



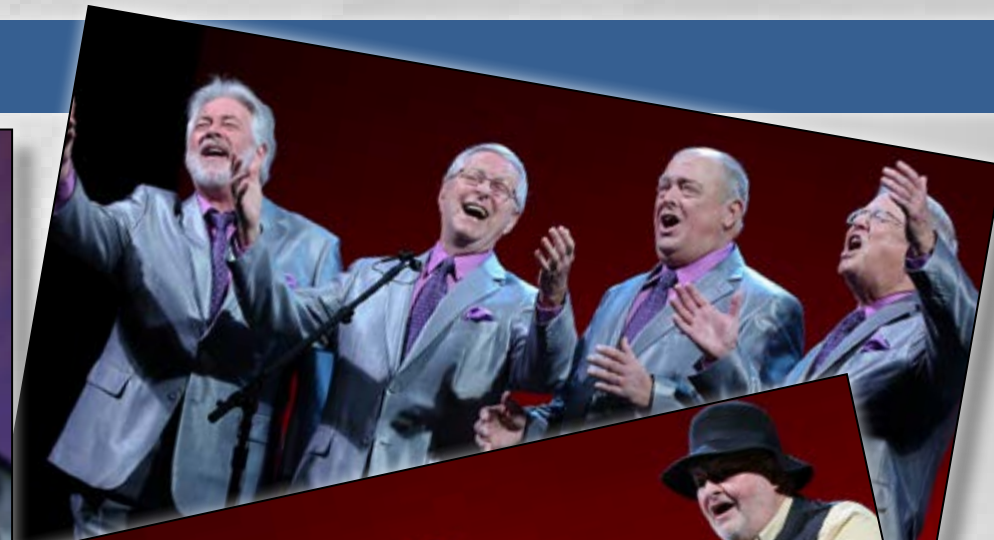
MID'ANTICS

MAD barbershoppers rule!

East Coast Sound, Youth Reclamation Project, Razzmatazz, and Wildcat Harmonizers all give top-notch performances at BHS MidWinter Convention in Reno

Volume 47, Issue 1 • SPRING 2016

A BULLETIN FOR EVERY BARBERSHOPPER IN THE MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT



CLOCKWISE FROM ABOVE: East Coast Sound turns in its best performance to date, running away with the Plateau AAA championship. Youth Reclamation Project struck a nostalgic chord with Nice Work if You Can Get It. Razzmatazz shoots all the cows in Let's Get Away From it All. Quinton Township Wildcat Harmonizers (youngest performers on the stage) take Audience Favorite with a trio of songs just packed with visual interest.

TOP THAT!

Reno raises the bar



by **Dick Powell**
Member-at-large,
BHS Board of Directors



My wife and I just returned from what may be the very best barbershop convention I have ever experienced in my 36 years in the Society. The 2016 Mid Winter convention was held at the Peppermill Hotel in Reno, Nev. By now, most everyone in the Barbershop Harmony Society knows that the Mid Winter convention is where we hold our International Seniors Quartet contest and a youth chorus festival. But that description is like telling someone that Hawaii is just a few volcanic islands in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Here are some impressions from our experience in Reno.

The Singing

Picture 60 members of the **Diocesan High School Boys Choir** from Hong Kong ringing tags with **Vintage Mix** (quadruplets!), kids from across the U.S. and Canada, and old guys like me!

Imagine a senior quartet contest where every performance was a delight and the winners were superb.

Picture **Deke Sharon** as MC complimenting **East Coast Sound** on their courage in song selection and artistry that took our breath away (they got their highest rating ever and won the AAA plateau).

Sit in stunned delight as youth chorus after youth chorus blows you away with their wonderful performances capped off with the most incredible and Audience Favorite winning performance by the **Wildcat Harmonizers** from Salem County, N.J. whose 8 singers (including one blind boy) with an average age 12 ½ touched our hearts and brought us to our feet hoping for more.

The venue

Picture a hotel with a casino – but without major crowds and lots of no smoking areas. Plus:

- Staff members who are friendly, courteous, and helpful.
- Beautiful and spacious rooms.
- Many, varied, and reasonably priced restaurants in the hotel and in the immediate area outside.



TOP: Deke Sharon directs the combined youth chorus.

MIDDLE: Director John Wernega delights in the Wildcat Harmonizers and their Audience Favorite award.

BOTTOM: Director David Ammirata's grin says it all as he shows off the Caldwell, New Jersey Chapter East Coast Sound's AAA Plateau winner's award.



See **CONVENTION**, continued on next page



ABOVE: As MBHA President Ron Morden looks on, BHS President Don Fuson calls for the vote on granting the Mixed Harmony Barbershop Association (MBHA) affiliate status with the BHS. The ayes were unanimous.

TRIVIA NOTE: The BHS Board of Directors sing their votes. The "Keeper of the Keys" (Dick Powell for this vote) blows an A and all in favor sing "Aye." Then he blows an F and all opposed sing "Nay".



MBHA President Ron Morden signs the affiliation agreement with the BHS.



MBHA President Ron Morden presents a framed original of the Sept. 26, 1936 Saturday Evening Post featuring Norman Rockwell's iconic illustration of a barbershop quartet to Barbershop Harmony Society President Don Fuson to mark the Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association's new affiliation with the BHS.

CONVENTION

Continued from previous page

- An entire level of the hotel with meeting rooms, seating areas, and conversational corners where you can sit, read, chat, ring tags, and never have to worry about smoke, noise, or being told to "hold it down"!
- A theater that rivals the best show settings anywhere with comfortable seats and rows that are far enough apart for you to stretch out your legs and never touch the back of the seat in front of you.
- And great sound and sight lines from everywhere in the house.

The momentous events

We not only hold singing festivals and contests at Mid Winter, we hold meetings, and meetings, and meetings. But this time around those meetings witnessed some really significant events.

The Society Board approved a proposal from C&J to authorize female judges to ensure we always had the best -qualified person available to adjudicate and coach our contestants. This decision means that women may apply to enter the next candidate cycle and, if selected, they will go through the 2-year process culminating in Category School and potentially becoming fully certified judges in the summer of 2019.

The Board also formally approved the application from the Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association to become an official Affiliate of BHS.

And in a surprise move, **Ron Morden, first president of MBHA**, presented **Society CEO Marty Monson** with an original **Saturday Evening Post** magazine cover featuring the iconic Norman Rockwell portrait of a barbershop quartet to commemorate the occasion. The original magazine cover is one of only 26 known to still exist and will be proudly displayed in Harmony Hall in Nashville.

The inspirational speakers

We were treated to the presence of two extraordinary and accomplished young men.

First was **Cory Hunt**, our keynote speaker. Most of us know Cory as the bass of 2008 International Quartet Champion OC Times, but he also is the highly accomplished Director for the Northern Region at the Nevada Governor's Office of Economic Development. Cory presented a humble and inspiring message about taking risks in all aspects of your life and how doing so leads to new opportunities and astonishing accomplishments. His remarks will be on the web in the near future so you can hear them for yourselves.

Deke Sharon, heralded as "the father of contemporary a cappella" and arranger of more than 2,000 a cappella songs was with us for the entire convention and seemed to be everywhere with everyone. He served as MC for the youth chorus festival and taught us all how to make those awesome instrumental sounds to fill time during a "technical" lighting glitch.

He directed the combined chorus of over 400 young men and was awarded an Honorary Society Life Membership.

He celebrated on stage by singing lead to Sweet and Lovely with **OC Times** to the delight of everyone in the hall.

He spent time singing with and coaching youth participants and delivered an impassioned address to a packed hall about the need for all of us to work together and use our a cappella music to transform the world.

See CONVENTION, continued on next page

CONVENTION

Continued from previous page

Deke is a true fan of barbershop and you can be certain he will be with us at future conventions around the country and around the world.

The Shows

Oh my gosh, the shows! **Deke Sharon, the Westminster Chorus, Instant Classic, Trocadero, Throwback, Lemon Squeezy, Forefront Quartet, Vintage Mix Quartet, C'est La Vie** (SAI Rising Star Champion), **Saturday Evening Post Quartet, Chandler High School choirs**, all the Seniors quartets and Youth Chorus participants, The combined youth chorus under the direction of **Donny Rose**. And the "all chapter chorus"!

You can't see me in the picture but I was on stage with 110 members of the all chapter chorus and another 60 from Westminster for the performance of my life under the direction of **Justin Miller**. What a rush!

Every day I wake up smiling and recalling even more snippets from my 4+ days in Reno but I think you get the idea by now. It was flat out amazing and I can't wait until 2017 in San Antonio to see what the BHS events team dreams up for us. *See you all there.*



Justin Miller directs the 110-man All Chapter Chorus in three intricate pieces of soul-stirring a cappella harmony at the 2016 Mid Winter Convention.



"Meet the most awesome 14 year old quartet anywhere: Vintage Mix Quartet," says Deke Sharon on Facebook. Members of the new Mixed Barbershop Harmony Society, Ian, Kelsey, Anika and Julia are quadruplets from Wisconsin who wowed the convention, singing and ringing songs and tags with all comers both onstage and off.



During Midwinter 2016, the godfather of a cappella music, Deke Sharon, was honored by the Barbershop Harmony Society with an honorary lifetime membership. Afterwards, he sings a classic (and the first barbershop Polecat he learned) with none other than 2008 Champions OC Times. <https://youtu.be/3qAKIHZnLGc>

HISTORICAL FUN:

THE WAY IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN

Lark educates public with tongue in cheek act



Standing near the steps of Charlottesville's Old Levy Opera House (closed and repurposed in 1912), Lark [Scott Seki (lead), Jack Marshall (bari), Sam Morgan (bass), Leo Mallek (tenor)] depicts the spirits of a disgruntled barbershop quartet.

Lark, a quartet in Charlottesville's Jefferson-Land Chorus, performed in October at the annual "Spirit Walk" produced by the Albemarle Charlottesville Historical Society.

For the past 25 years, during several days near Halloween, this event features an array of sketches from the lives of some of the many historical figures who have made this community their home. Guides escort groups of viewers—totaling hundreds—on a trail of the skits by costumed volunteer actors.

Standing near the steps of Charlottesville's Old Levy Opera House (closed and repurposed in 1912), Lark depicts the spirits of a disgruntled barbershop quartet.

Though the Opera House hosted some of the great musicians, dancers and speakers of the late 19th and early 20th century, they inexcusably never invited a barbershop quartet to perform.

The guys explain a little about the Opera House and barbershop harmony ("a unique American musical style that needs to be preserved"), then return to rehearsing "so we'll be ready for an audition when this place re-opens."

For 15 years the quartet's acts have been rated among the most popular in the Spirit Walk cavalcade, and this year was pictured in the Historical Society newsletter.



Razzmatazz shows what it does best -- entertaining the audience with its Amish set.

Razzmatazz provides comic relief in Reno

Razzmatazz was honored to represent the Mid-Atlantic District this year in the International Senior Quartet Contest in Reno, Nev.

First, and foremost, this was a great opportunity to treat our significant others to a special trip as a big thank you for their unwavering support of our quartet activities over the past 27 years. Thanks, and hugs and kisses, to our gals for their constant support and encouragement.

And, of course, we were excited as well for the opportunity to present our unusual brand of humor to a new and varied audience. **Top Gun** school in January provided many subtle refinements to all areas of our performance. And our coach, **Sean Devine**, who was also in attendance at Reno, provided guidance on Friday night and final adjustments and focus as we headed into the contest rotation on Saturday morning. We appreciate all those who give so unselfishly of

their knowledge and talents.

Unfortunately, the judges in Reno were troubled by some of our lyrics and the use of the blank pistol. Presentation and Music scores suffered a bit as a result, and we found ourselves placing 20th of 25 quartets (not all that bad for four schmucks from Lancaster County). In spite of the judges' wariness, the audience seemed to enjoy the performance! We could actually hear Marty Monson laughing while we were on stage.

We spent a lot of time together in Reno, went to Lake Tahoe and Virginia City, lost a couple bucks in the slots and generally had a roaring good time. It was a wonderful experience, and one we'd recommend for anyone who can find the time to go. We hope to have the opportunity to represent you again in San Antonio next year!

— By Bill Gable

Red Bank Quartet are musicians on a mission

The **Red Bank Quartet** (Herb Van Note, Frank Glaz, Jon Greene and Allan Dean), a chapter quartet of the **Red Bank Area Chapter** started the New Year with a community outreach gig. The group provided entertainment to the clients at LADACIN Network Jan. 21.

The music community in and around around Monmouth County, New Jersey is rich with talent and goodwill. A group called [Musicians on a Mission](#), (MOAM), whose mission is to create connection and inspire giving through music, invited the quartet to perform at LADCIN Network, one of the many charitable organizations with which they are involved.

[LADACIN Network](#) (Lifetime Assistance for Developmental and Challenging Individual Needs) is a non-profit agency whose mission is to provide a continuum of care, including educational, therapeutic, social, residential, and support services to infants, children and adults with complex physical and developmental disabilities or delays. Established in 1952, formerly known as Cerebral Palsy of Monmouth and Ocean Counties.

The quartet was greeted with a reserved parking space. Our gracious host greeted us as we entered the school facility and took our coats. We were escorted to a large recreation room set up with two microphones and bottles of water for the quartet. MOAM supplied two sound technicians for the event.

We performed first for the children (aged 3 – 18). About 10 children were wheeled into the room – each with his or her own adult assistant. None of the children were verbal, though we did get a smile from all of them.

We had a joyous surprise when one little girl, Ginny, for whom we sang Honey, Little Lize, responded by touching her hand to her chest. Her assistant was so happy, saying, “She recognized her name, that’s amazing!”

We know we had an impact on these children by the way they smiled and the sparkle in their eyes when we were singing directly to each of them individually.

After a 30 minute performance, we had a chance to approach the kids and speak with them. Awkward at first, we spoke to them as you would an infant, softly and with encouragement. From their smiles, they seemed very pleased with that.

After a short break, we next performed for the adults in an adjoining building in a similar setting. A large recreation room was packed with a couple dozen adults in wheelchairs, some wearing homemade hats, fashioned like barbershop straw hats, and covered with glitter. Some of the clients were communicative. A woman named Bo, introduced the quartet to the audience and we reprised our favorite “name” song just for her.

The audience was rocking in the chairs and clapping to all the favorites especially, Hello,



Mary Lou. The group truly appreciated the quartet. Staff members said that no other musical act has been as engaging or elicited the kind of response we had with the clients.

We had a wonderful surprise as we were being escorted to the main office. Our host, **Rebecca Melon**, mentioned that her uncle, **John Huetz**, sings in a chorus. She was delighted when we shared with her our small world experience. John Huetz is the director of our afternoon chorus, the **Matinee Idles**.

One final performance occurred in the Main Office for a coterie of women. The school principal was making her first visit back after maternity leave with her precious bundle. The office workers oohed and aahed over the baby, but then absolutely drooled when we sang our Valentines package to them. We reminded them that they could buy them for their husbands or their girlfriends or their girlfriends’ husbands.

We thank Musicians on a Mission for giving us an outreach opportunity.

Gents Nite Out announces new bass

It is with great sadness we announce that **Al Ranieri** our long-time friend and Bass is leaving the quartet due to family commitments.

Singing together for 9 years, we have had some really great times. Al will be sorely missed, not only his voice but his and Shirley’s close friendship with each of us. Al has sung in a quartet with Barney Margolis and Carlo Masciulli for close to 30 years, a long time tradition -- and many happy memories. We wish him nothing but the best and hope to ring a few chords in the future. Thank you, Al.

After many suggestions, we were fortunate to find **Joe O’Donnell**, an outstanding Bass **with Parkside Harmony**

and **The Keystone Capital Chorus** who agreed to become our new Bass. With many jobs pending, Joe jumped in and learned 10 of our songs so that we could perform our first gig within two weeks of his start. To finish out the year, we had 13 quartet jobs and four chorus jobs caroling at the hospitals and senior homes. Thank You, Joe!

The Keystone Capital Chorus held their installation dinner Jan. 30. During the presentations, they announce a new award called the “KEYSTONE AWARD” given to an individual who has given unselfishly of his time and talents for the good of the Chorus and our hobby. It was a great honor to have **Gents Nite Out** awarded the first **Keystone Award**.



Gents Night Out proudly displays The Keystone Capital Chorus’ first Keystone Award.



LEFT: Morris County Director Nate Barrett demonstrates an effective vocal teaching technique

BELOW: VP Chapter Development Mike Yodice explains an effective PR and Marketing campaign for the initiative.

UPDATE: Morris County, N.J. Chapter shares Ready, Set, Sing



In previous editions of **Mid 'l Antics** we have reported on the program originally executed by **Morris County, N.J. chapter** (*Summer-Fall 2015, page 20*) and the **Hunterdon County, N.J. chapter** (*Winter 2015, page 20*).

NEWS from NORTHERN DIVISION

by **Oley Olson**,
VP Northern Division

In the past year, Morris County has shared "Introducing Ready, Set, Sing" with 15 chapters in North Jersey, New York and Long Island, and is very pleased to report 11 of those chapters have held their own RSS or are planning a RSS in the near future. In fact, Hunterdon County is now on their second round after adding eight members on their first RSS.

Wilkes Barre chapter hosted the latest **Northern Division** version of the initiative in Pennsylvania. Due to the District realignment program this included many of the "new" chapters to the Northern Division. Attending were members from seven chapters: **Altoona, Honesdale, Lansdale, Mahanoy City, State College, Tunkhannock** and

Wilkes Barre, a total of 23 individuals.

Director **Nate Barrett** and VP Chapter Development **Mike Yodice** demonstrated the techniques the Morris County chapter has used to increase their membership from 13 to 30. It should be noted that Nate researched many previous Ready, Set, Sing programs done by Sweet Adeline's and other BHS chapters before designing this version which is adapted to local conditions and the current era.

It is exciting to see the response of the Northern Division chapters to this opportunity to increase their membership. As a result of these successes, MAD Executive Vice-President Dennis Ritchey and President Ig Jacovac have asked the Morris County Chapter to present this in a Masters Class at each of the upcoming Mid Atlantic Division contests. In addition, at the request of HCE Dean Roger Tarpy, the chapter will present this as a class in June at Harmony College – East.

Please plan on attending any of these upcoming sessions so we can continue to grow the Mid Atlantic District chapters.

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Handsomely-dressed Quartets from the Harbormen Chorus - Partial donation given to the Good Shepherd Hospice of St. Charles Hospital, P.J.

Join the **Harbormen Chorus** for their **50th Anniversary Party**

Sat., Aug. 13, 2016 2-6 pm
at Lombardi's on the Sound, Port Jefferson

\$50 ea., 6 main courses, open bar

Come enjoy great food & fellowship,
Sing, renew friendships & have a great time!

Contact Fred Conway 631-476-6558



Transforming the world, one person at a time

The Oceanaires of Toms River, N.J. chose this year to promote a Community Men's Christmas Chorus. They used Facebook, the Oceanaires website (www.oceanaires.com), local press releases, word of mouth, and posters distributed about town and at six libraries in the Ocean County Library System to invite men who like to sing to attend rehearsals and join them in ten performances for various groups in the Toms River area of Ocean County, N.J. Each singer was provided with a "Yuletide Favorites" music book and access to mp3 learning at no cost.

From Dec. 4 through Dec. 15, the Oceanaires seemed to be everywhere in Toms River entertaining audiences with spirited performances of Jingle Bells, O Come, All Ye Faithful, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, Angels We Have Heard on High, Silent Night, and We Wish You a Merry Christmas.

But this story is not about those performances. It is about the impact this merry band of barbershop singers had on one man's life.

Just before the last rehearsal, Vic Lido, Executive Vice President of the Ocean County chapter, received a phone call from a man who said that his wife saw one of the press releases and encouraged him to come to a rehearsal. When he checked the web site he found a message that read, "It is not too late to join!"

So he took a leap of faith and called. Vic told him to come to the last rehearsal and then sing with the chorus.

At their first performance Vic's wife happened to meet the man's wife and family. She learned that Charlie, 80 years old, had a "bucket list" he was working through and one of the items on the list was to sing a song with a real chorus.

That evening Charlie's wife and family showed up to see him perform and took photos to document the fact that he had reached

his goal. Charlie had a smile that just wouldn't go away. His wife and family were excited and delighted.

Charlie and his family had a Christmas they will long remember and every one of them is a raving fan of the Oceanaires and barbershop harmony.

Way to go Oceanaires!

Perform at the Toms River Tree Lighting
Friday December 4, 2015 !
You are welcome to bring neighbors and family to watch and hear our performance— IT'S FREE

Perform at Crestwood Village VII
Friday, December 11, 2015
This is the payback performance for the use of their hall for the Inter-chapter Event

Perform at Crystal Lake Healthcare
(date to be determined)

Perform at Nursing Homes and Rehabilitation facilities
Share the Harmony of the Season

BRING A FRIEND!
Just 5 rehearsals (about 1 hour each time) and we will share the holiday spirit with our local community in Northern Ocean County. Performances will be 30 minutes and include lots of sing-a-long. You and friends will sing from our song book "Yuletide Favorites" using familiar melodies... and if they would like to try a harmony part that's great. **MAKE AS MANY AS YOU CAN!**
Attire will be black slacks, winter jackets and/or sweaters, scarves and hats.
No cost to you or to our audiences—this is for the joy of sharing the holiday spirit in harmony.

The Toms River Chapter's poster, distributed in a library, helped change Charlie's life.

'But this story is not about those performances. It is about the impact this merry band of barbershop singers had on one man's life.'

SOMEWHEREVILLE STATION

Red Rose Chorus
Red Rose City Chorus

Come take a ride through the music of the 50's (and early 60's!)

Somewhereville Station tells the "love" story of a man and woman who keep meeting in the same train station year after year.
Will they fall in love? Or does the future hold something even bigger for them?
Come find out for yourself - and enjoy all the songs you loved from the happy days of the 50's!

Sunday, April 24, 2016
Buffet luncheon at 11:45 a.m.
The show follows at 1:15 p.m.
\$39 for adults - \$25 for ages up to 25
For tickets, call 717-898-1900

DUTCH APPLE DINNER THEATRE
510 Centerville Rd,
Lancaster, PA 17601

[Click HERE for tickets](#)

Chorus Spreads Holiday Cheer at Riverview's Rehab Unit

The following story is reprinted with permission from the Atlantic Highlands Herald.

RED BANK, NJ - The Chorus of the Atlantic performed for the inpatient rehabilitation unit at Riverview Medical Center, Red Bank Sunday, Dec. 20.

The group of male a cappella singers spread a little holiday cheer as one of their outreach missions in Red Bank.

The men, members of the Red Bank Area Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society performed traditional holiday favorites, sung in close 4-part harmony, under the direction of Kirk Thomson. A quartet also performed a Christmas tune for the audience of a couple dozen patients at the facility.

One patient was in tears as the chorus closed their program with Silent Night. He had been a patient since October -- longer than most. Kelly Pico, director of the rehab unit said later the man was thinking of his family and his long struggle to

get home.

Another man, who for years had portrayed Santa Claus in Red Bank, said he was deeply moved by the tenderness with which the chorus sang and he was happy to hear the harmony. He especially enjoyed a quartet singing, Coney Island Baby -- one of his favorites.

"They definitely made Christmas very special around here," Pico said.

Some patients were exercising in an adjoining room. One patient commented to Pico that it was a terrific break from routine to have wonderful music while doing their exercises.

A patient named Josephine was treated to a special performance as the only audience member while the men were warming up prior to the show. She seemed to enjoy the special attention lavished on her by the singers.

"There is something about singing that is very special," said Allan Dean, public relations spokesman for the chorus. "It can be very intimate and

move people to tears; or it could cause their hearts to swell with pride; or make them smile from ear to ear - ideally, all at once. We, in the Barbershop Harmony Society, want to make music part of every life."

The Red Bank chorus performs throughout the year at several events in town, including: Flag Day and 9/11 ceremonies with the Red Bank Elks at Riverside Gardens Park, Red Bank Street Fairs in the spring and fall and strolling the streets singing carols as part of Red Bank RiverCenter's Holiday Harmonies.

The group routinely performs at Long Street Farm, Holmdel, during Harvest Home Days, Middletown Township Public Library, and other venues in Monmouth County.

The Chorus of the Atlantic welcomes visitors to their rehearsals after January 1st. They meet Tuesday evenings from 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. at the Red Bank Middle School, Harding Road, Red Bank. For more information visit www.redbankchorus.org

Summer Songs in Wintertime

The Baltimore Chapter—Harbor City Chorus— had to change its approach to their annual show this year. They selected a theme and repertoire to uplift the audience from the cold winter doldrums. As it turned out, the unseasonably warm November temperatures made it seem like they were all actually on the beach. The result was a fantastic show.

As conceived by 2015 Show Chairman, Tim Prevatt, the "**Sunshine: Redeem the Summer**" concert featured songs from Goodbye My Coney Island Baby to Kokomo. There were stops along the way with Sailin' Down the Chesapeake Bay, Crusin' Down the River, Daydream, Wait 'Till the Sun Shines, Nellie, In the Good Old Summertime, and Zip-A-Dee-Do-Dah.

The staging was super. There was special lighting that included lightning flashes. **There was a sloop onstage, too!** It was made of Styrofoam by Jonathan Brune and named the Sea Sharp Major. The Chorus took the stage while vamping the intro to Daydream, wearing wetsuits, shorts, shades, flippers and a snorkel. All the chorus members agreed, it never would have happened without Tim at the helm.

Our Master of Ceremonies was **Dean Martin**, believe it or not, as presented by tribute artist **Eric Richardson**. He provided unique humor while introducing the chorus and guest quartets. He also sang a few hits along the way.

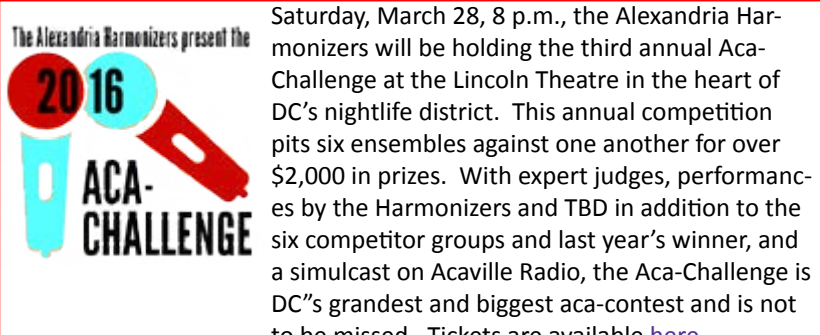
Speaking of guest quartets, **Susquehanna Flats**, and **Just Sing!** did the honors, and they sounded great! Harbor City Chorus surely appreciates the support of these two fabulous quartets at the show.



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Dinner-Show: \$35.00; Students: \$25.00
For tickets, call (717) 695-7527 or
www.keesing.com

The Alexandria Harmonizers present the
2016 Aca-Challenge

Saturday, March 28, 8 p.m., the Alexandria Harmonizers will be holding the third annual Aca-Challenge at the Lincoln Theatre in the heart of DC's nightlife district. This annual competition pits six ensembles against one another for over \$2,000 in prizes. With expert judges, performances by the Harmonizers and TBD in addition to the six competitor groups and last year's winner, and a simulcast on Acaville Radio, the Aca-Challenge is DC's grandest and biggest aca-contest and is not to be missed. Tickets are available [here](#).



Alexandria Harmonizers feature Marilyn Moore, an operatic soprano, on their holiday show.

‘Best show ever!’

Alexandria shakes up format; showcases local performance artists

This year, several factors conspired against the **Alexandria Harmonizers’** regular tradition of a holiday dinner theater. In recent years, the show has been completely sold out, with no room for further growth. The dinner theater format limited artistic options, and although beloved, had become repetitive for the chorus and the audience. Most cogently, the usual venue would be unavailable for several years, with no similar option in sight.

Faced with both the opportunity and obligation to innovate, the chapter embarked on a bold new direction for the Holiday Show. Director **Joe Cerutti** reached out to local artists to collaborate on a more formal concert-style show, held in the glorious Rachel M. Schlesinger Concert Hall at Alexandria’s North Virginia Community College.

They joined forces with **Marilyn Moore**, an operatic soprano with a richly varied repertoire that includes solos appearances with the Choral Arts Society of Philadelphia, Princeton Pro Musica, the New York Choral Society, the Cathedral Choral Society of Washington, DC, the American Repertory Ballet Company, the Philadelphia Singers and the Oratorio Society of Charlotte.

Using recently made connections to area educational networks, the chapter brought on **Positive Vibrations**,

a youth steel band orchestra from CAFE (the Cultural Academy for Excellence), an award-winning, music-based academic and life-skills enrichment program.

Continuing their participation from previous years was **Word of Mouth**, a local a cappella group befriended by the Harmonizers after they won the chapter’s inaugural **Aca-Challenge** competition.

Augmented by a women’s contingent from the **Pride of Baltimore** chorus, the chorus joined with Ms. Moore and Positive Vibrations for several unorthodox but stunning pieces, including This Little Light of Mine, Mary Had Baby, Tribute to World Peace, and Glenn McClure’s samba-inspired Kyrie Eleison.

Audience reaction was overwhelmingly positive. The enhanced setting and style, the variety provided by the guest stars and our own musical selections, and the dynamism of the collaborative numbers delighted patrons and performers alike.

Everyone agreed that it was not only the Harmonizers’ most impressive and engaging holiday show, but perhaps their best show ever. It seems certain that in this case, from necessity a grand new Harmonizer tradition has been born.

Changing of the Guard

Harmony Heritage Singers announce passing of the director’s baton



Harmony Heritage Singers Director Emeritus Bob Wachter steps down after 18 years.

Bob Wachter, 63-year Society member, towering bass, well-known coach, and first director of the **Harmony Heritage Singers** (Mt. Vernon, VA chapter) has stepped down as full-time director to become Director Emeritus and coach. Bob is a member of the **Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodshedders** (AHSOW) as well as a member of the **Mt. Vernon, Arlington, and Alexandria** chapters. He has been a director for over 40 years and directed the Harmony Heritage Singers in over 400 performances over the last 18 years.

When the Harmony Heritage Singers were founded in 1996 they were the first day-time chapter/chorus in the Mid-Atlantic District. The 60-man group meets to rehearse at the Sherwood Regional Library in Mount Vernon and averages over 20 performances every year at retirement communities and senior centers across Northern Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia.

Stepping in to fill Bob’s big shoes is **Drew Fuller** formerly Associate Director and a member of the chorus since 2011. Drew has also been a member of the Alexandria Harmonizers for 16 years and is a member of their select performance group, **Cameron Station**. Drew is a charter member of the **Atlantic Harmony Brigade** and has sung for about 10 years each with both the Atlantic and North Carolina Harmony Brigades.



Drew Fuller is the Harmony Heritage Singers’ new director.

HANG ONTO YOUR HATS . . .

There's about to be a barbershop explosion!



by Ig Jakovac,
MAD President

As I begin my final year as District President, I reflect on the many positive achievements in 2015.

- Leadership Encouragement and Education Assistance Program (or LEEAP) continues to be a successful program
- We continue to support directors via scholarships enabled by our endowment fund
- Our education programs (coaching, HIP, TOP GUN, HCE) are some of the best in the Society
- At this year's International Convention in Pittsburgh our District was represented by two youth quartets (Brothers in Arms and Students of the Game) along with five adult quartets (BSQ, Last Men Standing, Mayhem, Round Midnight, Gimme Four) with the latter two making the Top 20. Our three qualifying choruses were 4th (Alexandria), 6th (Hell's Kitchen) and 8th (Hamilton Square).
- Successful year of events including our first mixed Harmony Festival
- Consolidated our divisional structure
- Raised \$10,590 in support of the 2016 Mid-Winter Youth Festival
- We are clearly seen as one of the most successful Districts in the Society

Looking Forward

Over the last couple of years barbershop has been getting meaningful media coverage and our BHS leadership has been developing relationships with other organizations whose core is music.

As we look ahead, we need to prepare for the influx of new singers. The question is, "will we be ready?" What would happen if every one of our 92 chapters had 30 people walk through the door -- effectively doubling the size of our District -- would

See *PRESIDENT*, continued on next page

I believe that we are just a few years away from unleashing a pent up demand of singers that will flood the "market" – will we be ready for them?

Singing Valentine

A MESSAGE OF LOVE, A MEMORY FOR LIFE



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CHORUS OF THE ATLANTIC
Red Bank Area Chapter
Barbershop Harmony Society

RedBankChorus.org

PRESIDENT

Continued from previous page

they like what they saw? Would they happily come back the following week? I believe that we are just a few years away from unleashing a pent up demand of singers that will flood the "market" – will we be ready for them?

Here are just a few examples of what is going on;

- [VOCALOSITY](#) is the all-new live concert event from the creative mind of artistic producer Deke Sharon (Pitch Perfect, The Sing-Off) that takes a cappella to a whole new level. Several of the actors are barbershoppers. Also check out [Vocalosity's brief history of a cappella Beatle's style](#).
- Music educators "sell" barbershop – [what music educators should know about barbershop](#)
- Awesome quartets like Crossroads have been actively representing barbershop at various events like the recent [NAfME meeting](#) (music educators) as well as [ACDA 2015](#)
- There are a boatload of videos on YouTube of various quartet and chorus performances – all fully compliant – this is part of the BHS "digital marketing" effort
- BHS will now market future AIC shows – there will be a BIG focus on marketing outside the barbershop community in cities where our International Conventions will be held

Start Getting Ready

A part of "getting ready" will be for us as leaders to make sure that we are as effective as we can be. This starts with each of us individually. We and other nonprofits do not practice an "executive" or "command" leadership model.

We are much closer to a "legislative" model which works a lot better if we understand who we are and how we are "wired". We need to examine our "preferred" ways of doing things and how we might be perceived by other personality

types that we work with.

Each of us can get started by taking a [personality test](#) and then going through the attached slides – answer the questions in the personality test as you know yourself to be vs. wish yourself to be. Hopefully it will give you a flavor of the different personality types (including your own) and help you in working with other leaders across the District.

Another part of "getting ready" is to assess the health of our chapters. A small BHS team is developing a "chapter assessment" model which essentially asks several important questions in a variety of areas like;

- Financial (does the chapter establish an annual budget; what are the major expenses/income items)
- Membership (how many new members in the last 6 months, satisfaction survey, average attendance at rehearsals)
- Community Service (participates in community service events, stated objectives, sponsors a local charity)
- Performance (contest, paid vs. unpaid shows)
- Music (# active songs, # new songs in last 12 months, chapter education classes)
- Leadership (board structure, identity statement, compliance)

Once the model is developed we'll aggressively roll it out (hopefully starting in 2016). In the meantime, take a look at your chapter with the above points in mind.

Yet another part of "getting ready" is to develop a new common "curriculum" for all members. The BHS operations leadership team is developing a model which includes potential courses in:

- Fundamentals (course for Secretary, Treasurer, and other traditional roles)
- Personal Development (examples include courses

THE PERFECT VALENTINE



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Includes a fresh-cut rose, Hershey's Kisses®, and a song delivered in four-part harmony by a Barbershop Quartet anywhere in the Greater Harrisburg Area



All for only \$45

Delivered on Feb 12, 13 and 14, 2016

Visit www.kccsing.com or call

717-730-0289

Also included is a voucher for a ticket to the Keystone Capital Chorus Dinner Show on May 7



from "setting and achieving goals" to "having difficult conversations")

- Organizational Development (courses like "succession planning", "coaching other" and more)
- Outreach (includes "youth outreach", "partnerships" and more)

As material becomes available we will aggressively pursue. In the meantime ask if at least your chapter officers have pursued the training which is currently available.



Changes! We have changes!

M-AD Eliminates Processing Fee for Convention Ticket Orders



Walter L Griffith Jr
M-AD VP Events

For as long as we can remember, the M-AD has assessed a \$5 "processing fee" for all convention ticket orders – individual or group. But at their winter meeting on January 23rd, the M-AD Board of

Directors voted unanimously to **remove that fee, effective immediately.**

At the same time, they approved a \$2 increase for regular and premium seating. Premium seating is only available at the Fall District Convention.

All seating at our Spring Prelims and Division conventions had been offered at a flat rate of \$35 but will now be \$37 and that

change is effective February 1st. The increase is required to offset similar rate increases the district must pay for hall rental, sound, lighting, judge transportation and accommodation, etc. But by eliminating the processing fee, the "net" impact to each of us is that it will cost individuals \$3 LESS to purchase their convention registrations.

Here is the new price schedule for your future reference.

TICKET CLASS	OLD PRICE	NEW PRICE
Premium (Fall contest only)	\$45	\$47
Regular	\$35	\$37
Processing Fee	\$5/order	None

Top Five Reasons to Love Our M-AD Convention Wrist Bands

1. They have great designs and bright colors that don't go with any costume or uniform you have.
2. You have to wear them on your wrist for everyone to see – and everyone else has to do the same.
3. They make you feel special. Really. Only special people can wear wristbands with style.
4. They remind you of fun places you've been. The doctor's office, the surgical clinic, the hospital.
5. You get to keep them for a long time. Well it's really only for 2 days but it sure feels like a long time.



OK, now that we've got your attention and you see the humor in all this, here are some helpful things to know about the wristbands we use at M-AD contests:

A wristband is not the same as a ticket. A ticket is like your reservation on an airplane (except for Southwest!) and just identifies the location of your reserved seat.

The wristband tells the ushers and Events team that you are authorized to be in the auditorium or backstage or both.

Wristbands should not be removed until you are heading home at the end of the convention.

Wristbands are waterproof and will not come off in the shower. We know. We've tried it and it doesn't work.

If you lose your wristband by using bolt cutters or a chain saw, you will need to present your ticket and the damaged wrist band to the Registration Desk. After laughing for a long time, they will give you a replacement wristband.

Simple isn't it?

Share the Joy!

Does your chapter want to have fresh faces in the hall at your next chapter show?

Does your chapter want to interest and recruit new singers?

Does your chapter want to support your chapter chorus and quartets in their first or 50th appearance on a contest stage?

Does your chapter want a guaranteed way to reach over 2,000 barbershop fans in our area?

Then why not place an ad in one of the five M-AD convention programs that will be published in 2016?

What's the worst that could happen? You could spend \$60-\$100 and have nothing to show for it.

What's the best that could happen? You could sell 200 more tickets to your annual show and recruit 15 new singers.

What's the worst that could happen if you don't place an ad? Nothing changes and you wish you had.

What's the best that could happen if you don't place an ad? A few folks wander in to your show out of idle curiosity but leave at intermission and no one shows up for your guest night. So why not just place the ad and see what happens?

Here is the schedule and all the information you will need to get your ad in and seen and working for you.

Convention Info	Location	Contestant Entry Deadline	Program Book Ads Deadline
Spring Intl. Qt. Prelims - Apr 15-16, 2016	Reading, PA	Mar 13	Apr 2
Senior Quartet Competition Mixed Harmony Festival - Apr 15-16, 2016	Reading, PA	Mar 13 MAD-Q Feb 15 Wait list Mar 16	Apr 1
Youth Adjudication - Apr 16, 2016	Reading, PA	Apr 2	Apr 1
Central Division - May 13-14, 2016	Harrisburg, PA	Apr 15	Apr 30
Southern Division - May 27-28, 2016	Reston, VA	Apr 27	May 14
Northern Division - Jun 3-5, 2016	Cherry Hill, NJ	May 5	May 21
Fall District - Sep 16-18, 2016	Lancaster, PA	Aug 16	Sep 3

Four conventions. Ten contests/adjudications/festivals. Get your barbershop 'fix' in MAD!

Spring Convention – April 15-16, 2016 – Reading, PA

The MAD Spring Convention, International Quartet Preliminaries, Senior Quartet Championship, Youth Adjudication AND Mixed Harmony Festival will all be held April 15-16, 2016, at The Inn of Reading in Reading, 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. We already have 9 total prelims, seniors and mixed quartet entries, so far. We need more!

Mixed Harmony Contest – Entry deadline February 15, 2016

For those interested in entering the MAD's second annual mixed harmony contest, scheduled for April 15, 2016 (in conjunction with our International quartet prelims and District Senior Quartet Championship), entry is open until February 15, 2016.

Final determination as to the number of mixed quartets we can accommodate above the initial 10 will be made after March 15 (30 days prior to the contest), once the number of entries for the men's international prelims and MAD senior quartet contests 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. See the MAD website for all of the contest rules and guidelines, as well as entry forms. Any questions, please contact me at gplaagbhs@gmail.com.

Spring Division Contests

The Spring Division Contest sessions are now open and available for quartets and choruses to enter through the online process, which is available through the MAD website.

- **May 13-14, 2016 - Central Division – Harrisburg, PA –**
Entry deadline: April 13
- **May 27-28, 2016 – Southern Division – Reston, VA –**
Entry deadline: April 27
- **June 3-4, 2016 – Northern Division – Cherry Hill, NJ –**
Entry deadline: May 3

Please enter the contest as early as possible. Your early entry will allow us to manage resources better, including determining whether we need a double or triple panel of judges.

Chapters that comprise each division since the late 2015 re-organization of the previous four divisions (Northern, Atlantic, Southern, Western) into three (Northern, Central, Southern) can be found on the home page of the MAD website: www.midatlanticdistrict.com.

Youth Barbershop Quartet Contest

(formerly Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest (CBQC))

Due to BHS requirements to identify International Youth Barbershop Quartet Contest (YBQC) participants as early as possible, and the later schedules of our three division contests, none of our division contests can serve as collegiate qualifying events this year.

Collegiate quartets may attempt to qualify for the International YBQC in Nashville at: 1) the upcoming MAD Prelims – April 15; or 2) another district's spring convention that occurs the first weekend in May or earlier; or 3) by video (see update YBQC rules at: <http://www.barbershop.org/competitions/youth-barbershop-quartet-competition/>.)

Groups thinking about utilizing this qualification option should read the rules and guidelines carefully. Questions about YBQC qualification and

other aspects of the YBQC should be directed to the BHS Outreach team at outreach@barbershop.org.

Two other REALLY important notes to remember:

1. **District qualification score for choruses still 67% in 2016 (same as 2015)!** Choruses that qualify for and compete at the international chorus contest receive a "bye" to the fall district contest (unless they win the international chorus contest) and do not need to sing for score at the Division contests immediately prior to the International chorus contest in order to qualify for District.
2. **Hardship requests:** Quartet and chorus requests to sing out-of-division or out-of-district (aka "hardships") can have a significant financial impact on the Mid-Atlantic District since the MAD is denied the benefit of the tickets and hotel rooms the group would normally purchase. To prevent the potential significant financial impact of such requests on the financial success of any particular contest events in the MAD, hardship requests are considered on a case-by-case basis, and all requests may not be granted. Such requests are considered by a team comprised of the VP Contest and Judging, VP Events, Executive VP and District President. *Hardships requests should be submitted as early as possible prior to the subject contest event.* Hardship requests must include details that demonstrate the request is truly a hardship and not simply a convenience. Please provide sufficient details surrounding the hardship request. Thanks for your cooperation.



Immerse yourself in a weekend of MAD barbershop

- Select classes that will broaden your barbershop experience from some of the best instructors in the Barbershop Harmony Society
- Learn more about musical leadership to help you become a better director, assistant director, section leader, Music VP or any musical leadership position
- Accelerate your quartet or chorus' performance skills as you are coached by some of the best coaches in the world.
- Come and sing in a chorus under the direction of one of the top directors in our Society.
- Enjoy the performances of top youth ensembles and tag singing for all generations.
- Have fun, sing tags, re-acquaint with old friends, enjoy two awesome barbershop shows.

40 Classes and Seminars -- something for everyone

Who is welcome?

EVERYONE! BHS, SAI, HI, MBHA members, directors, section leaders, Joe Barbershoppers, quartets, chapter officers, music educators, youths interested in the art form, Society Associates, your entire quartet, and choruses large, small and in-between!

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
- Bill Stauffer, awesome director of 2015 International 8th place chorus Voices of Gotham, will direct a Mass Sing of the weekend's Tag Sheet from 6:30-7 p.m. followed by the 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 with 2014 International gold medal chorus Toronto Northern Lights director Steve Armstrong leading the mass sing using both the old and new Barberpole Cat books

- There will be a gala event Saturday night where both quartets and choruses 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).

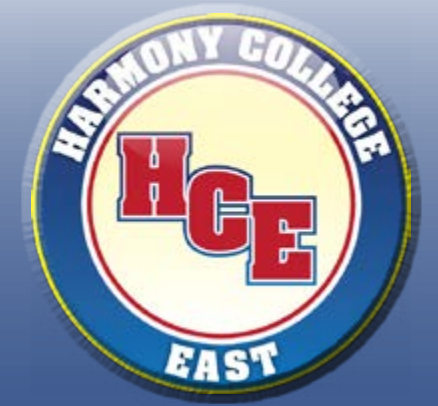
Why not introduce your family member — son, grandson, dad or grandad — to our great art form?

Jun 16-19, 2016

Cost is \$220, which includes a 3-night stay, 6 meals, all courses, two barbershop shows.

Our host is:
Salisbury University
1101 Camden Avenue
Salisbury, MD 21801

<http://www.salisbury.edu/campusmap/>



immerse yourself in a weekend of

MAD barbershop



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.



Questions or Comments?

Ig Jakovac
ijakovac@comcast.net

Roger Tarpy
rtarpy@verizon.net



Fun, Festivals, Camp — MAD youth offerings abound

Our annual Youth In Harmony adjudication will be held on Saturday, April 16 in Reading, Pa. at the M-AD Spring Convention and International Quartet Preliminary Contest. This is an “open” adjudication, so please get started enlisting your local high school and collegiate quartets (male and female). As always, the more groups the merrier.

Quartets earning a superior, outstanding or excellent rating earn full and partial scholarships to attend the Next Generation camp at Harmony College East, a \$100 stipend (one per school), and a participation plaque for

their school music program.

Detailed information about the adjudication is available on the M-AD website as well as on the [Mid-Atlantic Youth Barbershop Facebook page](#).

2016 Youth in Harmony Update

by Kevin Boehm,
VP Youth in Harmony



HCE Next Generation Camp

It's not too early to be thinking about encouraging a Youth In Harmony quartet, ensemble, or individual to attend our annual Next Generation Camp (formerly Youth In Harmony Camp). Feel free to sponsor a group or

individual to attend.

Held in conjunction with Harmony College East at Salisbury University in Salisbury, Md., the fun starts the evening of Thursday, June 16 and runs through Saturday, June 18. Everyone goes home on Sunday morning.

Please let your local music educators know about the camp and how much fun their students will have and how much they will learn about a cappella singing, in general, and barbershop, in particular.

Evan Boegehold, Meredith Didlake, and Tyler Horton will be the chorus directors, along with an all-star cast of coaches and teaching quartets.

Watch the Mid-Atlantic District website for registration information. For music educators who are unfamiliar with our YIH program, please direct them to this link to learn more: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=EsYjfr7Oz5A.

YIH On Facebook

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

District Delegates, DELA, and Donors all choose — *to Donate!*

It's no secret: Mid-Atlantic District Barbershoppers are generous to a fault! Check these out:

- At the district's fall convention in Ocean City, the House of Delegates donated \$425.00
- Attendees at the convention donated \$206.00 in exchange for free vinyl LP records
- Members and guests at the annual meeting of the district's honor chapter, DELESUSQUEHUDMAC, parted with \$613.00
- 102 Harmony Foundation donors chose the “donor choice” option in the first half of 2015 which resulted in a return of \$7,017.08 to the district

In all, a total of \$8,261.08 was deposited to the Mid-Atlantic District Endowment Fund this fall. What a record! Many thanks to each intrepid member whose contributions enable the district to provide scholarships to

both front line and prospective district directors to Harmony College East (to enhance their conducting skills) and to youth quartets to

attend the district's Youth Harmony Camp held simultaneously with HCE at Salisbury University.

Want to be counted among those whose gifts serve to protect and preserve barbershop harmony for future delegations? Phone (703-538-6526) or e-mail (alan.wile@comcast.net).



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

Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association/Pioneers (BQPA)



Treat yourself to a four-day, do-it-yourself quartetting festival. No assigned music, no pre-requisites.

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

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

Both guys and gals are welcome.

Spring Festival - Tempe - 2016

April 6-9, 2016.

info: www.bqpa.com

Great way to contribute to Harmony Foundation

There is a great new (easy) way to support the Harmony Foundation International.

If you shop at Amazon, as most of us do, just go to smile.amazon.com and select Harmony Foundation Intl. (Not Harmony Foundation).. Make sure it's the one in Nashville, and 0.5% of every purchase goes to support Barbershop Singing through the foundation. It takes less than a minute to do.

AmazonPrime purchases (subscription, videos, etc.) also are included in this promotion.

MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT OFFICERS

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VP Events: Walter Griffith (Mary Jo);
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VP Financial Development:

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Sussex Chapter plans exciting youth festival

High Point Harmonizers' Harmony Explosion Youth Festival, April 23, at High Point Regional High School, Sussex, N.J., will be a full day of learning four-part a cappella harmony barbershop-style, taught to the students by two distinguished quartets from the national organizations Barbershop Harmony Society and Harmony, Inc.

Gimme Four will participate as the young men's teaching quartet and **Foreign Exchange** will act as the young women's teaching quartet.

Evan Boegehold, a most talented musician and director, has confirmed his participation as Senior Clinician and Director of the combined chorus.

After a full day of working together, the evening will culminate with a musical performance by these students and their mentors, along with participation from members of barbershop organizations within Sussex County and other established youth quartets representing area high schools.

The vision statement for this Festival is as follows:

"It's our goal to make it possible for each young participant to experience the joy of singing together, to revel in the music we make together, and to leave our festival feeling empowered and stimulated by their shared musical experience..... encouraging young people to embrace vocal music and to continue singing for the rest of their lives."

Personal Information	Festival Application					
First Name _____	Last Name _____					
Address _____						
City _____	State _____	Zip-code _____				
Phone number _____	Email Address _____					
School Information						
School Name _____	T-shirt size	S	M	L	XL	XXL
Music Educator _____	Grade _____					
What part do you think you sing? (Circle one)	Tenor	Lead	Baritone	Bass		
<i>\$15 Registration fee must accompany application.</i>						
<i>Send application to: Rich Taylor PO Box 91 Hopatcong, NJ 07843 or register & pay on-line at www.highpointharmonizers.org</i>						

The Second Annual High Point HARMONY EXPLOSION YOUTH FESTIVAL

April 23, 2016

Festival Events
8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Public Show
7 p.m.

High Point Regional High School
Sussex, NJ

Gimme Four
2015 BHS Quartet Semifinalists

Taken 4 Granite
3rd Place Medalists Harmony, Inc.

Evan Boegehold
Festival Director & Composer/Conductor

www.highpointharmonizers.org

So, you've been wondering about Harmony Brigade . . .

VP Marketing & Public Relations:

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stevesko@me.com

VP Membership Development:

Jeff Porter; 610-202-7676 ; scalajeff@gmail.com

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The *Mid'l Antics* is published by the Mid-Atlantic District of the Barbershop Harmony Society. It is for and about barbershoppers in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, West Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

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Crofton, MD 21114; 443-454-0604;
editor@midatlanticdistrict.com

**NEXT DEADLINE:
May 1, 2016**

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

[LIKE US ON FACEBOOK](#)

What is a Harmony Brigade?

Its weekend of wall-to-wall, chord cracking, barbershop quartet singing. If you are a passionate, fast learning, experienced, and competitive quartet man, and you yearn for good, challenging quartetting with a network of solid, like-minded, and accomplished quartet men, the Atlantic Harmony Brigade may be for you.

The AHB Rally is a weekend event of non-stop quartetting and quartet partner switching on twelve great international competition level songs.

Participants sing in hundreds of quartet combinations. Up to 124 men arrive in Delaware, solidly prepared and ready to spend the entire weekend formally and informally quartetting!

While the Brigade is not for beginners, you don't need to be an International Champion, either. **The object of the Brigade is to provide an exciting venue for strongly committed singers to sing together and provide opportunities for public performance and outreach.**

There are two rounds of good-natured quartet competitions (with randomly selected quartet members and randomly selected songs from those provided). Judges are well known BHS coaches, singers, or quartets.

There is also a show presented to the public on Saturday night. The Brigade participants perform selected songs as a chorus and there is a parade of quartets made of auditioned volunteers from the Brigade. There is usually a headline quartet or other top notch group on the show, as well.

In early April, participants receive their music and high quality part-dominant learning tracks for the songs to be used in the rally.



Men count on each other to be 100% prepared, with all the notes, words, and interpretations fully memorized. There is no leaning whatsoever in this event. Every man commits to being 100% prepared.

The cost for the weekend is all-inclusive, covering registration fees, hotel accommodations, meals, and all the learning materials. The cost for 2016 is \$299.

Brigade Honors and Awards

Grand Prize — The Guy We Were Glad We Sang With Award: The object of the Brigade is to come prepared to be the guy everyone was glad they sang with. The top award, an engraved loving cup, is voted on by all participants.

It is given to the man that not only came so well prepared that he made his quartet partners sound good, but he helped (more than anyone else) make their attendance rewarding and fun. The winner of this award is invited to return the following year FREE.

The Quartet Tramp Award: This award is earned by the man (or men) who quartets in the largest number of quartets during the weekend.

Upon arrival, everyone is issued a "dance card" and 126 of his own personalized stickers. After singing in a quartet, the members exchange stickers and place them on their own dance cards. These stickers also serve to allow singers to contact each other after the Brigade rally should they wish to form quartets after the main event.

The winner of this award is also invited to return the following year FREE. In the case of ties, one FREE scholarship will be divided equally among the winners.

The Quartet Contest Awards: After two rounds of competition,

6 reasons your chapter should host the next Division Convention:

1. you get to see **what really goes on behind the curtain**
2. you get **up close and personal** with quartets, choruses, judges
3. you can look important with a **walkie-talkie!**
4. closing doors in people's faces is **power!**
5. so is waving a **hush!** sign
6. And did we mention you get **PAID** for having all this fun? Yep. **\$\$\$** in your treasury.

Contact Walter Griffith, **NOW**, to tell him your chapter is ready to meet this challenge — and have all this fun!

imabari1@aol.com

See you
(and your walkie-talkies)
in
**Harrisburg, Reston,
Cherry Hill or Lancaster
in 2016!**

each member of the three top scoring quartets is awarded accordingly, a "genuine" simulated Gold, Silver, or Bronze (suitable for framing) certificate acknowledging his accomplishment and his luck of the draw.

The 2016 Atlantic Harmony Brigade Rally is scheduled for **August 19 - 21** in Wilmington, DE. Visit the website for registration details.

www.atlanticbrigade.com

HARMONY HITS NEW HEIGHTS

Cheers rang out in the Capri Ballroom of the Peppermill Resort in Reno, Nev. during the board meeting of the [Barbershop Harmony Society](#) at its Midwinter convention when they accepted the newly formed [Mixed Barbershop Harmony Association](#) as its newest affiliate.

The MBHA gives men and women an organization devoted to supporting and enhancing the experience of singing barbershop harmony together. As you know, the BHS and its sister organizations [Sweet Adelines International](#) and [Harmony, Incorporated](#) were built on the close harmony tradition of four-part singing in the style popular at the turn of the twentieth century.

“This is a great day for mixed harmony quartets and choruses in North America,” said MBHA President and CEO Ron Morden. “We now have a better opportunity to share the joy of mixed-voice singing to men and women in Canada and the United States. There is more mixed harmony happening out there than we know, and it’s time for them to have an organization that supports their efforts and promotes this style.”

The MBHA will be working with the BHS to offer contest opportunities and to serve as the qualifying body for North American entrants to the biennial World Mixed Harmony convention and contest hosted by [Barbershop in Germany](#).

The MBHA will be seeking similar support from the women’s organizations as they continue to build on the popularity of a cappella singing and personal vocal expression through song in mixed harmony ensembles.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you to all my MAD Barbershoppers for the support and prayers for me and my family after my wife Claire’s sudden death. Without my faith, family and barbershop friends I don’t know how I could have endured these past few months.

On Jan 30 ,Youth Reclamation Project and Razzmatazz are

competing in the BHS International Senior Quartet Contest. By the time of the next Mid’l Antics we will know how we both did and so will you. I know we can celebrate having two of our quartets compete among the 24 best Senior Quartets in the world and I hope they have done well in that arena.

Rick Ashby

CHAPTER ETERNAL

RICH TAYLOR

He was a long-time resident of New Jersey and a 46-year veteran of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Rich was famous for his tireless efforts to promote the hobby and performers with his self-created, self-produced radio shows. Most popular was The Applause Show broadcast from NJ’s WVRM out of Montclair. He hosted the weekly LIVE SHOW to loyal fans as well as a world-wide audience via live streaming on the internet, playing all types of barbershop harmony. Rich was one of the very first to do so.

He was also a passionate promoter

of Youth in Harmony, coaching several young quartets personally.

He joined BHS in 1969 and sang in many quartets and choruses. He was proud to be one of the inaugural BHS International Convention webcasters.

He was in a long time relationship with his partner, Gary Rush.

Rich was 68.

RAYMOND PATSKO

Raymond’s two true loves were his wife, Theresa Patsko, and his music.

Raymond had been a member of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc. for 55 years; he was

also the director of the Wyoming Valley Barbershop Chorus for 35 years.

He was chairman of his 50th class reunion, a member of the Slovak Heritage Society, and a member of the North End Citizens Club. He also was a deliverer of Meals-on-Wheels.

Raymond worked as a printer and ended his career at Llewelyn & McKane Inc., where he worked for 17 years.

He loved to sing and would often deliver traveling valentines with his fellow Barbershoppers on Valentine’s Day. Raymond was a loving and caring soul and enjoyed helping people and making them smile with his jokes or music.

WOMEN’S HARMONY BRIGADE

If you are a passionate, experienced and competitive female barbershop harmony singer and you yearn for challenging quartet singing opportunities with a network of like-minded women, the Women’s Harmony Brigade may be for you!



What is a Harmony Brigade?

A brigade is a fun-filled weekend of non-stop quartet singing and quartet partner switching. Participants learn a common repertoire of challenging songs arranged in the barbershop style and arrive fully prepared and ready to sing with whoever asks all weekend long. Each participant receives a “dance card” upon arrival and will, over the course of the weekend, attempt to sing with EVERY participant in quartet formation.

The 2016 event, which will be held **August 12-14 in Wilmington DE**, also includes 2 rounds of competition where participants are assigned to a quartet by random draw and sing songs assigned from the Brigade repertoire (also assigned by random draw), performances at several locations around Wilmington and a Saturday night show featuring our top 3 contest medalists & other ensembles formed from the Brigade ranks as well as a guest artist to be named soon.

Your registration fee covers 2 nights, double accommodation at the hotel, Friday night buffet dinner, Saturday morning hot breakfast, Saturday night buffet dinner, Sunday morning hot breakfast, as well as sheet music and learning tracks to all repertoire. The event cost for the 2016 event is \$350. If you prefer a single room with no roommate, there is an additional \$100 surcharge. Participants who wish to bring a guest who will join us for all meals but not participate in the event itself can do so for a fee of \$560.

Who can attend a Women’s Harmony Brigade event?

While the Brigade is not for beginners, you don’t have to be an International Champion either ~ just committed to being 100% prepared on all repertoire selections. Music & Learning Tracks will be distributed 4 months prior to the Brigade weekend and should be fully memorized prior to arrival.

First time attendees must be sponsored by a WHB member who will help guide her through her first brigade weekend. If you are interested in participating and do not know a current WHB member, please email the registration team for assistance at womensharmonybrigade@yahoo.com. Guest referrals will be accepted starting December 1st.

If you’re looking for something new & different to spice up your barbershop hobby, this is the event for you!

Want a taste of what the weekend is like, [check out our video](#). Have more questions? Email us at womensharmonybrigade@yahoo.com. And don’t forget to visit our [webpage](#)!