



Mid-Atlantic District Association of Quartet Champions



October 28, 2015

Dear Quartet Champ,

This year's **Mid-Atlantic District Fall Convention** was held in Ocean City, MD on October 23-25 and was hosted by the **Hamilton Square, NJ Chapter**. What a wonderful time we all had on the beautiful Eastern Shore. Our 17th annual quartet champs association reunion and Saturday night **Show of Champions** performance was one of the best ever – a great tag ending to a weekend of close harmony, friendship, and high-level competition. By my count, throughout the weekend there were **56** past champs on hand representing **38** District champion foursomes (highlighted on last page) spanning 6 decades ... from the **Out-of-Towners** (1960) to the **Last Men Standing** (2015).

Here is a weekend recap. First, to the end with the quartet results:

Our **2016 Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions** are ... **Route 1 – Scott Disney (L), Thomas Moyer (Bs), Brandon Brooks (Br), and Brian Schreiner (T)**. They sang “*You Brought a New Kind of Love to Me*”, “*The Party’s Over*”, “*I’ll Get By (As Long As I Have You)*”, and “*I Love Being Here with You*” to earn a score of 2,905 (80.7%). The quartet is now our **71st** champion since 1945 for a total of 220 men to have earned this distinction. Thomas and Brian are new to MADAQC, but this is Brandon’s second and Scott’s **fifth** championship. **CONGRATULATIONS, Fellahs!**



Now, starting near the beginning of the weekend ...

- ✚ The Friday evening **Quartet Semifinals** featured **19** quartet competitors (2 scratches) including **7** foursomes containing **9** past M-AD quartet champion singers: **Jack Pinto** (BSQ, Old School), **Mike Wallen** (Alexandria's Ragtime Band, Copyright '86, Casino), **Pookie Dingle** (Mayhem), **Bob Ramsey** (Runaway Sound), **John Ward** (Reveille), **Joe Hunter** (Four Under Par, Reveille), **Matt Fellows** (Mayhem), **Scott Disney** (Casino, Phat Cats, Ringers, MAD Hatters), and **Brandon Brooks** (Wheelhouse).
- ✚ Following the announcement of the Top-10 quartets, the **MADAQC Chorus** gathered for a short meet-n-greet and then a rehearsal led by **Kevin King** (Untouchables, Pros 'n cons, BSQ) who ran us through "*This is the Moment*". It was a sparse but enthusiast group of 18 men, mostly due to the insanely early chorus contest the next morning with several choruses having late night rehearsals to get ready. By Saturday night we had tripled in size.
- ✚ Starting at the crack of dawn, Saturday was an incredibly busy day for **12** champs who were directors of choruses. **Bill Colosimo** (Copyright '86) kicked things with the mic-tester chorus. The competing directors included **TJ Barranger** (Last Men Standing), **Rich Gray** (Runaway Sound, Wheelhouse, MAD Hatters), **Rick Taylor** (Arcade, Old School, MAD Hatters), **Jack Pinto**, **Larry Bombback** ('Round Midnight), **Drew Feyrer** (Last Men Standing), **Chuck Lower** (Free Trade Agreement), **Mike Wallen** (Alexandria's Ragtime Band, Copyright '86, Casino), **Jeff Glemboski** ('Round Midnight), **Jay Butterfield** (Free Trade Agreement, Touchstone), and **Bill Stauffer** (Doubletake). Seven of these guys directed choruses that finished in the Top 10. Now that's an amazing number of champs contributing to their choruses.
- ✚ At the conclusion of the chorus contest, DVP-Chorus Directors Development Glenn Phillips gave out several **Directors Service Recognition Awards**. Some of our boys were among them ... **Pookie Dingle** (15 years) and **Bob Ramsey** (30 years).
- ✚ The **Mid-Atlantic District Hall of Honor** members were then invited to the stage for the induction ceremony for this year's distinguished recipients of the District's highest award. 2015 District HoH Chairman **Steve White** (Copyright '86, The Bay Rum Runners, Phat Cats, Touchstone, MAD Hatters) read the criteria and detailed biographies after which the recipients were presented with



commemorative engraved silver plates and name badges with the help of **Chuck Lower**. The honorees included our very own **Mike Kelly** (Casino, Wheelhouse, Last Men Standing) pictured left, Terry Reynolds, and District President Ig Jakovac. Congratulations and thank you for your lifetimes of service and contribution to barbershopping in our great District.

✚ The **2016 Mid-Atlantic District Chorus Champions** are ... the **Alexandria Harmonizers** (below) under the direction of **Joe Cerutti** staged 97 men with a score of 1,636 (90.9%) seeding them 4th going into the Nashville International Contest. They sang “*Someone like You*” and “*Me ‘Ol Bamboo*” to a standing M-AD ovation. This was their 26th District Chorus Championship since 1977.



Voices of Gotham (below) under the direction of **Bill Stauffer** placed 2nd staging 47 men and earned a score of 1,556 (86.4%).



Parkside Harmony (below) under the co-direction of **Jay Butterfield** and Sean Devine (OC Times, Throwback) placed 3rd with 40 men and earned a score of 1,550 (86.1%).



Filling out the Top-5 were the **Brothers in Harmony** under the direction of **Jack Pinto** placed 4th staging 96 men and earned a score of 1,544 (85.8%), and the **Big Apple Chorus** also under the direction of **Jack Pinto** placed 5th staging 46 men and earned a score of 1,421 (78.9%). It is likely that all 4 of these choruses will represent the M-AD at the Nashville International Contest next July.

✚ The **Quartet Finals** were exceptional with 5 quartets scoring International qualifying numbers ranging from 76.4 to 80.7%. Add 'Round Midnight, BSQ, Last Men Standing, and possibly others to the mix at Prelims and the M-AD is going to send a lot of quartets to the Big Show this coming year.

✚ The **Show of Champions** featured great performances by the top 3 choruses: the brand new **Parkside Harmony** chorus, the **Voices of Gotham**, and our new champs ... the **Alexandria Harmonizers**.

Last Men Standing crushed their swan song package to close out a great championship year. Thanks, guys, keep up the good work.



Drew Feyrer (L), Mike Kelly (Bs), Ed Bell (Br), and TJ Barranger (T)

The **MADAQC Chorus** was now lined up on the ramp, ready to take the stage. **Steve White** was our emcee and introduced a new MADAQC feature on the Show of Champions by showcasing an active past champ quartet ... this year it was '**Round Midnight** (2015 International 11th Place Semi-finalists) who wowed the audience with their high-energy and highly entertaining songs.



Wayne Grimmer (L), Jeff Glemboski (Bs), Larry Bomback (Br), and TJ Carollo (T)

Then the MADAQC Chorus proudly took the stage as their championship quartet names were read (Ye Emcee is sorry to have accidentally skipped over **Runaway Sound**). Co-Directing our motley, but handsome crew were again **Kevin King** and **Rick Taylor**.

As we stood in reverence, Steve noted the absence of 3 outstanding and wonderful quartet men who passed away this year, our old pals ...

- **Kurt Brown**, tenor of our 1970 champs, the **Union Jacks**, and brother to quartet champ Barry, left us in December.
- **Bo Deibel**, bass of our 1975 champs, the **Reign-Beaus' End** (International Semi-finalists), left us in March.
- **John Hohl**, baritone of our 1981 champs, **Vaudeville** (International Silver Medalists), and the second baritone of the **NOVA Chords** (International 3rd Place Medalists), left us in August.

On a brighter note, it was now time to acknowledge some big quartet anniversaries:



... the **25th anniversary** of the **Untouchables** (left) with **Kevin King**, Bret Pryor, Mike Sotiriou (d), and John Brohan. Kevin was there to represent.



... the **35th anniversary** of **Keystone Congregation** (above right) with Les Adams, Doug Watson, **Mark Sanders**, and **Hal Kraft** who were all in attendance.

... the **50th anniversary** year of our 1966 champs, the **Hallmarks** (below) with Roger Ruhren (d), **Artie Dolt**, **Bart Plescia**, and Frank Tortorelli (d). Artie and Bart were there (below); they have been best friends for 55 years (can ya tell?).



Two other best friends were with us again, **Larry Reagan** and **Bob Parry**, celebrating their 55th anniversary of the **Out-of-Towners**.



THE BIG FINALE: As the Top-10 quartets huddled back stage, anxiously waiting what could be for each a “momentous moment”, DVP-Contest and Judging **Gary Plaag (Hijinx)** announced the much-awaited results. **Frank the Dog, Mayhem**, and **Last Men Standing** stood ready to award the lapel pins and congratulate the Top-3 finishers.



... in 3rd Place – **Brothers in Arms**

James Isley (L), Jordan Dubois (Bs), Mike Duca (Br), and Kevin Juliana (T)



... in 2nd Place – **Gimme Four**

Dave Ammirata (L), Will Downey (Bs), Joe Servidio, Jr. (Br), and Paul Franek (T)

Note: Also rounding out the **Top 10** were past champs **Joe Hunter** and **John Ward** in **Up All Night** (5th, below left), **Pookie Dingle** in **Hershey Transit Co.** (8th, below right), and **Mike Wallen** in **Youth Reclamation Project** (9th, below bottom).



Route 1 was then crowned champions and awarded the traveling **MADAQC/Oriole Four Trophy**, individual **James E. Grant Performance Award** trophies (provided by **Bob Disney** on behalf of **Arcade**), and shiny blue 1st Place lapel pins. **Kevin** then directed the MADAQC Chorus in singing our traditional song of celebration and congratulations, **"This is the Moment"** (arranged by **Freddie King**) as **Route 1** stood embracing each other, their pride of accomplishment showing. Welcome to our special fraternity, Champs!





Link to Finals Call-off and the MADAQC performance of *"This is the Moment"*:
http://134.192.106.36/v_files/MAD/2015/Fall/Jamboree/MADAQC~MD71J.mp4

- ✚ **Rick Taylor** then led everyone in singing *"Keep the Whole World Singing"* and bringing to a close another fantastic barbershop convention. Every champ then congratulated **Route 1** with handshakes, hugs, and slaps on their backs. Now it was off to the hospitality rooms for more singing and camaraderie.
- ✚ Several champs wore multiple hats throughout the weekend to help the convention run smoothly and efficiently and/or had Presidential Appointments this past year: DVP-Contest & Judging and Past Presidents Forum **Gary Plaag**, Immediate Past President **Bill Colosimo**, Coaching Coordinator **Chuck Lower**, District Chief Information Officer and Photographer **Mike Kelly**, and 2015 District Hall of Honor Chairman **Steve White**. Others including **Richard Lewellen** (Four Aces) were coaching choruses and quartets.
- ✚ Finally, it was great to see two **International Quartet Champions** at our convention. Both cut their barbershop chops in the Mid-Atlantic District ... **Tim Waurick** (2006 - **Vocal Spectrum**) from Levittown, PA and **Sean Devine** (2008 - **OC Times**) from Hershey, PA (and directing Parkside Harmony).

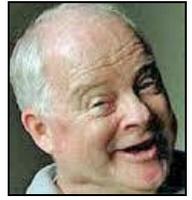
Well, that about does it for my annual recap. Apologies if I have left anyone out or missed highlighting a champ quartet that may have been represented. I look forward to seeing and hearing you again very soon. Please stay well and stay tuned.

Yours in friendship, service, and close *championship harmony* ...

Steve



... always remembering our dear Freddie



Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions

1	1945	<i>NY City Police Department Quartet</i>	36	1981	<i>Vaudeville</i>
2	1946	<i>Harmoneers</i>	37	1982	<i>The New Yorkers</i>
3	1947	<i>Four Chords</i>	38	1983	<i>Curtain Call</i>
4	1948	<i>Potomac Clippers</i>	39	1984	<i>Pros 'N Cons</i>
5	1949	<i>Columbians</i>	40	1985	<i>Alexandria's Ragtime Band</i>
6	1950	<i>Melloaires</i>	41	1986	<i>Four Under Par</i>
7	1951	<i>Volunteers</i>	42	1987	<i>Northeast Extension</i>
8	1952	<i>Jerseymen</i>	43	1988	<i>Copyright '86</i>
9	1953	<i>Ryth-O-Mats</i>	44	1989	<i>Tradewinds</i>
10	1954	<i>Play-Tonics</i>	45	1990	<i>Broadway</i>
11	1955	<i>Easternaires</i>	46	1991	<i>Untouchables</i>
12	1956	<i>Hometown Quartet</i>	47	1992	<i>Arcade</i>
13	1957	<i>York-Aires</i>	48	1993	<i>Doubletake</i>
14	1958	<i>Oriole Four (1970 International Quartet Champions)</i>	49	1994	<i>Bingo Brothers</i>
15	1959	<i>Checkmates</i>	50	1995	<i>BSQ</i>
16	1960	<i>Out-Of-Towners</i>	51	1996	<i>The Bay Rum Runners</i>
17	1961	<i>Rocket Tones</i>	52	1997	<i>Premiere</i>
18	1962	<i>Main Street Four</i>	53	1998	<i>Free Trade Agreement</i>
19	1963	<i>Yankees</i>	54	1999	<i>Hijinx</i>
20	1965	<i>Townsmen</i>	55	2000	<i>Casino</i>
21	1966	<i>Hallmarks</i>	56	2001	<i>Runaway Sound</i>
22	1967	<i>Continental Four</i>	57	2002	<i>Reveille</i>
23	1968	<i>NOVA Chords</i>	58	2003	<i>Wheelhouse</i>
24	1969	<i>Classics</i>	59	2004	<i>Phat Cats</i>
25	1970	<i>Union Jacks</i>	60	2005	<i>Iguanas in Flight</i>
26	1971	<i>Exclusives</i>	61	2006	<i>Four Aces</i>
27	1972	<i>Regents (1974 International Quartet Champions)</i>	62	2007	<i>Ringers</i>
28	1973	<i>Fifth Edition</i>	63	2008	<i>New Release</i>
29	1974	<i>Friends of Yesterday</i>	64	2009	<i>Old School (2011 International Quartet Champions)</i>
30	1975	<i>Reign-Beaus' End</i>	65	2010	<i>'Round Midnight</i>
31	1976	<i>Sound Revival</i>	66	2011	<i>Touchstone</i>
32	1977	<i>Sussex Counts</i>	67	2012	<i>MAD Hatters</i>
33	1978	<i>Baltimore & Ohio Connection</i>	68	2013	<i>Frank the Dog</i>
34	1979	<i>Four Cracker Jacks</i>	69	2014	<i>Mayhem</i>
35	1980	<i>Keystone Congregation</i>	70	2015	<i>Last Men Standing</i>
			71	2016	<i>Route 1</i>

Note: Represented in Wildwood this year

Note: Due to a change in accounting, there was no 1964 champion.

Note: The *Garden State Four* were the 1946 International Champions, but never M-AD champs.