



# MID-ATLANTIC

Volume 44, Issue 4  
FALL 2013  
A BULLETIN FOR EVERY BARBERSHOPPER IN THE MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT



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*2014 M-AD CHAMPS MAYHEM pull out all the stops at the Cotton Club while 2014 M-AD CHORUS CHAMPS VOICES OF GOTHAM roll director Larry Bomback across the stage.*





**GIMME FOUR**, Paul Franek (T), David Ammirata (L), Will Downey (Bs), and Joe Servidio Jr. (Br), won second place medals.



**UP ALL NIGHT**, John Ward (T), Cecil Brown (L), Dan Rowland (Bs), and Joe Hunter (Br) took third place with an inspired comedy routine.

**2014 M-AD CHAMPS!** — **MAYHEM**, Matt Fellows (T), Pookie Dingle Jr. (L), Ken White (Bs), and Mike Pinto (Br).

## M-ADness and Mayhem

### Voices of Gotham and Mayhem big winners at Ocean City convention

If you weren't there in Ocean City for the 2013 Fall District Quartet and Chorus championship contests, you missed quite a set of contests! The Friday night quartet contest concluded with every competitor having scored a 63% or higher. Across the Society, it's unusual to experience a quartet contest with scores in the B and A range, with no performances in the C range. The retiring quartet champions, **Frank the Dog**, served as mic warmers for the Friday night session.

Following the quartet semi-finals, the stage was re-set for the

beginning of the chorus contest. A mic test chorus, comprised of 80 men from the quartets that competed on Friday night, entered the stage and warmed the mics for the appearance of the **Alexandria Harmonizers** who were competing for evaluation and score only. The Harmonizers performed their set from the recent Toronto International, where they took 3<sup>rd</sup> place. On Saturday evening they posted an overall score of 89.2% with 100 men on stage.

*M-ADness. continued on the next page*





**LOOK WHAT WE GOT! — Voices of Gotham re-joice in the M-AD first-place chorus trophy. The Hell's Kitchen chapter last held the first-place trophy in 2011.**

**Chorus of the Chesapeake earned second-place medals.**

**2013 Contest and Judging  
Ocean City Convention UPDATE**  
*Gary Plaag, VP Contest and Judging*

***M-ADness. continued from previous page***

After Friday night's competition the risers were reset from eleven to seven sets to accommodate the smaller choruses appearing in Saturday's contest. Saturday's chorus contest began with the mic warmers, **East Coast Sound** (formerly known as Tri Star Chorus), under the direction of **Dave Ammirata**. Twenty-one choruses graced the stage on Saturday. The top five choruses were:

1. **Voices of Gotham (Hell's Kitchen, N.Y.) – 83.7%**
2. **Chorus of the Chesapeake (Dundalk, Md.) –**

**77.6%**

3. **Long Island Sounds (Five Towns College, N.Y.) – 75.7%**
4. **Westchester Chordsmen (Westchester County, N.Y.) – 75.7%**
5. **North Pennsmen (Lansdale, Pa.) – 73.7%**

East Coast Sound performed again as mic coolers at the end of the chorus contest session.

**Voices of Gotham** was named the 2014 M-AD Chorus Champions and the 2014 M-AD Representative to the BHS International contest in Las Vegas, Nev. next July. It's possible that others in the top five may be offered wildcard spots after all other district chorus contests have concluded.

The Saturday evening quartet finals set was very competitive with excellent performances by all of

***M-ADness. continued on the next page***





## *M-ADness. continued from previous page*

the Top-10 quartets. The top five quartets were:

1. **Mayhem – 77.9%**
2. **Gimme Four – 77.2%**
3. **Up All Night – 76.9%**
4. **MADMEN – 75.3%**
5. **ACME Chord Company – 74.4%**

Mayhem was named the 2014 District Quartet champion and Faces 4 Radio (71.4%) was named the 2014 M-AD Senior Quartet Representatives to the Mid-Winter convention in Long Beach, Cal. in late January, 2014. Black Tie Affair was recognized as the 2013 M-AD Novice Quartet Champions (determined during the 2013 division contest cycle).

A full listing of scores for all competitors at the M-AD Fall District Contests can be found at:

<http://www.harmonize.ws/HarmonetReporter/scores/2013/scores13.htm#dqtfall>

### **RIGHT, FROM TOP:**

*Long Island Sounds Chorus placed third, Westchester Chordsmen placed fourth and the North Pennsmen earned fifth-place ranking.*

### **FAR RIGHT, FROM TOP:**

*MADMEN (Brad Schreiner, T; Brad Brooks, L; Dan Van Wetering, Bs; and Brandon Brooks, Br) earned fourth place ranking.*

*ACME Chord Company (Paul Grimes, Br; Chris Susalka, L; Eric Wallen, Bs; and Dan O'brien, T) placed fifth.*

*Faces 4 Radio (Bob Bristow, T; Brad Brooks, L; Jeff Winik, Bs; and Mark Sanders, Br) are the Seniors Quartet Champs and will represent the District at the International Seniors Competition in Long Beach, Ca., in January.*





## Send the old dog to leadership academy: He could learn some new tricks!

By the time you read this article, your chapter should have already held an election for your 2014 officers. If not please do it soonest. Remember that your current Secretary must enter this information in the "Future" section of the Chapter Leaders information for your chapter in ebiz. Please also include your Chapter Counselor so that he can monitor your chapter's



by **Chuck Harner**,  
DVP Chapter Support  
& Leadership Training

information on ebiz. Without information on your chapter officers in ebiz, the Society does not have an electronic path to contact your chapter, particularly with respect to contest entries and the filing of related forms.

Now that your 2014 officers are elected, please arrange for them to attend one of the three planned M-AD Leadership Academy (LA) sessions. LA is where your chapter leaders for the coming year acquire the knowledge and skills (tricks of the trade) they will need to carry out the duties of the offices to which they were elected. M-AD attempts to rotate the faculty at each of our LAs to the maximum extent possible. As a result, reports indicate that even "old dogs", guys who are repeating in office for the umpteenth time, always seem to pick up some new knowledge or a new skill. In particular, there always seem to be changes that the Society has made that affect the Secretary and Treasurer curricula.

The coming LAs are planned for:

- October 25 (Southern) in Falls Church, Virginia;**
- November 9 (Northern) in Morris Plains, NJ; and**
- January 11, 2014 (Central) in Newark, DE.**

The Central LA is planned so that those who couldn't attend either the Southern LA or Northern LA for any reason will have the chance to attend an LA. The curricula

tracks available are President, Secretary, Treasurer, VP Membership/Chapter Development, VP Music & Performance, VP Marketing & PR, and VP Program/Operations (Southern LA & Central LA only).

Available funding is a problem affecting all chapters and individual barbershoppers. In an attempt to mitigate the financial burden of our LAs, the CSLT team again recommended and the M-AD BOD approved the following pricing which is in effect up until two weeks before each LA starts:

Number Attending	Price Per Student	Total Cost
1	\$45.00	\$45.00
2	\$42.50	\$85.00
3	\$40.00	\$120.00
4	\$37.50	\$150.00
5	\$35.00	\$175.00
6	\$32.50	\$195.00
7 or more	\$30.00	\$210.00 plus

Those who delay registration until later than two weeks before the scheduled LA start date will pay \$45.00 per student. So, make sure your chapter elections are held early in October in accordance with the Standard Chapter Bylaws and register your new or repeating officers to attend one of the upcoming LAs. You won't regret it!

Registration forms are posted on the M-AD web site [www.midatlanticdistrict.com/pdf/LA\\_RegForm.pdf](http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/pdf/LA_RegForm.pdf)

Without information on your chapter officers in ebiz, the Society does not have an electronic path to contact your chapter, particularly with respect to contest entries and the filing of related forms.

## Society Board aims high seeks to improve education, membership growth

Since the International Convention in Toronto, your Society Board has been busy with a number of administrative issues to help improve the experience of our membership.

We continue to monitor our financial situation and find ways to meet the ever growing demand on the bank account. Kudos to Heather Verble, Financial Officer for the Society, in providing a clear picture of the changes that occur to our finances.

One issue that arose dealt with the insurance billing to chapters. The Society is able to obtain a group discount on insurance coverage, which is reflected in the amounts billed to chapters. Generally, an equal amount of insurance purchased individually by a chapter would be significantly more than the charges from the Society.

Board Member, Joe Cerutti, has joined the headquarters staff and will be looking after youth initiatives and chorus director development. Congratulations to Joe

in this new position. We look forward to some excellent work in his area of responsibility.

With Joe's appointment, this leaves a vacancy on the Society Board. The Society Nominating Committee will be contacting candidates in the near future.

The 2014 Society Aims were presented and will be part of a package of information for presentation at House of Delegates meetings throughout the Society. Primarily, these aims are: an integrated annual plan to monitor and measure progress; continued support of the Chapter Visitation Program; increased and improved educational materials and training opportunities, and; slowing or reversing the decline of membership in the Society.

Your Society is interested in YOU. If you have something you want to say, an idea that will help the Society meet its goals and mandate, please contact your Society Board Member and let your voice be heard. Let's Keep The Whole World Singing!

— *By Gerry Borden, EVG*

### SOCIETY BOARD QUARTERLY REPORT

The perfect blend is pure chemistry.

## Sean Devine's *MAD* Quest

Sean Devine is on a quest to visit EVERY CHAPTER in the Mid-Atlantic District by October 2014.

### WHY?

Because he has made it his mission in life to give every member of our district the opportunity to help more young people experience the joy of barbershop singing and ensure the future of our Society.

Most of you know who Sean Devine is, but for those who may not, Sean joined the Society in 1996 in Harrisburg, Pa. Over the years he has accumulated an impressive array of honors including a quartet champion gold medal as the lead in OC Times, chorus champion gold medals with Westminster and the Masters of Harmony, and an assortment of other medals with chapters around the Society.

Sean is also a certified Presentation judge, and an accomplished coach for individuals, quartets, choruses, and directors. He recently returned to his home district and is a Director of Development for Harmony Foundation in the mid-Atlantic region.

**WHY WOULD YOU WANT HIM TO VISIT?** Sean will do whatever you want while he is with your chapter.

- Do you want private vocal lessons for every man in the chapter? *He'll provide them.*
- Do you want coaching for each section? *He'll provide it.*
- Do you want vocal coaching for the entire chorus? *He'll provide it.*
- Do you want presentation coaching? *He'll provide it.*
- Do you want coaching for your director? *He'll provide it.*

**WHAT WILL THIS COST YOU? Nothing. Absolutely nothing.** All he asks is that you give him 20 minutes sometime during the evening to talk about the Harmony Foundation and what it is doing to help the Barbershop Harmony Society – and ways each of us can participate in those efforts.

**HOW DO YOU GET HIM TO VISIT?** Contact him at [sdevine@harmonyfoundation.org](mailto:sdevine@harmonyfoundation.org) and let him know what dates would work best for you to have him visit. He'll take it from there. If you are one of the chapters he has already visited, ask him back!

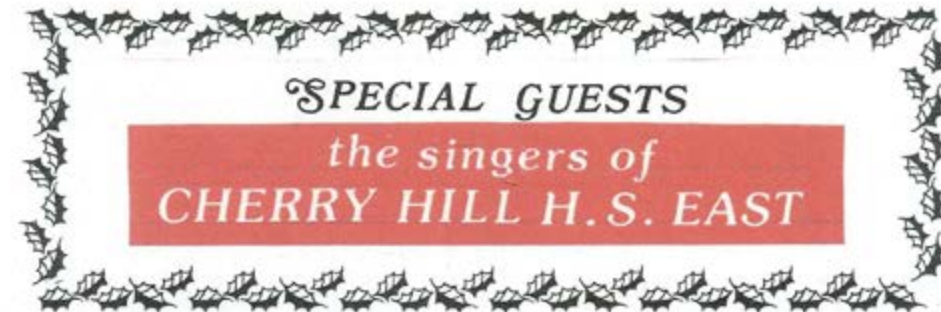
Contact Sean NOW to arrange his **FREE visit** to your chapter. Let's show him his quest is not an impossible dream!

— *By Dick Powell, Immediate Past President*



two performances: 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm

ST. ANDREWS METHODIST CHURCH  
Rte 70 (next door to Ponzio's) Cherry Hill, NJ



Advanced Ticket Prices:

ADULTS : \$15. SENIORS (60+) : \$12. CHILDREN 13 – 18 : \$5. CHILDREN UNDER 12 : FREE

TICKET PRICES AT THE DOOR FOR ADULTS : \$20. AND SENIORS : \$17

For Group Rates and Additional Discount Offers, call John at 856-866-2474 or

See our website : [www.thepinebarons.com](http://www.thepinebarons.com)





## Bang! Bang!! Bang!!!

### Matching donation programs will triple the size of your Harmony Foundation gift

We have not one but two matching donation programs up and running simultaneously. What this means is that each of us has

What this means is this is the very best time to make that first time gift to Harmony Foundation or to increase current giving levels.

of Champions, 2000-2011") which contains two songs from each International Quartet Champion over those eleven years.



by Alan Wile,  
DVP Financial Development &  
Endowment Fund Chairman

the opportunity to triple the size and effect of gifts to Harmony Foundation.

While every gift is beneficial as the Society seeks to broaden the appeal and resources available to younger singers and chorus directors, every member, associate, and supporter of barbershop harmony is encouraged to become either an Ambassador of Song (AOS) or a member of the President's Council (PC) ... or both! Here's the deal:

Not to be overlooked is the fact that donors have the option of designating up to 30 percent of their contributions to be returned to either a chapter, the district, or both. Exercising this option is called "donor choice."

- Each new donor and (any donors who elect to increase the amount of their previous commitments) has his/her gift doubled through the McCollum Match (a Society-wide program in honor of the Society's 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary).

- AOS members contribute a minimum of \$120/year (only \$10/month) through bank or credit card drafts (or by a single check).

Now that's a real "win-win-win" situation: the donor gets to claim the entire amount as a tax deduction – HF receives funds in support of its programs – and the chapter/district get unexpected revenue. "Donor choice" contributions returned to our district are deposited into the Endowment Fund where the proceeds are used for scholarships for music directors to attend Harmony College East and for youth quartets to attend the Youth Harmony Festival held simultaneously at Salisbury University each June.

- Here in the Mid-Atlantic District the Tarpay Tribute (a match by our own Roger Tarpay) pledges to double the money contributed by any new President's Council member.

- PC members contribute a minimum of \$1,000/year in a single payment or through monthly, quarterly, or semi-annual payments. Contributors receive distinctive red or blue ribbons to attach to their membership badges and, in addition, PC members may be seated "up front" at international conventions and receive invitations to special recognition events. Also, new members receive a copy of a special DVD ("Medal Moments – A Decade

Need help? Contact me: [alan.wile@comcast.net](mailto:alan.wile@comcast.net); 703-538-6526.

## a big 'thank-you to M-AD contributors

Mid-Atlantic District Barbershoppers demonstrate at every turn that they are among the most generous in the Society. It's a fact confirmed by Harmony Foundation and the District Endowment Fund Committee.

friends exercised the "donor choice" option when contributing to Harmony Foundation (Ambassadors of Song and/or President's Council). The result – a combined contribution of \$5,230.73 during the first six months of this year.

Foundation's Presidents Council contribute a minimum of \$1,000/year; Ambassadors of Harmony donate \$10 or more/month.

In addition to all other opportunities to support significant Society and District programs, those who attended the House of Delegates meeting in Ocean City, Md. Oct. 6 and those who contribute to Harmony Foundation and designate up to 30% of their donation to be returned to the district gave a total of nearly \$5,500 to the Mid-Atlantic District Endowment Fund. Here's how:

As indicated, the entire amount was deposited to the Mid-Atlantic District Endowment Fund, which now exceeds \$100,000. The proceeds of his fund – YOUR fund – are used to send musical directors to M-AD's Harmony College East and youth quartets (and sponsor) to the Youth Harmony Camp, both of which are offered annually at Salisbury University in June. This year eight directors and two youth quartets were selected to receive scholarships.

All who contribute are to be congratulated as they are in the forefront of keeping barbershop harmony – this uniquely American musical genre – alive and well, growing in number, and increasing in popularity in the Mid-Atlantic District. Want to sign up or add to your present giving level? Contact Sean Devine (866-706-8021x3048; [smpdevine@gmail.com](mailto:smpdevine@gmail.com)), Chuck Harner (703-938-3001; [CACHuck@cox.net](mailto:CACHuck@cox.net)), Oley Olson (973-539-7941; [oleyols@aol.com](mailto:oleyols@aol.com)), or me (703-538-6526; [alan.wile@comcast.net](mailto:alan.wile@comcast.net)).

- Those who attended the district House of Delegates meeting donated \$265.00.
- Ninety-four members of the Barbershop Harmony Society, Society Associates, and District

Donations may be made at any time, for any purpose, or simply to "give back" for all the harmony in one's life. Those who participate in Harmony

— By Alan Wile,  
DVP Financial Development  
& Endowment Fund Chairman

## Tarpay Tribute CHALLENGE UPDATE

In honor of Joe La Barge, Roger Tarpay funded a \$25,000 matching challenge to enroll 25 new President's Council members. He challenged his friends, the Foundation, and all those in the Mid-Atlantic District who share his passion for barbershop singing and their own *Men of Note*.

In reponse to his farsighted vision, generosity and leadership, 37 people accepted his invitation to become a member in Harmony Foundation's President's Council, making the combined total \$62,000!

*Thank you for all you have done for the future of Barbershop!*

It's not too late to honor your own Man of Note to assure a strong and growing future for our Society!

For more information, please contact Alan Wile: [alan.wile@comcast.net](mailto:alan.wile@comcast.net); 703-538-6526



MEN OF NOTE  
*Singing Heroes*



## JOSH EHRlich goes to HU!

"I'm finally going to grad school!" I told my mom. "And for free!"

When I found out I'd gotten the Lou Perry Arranger's Scholarship to attend Harmony University this summer, I was beyond thrilled. I bounced up and down in my swivel chair at work and let out a couple of high-pitched squeals of joy.

For six years I'd been working as a high school choral director and while the work was too rewarding to give up, I knew that I wasn't being challenged fully. I needed to stoke the flames of my passion for music so that I could keep burning brightly to light the way for my students.

I knew that HU would be just the thing, so I poured my heart into my application essay and stretched every muscle in my mind to make sure the chart I submitted was as 'shop-shape as it could be.

Upon arriving in St. Joseph, I was struck by the abundance of food (unlimited buffet three times a day!) and friendliness. When I asked a member of the dining staff if Missouri Western hosted lots of groups during the summer, he told me that there were plenty of others — but none as smiley as the barbershoppers.

And while I'd been to a few conventions before, it was a treat to spend a whole week not only schmoozing and singing with the 'shop-masters but learning directly from them as well. I had a feeling that the 'Advanced Arranger's Seminar' with David Wright and Steve Armstrong would be fun, but I didn't realize quite how blown away I'd feel after each class.

Every evening, we'd get copies of top-notch,

*'I felt like we were applying the rigorous approach of Talmudic study to the beautiful, idealized sphere of vocal harmony.'*

often time-tested, arrangements to scrutinize while listening to A-level ensembles bring these visions to life. Through detailed discussion of chord choices, voicing, and word painting, I felt like we were applying the rigorous approach of Talmudic study to the beautiful, idealized sphere of vocal harmony.

I think a good chef hones his craft by tasting delicious concoctions before reading the recipes, leading to many a-ha moments such as, "I knew there was cumin in this!" In the same way, an arranger listens to a piece and then analyzes the score, to similar epiphanic effect: "I had a feeling that was an Eb#11 chord!"

Of course, that's not contestable!

And that was one of the best things about this class — we looked at masterful, non-contestable swan songs as well, notably Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho, Wright's epic anthem for the Vocal Majority.

We all sat there, mouths agape after the final chord, trying to come up with the cleverest compliment for the esteemed arranger sitting before us. I could tell there were snazzy chords during the "Seven times they marched..." verse and the chromatic descent on "tumbling, tumbling down" but to see it all written out and then discuss the ideas with the guy who first had them was, for me, better than Christmas.

The other shattering anthem we studied, which takes the beautiful and idealized sphere of vocal harmony to another stratosphere, was

Armstrong's If I Can Dream, the ballad sung by this year's gold medalist chorus, Toronto Northern Lights.

Hell, I'm tearing up just thinking about the opening Gm6 chords to the verse: "There must be..." From the uplifting minor third modulation of the intro (a technique also used in the key change from Disney's 'Whole New World') to the oblique motion of call and response in the tag (a progression used by the Beatles for the regal conclusion to the Abbey Road medley) there were dozens of carefully calibrated moments to make a song that could easily have come off as corny - especially as some of the singers were dressed as corn — something devastatingly powerful.

*'When it's done right, the idealized sphere of barbershop harmony becomes a breathtaking reality for everyone in earshot.'*

For me, this was the biggest lesson of the week. Barbershop often gets a bad rap for being corny or ingratiating, and it certainly can be if it's not done well. But when it's done right, the idealized sphere of barbershop harmony becomes a breathtaking reality for everyone in earshot.

*Composer/Arranger Josh Ehrlich arranged the 1998 pop hit The Way for Voices of Gotham's ground-breaking performance in Toronto.*



## North Carolina Brigade awards Chuck Greene Memorial Scholarship for 2014 Rally



Only a few months after The North Carolina Harmony Brigade announced its first annual "Chuck Greene Memorial Youth Quartetting Scholarships," all ten openings had been awarded.

The scholarship, funded by members and friends of the NCHB, was established to honor the memory of Chuck Greene, a charter member of the NCHB, a chorus director, a district champion quartetter, a motivational speaker and our friend.

The scholarship was also created as an outlet for high-level youth quartet development. The awarded scholarship recipients are particularly ambitious young men with varied but substantive musical experiences, but not necessarily barbershop or quartetting, who have never attended an "eXtreme Quartetting™" rally.

The Scholarship Recipients hail from as far as Iowa, Oregon, Georgia, Tennessee, New York and, of course, North Carolina. They'll be joined for an intensive weekend of "eXtreme Quartetting" in Pinehurst this January, by about 120 veteran North Carolina Brigaders coming from approximately 18 states and three foreign countries.

The interest and commitment shown by these young men resoundingly reaffirms that discipline, creativity, reliability, solid musicianship and good fellowship is not the exclusive domain of "seasoned" barbershoppers.

While most of the 2014 scholarship recipients have some barbershop singing on their resumes, a number have sung only in college a cappella ensembles, church choirs and high school choir and theater programs.

The Barbershop Harmony Society was blessed to have Chuck Greene's experience in bringing "exciting and compellingly attractive" chapter development techniques and activities to chapter leaders in seminars throughout the US that made a significant impact in chapters throughout our Society.

In chapters where his practices have been implemented, the success rate in recruiting and maintaining membership have been well-documented. Chuck's passing in 2012 prompted the leadership of NCHB to find ways to foster one of Chuck's principal teachings: "giving young singers opportunities to experience great music, fellowship and fun while, at the same time, expose them to the "roots" of our Society -- quartet singing."

NCHB will continue to take giant steps to encourage participation in quartet singing by awarding future Chuck Greene NCHB Youth Scholarships. Without question, the 2014 rally will be greatly enhanced with the participation of these vivacious, musical adept, young men. It is our hope that by involving suitably able young men in our rally, they will be so engaged and rewarded by the experience that their continued interest in The Society and quartet singing will be assured.

Harmoniously,  
Larry Kellogg, Co-Chairman  
Neal Siegal, Co-Chairman



# A Real Judge – ME?

## Stephanie Dingle wins Best Seat in the House auction for District Quartet Finals

This was known as a Win/ Win/ Win Situation!! I fulfill a dream of sitting in the best seat in the house, enjoy my husband's quartet up close while Harmony Foundation benefits from my donation.

When I first heard of the "Best Seat in the House", last year at International, my assumption was that it would be one of those crazy bidding wars that if you didn't have \$1,000 there was no need to try.

*'The ability to be so close to experience their set, that I had helped to create, is beyond words.'*

So I didn't try.

I was elated when I saw KJ's video and that each district will now bid separately, for each of their contests and the choice to pick a category. I immediately logged in and began to realize my wish could come true. It was an easy process and I was able to see everyone else's bids as we went through the weeks before contest. I took no chances and on the final day and stayed on my computer hitting refresh every 5 seconds, just to be sure I would win.

My lifetime of involvement in Barbershop has offered me numerous opportunities to learn and internalize knowledge about this hobby. Starting about 6 years ago I started realizing that what I knew could be shared with others in the form of coaching. I have been building on this base and continue to work towards being a coach in the Presentation category. In order to help others I have read the 'Contest and Judging Manual PRS Category' more times than I will admit. I did not actually expect to use this knowledge as a "real

judge" at a contest.

After placing the winning bid the inclusion into "the panel" started immediately. There were emails about logistics and schedules. I was invited to have dinner with them before the contest on Saturday and infiltrate their circle before I even sat in the best seat. Also, I will forever cherish my green badge!

When contest time arrived I was given a folder, just like the rest of the judges, with the preprinted forms to make notes and write actual scores.

Then the mic-testers came on stage it took me a few chords to realize this was REALLY HAPPENING! After the third quartet I commented to another judge 'time goes so fast sitting up here.'

He agreed and validated that it was due to being totally absorbed in each aspect of the performance. I now have first-hand experience of understanding what it means to "judge each song as performed". Having read this description in the manual, I often found it difficult, as an audience member, to separate out the two songs and viewed many performances as sets. I stayed focused on each song writing a number and notes. Most of us tend to turn to those around us and comment based on their set. Moving forward I now have a fresh view when watching contests.

Normally I get nervous while waiting for my husband's quartet to compete. When the time came and they walked on stage, in vests & bowties I had sewn, I sat back and calmly enjoyed every second of their performance. The ability to be so close to experience their set, that I had helped to create, is beyond words. I over scored them, on purpose, and this was welcomed with laughter by the other judges. The quartet was told in each evaluation that I had scored them an

Stephanie Dingle grins as she scores husband Pookie's quartet, Mayhem, 99 in Presentation during the Quartet Finals Oct. 5 in Ocean City.



Paper describing levels/scores and dish of candy for the honorary judge.

89 & 99 for their set.

During the contest a conference was called about a song and they asked my input about the controversy. This surprised me but I said what I thought, which is not a surprise to anyone who knows me.

After the contest I was welcomed to go back to the conference before the evaluations but I had to decline. Due to the fact that I was personally invested in the contest results I couldn't miss the announcements. I did take the opportunity to be included with one PRS judge for his evaluations. This helped to validate what I had scored and noted on those particular quartets.

My greatest surprise came the next day when I did the math for all the quartets and realized I was statistically correct in all of my scores, except for Mayhem.

I am looking forward to future opportunities to enjoy the best seat while helping Harmony Foundation. Thanks to all who were involved in assuring every detail provided such an Amazing Experience!!

— Stephanie Dingle, HLW & Mayhem coach

## Director Recognition 2013

Following the chorus contest at the Fall District Convention in Ocean City, the following directors were recognized for their many years of service in providing musical leadership to their chapters. We are truly blessed to have so many fine men and women committed to their chapters in this fashion.

We thank them for their long years of service and honor them for helping so many of us experience the joy of barbershop harmony and its power to enrich our lives and the lives of our families, friends, and patrons.

Well done!

**Doug Svozil** - 11 years of service with Ridge-wood, N.J. and Rockland County, N.Y.

**Bill Byrd** - 12 years of service with Suffolk, Va.

**Brian Allen** - 13 years of service with Hamp-ton Roads, Suffolk, and Norfolk, Va.

**Lori Ludlum** - 15 years of service with Ches-

ter County and Philadelphia, Pa.

**Rick Taylor** - 15 years of service with Norfolk and Fairfax, Va. and Montgomery County and Dundalk, Md.

**Lou Ponte** - 20 years of service with Te-aneck, N.J.

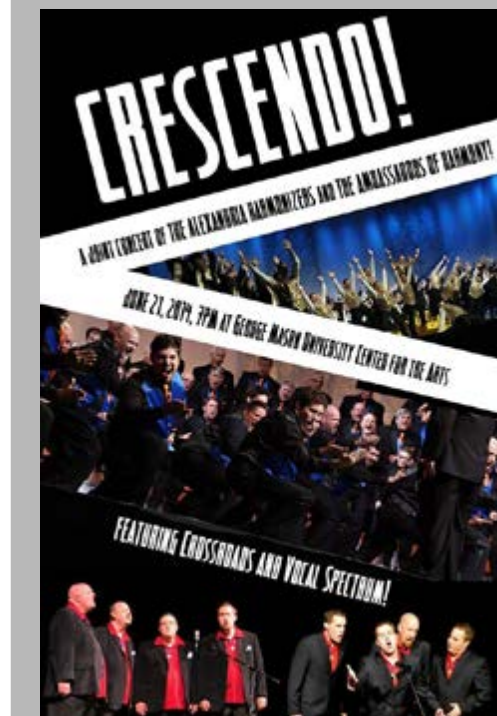
**Bill Colosimo** - 25 years of service with Ar-lington, and Prince William County, Va.. and Washington, D.C.

**Don Reckenbeil** - 25 years of service with Livingston, Montclair, and Hunterdon County, N.J.

**Dale Thomas** - 25 years of service with Columbia-Montour County, Pa.

**Glenn Williamson** - 30 years of service with Fauquier County, Prince William County, Va.

**Bob Mains** - 35 years of service with Hones-dale, Pa.



The Alexandria Harmonizers are producing a joint concert with the Ambassadors of Harmony on June 21, 2014. The show, entitled "Crescendo", will showcase not just two of the society's greatest choral powerhouses, will also feature sets by champion quartets Crossroads and Vocal Spectrum.

"We long wanted to do a joint show with our brothers in the Ambassadors, who are an inspiration for us and every chorus," said Joe Cerutti. "We're thrilled that after years of discussing the idea, our schedules are finally in sync to permit us the opportunity for a joint concert here in Northern Virginia. We look forward to seeing everyone in M-AD there!"

The show will be at the George Mason University Performance Arts Center in Fairfax, Virginia. Tickets are not yet on sale, but are sure to be hot items, so save the date and stay tuned for updates.



# Harrisburg Chapter Scares 'em

## At 65th Annual Spring Show

No one at the Scottish Rite Auditorium in Harrisburg doubted that the local Chapter's 2013 show was rated "G."

(That stands for "Ghosts, Ghouls and Goblins, by the way.")

It had been in the works from the day the curtain closed on the 2012 show. But this was to be the Chapter's 65th annual Spring Show, so the occasion called for something really special.

Chorus Manager Don Myers and former Chapter President Ernie Giovannitti had this crazy idea that we all could look like we jumped out of a horror movie – maybe it had something to do with the age that many of us carry around.

Anyway, as we got closer to May, the story came together about how this Wicked Witch who hated barbershop music had turned some otherwise nice guy singers into the aforesaid characters from the netherworld – including Frankenstein's monster, Dracula (and his son), gravediggers and even the Addams Family among the various misfits.

The Chorus and member quartets told the story through songs such as "I'm Gonna Live 'Til I Die," "When I Leave the World Behind," "This Is the Moment," "I'm Afraid the Masquerade Is Over," and even parodies like "I Want A Ghoul." Oh, No!

Chorus Director Bobby Bennett fascinated all, singing "Ghost Riders in the Sky" while surrounded by his self-contained horse.

Then there was Larry Wright's package of ghost-related songs, including

"Casper the Friendly Ghost," "Haunted House" and "Monster Mash," with retired pediatrician Barney Margolis bringing down the house as an Einstein-looking mad scientist from the laboratory!

Even 2012 District Champion MAD Hatters – in their final public performance – accidentally stumbled onto the set whilst on their way to sing "for a birthday party!"

The Chorus was ably assisted by Stage Manager and multi-talented barbershop brat Carol Saltzer and the singers were brought to life – so to speak – with imaginative make-up work directed by artistic Chorus spouse River Fogle.

The Wicked Witch and her sister were played beautifully by Susanne Bensing and Becky Veser, of the "Choir of the World champion" Harrisburg Sweet Adelines.

Now I could tell you how the plot thickened and the problem was ultimately resolved, but then I'd have to ... well, you know!

Patrons of the arts said it was one of the Chorus' best efforts in years, extraordinary in that the show followed successive weekends when the Chorus first defended its championship in the area GLEE competition, then traveled to Reston and wound up with first place in the Western Division chorus contest.

Indeed, it was quite a month!

— **By Bob Fisher,**  
**Harrisburg Chapter President**



BELOW: Retired pediatrician Barney Margolis (center) is the mad scientist who finds everyone in his laboratory doing the "Monster Mash" during the Harrisburg Chapter's 65th annual Spring Show, "Haunting Harmonies."



LEFT: Gents Nite Out was just one of six chapter quartets dressed in ghoulish garb for the show. Their song: I Left My Heart in San Francisco (I left my spleen in Abilene, etc.

From left Carlo Masciulli (T), Don Myers (L), Al Ranieri (Ba) and Barney Margolis (Bn.)



FAR LEFT: City Island (as Ghostbusters) sang "Hush" – ("Soon one morning death comes a-creeping in the room") and were kept busy chasing a ghost spectre ("wearing a bow tie and a barbershop suit!") while the chorus sang "Haunted House." Greg Utermahlen (T), John Cosgrove (L), Joe O'Donnell (Ba) and George Birse (Bn).



In case you were wondering what ever happened to MAD Hatters, in their last public performance during the Harrisburg Chapter Spring Show, they were captured, roped together and quickly hustled off by the Wicked Witch (Sweet Adeline Susanne Bensing), who thought they were "kinda' cute—especially you with the white hair!" From left Steve White (Bs), Rick Taylor (Br), Scott Disney (L) and Rob Seay V (T)



## Honesdale Director Bob Mains earns Fred King Award



As a part of the MAD Director Recognition Program, **Bob Mains**, charter member and director for the entire 35 years of the Honesdale, PA chapter was presented a plaque commemorating this service. This is only the seventh time the District has recognized a 35 year Director. In addition, the District also presented Bob with the Fred King Award which is only the third time this has been awarded.

Since Bob was unable to attend the Fall Convention in Ocean City, MD, "Oley" Olson, Northern Division Vice President made the presentation at the annual show of the Honesdale chapter. The event was bittersweet since Bob and his wife Linda will begin the next stage of their lives when they move closer to their children and grandchildren in late October. Fortunately, their new location will still be within the Mid Atlantic District.

— "Oley" Olson, Northern Division Vice President



## Yay, High Point!

### Classy Division performance with new director

Due to a production glitch in the Summer Mid'l Antics, the wrong picture was identified as Plateau A winner **Sussex Chapter High Point Harmonizers** who returned to competition after an eight year hiatus. The Division contest was **June Noble's** debut as a director of a BHS chorus. Welcome back, gents!



*Sussex County High Point Harmonizers returned to Division contest with Director June Noble. They last competed in 2004.*

## Soundworks credits advances to Debra Lynn and *bel canto* singing

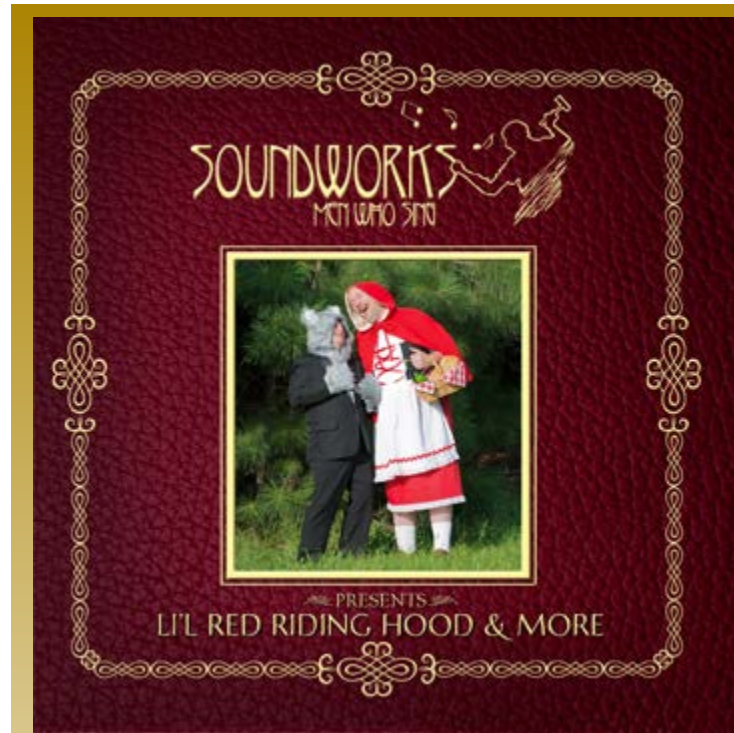
We had no idea that our native tongue, American English, was our biggest impediment to clean, clear singing until we met vocal coach **Debra Lynn**. Her singing method known as *bel canto* (Italian for beautiful singing) had surprises for all of us. After her first visit, some of us got it. After her second visit, more of us got it, but the third time was the charm. Everybody finally bought into the method because the results were striking. We are now acutely aware of the vocal pitfalls of our language. Basically, American English causes us to swallow certain sounds, and *bel canto* forbids it. By the time she was done with us, we were speaking English with Romanian accents and enjoying a much more vibrant, unswallowed sound.

Perhaps the most unusual aspect of Debra's teaching relates to air management. Who among us has not heard phrases like "sing on the breath," or "let the air carry your sound?" Well we certainly didn't hear that from Debra. On the contrary, her mantra is to be very stingy with our air. The goal is to inhale by expanding the ribs outward to the sides, keeping them expanded throughout, and to expel as little air as possible while singing.

Now, before you roll your eyes derisively, in our last coaching session with Debra, we sang for about 10 hours and everyone's voice got stronger as time went by. She would say that air is like sandpaper to the vocal folds. In *bel canto* the gently engaged rib support creates a clear tone without diffusion, and allows sustaining long phrases effortlessly.

Establishing the new vocal habits will require individuals working in front of a mirror and daily reinforcement. The challenge for the chapter will be to hold all our members' feet to the *bel canto* fire until our next session with Debra Lynn. [debralynnmusic.com](http://debralynnmusic.com)

— **Glenn Van Tuyle**, V.P. for Chapter Development  
Soundworks, James River Chapter



### Soundworks Releases Second CD Nov. 1

Soundworks is proud to announce the release of our second CD entitled, "Li'l Red Riding Hood & More." Twelve fan favorites like Rock It For Me, Moondance, Hard Times Come Again No More, Sold, and our very own Great American Medley are included. And by the way, Li'l Red Riding Hood is on it as well.

On-line purchasing begins November 1 from the web site <http://soundworkschorus.org>. Check out the specially-priced Harmonious Holiday CD Package! If you want to get your copy as soon as possible, send us an email to [sales@soundworkschorus.org](mailto:sales@soundworkschorus.org) with your name and contact information and you'll hear from us.

Thanks goes to all our friends M-AD for your continued support of our chapter!



## At 72, Morristown man still making beautiful music



*The Morris Music Men give an a cappella performance for a crowd gathered at the Randolph Public Library.*

By Alex Lewis  
For the Daily Record

Most people like to retire from the careers to enjoy another phase of their lives. But for Terry Scullin, retirement meant a chance to join the Morris Music Men and put his vocal talents to good use.

"I'm always singing to the car radio, I sing in the shower, I'm one of those kind of people," said Scullin, 72, who lives with his wife Carol in Morristown. "I've had no professional training at all and, as a matter of fact, most 'barbershoppers' haven't."

Scullin had heard the Morris Music Men perform and had friends who sang with the group. But commuting to work in Manhattan for 30 years left him little spare time to devote to a singing group.

"I couldn't get home in time to do anything like that. So about four months after I retired in 2002, I knew a couple of guys who were doing this stuff and they said you have to come down and sing with us and I said 'Well, that sounds good' and I've been doing it ever since."

Originally from Cleveland, Scullin was

worked as a copywriter there until he moved with his company to New York City in 1972.

"I wrote a little bit of the jingles on the radio and it was a fun thing to do," he said. "We were the guys that caught Michael Jackson's hair on fire while we were shooting the TV commercial."

Scullin belongs to the Morris Music Men chorus, a chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. With 28,000 members, the society is the world's largest all-male singing organization and celebrates its 75th birthday this year.

"I like the kind of music, it tends to be older music although we do actually sing stuff from the '60s and '70s and even '80s every now and then. But mostly from the 1880s rather than the 1980s," Scullin said. "Also the style of music fits barbershop, the kind of chord patterns in them. You have the kind of nice, big rich thick chords that barbershoppers like to sing, where the harmony is very close."

The Morris Music Men is one of New

Jersey's smaller chapters and is comprised of 15 active members and perform both as a chorus and in groups of four. Scullin sings with the chorus and also as a tenor with a barbershop quartet called The Four Old Parts.

"There are a lot of guys who don't feel real comfortable in a quartet because, boy, when it's just four of you, you've got to know your stuff, you've got to get it right. If you hit a bad note, the chord doesn't ring and you can tell," said Scullin, who has four adult children. "So there are a lot of guys who are much more comfortable just doing the chorus thing. They never really have to worry because there's always somebody singing their part next to them to sort of help out."

The Morris Music Men sing to senior groups, at nursing homes, assisted living facilities, hospitals, libraries, fairs, for special occasions and just about anywhere they can bring enjoyment to.

"We don't take on quite as many performance opportunities as we'd like to because we're constantly looking to build membership. It's tough. Although we've got a couple

of young kids in their 20s now singing with us, once you get past those, probably the mean age of our group is about 68 or 70. It's all us old guys who are there."

The Morris Music Men chorus rehearses every Tuesday evening at 7:30 p.m. at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 300 Shunpike Road in Chatham. Men of all ages are welcome to join them or they can call Scullin at 877-808-8697.

"It's a bit of a time investment. But it's so much fun to do you can't wait to get there and do it. It's very social as well as everything else," said Scullin, whose favorite song is "the one you're just beginning to learn."

The group participated in last year's Morristown Festival and every year performs at Drew University in the Dorothy Young Center for the Performing Arts, using the opportunities to sing as a chance to recruit new members.

"At the Morristown Festival, four of us could step out into the street and sing to somebody walking by. It's good to get out

and sing for somebody. We're singing for people's enjoyment. And again, people love it," said Scullin, an avid beer can collector since 1967.

"It's just very entertaining stuff and we try and mingle in enough humor and jazz in our performances to keep it lively. And getting out there and entertaining people and seeing their faces light up and jazz like that, is where all the fun is."

Group members hail from almost all parts of Morris County, making them true 'Morris Men.'

"You're getting to do something you love. We tend to sing to older audiences but when you look out at the faces in the audience and you see their feet tapping and you see their lips moving. They know some of the songs and they know things you wouldn't think they would know," Scullin said. "We're not singing songs that are mainstream. You just see their faces light up and that is so absolutely rewarding."

— By Leslie Ruse, Daily Record Staff Writer



## Take me out to the ball game!

The Sounds of Liberty report that their director, **Lori Ludlum**, and 74 men representing nine local chapters in the Mid-Atlantic District of the Barbershop Harmony Society had the great honor of singing the National Anthem before the Phillies – Cubs game on August 6.

Eight men from the Squires enjoyed the experience of singing in this large chorus of 74 men.

This was a wonderful collaborative effort where we could join forces and provide a great performance. As you can see, even the Phanatic could not resist the fun of directing the chorus.

*Phillies Phanatic takes a turn directing singers from nine local chapters in the National Anthem.*

*BELOW: Sounds of Liberty Director Lori Ludlum directs the mega-chorus.*

*From the Aug. 6 issue of Squire's Wire, a weekly publication of the Abingdon-Levittown Chapter BucksMont Squires of Song*



Oceanaires Chorus performs for 1000+ walkers as they complete the annual Walk to End Alzheimers.



## Oceanaires Chorus Supports Walk to End Alzheimer's

The Oceanaires Barbershop Chorus of Toms River, N.J. was part of the entertainment during the annual Southern New Jersey "Walk to End Alzheimers" on Saturday, Sept. 28, in Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey.

As soon as leaders of the 1000+ walkers started coming through the finish line, the seventeen men of the thirty-five member Oceanaire chorus who could be at the endeavor began their 30-minute upbeat performance greeting the walkers and their cheering fans.

After the performance, Oceanaires' **President Barry Burke**, in reply to a local newspaper reporter's question said, "As you can see from the crowd here, this is really a highly supported community effort, and singing at this kind program is an important aspect of our plan for the year. Those of us who could be here had fun singing, the people were very appreciative of us being here, and we helped a worthwhile cause. That's a very good day when that happens to a Barbershop singer."

As part of its community outreach commitment, this is the second year in a row that The Oceanaires have participated in this New Jersey shore program. It's a good example of a home-town chorus being involved helping to keep the people of their community singing.



# Welcome Hall of Honor 2013!



Joe Hunter, Nancy Richardson and Keith Jones proudly display the traditional gift to new Hall of Honor inductees, an inscribed silver tray.

The purpose of the Mid-Atlantic District Hall of Honor is to provide recognition to those men who have made exceptional, longstanding, unselfish, dedicated, and devoted contributions to the district. Their service must also have been of benefit to the Society and to the craft in general.

Induction into the Hall of Honor is limited to persons, living or dead, whose contributions to the district have spanned not less than ten (10) years. Since its inception in 1986 only 84 men have been inducted. This year three more were added to the roster of

those who have contributed so much to all of us.

Please welcome the following men who were inducted into the M-AD Hall of Honor in a ceremony following the chorus contest at the Fall District Convention in Ocean City.

**Joe Hunter**

**Keith Jones**

**Jere Richardson** (posthumously)

For a complete list of all members of the Hall of Honor, go to the [Mid-Atlantic District website](#).



## LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES

The West Branch Barbershop Chorus sings the National Anthem at the Little League World Series Aug. 19.

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_KKacVN0q1U&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_KKacVN0q1U&feature=youtu.be)



BRILLIANT MARKETING IDEA — Hunterdon Harmonizers displayed large recruiting posters along the Main Street parade route for a month before the Memorial Day parade.

## Hunterdon Harmonizers press dynamite PR program

Each year in September the Hunterdon Harmonizers bring music to the streets of Flemington, New Jersey (with a Barber-shop flavor), through its annual Craft Fair. There were 65 vendors lining the sidewalks of downtown Flemington, displaying their creative merchandise to the street fair goers. This is a fund raiser for the Harmonizers that help fund the purchase of music, coaching sessions, uniforms, membership programs and general operating expenses.

Harmonizers delivered a great musical show that promoted the craft of Barber-shop

singing and brought pleasurable entertainment to a street filled audience that was obviously pleased with what they heard. During this weekend the Harmonizers put on two performances.

This program also enables membership recruitment as the audience is invited to come up and join the Harmonizers in the last song of our Patriotic set, God Bless America. This has been an effective tool over the years as several members joined as a result of this event.

The Harmonizers, under the leadership of President Mark Bentley, enjoy the community involvement with our music. It helps bring awareness of Barber-shop singing and the benefits, such as, vocal lessons, vocal improvement, musical education, team singing, friendship and much more.

It is a lot of work for all, but it is a task that the Harmonizers willingly do as they know and understand the benefits individually and to the Chorus as a whole.

— Ron Newsom, In Tune Editor



## Gent's Nite Out keeps busy singing schedule

As a senior show quartet we have been busy as can be.....to date we have performed 41 quartet jobs and at present have 10 others booked for the rest of 2013. Being retired give us a chance to perform for a large number of audiences, and we have been blessed with a lot of folks who refer us to their friends and other groups.

GNO has been working with The Penn State Hershey Medical Center performing at their CENTER STAGE Program. Once a month the hospital brings outside talent in to perform for their clients. GNO has been scheduled to perform about every 2 months and have experienced some really great moments. This past week was an example;

Our performance lasted 2 hours, strolling thru the hospital, stopping at 5 different locations. Beginning with the Cancer Infusion Clinic, moving to Main Waiting Room (probably 75 to 100 folks), continuing to 7 floor Cancer Wing, moving on to 6th floor General Surgery and ending with the Main Entrance Lobby to the hospital. I give this itinerary to let you know what followed this past week.

As we finished our last set in the lobby, and were standing talking about where we would go for lunch, a lady came up to us with tears streaming down her face and ask if we could come and sing for her Stepfather. She said he had a heart attack two weeks ago and has been in a coma ever since. She said he is a retired music educator, a director of his church choir, and a past Barber shopper. We couldn't and wouldn't say no. We followed her to the Cardiac Critical Care unit, and after making sure it was OK with the medical staff and all the family, we sang for him.

Seeing him lying so still and hearing the sounds of the machines monitoring his health we began. About four bar's into the Mills Brothers UP A LAZY RIVER, he turned his head toward our sound and moved his legs. We don't know if it was involuntary or if he was reacting to the music. As we finished the song and were getting ready to leave, the staff nurse asked if we had one more song for another patient in the room across the hall. We said sure and sang Chattanooga Choo Choo. Guess what? Another music educator and he loved it.

GNO has been blessed by the folks we sing for and as we left the hospital with a feeling of wonder at what music can do. We hoped we brought some peace and joy to the family's we met that day. Seeing the smiles and reactions of the folks; some will sing, other will cry and for a short time their day is a little brighter. The words are hard to come by but music will always reach out at difficult times.

Carlo, Don, Al and Barney



## Wonder what your favorite Q is up to?

Check out the following links!

**ACHORDING TO DAD SINGS FOR LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES**

<http://youtu.be/a7ldjOuCrB8>

### 'ROUND MIDNIGHT

"We sang a bunch of songs with Mike Rowe at the MAD district contest this weekend (Oct. 6). Fun!"

[www.facebook.com/roundmidnightquartet](http://www.facebook.com/roundmidnightquartet)



### THE GOOD OLD DAYS QUARTET

Sometimes when we visit each other, we use tribal yelling instead of doorbells.

[www.facebook.com/GoodOldDaysQuartet](http://www.facebook.com/GoodOldDaysQuartet)



### GIMME FOUR

In addition to taking second place, we met and sang with one of the world's most famous barbershopper (although not for barbershopping), Mike Rowe! [www.facebook.com/GimmeFour](http://www.facebook.com/GimmeFour)



## IT REALLY IS SO, JOE!

Joe Cerutti to lead Youth in Harmony activities

**A**lexandria Harmonizer Director **Joe Cerutti** has joined the music education team of the Barbershop Harmony Society overseeing Youth in Harmony and chorus director development activities.

“Joe makes things happen,” said Society CEO **Marty Monson**. “He’s a shining example of the way that immersion in the barber-shop world at a young age can transform a man’s life. His back-ground as a college-age barbershop singer has launched a mu-sic career filled with bringing this joy to thousands of men and women of all ages. As part of our music edu-cation team, we will count on him to innovate ways to involve singers, educators and com-munities in making the music that is making a difference.”

Cerutti will oversee a crucial portfolio of Society activities, including:

- Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest
- International Youth Chorus Festival
- Youth Harmony Camps and Harmony Explosion Camps
- Music educator outreach
- Chorus director development

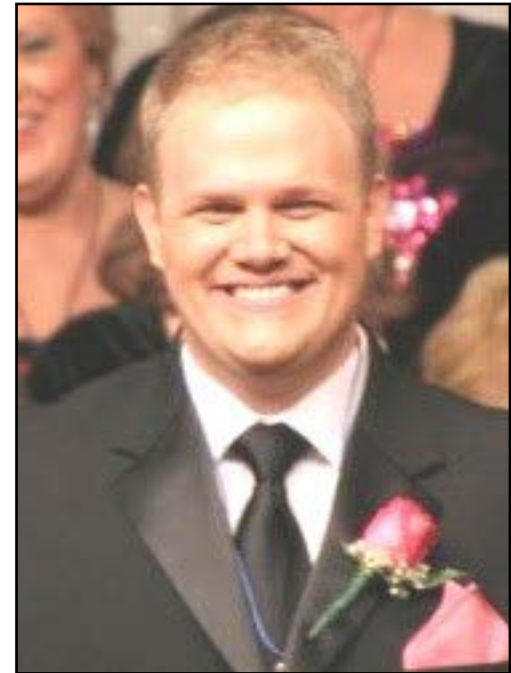
“These activities are dead square in the center of Joe’s experi-ence,” said Monson, “Especially in the ways they involve music professionals outside the barbershop world. Joe will make a great ambassador and professional bridge to educators trying to sus-tain and expand vocal music for young singers. He has the pro-fessional depth, the track record, and the contagious enthusiasm that draws people to become part of some great musical experi-ences.”

Cerutti’s most visible roles have been as Musical Director of the international medalist Alexandria Harmonizers men’s bar-bershop chorus and the Pride of Baltimore women’s chorus of Sweet Adelines International. He is primary clinician and presi-dent of the No Borders Musical Consort concert series at Carne-gie Hall, which gathers young singers from around the world to sing with barbershop idols in the renowned New York City con-cert hall.

He has served in numerous national education and leadership positions in the Barbershop Harmony Society, including being the youngest man ever elected to the Society Board of Directors and the youngest man ever to achieve the Master Director certifica-tion. He was a primary author and editor of the Society’s 2013 book Visions of Excellence, which gathers together thoughts and insights from 25 of the Society’s most accomplished directors.

Cerutti holds a bachelor’s degree in Music Education from Five Towns College and a Master of Music degree in Choral Con-ducting from Boston University, where he studied under Ann Howard Jones, Jamison Marvin, and Joseph Flummerfelt. While in Boston, Joe taught high school music at South Boston’s Monument High School, while conducting the concert chorus and women’s chorale at Boston University. His professional memberships and accreditations include ACDA, NAME, and ChorusAmerica. He will primarily reside and work in Alexandria, VA and will contin-ue in all his other roles.

— *BHS LiveWire*



Shades of Jade and Gimme Four will be instructors at the 2014 Youth Harmony Festival in Alexandria, Va.

Saturday April 5, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. at The Dr. Oswald Durant Memorial Center For the Arts, 1605 Cameron St, Alexandria, VA 22314

<https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07e84oszax036c259e&oseq=&c=&ch=>

## 2014 Youth Harmony Festival

Registration is now open for the 2014 Alexandria Harmonizer’s Youth Harmony Festival.

The District’s largest chapter-based, ongoing youth outreach event, the Youth Harmony Festival offers the opportunity for up to 200 students each year to receive a (very) full day’s worth of fun and instruction in choral harmony, from some of the best in the biz. This year, the boy’s chorus will have Alexandria Harmonizer Associate Director **Anthony Colosimo** and M-AD Collegiate Champs **Gimme Four**, while the girls will have Greater Richmond Director **Erin Odell Cook** and SAI Region 14 Champs **Shades of Jade**. The day culminates in an evening show with the boys’ and girls’ choruses, the combined choruses, and guest performers including the Harmonizer’s collegiate-style a cappella group, “TBD”.

Registration is only \$15 and includes two meals, instructional materials, and a festival tee-shirt as a keepsake and uniform for the evening show.



## Barbershopping in the public arena

### Attention to 'professional' details is important

I'd like to tell you two stories, both true. In the late 1970's, my parents retired to New Hampshire where they enjoyed a well-deserved respite from the rigors of daily work. Hoping to make new friends, my father had joined a men's club in a nearby town; apparently, the only function of the club was to have a luncheon once a month, plus a local speaker.



by Roger Tarpy, VP Music & Performance

During one visit, my father announced that it was "Ladies' Day" and, along with my mother, asked if I would like to go as a guest. Well, of course!

No speaker that day. Rather, they had hired a small barbershop chorus to entertain us. I was the director of the West Branch Chorus in Pennsylvania at the time, a quartetter, and completely hooked on the whole barbershopping hobby, so I was thrilled to get this news.

But here's where things went south.

The chorus, about a dozen strong, stumbled onto the platform in a haphazard fashion, at which point the spokesman approached the mic and made his first announcement. His exact words resonate to this day.

"Hi folks ... our [presumably only] tenor couldn't make it today, so I'm wondering if there's anyone out there [meaning in the audience] who'd like to sing tenor with us."

His eyes eagerly scanned the 150-strong crowd for anyone who would jump at his invitation. I'm sure I could have faked a

few correct tenor notes, but I was too busy slouching low in my seat to raise my hand.

You can probably guess what the concert was like ... really, really awful. It was the first time I fully understood why the public views barbershopping with such a jaundiced eye.

Yes, I understand the meaning of the celebrated "E" in SPEBSQSA, and, yes, I fully endorse the concept of encouragement as a life principle. And while I don't wish to be the proverbial skunk at the garden party, I submit that there are conditions under which one should not be encouraging.

This was one of them. Sure, the people clapped politely (old guys behaving adorably), but I doubt that anyone really enjoyed the music per se, and I'd be shocked to learn that any audience member showed up at their next rehearsal.

#### A different experience

OK, here's my second story. Last year, at the M-AD Prelim contest, my wife and I sat in front of a couple who were clearly new to the game (between quartets, we heard them ponder stuff like, "I wonder if any quartet ever gets to sing more than just two songs.")

So we did what comes naturally to barbershoppers – we turned around and struck up a friendship, believing that we could set them straight and give them the inside dope.

It turns out that they were there by accident. They had originally planned to go to dinner and then catch a movie (their typical date), but something interesting happened at the restaurant – they heard a barbershop quartet.

#### something interesting happened at the restaurant — they heard a barbershop quartet.

I wasn't there, so I can't say who the singers were, but it's obvious that the quartet was terrific, and that the experience for this couple was exceptionally positive (otherwise, they wouldn't have abandoned the movie part of their plan in favor of the contest).

#### What's the lesson?

So what's the lesson from these stories? Make sure always to have all four parts? Good quartets are more entertaining than lousy 12-man choruses?

Of course not.

The lesson is more complex and multi-dimensional than that. And although I don't claim to know all the details, I think I perceive a broader message.

I submit that the two sides of our hobby – the amateur and the professional – are often not equally understood or valued.

The amateur side is easy to appreciate, because there is something very appealing about "participatory art" among ordinary folk – guys like you and me having fun, mastering the finer points of an art form, and oozing a kind of sincerity-of-purpose that only true believers ever experience.

The rub comes when dealing with the professional side of our hobby. Some barbershoppers, I am convinced, haven't ever thought about this aspect. Others value

professionalism when they see it happening, but aim way too low for themselves.

Consider this question. How many of us could aspire to sing at the professional level shown by the Harmonizers? Or Voices of Gotham? Or Brothers in Harmony? The answer is, of course: All of us. Those choruses are chock full of average Joe Barbershoppers. OK, sure, their gifted directors push them to perform at a high level, but I'm claiming that even those who don't have such exceptional leadership in their chorus could start down that road for themselves.

Here are a few suggestions to get you started. First, and most important, acknowledge that it's within your grasp to deal successfully with this challenge. Second, seek advice. For instance, you could (a) go to Harmony College East and learn how to design a solid, entertaining show package from one of the best teachers in our society – Ev Nau, (b) have a Standing Ovation Program evaluator give you a gentle but honest assessment of your show, (c) videotape your performance and then take a clear-eyed look at the amateur versus professional elements, or (d) contact a coach/mentor for help with rehearsal strategies that will foster a new appreciation of professionalism among your singers. Let's face it: If we don't engage in this sort of self-examination, the jaundiced eye of the public will turn increasingly away from our art form, and all of us, not just that hapless chorus in New Hampshire, will be left forever wondering what happened. But if you do enhance the professionalism of your performances, just imagine how many folks will sacrifice a movie to show up at your next rehearsal!

*The Chorus of the Chesapeake, Dundalk, Md. Chapter, Barbershop Harmony Society is proud to announce the release of its first CD ... "for Auld Lang Syne"*

**AVAILABLE at the Mid-Atlantic District Marketplace this weekend. The cost is just \$15 (cash, check or credit card).**

*Mail orders can be placed by contacting Bill Day at [wday48@gmail.com](mailto:wday48@gmail.com), by phone: 443-690-5945, or online at [www.dundalk.org](http://www.dundalk.org). Add \$1.50 P&H.*

The Chorus of the Chesapeake is a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational and charitable organization incorporated in the State of Maryland.

**Long Beach Midwinter Registration Now Open**

January 28 - Feb. 1, 2014. Learn more and register at [www.barbershop.org/long-beach-midwinter-main.html](http://www.barbershop.org/long-beach-midwinter-main.html).





## Exactly what kind of sound do you want?

I was fortunate to study directing at Harmony University in 2010 with **Royce Ferguson** who directed the **Westminster Chorus** to their first International Championship. One young director stood out among her peers in the class. When it was her turn to direct, she brilliantly conducted her song, and we all followed her and sang beautifully under her direction.

by **Glenn Phillips, VP Chorus Director Development**

Royce asked her, "Did they sing well for you? Did they do the things you wanted? Are you satisfied with their performance?"

She answered, "yes," to everything.

Then Royce asked, "But what if this chorus were the Vocal Majority. Would you have been satisfied with that performance?"

She meekly replied, "No, that wouldn't have been sufficient at all."

Royce finished by noting, "Then why were you so easily satisfied before?"

I have never forgotten that seminal lesson learned from one of the finest directors in the Society. In his gentle way, Royce pointed out a major shortfall where even some of the best directors struggle: defining precisely the choral sound that you want your singers to create.

My experience has shown me that most directors feel comfortable enough directing their choruses and coaching them in various techniques that will help them to sing better, which is a very good start. But to what end? **What is the final musical destination that the director hopes to convey? And how do we get from where we are to that end goal?**

### Analysis is the key

The secret, I think, is to reverse the process analytically. Start with a concept of excellence, then try to figure out how such excellence may be achieved. Some sample questions might be:

- How does the Vocal Majority create such a powerful (not loud!) sound?
- How do the Masters of Harmony nuance certain words so that the audience 'feels' the lyrics?
- How does the Westminster Chorus sing with such incredible pitch accuracy?
- How does the Vocal Spectrum quartet sing with such rhythmic precision?
- How did the Boston Common quartet develop that lush, velvety blend that was unmistakably theirs?

The list of questions goes on and on. Now you must explore a multitude of musical concepts in order to start answering these 'how' questions. Let's look together at one example from above: **What musical concepts go into creating a lush, velvety blend like that of the Boston Common?** Some answers:

- Unified sectional and overall sound;
- Timbre consistency across the chorus so that everyone is singing in a similar placement;
- 'Singing on the breath' – maintaining vocal consistency, continuity, and line from the previous phrase as you breathe and begin another;
- Tall vowels throughout, helping to generate a 'round', free-and-easy tone;
- Putting lots and lots and lots of warm air into the sound;

- Good posture to help maintain vibrant yet effortless singing;
- Effectively singing through secondary sounds (diphthong turns, voiced consonants, etc) as a unit rather than individually; etc

But this is only the first set of questions to ask. Exploring the 'hows' helps identify critical components that go into making terrific vocal performance.

Now you must look analytically at the music your chorus is presently making, comparing today's real performance with that which you hope to achieve in the future.

These are the 'what' questions: **What musical components does my chorus need to learn and master in order to achieve our musical end game?**

Using the same example from above (achieving a lush, velvety blend like unto that of the Boston Common), here is one possible analytic scenario:

- Chorus blend – poor; lots of individual voices sticking out;
- Sectional unity – poor; see #1 above;
- Warm air generated into the sound – pretty good; chorus is generating good energy but lacks focus;
- Timbre consistency – decent; good Lead-Bass match but Tenors and Baritones need more help;
- Posture – fair; chorus is learning good posture techniques but frequently chooses otherwise when singing;
- Tall vowels – good; chorus is really improving in shaping the vowel sounds correctly as a unit; etc.

I promise you that neither the 'how' nor the 'what' questions are easy, and they require a lot of time,

*'Did they sing well for you? Did they do the things you wanted? Are you satisfied with their performance?'*

— Royce Ferguson

thought, and analysis. Indeed, this direction is not for the faint-hearted! ☺

One stumbling block in particular is what to do if you, the director, cannot determine 'how' an ensemble produces certain skills: "I know that the Alexandria Harmonizers put on a dazzling display when they perform their up-tune choreography, but I cannot begin to fathom 'how' they do it."

### Glenn's advice

My advice is two-fold.

First, try to break down a particular skill into as many basic building blocks as you can, rather than try to envision the whole skill all at once. This will help you isolate many of the factors that meld together to help create the skill as a whole.

Second, I urge every director to identify a mentor, someone you trust musically and personally, someone who can help you to answer the questions that you cannot.

By mapping out the 'how' skills and comparing them to 'what' your chorus is presently doing, you will generate a blueprint of exactly what your chorus needs to work on in order to learn how to sing and perform exactly the way that you want them to. This musical blueprint will not only help your chorus to make continual growth in its musical journey, but it will also provide you with a clear direction in which to work toward musical excellence.

*Glenn Phillips directs the Patapsco Valley and Queen Anne's County Chapters in the Mid-Atlantic District.*



# Do you ever wonder about the District's early history? Read on . . .

And it came to pass (in 1978) that the tribes of MAD gathered together for the harvest of quartets and the feast of the choruses during which they selected a new leader for the tribes



DEE PARIS, circa 1945 with the 9th Armored Division in WWII – a Battle of the Bulge vet

‘The scout Donald the Vienne selected and marked with the blood of a minor chord on this high forehead was Dee the Paris who had grown mightily sick of this “ye shall follow me” line of dung.’

## DOWN THE HISTORY TRAIL (second in a series)

By Dee Paris, Past District President

of MAD whose name was **Donald the Vienne**. In the language of the Penobscot he was known as Donald the Determined but the tribe of Passamaquoddy named him Donald the Stubborn. This was generally accepted as gospel since the Passamaquoddy elders could write their language while the Penobscot were Jersites who talked much but could not write words except those which they placed on the walls of public places. Such Jersite writings were known as graffiti to the more learned tribes in the bountiful land of SODIV which was known throughout MAD for its crabs and its lovers of same.

Following his selection as the leader of the tribes of MAD, Donald the Vienne rose, faced the sun and said, “Follow me and I shall lead you to the East.” But it was late afternoon and Donald the Vienne was facing the setting sun. He was also known as Donald the Confused when he had the sun in his eyes. He was mostly confused following the meetings of the council and he did not know which

way was up much less which way was West.

But Donald the Vienne spoke not only with fervor but with great frequency when he said, “Yea, though I lead you through the valley of discord, ye shall fear no evil and ye shall follow me and together we shall bring barbershop harmony to the tribe of the Allegany whose people have nothing more than jaws harps and who ring nothing more than bells - and bovine bells at that.”

With that, Donald the Vienne pointed to what he thought was western Maryland and again said, “I go and ye shall follow me.” But then Donald the Vienne was no fool and he had already sent his scout ahead to make certain the way was clear of dangers and to place marks on the trees so that Donald the Vienne would march West instead of East.

The scout Donald the Vienne selected and marked with the blood of a minor chord on this high forehead was Dee the Paris who had grown mightily sick of this “ye shall follow me” line of dung.

Dee reconnoitered the area for he was an expert,

having taught “peeping and creeping” at the COTS, and Dee was though by all to be HEP in the practice of marking trees (but not with an axe). But Dee the Paris had never heard the word “reconnoiter” and thought it meant “raconteur”. So he called upon **Bob the Demmler** who, without a moment of hesitation, resigned from his employment with Eastern Gas Company and purchased a photo studio in Cumberland, Md. using freshly printed money made in his darkroom and bearing the likeness of **Ernie the Matson**. And so it came about that Bob the Demmler purchased this photo studio which he called “Photo Arts” and he started taking the kind of pictures that have become legend.

When Don the Vienne heard the glowing reports from his two scouts in Cumberland he called together the Elders and Delegates of MAD and, with the help of cue cards held aloft at the rear of the room by **Raphael the Glynn** who was perched on the shoulders of **Dick the Bodle**, announced that the little people would bring barbershop harmony to the 29,000 people

of Cumberland and the 84,000 people of Allegany County, Maryland.

Upon which the Elders silenced Don the Vienne, which was the only positive and intelligent action taken since they had convened as the supposedly wise men of MAD. They then ordered the scribe who was known as **Jack the Patsy** to notify all men using the **MID’L ANTICS** tablets (although few could read Jack the Patsy’s hieroglyphics) that they should report the names of every man they knew in and around Cumberland and to send all such names to **Dee the Paris**. This worthy man would then call all such people to organize a chapter of barbershop harmony. Further, these actions would prove that Don the Vienne could not be further frustrated by the Kenosha knuckleheads who drew the boundaries of MAD and placed two counties of Maryland between the States of Ohio and West Virginia.

*The Mid-Atlantic District, SPEBSQSA, was founded in 1945. Don Vienne was the 19th president. Dee Paris was the 14th president and is the oldest living past president of the District.*



Editor's Note: In this 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of the founding of our Society, we are featuring excerpts from one of our earliest published histories – "Keep America Singing," published in December 1948 and covering the first 10 years of our existence. Many thanks to Kevin King for sharing the book he found in his father Fred's library.

## TO PRESERVE AN AMERICAN TRADITION

### HI! HO!

### COME TO THE FAIR

Because of what it symbolized in growth and national recognition of the Society, the great event of 1940 was the National Convention and Contest at the New York World's Fair. For some from the Mid-west it was the first visit to Manhattan, therefore a gala occasion apart from the Society. It did not

#### THE SECOND ANNUAL CONVENTION

result in a great country-wide trek of quartets with their followers and fans focusing upon the fairgrounds, as the Fair's promoters had hoped. It did produce what may have been the largest crowd ever to witness an SPEBSQSA affair, a reported 10,000 nightly applauding the singers on the outdoor stage at the New York City building.

There were enough chapters functioning, others organized but wobbling weakly, and more threatening to organize, to make the whooperoo that went out from the Fair's publicity department personally interesting to many men throughout the country. Some of the cities where preservation and encouragement



were proceeding actively that summer of 1940 were: Los Angeles; Atlanta; Chicago and Springfield, Ill.; Arkansas City and Wichita, Kansas.; Detroit, Flint, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Saginaw, and Muskegon, Michigan.; Kansas City and St. Louis, Mo.; Cleveland; Bartlesville, Oklahoma City, and Tulsa.

Actually there was no New York City chapter to play host to the visitors, though the contest was promoted as a National competition sponsored by SPEBSQSA. Over several summers, the Park Department had

held outdoor quartet contests, in which such political notables as ex-Governor Al Smith, Mayor Fiorella La Guardia and Park Commissioner Robert Moses had participated with keen interest.

Harvey W. Gibson was the enthusiast who set up a special office to prepare for the harmony event. He sent Sigmund Spaeth, "The Tune Detective", on tour to supervise preliminary contests in several mid-western cities. More than 50 quartets entered at New York. Their singing was often enhanced when monkeys and birds housed back stage joined their chirps and cheeps to the human harmony.

Competition started on July 22 and ended on the night of the 26th when the Flatfoot Four of Oklahoma City were declared National champions by a panel of judges which included La Guardia, who presided, Moses, Whalen, Harry Armstrong, Geo. P. Rea and others, with Spaeth as M. C. The 1939 champion Barflies came in second, this being before National champions were barred from further competition; the Four Barbers, N. Y., were third; the Kansas City Police Quartet came in

fourth, and fifth place went to the New York City Police.

At the beginning Mayor La Guardia encouraged the quartets by telling the audience that "these amateurs have the souls of artists" and added that the judges, including himself, were "infallible, uncertain and unpredictable" as the judges of any other court. [Proving that nothing much has changed in 75 years!].

The winners were introduced to two radio networks by Ben Grauer and other well-known announcers. Back in Tulsa the thrill was something to remember. Just imagine! "Our little quartet society coming in on KVOO on a national hookup".

The business phases of the New York City convention played second fiddle to the thrill, for some, of the Big Town and of getting national recognition for SPEBSQSA. Many South-westerners appeared in the colorful costumes of the cow-country (worn at home only on special occasions) and the effect upon the eastern members was that of an invasion of cattle rustlers right out of a Western

*HISTORY, continued on next page*



## HISTORY

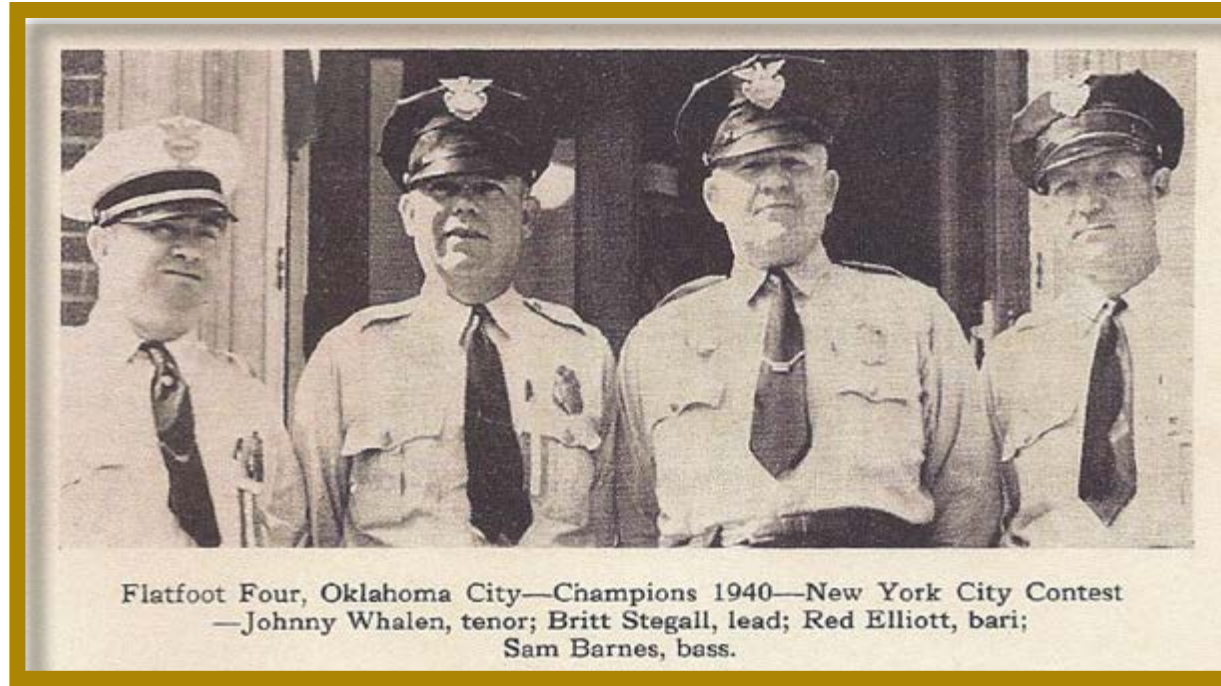
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magazine. As guests of the city, the visitors were whisked to Jones Beach one afternoon in a procession headed by police cars with full-throated sirens, and Mrs. La Guardia and Mrs. Moses entertained the ladies at a tea.

The Flatfoot Four, with the connivance of their friends, the New York Police Quartet, tunefully took over traffic at Broadway and 44th St. The result when citizens saw traffic cops in strange uniforms singing on the job was a jam such as the city had seldom experienced.

But a far reaching effect was a picture, including the Kansas City Police and the Bar Flies in costume with other visiting notables, reproduced by the press far and wide. The cowhands scoured the plains of Flatbush and canyons of the City, and finally rounded up enough Board members to make a quorum at the meeting in the Hotel New Yorker. Several were combining business with pleasure on their long trip east. President Hall had to be in Boston that day so I. S. (Hank) Wright, as the only vice president who could be found, presided.

The St. Louis delegation, 35 strong, probably outnumbered the combined bona fide membership present from all other points. It made such an impression that it was no trick for St. Louis to swing the 1941 convention



to the junction of the Mississippi and Missouri (a promise of air conditioning tipped the scales). The Board elected Dr. Norman F. Rathert, then serving as president of the St. Louis chapter, as National president.

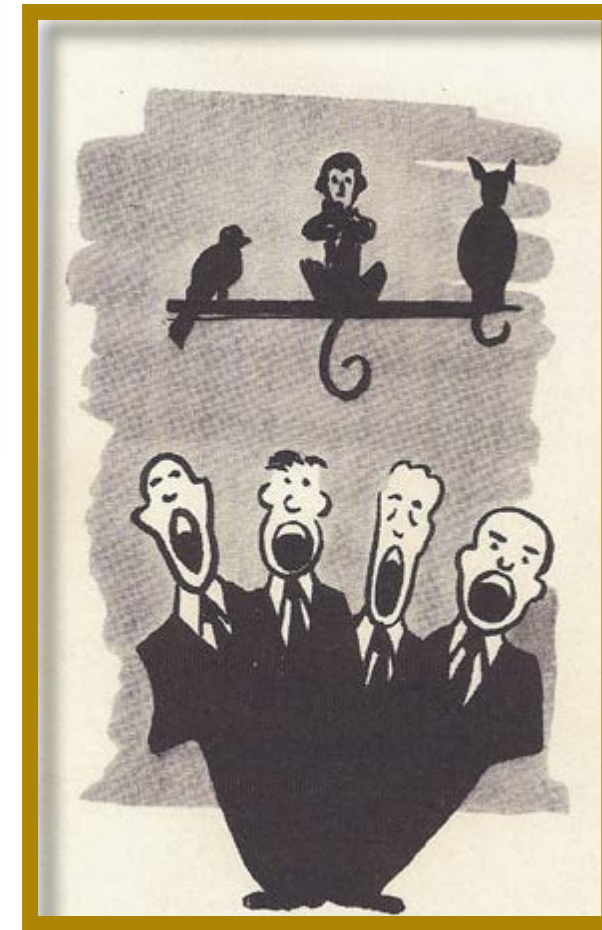
These honors, combined with the fact that his **Chromatic Canaries** placed in the Finals, made quite a day for the Doc. The Board demoted its former Vice Presidents to mere Board Members and replaced them with Alfred E. Smith,

N. Y.; Carroll P. Adams, Detroit; and George Hillyer of Topeka. New Board Members were Phil W. Embury, Warsaw, N. Y.; Joseph P. Wolff, Detroit; and Joseph E. Stern, Kansas City. The 1940-41 Board had six officers, eighteen directors, and a Founder and Permanent Third Assistant Temporary Vice Chairman.

The greatest accomplishment of the New York Convention-Contest was the national news identifying the Society as more than a manifestation of south-western

**‘these amateurs have the souls of artists’**

— Mayor Fiorello La Guardia



exuberance. It was the longest step thus far toward national recognition as an organization rather than a pleasant local whimsy.





# Wanna Be a Judge?

Your chance to apply to become a Contest Administrator, Music, Presentation, or Singing judge is just around the corner.

Every three years, just prior to Harmony University, judges in all four categories must attend judge Category School in order to recertify and those who have been candidate judges-in-training have the opportunity to join the judging ranks as certified judges.

## 2013 Contest & Judging Update

by Gary Plaag,  
VP Contest and Judging



This year, 2013, is a Category School year. After Category

School concludes at noon on July 28, those interested in applying to become judges in one of the four categories (CA, MUS, PRS, SNG) have until December 31, 2013, to submit their applications.

Information about applying to be a judge and the certification process can be found in section VI. APPLICANT AND CANDIDATE REGULATIONS of the Contest and Judging Handbook, located as a .pdf at the BHS website: [www.barbershop.org/competitions/contest-a-judging-system.html](http://www.barbershop.org/competitions/contest-a-judging-system.html).

Applications should be submitted through the Mid-Atlantic District Contest and Judging VP.

**WE GATHER TOGETHER**  
**A HARVEST OF HARMONY**  
**Saturday, November 23, 2013 • 7:30 PM**  
**Parkville High School • 2600 Putty Hill Ave., Balto, 21234**  
**FEATURING**



**The Chorus of the Chesapeake • BHS**



**The Upper Chesapeake Chorus • SAL**

**AND**

Special Guest Quartet:  
**BSQ**  
International Bronze Medalists



**Tickets: \$25**

2013 Southern Division  
Voice Quartet Champion



**MONORAIL FOUR**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT: [www.dundalk.org](http://www.dundalk.org)**  
**Contact: Frank Sigwart (410) 529-0732**

# Calling All Mixed Quartets!

As a first step in creating a robust and flourishing mixed harmony program in the northeastern and mid-Atlantic regions of North America, the M-AD will be co-hosting a mixed harmony quartet festival/contest with the Northeastern District (NED) on Saturday, December 14, 2013. The first annual MAD/NED Mixed Harmony Festival is scheduled to take place at the Danbury Church of Christ, 90 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, CT 06811, from 1-4PM. This location was selected because it is a mid-point between the two districts.

Based on final scores from one round of competition (two songs from

each competitor), quartets who compete at this event may be invited to represent the United States and/or Canada (invitations are extended to one or two representatives from each country that has a barbershop organization – the NED includes several US states and Canadian provinces) at the bi-annual International Mixed Harmony Quartet Contest in Dortmund, Germany, March 7-9, 2014. Mixed quartets from all regions of the US and Canada are welcome to participate.

Mixed quartet configurations include two males and two females, one male and three females, or three males and one female. A double panel of BHS and Harmony, Incorporated judges (MUS, PRS, SNG) will adjudicate

the event using BHS contest rules. There is no entry fee for participants and no ticket purchase requirement for spectators however good-will donations to offset the cost of this event will be gratefully accepted.

Watch for details on the M-AD website ([www.midatlanticdistrict.com](http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com)), as well as the Mid-Atlantic Mixed Harmony Facebook page for registration information and other details. Questions: Gary Plaag, [gplaagbhs@gmail.com](mailto:gplaagbhs@gmail.com).

— By Gary Plaag, VP Contest and Judging

## Praise from past president

Hard to put into words how proud I am, as a Past Mid Atlantic District President, to see the success that M-AD had in Toronto. Da Capo, Round Midnight (with a Nashville Chapter member), Frank the Dog, Up All Night— outstanding results!

And, the phenomenal success the Choruses had .. Harmonizers, Brothers in Harmony, Voices of Gotham and Chorus of the Chesapeake. I am thrilled for what you've accomplished...

Ya done good just isn't good enough to express it, but yes... ya done good! Even though I am now in a chorus that competes with you (Las Vegas, here we come), I am still thrilled to see the biggest and yes, best District in the Society, achieving what it should.

Congrats to all of you... and see you all in Las Vegas!

Charlie Davenport,  
Past M-AD DP 2001-2002  
President, Music City Chorus,  
Nashville, Tenn.



## Check out new dates and venues for 2014 contest cycle!

Walter L Griffith Jr  
M-AD VP Events



The 2014 Competition Cycle is posted at [www.midatlanticdistrict.com](http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com).

2014 Spring Preliminary Quartet Competition will be held in the beautiful Hyatt Reston Hotel in Reston VA on March 14-15, 2014.

2014 Atlantic/Western Division Convention will be held at the Harrisburg Hilton Hotel on May 16-17, 2014.

2014 Southern Division will be held at the Hotel Roanoke on May 30-31, 2014.

2014 Northern Division will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Scranton, PA on May 2-3, 2014.

2014 Fall District Convention will be held in Wildwood, NJ on October 24-25, 2014.

We have finished another wonderful year of events for 2013 and the results were fantastic.

We had a rough beginning at our Spring Preliminary Contest with a revenue loss but the facility was wonderful and the competition was exciting. The Hamilton Square Chapter, under the watchful eye of **Bill Davis**, did their usual excellent job of taking care of the event and the performance reviews from the Judges and Events Team staff was a "double thumbs up". The District qualified several quartets that represented us at the International Convention in Toronto and we couldn't have been more proud of the results.

The first combined Southern/Western Division convention experience in Reston, Va., at the beautiful Hyatt Regency was a huge success financially for the District. The **Alexandria Harmonizers** did a fantastic job of hosting the event and there was not even a bump in the road as we all enjoyed the convention. There was the opportunity for the competitors and fellow Barbershoppers from the different divisions to get together to share stories and memories as well as a Barbershop tag or song.

The combined Atlantic/Northern Division competition was held in Cherry Hill, N.J, and was hosted by the **Hamilton Square Chapter**. The ability of the host chapter to handle this event was a true test of endurance because it was an overflow crowd of competitors with a record setting number of quartets and choruses competing for the honor to appear in the Fall District Contest in Ocean City, Md. in October.

This year has been a wonderful experience for all the competitors as well as their families and friends. We'll do our very best to make things even more interesting in 2014.

Special thanks go to Mid-Atlantic District Contest and Judging V-P **Gary Plaag** and the Contest & Judging team for their continued cooperation and willingness to help, as we

challenged them with many "interesting" problems at combined events. The Atlantic/Northern Division Convention was a true challenge and the cooperation of the competitors and their friends and families as well was most appreciated by the District Events Team.

The Fall District Convention in Ocean City saw our first use of a large screen projection system to provide enhanced viewing for patrons. Audience feedback was very positive and we will be investigating the use of the screens for future district conventions. The Ocean City Convention Center is starting another construction phase and we have no choice but to relocate our fall convention for 2014 – but we are investigating options to bring us back to Ocean City in 2015, and possibly beyond.

And, of course, we need to acknowledge the wonderful Harmony Marketplace, beautifully maintained and operated by **Mary Jo Griffith**. The task of ordering and unpacking and re-packing these items for each event is very much appreciated by the Events Team V-P and everyone who enjoys the ability to stop and shop for their favorite gifts and barbershop related items.

Mary Jo enjoys the opportunity to serve the wonderful people of the Mid Atlantic District and as her husband I say, "Thank you," for all you do for the members of the Mid-Atlantic District.

The 2014 Competition Cycle is already posted on the Mid-Atlantic District web site, [www.midatlanticdistrict.com](http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com), and there are changes that should be noted as we move into the new year.

### And now for next year . . .

The **2014 Spring Preliminary Quartet Competition** will be held in the beautiful Hyatt Reston Hotel in **Reston, Va. March 14-15, 2014** hosted by the Fairfax Jubil-Aires. There is exciting news from the hotel for us, as I understand the train to Washington, D.C. will have a station right

in Reston Square for traveling to the nation's capital. This would be a great opportunity to schedule a visit and do some sightseeing plus enjoy your favorite hobby. The hotel information is on the web site so make your reservations early, and purchase your registrations to attend the competition to see which quartets will make it to Las Vegas in July 2014.

The **Northern Division** will be held **May 2-3, 2014** at the Hilton Hotel in **Scranton, Pa.** This hotel is located in downtown Scranton within walking distance of the Steamtown Train Station. This is a wonderful historic station that will make you want to take a sightseeing train ride and enjoy the sights of northeastern Pennsylvania. The Events Team does not have a host chapter for this event, so please have your chapter consider helping the District and having fun at the same time by hosting this event. If your chapter wishes to host this event, please contact me at [lmabari1@aol.com](mailto:lmabari1@aol.com) for additional information.

The 2014 **Atlantic/Western Division Convention** will be held at the **Harrisburg Hilton Hotel May 16-17, 2014**. The Harrisburg Chapter will host. This hotel is in the Capital City of Pennsylvania and is a wonderful place to visit. We need to take a quartet or chorus there to perform for the lawmakers in the wonderful rotunda. Wow, what a great sound!

The **Southern Division** will be held **May 30-31, 2014. Yes that's right, not on Memorial Day weekend again for the second year in a row.** The **Virginia Gentlemen**, under the direction of **Bill Clarke**, will host this event. The location is the wonderful and spectacular Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, Va. This facility is a definite winner and a wonderful place to perform and enjoy the scenic beauty of this area of Virginia.

The **Fall District Convention** will be held **October 24-25, 2014**. We are returning to **Wildwood, N.J.** The District Headquarters Hotel will be the Days Inn on Ocean Ave.

The Wildwood Convention Center is excited to have us return to New Jersey. The District has many memories of the Wildwoods from Monster Trucks to torrential rain storms. I am excited to see what's in store for us as we return to New Jersey again in 2014.

The District Events Team is looking for a Host Chapter for this event as well. Please help the Events Team and the District and host this event. If your Chapter can help please contact me at [lmabari1@aol.com](mailto:lmabari1@aol.com)

The Fall Convention is unusually late in 2014 due to the Holy Days of our Jewish barbershop families and friends. The ability to have the convention this late in October also presents additional challenges as well. I recently made a visit to the Wildwoods to plan this event. I spoke to many of the hotels due to the time of our event to be sure there is sufficient housing. The Wildwoods is a resort area and hotels will be closing due to the end of the season. The hotels assured me they will remain open if we need their hotels but we need to let them know as early as possible. Therefore I am requesting that if you think you or your Chapter is planning to attend the Fall Convention in 2014, that you secure your hotel as early as possible. I understand that some won't know until after the Division Conventions are completed but if you would usually be competing in the Fall Convention, please secure your housing as early as possible so you are not disappointed by waiting until the last minute.

The 2014 Convention season looks like it will be both exciting and busy with quartets competing to go to Las Vegas NV and choruses competing for the opportunity to represent the District in **Pittsburgh, Pa. in 2015**. Please make your plans early. I am looking forward to seeing everyone next year as we continue to be the best District in the Society.



## Choruses and Qs spread barbershop gospel

"In the good old summertime" ..... picnics, ice cream, pool parties, county fairs, baseball, parades, and barbershop, ....who could ask for anything more? Southern Division choruses and quartets have been busy singing, spreading the gospel of barbershop and having fun this

strong commitment for the 25 member chorus.

The **Bad Buoys** quartet from the **Kilmarnock Chapter** sang for five nursing homes...all in one day. The Buoys admitted that they were "a bit tired" but felt great about singing for folks who were home bound.

**Charlottesville** sang for the Bridgewater summer concert in the park series in July, several retirement homes and is preparing for a fall show on November 16 and Christmas performances in December. The chapter had an outing with food, singing and tubing on the James River.

**James River Soundworks** is working on a new CD planned for release in November. **Sean Devine** also paid a visit in his capacity with **Harmony Foundation**. Soundworks also spent a day of coaching with **Debra Lynn**.

**The Fairfax Jubil-Aires** has been invited to participate in the 2014 GRANDE FESTIVAL CORALE VERONA GARDA ESTATE in Verona, Italy. This is an annual choral festival occurring on four consecutive weekends in Verona and nearby cities. The Jubil-Aires are excited about the opportunity to promote barbershop harmony to appreciative Italian ears. Fairfax's **RETRO** quartet sang the national anthem to open a roller derby bout in Sterling then repaired to the Lost Rhino Brewery where they enjoyed the refreshments and sang for the locals. The Jubil-Aires also won an Honorable Mention award for their float in the Fairfax Independence Day parade.

Quartets from the **Germantown Harmony Express** were invited to stroll the grounds and sing at the Montgomery County Fair

in August. This turned out to be a great opportunity to meet and greet the audience and promote their September show and barbershop harmony.

The **Newport News Peninsulas** sang for an ice cream social and at two Sunday morning church services.

The **Norfolk Commodores** sang for the wives and families Navy sailors who were deployed on the USS Eisenhower (CVN 69) in the Middle East. In September, the Commodores volunteered for telephone duty for the local public television station WHR-TV taking calls for the stations membership drive. The Commodores held their 6th annual ice cream social for family and friends. Chapter quartets sang and enjoyed all you can eat ice cream. The chapter also hosted a pool party for active and former members and families. Lots of singing, public service and great fellowship.

The **Winchester, Va** and **Inwood, W.V.** chapters held their annual picnic on a gloriously beautiful September day at a local county park, complete with a pond, ducks, geese, paddle boats, and other spectators. After lunch the singing began and drew an audience of paddle boaters. It was a great opportunity to promote barbershop singing and the chapters. The members feel that jointly held events serve to keep them connected and current on society and chapter news and the leadership always learns something interesting...and a good time was had by all.

I am confident that all **Southern Division** chapters have been singing, having fun and promoting barbershop harmony. Great summer. Well done by all.

### NEWS from SOUTHERN DIVISION



by **Hardman Jones**,  
acting VP Southern Division

summer. Some of the notable events reported (in no particular order) include:

**Prince William County** hosted their annual August

"Dog Days" inter-chapter get-together on August 27. Participating choruses included Mt. Vernon, Loudon County, Fairfax, Alexandria and Prince William. Each chorus sang several songs and there was a special appearance by Epic, the 2012 Harmony Inc. quartet champions. Lots of food, fun and great fellowship.....

**The Singing Capital Chorus** performed the National Anthem at the Washington Nationals/Atlanta Braves baseball game on August 7. Great singing! Check out the performance: <http://youtu.be/2yZjGVIWAwG>

**The Richmond Virginians** spent two evenings and an all-day coaching session in August and September with **Rick LaRosa** in preparation for the District contest. Good singing and a whole lot of laughing.

**Loudoun County** was very busy with a wide variety of singouts. The count is 17 including church services, a little league event, a county fair, retirement party, cancer survivor run and the Dog Days inter-chapter meeting. That is a lot of great singing and

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# NEW ENERGY IN THE DIVISION

White Rose presents show; Harrisburg youth chorus catches fire

**NEWS from WESTERN DIVISION**



by Don Myers,  
VP Western Division

Another great fall convention just completed in Ocean City. The Western Division had five quartets and four choruses competing this year. Congratulations to **Mayhem**, our new 2014 quartet champs and to our Western Division champs **MADMEN** for thier fourth-place finish. Congratulations, also to the new chorus champs **Voices of Gotham** and to Western Division's **Dundalk** for their second-place finish. Our own **Faces 4 Radio** are the new M-AD Seniors Champs!

The M-AD fall convention is always a great weekend and many folks took the opportunity to take several days and come down early. With the emphasis on competing, we sometimes lose sight of the fellowship this weekend offers: the afterglows, the meeting up with friend's from around the District, the singing in the restaurants. These are all a large part of the weekend experience, and in my opinion the best part. Don't get me wrong, competing for me is fun and should be how we all see the weekend. But it's not the only part of the convention.

The Western Division now has a new Chapter Counselor assigned to the State College chapter, **George Birse**, a dual member with the Harrisburg Chapter and also the State College Chapter has stepped up to fill the CC slot. **Logan Hill**, the previous CC, had asked to be

replaced and George will make a great addition to the Counselor staff.

In other news around the Division, next year's Western/Atlantic Division combined convention in Harrisburg, Pa., May 16-17, 2014, is shaping up to be a great one. A recent canvass of the choruses indicates we may have as many as 13 competing from the Western Division with the York, Pa. chapter a possible attendee. Quartet participation is not finalized yet.

The **White Rose** chapter presented a chorus show Sept. 28 for the first time since 2007. The title of the show was *A TIME AND PLACE FOR EVERYTHING*, and their featured quartet was **GIMME FOUR**. This is exciting news. The chapter has grown to 17 members and has **Dawn Veet**, assistant director of Greater Harrisburg SAI chorus

as their Music and Performance coach. A recent visit showed a real improvement in the chorus and the production of an annual show indicates the beginning of renewed growth for this chapter.

The Harrisburg Chapter under the guidance of **John Cosgrove**, Youth in Harmony VP and the leadership of Director **Bob Bennett**, brought together 20 young men at the beginning of the summer for a youth chorus experience. The chorus was featured on the Keystone Capital Chorus' Pasta Dinner show in August and captured rave reviews from all who attended. Originally this was an event planned just for the summer months, but the interest from the young men has prompted KCC to continue to support the program through the winter. Stay tuned for additional developments.

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# a great learning experiment

First let me wish you well and offer my warmest greetings. I am thrilled to serve you and the Mid-Atlantic District as DVP-Atlantic Division.

Being the life-long learner that I believe we all are (or should be), I am approaching this job as a great learning experiment. I seek to learn the character of all 19 chapters in the division and to gain a sense of where you are, and what your organization is all about. My goal is to try to visit at least one of your chapter meetings at some point – and I hope I can make it to your chapter. However, with a full-time job, and two kids in elementary school, time is a bit of a challenge so I may not be

refreshing it was to not hear the same old “hard-sell” message of “you must do X, you must do Y”.

ALL chapters of Mid-Atlantic District, please listen: Each of your chapters has a uniqueness which can be expressed only by you. Whatever you do or do not do, you have to do it from within yourself. You have to believe in what you are doing, and you have to know why you are doing it. Do we want more members? Sure – all of us do. Do we know how to do that? Obviously some are successful at this and some are not. Do we want to sing better? Sure. EVERYONE needs to do that. It all starts within YOU. No one can make you do anything that you do not believe in doing. You have to decide within yourself what you want to do, and then you have to do it. When you are ready to commit your skills, talents, and MOTIVATION, your chapter will become a better chapter IN WHATEVER IT DOES.

I do have some fairly strong beliefs which are in alignment with Society and District vision, mission, and goals. I am starting to find planks for a platform, mostly which I steal from the Society and from other great leaders around District. I believe we should all be reaching out to our communities and especially to the youth in secondary school systems. I believe that there is great joy in singing and that everyone should do it. I believe that stronger chapters should help other local chapters, in singing and in coordination. I want to be clear about this so please hear me: I am not going to develop the next “10 step program to better chapters” or a guide book of “Robby’s rules”; I am not going to ram it down your throat.

In closing I admit that I am not in this position because I have all the answers. Matter of fact, I’m reasonably sure it will take some time before I feel confident that I know anything worthwhile. But know this – I value you and your chapter, and I want to get to know you. Please send me an email, call me on the phone, or do whatever it takes to get my attention. Please share your successes and your not so successful moments. Share your struggles. Share your opinions and ideas. Basically, SHARE!

## NEWS from ATLANTIC DIVISION

by Rob France,  
VP Atlantic Division



able to make it to your meeting. Please know that I still

want to get to know you, and will look for you at Division and District Convention, Harmony College East, Spring Prelims, Leadership Academy, etc., etc.

Our Mid-Atlantic District is chock-full of highly skilled people having an interest in singing and sharing the gift of song with all audiences we can find. YOU ARE ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE!! Wherever you are in your Barbershop experience, you may have already heard or read that YOU are the lifeblood of your chapter, district, and society. Thank you for your contributions!

I am still learning how the district works, and how I can contribute. I do not know exactly what a District VP is supposed to do, but I believe it includes connecting chapter leaders with resources that help their chapter. I am here to listen to you and your story. I am not here to tell you how to do it. I am here to help you in any way I can.

I had an experience at a recent chapter visit with re-enforces this stance. At the appropriate time I was introduced, and I said something similar to the message above. After the meeting was finished, and we shared coffee and cookies, I was told how



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**Immediate Past President:** Dick Powell (Roxanne); 410-451-1957; rpowell74@verizon.net

**Secretary:** Keith Jones; 202-651-1268; keith.m.jones@MidAtlanticDistrict.com

**Treasurer:** Bob Eckman (Maggie); 703-440-5997; bob.eckman@cox.net

**Executive VP:** Ig Jakovac (Anne Bureau); 267-932-8344; ijakovac@comcast.net

### Board Members-at-Large:

Christian Hunter (Tracey); 908-806-7122; njbbslead@yahoo.com

Hardman Jones (Amanda); 804-379-6257; hajones425@aol.com

Dennis Ritchey (Sherrie); 540-846-6408; denritche5@cox.net

Roger Tarcy (Jean); 804-829-2466; rtarcy@verizon.net

## 2013 DISTRICT OPERATIONS TEAM

**VP Chapter Support & Leadership Training:**  
Chuck Harner; 903-938-3001; CAChuck@cox.net

**VP Chorus Director Development:**  
Glenn Phillips; 410-519-5385; scalhorn@msn.com

**VP Contest & Judging:**  
Gary Plag; 703-868-5152; gplagbhs@gmail.com

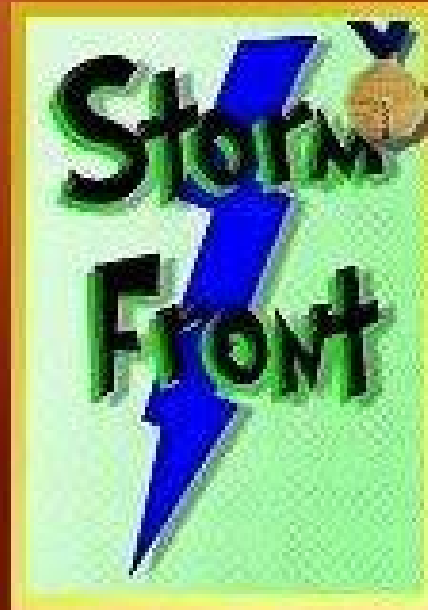
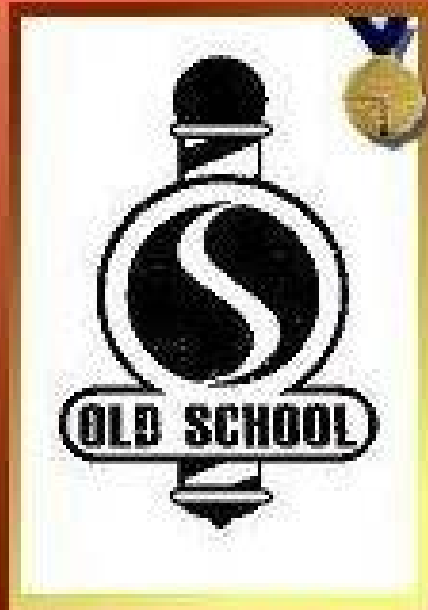
**VP Events:** Walter Griffith (Mary Jo); 570-735-5577; imabari1@aol.com

**VP Financial Development:**  
Alan Wile (Patty); 703-538-6526; alan.wile@comcast.net

**VP Marketing & Public Relations:**  
Eric Herr (Fran); 856-988-7721; ewh14@comcast.net

**VP Membership Development:**  
Christian Hunter (Tracey); 908-806-7122; njbbslead@yahoo.com

**VP Music & Performance:** Roger Tarcy (Jean); 804-829-2466; rtarcy@verizon.net



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Order tickets by phone: 516 694-4068

## Behind the scenes . . .

### NEWS from NORTHERN DIVISION



by Oley Olson,  
VP Northern Division

We have had a number of activities "behind the scenes" in these last few months. **Bill Leaver**, chapter counselor for Teaneck, Ridgewood and Montclair asked to retire as did **Tom Pease** chapter counselor for Westchester and Rockland County.

We thank Bill and Tom for their years of service to the Division and wish them well as they focus on their own chapters.

I am pleased to announce the following new chapter counselors who have volunteered to help their assigned chapters have even more fun in the coming years:

**Scott Colman**, currently a member of Westchester, will be chapter counselor for Westchester and Rockland chapters. Scott brings a wealth of experience to the job having been the President of Westchester. Scott is currently serving as their Musical Director along with holding down the Treasurer position. Many of you may have seen Scott in Toronto when he directed the Westchester Chordsmen as they tested the mic's for the International Chorus Contest. Currently Scott is in three quartets: Cap't Billy's Whizbang, 29 seconds, and Main Ingredients. Scott is coming up on ten years of Society membership. Professionally, Scott has his own practice as a dentist in Scarsdale, NY.

**Rich Galdi**, currently a member of the Manhattan chapter, will be chapter counselor to Teaneck, Ridgewood, and Montclair. Rich is a 45 year member

and has been a chapter President, VP Membership, VP Program, Secretary, Chorus Operations Manager, Board member at Large, and Bulletin Editor. He served as an Area Counselor (back before we had chapter counselors!) and was voted BOTY of the former Paramus chapter. Professionally, Rich is currently Partner and Consultant at RKPM Global Business Consultants.

**Rich Taylor**, currently a member of Rahway Valley and Sussex chapters will be taking over as chapter counselor to Allentown Bethlehem and Stroudsburg. Rich, a 45 year member, has an extensive resume as a member of many chapters serving as Musical Director, Assistant Musical Director, Program VP, Marketing Manager, Singing Valentine's program manager, and Youth Outreach program coordinator. Rich has served as a faculty member of Harmony College East and the old COTS program. Rich also hosted both the APPLAUSE show and the HARMONY NETWORK shows on the FM networks. He has been named BOTY in several chapters.

We wish all of these chapter counselors well as they begin their service to their chapters, the Northern Division, and the Mid-Atlantic District.



**VP Youth In Harmony:**

Gary Plaag; 703-670-4996;  
gary.plaag@verizon.net

**VP Atlantic Division:**

Rob France (Lisa); 215-766-8066;  
rob@soundkat.com

**VP Northern Division:**

George "Oley" Olson (Pat); 973-539-7941;  
oleyo@aol.com

**VP Southern Division:**

Hardman Jones (Amanda); 804-379-6257;  
hajones425@aol.com

**VP Western Division:**

Don Myers (Verna); 717-838-6146; gnolead@  
yahoo.com

**Chief Information Officer:** Mike Kelly;

MikeKelly@MidAtlanticDistrict.com



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**Editor:** Roxanne Powell, 1717 Sturbridge Pl,  
Crofton, MD 21114; 443-454-0604;  
editor@midatlanticdistrict.com

## While By My Sheep

This Christmas carol is the penultimate sheet music located in our Society's "Yuletide Favorites", on page 23, right before the concluding musical item, "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming."

While the Barbershop Harmony Society's attribution to what is also known as "The Echo Carol" is for "Anonymous", an online website, "The Hymns and Carols of Christmas," has much more information about both the carol, and the American who not only translated it from its original, but arranged the current echo version. It is interesting to note that the same gentleman evidently played a role in translating "Lo, How a Rose..."

The attribution that this website provides is as follows: Traditional German carol, after Friedrich von Spee, published 1625, Music: Traditional German melody, arranged by Hugo Jüngst (1853-1923). "American Theodore Baker (1851-1934) was a truly outstanding music scholar. He is best remembered for his famous multi-edition reference work, Baker's **Biographical Dictionary of**

**Musicians.** He is also somewhat remembered for his exceptional skill at producing not just one, but three, carols of importance. And these three carols all deal with phenomena which are not part of the Christmas story, that is, bagpipes, echoes, and roses.

The bagpipes were in the title of "Carol of the Bagpipers" ("Canzone d'i Zampognari"), echoes were the musical impression in "While By My Sheep" ("Als Ich bei meiner Schafen wacht"), and a rose was the allegory in "Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming" ("Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen").

The echoing device in "While By My Sheep" is so effective that one of the variant titles of Baker's translation is "Echo Carol." That title was also employed by another translator who similarly appreciated the vividness of the echo simulation.



from the October issue of the **Atlantic Gazette**, a monthly publication of the Red Bank, N.J. Chapter, home of the Chorus of the Atlantic and the Matinee Idles, edited by **Chris Papa**.

**NEXT DEADLINE:**  
**Jan. 15, 2014**

Want to see your name in "print?" Have you or your quartet or your chorus had an amazing barbershop experience? Tell me all about it: editor@midatlanticdistrict.com

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**TAG TIME**

*While by my sheep*

*A minor*

8 Joy to the world the Lord is come. we sing Joy!

Learning tracks and sheet music may be downloaded for free at [www.barbershop-tags.com/](http://www.barbershop-tags.com/)