



Volume 45, Issue 3
SUMMER 2014
A BULLETIN FOR EVERY BARBERSHOPPER IN THE MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

BACK TO **WILDWOOD** FOR A BARN-BURNER OF A CONTEST!

OCT. 24-26 29 CHORUSES! 29 QUARTETS!

BARBERSHOP ON THE BOARDWALK!



INSIDE:
Convention News — Book hotels NOW for District Harmony Foundation — Meet the Wile Challenge Harmony College East — “The Greatest Weekend

of Barbershop on the East Coast!”
Important message from President Bill News and views from Qs and Choruses and, as always, pictures, pictures, pictures!



CROWDS ROAR AS CONTESTANTS SET DISTRICT QUALIFYING RECORDS

Over 1700 fans attended M-AD division conventions to cheer on their favorite singers. When the last chord had rung, 27 choruses and 25 quartets had qualified for the fall district convention in Wildwood, N.J. Alexandria and Hell's Kitchen qualified with byes, so a record 29 choruses will vie for the district title this year.

Here's how it stacked up:

Our Northern division convention was held in Scranton,

Pa. and 55 percent of the choruses entered made the cut to district.

Our Atlantic and Western division conventions were combined and held in Harrisburg, Pa. with 64 percent of the choruses competing making the cut.

And our Southern division convention held in Roanoke, Va. saw a whopping 80 percent of the choruses competing earn their ticket to Wildwood!

Overall, 67 percent of all choruses entered in division

competitions qualified for the fall district convention. Well done everyone!

We had several special surprises in Roanoke. Three separate choruses had members suffer serious injuries just before the contest. In two cases, men were injured on Friday and required treatment at the local hospital. In both cases, they were released just in time to join their choruses and compete on stage – complete with slings and bandages.

In another case, one of the members had an emergency appendectomy on Thursday night but managed to make it to Roanoke and onto the stage to sing with her chorus. That's right. "Her" chorus. The Bella Nova Chorus from Herndon, Va., newest chapter of Harmony, Inc., served as the "mic-cooler" and entertained the audience at the end of the contest. This was their first contest appearance and served as a warm-up for their participation in the Harmony, Inc. International later this November in Louisville, Ky.



COLLEGIATE QUARTET CHAMPS

The *Good Old Days*, Dan Wright, Edd Duran, Douglas Carnes and Fernando Collado, is the 2014 Mid-Atlantic District Collegiate Quartet Champion. They represented the District at the Harmony Foundation Collegiate Quartet Contest in July in Las Vegas, placing 18th.



SENIORS QUARTET CHAMPS

District President Bill Colosimo presents Division 3rd place medals to **Youth Reclamation Project**. Having achieved a certain age, Mike Wallen, Roger Tarpy, Hardman Jones and Vic Owen, Jr. will also represent the Mid-Atlantic District at the International Seniors Quartet Contest next January.

Bella Nova, a newly chartered Harmony, Inc. chapter, under the direction of **Richard Lewellen**, performed as mic coolers at the Southern Division Convention.



Classy Reunion

Reconnecting to the music we love and the people who loved it with us

ATD

ACHORDING TO DAD

Red Rose Chorus

\$27

Featuring

Sunday, November 2
Lancaster Church of the Brethren
Dinner Show begins at 5PM

A Parade of Quartets

Call (717) 983-8850 or visit www.RedRoseChorus.com

Montclair to sponsor mega inter-chapter event in N.J.

NEWS from NORTHERN DIVISION

by **Oley Olson**,
VP Northern Division



Northern Division has been fortunate to have had the **Nassau Mid-Island** chapter sponsoring an inter-chapter event each year for our Long Island chapters. And in Pennsylvania the **Wilkes-Barre, Tunkhannock** and **Honesdale** chapters have been getting together for many years. I am pleased to advise that the **Montclair** chapter has stepped up to the plate and will now sponsor the first **NORTH JERSEY INTERCHAPTER EVENT Friday, August 15 at 7:30 p.m. at the North Caldwell Volunteer Firemen's Hall, 134 Gould Ave., North Caldwell, N.J.** Fourteen chapters have been invited and as of this writing nine have indicated they'll be there! Have a great time!

Hail and Farewell:

When I became the Division VP, **Joe Colon** and **John Russo** were the first two men to volunteer to take on the job of chapter counselor. After four years of dedicated service both are stepping down and moving on. I thank them for sharing their time and talent in this important job.

Joe Servidio, Sr. has agreed to become a new chapter counselor and I have shifted assignments for the coming year as follows: Joe will have **Hunterdon County** and **Teaneck**; **Rich Galdi** will have **Montclair** and **Ridgewood**; **Mark Bentley** will have **Morris County** and **Somerset Hills** and I will have **Rahway Valley**. **Tom Roberts** will take on **Honesdale** in addition to **Wilkes-Barre** and **Tunkhannock**, and **Rich Taylor** will have **Allentown-Bethlehem** and **Sussex County, N.J.** All counselors in N.Y. will continue to serve their currently assigned chapters.



Singing The Sunshine Of Your Smile and Just A Gigolo/I Ain't Got Nobody (Medley), The Big Apple Chorus outscored all the competition to win the 2014 Northern Division Championship and the AAAA Plateau May 3 in Scranton, Pa.



JOSEPH T. SERVIDIO:

Feeling happy!

Dapper Dan's off Harmony AAA. Plateau winners 3rd place overall and most improved chorus.

Northern Division honors chorus champs

Gleanings from the web

RICH TAYLOR: Well my barbershop chorus just competed in the Northern Division of the Mid Atlantic District in Scranton, Pa.

After not competing for nine years, last year we won the Plateau A championship with a score that advanced us this year to having to compete in the AA Plateau.

We all did our job and the chorus **WON THE 2014 PLATEAU AA CHAMPIONSHIP!**

We were the smallest chorus on stage with only 14 singers but each man did his own personal best and our director, **June Noble**, did an outstanding job.

I just love being in the High Point Harmonizers!



Receiving the 2014 Northern Division Plateau AA Championship plaque are Sussex Chapter President, Fred Spages, and Chorus Director, June Noble, alongside Mid Atlantic District President, Bill Colossimo.

Northern Division qualifies six quartets for District Contest



1 On Tap

Chris Granger
Matt Saucier
Cy Wood
Bryce Cooney



2 The Facetones

Mike Kelliher
Justin Guidone
Evin Guidone
Jeff Glemboski

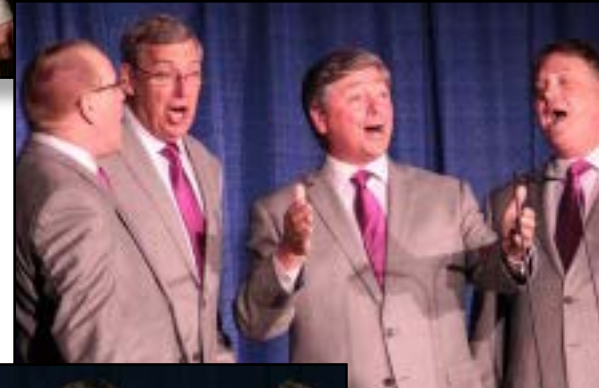
3 My Uncle Murray

Floyd Clifford
Pat Cerillo
Jay Dorfman
Bill Davis



6 The BatBoys

Sean Feyrer
Jim Gasper
Mike Feyrer
Steve Adams



4 Black Tie Affair

Will Hartley
Alex McCoy
John Maderazo
Ryan Brown



Not pictured:

5 Parkside

Erik Clack
Evan Shyer
Laser Thomas
Braden Lynk

SEEKING DIRECTOR



Silver Ridge West Chorus of Toms River, N.J.

is seeking a director.

This seniors chorus of 45 mixed voices sings popular, folk, show and patriotic tunes in four-part harmony.

The chorus rehearses weekly from **3-5 p.m.** on **Wednesdays** for 10 months of the year.

Director's duties include preparing and producing two concerts per year.

Please send resume to:
**Silver Ridge West Chorus, P.O. Box 3178
Toms River, NJ 08756-3178**

Questions?
Call Judy Belock, 732-228-8742

Western Plateau champs put on great show



Clockwise from top:

Dundalk Chorus of the Chesapeake is the Division Chorus Champion and Plateau AAAA winner.

Anne Arundel County Sons of the Severn are the Plateau AAA winners.

Carroll County Old Line Statesmen took the Plateau AA title.

Lebanon Singing Cedars are the Plateau A champs.

Lewisburg's The West Branch Chorus is the Division's 2014 Most Improved Chorus.



The White Rose Chorus

is pleased to present our 2014 Fall Show

Taking Flight

featuring

Faces 4 Radio

The show will take place **Saturday, October 4 at 7 p.m.** at the **Hayshire United Church of Christ, 100 Haybrook Drive, York, Pa.**

Also performing:

City Island, MAD quartet

Jewel Tones, SAI quartet

and chapter quartets.

Afterglow in the same location.

Tickets will go on sale in August and will be \$15. Details will be posted soon on our website

www.whiterosechorus.com.



Western Division sends four quartets to District, crowns Novice champ



MADMEN

Brian Schreiner
Scott Disney
Brandon Brooks
Joe Eckert

ACHORDING TO DAD

Brian Paulhamus
Ken Paulhamus
Adam Paulhamus
Jeff Paulhamus



FLASHPOINT

William Eberius
Chuck Hamrick
Barry Gabler
Tyler Horton



NOVICE CHAMP:

VOCAL STANDARD

Mike Cramer
Stephen Curtis
Ron Fabian
Gary Mishler

RAZZMATAZZ

Bill Gable
Rick Ashby
Ed Ludwig
Don McElroy



Harmony on the Harbor
Monday, November 3rd, 2014
Joseph Meyerhoff Symphony Hall
Baltimore, MD

The Alexandria Harmonizers and the Pride of Baltimore Chorus present Harmony on the Harbor! This concert will feature the best of four-part harmony a cappella music. There will be ten quartets - including three of the top-5 quartets from Sweet Adelines International. There will also be three world-class choruses: the current International Champion Chorus from Sweden - The Rönninge Show Chorus; the four-time International Chorus Champions - The Alexandria Harmonizers; the Pride of Baltimore Chorus; and our very special guests, Maxx Factor - 2011 Queens of Harmony and Growing Girls - 1989 Queens of Harmony, who are currently celebrating their 25th Anniversary!

This is a once in a lifetime concert not to be missed!

Tickets are on sale at the Alexandria Harmonizers website

It's a busy season for ATLANTIC BARBERSHOPPERS

We've had a very successful combined Atlantic-Western division convention in May, with ten Atlantic Division chapters (52 %) participating and 14 quartets. Congratulations go out to the **Hamilton Square Brothers in Harmony** for placing first in the AAAA plateau, first for the Atlantic Division, AND for posting the highest chorus score for the combined event (82.9%). And congratulations to **Princeton, N.J.** for winning the Most Improved Chorus award with a 3.8%

NEWS from ATLANTIC DIVISION



by Rob France,
VP Atlantic Division

increase over a year ago. Choruses that scored 1134 points or more were qualified for the District competition, so the Atlantic Division

will be sending eight representatives to the big show in Wildwood in October. Congratulations to **Bucks County, Pa., Ocean County, Cherry Hill, Bryn Mawr, Princeton, Lansdale, Queen Anne County, and Hamilton Square.**

Faces 4 Radio are the Atlantic Division quartet champions followed by **Riverline** and **Tight Chorders**, closely behind I might add (well, I just did). Congratulations to each quartet for performing their best.

All score sheets can be found in the 'Docs & Information' and 'SCORES!' section of the Mid-Atlantic District Website (<http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/?Code=ContestScores>). Many thanks

to District CIO **Mike Kelley** for coordinating the posting of all the score sheets going as far back as 1951 (wow... that's impressive). If you have old score sheets from years gone by which are not in the archive, you should send them to Mike so they can be shared with all.

Consider participating in an open convention

If you sing in a quartet or chorus and did not appear at the recent division convention, please consider this. Any registered quartet or chorus can participate at the division convention. It is what is called an "open" convention and is open to anyone who wishes to appear. You can enter to have your score count for qualification to the next level.

Or you can enter for evaluation only. When you choose this option, no one sees your scores but you. But you get the same coaching from the judges that everyone else gets. The focus of the coaching sessions (usually a 20-minute session with a judge from each category) is to help us move to the next higher level of performance.

Participation in a division convention is completely your prerogative. Participation is merely another way for you to check your progress on your journey to inspirational performances for you and your audiences.

Inter-chapter events

The inter-chapter summer picnic hosted by Lansdale was a tremendous success. Quartets and choruses from all around the region participated. Check out all

the details in the article on page 28. The **Abington-Levittown** chapter also hosted a regional inter-chapter event with both the **Bucks County** and **Philadelphia** chapters. Several mixed quartets delighted attendees and each chorus shared their best.

If you've been part of a social inter-chapter event which is not listed here, please send an email with the details so it can be included. If your chapter is collaborating with another chapter, by all means please let us know what you are doing.

Chapter Counselors

The Atlantic Division chapter counselors have begun meeting on a monthly basis to talk about ways to better support our chapters. Our desire is to be connected with you - to share in your success stories and to offer a supporting hand when necessary. We view our role as being more like a 'Chapter Advocate', as opposed to a counselor or advisor. We want to be sure you *feel* connected to the district. We are still looking for people to support a few chapters, so if you are interested to serve in this role, please let me know.

DVP Summit

The four divisional VPs and Executive VP Ig Jakovac recently participated in a DVP summit. We talked about ways that we can best support our chapters and counselors and how we can share information between divisions. While we are divided geographically, we are united in spirit. It is

See Atlantic, continued on next page



photo by Shawn York

FIRST TIME IN MAD

STANDARD BRED CHORUS

will feature

THROWBACK

7th place international quartet with SEAN DEVINE

on its

ANNUAL SHOW Sept 27 7:30 pm

HANOVER HIGH SCHOOL

401 Moul Avenue, Hanover Pa. 17331

Tickets @ \$15 each may be purchased at the door or with advance notice at 717 633 7705 (Frank) or 717 225 5675 (Wayne) or hanoverbarbershopchorus@gmail.com



Make it a memorable weekend by visiting HISTORIC Gettysburg just 9 miles west of Hanover.

Or the 70 stores at THE FACTORY OUTLETS

Many fine eating places can be found on nearby Eisenhower Drive.

See the NEW AMISH MARKETS just a few blocks north of the show site on route 194, open 8-4 Saturdays.

Atlantic Division honors plateau champs



Hamilton Square Chapter Brothers in Harmony under the direction of Jack Pinto won both the AAAA plateau and the Division contest.



Queen Anne's County Chapter Pride of DelMarVa, under the direction of Glenn Phillips, was ranked first in the AAA plateau.



Red Bank Area Chorus of the Atlantic, under the direction of Craig Page, took the AA plateau title.



Princeton, N.J. The Garden States, under the direction of Jack Pinto, was the Atlantic Division Most Improved Chorus for 2014.

Atlantic
continued from previous page

our hope that we can share information and learn from each other about the great things that many of our chapters are doing. You will hear more about this in future, and it is likely

that the other DVPs will also comment on this summit. I am thrilled to be associated with some of the greatest leaders in our district and to be part of efforts to increase communication between divisions.

Finally, if you are on the fence about

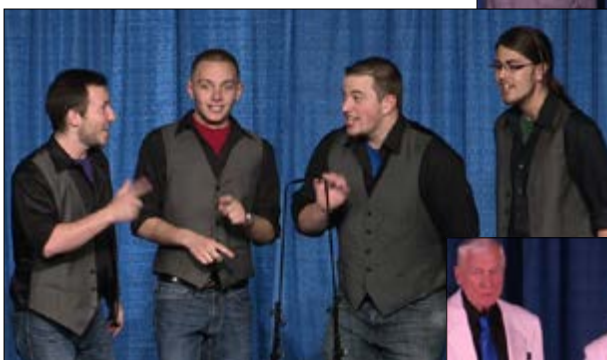
coming to this fall's District Convention in Wildwood, please choose to come hear some of the best singers in our district – and in the Society. As many know, the fall District Convention is a wonderful event for meeting up with friends from all corners of the district. Competition will be lively, but

the fellowship and camaraderie is the most important aspect of the weekend (well, maybe the food is the most important J). Please bring your best smile and make a new friend. Or, better yet – bring a friend who doesn't know what barbershop is all about. They will hear some amazing music,

experience the fellowship first hand, and maybe even ring their first tag. And they will thank you forever for the experience. Let's get together at District and sing a polecat or two.

FIND ~ SHARE ~ LEARN ~ TEACH

Six Atlantic Division quartets advance to District Competition



District qualifying quartets pictured from top:

1 Faces for Radio

Bob Bristow
Brad Brooks
Mark Sanders
Jeff Winik

2 Riverline

Norm Rohn
Kevin Gregan
Jim Rohn
Steven Zellers

3 Tight Chorders

Nick Engelhardt
Ben Sherman
Cory Britson
Thomas Moyer

4 Distinction

David Harbove
Dino Colon
Walt Barnes
David Gale

5 New Kid in Town

Jason Thompson
Brian Thomas
Doug Pratt
Garry Warlow

6 Cohesion

Alex Corson
Charles Ross
Jim Bazewicz
Patrick Cafaro

Not pictured:



BAY COUNTRY CHORUS

Come Sing With Us at Brookletts Place (Senior Center) Every Monday Night from 7:00 PM until 9:30 PM



Requirements

- ▶ You enjoy singing and like to have fun
- ▶ You do not have to be able to read music, we supply learning CDs and sheet music
- ▶ If you are interested or wish to learn more, please contact Dick Hott at [410-763-8835](tel:410-763-8835)
- ▶ The Bay Country Chorus is a Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society and is supported in part with Grants from the Talbot County Arts Council



James River, VA is the Southern Division Chorus Champion and Plateau AAAA Champion.



Come work with a chorus of rising stars

The Chorus of the Old Dominion, in Leesburg, Va. is searching for a new director to build on the outstanding work done by Sally Galloway over the past year and a half.

In the past two years the chorus has doubled in size to 25 members.

We were the most improved Chorus in the Southern Division of the Mid-Atlantic District in both 2013 and 2014, placed 8th in the District in 2013, and are hoping for another top-ten finish in 2014.

We are looking for someone that can help us further raise our barbershop and a cappella vocal quality, as well as helping us meet other goals such as building an active quartet program, growing the size of the chorus, and leveraging artistic relationships throughout Loudoun County and Northern Virginia.

Our ideal candidate has tremendous enthusiasm, a strong focus on vocal production, and is excited to work in a number of different musical genres.

We aim to become a consistent top-ten chorus in MAD, and to qualify for Internationals in a few years. Can you help us become a truly outstanding group?

Interested persons can obtain more information and/or apply by contacting:

Tim Peterson, cubuff98@gmail.com, 703-980-9730



SEARCHING FOR OUR NEXT DIRECTOR

8 of 10 Southern Division choruses qualify for District!



Loudoun County, VA is the Southern Division Plateau AAA Champion and Most Improved Chorus - for the second year in a row.



Smith Mountain Lake, VA is the Southern Division Plateau A Champion.

Southern sends six Qs to District

1 MONORAIL FOUR

Kellen Hertz
Phil Ferguson
Bobby Seay VI
Andrew Havens



2 FORECAST

Mike Fitch
Ian Galvin
Travis Murray
Dan Cook



3 YOUTH RECLAMATION PROJECT

Mike Wallen Hardman Jones
Roger Tarpy Vic Owen, Jr.



6 DESPERATE MEASURES

Gary Bibens
Scott Beach
Neal Woodard
Vinny Capaccio

4 SHAMELESS

Phil Merkel
Chris Susalka
Cliff Shoemaker
Dale Bird



NOT PICTURED:

5 LoCo 4

Terry Prevost
Tim Peterson
Frank Shipp
Dale Bird

EXCITING NEWS!

New judges, new contestants, new contests

MAD Sports A Talented Bevy of Candidate Judges!

Four talented gentlemen made their marks at the recent judge candidate school, held the weekend prior to Harmony University in Nashville, TN. Emerging from the candidate school with shiny new "candidate" judge

Gotham finished 15th in the chorus contest with a score of 83.9%. On the quartet front **'Round Midnight** finished 12th (84.1%), **Last Men Standing** finished 29th (79.1%), **Up All Night** finished 31st (78.7%), **Mayhem** finished 33rd (78.7%), and **Gimme Four** finished 40th (77.6%). Our collegiate reps, **The Good Old Days**, finished 18th in the collegiate contest (71.2%).

2014 Contest & Judging Update

by Gary Plag,
VP Contest and Judging



badges are: **Jay Butterfield** (Singing), **Matt Fellows** (Singing), **Joe Sawyer** (Presentation), and **Dick Powell** (Contest Administrator).

Powell (Contest Administrator).

Please congratulate these guys when you see them "practicing" at our upcoming fall and spring contests. They will continue to hone their skills over the next two years in preparation for judge Category School in 2016, when all BHS judges must become certified.

If you're interested in becoming a judge, the categories will open to receive applications again in August of 2016.

MAD quartets and chorus make their mark International in Las Vegas!

We had a strong quartet and chorus showing at International this year. The **Hell's Kitchen Chapter's Voices of**

Look for Voices of Gotham and all of these quartets (except 'Round Midnight - 2010 MAD District Champions and Mayhem - 2014 MAD District Quartet Champions) at the upcoming Fall District Convention and Contests, as they compete there for the District Quartet Championship.

Mixed Harmony Contest

For those interested in entering the MAD's inaugural mixed harmony contest, scheduled for next March 13-14, 2015 (in conjunction with our International quartet prelims and Youth Adjudication), entry will open beginning December 1, 2014, to the first 15 entries.

Any additional entries will be added to a wait list. If a full complement of 15 entries is not reached by January 31, entry will be opened to neighboring districts. Final determination as to the number of mixed quartets we can accommodate above the 15 estimated will be made after February 12, once the number of entries for the

See C&J, continued on next page



Photo by Frank Tunney

Director David Ammirata presents the 2014 HCE Young Men's Chorus to wild applause.

Snow days reduce Youth in Harmony Camp attendance

Our goal this year was 100+ students. Sadly, mother nature played a mean trick on us and we only had 45. Many of the high school

All five of these young men and women "grew up" in our MAD Youth In Harmony program and are now taking leadership roles to share their experience with newer barbershoppers. It's a beautiful thing!

Please let your local music educators know about the camp (**June 18-20, 2015** – Salisbury University, Salisbury, Md.), how much fun their students will have and how much they will learn about *a cappella* singing and friendship through music in general, and stage craft and barbershoping, in particular. And remember, it's co-ed so both young men and women are welcome!

YIH on Facebook: Our YIH Facebook page is the best place to find out about what's happening in our YIH program. Our Facebook page is "*Mid-Atlantic District Youth Barbershop*". Be sure to visit and "like" our page, so you can receive notifications of newly-posted YIH information and resources, as well as upcoming YIH events.

2014 Youth in Harmony Update

by Gary Plaag,
VP Youth in Harmony



quartets who normally attend were stuck in school for an extra two weeks due to make-up snow days. Our goal for next year is once again, 100+. We need your help in making that dream come true.

GQ and **Gimme Four** (with help from **Edd Duran** – **The Good Old Days**) were our section leaders and **Ali Hauger** (GQ - lead) and **Dave Ammirata** (Gimme Four - lead), along with **Doug Carnes** (The Good Old Days - bari) served as our chorus directors. **Meredith Didlake** was in charge of our visual presentation plans.

District Quartet and Chorus Qualifiers

On-line contest entry is now open for the Fall District Quartet and Chorus competitions through the ebiz section of the BHS's "Members Only" website. The following choruses have qualified to compete at the upcoming MAD Fall District Convention in Wildwood, NJ:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Alexandria, VA | 10. Hamilton Square, NJ | 20. Loudoun County, VA |
| 2. Allentown-Bethlehem, PA | 11. Harford County, MD | 21. Manhattan, NY |
| 3. Anne Arundel County, MD | 12. Harrisburg, PA | 22. Montclair, NJ |
| 4. Bryn Mawr, PA | 13. Harrisonburg, VA | 23. Norfolk, VA |
| 5. Bucks County, PA | 14. Hell's Kitchen, NY | 24. Ocean County, NJ |
| 6. Cherry Hill, NJ | 15. Hunterdon County, NJ | 25. Princeton, NJ |
| 7. Dundalk, MD | 16. James River, VA | 26. Queen Anne's County, MD |
| 8. Fairfax, VA | 17. Lancaster, PA | 27. Richmond, VA |
| 9. Five Towns College, NY | 18. Lansdale, PA | 28. Roanoke Valley, VA |
| | 19. Lewisburg, PA | 29. Washington, DC |

The following quartets have qualified, as well:

- | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 30. Achording To Dad | 40. Forecast | 50. Riverline |
| 31. Anthology | 41. Gimme Four | 51. Shameless |
| 32. Atlantic Harmonies | 42. Last Men Standing | 52. The BatBoys |
| 33. Black Tie Affair | 43. Loco 4 | 53. The Facetones |
| 34. Cohesion | 44. MADMEN | 54. The Good Old Days |
| 35. Desperate Measures | 45. My Uncle Murray | 55. The Monorail Four |
| 36. Distinction | 46. New Kid In Town | 56. Tight Chorders |
| 37. Faces 4 Radio | 47. On Tap | 57. Up All Night |
| 38. Flash Point | 48. Parkside | 58. Youth Reclamation Project |
| 39. For The Times | 49. Razzmatazz | |

Please enter the contest as soon as possible but not later than September 24, the contest entry deadline. Note that choruses should select the options "International Preliminary Chorus", as well as "District Chorus."

Two exciting additions to this year's District convention are "most-improved" quartet and "most-improved" chorus designations, which will be awarded based on an ensemble's two most recent contest appearances.

C&J

continued from previous page

men's international prelims is determined.

The mixed harmony quartet competition will be a one-round event with each quartet singing two songs. As is the case for the men's prelims event, mixed quartet members may sing in only one mixed quartet.

Any "mixed" configuration is acceptable: MFFF, MMFF, or MMMF. Standard BHS contest rules will apply. There is an entry fee of \$10 for each participating mixed quartet. In addition to the mixed quartet entry fee, all mixed harmony contest participants are required to be in possession of an all-events registration.

Also note that the 2014 World Mixed Quartet Champions, **Double Date**, will be our guests at the convention. They will serve as mic testers and will host a mixed quartet "master class", as well as perform on the Jamboree on Saturday night.

Watch for additional information in subsequent Mid'l Antics publications, as well as the MAD website. This is going to be an exciting addition to the MAD Prelims weekend! If you have questions about this new initiative, please contact me at gplaagbhs@gmail.com.

District contest returns to Wildwood



Walter L. Griffith Jr.
M-AD VP Events

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

We will be using a Jumbo-Tron again at the Fall Convention, and selling ads to air on the Jumbo-tron just like we did last year. **Get your ads ready now!** Also, there will be no webcast this Fall.

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 Bryn Mawr Chapter has graciously stepped up to host our Fall Convention. Many thanks to these fine fellows.

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.

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 or your Chapter is planning to attend the Fall Convention in 2014, please secure your hotel as early as possible. Not sure? Please make your housing reservation as early as possible, anyway, so you are not disappointed by waiting until the last minute. You can always cancel if plans change!

The 2014 Convention season looks like it will be both exciting and busy with 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.



JUMBO-TRONS return to WILDWOOD

There will be JUMBO-TRONS (very large screen projections) at the District contest again this year. Not only will this make the contestants easier to see from the back of the auditorium, but choruses and quartets will be able to place advertisements on the JUMBO-TRON to be shown between competitors!

Whether you want to advertise your chapter show, promote your quartet, or just want to wish your son/dad/grandfather 'Good Luck', we have a package for you.

We have several options and package deals from which to choose. You may create your own PowerPoint static or animated slide, or create your own (16x9) Video and nest that in a slide. Or you can send us the text of your ShoutOut, and we'll make the slide for you. Pricing is based on the duration of your content.

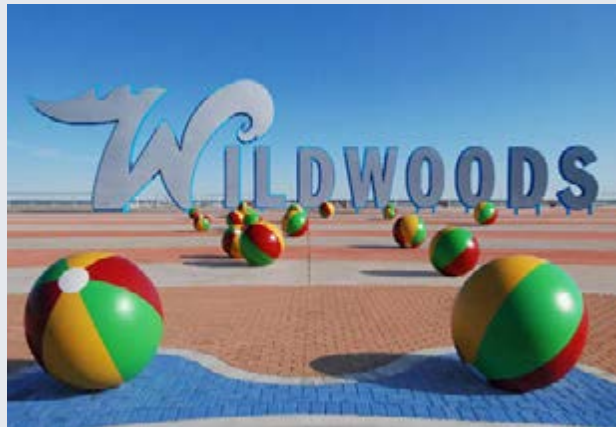
The Early Bird pricing deadline is Friday, September 19, NOON!

We will continue to take ShoutOuts after that, but it'll cost you more! Note that the submission deadline for PRINT Ads is October 11th. You must pay using PayPal at the time you place your order.

Use the following links to place your order and/or create your own PowerPoint slide.

[Here's the on-line ordering page.](#)

[Use this Template if you intend to create your own PowerPoint slide.](#)



Book early . . . for the **Fall District Convention in Wildwood, N.J.**

Our fall district convention will be held in Wildwood, N.J. on October 24-25, 2014.

The Headquarters Hotel is already sold out.

BUT the district events team has posted information on **16 other hotels** that have promised to remain open for us and our families.

And rates are really good, ranging from \$50 per night up to \$125 per night depending on location and amenities.

If you are planning to attend, **now is the time to call and make reservations.** *Don't be left out of the fun at the beach!*

www.midatlanticdistrict.com/Fall



GETTING SMART, BARBERSHOP STYLE

With over 80 courses covering absolutely every aspect of the barbershop hobby -- history, leadership, directing, coaching, pr, communications, song writing, arranging, singing, sound management, presentation, staging -- and plenty of eating, drinking, tagging, gang singing, and long walks in the moonlight, as well as two blockbuster shows and ice cream, **Harmony College East** in Salisbury lived up to its billing as the best deal this side of the Society's Harmony University in Nashville.

Enjoy our compedium of photos and plan to be part of the fun and excitement next year. Mark your calendars: **June 18-20, 2015.**



SATURDAY NIGHT AT HCE

Pookie Dingle challenges the youth camp staff to a watermelon eating contest in the dining hall. And the winner and grand champion was (drum roll) — POOKIE!

Then on to the show where quartets of all ages demonstrated the splendid results of two days of expert coaching. The administration and staff of HCE, including EVP Ig Jakovac and Dean Roger Tarpy, as well as the instructors and students are to be congratulated on an outstanding barbershop learning experience.

Next year, come join the fun!

Watermelon photos by Dan Wright



MAKING LEMONADE

FRANK the DOG donates \$100 to YIH to honor baritone pushout singers

While on vacation as a youngster, my parents took my brothers and me to the Kennedy Compound in Hyannisport, Mass. Visiting the summer home of one of the most influential U.S. families was great, but that wasn't the best part of the trip for us boys.

Not even close.

Instead we were enamored by seeing a dog scamper across the street as we approached the property. This dog had three legs. A three legged dog — how cool was that?!?! After about a minute the novelty was gone and the dog really appeared to be just a normal dog, enjoying a dog's life. But I am sure that it had to work just a little harder than those with all four legs!

Early this spring, **Ross "BariDog"** had some health issues that eventually led to his inability to attend HCE, and subsequently this forced us to withdraw from the International contest in Las Vegas. While disappointed that Ross could not attend HCE, we (the good looking trio) decided to forge onward and get what is always top-notch coaching at HCE.

The coaches did not disappoint. They worked us hard with duets and the trio. We missed Ross, but we learned. Our heartfelt thanks to **Jean Barford, Dwain Brobst, Al Baker, Theresa Weatherbee, and Steve Armstrong.** We



Vying for the chance to replace Frank the Dog's missing baritone, Ross Trube, 38 baritones in the HCE Saturday night audience race to the stage for their audition.



Night show. We promised to pay \$1 for each person who got on stage with us to sing a couple polecats.

38 baris stepped up. With other donations added in we raised \$100 for YIH.

Thank you for making this possible, for being our friends and supporting us.

Always remember that teamwork, commitment, hard work, and little bit of fun will always allow you to make lemonade out of the lemons that pass your way.

Steve, Frank the Dog

commend your flexibility and talents.

For several years now, **Frank the Dog** has been so grateful to have such wonderful support from the Mid-Atlantic District. Your friendship and enthusiasm allow us to raise funds for Youth In Harmony through our **Dog**

Tags at District.

At HCE, we decided to turn the tables. Instead of singing tags (and obviously lacking a baritone) we offered the audience a chance to get on stage to participate in a baritone push out quartet during the Saturday

P.S. As of the writing of this article, Ross is doing great. He is healthy, singing well and actively annoying the other Dogs every chance he gets.

These fathers and sons are truly in (barbershop) harmony



Aaron Olinger (from left), Jim Sherman, Kirk Olinger and Ben Sherman are father-son duos who enjoy barbershop-style singing.

By Tad Dickens
The Roanoke Times | Posted: Saturday, June 7, 2014
12:15 am

Father and son bonding isn't always easy. Schedules can be crazy and kids don't necessarily like the same activities as their parents. Jim Sherman, of the barbershop harmony chorus the Virginia Gentlemen, has some good advice about it.

"As a father, if you want to do something with your son, find out what your son likes and then do it with him," Sherman said. "My son, fortunately, likes to sing. I love to sing. So this is no pain. This is all gain for us."

The Shermans joined Virginia Gentlemen about four years ago, after Ben Sherman went to see the annual concert with his parents. They had asked him to go with them the year before, but he was skeptical.

"I said, 'I don't really want to go see a bunch of old guys sing. That doesn't sound very fun,'" Ben Sherman, 20, remembered. "I went the next year and I loved it. I mean, the sound is different from any other music that you're going to hear. It was very cool *a cappella*, and I loved it. So I got over the original 'ugh.'"

He was 16 when he and his dad joined, making him the youngest member of the Virginia Gentlemen. Since then, a couple of other father-son teams have joined the chorus, including father **Kirk** and son **Aaron Olinger**.

Aaron, 15, was the youngest member for a spell, before **Mitch** and **John Martin**, of Iron Gate, joined recently. John Martin is 12.

The Shermans and Olingers gathered at the Shermans' house in Southwest Roanoke to talk about their experiences together with the group, and even to sing a song that Jim Sherman wrote.

Their four-part harmonies sounded like the work of a group that has been singing together for years, but they have been at it as a quartet for less than a year.

Even **Linda Sherman**, Jim's wife and Ben's mom, is involved. She is co-director of the Roanoke Home School Chorus, of which Aaron Olinger is a member, and Ben Sherman a former member. She brought the barbershop singers to a home school chorus session, and Aaron liked harmonizing with them so much that he ditched his soccer plans in favor of singing.

"I was so enthralled by how good it sounded ... and then just how much fun it was singing your part, and if you messed up, you couldn't really blame it on someone else," he said. "I thought with barbershop, I'll get a lot more opportunities, get to sing in front of people, perform in shows, competitions. So I chose barbershop."

Kirk Olinger, 48, an IT project manager at Carilion Clinic who majored in voice at Shenandoah University, was going to be giving Aaron rides to auditions and shows, so wife Fay suggested that he join, too.

"It really wasn't my genre," the classically trained Kirk Olinger said. "It's completely different to me, as a person who grew up learning to sing what's written on the page and interpret what's written on the page."

"In barbershop, the melody as it's written on the page, we stick to that. But in terms of the rhythm and the notes and everything, that's really a suggestion, sometimes."

That statement brought a laugh from his cohorts.

"I still don't have the hang of that, so I lean on the people around me quite a bit when it comes to learning the songs," Kirk Olinger said.

For Jim Sherman, 67, scheduling used to be an issue, but the pediatric pulmonary physician's work situation had become more flexible by the time Ben expressed interest in joining the chorus. Since then, he has watched with interest as Ben, a criminal justice student at Virginia Western Community College, has grown as a singer.

In a recent competition, Ben Sherman and his colleagues in another outfit, the collegiate quartet Tight Chorders, won the mid-Atlantic district novice quartet championship. Their score, 70, was three points shy of winning them a trip to an international competition.

At the end of May, the fathers and sons participated in the Southern Division of the Mid-Atlantic District competition, at Hotel Roanoke. They placed eighth as a quartet, with a score of 60.

"Considering where we were six months ago, to have scored a 60 is astounding," Jim Sherman said.

Kirk Olinger added: "We weren't even together six months ago."

About the hobby, Jim Sherman says, "This is a great opportunity for fathers and sons to jointly learn, practice, and perform. I think it is a great recruiting tool. Dads will sometimes say, 'I love to sing but can't take the time away from my family.' This gives them the opportunity to sing AND spend quality time with family."

Ben Sherman, a tenor, said their big goal as a quartet is to learn gospel songs so they can perform in churches. But he got another gig out of last weekend's Hotel Roanoke activities.

During a postcontest performance of *Who Put The Bomp* (In the Bomp, Bomp, Bomp), his singing and stage presence impressed someone from Botetourt County-based Attic Productions.

He auditioned there and got the lead role in Attic's upcoming production of "Oklahoma," which began its run on July 24.

The younger Sherman has also performed at Carnegie Hall with the No Borders Youth Chorus.

The Virginia Gentlemen is hoping for more father/son teams but invites anyone who is interested in joining.

"There's just this incredible joy and pride in seeing your son do something really well and yet still being able to do it with him," Jim Sherman said.

Learn more at roanokebarbershopharmony.org



Congratulations to Achording to Dad baritone Adam and Stephanie Paulhamus on getting married June 21!



GIMME FOUR SAYS, "WAIT'LL NEXT YEAR!"

Gimme Four had an ABSOLUTE BLAST in Vegas. We were very proud to represent the Mid-Atlantic district at our very first international quartet contest. We are already preparing for district and we will certainly be heading to Pittsburgh.

David Ammirata

CHAPTER ETERNAL

We sorrow at the loss of Russell Lausch. Russ was a longtime active member and former president of the Lancaster Red Rose Chorus, and sang with the chorus just two weeks before his death.

Look What YOUR Fund Can Do



by Alan Wile,
VP Financial Development,
MAD Endowment Fund Chairman
& HFI Regional Representative

This year, the Mid-Atlantic District Endowment Fund provided nine scholarships to front line and assistant directors to Harmony College East (HCE)! Recipients enrolled in classes geared toward imparting and improving their conducting and related skills.

In addition, the Fund was prepared to offer a scholarship to a quartet to attend the district's annual Youth Harmony Festival held concurrently with HCE at Salisbury University. That's an investment in young singers/performers and chorus directors in excess of over \$2,600 ... and that's impressive.

So, how is the Fund doing? Well, at the beginning of 2013 the Fund total was slightly over \$118,000 and, by the end of the year, it had grown to over \$148,000 – an increase of over 25 percent! WOW! This results from intentional giving by a host of individuals, chapters, and quartets plus investment earnings. Big thanks to one/all!

Specifically, contributions were received over the course of the year in the form of individual donations, through selection of the "donor choice" option available from Harmony Foundation International (HFI) by members of the President's Council (PC) and Ambassadors of Song

(AOS), and from general gifts. In fact, during 2013 over 100 individuals added a total of nearly \$9,000 to the Fund by exercising the "donor choice" option when contributing to Harmony Foundation as an AOS and/or PC member.

Equally important is exercising the "donor choice" option in favor of your own chapter. For example, in the last half of 2013 about half of our chapter treasuries were enhanced by a total of over \$20,000 by thoughtful contributors. Amounts ranged from \$30 to over \$4,000. Checks were mailed out following this year's District Spring Convention.

Want to help send more young M-AD singers to camp and provide musical directors and those on the way up with additional educational opportunities or explore donation options? Give me a call (703-538-6526) or e-mail me (alan.wile@comcast.net). I can help with membership in one of the Society's major donation programs (PC or AOS) and accept direct donations to the Fund.



Here's a happy contributor ... why, it's Chuck Lower. How generous!

HCE Attendees are the Most Generous of All

M-AD Barbershoppers proved once again that they are generous to a fault, as they willingly (???) parted with their hard-earned cash to support the District's Youth in Harmony programs at Harmony College East. And the anxious participants, jockeying to be first in line, donated a terrific total of \$1,450!

Yes, these remarkable men and women responded to repeated calls at every meal on Friday and Saturday to purchase "opportunities." Some gave \$5, some gave \$10, and some gave \$20, or more. Some even asked that their ticket stubs be distributed among the singers in the Youth Harmony Camp.

The motivation for such generosity was not the possibility of taking home a collection of prize goodies (although winning an HCE scholarship and a collection of material goods certainly were inviting). No, it was because all the proceeds were targeted specifically to support the district's youth (and, hey, there's no better cause, right?).

Once again, your money-hungry, sweet –talking, diplomatic barker is grateful to each of you who willingly responded to subtle and sensitive invitations to open up your wallets, especially those who didn't wait to be asked but came to the table with money in hand. Your friendship, good humor, willingness to be cajoled, and your demonstrated commitment to further the future of barbershop harmony just go to prove that "Mid-Atlantic District Barbershoppers are THE GREATEST!"



*"Opportunities" on display
Note the welcoming smile...*

HARMONY FOUNDATION



In honor of the 75th Anniversary of the Society, Alan Wile has challenged Harmony Foundation with \$15,000 to enroll new President's Council members in the Mid-Atlantic District.

That's right; current Ambassadors of Song members who become President's Council members will have their support matched, dollar for dollar!

Here's how it works:

1. Join President's Council by increasing your level of support.
2. And, designate 30% of your new commitment to the Mid-Atlantic District.

To join, follow the link below or call Sean Devine at (714) 271-4506; it's that simple!

We sincerely thank Alan for his generosity and leadership and invite you to take part in the *The Wile Challenge*.



DOUBLE DOWN

Two ways to make your anniversary year donation to the future of barbershop harmony *count twice*.

Already an Ambassador of Song? Check out how moving up to the President's Council and designating 30% of your donation for the Mid-Atlantic District will result in twice as much money coming right back to help with District programs.

New to the Harmony Foundation? Alan Wile will match your first-time donation to *either* AoS or the President's Council when you designate 30% to the District.



In honor of the 75th Anniversary of the Society, Alan Wile has challenged Harmony Foundation and the Mid-Atlantic District with \$15,000 to raise \$15,000 in new dollars to one of Harmony Foundation's annual giving programs.

That's right; members of the Mid-Atlantic District can have their donation matched, dollar for dollar!

Here's how it works:

1. Join one of Harmony Foundation's celebrated groups of individuals and become an Ambassador of Song or President's Council member.
2. Designate 30% in Donor's Choice to the Mid-Atlantic District.

To double the impact of your support, follow the link below or call Sean Devine at (714) 271-4506; it's that simple!

We sincerely thank Alan for his generosity and leadership and invite you to take part in the *The Wile Challenge*.



WHAT'S YOUR REHEARSAL LIKE?

Are you a member of a vibrant and great-singing chorus?

I'm not talking about whether your last contest score was stellar but whether your rehearsals are fun and musically fulfilling – the kind of evening that great choruses stage every week.

I raise the issue because too many of us don't even know if our rehearsals are effective. We attend and, often, do the same old things without thinking much about the details. Sure, we may not be excessively



by Roger Tarpy, VP Music & Performance

negative (or else we'd probably vote with our feet and not come back) but we don't always understand, consciously at least, the conditions which, if improved, could make a rehearsal even better.

My purpose here is to take a look at this issue. These activities, concerns, or proscriptions are ideas that any one of us, and certainly every director, might focus on during a rehearsal. Perhaps recognizing features that characterize a great rehearsal will be a first step on the long road toward building a better chorus. My list is, of course, incomplete but it's a good enough start.

Riser talk How is this handled? With recriminations and loud "shusses"? In a humorless fashion with lots of old-fashioned discipline? By the way, people pay attention to a director who is engaging – he/she keeps our attention by virtue of his/her rehearsal skill – not one who simply demands obedience.

Pace Does the rehearsal drag or are you constantly engaged and energized? Go ahead: Hammer away at some poorly-tuned chord or unsuccessful key change if you love tedium. But if you don't, keep the pace fresh. Tell your director (nicely) to stop talking. You're there to sing, not to get talked at.

Clarity of instruction This is similar to the pacing issue. It makes no sense to keep singing if you don't know what you're trying to improve or how to improve it.

Demands on the singer Do your rehearsals involve a musical challenge? Are you given an assignment for the following week that is short, clear, and doable? Or does your director just admonish you to "practice"? If you are given an assignment, do you take it seriously and actually work on it? Let's face it: Choruses can't become great if folks work at our craft only during their weekly 3-hour rehearsal.

Praise Are your rehearsals conspicuously positive? Does your director appreciate your efforts and recognize your improvements? Do you congratulate him/her for having conducted a great rehearsal and for sharing his/her talent and musical insight?

Balance Do you spend all or most of your time working on one thing – choreo, old repertory, contest numbers, new songs – or is there balance in the program? Variety is needed to maintain interest and commitment. And don't forget that "fun stuff" – quartetting, tag singing, and the like – is part of this balance.

Attributions of blame Does your director implicitly blame the chorus when the sync is bad, when you sing flat, or when your dynamic changes aren't sufficiently dramatic? If so, assure him/her that all of the members are singing poorly on purpose, that the

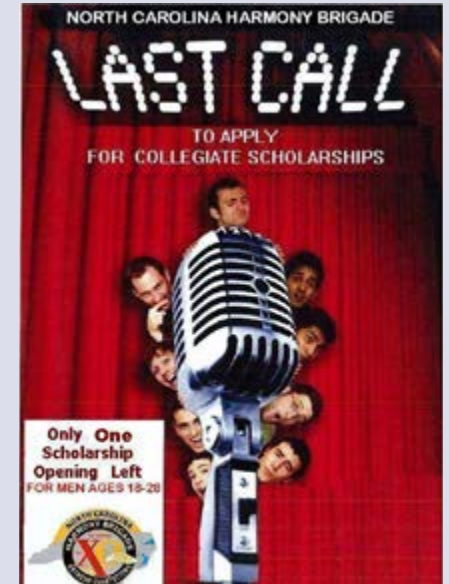
Are your rehearsals conspicuously positive? Does your director appreciate your efforts and recognize your improvements? Do you congratulate him/her for having conducted a great rehearsal and for sharing his/her talent and musical insight?

clarity of his/her hand signals has nothing whatsoever to do with those problems, and that feeling lousy at the end of the evening is a good thing to shoot for.

Goals Do you know what the rehearsal is supposed to accomplish? Working on a contest set? Getting ready for a show? If you don't have a clear sense of this, then you probably won't make a lot of progress.

Contribution by others Surely there are men of talent in your group. Do they contribute during rehearsals? A great chorus draws on the talent of all its members, not just a few. Incidentally, great directors are secure enough in their skill and authority that they're not intimidated by these contributions.

Communication Is there good communication during your rehearsals, the kind that's based on respect and openness? Yes, choruses must have a strong and singular leader – good communication doesn't mean that everyone has the option of jumping in with his opinion at the drop of a hat – but singers shouldn't be left in the dark about what they're trying to accomplish. Incidentally, if you think your idea (about topic x, y, or z) is better than the director's, try emailing it to him/her during the following week rather than blurting it out at the rehearsal.



ONLY ONE BRIGADE SCHOLARSHIP LEFT!

And one "stand-by". This is the LAST CALL

For men 18-28 to participate in a glorious weekend of seriously fun & non-stop, Extreme Quartet Singing

-You don't have to be in a quartet or be a member of BHS

-You don't have to come from North Carolina or Dixie District

-You'll sing in dozens of quartet combinations all weekend.

-It's a retreat weekend of intensive non-stop quartet singing

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-It includes double room hotel accommodations, meals and more.

You only have to have a solid history of active, legitimate applied vocal music training and/or auditioned performance experience and a reliable, tenacious work ethic.

For info or an application, simply write to:

NCHB.Scholarships@gmail.com

Vocal Warm-ups: A Critical Way to Start Your Rehearsal

I always stress vocal consistency to my chorus members. The way to excel at singing is to sing the same correct way every time you open your mouth, whether singing in the shower, singing along with the radio, practicing your chorus music at home, or singing at rehearsal or on a show. Easier said than done, of course, but a good habit to strive toward.

The reality for you, the chorus director, is that your singers will often **NOT** sing the same correct way each time, so you will spend a large part of your rehearsal refining their technique and working toward consistency. This is why the vocal warm-up at the beginning of rehearsal is so critical to your long-term success. You want to start working toward vocal consistency from the very start of rehearsal. This way you stand a much better chance of “staying in the zone” the whole time.

My article focuses on three vocal warm-up exercises that I love to use with my two choruses and all of the choruses that I coach. These warm-up exercises focus on some of the most important building-block skills that singers need in order to improve their ability to sing, listen, and blend well together.

Expanding air on a hiss – In this exercise, all singers should take a full breath and then “hiss” it out on an “sss” sound as a group. Get the group to hiss out all of their air in 8 counts, then 12, then 16. The key to this drill is the quality of the hiss. Many singers will hiss out a very small amount of air at a time in order to conserve their air, and it will sound timid and weak. Rather, they should learn to hiss out the air with what I call “high psi”, which will sound like a roaring wind when the chorus does this together.

Why? Because most singers can understand the importance of taking in a lot of air in order to sing. What they do not easily do without practice is put more air into the sound. The chorus needs to learn to sing with a LOT of warm air in the singing; this allows a chorus to create a very “full” sound, irrespective of the number of singers or the dynamic level they are singing.

Unison scale up and down by the numbers – In this exercise, the chorus sings an ascending scale in

unison, counting 1 to 8, followed without a breath by a descending scale, counting from 8 to 1. For variety, I often have the chorus sing the word “and” (which sounds like “n”) in between each number. [Example: 1 ‘n 2 ‘n 3 ‘n 4 ‘n 5, etc]

This exercise is a great one for making fine distinctions in pitch and in getting the chorus to sing as one voice. After each repetition, go up or down a half-step and repeat; this adds the ability for the singers to increase their vocal range. They will learn how to sing the higher notes (lighter and taller) and how to sing the lower notes (a bit fuller and more resonant) as an ensemble.

Singing the scales by the numbers exposes common pitch problems, such as singing pitches 2 and 6 (re and la, respectively) habitually flat while ascending in pitch, and singing under pitch while descending (jumping too far on the way down). Unison singing is also THE best way to work toward balance, blend, sectional unity, chorus unity, and precision. All of your singers will greatly increase their ability to listen when doing unison drills.

Unison singing a song everyone knows – Take a song such as “My Bonnie lies over the ocean”---one that everyone in the chorus knows---and sing it together in unison. This will enhance all of the skills learned in singing unison scales (balance, blend, sectional/chorus unity, etc). It will also add the important quality of teaching the chorus to sing with the same resonance up and down their vocal range.

Additionally, since this is a “real” song and not “just a drill”, you can add interpretation and expression, facial and body involvement, and perhaps even small amounts of choreography that are appropriate to the song. Your focus should be on the singing, but this helps bridge the warm-up session into real-time application of skills and technique into your chorus repertoire.

These are three exercises I find particularly useful; there are many, many more to consider. Please keep a few things in mind with regard to your warm-ups. First, note that all of the singing involved in my examples above is unison singing. This is because unison singing is the best way to demonstrate all the great things your singers

The way to excel at singing is to sing the same correct way every time you open your mouth

are doing, and to expose the things that they should individually and collectively be doing differently.

It is important for you to remember, however, that barbershoppers **LOVE** to ring chords, and therefore, they will never enjoy unison singing as much as singing harmony. So it is probably in your best interest to be judicious in how much emphasis you place on unison singing throughout your rehearsal as a whole.

Second, you should have warm-up drills in your musical tool box that cultivate specific skills that you want the chorus to repeat throughout a given rehearsal. For example, if you plan to spend some time in tonight’s rehearsal on a chart in which the leads jump back and forth between their low and high ranges, then come up with an exercise that allows them to practice that skill while warming up.

Later in the rehearsal when you get to that song, you can remind the leads that “this is the same thing we were doing in warm-ups; you should be pros at this by now!” Practice in warm-ups the things that directly correlate to what you will sing during the rehearsal.

Finally, do not forget the importance of the physical warm-up. Vocal warm-ups are critical in focusing the group and getting them to be on the same page vocally, but physical warm-ups bring in other skills that help the chorus enhance their ability to perform their songs. Physical warm-ups are a subject for another article....

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



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



by **Ig Jakovac**,
Executive Vice President

May the Force Be With You

from the following data, we are not yet delivering the positive membership growth we need to survive as an organization.

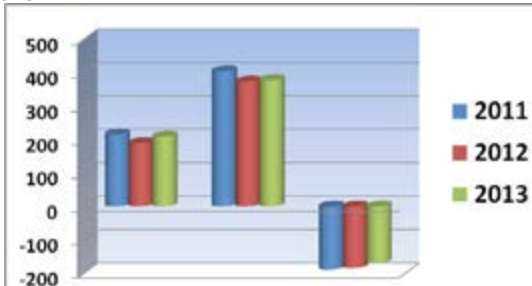
Coming out of the 2013 Society Leadership Forum, our district endorsed the objectives of helping chapters through recruiting, communication, coaching, shared activities, and more barbershop arrangements of contemporary music. In fact, the M-AD Board passed the following motion to help guide our efforts:

“The Mid-Atlantic District Board of Directors commits to concentrate our 2014 policies, operations, and resources towards successful achievement of the goals established Society-wide as the outcome of the 2013 Society Leadership Forum.”

The first item on the list, “recruiting” is linked closely to membership. We know that we have more people leaving our organization than we have coming in but the “why” and “what to do about that” is far from clear. The extent to which the chapters in the district are successful at recruiting new members has a direct impact on our ability to accomplish all other objectives. So we decided to focus first on what, exactly, we can do to stem the tide of membership losses and fuel new growth within our District, our chapters, and the Society at large.

We have put together a special team called the Focus Force to examine our district’s current situation, develop specific recommendations for action to turn things around, and then to define and manage the projects that will drive us through implementation to success. As you can see

RECENT M-AD MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS



	New	Non-Renewing	Net
2011	216	405	-189
2012	190	374	-184
2013	210	379	-169

Data from Nashville shows that 389 M-AD members from 86 chapters have not renewed their membership from January 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014. Below is a breakdown by Division:

M-AD Membership Losses January – April 2014

Atlantic Division	63
Northern Division	116
Southern Division	131
Western Division	47
Frank Thorne	32
TOTAL	389

The Focus Force team will be led by the EVP and will be composed of the following District members:



Rob France Steve Skolnick Christian Hunter



Braden Lynk Brian Lindvall

Each team member will be reaching out to many folks across our district to leverage their expertise and time as we move ahead. As a first step we are gathering information from a dozen chapters that did see positive growth to find out what they did and how they did it. We’ve also reached out to other districts for input to see what has worked for them.

In parallel members of the Focus Force and other district leaders will be contacting all the men who did not renew their membership between January and May of this year. We will:

- Determine why those men did not renew.
- Determine if and how we can “change any minds”.
- Use the information gleaned to help improve retention of our current membership.

All of this information and recommendations for action will be shared with everyone in the district in a future edition of Mid’l Antics. Stay tuned!



Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association / Pioneers (BQPA)

Not your typical barbershop convention

Come with a quartet or by yourself, and join us for our

Fall Festival.

The focus is always on **YOU** and our hobby – our passion.

A Friday evening pickup quartet contest and a Saturday night quartet parade highlight the weekend of camaraderie and song.

This is a four-day, do-it yourself quartetting festival.

No assigned music

No pre-requisites

We sing all the old songs you already know and love, in quartets that form, melt away and reform.

The emphasis is always on the fun of barbershop quartet singing.

Can’t join us in Sept? Make plans now to join us April 8-11, 2015, for our Spring Festival in Tempe, AZ.

Details at WWW.BQPA.COM/events

BQPA is a co-ed organization of folks who just wanna come together to sing in quartets without any imposed structure.



Sept 3,4,5,6, 2014

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Please call or e-mail the hotel direct when making your reservations, and be sure to tell them that you are with the BQPA/Pioneers in order to get the group rate.

Questions? WWW.BQPA.COM

Dear Editor,

As the Assistant Director of the **Bucks County Chapter** I was (and still am) thrilled to receive a full-ride scholarship to the 2014 Harmony College, East Director's College! I have learned so much during my three and one-half years as a barbershopper and fledgling director under **Chuck Lower** (Director) and **Stephanie Britson** (Associate), but it always feels like I grow leaps and bounds at HCE-DC!

A heartfelt thank you to **Alan Wile**, who chairs the M-AD Endowment Fund, and of course, **Glenn Phillips**, District V.P. for Director Development! I was reminded of so many basics this past weekend, gained some new tools for my 'tool belt' and of course, had some confidence building. It was great to get together with other Directors and Barbershoppers, as well! Great job HCE2014 Faculty and Staff!

Chas Byram

Dear Editor:

The Crooning Jonahs did an assembly for my school today. The audience included children in grades pre-K to eighth. It's so great that you have a youth quartet



reaching out to children in schools. Barbershop is something children might see in movies and TV shows, but rarely have the chance to see and hear one live.

After the assembly today students keep coming to me asking if the quartet will be back again. Several students got their autographs. I'm sure I will be hearing the kids and teachers talk about the quartet all week.

The Crooning Jonahs not only sang for our school,

but they also taught them about the voice parts and how they work together to make barbershop harmony.

They demonstrated the art of tag singing and even called a first grader up to sing a tag with them. Two of my students learned parts (baritone and tenor) to *Down Our Way*, and they had the opportunity to sing with the quartet for the audience.

The Crooning Jonahs really communicated well with the kids. They took questions from the kids and actually walked up into the bleachers with the microphone so the whole audience could hear the question.

They not only made a huge impression during the assembly, but also afterwards by going to a class and singing *Happy Birthday* to a student in sixth grade. Some of the girls in her class said they were ready to cry when they did that.

I told them about the Valentine's Day tradition of people hiring quartets to sing *Let Me Call You Sweet-*

heart.

They did more tag singing with an advanced seventh grade student of mine after the assembly and made a great impression on him. It was also fun for me getting to sing a pole cat with them and chatting about choruses and quartets.

It's great that you have a young quartet reaching out to schools. This can set the seed for future generations of barbershoppers.

Sincerely,

John Wernega, music teacher
Quinton Township School
Quinton, N.J.

EDITOR'S NOTE: According to *The Cherry Hill Pine Barons President Jim Scollay*, *The Crooning Jonahs* are a collegiate quartet associated with *The Cherry Hill Pine Barons* and made up mostly of alumni from the local high school.

Dear Gary and Bill,

On behalf of the entire **Bella Nova** chorus, I'd like to thank you so very much for the warm hospitality you extended during this weekend's Southern Divisional. I know we threw a couple of wrenches in your works for scheduling around Richard's other obligations and we couldn't possibly feel more supported than we do thanks to your efforts.

Our experience with the MAD family was amazing. This weekend, about 70% of our chorus had never participated in a barbershop event before, so the experience wasn't just about the scores and the evals... it was also about exposing them to the laughter and friendships they would have experienced if we had been closer to a Harmony, Inc. area. You are all unbelievably gracious to let us partake in the party!

Many thanks to the entire District leadership, the judging panel, the hosts of this weekend, and most importantly, to you, Gary, for your flexibility and patience. We are beyond grateful and we'd be happy to repay the favor if ever the opportunity presents itself.

Hugs to you both!

Christina

Christina Lewellen
President, Bella Nova Chorus, HI
www.BellaNovaChorus.com

Thank You!

Dear Chris,

Gary's laudable initiative to work closely with Bella Nova's leadership and help to bring you to our stage this past weekend as "mic coolers" at the conclusion of our terrific Mid-Atlantic District Southern Division Chorus Contest was a great gift to us ALL! Not only was your chorus's performance first-rate, but the enthusiasm and encouragement your members and their guests showed as supporters to all our quartet competitors and participants in our evening Show of Champions was a great addition to everyone's overall experience. Our pride in being able to offer you the opportunity to perform for us was really exceeded by the joy we felt having you all with us to experience our "district family atmosphere!"

As I mentioned from the podium, we in MAD are fortunate to have had the foresight to open our gates of inclusion to our sisters in harmony for a substantial period of time. Our Harmony College-East Youth Camp has, for YEARS now, been open to girls and young women to benefit from a terrific educational experience. We have opened partici-

pation in our educational events to include SAI, HI and mixed-gender quartets as well as individual women seeking to learn and experience more about barbershop skills. Our HCE faculty has also included top female instructors and coaches, most recently featuring HI's 1996 Harmony Queens For Heaven's Sake, as a teaching quartet. We are proud that our district has the highest percentage of female chorus directors among all districts in the Society, all of whom are registered Associates with our organization. All this background is to underscore our very real commitment to encouragement of EVERYONE to enjoy and participate fully in our great activities and art form! Thus, it was a "natural" to include your fine chorus in our activities.

By the way, in addition to the benefits YOU accrued from participation, WE were really the beneficiaries, too, from a very practical standpoint, as having a "mic cooler" of such high quality immediately following the official conclusion of the contest gives our judging panel an opportunity to carefully collect and review results AND gives our great audience a wonderful "treat" to help shorten

the "wait time" for results! Win-win, on many levels!

Finally, I want to convey how overwhelmed I was by the individual thanks I received from your members during the weekend. It was almost embarrassing inasmuch as I, personally and as District President, had only given my (and our Board's) solid endorsement of Gary's initiative; he along with our fine Events Team (under Walter Griffith, also copied!) did the real "heavy lifting" to make it all possible and to have everything work out so smoothly! But it was the fact that so many women took the time and effort to seek me out and thank me and our District for our hospitality that really moved me. It was just another testament to the "class" of your Bella Nova organization, to say the least.

On behalf of our Board, Chris, please accept our thanks, our congratulations, and our friendship as you proceed on your exciting journey in HI. We wish you continued success, growth and satisfaction in all you do.

Sincerely,

Bill Colosimo

Bringing the Dream to Life

(You don't have to be big to make a difference!)

DISPATCHES FROM INTERNATIONAL

by Dick Powell,
MAD IPP,
BHS Board Member-at-large



On Saturday night at the International Convention in Las Vegas, as the crowd stood and cheered and cheered with genuine delight, **Matt Gifford**, bass of our newest champions, the **Musical Island Boys** spoke from the heart and for all of us when he said, "In a world that has so much turbulence and so much trouble right now, if everyone just sang the world would be a beautiful place, right?"

Just a few hours earlier on the very same stage, BHS CEO **Marty Monson** said, "SING a LOT more! Nothing matters unless we are having FUN singing. "It's the Music" is a theme that will continue through the rest of the year and beyond. Be inspired to learn more music, not just as a chorus/chapter member, but also in a quartet or a small ensemble."

And earlier in the week members of the Society Board of Directors visited every chorus appearing to deliver a simple request: "When you get home, reach out to other chapters and other musical organizations in your community. Collaborate with them and form alliances to promote singing in your communities and make time in every one of your performances to reach out and embrace everyone who wants to sing."

Two weeks later, I opened my in-basket to find the **Abington-Levittown** chapter weekly bulletin, "The Squires Wire." As I read through the bulletin I found myself getting more and more excited. In just nine days (in the summer doldrums, no less) they managed FIVE chorus activities which covered education (director training), performing for the public in two different retirement homes, holding a chapter family picnic, and hosting an inter-chapter get-together. I think this is a remarkable level of activity for a small chapter. Heck, it's a remarkable level of activity for any chapter! Here are some of the highlights:

On July 12th the Squires hosted a Chorus Director Workshop Intensive (CDWI). **Terry Reynolds** (M-AD) and **Jerry Schmidt** (Seneca Land) led five directors and directors-in-training (including the director and assistant directors of the Squires) through their paces in the morning. In the afternoon session, the Squires of Song was on hand and each director had time to put

his or her new techniques to the test.

Two days later on July 14th the Squires entertained at the Attleboro Retirement Village. Fifteen singers presented the chorus "long program" that included a sing-along to an attentive and appreciative audience of Attleboro residents, staff, and family members.

The very next day the Squires hosted an inter-chapter get together with **The Country Gentlemen** and **The Sounds of Liberty** choruses for an evening of singing and camaraderie. After a warm-up, sing-along and tag singing each chorus sang a 3-song set, followed by a cavalcade of quartets. The evening concluded with the 50+ member combined chorus singing a rousing rendition of "Keep the Whole World Singing."

Saturday, July 19th found twenty-five chapter members and their families enjoying themselves at the **Chapter Family Picnic**. The order of the day was singing (LOTS OF SINGING), swimming, shared conversation and partaking of the abundant and tasty variety of snacks, covered dishes, burgers, hot dogs and desserts. Horse shoes, anyone?

Two days later, on July 21, the Squires entertained at the **Delaware Valley Veterans Home** in NE Philadelphia. Eleven singers, wearing service caps, and two chapter quartets entertained the audience of honorably discharged veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States and the Pennsylvania Military Forces.

And what did they do on Tuesday? Why they gathered for their weekly chapter meeting and chorus rehearsal! What else would a barbershopper do?

My hat is off to this chapter. They get it. They really get it. And quietly and without fanfare they are living the dream every day and breathing life into our vision of a world united in harmony with everything they do, and every song they sing. Well done Squires!



The Squires sang at both a retirement village and a veterans' home.



Sun and song — perfect conditions for a chapter picnic.



Now, what are you and your chapter doing to bring the dream alive?

The Country Gentlemen and The Sounds of Liberty join the BucksMont Squires of Song for an evening of barbershop fun. Photos by E. Fox

Harmonizers honor U.S. pilot hero on D-Day trip to Normandy

When the **Alexandria Harmonizers** arrived in France to help mark the 70th anniversary of D-Day, the musical act brought a group of World War II veterans with them, in a manner of speaking.

Along with their luggage and equipment, the Harmonizers had with them a photograph taken on Armed Forces Day. In it, members of the singing group posed with 26 members of the greatest generation.

The veterans had no idea how far that image would travel.

"We're taking that with us to the beaches of Normandy, so they can be part of the experience, even though they can't make the trip themselves," said **Terry Reynolds**, president of the Alexandria Harmonizers.

The group is one of a few musical acts to represent the United States in the massive undertaking to commemorate the anniversary. Organizers said the tribute drew more than 1.2 million people, including many veterans of what is known as "The Longest Day."

The Harmonizers' musical director **Joe Cerutti** called the opportunity an honor, but knowing it likely will be the last milestone anniversary many living D-Day veterans can attend made it that much more important to the musical group.

"While it was extremely emotional for us to share the stage with all of the veterans in attendance, we were equally motivated to perform in honor of all of the living veterans who could not make the journey, and those who lost their lives during those historic events," Cerutti said.

June 6, 1944 saw Allied forces make their first push into Nazi-occupied Europe. Thousands of soldiers waded ashore along the Normandy coast, joining those who already had parachuted into France in what Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower called "a great crusade." The list of Allied casualties would rise to 9,000 before the beaches were secured.

The Harmonizers were chosen to participate after receiving a recommendation from the mayor of Sainte-Mere-Eglise — the first town liberated by the Allies.

Over the course of five days, the chorale performed at the Brittany American Cemetery in Normandy, marched in the D-Day parade in Sainte-Mere-Eglise and sang at France's Normandy American Cemetery at Omaha Beach.

When the Harmonizers arrived at Sainte-Mere-Eglise, they saw the famous parachute hanging from the church steeple and quickly were immersed into a huge celebratory crowd of folks from around the world. Many in old uniforms. Many driving USA military vehicles they had restored. The Harmonizers performed 20 songs, including a medley of patriotic music, military songs and popular music from the

1940s.

The group's members paid their own way to Normandy, with 100 singers traveling overseas for the event. They were joined by what Reynolds calls his "special forces," guest singers who have agreed to bolster the Harmonizers' ranks.

Alan Lamson, the former president of the Barbershop Harmony Society, is one of those people. He traveled from New England a few times a month to rehearse with the Harmonizers in the lead up to the anniversary.

Reynolds said this series of performances was a one-of-a-kind opportunity.

"This one was very different just because of the purpose and honor, the ability to take part in honoring our veterans and the greatest generation," Reynolds said. "We feel it's a tremendous honor representing our hometown and the United States and the Barbershop Harmony Society."

Along with the performances in Normandy, the group put on two concerts in Paris and held a final show in Cologne, Germany, alongside a barbershop chorus from that country.

But the highlight of the trip was a visit to Les Ventes to honor American pilot **Billie D. Harris** and meet his widow **Peggy Harris**. The village was saved when Billie diverted his damaged plane at the cost of his own life. Peggy was there to greet and thank the Harmonizers.

Harmonizer **Jack Pitzer** relates: "As we pulled into the village, there was the memorial to Billie and other Veterans on the end of a small green lined with trees leading to a town hall. Little kids were



Over 200 Harmonizers and families along with many of the residents of the small Normandy farming village of Les Ventes assembled in front of the town hall to honor Lt. Billy Harris, an American pilot who crash landed outside the town in 1944. Lt. Harris' widow, Peggy was among those present. Follow this link www.dailykos.com/story/2012/06/06/1098049/-Les-Ventes-France-They-don-t-forget-WWII-Pilot for the story of this remarkable woman and her extraordinary bond with this French town.

Dear all of you
 Yesterday we had a magical moment of
 pure happiness.
 Your generosity, your kindness will
 stay in our hearts and in our memories
 for ever.
 All of the citizens of Les Ventes are
 very sad today. We regret your departure,
 we would have kept you longer and would
 have liked to share a drink with you
 Thank you for having made this event
 possible
 It was such a marvelous day
 You are always welcome and hope to
 see you again
 I did have not time to say good bye to
 the two men who spoke French -
 I regret that. Can you tell them for
 me?
 And express my gratitude to all the
 generous members of the Group
 I'm so proud to have crossed your
 path
 With all my friendship
 Christine Guerard
 former mayor of Les Ventes

there to meet us and ran along the four huge buses waving and cheering and welcoming us. We were met by town officials and soon met Peggy.

"The towns folks had a chair for her in front of us and we began. We sang in front of the town hall and faced the green and the crowd. There was an exchange of gifts between the chorus and the towns folks. And CDs and chorus pictures for Peggy and the mayor.

"The singing experience was awesome! **Chris Huber**, who was instrumental in making this visit happen, told the story and **Peter Hubbard**

translated. When **Tony Colosimo** sang the solo in Bring Him Home to Peggy, it was a major emotional highlight. We had to take a few minutes to get our composure!"

from an account by Katie Callahan
 Alexandria Times Staff Writer
 9 June 2014 Alexandria Times
 and 13 June 2014 Looking Back
 by Jack Pitzer



Middle school quartets experience seventh heaven

Bucks County's 3rd annual YIH Festival builds interest in barbershopping



Bucks County Chapter presented its Third Annual Youth In Harmony Festival at the Lenape Middle School in Doylestown, Pa. May 7. This year the adjudication process covered six middle school quartets from the Central Bucks School District.

evening. Chapter President **Chas. Byram** introduced BHS Board Member **Doug Brown** as the emcee of the evening.

Mr. Brown laid out the order of the evening and invited Bucks County Chapter Quartet **Cross Keys Connection** to start of the music as 'mic testers.' They were followed by six student quartets. The very talented **Tritones**, then made a surprise performance!

Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions and International Competitors **Frank the Dog** were very well received. Regional supporters of the Society's Youth In Harmony program, their set of four songs covered the time for the contest administrator and judges to make final notes and score tabulations. They are still wondering how many times the word "red" appeared in that one song...

The Bucks County Chapter (known locally as The Country Gentlemen Barbershop Chorus) are pleased to present the following quartets:

Honorable Mention:

Artistic Harmony (Lenape): Christian Roberts, Evan Byrne, Nick Ferrara, Connor Hopkins

Jugajum (Tamanend): Miguel Vazquez, Justin Koren, Gennaro Pannone, Jon Smedley

Quadraphonic (Tamanend): Ryan O'Donnell, Gio Pannone, Seth Wohl, Ben Cerauli

The Third Place, **Bronze Medalist** quartet, from Lenape Middle School is:

3'n'1: Karl Gray, Carl Krause, Findlay Campbell, Josh Knecht

The Second Place, **Silver Medalist** quartet, from Tamanend Middle School is:

The Trio... and David: Vahan Kazandjian, Avery Knappenberger, David Brownell, Frank Masciotro

And the First Place, **Gold Medalist** quartet, from Unami Middle School is:

The U-Tones: Mitchell Tafel, Kyle Farrel, Anthony Scarpone-Lambert, Stephen Burdsall

All participants received coaching and instruction leading up to the event which earned them a coveted certificate of participation and free milk shake from Chik-fil-A in Warrington.

The winning quartet has earned a full sponsorship to attend the Mid-Atlantic District's Youth Camp at Harmony College East. The Youth Camp, now in its eighth year, draws in students and educators from the New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia areas

for top-notch instruction in vocal production and ensemble singing tailored especially for a capella singing.

The vision of Bucks County chapter is to continue to expand community awareness of the joys of good, clean, fun, barbershop quartet singing. The chapter is accepting tax-deductible donations as part of a matching grant challenge to be able to send up to four more middle-school quartets. Atlantic Harmony Brigade is supplying the matching funds as they share in the vision.

Access more information at their website at: www.buckscountybarbershop.com; www.atlanticharmonybrigade.com; www.midatlanticdistrict.com/?Code-HCE

Please visit (and like) www.facebook.com/TheBucksCountyCountryGentlemen for pictures and future updates of this event.

— by **Chas Byram**

Mr. Byram is the current President and Assistant Director. He wants all middle or high schools in the greater Central Bucks area (private or public) to be sure to reach out if interested in participating in the 4th Annual Festival in 2015 by Fall 2014: chas.byram@buckscountybarbershop.com

Open mic nite great venue for recruiting!

In order to share the barbershop bug with the area, and hopefully attract some new members, the Bucks County Chapter has been sending quartets to the area open mic nights.

Chas. Byram says, "I had the privilege of participating in one of these quartets and the response was overwhelming!"

He continues, "We had called ahead and found there was a period of time before it begins to sign up. When we reached the sign up table, the man realized we were not just a quartet, but a BARBERSHOP quartet and became very excited. He insisted the three songs we planned on performing were not enough and wrote us in for four (fine by us!)"

The house band played a few songs and the quartet was invited to the stage. The pitch pipe blew, they started The Chordbuster March and the room fell silent!

The bar stopped serving, the patrons gathered closer and were silent (some 40 people in the room), and by the end of the song the kitchen staff had filed out to hear!

Three songs later (with grand applause after each song), when the quartet started to leave the stage, the emcee and house band insisted they do 'one more' and of course, the audience asked if they knew Lida Rose (which has happened every time thus far). The quartet obliged, closing the evening with this favorite number from Meredith Willson's "Music Man."



Even the kitchen staff turns out to hear Dave Ives (Tenor), Chas. Byram (Lead), Fred Nobbs (Bass), Eric Fleischer (Bari-tone) belt out the Chordbuster's March.



FROM TOP:
1ST Place, The U-Tones
2ND Place, The Trio...and David
3RD Place, 3'n'1

The Secrets of Our Success

How the Harmony Heritage Singers continue to be one of the most successful daytime choruses in the Barbershop Harmony Society



By Bob Wachter, Director, Harmony Heritage Singers

Officially chartered as the Mount Vernon Chapter in 1996, the Harmony Heritage Singers has been in continuous operation for 18 years. Singing 25-30 performances per year, HHS has consistently maintained a roster of around 85 members and roughly 65 active singers with up to 50 appearing at two monthly rehearsal sessions throughout the year.

Half of their members have never sung barbershop before and many of the rest maintain dual memberships with local chapters that meet at night. HHS goes to great lengths to ensure their activities never conflict with those of other chapters in the area. The average age of the men in the chapter is 75. During the year, men are absent for varying periods of time, either travelling to Florida, visiting family, etc..

Most of their public performances are paid, but some are not. Two notable unpaid community service performances are on Veterans Day at Mount Vernon, and when HHS members gather to greet "Honor Flights" at Reagan National Airport. (Honor Flights are scheduled to bring WW II Vets to see their own WW II

Memorial for the first time.) These occasions are especially rewarding to HHS because their members have over 500 years of active Military Service.

Recently the editor asked one of the founding members and long time director Bob Wachter to share some details on how HHS operates and here is what he told us.

HHS rehearses at a local Library twice a month and has two public performances per month, most of which are paid.

HHS musical selections are in the barbershop style with a variety of songs appropriate for entertaining old and young alike.

The degree of difficulty of songs is matched with the chorus level of competence. Music is sometimes mildly challenging but HHS is attentive to repertoire content so that their 17 song regular repertoire can be maintained. They also use Barber Polecat songs, and have a list of 9 Christmas songs that are resurrected for that season.

HHS has two registered quartets that are featured on each performance. If either or both quartets are not available, they use substitutes to form pick-up groups. They never do a show without

quartets participating.

HHS has a "no guilt" attendance policy reflecting confidence that their singers want to be a part of rehearsals and performances, but that family and other personal obligations come first. If a man fails to attend for several events, he will get a call to ask if he is OK. The call is simply concern for his well-being and is accepted in that spirit.

HHS recently introduced a "home-based" learning program to speed the process of learning new music. Members receive learning tracks and sheet music to work on at home and arrive at chapter meetings prepared to refine and polish the music and the performance plan.

HHS music and fellowship have proven very compelling for guests, and one visit to a rehearsal is usually enough them to return and become members.

Bob added that, "If anyone can use our approach to advantage, that would be great. Just remember that building any organization takes time, patience, and good inter-personal skills. If I can answer questions that come to mind about Chorus Operational Guidelines, feel free to email me at bbswach@aol.com."



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Tickets
\$20.00
(see discounts on web)

Go to AHB Website



Lansdale's Annual Picnic Attracts 14 Local Chapters

By Ig Jakovac

It all began in 1985 when the North Pennsmen Barbershop Chorus of Lansdale, Pa., qualified to sing at the District Competition for the very first time. To celebrate, the North Pennsmen chapter invited three other chapters to help us celebrate and we still celebrate by having a songfest where we invite all local chapters to attend! This is the 29th consecutive time that we have qualified to sing at the District Convention and 14 local chapters came by to share in the fun and camaraderie. They included 11 men's choruses (Lansdale, Reading, Pottstown, Hamilton Square, Abington-Levittown, Bryn Mawr, Philadelphia, Allentown-Bethlehem, Princeton and Cherry Hill) along with three female choruses Ringing Hills (SAI), Valley Forge (SAI) and Liberty Belles (HI). Each of the 14 chapters who attended this year along with 26 quartets performed one song each with the exception of the 2 International Qualifiers (Brothers in Harmony and Frank the Dog) who each sang two songs. Plus, throughout the evening, we heard hundreds of tags from all corners of the grove and lots of socializing with new and old friends - what an awesome night!!! There were a total of 395 attendees who did a great job in helping us "get rid of" about 4 1/2 Barrels of beer, 4 1/2 Barrels of Birch Beer, 1,200 Hatfield Hot Dogs, with 1,200 rolls, 50 pounds of Chili, 5.0 gallons of Sour Kraut, 15 pounds of onions, 18 pounds of pretzels, 30 pounds of potato chips, 5 cases of water, 4 bottles of ketchup, 4 bottles of mustard.



Frank the Dog



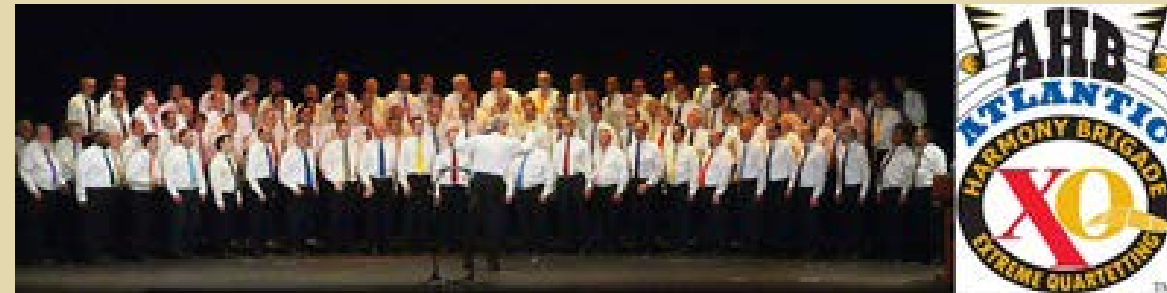
Brothers in Harmony



Day . . .



. . . into night



For the finale, all 120 quartetters come together to form a high-octane quartet chorus. Live in the 7th!

Get ready for eXtreme quartetting!

If it is mid-August, it must be time for the Atlantic Harmony Brigade Rally (AHB) and Summer Show. This year it will be held during the weekend of 22-24 August, in Claymont, Delaware. That means great quartetting for the guys who will be participating, and great opportunities for everyone else to attend a truly memorable and outstanding barbershop show. This is the 9th anniversary of the AHB and once again, the 120 or so individuals who have been studying twelve challenging songs since mid-March will get a full weekend of singing in as many combinations of impromptu quartets as they can handle. Every man has made it his mission to be note and word perfect so that every one of the attendees knows that they can rely on each other to have the best singing experience and expectation of ringing chords all

through the day.

One prime features of the AHB Rally will be the quartet contest – where competing quartets are drawn completely by random and song selection is not revealed to the quartet until an hour before the contest. The thrill and challenge of doing your best with such short notice in a judged competition is the reason we call it "extreme quartetting".

The other exciting element for this year's rally is that our featured quartet is none other than the **2007 International Champs – OC Times**. They will be our featured headliners for the **Saturday evening show, to be held at 7:30 at the Crowne-Plaza Hotel, Claymont, Del.** The rest of the outstanding entertainment for the show will be a cavalcade of quartets from the AHB membership as well as the

outstanding sounds of the 120 man AHB chorus. All for the price of \$20 (or group discounts at \$15). For details about the show and to buy tickets, visit www.AtlanticHarmonyBrigade.com. Hurry because seating is limited.



Participants sing in quartets with whichever other three names are drawn from the hat.

WHAT HAPPENED IN VEGAS . . .

by **Jim Hawthorne**

from the Red Bank Area Chapter
Atlantic Gazette
August 2014

decided to lose weight and do something with his life. He lost over 100 pounds and attends college in Florida to become a musical educator.

The Barbershop Harmony Society and Harmony Foundation through the Youth in Harmony programs has truly changed the lives of many young men, not just make them singers. This is only possible through the contributions of members to Harmony Foundation.

Competition from the foreign affiliates continues unabated with eleven quartets, seven from Sweden, two from New Zealand and one each from Australia and the United Kingdom. One of the Swedish quartets, **Trocadero**, qualified to compete in both the collegiate and regular contests. Interestingly they scored better in the regular contest placing 18th with a score of 81.8% compared with 7th with a score of 74.8%.

The regular quartet competition started Wednesday with 53 quartets competing in two sessions. Of the Mid-Atlantic District quartets competing, **Last Man Standing** placed 29th with a score of 79.1%, **Up All Night** placed 31st with a score of 78.7%, **Mayhem** placed 33rd with a score of 78.7% and **Gimme Four** placed 40th with a score of 77.6%.

Two M-AD quartets, **Da Capo** and **Frank the Dog**, who qualified for the international contest chose not to compete.

The semi-final round of the quartet contest took place Thursday afternoon with the top 20 quartets competing for a place in the top ten. **Round Midnight** placed 12th with a score of 84.1%, their same position as last year. The New Fangled Four, the 2013 collegiate champion, placed 16th with a score of 82.0%

Thursday evening the Association of International Champions presented their annual show. **The Sidewinders** were honored on their 50th anniversary and **Second Edition** on their 25th. The AIC Chorus, directed by **Tony De Rosa**, presented a number of songs and the champions for the last eight years performed.

The chorus competition was held Friday with two sessions totaling 31 choruses. First place went to **The Vocal Majority** with a score of 96.8%, who returned after three years of not competing with 158 men on the risers.

The **Masters of Harmony** from the Far Western District placed second with a score of 95.1%. Third place went to **Great Northern Union** from the Minneapolis area with a score of 94.5%. **Sound of the Rockies** from Denver placed fourth with a score of 92.8%. Fifth place was taken by **Zero8** from Stockholm, Sweden with a score of 92.4%.

I believe this is the first time a chorus from the affiliates has medaled.

The **Voices of Gotham**, placed 15th with a score of 83.7%.

Saturday night the top ten scoring quartets competed in the finals. After three consecutive second place finishes **Musical Island Boys**, from New Zealand, placed first with a score of 89.5%. This quartet was the fourth collegiate champion to win the "big boys" contest.

Attendance was the highest in five years with over 7,000 enjoying the competition and renewing old friendships.

Having the entire convention in one place was a real plus. As I have said before, if you have not attended an international convention you cannot possibly know what you are missing and should make an attempt to attend. Next year's convention will be in Pittsburg, Pa.



COUNTERCLOCKWISE FROM TOP:

MAD EVP Ig Jakovac and MAD President Bill Colosimo present Voices of Gotham President Brian Lindvall with a token of support from the Mid-Atlantic District.

'Round Midnight rocks the house in the semi-finals.

Musical Island Boys win the crowd -- and the gold.

Lunch Break announces it's their last competition -- then finishes in the top 10!

photos by Dan Wright



Making the case for

That Ol' Barbershop Style



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

No doubt about it, as barbershop singers we'll typically look for any excuse to bust a chord or two...maybe even three...right?

But, how do we effectively project the enthusiasm we share about our hobby beyond the proverbial footlights to someone who may not have a clue as to what this whole barbershop harmony thing is all about?

Ahhh...I'm glad you asked me that!

The fact is...too often because we understand what we're talking about, we automatically assume that other people should understand too.... right?

Well, the reality is...it ain't necessarily so! Therefore, our job as effective communicators is to facilitate understanding.

That means speaking as plainly as possible to help our listeners understand how what we do can impact, benefit or affect them in a positive way.

There are some really exciting initiatives underway at the international, district and chapter levels, so now more than ever, it's important for everyone to be on the same sheet of music (pardon the pun!)

Here are four ways to help you communicate more clearly.

Make 'em care

Simply saying that joining your chapter/ chorus is great and you need to sign up doesn't mean anything to your listener. But, help them understand what's in it for them and the light-bulb just might go on or at least begin to flicker.

Often, you can get that to happen by first finding out if they like to sing and if so, finding out if they're active with any musical groups or organizations. By being a good detective, you'll be better poised to help them understand how joining your chapter can be a big plus!

The 3 minute rule

Let's say you have three minutes to tell a prospective member about barbershop singing and make a convincing case to join your chapter.

The best advice?

Pick two or three most important points they need to hear and let those points sink in. You'll likely want to say much more, but information overload may be a turn off!! Let 'em ask for more and you'll quickly see what the true interest level is!

Don't assume they know what you know

What seems simple to you and me might be confusing to someone else, so it's important to assess any uncertainties, questions and/or concerns before you start talking.

Think in terms of features and benefits. In other words...what are the best features of this phenomenon we call barbershop harmony singing and what are the benefits! If need be..make a list!

Talk with them not at them

Just because you have an opportunity to share information doesn't mean you should keep talking.

Pause.

Ask and answer questions so the conversation is a dialogue and not a monologue.

Remember, good communicators are made, not born. So, if you want to be certain you're communicating clearly, try this: Ask a friend or family member who perhaps has minimal knowledge of the whole barbershop experience to listen to what you're saying. If they're confused, consider making some adjustments.

The bottom line is.. It takes work to get any point across clearly and concisely. While there are never any iron clad guarantees, the time you take to tweak your barbershop message, just may pay off in some pretty handsome dividends!



WEB NOTES

ABOVE: MAD was well-represented at Harmony University in Nashville last week.

LEFT: Faces 4 Radio found their picture on the wall at Harmony Hall. It's great to be a senior champ!



MAD Harmony U attendees Dan Wright and Sean Mueller take their barbershopping VERY seriously!

Leadership... is all ABOUT LEARNING!



by **Bill Colosimo**,
MAD President

The hallmark of great leaders is not necessarily their ability to know, but their ability to learn!

It's amazing what we can hear when we least expect that "golden nugget." A colleague was sharing with me her experiences at a recent workshop on "Adaptive Leadership" hosted by a local university. During the workshop, a university master's candidate was presenting the abstract of her master's thesis, in which she delivered the above line, noted by my friend as the most significant "nugget" of the workshop on effective leadership.

As I near the end of my service to you as District President over the last two years, I can't think of a better lesson I've learned during my tenure than that captured by this nugget. Of course, it's presumed that a chosen leader has a certain storehouse of knowledge to effectively administer and guide an organization.

But I assure you that knowledge alone, regardless of the leadership position, isn't enough. The experiences of engaging with chapters and individual members and their families that I've been privileged to have as both EVP and DP have taught me so much, thus enabling me to be more effective in problem solving, planning and envisioning an even more positive path for our District and our art form in the future!

The timing of this editorial is important. While I'm writing now to provide you with some examples of what I've learned as your president, the primary message I'd like to convey is germane to you as either a prospective leader of your chapter in the upcoming year or as a member of your chapter's nominating committee or leadership team who should be assessing right now who might be an effective leader in your chapter for 2015!

So, for each of the following lessons I've learned, I conclude with a leadership characteristic which I'd strongly encourage you to consider as valuable in a potential leader for your chapter.

(Let me be clear at the outset: I'm still learning how to integrate the "lessons learned" in my daily affairs! And, as with most things, it's "progress, not perfection!")

Lesson 1 Learn to be OPEN

When I have personally visited many chapters, whether in the context of a show and afterglow visit, a chapter meeting or a coaching or training session of some kind, I have learned to set aside my expectations about the culture and mission of each group before walking in the door.

In one case, when I was part of a team invited to help a struggling chapter, a chapter member raised his hand right away. "What's your agenda?" he asked. (His tone was a bit negative, leading me to pause carefully before answering.)

He was a bit taken aback by my response, which was simply, "I have no agenda!"

I then assured him that my (in this case, our) agenda was going to be, in fact, his (or, more correctly, their) agenda! There would be no way to impose my agenda, based on preconceived expectations or outcomes, and expect a positive outcome to the mission.

From that point forward, when it was clear to all parties that the exercise was based on openness, where I was there to learn and they were there to learn, too, the time spent on the exercises was not only more productive but led to an overall feeling of buy-in by all parties which resulted in many more positive steps toward resurgence of a now-healthy chapter!

What I thought I "knew" going in was not nearly as important as what I (and all!) "learned" in the process

Leadership Characteristic: Open-mindedness

Lesson 2 Learn to Pay Attention!

All too often, the apparent ability of a prospective leader to communicate is seen as a fundamental leadership characteristic. But there's a big difference between knowing how to communicate and continually learning how to communicate as situations and personalities come into play.

A lot of folks speak and write well, but I continually learn that that's not the secret to success in communication! The extent to which communication is sincere and the intention is to really engage in a positive win-win dialogue,

where both parties (individual or group) feel a legitimate sense of accomplishment and gratitude for the transaction — those are the keys to communication success. And, as simple-minded as it may sound, it all starts with paying attention to the other person!

Here's a classic example. A veteran barbershopper, having served his proud chapter in countless leadership roles for 40 years, wrote an extensive email to me and a number of other district leaders asking for clarification on a number of policies and practices and expressing concern over a number of things he thought MAD was doing.

Although his concerns focused largely on the way we run our conventions and contests, there were indications he had an underlying dissatisfaction which extended far beyond the specific issues he outlined in writing. I read and re-read the email, considering for some time how I could most effectively respond to him in writing with an eye toward that "win-win" I referred to earlier...but I just couldn't put my finger on how to get to the bottom of this member's real discontentment, no matter how many of these single issues I tried to address in writing.

Finally, I did something truly revolutionary! (I'm smiling as I type that!) I picked up the phone and called the guy! In the first call, we scheduled an appointment for the next day when we both could take the important time with no distractions to pay attention to each other and the issues he'd raised ... and it was my hope that I might discern what the real problem might be.

... this is the first time in all my years in this organization that anyone has thought to call me and actually talk to me about how I feel about things!

See **LESSONS**, continued on next page

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LESSONS, continued from previous page

Our conversation the next day lasted 45 minutes.

Yes, we addressed the specific issues he'd raised with a sensible dialogue on the many considerations that go into planning and executing events, and what we might do to try to make our activities more successful. And, yes, we agreed that many, if not all, of the issues he'd raised had been addressed to his satisfaction.

But, in the end, I got what I was looking for. As we were nearly done with our conversation, this fine man paused ... and very softly said, "Ya know, Bill, this is the first time in all my years in this organization that anyone has thought to call me and actually talk to me about how I feel about things!"

As the younger set would say, "BOOM!"

And, of course, the lesson was clear. A man who had invested so much time, treasure and care into what we do had begun to feel disenfranchised, if not totally disregarded, when it came to our organization. I immediately thanked him for the lesson he'd taught me, and have attempted to carry this example with me, along with the many others I've been privileged to experience, as I've grown as a leader.

Sometimes, simple as it may seem (but hard to remember in the heat of battle!), all the other guy needs is for me (or you!) to pay attention to him! Empathy, a critical characteristic of quality leadership, is not based solely on one's capability to know, but on the ability to learn what's most important from the perspective of the other person in a relationship, whether it's in the form of a single transaction or a long-term association.

Leadership Characteristic: Empathy

Lesson 3

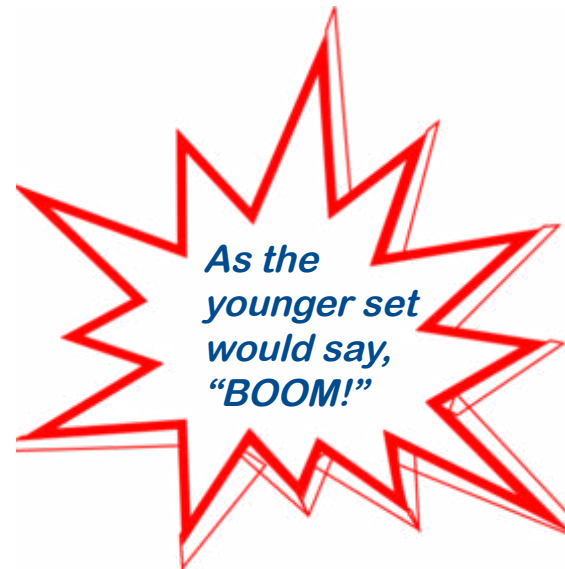
Be a Visionary ... but Anticipate Consequences!

This lesson is clearly the most difficult to absorb without falling on your head a million times, believe me! It presumes that a chosen leader has some degree of vision that can see the whole field of the organization, its mission, its constituents and its future, and conceive policy and practices that can align all of these with exciting possibilities which will enroll the participants in executing a game plan. So while it's not technically knowing how to be a visionary but having the innate ability to see what's possible that may qualify a potential leader for success, that's only one part of the equation.

If a potential leader hasn't learned how to anticipate consequences of potential decisions regarding policy and practices of a group, the vision is incomplete...and likely flawed. In my case, I've been fortunate to be or

have been a performer, director, coach, committee member (and chair), and instructor in our organization, as well as a member of our district's Operations Team in several key positions which provided me with a strong background in the what if's of decision-making when it comes to district leadership.

So, on the surface, I may have a good bit of the knowing down pat. However, I have had to constantly learn, often with the helpful guidance of others, how to consider the often-overlooked unintended consequences, often with potentially negative outcomes, which may accompany such decisions. And, again thanks to the wonderful people all around me who help me, I've done my best to solicit and receive counsel and consensus on how to best anticipate and avoid negative outcomes.



Nevertheless — and this is critical — all leaders make mistakes! And groups of leaders can make mistakes, too! Even with the best of intentions, a valid and exciting vision, and thorough consideration of consequences, there comes a time when a decision turns out to be — well — just wrong-headed in the end!

What then? I've learned, often in the interests of choosing the least worst alternative, that even the most well-intended, can't-miss vision, when its unanticipated consequences mitigate its worth, needs to be subordinated to an understanding that it's always better to do what's right, to the best of your ability, than to dig your heels in and forge ahead into the firing line, continuing to take on casualties!

I can tell you from the number of times that I and others I admire have admitted a mistake and sought to correct it, that there's a liberating and contagiously positive outcome for all concerned. And, in hindsight, the humility, courage and flexibility to review the vision which prompted the action in the first place does not negate the value of the vision, but rather enhances it, as it gives time and wisdom to the selection of a more reasonable, less negative set of options which might not have been previously considered! This has confirmed in my mind that the most successful visionaries do, in fact, see from the clouds with their feet still on the ground!

Leadership Characteristic: Flexibility

Your Takeaway!

I've written this not just to provide examples of how I've grown as a result of the trust you've placed in me and the lessons I've learned...and continue to learn! What I really hope you see is that this set of key leadership characteristics—open-mindedness, empathy and flexibility—are all able to be learned or acquired through experience and mentoring.

But an individual chosen as a prospective leader must be willing to embrace them and dedicate him/herself to the training, practice and discipline to apply them in the office to be held! This is true for a chapter's chorus director, president, or other officer. It's true for a board member at large, who

See LESSONS, continued on next page

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NEXT DEADLINE:
Oct. 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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CALLING ALL STORY TELLERS!

Lorin May, editor of *The Harmonizer*, would like chapters to submit some of your interesting news (even if a 1-3 sentences) to storytellersMAD@barbershop.org. PROBE will compile a weekly top 10 list on their website, which you can see every week.

Example story: "The XYZ Chapter in the Mid-Atlantic district has been regularly going to the airport to sing for returning overseas soldiers on the tarmac." (That's one sentence! More info is great if you have it, but not always necessary.)

Next time your chapter is doing something fun or going somewhere interesting, why not shoot a message to the society's flagship publication and let 23,000 of your closest friends in on the secret?

LESSONS, *continued from previous page*

contributes, ultimately, to helping forge the vision and execution of your chapter and its performing ensemble(s). (It's also true for your district leadership team members, for whom your chapters will be voting at the upcoming House of Delegates meeting in Wildwood in October.)

I urge you to be actively involved in the

selection of future leaders of your chapter in the coming months! Please take to heart that the willingness to learn may be, in the long run, superior as a qualification of a potential great leader to the knowledge or longevity that person may have in your chapter.

You, too, can and should be open-minded, empathetic and flexible as you consider whether you or someone else — whom no

one might even be considering! — could be just the right person for any job in your group.

Please trust this: With the right lessons learned and applied, along with a fundamental knowledge of what we do and how we do it, all of us, to one degree or another, are responsible for the legacy of our chapters as thriving, growing and exciting singing

organizations.

You may not consider yourself a leader, but you'll at least be responsible for picking them! I hope, the perspective shared here will help you carry out that responsibility with the care I know you wish to invest in the mission we all share... "*Making the Music that's Making a Difference*"...today and tomorrow!

October 11
Saturday
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Ports of Call!

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*immerse yourself
in a weekend of*

MAD barbershop

What you can expect

- When you arrive on Thursday you will be given your room assignment
- Classes start Thursday evening
- Everyone starts Friday morning with breakfast at the cafeteria followed by vocal warm ups
- You will be involved in either classes or coaching (quartet or chorus) all day Friday with breaks for lunch and dinner
- There is a Friday night show where some of the quartets being coached get to strut their stuff
- Following the show you can sing or socialize until whenever...
- Saturday is similar to Friday
- There is a gala event on Saturday night where both quartets and choruses get to perform for you
- This is followed by more singing and socializing if you have any energy left
- Sunday morning you turn in your room keys and drive home — exhausted BUT VERY HAPPY!

Where, When, Cost?

FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND (weekend of the third Sunday in June). *Why not introduce your family member — son, grandson, dad or grandad — to our great art form?*

Jun 18-21, 2015

Tuition is around \$200, which includes a 3-night stay, 6 meals, all courses, two barbershop shows.



To download a printable course catalog or to register, go to www.midatlanticdistrict.com/HCE

Who is welcome?

All Barbershop Society singers and directors. Also (did you know?) music educators, youths interested in the art form, Society Associates, your entire quartet and choruses large, small and in-between!



The best value in barbershop!
Guaranteed to improve your singing and performance skills, raise your *Barbershop IQ* 30 points, double your "friends" list and keep you singing all night as well as all day.

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