planning Committee whose job it will be to put the pieces together into a whole, establish an overall budget for the chapter's activities, and develop a timetable for the entire year. The Planning Committee can also formalize the process of how to multi-task to get each job done efficiently and effectively. Once they have completed this job, they can submit the plan to joint meetings of both Boards (before year's end) to clearly define the path to success in terms of resources—human and financial.

—**Stephen C. Rafe**, Germantown, MD Chapter

**Stephen C. Rafe**, from the Germantown, MD Chapter, is committed to helping to keep our heritage alive for tomorrow's generations to enjoy. He has served on many Society leadership and marketing committees and task forces and has an extensive educational background and teaching and writing experiences on organizational leadership and marketing.

Manuscript deadline for the next  
issue of "Mid'l Antics":

**December 27, 2010**

## HCE-DCE 2011—Plan NOW to Attend!

by **Bill Colosimo**, DVP Music & Performance and  
Board Member at Large

The best weekend of barbershopping in the M-AD is coming to **Salisbury, MD, June 16-19, 2011**. Harmony College/Directors College-EAST is touted nationwide as one of the top District Schools in the Society. Participants enjoy excellent classes for individual barbershoppers, top-rate coaching for quartets and choruses, invaluable training for Directors, two great evening shows, an exciting Youth program, good food, and terrific fellowship!

**Quartets** of all levels find their participation invaluable to enhance their performance. **Directors** at all levels and *aspiring directors and other music leaders* rave about how their skill levels are raised by DCE! **Individuals** learn to hone their singing, leadership and music theory/arranging skills!

**Choruses** can't find better one-stop coaching anywhere, all day Friday or all day Saturday. As your Chapter does its annual planning for 2011, make *this* a priority activity for your chorus! As you have gathered from my columns over the last several years, I am a passionate proponent of the *fun* that can be generated by better quality ensemble singing. Here's an *ideal* opportunity to integrate great coaching, a terrific performance shot in a great venue before loads of enthusiastic fans, and tremendous fellowship! And, if your members elect to *also* register as individuals and spend the entire weekend, they can benefit from all the great offerings in the traditional HCE curriculum!

Much more detailed information on the weekend, including registration information, will be included with upcoming issues of Mid'l Antics, starting in January. But we're asking you to plan ahead *now* to get this on your family, business and *Chapter calendars* as a "**must do**" event! And, as its Fathers Day weekend, consider making arrangements *now* for you to bring Dad, Son, Grandson or other person with whom you might want to share this terrific experience! Consider, too, that--with International in Kansas City a week later than usual in 2011--you'll be able to have a "barbershop breather" between HCE and your trip to the Midwest...where you can share your newly-improved barbershop skills with 10,000+ of your closest friends.

Ig Jakovac (your incoming MAD DVP-M&P) and I are working closely with our "Dean" and the incoming team for Chorus Director Development to insure that the innovative curriculum and coaching offerings are best suited to meet the growing needs of individuals and ensembles. The planning for this great event is thorough and thoughtful...and the District is committed to funding its success. *YOUR PARTICIPATION*, in record numbers in 2011 (we hope!) will bolster our belief that you value the educational opportunities we offer.

We are grateful to Scott Ward and Ron Knickerbocker for their top-rate coordination of the weekend. Questions concerning HCE, especially chorus coaching availability and reserving a spot for your group, should be directed to Scott at 215-368-8041 or pslward@msn.com.

## Dog Tales: Dog Tags

Frankly speaking, *Frank the Dog* had a great time helping the M-AD's Youth In Harmony program at the recent M-AD District Convention in Lancaster, PA. We had hoped that this would attract some interest, and from the moment we sang the first tag in Lancaster, we knew that everyone was going to have a lot of fun.

How did this come about? Earlier this year, we had accepted an invitation from the Alexandria, VA Chapter to help coach the boys' chorus at the *Harmonizers'* next Youth Harmony Festival on April 9, 2011. We were thrilled to be asked and thought that there must be something more we could do to support the YIH program. We had all seen firsthand the excitement of the young singers at the Youth Harmony Camp at Harmony College East and felt that anything we could do to promote and support the next generation of singers and barbershoppers would be worth the effort.

I have enjoyed the "Sing With The Champs" events at the International Conventions—what a fun, interactive way to raise funds for Society-wide YIH programs! I thought, "why not try this approach at the District level?" Since *Frank the Dog* has not won a contest (yet), we could hardly call it "Sing With The Champs." I had thought of "Sing With The Chumps," but the other *Dogs* chewed that idea to pieces in a hurry. Our inner dogs went to work and leaped out with "Dog Tags," the light bulb went on and we knew we could do this and have a lot of fun in the process. We were met with enthusiasm and support from current District President **Gary Plaag**, District Executive VP **Dick Powell**, and DVP for Student Activities **Mike Fasano**, all of whom encouraged us to make this happen. Events VP **Walt Griffith** helped us secure the use of the lobby stage area and sound system, and we were on our way.

The *Dogs* then narrowed down a list of tags to 12. The goal was a well-known selection that would interest both uber-taggers like our friend **Chuck Lower**, as well as us mere mortals. Once the set was selected we used every media avenue that we could think of, publicizing the event on our quartet Web site [www.frankthedog.com](http://www.frankthedog.com), and our Facebook page. District Information Officer **Mike Kelly** helped by linking an ad on the M-AD Web site, and we also advertised in the M-AD Convention program. We were delighted to see the immediate sign-ups and encouragement we received.

At the event, **Ned Duffy** of the Washington, DC Chapter helped us greet our pre-registered singers and encourage additional participation by the growing group of spectators. Tom's wife, Donna Halley, photographed the "tag quartets" so that each participant would receive a photograph, and gave them a signed certificate of appreciation on the spot. We sang with men, women, and children down to age 9, and encouraged additional donations. In the end everyone had donated a total of \$400 for M-AD YIH.

The *Dogs* would like to thank the District officers and the volunteers named above for encouraging us to make this worthwhile event a reality. Our paws are also raised in salute to our friends who joined us in harmony and literally "put their money where their mouth is," to add some great memories to a wonderful M-AD 2011 Convention experience. Woof!

—**Ross Trube**, Bari, *Frank the Dog*,  
Hamilton Square and Princeton, NJ Chapters

## James River Soundworks Releases Their First CD: "Come On Along"



**S**oundworks is an outstanding group of singers, talented and dedicated, who perform with great luster and excitement," according to Stan Engebretson, Arranger and Professor of Music, George Mason University.

There comes a time when any committed group of singers will eventually say, "Let's record what we're doing." As a performing group we have had many requests to be taken home after the show, in a strictly platonic, listening sort of way. Over the past eighteen months our music team headed by **Glenn Van Tuyle** and our own chorus CD production team composed of **Rick Montgomery** and **Hardman Jones**, have diligently worked on crafting and capturing our unique vocal sound.

Audiences can finally bring us home and share in our eclectic blend of songs from classic Barbershop, "You Make Me Feel So Young," to the great Gospel arrangement of "Goodbye, World, Goodbye." In addition, the CD includes a wonderful traditional sea chantey "From Boston Harbor," Franz Biebl's "Ave Maria" for the discerning classical ear, as well as other tracks.

One of the unique features of our "director-less" chorus is that our members play a significant role in music selection, crafting our sound, and ultimately, what we bring to the stage. *Soundworks* loves to perform and "light-up" our audiences.

One of our many coaches, **Joe Cerutti**, Musical Director of the *Alexandria Harmonizers* says, "*Soundworks* has a versatile repertoire with complex rhythms and dynamic harmonies. I've been fortunate to work with them on many occasions and I'm thrilled that they are sharing their heartfelt sound with the rest of the world."

The recording process is right in alignment with the *Soundworks* style of relentless vocal crafting in the pursuit of perfect blend, tensionless vocal production and inspirational singing.

Special thanks goes to our fans, friends, family members, and coaches for their continual support. With the release of "Come On Along" our ensemble has moved into a new era of artistry and performance—the *Soundworks* way.

"Come On Along" can be purchased online at [www.soundworkschorus.org](http://www.soundworkschorus.org) and through the BHS Harmony Marketplace under CD/Recordings link.

—**Jamie Champion**, Chorus Manager

## The Nittany Knights

### *For the love of music and fellowship*

*An excerpt from the article that appeared in The Gazette - Serving Centre County (PA), by Valerie Lute.*

**A**B-flat is blown on the tuner, **Charely Sullivan** waves his hands, and then the room fills with sound as warm-ups begin. Sullivan warns that he is not the director, it is just his job to do warm-ups and pester people about their vowels. He kept good on his promise, saying "someone isn't doing their oh's right," at the end of the first warm-up at guest night of Nittany Knights Barber Shop Chorus last Tuesday.

The Nittany Knights Barber Shop Chorus was first chartered in 1962 with the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America (later renamed Barber



Shop Harmony Society). Along with the chorus, the Nittany Knights has four in-house quartets, the *School Board*, *Starting Over*, *Logan's Heroes* and *Wild Pitch*. The Knight's director, **Joe Malafaria**, has been directing for 35 years, making him the longest standing director in the society.

In honor of guest night, Director **Joe Malafaria** begins with a few words about the history of Barber Shop. In the 1930's a group of people began to try to preserve this form of music that was popular around the turn of the century so that it would not be lost in the tides of changing music. "Young people always change music," Malafaria says. "It happened in 1910, it happened in 1930, and it happened last week." But even barber shop has changed over the years. The once taboo practice of using music during a competition is now widely accepted.

The 42 members of the Nittany Knights come from all walks of life, from Penn State professors to blue-collar workers, but their love of singing brings them together. Membership Vice President **Bill Starr** says it was the love of four-part harmony that lead him to the Knights 16 years ago. "I don't read music, I learn by ear,"

*(continued on next page)*

Starr says. "You don't have to read music to be here, as long as you have a good ear to sing, and we have a lot of fun."

Starr also stays involved because of the amazing fellowship. Even though the meeting ends at 9:30, many nights a dozen people will stay late just singing, Starr says. They mix things up by standing next to people who sing different parts, called "shotgunning" in barber shop terminology.

The purpose of guest night is to reach out to new members and allow community members to take a peak inside the chorus. Guest **Tim Nebgen** was invited by a family friend because of their shared love of singing. Although Nebgen is involved in community theater in Philipsburg and Clearfield, he says he's never had any formal training. "I'm hoping to get pointers on correct pitch and tempo," he says. "But even if that doesn't happen, it'd be nice to sing and have a little fun."

The chorus performs 10 to 20 times a year, singing at the grange fair, local nursing homes and Bellefonte's Victorian Christmas. Their biggest event, the Nittany Knights' annual show on the first Saturday in May, receives 400 to 500 people each year.

—**Bill Miller**, VP Marketing & PR,  
State College, PA Chapter

## Catoctones: A Membership Story



Our chapter, like many others in the District and around the country, has suffered membership losses over the past 3 or 4 years for a variety of reasons. We had lost so many members that we actually were in danger of disbanding. After putting our heads together and with the help and advice of a former *Catoctone*, **Mike Fasano**, we decided on a plan to rebuild the chapter that was in its 42nd year or go down swinging. We invited our District Counselor, **Chuck Harner**, to meet with us to discuss it. After a spirited discussion we discovered we still had a good strong group of dedicated experienced members and singers that wanted to continue. After formulating an action plan, some of the members stepped up and agreed to serve as officers for the year. This was a huge step forward and the current director agreed to do the same.

I agreed to accept the Membership and Chapter Development VP position. We came up with a priority list of "must do" things and goals to get back on track. With everybody pulling together, we developed a plan that all of the active members would support and help carry out. High on our list was to compete again this year

after a two year lay off. We decided to compete for score only out of our Division in the Atlantic Division Contest in Camp Hill, PA, in June. Wow, we scored high enough with 17 guys to qualify for Mid-Atlantic District Contest in Lancaster on October 2. We soon came to the realization that we needed more good singers to compete and continue moving forward to reach our goals. We had to invite guests and convince them how much fun our barbershop singing hobby is. We planned a guest night and decided to try some new ideas out that I hoped would motivate each member to work hard to bring in guests.

I began by handing out a 3 x 5 white "pledge card" to each member to obligate them to bring at least one guest. Although all of them took this to heart, we did not get one guest from every member, but we did get ten guests and some past members to come. The moral of this story is you have to give it a try.

Our Director **Roger Crist** and Music and Performance VP, **Jim Spiller**, developed the program for the evening and it was a huge success. Our director introduced a new song to the mixed chorus of guests and members and surprised all of us in basically teaching it to a presentable level in approximately 25 minutes. If all of the guests present were to become members, we could increase the size of our chorus about 40 percent as a benefit of this one guest night! Most of the guests have continued to come back on recurring weekly chapter meetings. This has been very encouraging to all of the members and now that we know this will work, we will be having another guest night shortly after the District contest. There are many paths and ideas that a chapter can try to attract new members but it all comes down to the old saying, "Membership begins with me!"

Three of our guests were young boys and there is a good possibility if they can find one other young voice part, we may have our first youth quartet. We also have scheduled an annual show again after missing one last year. We now have an excited motivated board of officers, advisors, and members who are determined to rebuild our chapter back to where we once were. We don't know if we will succeed and accomplish all of our goals, but we are dedicated to give it our best. I hope that this article will motivate some of the other chapters in the District who have lost members to give it another try. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

—**Dick Kreh**, Membership and Chapter  
Development VP, Frederick, MD Chapter

**Dick Kreh** is a forty-two year original charter member and Past President twice for the Frederick *Catoctones*.



## Harbormen Chorus Perform at Memorials in September

The North Brookhaven Chapter *Harbormen Chorus* was very busy this past September performing at 9-11 Memorials throughout Long Island. The two most moving performances were at the Freedom Tower Corner Stone Memorial in Hauppauge, NY. The widows of the first responders along with those families who lost loved ones that worked at the Twin Towers were honored.



“Honor Flight Long Island” was dedicated to WWII veterans at Islip McArthur Airport flying to the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. For many of the veterans this would be their first visit and perhaps the last opportunity for them to visit the memorial.

It was an honor and privilege for the *Harbormen Chorus* to participate in these two moving tributes to the families who lost loved ones on 9-11, and to those men and women who fought in WWII so that we can enjoy the freedoms we have today. God bless them and God Bless America.

—Herb Mordkoff, VP Community Relations, North Brookhaven, NY Chapter

## Northern Division Thoughts (cont'd from pg. 7)

Tony pleaded with the delegates to learn from this example. Always make recruiting new members a priority no matter whether you are a chapter with 100 members or a chapter with 18. By not heeding this advice your chapter could find itself in the same situation as the Scranton Chapter.

So how do you solve this? To begin, immediately sign up your officers for the upcoming Leadership Academy. For Northern Divisions it will be December 4<sup>th</sup> in Morris Plains, NJ. We will be providing excellent instructors covering such areas as Chapter Development and Marketing and PR, along with the classes of President, Secretary, Treasurer, Music and Performance, etc.

This is something you and your chapter have to do for yourselves. As the saying goes, “Fried chicken does not fly into one’s mouth.”

Please add the “Mid'l Antics” editor to your chapter bulletin e-mail list to provide us with chapter news.

## “Doing Anything Week Day Mornings?”

This question appears in several forms of ads in the Mt. Vernon, Virginia area. It can be traced to an invitation to visit and have FUN singing with the *Harmony Heritage Singers*, who started with little fanfare in June of 1996.

A member of the *Alexandria Harmonizers* voiced concerns about large numbers of daytime singouts being turned down because most of the Harmonizers were in the daytime workforce.

After some consultation, **Robert (Bob) Wachter**, a Harmonizer himself, agreed to lead a small group of retired or semi-retired men that could perform daytime gigs. Thirteen *Alexandria Harmonizers* were present on June 26, 1996, at the passing of the Olympic Torch Ceremony in the Market Square in Alexandria, Virginia.

Word began to spread and since we are in an area with numerous barbershop chapters within a thirty mile radius, we decided to open our group to men from other chapters in the Metropolitan D.C. area. In addition we had singers who had never sung barbershop and ex-barbershoppers to join.

We took the name *Harmony Heritage Singers*, totally separate from the *Alexandria Harmonizers*. We were chartered with 56 men on January 18, 2003.

We keep the rules simple and expect our men to fulfill their commitments. We rehearse twice a month and sing out twice a month.



The *Harmony Heritage Singers* have amassed over 350 paid appearances since 1996. We have grown from the original 13 to 90 members today, 30 of which have come the last two and a half years. All new HHS members are quickly involved in chapter activities... each one receiving a personalized music book, complete with chapter administrative data, music, a learning CD with his part predominate, chorus uniforms, and a mentor for 1 year.

This success or bottom line is achieved by keeping administration simple: sing out a lot, entertain well using good MC’s, perform songs that fit our skills, and perform them well.

The management of HHS by **Mike Everard**, President, **Chris Buechler**, Music VP and remainder of board interfaces with our director, **Bob Wachter**, to help steer the chapter within chapter guidelines and counsel our director on morale, mood, and desires of the members.

When you add the irresistible force of the thrill of locked, ringing chords, fellowship will naturally follow and guess what... our guests return and JOIN.

—James Coulter, Membership VP, Mt. Vernon, VA Chapter

# The M-AD Chorus Contest Results



*Alexandria Harmonizers, First Place*



*Brothers in Harmony, Second Place*



*Chorus of the Chesapeake, Third Place*

# The M-AD Quartet Contest Results



*Touchstone, First Place*



*Crunch Time, Second Place*



*Tribute, Third Place*

## More Photos from the M-AD Convention in Lancaster, PA

*Harmony Marketplace—  
Mary Jo &  
Walter Griffith.*



*The Mid-Atlantic District Association of Quartet Champions sings.*



*Bill Colosimo and Eric Herr doing the Webcast.*



*'Round Midnight presents an autographed CD to Lancaster Mayor Grey as President Gary Plaag and Rich Ashby look on. He also received a certificate of appreciation.*



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This tag was arranged by **Burt Szabo** who while teaching for many years at university levels, has composed and arranged a great variety of music for school and church use, and for barbershop quartets and choruses. He is a long time member of ASCAP, both as a composer and as a music publisher, and is a 50-year member of the Barbershop Harmony Society. This tag is taken from *Burt's Big Book Of Tags, Volume 1* (Orlando, Florida: Choral Concepts Publishing, 2004). Reprinted with permission.



## Have a Very Happy Day

Have a ver - y hap - py day!

1980s