



**2015 Mid-Atlantic District
Quartet Champion**



Volume 45, Issue 4

FALL 2014

A BULLETIN FOR EVERY BARBERSHOPPER IN THE MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT



**2015 Mid-Atlantic District Chorus Champion
ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS**



M-AD Chapter Leaders Planning Delaware Invasion for January 2015



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

There are 92 chapters in the Mid-Atlantic District and annually each of them elects men to serve as officers on their boards of directors.

With an average of 6 board members per chapter, that means that roughly 540 M-AD barbershoppers should be planning to attend one of three Leadership Academies offered by the district between October and January.

Intelligence reports indicate that 36 men from 10 chapters have attended the Southern and Northern Leadership Academy programs.

So, officials in charge of the **Central Leadership Academy** are expecting a force of 500 men from 80 chapters to descend on **Newark, Del. January 17** to attempt to overwhelm the small force of instructors known to be in readiness for the invasion.

“We don’t know exactly how many men will be coming, but we’ll be ready for them, no matter what,” said Captain **Chuck Harner**, USN (Ret.).

Harner is in command of all three leadership academies and a veteran of many past battles.

“We know they will come – and once they are here they will learn so much they’ll be chomping at the bit to get back home and put all they’ve learned to use.”

Harner added that he is proud to lead his “LA Force,” composed of some of the most experienced men in the Society who give up their weekends to share what they know to help other men become the leaders their chapters need them to be.

Harner’s Leadership Academy Adjutant and host for the Central Leadership Academy is **Neil Keihm**. He has relocated to 104 Sycamore Drive, West Grove, PA 19390 but can still be reached via email at keihm@verizon.net.

An up-to-date registration form is available on the district web site at www.midatlanticdistrict.com/LeadershipAcademy.

Keihm reports that the district has been able to hold the line on costs and is pleased to offer the following pricing schedule for all participants:

Prices listed remain in effect up until January 3 and then go up to \$45 per student.

“Advance warning is the key to our ability to absorb the invasion”, said Harner.

“Advance intelligence is very helpful. As soon as chapter officers for 2015 have been determined, that information should be put in the chapter’s Leaders page on the [Society’s web site](#). If chapters also include the identity of their Chapter Advocate (formerly Counselor) he will be able to see all the information the chapter enters.”

“I know two things for certain,” added Harner. “The men that come will be glad they did. And their chapters will bless them for caring enough to learn the things that will help the entire chapter succeed.”

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

LAST CHANCE! Register NOW for Leadership Academy

MAD barbershoppers enjoy jam-packed convention



ABOVE: Doug Brown, Bob Disney, and George "Oley" Olson were inducted into the district Hall of Honor. They now share this honor with 84 other men who have been previously honored for their long and significant contributions to our district and barbershopping. **RIGHT:** Soon-to-be Immediate Past President Bill Colosimo hands over the gavel to incoming 2015 MAD President Ig Jakovac at the conclusion of the House of Delegates Meeting Oct. 26.



The 2014 Fall District Convention is history – and what a convention it was! The weather

cooperated: attendees enjoyed clear, sunny skies, mild

DISPATCHES FROM INTERNATIONAL

by Dick Powell,
BHS Board Representative

temperatures, and a strong breeze. We pretty much had the entire town to ourselves as many of the restaurants and hotels were already closed for the season. The good news – there were no monster trucks drag racing on the beach and traffic was very light!

The jam-packed weekend featured a chorus and quartet contest, a board meeting and House of Delegates meeting, director recognition, and induction of three new members into the District Hall of Honor.

Here are some of the highlights:

Hall of Honor

Bob Disney, Doug Brown, and George "Oley" Olson were inducted into the district Hall of Honor. They now share this honor with 84 other men who have been previously honored for their long and significant contributions to our district and barbershopping.

Congratulations to each!

District Elections

The House of Delegates unanimously elected the following men to serve as our officers for 2015:

District President - **Ig Jakovac**

Immediate Past President – **Bill Colosimo**

Executive Vice President - **Dennis Ritchey**

Secretary - **Keith Jones**

Treasurer - **Bob Eckman**

Member-At-Large - **Walter Griffith**

Member-At-Large - **Chuck Harner**

Member-At-Large - **Christian Hunter**

Member-At-Large - **Steve Skolnick**

Chorus Champion & Representative to the 2015 International Convention

The **Alexandria Harmonizers** put 106 men on the risers and posted the highest score ever recorded for a Mid-Atlantic District chorus contest. They were

See **CONVENTION**, continued on next page



The MADAQC Chorus, directed by Kevin King, welcomes Last Men Standing — Drew Feyrer, Mike Kelly, Ed Bell II, and T.J. Barranger — to the ranks of MAD quartet champions with a heartfelt rendition of *This is the Moment*.

Pictures of all competitors can be found starting on page 23 of this issue. For even more photos, please visit www.midatlanticdistrict.com/photos

Convention

continued from previous page

crowned champions with a score of 90.9. They will represent the district at the 2015 International Convention in Pittsburgh next July.

But there was more! Grabbing 2nd place in the contest was **Hamilton Square** whose 102 men registered a score of 85.7. Just 7 points behind them, the 49 men of **Hell's Kitchen** earned a score of 85.3. As of this article, the M-AD has three of the top 10 ranked choruses going into Pittsburgh. And with scores over 85, both Hell's Kitchen and Hamilton Square are certain to receive wild card invitations to the big show.

For the first time, the district awarded a trophy for the **Most Improved Chorus** based on increase in raw score.

That honor went to **Cherry Hill** for their 7th place finish and 71.8 score.

District Quartet Champion

In one of the closest quartet contests we can recall, **Last Men Standing** won the district quartet championship in their first try with a score of 79.3. Just 2 points behind them (yes, 2 points!), **MADmen** took second with a score of 79.2. **Gimme Four** took third place with a score of 77.9 and **Up All Night** took fourth with a score of 76.0.

Last Men Standing was also the **Most Improved Quartet** and became the first quartet to earn that honor at a district contest. The scores posted by the top 4 quartets would have qualified them to the International Competition, so the prospects for M-AD representation in Pittsburgh are looking bright. Expect to see all of these fine quartets plus veterans such as **Round**

Midnight, BSQ, Frank the Dog, Mayhem, and Da Capo competing at the **M-AD Spring Prelims in Harrisburg next March 13-14.**

District Supports Harmony Foundation

KJ McAleesejergins, a Regional Director for the Harmony Foundation, was with us for the weekend. His objective was to recruit 10 new President's Council Members for the Foundation. He didn't get 10. He got 14 and because of special matching grants that \$14,000 in donations turned into \$42,000. Well done!

House of Delegates in Action

A roundtable discussion was held among the delegates on two topics:

First, whether the district should consider using smaller

(less than 1,200 seat) venues for district conventions with possible overflow areas served by video, and the plusses and minuses of moving in that direction.

And second, potential revenue streams for the district and chapters, other than dues and events.

Soon-to-be Immediate Past President Bill Colosimo and President-elect Ig Jakovac are reviewing all the suggestions that came out of this effort.

"Many healthy, constructive and novel suggestions are anticipated and will be thoughtfully considered by district leadership," said Bill.

Stay tuned for more information on these topics in future issues of **Mid'l Antics**.

What a nail-biter!

Last Men Standing wins by just two points

Twenty-five quartets and 28 choruses (along with a bunch of adoring fans, **Mayhem** (our 2014 quartet champs) and **550 Chord**, a U.S. Army quartet of singers and brass instrumentalists from Ft. Lee, Va.)

2014 Contest & Judging Update

by Gary Plag,
VP Contest and Judging

gathered in Wildwood over the weekend of October 24-25, to vie for the MAD quartet and chorus championships.

Over 1,800 people attended the convention, which boasted great singing and performing, as well as outstanding weather. The host chapter, the **Mainliners** of Bryn Mawr, Pa., did an outstanding job of hosting the convention.

The quartet semi-finals started at 4:15 on Friday evening and concluded around 9 p.m. Eleven quartets advanced into the finals instead of the normal ten, due to a tie among the top 10 quartets.

The quartet finals round on Saturday night was quite a nail-biter. Once the dust settled first and second place were only separated by 2 points and third place was just 47 points away from second. The total possible points any quartet can achieve over two rounds is 3,000. **Last Men Standing** was crowned the 2015 MAD District Quartet Champions, with **MADMEN** in second place and **Gimme Four** in third place.

The chorus contest started at 8:45 a.m. on Saturday and concluded around 2:45 p.m. The 2015 MAD Chorus Champions and MAD Representatives to the International Chorus Contest in Pittsburgh next summer are the **Alexandria Harmonizers**, who earned a score of 90.9 percent.

The second and third place choruses, **Brothers In Harmony** (85.7 percent) from Hamilton Square, NJ, and **Voices of Gotham** (85.3 percent) from Hell's Kitchen, N.Y., will likely receive "wildcard" invitations to also compete in Pittsburgh, as their scores are significant in the typical pool of International chorus competitors.

Spring Convention

March 13-14, 2015

Harrisburg, Pa.

The [MAD Spring Convention, International Quartet Preliminaries, Senior Quartet Championship, Youth Adjudication AND Mixed Harmony Festival](#) will all be held [March 13-14, 2015](#), at the Hilton in [Harrisburg, Pa.](#)

Online contest entry for the male quartet preliminaries and the MAD senior quartet championship is now open (see below for information regarding the mixed quartet event.) Please enter the contest as soon as possible, as this will be a very busy event and we will need to determine if we need a double or triple panel of judges, as soon as possible.

We already have some out-of-district entries for the International Preliminaries.

See **C AND J**, continued on next page



2015 CHAMPIONS — Alexandria Harmonizers, directed by Joe Cerrutti



2nd PLACE — Brothers in Harmony, directed by Jack Pinto



3rd PLACE — Voices of Gotham, directed by Eric Engelhardt and Matthew Gallagher

CANDJ

continued from previous page

Mixed Harmony Contest Entry Opens December 1

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 opens December 1, 2014](#), to the first 10 entries. Any additional entries will be added to a wait list. If a full complement of 10 entries is not reached by January 15 (this is a deadline date change!), entry will be opened to neighboring districts. Final determination as to the number of mixed quartets we can accommodate above the initial 10 will be made after February 12, once the number of entries for the 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* (check out this performance on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvePjQu4gG0), 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.

NOTE: Mixed quartets who participate in this MAD event will be able to submit their scores to potentially qualify as one of the U.S. representatives to the World Mixed Championship in Germany (BinG!) in the spring of 2016.

ALSO NOTE: Don't be confused between the European Harmony Brigade (EHB) mixed quartetting event that will take place in Berlin, Germany, May 1-3, 2015, and the

World Mixed Championship normally held in Dortmund, Germany in March of even years (2012, 2014, 2016, etc).

- The EHB mixed event is for individual quartet singers who will be placed into put-together quartets for the fun of singing and performing together for the weekend.
- The MAD Mixed Harmony Contest is for established mixed quartets who want to post a performance score for possible inclusion/qualification in the World Mixed Harmony Championship, and will be held in [Harrisburg, Pa. March 13-14, 2015](#), in conjunction with our MAD International Prelims Contest and Spring Convention.

... mixed quartet members may sing in only one mixed quartet. Any "mixed" configuration is acceptable: MFFF, MMFF, or MMMF



2014 Champs Mayhem congratulate the 70th winning quartet in MAD history, 2015 champs Last Men Standing, following the quartet finals Oct. 26 in Wildwood, N.J.

To close out their championship year, Mayhem thrills the audience to their feet with an exciting and highly-entertaining performance.



The "mic coolers" were a special treat for the audience ... a quartet from the U.S. Army Band called 550 Chord: SPC Andrew Thomas, SSG Clifford Hinson, SSG Billy Carmack, and SPC Justin Mann



The District was blessed with a super-competent and congenial panel of judges for the Fall Contest. Many thanks to all for volunteering your considerable talents and time in this marathon of a contest. Pictured clockwise from left: Dusty Schleier (Prs), Dave Fobart (Prs), Rik Johnson (Sng), Paule Wietlisbach (Prs), Kevin Keller (Mus), Jim Wilson (CnCA), Mark Stock (Sng), Steve Armstrong (Mus), Richard Powell (CnCA), Matt Gifford (Sng), and winner of the long distance award and — Jenny Allen, photo double for Kirk Young (Mus).



from the first Hello ...

Besides the chorus and quartet contests, the fall convention weekend is a time when the District recognizes and honors the many individuals who have devoted their time and talents tirelessly for the common good. Among these are our enthusiastic and energetic youth members, our District officers and committee members, and our dedicated musical directors whose leadership is essential for the life and health of our chapters.

RIGHT: Education Committee Chairman Ron Knickerbocker called the names of seven District chorus directors with 10-15 years of service and one — the recipient of the Fred King award for achieving 35 years of directing experience in MAD. VP Chorus Director Development Glenn Phillips presented the certificates. Pictured from right are: Anne Bureau-- 10 years (Lansdale, Pa.), Richard Lewellen-- 10 years (Alexandria & Fairfax, Va.), June Noble-- 10 years (Sussex County, N.J.), Bob Bennett, Jr.-- 12 years (Lebanon, Reading, and Harrisburg, Pa.), TJ Barranger-- 15 years (Somerset Hills, N.J. & Anne Arundel, Md.), Bob "Diz" Disney-- 15 years (Anne Arundel, Md.), Tom Wiener-- 15 years (Arlington, Va.), and Ralph Gillespie from the Wilkes Barre Chapter accepting the Fred King award for Director Ray Patsko -- 35 years (Wilkes Barre, Pa.), VPCDD Glenn Phillips and announcer Ron Knickerbocker.

BELOW: District President Bill Colosimo, backed up by the MADAQC Chorus, leads the audience in a final rendition of Keep the Whole World Singing. See you all next year!

... to the last Good-bye!



East Coast Sound, directed by David Ammirata, served as both "mic warmers" and "mic coolers" for Saturday's chorus contest. Nine of the fourteen voices had also crossed the stage Friday in various quartet formations, demonstrating that this youth chorus is an excellent quartet incubator. Kudos, gentlemen!



But wait . . .
There's more!



Plan Now for 2015 Conventions

The district has finalized the schedule for the Spring convention cycle so mark these dates and locations on your calendars.

Spring Prelims will feature the selection of our representatives to the International Quartet Championships in Pittsburg plus our traditional YIH adjudication and **DELASUSQUEHUDMAC** Honor Chapter breakfast.

And for the first time, we will also hold a mixed voice quartet festival. Special guests for this event will be the reigning world champion mixed voice quartet from St. Louis, **Double Date**. Join us in **Harrisburg, Pa. March 13-15** at the Harrisburg Hilton for all the fun.



The **Atlantic Division Convention** will be held in **Cherry Hill, N.J., May 15-16** at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.



Atlantic Division — May 15-16
Cherry Hill, N.J.



Western Division and Atlantic Division — June 5-6
Cherry Hill, N.J.

The **Southern Division Convention** will be held in **Reston, Va., May 22-23** at the Hyatt Regency.



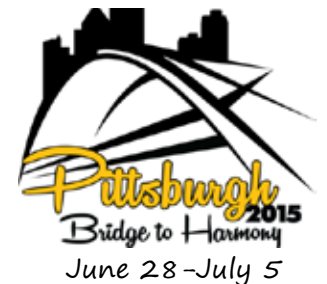
Southern Division — May 22-23
Reston, Va.

The combined **Northern and Western Division Conventions** will be held in **Cherry Hill, N.J., June 5-6** at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

No, that's not a typo!

Yes, this combined convention will be held in the same venue as the Atlantic Division Convention in May.

Just come one month later!



The Brothers in Harmony auctioned

Highest bidder at charity auction donates Hamilton Square's services to Morris Arboretum free community concert series



By Larry Melton, president Hamilton Square Chapter

The Brothers performed an outdoor concert at Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia July 17. Earlier in the year, in an auction event held by the Jewish Defense League, the Chorus was one of the "items" up for bid. We were "won", and later donated by the anonymous "winner" to perform for the Arboretum audience. Here's how it all came to pass:

"Let the bidding begin!" cried the auctioneer at the for the Anti-Defamation League's annual fundraiser in Philadelphia. The November 2013 event – which included a silent auction as well as the traditional live auction of donated goods and services — helped raise \$10,000 per table at the Wannamaker Building in Center City.

As the curtain opened, the Brothers in Harmony — illuminated by professionally aimed pin lights, gobo lights, and with TV cameras rolling — delighted the patrons at the black tie event by singing Steve Delehanty's arrangement of the Beatles' hit, Imagine. This set up the 12-minute video of the ADL national theme, "Imagine a World of No Hatred," that followed.

"Going...going...gone, for \$2,000 to the man with the flower in his lapel," was the final call by the auctioneer. The bid was for the Brothers in Harmony to donate a free concert for the benefit of the ADL.

In July, the chorus satisfied their second obligation to perform at the Morris Arboretum near Chestnut Hill College, Pa., for the man with the flower in his lapel. Surrounded by the arboretum's beautiful plantings, the chorus performed outside in early evening, lit initially by a spectacular sunset and ending under brilliant starlight. The high point of the evening for the audience was when all 65 Brothers filed out onto the lawn, paired up 1:1 with the patrons, and invited the guests to sing along.

The Brothers in Harmony look forward to more community events and have found that helping charitable organizations raise funding is a great way to enjoy our hobby while providing community service!



courtesy photos by Arnold Winkler



The White Rose Chorus had a successful fall show Oct. 4 entitled

TAKING FLIGHT!

To celebrate that show theme, we performed Those Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines including a skit involving a working stage prop model of a biplane being "flown" by Pookie Dingle, lead of the 2014 District Quartet Champion Mayhem.

The contraption has since been disassembled but is available for any district chorus that would like to give it a good home. **The cost of the biplane is \$50** which will help the White Rose Chorus recoup some of the construction costs.

For info and more pictures, please visit whiterosechorus.com/extras/the-contraption.html.

But wait, there's more. In addition to the contraption you will receive the aviator cap, the gas can, and the script from the skit.

Hurry and you will also receive — absolutely free — the learning track we produced pitched down to B flat (the arrangement is in "C")

Call Dave Kelly at (717) 659-7720 or whiterosechorus@aol.com





Voices of Gotham announces new director and new recording

2014 has been a busy and exciting year for **Voices of Gotham**, full of key “firsts” and major transitions. After a six-month search following founding Director **Larry Bomback’s** relocation to Philadelphia, we are proud to announce the tremendously experienced Mid-Atlantic barbershopper **Bill Stauffer** as our next Director. We were delighted to have a deep field of experienced candidates, and we are thrilled to hit the ground running with Bill, who formally begins directing the chorus on December 1.

We’ve also had the fabulous opportunity to record our first studio album, which is now on sale at www.voicesofgotham.org/cd. The album features a variety of

show favorites along with new recordings of our recent International Contest sets, as well as three tracks featuring our sister chorus, **Sirens of Gotham**. Production of this album was one of our huge projects of the year, and it could not have been possible without the impressive contributions of several key folks in the chapter—most notably **Alex Lorimer, Eric Engelhardt, and Matt Gallagher**.

As a final note for the year, Voices of Gotham performed alongside **Rönninge Show Chorus, Growing Girls, and Ringmasters** at Carnegie Hall November 1 in “Barbershop Magic on Broadway.” The chorus will also be the featured performers on the Hickory Tree Chorus’ annual show, “With a Song in My Heart,” November 22. Visit their website, <http://hickorytreechorus.org>, for tickets and for more information.

As we move into 2015, we would like to thank the Mid-Atlantic District leadership and our fellow district chapters for their unwavering support and kindness. We are privileged to be a part of this district and could not imagine being members of a more welcoming community of barbershoppers!

Voices of Gotham Director Bill Stauffer proudly displays the chorus’ first studio cd, now on sale at www.voicesofgotham.org/cd



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
- ▶ 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

Dapper Dans show the way

First annual
JT Wilson Kennel Club Sing
is great success



Montclair Chapter Dapper Dans of Harmony directed by Adam Porter



Ascending to new heights, Morris County Chapter Director Nate Barrett and Five Towns College Director Jeff Glemboski direct the "mega-chorus" of 140 singers from 12 chapters who gathered for this night of barbershop harmonizing.

photos by
Steve Skolnick



Sussex County Chapter High Point Harmonizers directed by June Noble



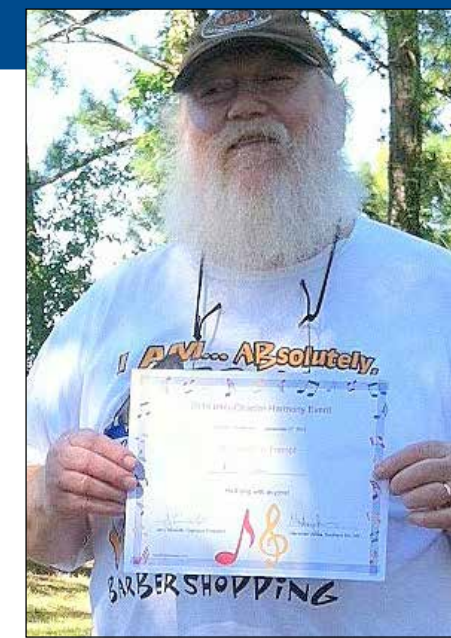
Hell's Kitchen Chapter Voices of Gotham directed by Eric Engelhardt

At the 2013 Society Leadership Forum held in Nashville, Tenn., participants reviewed the results of the Chapter Visitation Program and came up with five major issues that our chapters said they needed help with. One of the highest priority items focused on helping chapters organize and run various inter-chapter events to stimulate fellowship, enhance enjoyment, and foster a greater understanding of the wider world of barbershop in our local communities.

Not content to watch from the stands, the **Montclair, N.J. Dapper Dans** were the first chapter to volunteer to host such an event when Northern District Vice President **Oley Olson** asked for help. The Dans chose to name the event in honor of the late **Dr. Jean Thomas Wilson**, a long-time member of the Montclair chapter who served in virtually every capacity that existed. He was a strong supporter of inter-chapter gatherings and served as Program VP until he passed away. He was also a veterinarian. So it was decided to name the event the **JT Wilson Kennel Club Sing**.

After a lot of planning and communication the first annual J.T. Wilson Kennel Club Sing was held August 15. Twelve Northern Division chapters accepted the invitation to attend, including **Five Towns, Morris County, Hell's Kitchen, Hunterdon, Montclair, Rahway, Ridgewood, Rockland County, Somerset, Sussex County, Teaneck** and **Westchester County**. There were even a few visitors from Dundalk, San Jose (California), and North Carolina. In all, over 140 men enjoyed four hours of food, drinks, harmony and lots and lots of fun!

The Dapper Dans had such a great time hosting their fellow barbershop singers that The Wilson is going to be an annual event. Planning has already begun for the 2015 extravaganza, so stay tuned for information and plan to join in the fun.
— **By Joe Servidio, Program VP, Montclair Chapter**



Youth Reclamation Project entertains the crowd.

Barbershop Tramp was Red Mann

*1st Place: **Son of Pitches** Ross Wilkins, Gary Mcauliffe, Gray Poehler, Don Hulton*

Chords ring at Mega-Chorus get together

A band of 40 very enthusiastic barbershoppers from the **Richmond, Norfolk, Peninsula, Alexandria, James River and Frank Thorne** chapters met at York River State Park for a day of barbershop singing Sept. 27! The weather was perfect for this outdoor event hosted by the Richmond Chapter, consisting of 'round robin' quartetting; tag singing; a random quartet contest; entertainment by chapter quartets (including Bronze medalists, **Youth Reclamation Project**); and a grand finale of combined chapter choruses singing under the direction of **Mike Wallen** from Richmond Chapter, **Brian Allen** from Norfolk Chapter and **Kathy Jackson** from Peninsula Chapter for three different songs.

The top 3 quartets received awards:

1st Place: Son of Pitches with Ross Wilkins, Gary Mcauliffe, Gray Poehler, Don Hulton

2nd Place: Four Flushers with Brian Allen, Johnny Pollard, Gray Poehler, Jeff Sylvia

3rd Place: Bob, Bob, -N- Along with Bob Patterson, Bob Caldwell, Gordon Sisk, Red Mann

Our round-robin quartet session consisted of all participants quartetting with as many guys and gals as possible before lunch. The guy who sang with the most guys was given the award for "Barbershop Tramp" because "he'll sing with anyone!" In the inaugural year of this wonderful event, our Barbershop Tramp was none other than Red Mann!

Thank you to all of you who participated. We hope to keep this event going on an annual basis to help keep in line with the goal of "shared activities among chapters" which is one of the top five priorities of our Society.

*2nd Place: **Four Flushers**, Brian Allen, Johnny Pollard, Gray Poehler, Jeff Sylvia*

*3rd Place: **Bob, Bob, -N- Along**, Bob Patterson, Bob Caldwell, Gordon Sisk, Red Mann*



Dog Days gathering is a huge success



The hall at Sacred Heart Catholic Church was packed with an excited audience that August evening. The host chapter, the **Bull Run Troubadours** from Manassas welcomed everyone and provided great refreshments.

Seven chapters and a multitude of quartets gathered to raise their voices in song, and celebrate the brotherhood of barbershop singing.



Fun events mark summer

Singing In the Good Old Summer Time, we enjoyed the summer fun with fellow barbershoppers at chapter picnics and inter-chapter events, baseball games and many other fun events. Among the events held this summer were the annual **Dog Days** celebration hosted by the **Prince William** chapter in August and a new one held in the southeast corner of the Division.

More than forty barbershoppers and guests from **Richmond, James River, Norfolk, and Virginia Peninsulas** chapters enjoyed singing and fellowship on a beautiful day in late September at the York River State Park near Williamsburg. Everyone enjoyed singing tags, woodshedding, chorus singing and a put-together quartet contest... and good food and beverages.

Also, many chapters prepared for fall shows and Christmas performances. Congratulations to the **Chorus of the Old Dominion (Loudoun County)** on the first annual fall show it has held in many years. Guest performers were **Soundworks** and **Lustre**, SAI international medalist quartet.

Now that new chapter officers have been elected for 2015, I encourage the newly elected boards to schedule a planning meeting to discuss and define goals and objectives for the coming year. Topics may include new music, show plans, competition plans, membership drives, programs to keep chapter meetings fun and productive, inter-chapter events and other fun events. The planning meeting will get the new leadership team on the same page and off to a good start for 2015.



SOUTHERN SINGING
by **Hardman Jones**,
VP Southern Division

I will be stepping down as Southern Division Vice President at the end of the year. Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Division and thank you for your support. It has been an honor to have served for the past two years.

Also, I am very pleased to recognize and welcome **Cliff Shoemaker** from Fairfax as the new incoming Southern Division Vice President. Cliff is very active in the Fairfax chapter as the VP of Music and Performance and sings a great baritone with **Shameless** quartet.

Welcome aboard, Cliff.



Youth quartet CJ4 with Rich Gray subbing on lead
photos by Ella Sorino



Chorus of the Atlantic



The Oceanares

IT'S A BUSY SEASON FOR ATLANTIC BARBERSHOPPERS

By Bruce Hanson, Atlantic Gazette, Red Bank Area Chapter

On a very wet evening in August, more than 100 barbershoppers, spouses and friends braved the downpour and converged at Fernwood Hall in Village VII in Whiting, NJ for this year's inter-chapter wing-ding cohosted by the *Cherry Hill Pine Barons* and the *Oceanares*. In addition to the hosts, the *Atlantic City Boardwalk Chorus*, the *Chorus of the Atlantic* and *Matinee Idles* were all well represented.

The menu featured a veritable feast of hot dogs and fixings (you know you're at an interchapter when you see those trays stacked with wieners and buns) as well as a wide array of beverage choices and desserts. Once bellies were filled, the group got down to the serious (?) business of singing, with dozens of quartets, many pre-arranged and some drawn from a hat (**Allan Dean** seemed to be in most of them).

Red Bank was well represented by the *Bayshore Four*, the *Classy Seniors*, *Good Fortunes*, the *Red Bank Streetwalkers* and the *Usual*

Suspects.

Chorus performances were interspersed, including the *Chorus of the Atlantic's* enthusiastic renditions of *Bring Back those Good Old Days*, and *There'll Be No New Tunes on this Old Piano*, and *Look For the Silver Lining* sung by the *Matinee Idles*. All the choruses seemed to be in good voice.

There was also a very nice performance of the gospel tune *When I Lift Up My Head* by the members of the various choruses who also sing with the *Brothers in Harmony*, featuring their sole lead, **Jim Rohn**.

Other highlights were the magical performance by *Ta-Da* and a barn burning rendition of *Hello, My Baby* from the youth quartet, *CJ4* (a.k.a the *Crooning Jonahs Quartet*) with *Pine Barons'* Director **Rich Grey** substituting on lead.

As always, the night ended with the whole gang assisting in the clean-up and a hard core of lingering singers doing polecats and tags before heading out into the rainy night.

The Fairfax Jubil-Aires Chorus
Proudly Presents its 59th Annual Show:



A Western Tale with Western Tunes - Barbershop Style!
Featuring Epic Quartet with the Bella Nova Chorus and
Special Guest Quartet: **Throwback**



Throwback
(6th Place 2014 BHS International Finisher)



Epic & BNC
(Epic: Harmony, Inc. 2012 Int'l Champion)

Date: April 18, 2015 – two shows, 2PM & 7PM

New Location: Lanier Middle School Theater

3801 Jermantown Road, Fairfax, VA 22030

Tickets \$20 - On Website: www.fairfaxjubilaires.org

Cash/Checks at Door - Questions? Call Gerry: 703-753-4727 or 410-207-8240



Just Duckie serenades Miss America Pageant

By Hal Verity, Just Duckie tenor
from Toosday Tunes, Nassau Mid-Island Chapter

Maurice has always wanted to go on a trip with a quartet to sing and just enjoy time away. So in a September visit to Atlantic City, Steve, Maurice, George and Hal Verity broke into song on the famous Atlantic City boardwalk, strolling from place to place wherever we could find someone to sing to.

In front of the AC convention center we found ourselves singing to the mother of Miss Colorado, and when we finished and started another set of songs, Dena Blizzard, preliminaries host for this year's pageant, came up to us and we sang, I think, Baby Face, to her. When we finished she asked if we would like to perform on stage at the Miss America Contest that evening.

We thought she was kidding but we said, "Yes!" At that point she asked for our cellphone number and said she would call if she could work it out.

We went back to our room and thought no more of it.

Then we got a call asking if we could be back at the convention center for a sound check.

At that time we were given the words and a melody for a parody Ms. Blizzard had written to tease Miss America CEO Sam Haskell, who is known for giving impassioned — and long! — speeches about the pageant. It was to be sung to an Elvis Presley tune, Love Me Tender.

Steve Marrin and Dena worked on fitting the special words to the melody. The rest of us tackled quickly learning the notes. Although Love Me Tender, (Aura Lee) is an arranged song, we didn't know it. Maurice quickly worked on some chords for the harmony guys to "ooh," and it went together pretty well. We were as ready as we would ever be.

That night we, together with our wives, returned to the convention center and were directed to our seats, four rows back and on the runway, close enough to touch the contestants. A truly exciting day."

(A video posted by NJ.com is at: <http://alturl.com/jbco9>)



LEFT: Nassau Mid-Island Chapter's Steve Marrin, Maurice Debar, Hal Verity and George Seelinger pose with last year's Miss America, Nina Davuluri, on the final night of preliminary competition.

BELOW: The quartet sings a parody the stand up comedienne and 1995 Miss America Dena Blizzard had written to poke fun at the long-winded pageant speeches of Miss America CEO, Sam Haskell.





Surprise! serenades Honor Flights

Surprise! quartet — **JC O'Donovan, John Grant, Bob Hirsh,** and **Bruce Minnick** (representing Alexandria, Mt Vernon, District of Columbia, Dundalk and Frank Thorne) — has been privileged to be part of crowds welcoming Honor Flights to Washington's Reagan National Airport. These special flights bring World War 2 and Korean War veterans to Washington to view the war memorials and tour other sites.

We know that members of the Mt. Vernon Harmony Heritage Singers and other Barbershop groups have participated in the Honor Flight program at both DCA and BWI. What a privilege for us and for the Society!

Tags without Dogs?

Due to a previous show commitment, Frank the Dog had to miss this year's District contest and convention, which was by all accounts filled with fun, friends and great performances throughout. While we couldn't be there in person, we were there in spirit, with our friends keeping us posted on results as they developed.

We didn't want to lose the momentum and fun of our Dog Tags program, to encourage tagging and support of M-AD Youth In Harmony to continue. So, we came up with "Dog-less Tags". The idea was to grab three friends, sing a tag and make a donation to M-AD YIH, which we would match dollar-for-dollar. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, though quartets were few, donations were robust and \$118 was raised, which we met with an additional \$132 to round it out to \$250.

Paws up to these participants and donors: **K.J. McAleese Jergins, Art Miller, Jesse Teer** (his first tag ever!) and an unknown tagger who sang Lonesome Rose, and **Rob Barnovsky, Allen Snyder, Allister Al-cudia** and longtime friend, Dog Tags supporter and helper **Ned Duffy**, who sang Last Night Was The End of The World.

We thank these folks for keeping the Dog Tags flame burning, and we look forward to returning to District next year, to sing with you in person and continue the fun.

See you at Prelims, HCE and beyond in 2015!

The Dogs: Tim, Tom, Ross and Steve



Last Men Standing



402.304.5887

www.LMSQuartet.com

To: Officers, Chapters, and Members of the Mid-Atlantic District
October 30, 2014

Dear Friends & Fellow Barbershoppers:

What an amazing weekend! We are humbled to be named the 2015 Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champion. We wish to offer our sincerest thanks to the District Events Team and the Bryn Mawr Mainliners for planning and hosting such an excellent convention. And to all of you who came to Wildwood and cheered for us, shook our hands, or patted us on the backs, thank you. Your support and encouragement made the countless hours of driving and rehearsals worthwhile.

We salute all the fine quartets who crossed the contest stage, especially our brothers in MADMEN, Gimme Four, and Up All Night. They delivered championship level performances all weekend. It was an honor just to share the stage with these talented gentlemen. We congratulate the Alexandria Harmonizers—one of our four home chapters—on their impressive victory in the chorus competition, and the Brothers In Harmony and the Voices Of Gotham for positioning themselves among the top contenders for the 2015 International Chorus Championship. We will be cheering for you in Pittsburgh.

We did our absolute best to sing for as many afterglows as possible, but evaluation sessions, obligations with the events team, and vocal fatigue left us with precious little time and energy. To those we missed, we apologize. We do plan to visit many chapters and make some new friends in the coming months.

When we put together this quartet, we knew we had something special, but we also knew it would take a tremendous amount of time and effort to realize our potential. While winning a district competition is a thrill, it's a small step in a journey that is only beginning. We have a long way to go, and we look forward to learning and growing together as singers, as performers, and as men.

We can't wait to see what our championship year will bring. We pledge to represent you and this wonderful hobby in a fashion befitting a champion, each and every time we perform. Thank you again. It's great to be a barbershopper!

Yours In Harmony,

Ed, Mike, Drew, and TJ

Last Men Standing

2015 Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champion

I was absolutely blown away when my name was announced as being elected into the Mid-Atlantic District Hall of Honor along with fellow recipients George "Oley" Olsen and Bob Disney.

I certainly wish them heartfelt congratulations!

Thank you to all who have expressed such kind words.

Thank You!

Doug Brown

Society Board Member

Many thanks to those PR guys and editors who sent in information on their chapters' upcoming shows and activities.



And also, many thanks to those of you who are sharing your electronic bulletins with ye ed. There is an amazing amount of good craft information circulating out there as well as some really nifty PR ideas. Thank you for sharing.

Barbershoppers have got to be the busiest people on the planet. And you know what they say . . . "If you want to get something done, ask a busy man (or woman)."

So here's what I'm asking: please, please, please when you plan a show or have some sort of noteworthy community event will you drop me a line with the particulars?

While I love perusing your websites, there are over 90 chapters in this district and even more quartets, so it's a sure thing I'll miss something important if you don't bring it to my attention!

Thank you!

Roxanne (Ye Ed)

P.S. You may have noticed various show flyers and ads in these pages. For 2014-15 they are running free of charge. Why not send yours to editor@midatlanticdistrict.com ?

"To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die."

Joel Bacher, Abington-Levittown PA Chapter

Joel H. Bacher, a retired Lockheed Martin engineer who had a song in his heart and expressed it as a member of a barbershop chorus, died July 17. He was 78 and lived in Newtown Pa.

He worked for 33 years at Lockheed Martin and its predecessors and was instrumental in the development of satellite systems that were antecedents to global positioning satellites. With colleagues, he was awarded a patent for a "Satellite Battery Reconditioning System & Method."

What also sparked his interest in a major way was Jewish communal life. Over the years, Bacher developed a close association with Tzedek v'Shalom in Newtown, which he served as a board member, president, treasurer, and as a faculty member of its Hebrew school.

An accomplished portraitist, he exhibited at the Ivyland Art Group and painted a mural outside BARC Developmental Services in Warminster.

He also had a passion for music, as evidenced by his many roles with the BuckMont Squires of Song, where he served as a board member, chapter president, and Singing Valentines coordinator, among other activities.

Bacher was married to Carolyn Sanders for more than 50 years until her death in 2010. He is survived by his son Steven Bacher, his daughter Susan Panick, his brother Louis Bacher, six grandchildren, and his friend Eva Kernis.

Contributions may be sent to the Carolyn & Joel Bacher Memorial Scholarship Fund, c/o Bucks County Community College Foundation, 275 Swamp Road, Newtown PA 18940.

[Adapted from an obituary posted on www.jewishexponent.com.]

Walter H. Fuhrmann, Greater Atlantic City Chapter

8/5/1916 - 10/19/2014

Walter was the older of two sons born to Arthur and Frances Fuhrmann. The family moved to Bucks County, Pa. when Walt was 11 years old. At this tender age he became a farmer — plowing fields, planting corn, wheat and oats. He had to learn to milk cows, go to school, and practice piano.

Walt joined the Barbershop Harmony Society, Greater Atlantic City Chapter in 1963. Became Chapter President in 1968, was named General Chairman of the 1970 International Convention, and became Secretary of the Judging Committee and Computer Operator. After 21 years he retired and was voted into the Hall of Honor in 1994.

Walter moved to New Jersey in 1938, married and reared three children

See Chapter Eternal, continued on next page

continued from previous page

— Sandra, Robert and Arthur. This marriage ended in 1949. He married Dorothy Sneckenburg, on October 4, 1953 and celebrated 59 anniversaries with her.

Walt started playing the piano at 6 years of age. He also played the accordion and sang on the radio of which he won many contests. He also had his own 15 minute

radio show at the age of 12.

He leaves behind his three children: Sandra (and Jack) Trimmer of Blounts Creek, North Carolina, Robert (and Beverly) Fuhrmann of Parker, Colorado, and Arthur (and Charlsie) Fuhrmann of Liverpool, Texas, seven grandchildren, and eleven great grand children, brother Newell

(Francis) Fuhrmann of Elizabeth, Colorado and he became a great, great grandfather the morning after he died.

Donations may be made to Atlantic City Boardwalk Chorus, c/o Eugene Gallucci, 7914 Ocean Blvd., Long Beach Twp., NJ 08008-3519

Stanley Wayne Thomas, Frederick Chapter

Stanley Wayne Thomas, 74, of Boonsboro, Md., departed this life Oct. 28 at his home after a brief battle with aggressive cancer.

Born in Hagerstown, Md., March 6, 1940, he was a son of Brayden Woodrow and EmmaGold (Stoner) Thomas.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Loretta Jean Wiles Thomas of Boonsboro; a brother, Brayden Randall Thomas and wife, Judi, of Martinsburg, W.Va.; three cousins, James Russell of Florida, Peter Russell of New Jersey and Barry Thomas of Reisterstown, Md.

In addition to his parents, he is predeceased by a brother, Ronald Dixon Thomas.

Stanley was a 62-year member of the Barbershop Harmony Society and a founding member of the Fred-

erick, Md. chapter. He was their first chorus director and sang in many quartets on 42 annual shows. He also sang in barbershop quartets for many years throughout the Frederick community.

Stanley graduated from Boonsboro High School in 1958. He was employed at the Boonsboro Bank for five years before serving in the U.S. Army for two years. He retired as a vice president from Hagerstown Trust Co. (Fulton Financial Corp.) after approximately 30 years of service.

He was a lifelong member of Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ in Boonsboro. He served as a church camp counselor at Camp Michaux for many years.

He was a longtime member of the Train Collectors

Association and Antique Automobile Club of America. He was a founding member of the Hub City Model A Ford Club of Hagerstown. He was a member of the Friends of the Washington County Rural Heritage Museum, served as a board member and docent at the museum, and was instrumental in bringing together the transportation building display.

A graveside service of Christian burial will be held in Feagaville, Md., at the convenience of the family.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Hospice of Washington County, 747 Northern Ave., Hagerstown, MD 21740; or to Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ, 33 Potomac St., Boonsboro, MD 21713.

Scott Ward, Lansdale Chapter

Philip Scott Ward, 69, of Lansdale, Pa., died peacefully at home October 22 after a brief illness.

Born in Spencer, W.Va., he was the son of the late Clarence Scott Ward, Jr. and Mary Ann (Phillips) Ward.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Sandra (Lilly) Ward; son Bryan, his wife Kelly and grandchildren Rylie and Reese of Carlisle, PA; daughter Laura Ward of Wilmington, Delaware; and sister, Cynthia Nelson, her husband Tom and nephew Scott Westfall and niece Sarah Westfall, all of Michigan.

Scott was a 33-year member of the Lansdale Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. He sang and competed with the North Pennsmen and several quartets before devoting his energies to various administrative positions for the Society's Mid-Atlantic District. He was

a member of its honorary fraternity, DELASUSQUEHUD-MAC, and in 2008, was inducted into the District's Hall of Honor in recognition of his exceptional contributions and encouragement of barbershop harmony.

A member of the Broadcasting Pioneers of Philadelphia, Scott began his career in 1960, as a DJ in a small AM radio station in Spencer where he worked with the award-winning country music song writer, Tom T. Hall. While attending Marshall University in Huntington, W.V., he was employed by WSAZ-TV, in various positions before becoming a television director.

In 1968, Scott graduated from Marshall and he and his wife moved to Philadelphia where he joined the production staff at WFIL-TV receiving many commendations for his artistically creative direction of programming and

commercials. Several years later he joined the directors' staff at KYW-TV, where he became a member of the Directors Guild of America and directed programming until his retirement in 2011. During his career in Philadelphia he directed a myriad of shows with national and local notables including Joan Crawford, Gloria Swanson, Lionel Hampton, Muhammad Ali, Jesse Jackson, Mike Douglas, Captain Noah, and Sally Star.

Friends and relatives are invited to greet the family beginning at 2:00 p.m. Monday, November 17, 2014 at Huff & Lakjer Funeral Home, 701 Derstine Ave., Lansdale. The Celebration of Scott's Life will follow at 3:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that contributions be sent in Scott's name to Manna on Main Street, 713 West Main Street, Lansdale, PA 19446 (215-855-5454).



NATIONAL ACCAPPELLA CONVENTION

The A Cappella Educators Association is thrilled to announce the inaugural

National A Cappella Convention in Memphis, TN April 24-25, 2015.

accappellaeducators.com/national-convention

Featuring professional concerts, showcase performances, a unique high school competition, group master classes, roundtable discussions, reading sessions, and more, The NACC is the only event of its kind in the country designed to bring the entire a cappella community together.



Those distinctive red and blue ribbons attached to name tags are everywhere. They represent levels of support (of giving-back) to the Barbershop Harmony Society. True enough, but they also identify those who are supporting their chapters and/or the Mid-Atlantic District through their participation in two of the Society's intentional giving programs.

How does this work? The ubiquitous ribbons identify members of Ambassadors of Song (red) and President's Council (blue). These are very generous guys who contribute regularly to Harmony Foundation International.

That's good for the BHS, right? But what about the district and the chapters? These are the very same guys who select the "donor choice" option and designate up to 30 percent of their gift to be returned to either the district, the chapter, or (in some combination) to both.

OK, so how are we doing? Amazingly well! Of the 17 districts, ours ranks first in the number of AOS contributors and second in the number of PC members. To put these numbers in perspective, this is how the top five districts lined up as of the end of June, 2014):

Now that's impressive! A HUGE thank you to each and every donor both from Harmony Foundation and the Barbershop Harmony Society AND from your chapters and district.

Further, "donor choice" contributions in favor of the district are deposited to the M-AD Endowment Fund, providing scholarships to youth quartets and musical directors to attend the Youth Harmony Camp and Harmony College East, respectively.

Want to explore donation options, support to your chapter, or help send more young M-AD singers to camp and provide musical directors and those on the way up with additional educational and skill enhancing opportunities? 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), "donor choice" options, and accept direct donations to the Fund.

Ambassador of Song Members

- 498 – Mid-Atlantic District
- 314 – Far Western District
- 224 – Southwestern District
- 215 – Sunshine District
- 187 – Land O'Lakes District

President's Council Members

- 179 – Far Western District
- 136 – Mid-Atlantic District
- 110 – Sunshine District
- 83 – Rocky Mountain District
- 77 – Dixie District

Donor Choice?

Why Should I Care?

"Donor Choice"? It offers individuals who contribute to Harmony Foundation as members of the President's Council (PC) and Ambassadors of Sound (AOS) the opportunity to designate up to 30 percent of their gift to be returned to their chapter and/or district. This is unrestricted revenue that would otherwise not be available to either chapter or district. In essence, this means that Harmony Foundation is raising money for chapters and districts, as well as in support of Society programs.

Funds are distributed by the Foundation on a semiannual basis (very often at or close to the district's spring and fall conventions). While chapters are at liberty to use this money as they choose, "donor choice" funds received by the Mid-Atlantic District are deposited to the District Endowment Fund. The really terrific news is that "donor choice" contributions to the District for the first half of this year total \$6,787.97 -- a real boost to the Endowment Fund.

The number of M-AD PC and AOS members, how the M-AD compares with the other sixteen districts, and the purpose of the Endowment Fund are highlighted elsewhere in this issue. But, again, I'd be happy to field questions about any aspect of these important programs. Consider, for example, what it might mean if each chapter member contributed \$10/month to the Foundation (to become an AOS member) and opted for the chapter to receive the full 30 percent share.

Generous Barbershoppers contributed a total of \$456 to the Mid-Atlantic District Endowment Fund at this year's District Fall Convention in Wildwood, NJ. \$123 was donated in exchange for vinyl, 33-1/3 rpm (long playing) records in the Harmony Marketplace (thanks to Mary Jo Griffith) and \$330 was donated by those who attended the House of Delegates meeting on Sunday morning. Many thanks to all!

BIG Thank You!



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

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*.



Arns' Awesome Axioms

One of my barbershop heroes is Jim Arns – the awesome director of the absolutely amazing 6-time gold medal-winning SAI chorus from Chicago, The Melodeers. He's pretty close to being the SAI version of Jim Henry or Jim Clancy. During my stint as an SAI director, I had the great pleasure of attending many of Jim's music theory sessions; had him coach my chorus; and watched him win few championships.

I also wrote down a bunch of his thoughts, several



by Roger Tarpy,
VP Music & Performance

of which I'd like to pass along here (in no particular order). They are real gems because they provide insight into the most central issue we face in our hobby – how to sing and perform at a higher level.

Muscle tension is the singer's biggest enemy; body movement relieves tension. Such a simple idea, but how profound! The larynx gets stretched and distorted by tension in the jaw and tongue. Breath support is restricted and diminished by tension in the neck, torso, and even legs. **What to do? Simple: Without being frenetic, keep your body moving with the music.**

Singing and music skills may get you to the big show but good performance skills provide the artistry for an A-level performance – sincerity, showmanship, visual selling of the message. In other words, you need to have technical proficiency in your singing, but that alone isn't

enough. **If you aspire to greatness, you must live and breathe the message in your performance.**

The lion's share of visual excellence is based on a singer's eyes –

whether they're formally rewarded with points by Presentation Judges, or, more importantly, informally applauded by discerning audience members.

Think about it. Your mouth is busy speaking words so it's limited in what emotions it can portray. But your eyes aren't restricted in any way. And they are central to one's communication.

Here's a good demonstration. Take a newspaper and place it just below your eyes so that it covers the entire lower portion of your face. Now ask a friend to say when you're smiling, frowning, or being stone-faced just by looking at your eyes. I guarantee he won't miss. **Jim is reminding us not to fret about "choreo"; worry about what the eyes reveal.**

If you don't believe that it's important for you to know your music absolutely cold, then be sure to say the following to your riser mate at rehearsal: "Would it be OK with you if I practiced some wrong notes? I promise I'll sing them correctly during the contest."

Jim Arns didn't win all those gold medals, in, arguably, the preeminent arena of barbershop chorus singing in the world, by demanding less than the best from his chorus members.

Every song tells a story. If one doesn't perform the story, then all you have left are the notes and words. In Jim's mind, simply singing notes and words, even if they are done correctly, isn't music. It lacks the richness, texture, and meaning of a

"Would it be OK with you if I practiced some wrong notes? I promise I'll sing them correctly during the contest."

message that accompanies a tune. It's pleasant, maybe even

consonant, but it doesn't achieve its potential to communicate something about the human spirit.

The best breathers always win. They win the judges' points, and they win the hearts of the audience. **Why? Because great breathing provides for great breath support, and great support is fundamental to great singing.**

Why do we sing flat? It's not our defective ears, or lack of motivation, or poor vocal training. It's the lack of energy in our singing that results from inadequate breath support.

Synchrony is having a great feel for the emotional aspects of the music. Synchrony is not just "singing together." It's not a matter of good or bad timing. Music has energy, flow, and nuance. **When we're aware of the emotional dimensions of the music, we sing as a unit.** We "feel" the cutoffs, the dynamic changes, and the tempo.

The key to singing at an A level is emotional risk and abandonment. Why is this so hard for many of us? It's probably because we've been taught not to be conspicuous, not to stick out from the crowd.

Or perhaps it's because we're always thinking when we sing – What's the next word? Is my "oo" vowel OK? Did my arm go up at the right time? All that technical stuff needs to be so well-practiced that we don't have to think about it. Only then can we throw ourselves fully into the emotional aspects of the performance.

Vowel matching is the heart and soul of resonance. Everyone knows that our singing improves when

The Montclair Chapter presents its 2014 Fall dinner show

Macaroni & Music

with featured quartet

GIMME FOUR

plus Rebecca Monk, East Coast Sound

and Starring

The Dapper Dans of Harmony

Come join us for a fun evening of good food and great barbershop music!

Saturday, Nov. 22nd at 6:00 PM
N. Caldwell Fireman's Community Center
151 Gould Ave. North Caldwell, NJ

Tickets are \$30.00 each

to order yours go to

DapperDans.org

or call (973) 866-5005

we match vowels, right? But Jim's statement implies something a bit more. The very lock-and-ring of our singing, the energy and brilliance of our chords, and the thrilling sense of harmonic expansion, are, for the most part, due to a single thing – vowel matching.

Sure other aspects like balance are important, but Jim believes that **when you have exceptional vowel matching, otherwise "noisy" and dull singing suddenly sounds rich and resonant.**

encourage great singing

from the start!

One of the most enjoyable experiences that our chorus members anticipate is learning new music. They may love to sing the repertoire they already know, but there is a certain excitement about pursuing a new musical journey, and a particularly keen joy in developing new songs into performance-ready shape.

If we as directors wish to harness this positive energy and use it to our advantage — and the advantage of the chorus — we must ensure that we plan how to best teach the song. My article this quarter focuses on some techniques to consider when teaching new music to your chorus. Not all of these concepts apply to every chorus or every song, but they may be helpful when the situation is appropriate.

Learning tracks: dos and don'ts – Society learning tracks in recent years have become top-notch (thank you, Tim Waurick!), and a good learning track is a critical resource for learning new music. However, it is important to teach your singers how to use the learning track for its intended purpose. Here are some important dos and don'ts:

DO listen to the track at least ten times without singing along. **At all!** ☺ This allows you to get adequately familiar with the song before you start committing it to memory.

DO spend time listening to the melody, most often found in the Lead part. If you are not familiar with the melody, how will you know how to harmonize to it?

DON'T just listen to the track in the car! Since you are concentrating on driving, you will not get much “learning” out of this time; you will merely get undisciplined repetitions of the song. Instead....

DO sit in a quiet room at home with your music in front of you and listen to the track while following along in the music. This is a good time to mark your music (in pencil only, please!) for phrasing, places to breathe, dynamic levels, etc.

When you are sufficiently familiar with the song, **DO** start singing along with your voice part, but **DON'T** go from start to finish. Instead, pick a segment of the

song (intro, chorus, tag, etc) and practice that section multiple times. You will learn to retain parts of the song much more quickly this way.

DON'T continue to listen to the track after you know the song. In most cases, the director has changed the song's interpretation in spots, and every time you go back to the track's interpretation, you forget how your chorus is going to actually sing the song.

Quartet method – Another good way to teach a song is to have a quartet demonstrate it to the chorus. Have the men sit in sections and listen to a quartet sing the song (or part of the song) completely through. Now have the quartet stand in front of and facing their respective sections and, one by one, sing their parts to their sections.

Best to work one part of the song at a time: intro, chorus, tag, etc. After 2-3 repetitions, have the men sing along with their quartet leader. You can do this all together, with everyone listening to the progress each section is making, or break off into sectionals and do this separately. Finally, sing the song through once or twice as a complete ensemble. You might be amazed at how quickly a group can learn a new song this way!

Learn a section, and learn it well! – One of the ways your singers get excited about their music is when they can hear that they are making progress and getting better. So teach them a segment of the song (perhaps the exciting tag, or the beautiful intro, etc) and encourage them to learn it well.

Too often we merely “sing through” a section without bothering to stop and fix things along the way. Imprecise run-throughs reinforce bad habits that you do not want the chorus to adopt. Instead, challenge the chorus right away — even if this is their first time singing the song! — to make music out of it: Leads, sing that beautiful melody with a beautiful sound, and put the expression in your face; Basses, round out your tone and keep it consistent when you change registers; Baritones, we need a lot more air in your tone; Tenors, become one with the Lead sound, etc.

Of course, they are still getting comfortable with the

One of the ways your singers get excited about their music is when they can hear that they are making progress and getting better.

notes and words, but at the same time they are turning those notes and words into a living, breathing piece of music. Once you've learned a segment well, sing that segment all the way through and allow the guys to soak it in. Then praise them for learning the new song so quickly, and at a high level.

Finally, before you move on to something else in the rehearsal, tell the men that you expect them to come back next week well-prepared with the segment that you worked just now. If you hold them accountable and they honor their commitment, your chorus will be able to learn new music fairly rapidly.

Learn challenging tasks during chorus warm-ups, then apply them into new music. There are often challenging spots within a new piece of music: vocal leaps of a major sixth or an octave, which tend to present tuning issues; rhythmic difficulties; very close, tight harmony; 'Chinese' sevenths; etc. Earmark a few of these challenges and develop warm-up drills to address them. The chorus will make improvement in these challenging areas in a craft-oriented session, then later you can show them how to apply their newly-learned skills in their new music. This will help make new repertoire seem much less daunting.

See Encouraging, continued on next page



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

ENCOURAGING

continued from previous page

Ensure music fundamentals are in play from the start – I encourage you to never let music fundamentals slide, even when learning a brand new song. Breathing properly, putting the air into the sound, singing correct target vowels, turning diphthongs together as an ensemble, singing tall vowels, energizing the sound with facial and body involvement—these are techniques that we should be teaching our singers all the time, holding them accountable each week to make improvement in these areas.

Why would singing a new song be any different? Hold your singers accountable to try their best, and do not be afraid to take a section of a new song and work it for a while until it sounds pretty good. This will not only facilitate the learning process, but your singers will also realize that they are capable of far more than they might have expected, if only they try their best.

Make sure that all parts of the song are worked sufficiently for your chorus to learn the entire song well – I've witnessed a LOT of directors spending an inordinate amount of rehearsal time learning the intro and the tag of a new song. Mind you, there is good rationale for doing this: The intro is the first thing the audience hears, so it had better be good, and the tag is the last thing they hear, so it had better be awesome!

We create problems, however, when we pay scant attention to other parts of the song and allow the level and quality of singing to go way down in those sections. I call this creating "saddle-backs" in the song; the places that simply don't sound as good as the rest of the piece. We directors simply must spend sufficient time developing the entirety of each new song so that our choruses can be successful performing them.

Sectional rehearsals – Most directors realize the value of regular sectional rehearsals. However, most directors believe that a sectional rehearsal is a time to teach our singers the notes and words that they don't already know. Not at all! **Notes and words are the men's responsibility in their practice time at home, and in their weekly rehearsal with the chorus.**

The benefit of sectional rehearsals is to allow each section to learn

to sing better as a section. They learn to sing with one unified sound (no individual voices sticking out), they learn to harness air and put it into the sound, they learn which notes in their voice part are important and which ones are less so, etc. Sectional time is an opportunity to bond and gel as a section, not to do the men's homework for them. Your chorus can make leaps and bounds of progress if you have regular sectional rehearsals that emphasize unified sound and vocal technique.

Develop a new song's emotional message from the very beginning! – Far too often, directors spend most of their time teaching only the notes and words to new music. The reason, I suppose, is that the chorus cannot perform a song until the men can sing through it all the way.

However, if your chorus learns a song without learning about its emotional presentation, then your chorus will literally have to learn the song all over again! They will be used to singing the wrong interpretation, the wrong dynamic levels, and quite possibly the wrong tempo and mood. These may seem to be easy things to fix "later," but I assure you that you will have a very difficult time getting everyone on the same page.

Instead, spend adequate time ensuring note and word accuracy in a short section of the new song, then go back immediately and work on that same part of the song with all of the correct interpretation in place. This means that you, the director, have to know what interpretation you want from the entire song before you ever present the song to the chorus. I promise you that your early preparation will pay off in huge dividends throughout the learning process!

Learning new music is great fun for our singers, and it is up to us, the directors, to develop an appropriate plan to teach each new song to our choruses. Every song is different; hence, our teaching methods will naturally differ from song to song. The methods mentioned above will hopefully give you some ideas as to how to start the process with your ensemble.

Whatever methods you use, I urge you to work through the notes and words quickly so that you can start making beautiful music as early in the process as possible. You can be sure that you and your singers will like the results!

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



Hamilton Square, New Jersey Chapter - The Barbershop Harmony Society
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Holiday Show 2014



Sat. – December 20th, 2014 at 2 PM

Featuring the Brothers In Harmony

Alternate show date, in case of a snow emergency, will be Sun. Dec. 21st

In case of snowy weather on Saturday, check our website first

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155 Robbinsville-Edinburg Rd Robbinsville NJ 08691

Tickets

Reserved \$25 General Admission \$20

Under 12 Free

To order tickets, call – (215) 794-8075

Or order on-line at www.brothersinharmony.org

Come visit the Brothers in Harmony at: www.brothersinharmony.org
The Brothers In Harmony is a registered 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization



WILDWOOD QUARTET FINALISTS

For scores, please visit:
[www.midatlanticdistrict.com/
archives/ContestScores/2014
DistrictQtetFinals.pdf](http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/archives/ContestScores/2014DistrictQtetFinals.pdf)

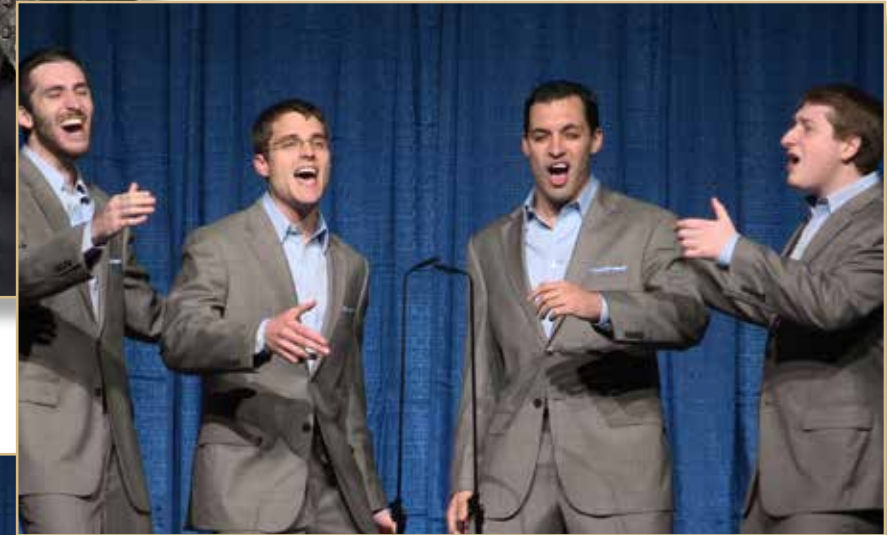
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MORE PICTURES! — please visit:
[www.midatlanticdistrict.com/
photos](http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/photos)



2014 MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT CHAMPIONS
LAST MEN STANDING



2 MADMEN



3 GIMME FOUR



4 UP ALL NIGHT



5 FORECAST

WILDWOOD QUARTET FINALISTS



6 THE MONORAIL FOUR



7 FACES 4 RADIO



8 ACHORDING TO DAD



9 ON TAP



10 FLASHPOINT



10 BLACK TIE AFFAIR

WILDWOOD QUARTET SEMI-FINALISTS

For scores, please visit:

www.midatlanticdistrict.com/archives/ContestScores/2014DistrictQtetSemis.pdf

For more pictures — LOTS MORE PICTURES! — please visit:

www.midatlanticdistrict.com/photos



12 THE FACETONES



13 NEW KID IN TOWN



14 PARKSIDE

15 RIVERLINE



15 LoCo 4

17 FOR THE TIMES



18 RAZZMATAZZ

WILDWOOD QUARTET SEMI-FINALISTS



19 ATLANTIC HARMONIES



20 SHAMELESS



21 MY UNCLE MURRAY

23 DESPERATE MEASURES



21 COHESION

25 THE BAT BOYS



24 DIDISTINCTION

WILDWOOD CHORUS CONTESTANTS (in order of appearance)



BRYN MAWR MAINLINERS



LONG ISLAND SOUND FIVE TOWNS COLLEGE



PRINCETON GARDEN STATESMEN



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA SINGING CAPITAL CHORUS



ROANOKE VALLEY VIRGINIA GENTLEMEN



ALLENTOWN-BETHEHEM LEHIGH VALLEY HARMONIZERS



LANCASTER RED ROSE CHORUS



MONTCLAIR DAPPER DANS OF HARMONY



ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY SONS OF THE SEVERN

WILDWOOD CHORUS CONTESTANTS (in order of appearance)



DUNDALK CHORUS OF THE CHESAPEAKE



RICHMOND VIRGINIANS



LOUDON COUNTY CHORUS OF THE OLD DOMINION



HUNTERDON HARMONIZERS



QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY PRIDE OF DELMARVA



MANHATTAN BIG APPLE CHORUS



LEWISBURG WEST BRANCH CHORUS



BUCKS COUNTY COUNTRY GENTLEMEN



NORFOLK COMMODORE CHORUS

WILDWOOD CHORUS CONTESTANTS (in order of appearance)



LANSDALE NORTH PENNSMEN



HARRISONBURG HARMONIZERS



FAIRFAX JUBIL-AIRES



OCEAN COUNTY OCEANAIRES



HARFORD COUNTY BAY COUNTRY GENTLEMEN



HARRISBURG KEYSTONE CAPITAL CHORUS



CHERRY HILL PINE BARONS

For scores, please visit:

www.midatlanticdistrict.com/archives/ContestScores/2014DistrictChorus.pdf

For more pictures — LOTS MORE PICTURES! — please visit:

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... through Carl's Eyes



by **Bill Colosimo**,
MAD President

rigorous schedule of leadership meetings, well-orchestrated contest sessions and the euphoric experience of hearing such compelling, well-prepared performances of our competitors and champs, left me -- and virtually everyone else surrounding me -- practically breathless!

Carl could not attend our Convention. But, as I reflect on what I saw and heard through Carl's eyes, I would make these observations:

- The improving and consistent level of skill and entertainment value of all the competitors, especially the quartets from top to bottom, was among the most exciting exhibition of our region's best that Carl could ever imagine. Carl's love of quartet singing, in particular, would have been met in spades.
- Carl would have appreciated the breadth of variety of the chorus presentations, with every chorus, large to small in size, putting on their best for their peers, families, judges and the public. He would have appreciated the lively presentation, in particular, which always made him smile when he'd proudly sing with the Arlingtones.
- Carl and his wife Lisa, while loyal to the core and willing to sit through virtually the entire contest, would both attest to the extraordinarily long contest sessions. And he (and more often she!) would politely seek me out and, gently but clearly, express the suggestion that a shorter contest experience, and more social, participatory time for attendees would be desirable. He'd politely suggest the hope that future events can be designed to me more "convention" than just "contest." And I'd listen...and we'd act.
- Lisa and Carl would have to leave the Show of Champions before the quartet announcements and finale Saturday night to return to their hotel, where, without fail, even as a non-competing chorus, The Arlingtones would host a small hospitality room welcoming all comers. And goodness knows Lisa's famous spicy meatballs would have to be warmed to just the right temperature to be ready for her visitors.
- Carl would have attended the House of Delegates meeting on Sunday morning and been grateful to hear MAD leadership soliciting from all delegates their thoughts on potential event venue selection criteria and ways to enhance the District's revenue stream to continue to offer top-flight services to all chapters and members without raising dues. He would have been delighted to hear that district leadership continues to work vigorously to enhance Recruitment, Coaching, Communication and Collaboration vehicles to benefit all chapters in need. He'd

smile, knowing that his own chorus had been one of five chapters who'd earned a MAD grant award through the new "LEEAP" initiative, encouraging chapters like his to seek and retain qualified outside music leadership and coaching. He'd have acknowledged the role of his Chapter Advocate and other leaders who stepped up to work closely with his chapter to help them meet their challenges in a productive, cooperative way. And he'd have been particularly pleased that his chapter was among those in the DC/Baltimore "chapter consortium" planning collaborative performances in 2015; choruses banding together, large and small, to reach out to the community at large to show folks his love of barbershop...and maybe instill a little love in them, too!

- Once home at his next Arlingtones meeting, Carl would clearly and thoughtfully convey his experience to his fellows and encourage them to attend "next year!"

Nashville Leadership Forum Experience

The weekend immediately following Wildwood, a select team of your district leaders attended the Society's annual Leadership Forum for intensive meetings and planning exercises with all districts to insure the Society Board, Headquarters staff (and CEO) and the districts are all aligned in our mission to provide the best possible experience to all barbershoppers and chapters.

Carl was not with me, but here's what I believe he'd take away from the experience through his eyes:

- Carl would have been pleased with the intense emphasis on every leader's obligation, at every level, to work tirelessly to provide solutions to the "Focus Areas" specifically requested by our chapters in the Chapter Visitation Project. He would have been especially proud of the 2014 progress reported by his MAD representatives and the specific planning of initiatives and resources for 2015 that MAD is committing to in order that every chapter that wants help, gets help, to the best of our ability!
- As a retired military officer and then government contractor responsible for major project and program management, Carl would be delighted to see that MAD and other districts are holding themselves accountable with new technologies and strategies to insure programs' and projects' planning and execution are both significant and effective!
- Carl would have been thrilled with our newest emphasis on "We Sing, We SERVE!" Carl's whole life was dedicated to service to barbershop, no matter how daunting the challenge or obstacle. He performed, organized performanc-

es, publicized performances...but he never, ever lost sight of SERVING his community of all ages, whether through song or other altruistic enterprise.

So Why "Through Carl's Eyes?"

Upon my return from Nashville, I was informed of the sad news that Carl Costanzo, stalwart chorister, quartet man and tireless, ever-faithful leader of the Arlingtones since 1971, had passed away. When I first joined the Arlingtones in 1977, Carl was already a clever producer, parody writer and confirmed "basso profundo" in his terrifically fun quartets. He taught me lessons in leadership and "growing up" as a dad would for his own son. His short stature (one of his quartets was called "Closer to the Floor Four!") was overwhelmed by his booming bass voice, his non-stop energy and his ever-willing spirit to continually seek ways to improve the Arlingtones as both an organization and a performing ensemble.

Carl never minced words, but never spoke ill or disrespectfully of or to anyone. Carl dreamed big, but lived humbly in service to others. Carl outlived two pacemakers, having pulled through near-death experiences with both. To the end, long after I'd left the Arlingtones as Director in 1988, Carl and Lisa remained stalwart supporters of my activity and my family's growth and development, especially through difficult times.

In fact, it is Lisa who may be responsible for Anthony's success in vocal performance: when we would pay a visit by car to their home on Halloween (by invitation...no!...by insistence!), Anthony, at age 4, 5, and 6, would be required to stand on their front porch, in costume, and "sing a song" for the neighbors before he and Catherine would be rewarded with a treat!

When I was privileged to be elected your President in late 2013, although we only saw each other infrequently in recent years, Carl called me to wish me well, thank me for my previous service, and offer to do anything he could to help me.

Just short of his 89th birthday, Carl's passing brings to mind the incredible privilege I've had to know all of you, learn from you, share joy and challenges with you, and continue to commit myself to your success and the propagation of our art form and our great Society. Each of you embodies many of Carl's finest characteristics and passion for what we do. And, if I've learned nothing else, I've learned to continue to look at all I do--and all we can do together--"through Carl's eyes."

Sometimes delay produces positive outcomes. My delay in submitting this final column as your District President has provided me the opportunity to share some observations on very recent events that have had a profound effect on me. I hope to highlight some lessons that may have a positive effect on you and your barbershop experience, too.

If you'll indulge me, though, I'd like to frame my observations of recent events through a different set of eyes than my own. I've chosen to share the perspective of a 43-year barbershopper, Carl, whose entire length of membership in and service to our art form and our organization has been spent in his home chapter of Arlington, Virginia and his beloved Arlingtones Chorus.

The Wildwood Convention Experience

Much is written elsewhere in this issue of the amazing quartet and chorus contest performance experiences provided and witnessed at our District Convention in Wildwood. A



*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.

Our host is:
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1101 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, MD 21801



Questions
or Comments?

Ig Jakovac
ijakovac@comcast.net

Roger Tarp
rtarpy@verizon.net

It's all about giving back

What an honor to be your new president-elect. For those of you who may not know me, I am a long time barbershopper who has been an active chorus and quartet singer since I sang my first tag on my first visit to a barbershop chapter (Bucks County) 32 years ago. I still remember that night as if it happened yesterday. What a powerful thing it is to experience four-part harmony. It's what hooked me and what has been fueling me for these past years.



by Ig Jakovac,
President-Elect

Having said that, to be a barbershopper has proven to be so much more. Through our wonderful organization I was able to get some of THE BEST music training that is available anywhere in the world. It started with voice and ensemble coaching every week at our chorus rehearsal. It continued as I sang in my first quartet and had coaching from dedicated barbershoppers who did it for fun and because they were "giving back".

Then I discovered Harmony College East and Harmony College (in St. Joseph, Mo.). I went pretty much every year for about 15 years. During that time I learned quite a bit about vocal production and music theory.

As a result I became very interested in judging and eventually got into the program. I became a certified Singing Judge in 2007. I wanted to be able to help quartets and choruses like so many barbershoppers that helped me in the many quartets that I have had the privilege to sing in and the fine choruses that I have had the opportunity to be associated with.

I have been doing so across the globe as I have taken judging/teaching assignments in not only the U.S. and Canada but also in Europe and as far as New Zealand. It's a wonderful feeling to "give back".

While singing is such a huge part of being a barbershopper, for me there is so much more. Again through Harmony College (now called Harmony University), I was able to learn quite a bit about choral methods and decided that I would take all the requirements of becoming a certified director. This took some years because the curriculum involved a variety of courses that could only be taken at Harmony University – it's a bit easier these days because some of the courses can be taken on-line.

In any event, I learned a bunch in going through the process and I now continue to practice my directing skills by working with the North Pennsmen in Lansdale and the Liberty Belles also of Lansdale. This is team effort between me and my wife (Anne Bureau) who does most of the directing while I do most of the coaching (and some of the directing). It's great to "give back"

Could being a barbershopper get ANY better – well, in a word, YES. Again at Harmony University I became enamored with arranging. It took a while but I continued learning and now find such joy in arranging music that it is hard to describe. I have done charts for many of my own quartets as well as both our male and female choruses.

I arranged several female charts that my wife's quartet took to the International stage (they came in second) – what thrill for me. I progressed as an arranger because of other barbershoppers (especially

Allow yourself to pursue your passion – it will change your life!

Kevin Keller) who helped me along the way – you see, they were just "giving back".

What else can barbershoppers do? Well for me it started with my own chapter. I thought I might be able to help and got some leadership training at COTS (now Leadership Academy) and of course some leadership training at Harmony University as well. I took on roles in the chapter which culminated as Chapter President for several terms.

I then thought that it would be great to see if I could "give back" to the District which has provided so much and so I got involved as VP Music and Performance. I became passionate about Harmony College East and am now working with Roger Tarpy (your current VP Music and Performance) to ensure that HCE remains to be the best school of its type in the country.

I am blessed to have the opportunity to "give back" as your President-elect. Being a barbershopper has allowed me to pursue a wide breadth and depth of achievement levels. Allow yourself to pursue your passion – it will change your life!

We have exciting years ahead of us and I know you will want to join me as we continue to make a difference in people's lives. My door is always open to your thoughts – I look forward to seeing you across the District and maybe singing a tag or two...

MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT OFFICERS

President: Bill Colosimo (Linda); 571-213-7376; billcatps@aol.com

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

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

Treasurer: Bob Eckman (Maggie); 434 589-1262; bob.eckman@comcast.net

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

Board Members-at-Large:

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

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

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

Roger Tarpy (Jean); 804-829-2466; rtarpy@verizon.net

2014 DISTRICT OPERATIONS TEAM

VP Atlantic Division:

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

VP Northern Division:

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

VP Southern Division:

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

VP Western Division:

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

VP Chapter Support & Leadership Training:

Chuck Harner; 903-938-3001; CAChuck@cox.net

VP Chorus Director Development:

Glenn Phillips; 410-519-5385; scalthorn@msn.com

VP Contest & Judging:

Gary Plaa; 703-868-5152; gplaagbhs@gmail.com

VP Events: Walter Griffith (Mary Jo);

570-735-5577; imabari1@aol.com

VP Financial Development:

Alan Wile (Patty); 703-538-6526;
alan.wile@comcast.net

VP Marketing & Public Relations:

Eric Herr (Fran); 856-988-7721;
ewh14@comcast.net

VP Membership Development:

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

VP Music & Performance: Roger Tarp (Jean); 804-829-2466; rtarp@verizon.net

VP Youth In Harmony:

Gary Plaag; 703-868-5152;
gplaagbhs@gmail.com

Chief Information Officer: Mike Kelly;
MikeKelly@MidAtlanticDistrict.com



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

NEXT DEADLINE: Jan. 15, 2015

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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THE SONG IN YOUR HEART

To study the benefits of choral singing on the body, researchers at the Sahlgrenska Academy at Sweden's Gothenburg University studied the heart rates of high school choir members as they sang in unison. Their findings were recently published in *Frontiers in Neuroscience*.

Musicologist Björn Vickhoff, who led the study, observed that not only did the choir members' heart rates slow down as they began to sing, but their heartbeats gradually synchronized, eventually beating as one, with the song's tempo as a guide.

"Singing regulates activity in the vagus nerve which is involved in our emotional life and our communication with others and which, for example, affects our vocal timbre," he said in an academy-released statement. "Songs with long phrases achieve the same effect as breathing exercises in yoga. In other words, through song we can exercise a certain control



over mental states."

Vickhoff plans to continue exploring the biological impacts of music on the body and health in a long-term project called "The Body's Musical Score." It is hoped that it will lead to new music-based medical treatments that may be used in rehabilitation and preventive care in the future.

From Toosday Tunes, November 2014, a monthly publication of the Nassau Mid-Island Chapter, edited by Bob Heim.



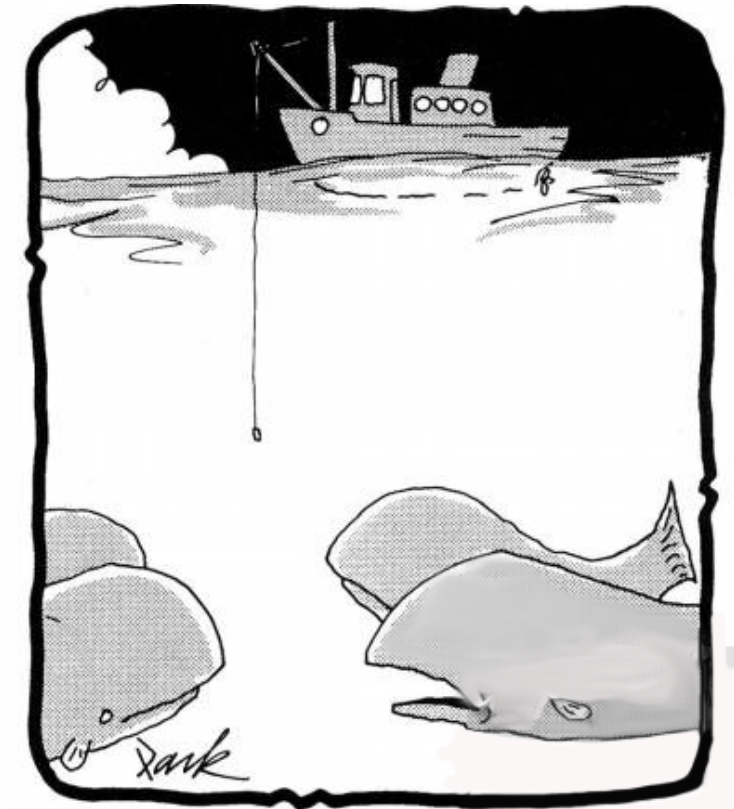
Play That Barbershop Chord

Play That Barbershop Chord is the song credited with initially using "barbershop" as a term for our four-part harmonies. Here are a few websites that may be of interest:

<http://youtu.be/F5bYnRkwpc0>

And, despite, its politically incorrect lyrics:

<http://youtu.be/8G4TYpo18Tk>



"Uh-oh, here comes the mike again. Cut the barbershop quartet and go back to mournful whistling."

And this, with the sheet music cover and piano arrangement:

<http://alturl.com/k8u48>

Finally, this memorable Judy Garland performance from the film *Good Old Summertime*:

<http://youtu.be/6gVM0dMDOEo>