



A Bulletin for Every Barbershopper in the Mid-Atlantic District

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MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT OFFICERS

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

Immediate Past President:
Joe Stangl (Dorothy);
570-624-7106; stanglj@yahoo.com

Secretary: Keith Jones; 202-863-2688;
keith.m.jones@MidAtlanticDistrict.com

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

Executive VP: Dick Powell (Roxanne);
410-451-1957; rpowell74@verizon.net

Board Members-at-Large:

Rick Ashby (Claire); 717-625-2945;
rashby@ptd.net

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

Neil Keihm (Dottie); 302-737-6141;
keihm@verizon.net

Dennis Ritchey (Sherrie);
540-846-6408; denritchey5@cox.net

2010 DISTRICT OPERATIONS TEAM

VP Chapter Support & Leadership Training:
Hardman Jones (Amanda); 804-379-6257;
hajones425@aol.com

VP Chorus Director Development:
Roger Tarpay (Jean); 804-829-2466;
rtarpay@verizon.net

VP Contest & Judging: Chuck Harner;
703-994-7975; CACHuck@cox.net

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

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VP Membership Makes Good on Promise



Paul Wietlisbach, BHS Director of Education, shakes hands with **Christian Hunter**, VP Membership for the Hunterdon County, NJ Chapter *Hunterdon Harmonizers*, as Christian's brother, **Dan**, stands by with the shaving equipment. The promise was "increase membership this year by 10 and I'll have my head shaved." They increased it by 11 guys!

Now Everyone Can Attend the Fall Convention

by Walter Griffith, VP Events

The 2010 Fall District Convention will be held October 1-3 at the Lancaster Convention Center which is connected to the Lancaster Marriott (District headquarters hotel). To make your reservation at the Marriott or at one of the nearby hotels simply go to <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/midatlanticbarbershop> and make your reservation. Tickets can be purchased via the M-AD Web site at www.mad-registrations.org.

Plans are being made to provide bus transportation for convention attendees from the Clipper Stadium to the Convention Center. The District Events Team has arranged a special price of \$10/person that covers unlimited use of these buses for both Friday and Saturday of convention weekend. More information will be provided on the M-AD Web site in September.

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2010 DISTRICT OPERATIONS TEAM (continued)

VP Marketing & Public Relations:

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

VP Membership Development:

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

VP Music & Performance:

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

VP Youth In Harmony:

Mike Fasano (Terri); 240-285-1801;
YIHinMAD@gmail.com

VP Atlantic Division:

Neil Keihm (Dottie); 302-737-6141;
keihm@verizon.net

VP Northern Division:

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

VP Southern Division:

Jere Richardson (Nancy); 571-223-1553;
therichardsons2@verizon.net

VP Western Division:

Don Springer (Theresa); 610-678-5753;
dntspringer@enter.net

Chief Information Officer:

Mike Kelly;
MikeKelly@MidAtlanticDistrict.com

Society Board Member:

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



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Publisher: Lee Roth; 908-782-5317;
lee@intune2.com

Associate Publisher: Rusty Williams;
908-782-7551; rustyw23@embarqmail.com

Editor: Linda M. Williams, 24 Toad Ln.,
Ringoes, NJ 08551; 908-782-7551;
lindaw23@embarqmail.com

Photographer: Bill Tilton, 302-368-1407

Printer: The Print Shoppe Inc.
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CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

Go to www.barbershop.org to the "members only" section to update your address. Or, make sure your Chapter Secretary gets your change of address.

President's Report . . .



Gary Plaag

A big THANKS to all who were able to attend the recent International Convention held in Philadelphia! It looks like there were over 8,000 registrations sold—many of them from M-AD members and associates! The local Philadelphia convention team (mainly folks from the Bryn Mawr Chapter assisted by our District leadership in various support roles) did a spectacular job of hosting the Barbershop Harmony Society's 72nd International Convention. If you were one of the many volunteers at the convention...thank you!! Your help was critical to the success of this convention. Even the weather cooperated. Our competitors from the M-AD did us proud, as well. Check out the contest score sheets online at the BHS Web site. Our medalists this year included *Old School* taking 2nd place in the quartet contest

and the *Alexandria Harmonizers* taking 5th place in the chorus contest. In short, it was a great convention! Again, thanks to all who volunteered and helped make it a great success.

Just before our focus shifted to the recent BHS International Convention we concluded our four division conventions and contests. The Southern Division was held in a new venue and was quite successful. The Hotel Roanoke and Convention Center proved to be outstanding, and Roanoke, VA, was an excellent host city. We'll be there again in 2012 so mark your calendars to attend! Unfortunately, some of our division events continue to struggle to break even financially and we are actively looking to create ways to turn those situations around. Many of you have provided thoughtful and promising suggestions to the District Events Team for consideration. You'll hear more in the near future about steps being taken to make all our conventions as cost-effective as possible for the District and attendees.

We are now heading toward our final main event of the M-AD year—our Fall District Convention, which includes both our quartet and chorus competitions and our House of Delegates meeting. We will again be in Lancaster, PA. As mentioned in the last "Mid'l Antics," one thing that will ensure an outstanding weekend in Lancaster (as outstanding as the recent International Convention)... is YOU. We need you to be there October 1–3. It's a fact: The bigger the crowd the more exciting the convention, the more new friends you can make, and the more old friends you can reconnect with. Consider this your "save-the-date" notice. I encourage you to make your plans now to join the rest of the M-AD family for a great weekend in Lancaster, PA, in October. See you there!

Now Everyone Can Attend . . . (cont'd from pg. 1)

As part of Lancaster's *First Friday* celebration, the Marriott will feature a stage and sound system in their upper lobby opposite the registration desk from 5–9 p.m. Any quartet may take the stage and sing a few songs for the appreciative crowd—either to warm-up for their contest set or just for fun. Last year this event was widely covered by the local media and was one of the unexpected highlights of the *First Friday* experience for local residents.

Chapters and quartets may purchase print ads for the show program by contacting **Walter Griffith** at IMABARI1@aol.com. There are also banner ads or ads read "*on air*" during our first live Convention Webcast available for purchase.

The M-AD will offer a live Webcast of the Friday night quartet contest, the Saturday chorus contest, the Saturday night quartet finals, and the Saturday night Show of Champions for the low price of \$15 for each session or \$25 for the entire event. Our guest hosts for this inaugural broadcast will be **Sean Devine** (lead singer in the gold medal quartet, *OC Times*) and **Gary Plaag**, M-AD President. If you can't make it to Lancaster but want to see your friends, neighbors, or family members perform, this is your chance to be there, up front and personal, without leaving the comfort of your home.

Don't miss the chance to see some of the finest barbershop performances available anywhere, enjoy the ambiance (and food!) in friendly Lancaster, and celebrate the unique fellowship and harmony that is the hallmark of barbershop and the M-AD. Join us in person or via the Web. You won't regret it.



The Word's Out on Membership—You Gettin' It?

by **Christian Hunter**,
DVP Membership

One of the challenges I face is getting useful membership ideas and practical information into the hands of chapters. What good are oodles of tools and tips if they lay idle in the toolbox? The solution has been found via the MadMem Yahoo! Group. Through this Web-based medium I am getting the message out to YOU about effective membership methods, and sharing my views toward chapter life and leadership and how they impact not only the ability to attract talent, but to retain it.

“OK,” you’re intrigued, but I can see you aren’t buying just yet. This Group is chock full of bonus features. It comes with a “Files” section with loads of materials you can use right away! Everything you need for an effective Guest Night, sample Craigslist ads, a unique bumper sticker, a how-to guide on using social media, and much, much more! There are “Links” to resources and information found elsewhere on the internet. This is real stuff and more will be added over time.

Current subscribers have provided wonderful feedback that they have long sought a source like this, and it is already paying dividends in their chapters. And guess what, they aren’t all membership VPs!

So you want in? The only price for admission is your pledge that you will tune in and contribute. This is an interactive media where you can post topics of your own or comment on posts by others, including mine! I encourage an open and frank discussion regarding the trials and tribulations you face.

You don’t have to beg, let me tell you how to get signed up. There are three ways. For the grand-daddy of access, sign up directly through Yahoo! Groups with a Yahoo! account. Go to <http://groups.yahoo.com>. In the box “Find a Yahoo! Group”, enter “madmem”. You’ll see a link along the left side that says, “Join This Group!” Click it, and you’re on your way. To have full access you’ll need a Yahoo! ID. If you already have one, go ahead and sign in and you’re a member of the Group after you select your preferences. If you do not yet have one, I recommend that you do sign up. In my experience Yahoo! is a very trustworthy site and membership is very safe. To join Yahoo!, click on the “Create New Account” link and follow the steps. Once you have your Yahoo! account you can join the group. By accessing the Group directly on the internet you will be able to access all posts, files, and links.

As an alternative, you can sign up for the group as a mailing list. This way you’ll receive an e-mail either as entries are posted on the site or via a daily digest. To do so simply send an e-mail to madmem-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. You will receive an e-mail from Yahoo! asking you to confirm your subscription. Keep in mind, with this method of access you are only receiving e-mails of current posts.

Lastly, I can have an invitation sent to you via e-mail. You can subscribe this way either to the full access group or simply the e-mail list. Just send me an e-mail (njbbslead@yahoo.com) and I will have the invitation sent to you.

I hope to see you as a subscriber to the Yahoo! Group and taking just one small step towards helping your chapter, your district, and your Society grow!

YOUR CHAPTER WEBSITE— A WINDOW INTO YOUR CHORUS' SOUL

Have you looked at your chapter’s Web site lately? Did you know that prospective members surely have? I’ve checked out probably over 100 different chapter Web sites throughout the Society. There’s some great stuff out there! But with the good often comes the bad. There are many chapters that are missing out on a great opportunity for membership marketing.

I have polled many new members to find out how they found their chapter. The most frequent response is “through the internet.” In some cases they pointed out that they could see the group perform online on YouTube.

Want some good examples? Head up north to see the *MegaCity Chorus* (<http://megacitychorus.com>). What do I take note of when going to a great Web site? Can I hear the chorus? Yep, the “Hear Us” link. Can I see the chorus? Right on the front page. Is there a membership message prominently displayed? Top right and a “Join Us” section. Is the site updated? Sure is. Nice job!

Sure, one might expect the large or International-caliber choruses to have top notch Web sites, but what about the small to mid-level choruses? Check out the *Great Lakes Chorus* (www.greatlakeschorus.org)—a phenomenal amount of information! They’ve even got “Barbershop Karaoke”! Go to www.gentlemensongsters.com and the BHS membership video starts right up! You don’t have a choice, if your speakers are on so is the membership message. How about the Bryn Mawr *Mainliners*, your host for this year’s Internationals? Pretty sharp. Go to www.mainliners.org.

So, that’s a whole heckuva lotta good! But there are many Web sites out there that need some TLC. Think of your Web site as a pickup line or a first date. It’s just as easy to impress the lass as it is to turn her off. Got dead links? Got upcoming events from 2005? Got pictures from ten years ago as the most recent? If there is one priority on the membership marketing front, it’s gotta be the Web site first! Make it hot, make it inviting, make it an accurate representation of your chapter.

As in the Field of Dreams, build it and they will come. I can tell you, I checked out my chapter’s Web site a couple of times before I went to see them sing for the first time. And I liked what I saw. This was no sloppy group, and the pictures sure made it look like they were having fun. I could even check out clips of them singing on the CDs page! And now here I am—see for yourself. Go to www.njharmonizers.org!





Music and “Fun” REPRISE! THIRD OF A SERIES

by **Bill Colosimo**, DVP, Music & Performance and Board Member-at-Large

“MAKING MUSIC” AND “HAVING FUN”

Throughout last year and into 2010, as your District VP of Music & Performance, I have authored a series of columns on “Music and Fun.” As a lifelong barbershopper, it has been my intention to share with you my passion to spread the message that making great, high-quality vocal music together is fun! I am gratified by the response from many of you, indicating that you have found this series informative, encouraging, and even a little helpful. The series’ 2010 “reprise” continues here.

(Might I suggest that, if you’ve not kept copies of your previous issues, that you review where we’ve come so far by retrieving past issues from the M-AD Web site in the Mid’l Antics Archive under “Docs and Information.” Many have commented on the particular usefulness of my Issue 4 2009 column which highlighted the “Seven Steps to Singing FUN!”)

As we have explored the linkage of “singing” and “fun” over the last two years in these writings, I’ve consciously downplayed the “C” word (or words, actually... “Contests” and “Competition”) in order to shy away from what some of our members and chapters view as a particularly contentious and overly-emphasized element of our Society activity. I humbly submit that most of the negativity so many of our members express about the integration of competition (for choruses or quartets) is based on a fundamental misunderstanding of why we have contests at all, how contests “work,” at least in M-AD, and why we encourage everyone’s participation, in order to provide a positive experience to all who participate and who come to see us perform.

The following are some general thoughts on this topic, from my perspective as a district servant, member of the Society’s Operations Team (as a Committee Chair), a longtime chorus director and a quartet man. Accordingly, all I can ask is that you consider this input, as I have neither the intention nor the expectation of “changing minds” which may not be open to competing. Rather, in considering our intention for integrating competition into “what we do,” it is my hope to clarify any misunderstanding or misinformation you may have. And, if you’re already a proponent of contest participation, this may provide you with some reasonable response material for new and current members to help them get a full picture.

WHY WE COMPETE

In any element of our life’s activity, there is great benefit to testing ourselves against a fair, understandable rubric in order to improve our performance. In our work, it’s performance evaluations. In our schools, it’s tests and other assessments. In sports, it’s the score and the standings of where we “rank” versus other teams or individuals.

It is in this spirit that our Society has integrated competition into our barbershop experience. And it’s why we have traditionally encouraged all our units to consider competing, knowing full well that there can only be a few “winners” (at various “plateaus” or levels) in any given competition. Even our contest audiences sense this intuitively; they universally welcome all competitors with hearty applause and cheering, knowing full well that there can only be one (or several, dependent on the contest structure) “winner” of a prize. They understand the difficulty of our artform, the normal human tendency to shy away from exposing oneself to critique, and they applaud from their hearts all who “put themselves out there” to compete.

To clarify, I know for a fact, from both personal experience and intense discussions with the “finest” competitors (directors and singers) in our Society, that choruses and quartets (and quartet men who go on to form other quartets following a “win” from which there is no further contest advancement) who are perennial “winners” are not motivated exclusively by “winning” to maintain their high quality. It is, instead, their commitment to increasing in musical and entertainment excellence that is their primary motivation and structure. And, not surprisingly, one outcome of this is frequently “winning” a contest...or a series of them! But, not unlike the Nationals or the Orioles (neither of which has a chance of “winning” anything this season), every registered “unit” is both encouraged to and cheered for its decision to “carry on” and compete...with the knowledge that to not compete eliminates all avenues for public acclaim and improvement toward a possible future “win” of some sort!

Competition in our Society (and our artform), at any level, is, therefore, not designed to exclude any units which are “less than the best,” but, rather, to include as many qualified, willing participants as possible. And it’s FREE to compete. Really...no cost to enter a contest at all! The beneficiaries of our contests are not only those units which participate, but also the public who sees us perform following our contest experience; they witness a better prepared, better experienced, better seasoned unit building on its contest experience. Remember, too, that it’s our public audience from which we often gain our new members, who are attracted to our choruses and our Society by the quality we exhibit for them!

WHAT IS A “CONTEST?”

In M-AD, not unlike many of our districts, contests are held at various levels at various times of year. They are adjudicated by very well-trained, experienced judges, widely acclaimed by other musical organizations with which I’m familiar as “highly qualified” to judge any form of choral adjudication, let alone barbershop! Choruses and quartets are scored in three categories and are given a score total, which is used for “ranking” against the other participants, determining winners by “Plateau” (in M-AD, based on previous contest performance levels) and an overall winner. Choruses are also eligible to be named “Most Improved Chorus,” a coveted title, believe me!

It is a little known fact that choruses and quartets can, if they choose, participate in a division-level contest and International Preliminary Contests “for evaluation only,” receive a thorough

(continued on next page)

“Contestant Scoring Summary” for their assessment and education, receive a full coaching-oriented one-hour evaluation for all unit members by the judging panel...and not have its score publicized on the public “score sheet” at all! This is ideal for quartets or choruses who might be a bit shy about public scrutiny of “scores.” And, believe me, those who exercise this option universally laud the opportunity and invariably return to the following contest cycle, designating themselves “eligible” for posting of scores and awards, if earned.

In the recent Southern Division Contest held in Roanoke, for example, with an aggregate average score of 67 (OK, I’m “rounding up!”), my own *Singing Capital Chorus* not only qualified to sing in the District Contest this fall, but logged the highest score in the last 25 years (since the “modern era” of scoring). It is noteworthy that this accomplishment was aided by our participation in the District’s Chorus Festival held in March, for which there were NO scores “published,” but which allowed us to be evaluated, coached, and informed of areas where we could improve. “Not participating” would have negated all these positive results. And our public performances have improved as a direct result, I assure you!

Why do we “encourage” competition participation?

Aside from the many advantages to the performing units already documented, the question of why all our units are encouraged to participate is simply answered with the word “celebration!”

Our contests within our conventions, with as many participants as possible, affords us the “celebration” of fellowship, song, learning, and convening with others who share our passion for barbershop music as participants, families, and friends. If only a few “select” choruses were to compete, it would be a sad convention, overall, frankly. The likelihood that chapters would attend our conventions in large numbers were they not to be represented by a competing unit is suspect...and that would be a shame, indeed. We’ve begun to see decline in attendance at our divisional conventions, for which there are a number of reasons. I believe that a re-energizing of a true understanding of the benefits of competing for all eligible units would reverse this trend in short order...to everyone’s benefit!

Yes, the Events leadership of the district would be pleased if I included a comment about the hard work we all do as district leaders to continue to make conventions more attractive and financially successful; the former, to encourage you to participate in every way possible—the latter, to ensure that the district, which tries hard to operate financially solvent conventions as stewards of your (all of your!) dues in light of today’s ever-increasing financial challenges, can continue to offer conventions with nice accommodations, venues, and great contests at a good value for all who attend. That’s our goal, believe me...there are NO “ulterior motives!”

POSTSCRIPT: YOUTH AND COMPETITION

If nothing I’ve written here resonates with you, personally, please consider one more thought before we close.

As we seek to perpetuate our artform and engage more “younger” singers in enjoying membership in our great Society, it is more and more apparent that young singers (teenage) and “younger” men (21–35) who are prospective members in our chapters—especially if educated in WHY we compete at all—are very much attracted to the element of “competition” in what we do! Ask them...I have.

(continued on pg. 18)



All the Fun You Deserve

by **Dick Powell**, Executive VP,
Operations Team Chair

This year I had the pleasure of attending the Southern Division convention in Roanoke, VA. Prior to the event there was concern that the location would result in low participation due to the long drive and the cost of lodging. But a funny thing happened. People chose to make the event a minor family holiday. They made their reservations early (we sold out the Hotel Roanoke) and took Friday off to have ample time to drive into town. The quartet competition on Friday evening had a large and enthusiastic audience. The chorus competition on Saturday featured large and small ensembles and entertaining performances. Many of the smaller groups shunned the risers and performed at the edge of the stage—giving the judges, the audience, and the performers an intimate and satisfying experience. Coaching sessions were well-attended, and the Show of Champions wrapped up early enough to leave plenty of time for celebrations at the many hospitality suites throughout the Hotel Roanoke. And in between these events, members and their families toured the local area, enjoyed the fine food, and strolled through a vibrant farmer’s market and cultural celebrations underway just down the hill. Almost everyone I spoke with loved the experience and can’t wait to come back for a second helping (Southern Division will return to Roanoke in 2012). When I asked them why they were so positive, the responses I got went along these lines:

- They had plenty of time to arrange their lives to participate as they knew well in advance they would be coming to Roanoke.
- There were lots of interesting things to do for everyone between contest sessions.
- The HQ hotel and the attached convention center were convenient and comfortable.
- There were lots of places to eat in the hotel and nearby.
- There were many convenient hospitality suites for parties.
- The Show of Champions was over early so they could ring tags and sing with old and new friends.

Some also said the coaching sessions following the competitions gave them valuable feedback. But the thrust of the comments was not about competition, but about celebrating a shared love of barbershop and having a weekend filled with fun and fellowship. The success of the weekend is vivid testimony to the power of positive thinking and a reminder that these events are intended to be conventions with a contest built in.

Not all of our conventions play out this way. In the recent past we have tried to accommodate travel and financial concerns and hold conventions in easy-to-reach locations. Many chapters have chosen to drive in, compete, and drive home all on the same day. The result is those who stick around don’t have as much fun, those who come and go on the same day don’t have as much fun, and the excitement, harmony, and fellowship that characterized the Roanoke convention never materialize.

The district will continue to plan division conventions to fulfill the needs of our chapters and members, and afford everyone the opportunity to have a “Roanoke experience.” When you plan your travel for the coming year, please consider setting aside time and money to attend your division convention. Take Friday off for travel, stay overnight, and get all the fun, fellowship, and singing you can during that weekend. You deserve it!



The Director's Toolbox

by **Roger Tarpy**, DVP Chorus
Director Development

My intention in the past few "Mid'l Antics" articles was to be entirely pragmatic. I wrote about how directors can better communicate their ideas, create variety in their rehearsals, and more effectively promote good

singing skills such as those achieved by Jim Arns with the Melodeers. In this article, I would like to talk about another practical topic—the director's "toolbox."

The term "toolbox" refers to a bunch of procedures, drills, exercises, illustrations, devices, musical explanations, and so forth, that a director uses to fix something. For instance, if the leads sound weak, a director might ask them to extend their arms in front of them and grasp hands to form a circle. Then he/she might say "as you sing, try to 'fill up' this space." The result, it is hoped, is a more resonant and fuller sound. The so-called tool is just a device to remind the singers to create a tall singing space.

Although I take mild exception to the imagery of a "toolbox" (see Endnote for my reason), these kinds of exercises or rehearsal gimmicks usually work. Indeed, they are the foundation of any director's instructional program. They get the singers to improve on what they are doing at the time, they are educational in that they create, or provide reminders for, good vocal techniques, and they add variety and interest to the rehearsal.

In this article, I would like to provide a partial list of some of the tools I use. I'm hoping that these devices will be of use to many of you.

However, I have a second, more encompassing, and thoroughly unique goal in mind. **I'd like to start a continuing exchange, via e-mail, in which all the directors in the M-AD share their own "toolbox" with each other.** I don't know if this will work, of course, because I don't know how many directors actually read these articles, nor how many of those who read them will wish to participate in the exchange. But it's worth a try.

So, here's my request. Please read my list of tools in the next column, and then e-mail me a description of some tools that you use routinely. I'll develop a master list and e-mail it back to all the directors in the M-AD. What I hope to achieve is a sort of compendium of the tricks-of-the-trade that have been proven to be useful.

ENDNOTE: Why do I not like the term "toolbox"? It suggests that fixing vocal problems by the director is like fixing a broken faucet—the plumber (director) finds the leaky washer, replaces it, and the home-owner is "good-to-go." Good singing, in reality, is an endlessly complicated and nuanced activity that is achieved only gradually with prodigious training. Good directors are more motivators, educators, and sources of inspiration than they are vocal tricksters.

| PROBLEM AREA | TOOL |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Tension and resonance | Put finger on larynx, sing "ah" up an octave. Do it so that the Adam's Apple doesn't lift. |
| Lack of resonance | Lower the soft-palate by frowning; sing "ah" and pinch nose. Then raise the soft-palate by smiling and elevating the cheekbones; sing "ah" and pinch nose. Tone should not change if you pinch nose with palate raised. |
| Out-of-balance chord | Sing tonic in unison on "bung" then go to the appropriate note and vowel. Do this first for the root and fifth of chord. Then add third and seventh, while balancing volume. |
| Flattening Lead section | Have leads sing melody while all others sing unison tonic on "oh." |
| Tone placement | Sing "ah" bright, like Jerry Lewis, then sing "ah" tall, like Pavarotti. Have singers go back and forth, from tall to bright, until they feel a mixture of the two. |
| Vowel agreement | Have singers say "urge," then sing chord keeping the same mouth position. |
| Poor support | Have singers straighten back, flex at the knees, and raise heels off the floor. Sing phrase while feeling the abdominal support with one hand. |
| Choppy singing | Have each singer move one hand back and forth, smoothly, across his body while singing. |
| Poor intonation | Have singers emote while singing without making a sound. Then cue them to sing words half-way into the song. |
| Poor intonation | Ask two singers to push gently against each other's palm while singing. |
| Singing tension | Sing chord, or sing up the scale on "ah," while "chewing" with the jaw, or while moving the jaw gently with hand. |
| Glottal attacks | Sing chord with "ha" in front of it, where the "h" is silent. |
| Lack of resonance | Have singers bend at the waist and feel resonance in head while singing. Then ask them to recreate that feeling while standing tall and singing phrase. |
| Creating resonance | Have singers say "urge" while creating an "inner smile." Then, holding that mouth position, sing the word "kay" followed by the actual word. |





M-AD Shines at International Time

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

By most accounts, our Society's 72nd International Convention in Philadelphia was one for the record books.

Record attendance notwithstanding, extraordinary behind the scenes efforts on multiple fronts by a cast of hundreds...maybe even upwards of a thousand, donning bright yellow shirts with the distinctive Liberty Bell emblem, helped to make this convention run with near military precision.

Kudos to Host Committee Chair, **Daniel Endy**, who along with the rest of the Bryn Mawr *Mainliners*, The Stokers (Mainliners' women's auxiliary), other committee members, numerous quartets, and countless other volunteers from all around the district and elsewhere, who helped to make the Philly International experience a memorable one.

In particular, a special tip of the hat to M-AD's own, **Bill Colosimo**, **Jack Pinto**, *Frank the Dog*, *Quatrain*, *Three Good Men*, *2nd Generation*, *Paradox*, not to mention *Off the Record* from Chicago, and collegiate quartet competitors, *Snap Shot* from the New England area, for helping to make numerous public relations efforts pay off in spades. All our M-AD quartet and chorus competitors did admirably. All of them represented our district well and are truly champions in every sense of the word.

It should also be noted that Dundalk's **Tom Wheatley** and Fairfax's **Fred Geldon** received second and third place honors, respectively, in PROBE's bulletin editor competition. Tom in the hard-copy category with "Charivari" and Fred in the online category for his "What's Happening." The final contest results were announced during convention week.

Indeed, the International Convention gives the host city and the host district the unique opportunity to shine and bring an unprecedented awareness to our beloved hobby like never before. Through some extra advance planning, a lot of dedicated teamwork, and a fair amount of luck factored into the mix, we were able to maximize exposure on several major radio and television stations in the area, not to mention write-ups in numerous print and online outlets.

But, as the many convention "highs" start to fade, the all important challenge now is to keep that same energy and the "buzz" about barbershop singing that was generated continuing throughout the entire year and beyond. Lets seize these opportunities that were created as a result of the International coming to town and use them as a springboard for building ongoing awareness and igniting even more enthusiasm. It's up to all of us, both as individuals and chapters. to keep a good thing going and turn this golden opportunity into a means by which we can build membership and spread the word about barbershopping like never before.

In the final analysis, it all comes down to a key phrase from one of the all time great NFL coaches of all time, Vince Lombardi. He said, "Winning isn't a sometimes thing, it's an all the time thing." Amen!



Northern Division Thoughts

by **George "Oley" Olson**,
Northern Division Vice President

On April 17 we had a very successful training session for some of our new Chapter Counselors led by **Hardman Jones**. In addition, **Christian Hunter**, DVP Membership, described how he will be available to assist these

counselors as they work with each of their respective chapters to both retain and then add new members. We are setting up a second training session during August for the remaining counselors.

I am pleased to inform you that we now have twelve active Chapter Counselors. In PA: **John Russo**, **Tony D'Angelo**, **Neil Keihm**, and **Dale Thomas**. In NJ: **Joe Colon**, **Bill Leaver**, and **Scott Russell**. In NY: **Bill Ennis**, **Bill Grieshaber**, **Bill Kruse**, **Steve Marrin**, and **Angie Sticca**. I thank each and every one of them for stepping up to the plate and giving back to the hobby. Angie has decided to retire and we are busy seeking his replacement. We welcome volunteers!

I have visited chapter meetings of **Manhattan**, **Westchester**, **Montclair**, **Rahway Valley**, and **Hunterdon County**, as well as attending the annual shows of **North Brookhaven**, **Allentown Bethlehem**, and **Hell's Kitchen**. I intend to continue visiting our chapters along with the Chapter Counselors where I can meet as many of you as possible.

It has been a long time since the Northern Division has had so many active Chapter Counselors. Many chapters felt they were operating in their towns all by themselves. With these counselors, we look forward to having each and every chapter experience a closer relationship with our district. Communication between your chapter and the district is a very large part of the counselor's responsibility. The challenge to your chapter is to make use of these counselors by accessing both Society and district resources. We want to help increase the fun of barbershopping by helping your chapter achieve its goals and objectives. How about having more inter-chapter events and community appearances and increase the fun!

As to what you can do to make the Northern Division better, I suggest you reread the columns in the March/April issue of "The Harmonizer." In it, Society President **Bill Biffle** speaks of a fertile field for the seeds of success and Executive Director **Ed Watson** explains the purpose of the Barbershop Harmony Society. The time is here for each of you to also step up to the plate and give back to our hobby. If you do, we all benefit!

Manuscript deadline for the next
issue of "Mid'l Antics":

October 15, 2010



M-AD International & Division Results

by **Chuck Harner**, DVP Contest and Judging

Were you in Philly for the 2010 International Convention? If not, you missed out on the closest International Convention to M-AD for many years to come, with outstanding performances and camaraderie, all superbly hosted by the *Bryn Mawr Mainliners*. Do you have a gold Philly

volunteer's shirt? If not, shame on you for not assisting the host chapter to make the convention such a success.

As in Anaheim last year, it was a convention of contest surprises. In the quartet contests, with 50 initial contestants, our own *Old School* jumped to the front in the quarter finals; however, with great comedic performances and solid singing, *Storm Front* won the second and third rounds and became the 2010 International Quartet Champions with a score of 8220 (91.3%) to *Old School's* 8163 (90.7%). M-AD's other quartets were semi-finalists *'Round Midnight* (15th – 4987, 83.1%), and quarter finalists *Crunch Time* (25th – 2395, 79.8%), *Frank the Dog* (tied for 32nd – 2343, 78.1%), and *2nd Generation* (44th – 2305, 76.8%). In the chorus contest of 27 contestants, the perennial favorite *The Vocal Majority* (2913, 97.1%) had to settle for silver medals for the second year in a row. That young, upstart group from California, *The Westminster Chorus* (2932, 97.7%), 2007 Champs, became the 2010 Champs. Our own *Alexandria Harmonizers* (2680, 89.3%) returned to the medals for the first time since 2005 with a strong 5th place finish. M-AD's other choruses were the Hamilton Square *Brothers in Harmony* (9th – 2562, 85.4%), Dundalk *Chorus of the Chesapeake* (18th – 2474, 82.5%), and Manhattan *Big Apple Chorus* (22nd – 2424, 80.8%).

Did you participate in or attend any of this past spring's division conventions in Scranton, PA; Wilmington, DE; Roanoke, VA; or Camp Hill, PA? If not, then you missed the fraternization (friendship, hospitality suites, pick-up quartetting, etc. until all hours of the morning) that abounded at these very successful conventions.

In Scranton, *Flatiron Four* was crowned the 2010 Division Champion Quartet and Hell's Kitchen *Voices of Gotham* was the Chorus Champion as well as the Plateau AAAA Champion. The Plateau AAA Champ was Hunterdon County, NJ; Plateau AA was Teaneck, NJ; and Plateau A was Western Suffolk, NY. The Most Improved Chorus was Five Towns College, NY. Collegiate quartet *Next Stop* attained the automatic qualifying score for the Bank of America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet contest in Philly and was later designated as M-AD's official representative.

In Wilmington, *Tribute* was crowned the 2010 Division Champion Quartet and Lansdale's *North Pennsmen* was the Chorus Champion as well as the Plateau AAAA Champion. The Plateau AAA Champ was Buck's County, PA; Plateau AA and Most-Improved Chorus was Red Bank Area, NJ.

In Roanoke, *Youth Reclamation Project* was crowned the 2010 Division Champion Quartet and James River's *Soundworks* was the Chorus Champion as well as the Plateau AAAA Champion. The Plateau AAA Champ was Richmond, VA; Plateau AA was Germantown, MD; and Plateau A Champion was Arlington, VA. The Most-Improved Chorus was Harrisonburg, VA.

In Camp Hill, *Touchstone* was crowned the 2010 Division Champion Quartet and Anne Arundel's *Sons of the Severn* was the Chorus Champion as well as the Plateau AAA Champion. The Plateau A Champ was Carroll County, MD, and Most-Improved Chorus was Pottstown, PA.

Nineteen choruses qualified for the Fall District Convention, which will be held in Lancaster, PA, this coming October at the Lancaster Convention Center. In addition, Alexandria, Hamilton Square, Dundalk, and Manhattan have been invited, since they didn't bring home the Gold from Philly. In addition, 30 quartets, including 5 Seniors, have been invited to participate in the convention. E-mail inviting these competitors to participate has been sent out to all those qualifying.

The Society's e-biz CJ20 Contest Entry Web site was opened on July 1 and will close on September 3 for contestant entry. The chorus risers will be in the 11-riser configuration, since by district policy they are set for the largest chorus participating—in this case both Alexandria and Dundalk—and will remain in that configuration throughout the chorus contest. Chorus, as well as quartet, coaching evaluations will occur after each contest, with the finalist quartet evaluations on Sunday morning. The top three choruses and quartets will be invited to participate in the Saturday evening Show of Champions.

Please remember to reread the articles on contest copyright requirements that have appeared via several sources. It's better to include too many charts in your entry than to sing one not included and face possible contest disqualification.

Until the next time, Keep Those Chords Ringing.



M-AD Chapter Bulletins Win International Awards

Tom Wheatley, editor of the Dundalk, MD Chapter bulletin, "The Charivari," placed 2nd in the Barbershop Harmony Society/PROBE (Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors) International Bulletin Contest. Tom, also a Maryland Poet Laureate finalist and published author, has been editor of "The Charivari" since 1996 winning Top 5 recognition six times, including a 1st place win.

Fred Geldon, editor of the Fairfax, VA Chapter's online bulletin, "What's Happening," won 3rd place in that International Bulletin category.

Congratulations, Tom and Fred!

Who Are Your Friends in the Media?

by Lee Roth

You can have the most interesting event, the best written news release, the clearest and most exciting photographs, and the best overall story, without any of your work being accepted in a publication. If you do not have a person to submit that excellent work too, your odds of getting published are reduced by at least half or even less.

Most of the time when we speak of marketing and public relations we speak of how to prepare a news release, or how to obtain an excellent photo, but we rarely take the time to talk about how to present that fine work. The overlooked topics are "How to Present It" and "Who to Present It To," to ensure that you will obtain the coverage important to the success of your marketing and public-relations effort.

It is vital to establish relationships with the people who will determine whether or not your work is used in a newspaper, magazine, or as part of a radio program. How do we establish these relationships? One way to do it is to cold call at the media and ask for the person who is the assignment editor or the programmer. A better way to do it is to network with these persons at events they attend, such as a gathering of members of the Chamber of Commerce or at another public event.

How do you identify these people at an event? Often the host of such an event will provide name tags with an indication of the organization the attendees represent. If that's not the case find someone in the group who can help you identify the persons who represent the media that you are interested in. Perhaps you can find someone to introduce you to the appropriate person or persons.

I have found that once you begin to meet people, and provide them with an interesting story, they will be interested in you becoming one of their sources. It is important to stay in touch with the people who can influence what material the media uses once you have made your initial contact. That means staying in touch with the person on a regular basis and not just at times when you are asking them to provide space or time in their media for telling your story. Become friends. Get to know them and let them get to know you. Invite them to the events you are promoting. Thank them for their interest and for their help.

At a public relations conference I hosted, one of the weekly newspaper editors talked about needing to have 35,000 interesting items to report on during the course of the year. He asked a question of the attendees. Were they willing to provide one or more of those interesting items? He also spoke of the close relationships that can develop between himself, his assignment editors, and the providers of those interesting items. He said that great writing was not as important to him as the full detail of the story and the reliability of the provider. His publication was likely to rewrite anything submitted anyway, so his primary interest was in getting accurate information about an interesting event. That would be the basis for putting together any story that his publication would want to report on.

BARBERSHOP HISTORY QUIZ

by Mark Axelrod, editor of "Blue Chip Chatter," Teaneck, NJ Chapter

CORRECTION: In my last quiz I noted that **Jim Henry** won the top spot both as a quartet singer (bass of the *Gas House Gang* in 1993) and as a chorus director (the *Ambassadors of Harmony Chorus* in 2004). It turns out that Jim's achievements further scale the heights, however, as he sang in the currently reigning (2009) first place quartet, *Crossroads*, and also directed the currently reigning (2009) first place chorus, the *Ambassadors of Harmony*. This not only makes Jim the Society's only "double-double" winner ever, but the singular Society member ever to take the gold as a quartet singer and a chorus director in the same year. What an amazing accomplishment! (NOTE: this "only double winner in the same year" claim, alas, is inaccurate, as you will read below).

My original source predated the 2009 International which explains the omission. Thanks go to Society Executive VP, **Alan Lamson**, for bringing this correction to my attention. Additional thanks go to **Lee Roth** of the Hunterdon, NJ Chapter who forwarded an e-mail to me that he received from **Scott Werner**. That e-mail noted that Scott sang in *Reminisce*, the top senior quartet in 1995, and also directed the *Alexandria Harmonizers* to the gold medal in the International chorus contest that same year. Scott, therefore, joins Jim as a "same-year-double-winner." In fact, Scott attained this distinction in 1995, fourteen years before Jim did likewise. Jim's "double-double" status, however, remains unique in Society history. Scott's e-mail opined that seniors should not be forgotten. Indeed they should not, as seniors represent the majority of BHS members. My original source did not include senior quartet champs which is the reason for the oversight. I thank Scott for noting the inaccuracy and Lee for forwarding the correction to me.

QUESTIONS

1. A live quartet (i.e., not a recording) that has been heard over a very lengthy period of time by a huge number of people (it's impossible to accurately know just how many, but huge is the correct adjective) is not a Society quartet. It continues to perform to this day. Name it.
2. How long has this quartet been performing and where does it perform?
3. Why did the Society honor this quartet?
4. On what occasion did the Society honor this quartet?
5. Specifically, what honor was bestowed on this quartet?

See answers on page 14.

Harmony College and Directors College-East: Learning, Song and Fellowship!

by **Bill Colosimo**, DVP, Music & Performance and Board Member-at-Large

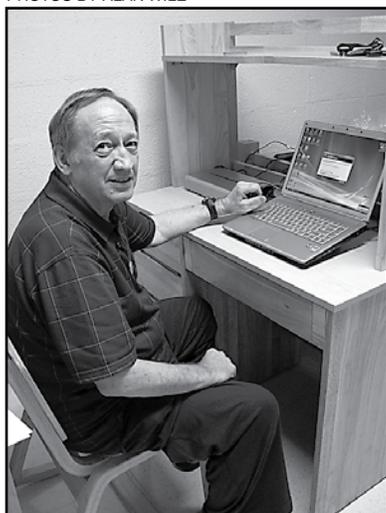
June 17–20 marked a successful weekend of learning, singing, and great fellowship at Salisbury University, as your M-AD leadership hosted another wonderful Harmony College/Directors College-EAST. 250 souls (including adult students, YIH students, and faculty) combined their teaching skills, desires to learn more about our artform, and their appetites, to make this event a HUGE hit!

Ron Knickerbocker, our beloved and gifted District School “Dean,” along with **Roger Tarpy** (DVP, Chorus Director Development), framed a terrific curriculum for the adults, including such popular (and well attended!) classes as “Improving Ensemble Singing Skills Through Tag Singing” and “Contest Judging” and the very helpful “Directors Roundtable.” Classes were taught by some of the Society’s BEST faculty, many of whom remarked following this year’s event how M-AD continues to host the “best district school in the Society!”

Quartets who participated, regardless of longevity or skill level, received expert coaching, and had a chance to appear, along with the Norfolk Chapter, on the great shows which everyone enjoyed on Friday and Saturday nights. International Quartet Contest qualifiers, *2nd Generation*, *Crunch Time*, *Frank the Dog*, *Round Midnight*, and *VOCE* (our friends from LOL who both sang and coached during the weekend), added their voices to the shows as well.

As usual, the Youth In Harmony program associated with HCE was well run and innovative, including a set of “courses” for the youth participants, in addition to the fine coaching attending quartets received. The YIH Chorus “wowed” the crowd on Saturday night’s show! Credit to **Mike Fasano**, **Ned Duffy**,

PHOTOS BY ALAN WILE



Ron Knickerbocker—HCE Dean

Harmony Marketplace

Mary Jo & Walter Griffith



Burt Szabo & Bob Wachter

Dean Martin, and the whole YIH team of gifted coaches and teachers for their hard work. Groundwork was laid for even more innovation and participation in future years.

The recently-refurbished “Quad” was the site of wonderful informal gatherings all three nights, especially Saturday night, where adults and youth mingled with joy sharing songs, tags, and stories of their love of barbershop. This kind of fellowship can’t be matched!

Scott Ward, Manager of the event’s logistics, along with **Fred Morton** (Registration Coordinator) and ALL their “staff,” did a bang-up job in coordinating our experience at Salisbury. Admittedly, attendance at this year’s event was below our expectations, largely due to the proximity (time and distance) of International in Philadelphia a week later. Nevertheless, the content, accessibility of faculty and students (both formal and informal) and outcomes of better singing and performance skills for ALL made this a weekend of learning we’ll all be sure to call a “success!”

It’s not too late to plan NOW for your quartet or chorus—or for YOURSELF—to attend NEXT YEAR’s HCE/DCE at Salisbury, June 16–19, 2011. Set the date aside, ask for leave, invite a friend... and let’s ALL enjoy another great experience of learning, singing, and great fellowship!



Roger Tarpy, Bill Heyer, and Bill Colosimo.



Scott Ward—HCE COO

Youth In Harmony Wins Big at HCE... Again!



In spite of reduced numbers at Harmony/Directors College and the Youth Harmony Camp at Salisbury University this year, a total of \$1,300 was contributed by extremely generous participants! Responding to repeated calls to purchase “opportunities” at every meal on Friday and Saturday, bighearted Barbershoppers came through, time after time, and parted with \$5 to \$20 -- some more than once (and a few several times!).

Why? Certainly not for the possibility of taking home one of the five packets of related goodies (although winning a scholarship to attend HCE again next year and other special “opportunities” certainly were inviting). It was because all the proceeds were targeted to support the district’s Youth in Harmony program.

We, the money-hungry haranguers, want each of you who willingly responded to our subtle and sensitive invitations to part with your hard-earned cash to know how grateful we are for your friendship, good humor, harmony, and commitment to further the future of barbershop harmony. You are the best! It is *GREAT* to be a Barbershopper in the Mid-Atlantic District!

—Howard Fetterolf & Alan Wile



Happy Opportunity Barbershoppers

2010 Leadership Academy Schedule Set

by **Hardman Jones**, Chapter Support & Leadership Training VP

Chapter officers and other interested members... it's time to make plans to attend the District's annual Leadership Academy programs. All new and renewed officers for 2011 should attend one of the three

Leadership Academy programs offered by the district. The Leadership Academy program is important to help chapter officers prepare to lead their chapters in 2011. Leadership Academy is also a great place for new members and potential new chapter officers to learn more about what is involved in leading a chapter. Put the dates in your calendar for the Leadership Academy programs:

SOUTH: Saturday, November 6, 2010

St. John Neumann Catholic Church
11900 Lawyers Road
Reston, VA 20191

Contact: **Jere Richardson** at therichardsons2@verizon.net

CENTRAL: Saturday, November 13, 2010

Ogletown Exchange
Ogletown Baptist Church
316 Red Mill Road
Newark, DE 19713

Contact: **Neil Keihm** at keihm@verizon.net

NORTH: Saturday, December 4, 2010

Morris County Community Center
51 Jim Fears Drive,
Morris Plains, NJ 07950

Contact: **Oley Olson** at oleyols@aol.com

Each Leadership Academy is a one-day event and you are invited to attend any of the three programs that best suit your location and schedule. Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. Classes will run from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The cost this year is \$45 per person...a reduction from last year. The money goes to offset the Leadership Academy expenses. A Registration form can be found in this issue of Mid'l Antics. The Registration form and fee should be submitted to the LA contact at least one week before the Leadership Academy event that you will attend. This helps the host plan for space, chairs and lunch.

The classes to be offered in the 2010 Leadership Academy include President, Secretary, Treasurer, Music and Performance, Chapter Programs, Marketing and Public Relations, Chapter Development, and Youth in Harmony. We are very fortunate again to have an outstanding faculty. These men are willing to give their time to teach and encourage chapter leaders how to develop a strong chapter, to sing better, and have fun doing it.

Hotel accommodations will be available and a block of rooms will be held for those who need them. The Registration

(continued on pg. 13)

Mid-Atlantic District Leadership Academy Registration Form

DATE and LOCATION OF LEADERSHIP ACADEMY PROGRAMS:

South: November 6, 2010, Saint John Neumann Catholic Church, 11900 Lawyers Road, Reston, VA 20191

Central: November 13, 2010, Ogletown Exchange, Ogletown Baptist Church, 316 Red Mill Road, Newark, DE 19713

North: December 4, 2010, Morris Plains Community Center, 51 Jim Fears Drive, Morris Plains, NJ 07950

Check the location of the Leadership Academy that you wish to attend and mail this form and a check covering all fees to (or E-mail the form and send a check):

_____ **CENTRAL:** Neil Keihm, 301 Nottingham Rd Newark, DE 19711-7403
(home) 302 737 6141, (cell) 302 983 8155 keihm@verizon.net

_____ **SOUTH:** Jere Richardson, 20919 Adams Mill Place, Ashburn, VA 20147-5502
(home) 571 223 1553, (cell) 703-431-4331 therichardsons2@verizon.net

_____ **NORTH:** George (Oley) Olson, 28 Malapardis Rd. Morris Plains, NJ 07950-2507
(home) 973-539 7941, (cell) 973-886-7977 olevols@aol.com

Fee: \$45 includes course materials, continental breakfast, & lunch

NOTE: You MUST Register EACH attendee in the following spaces - by CLASS

| Classes | Name(s) |
|------------------------------|---------|
| President | |
| Secretary | |
| Treasurer | |
| Music & Performance | |
| Chapter Development | |
| Marketing & Public Relations | |
| Chapter Programs | |
| Youth in Harmony | |

Number of attendees _____ at \$45.00 each = \$ _____.

Enclosed is a check in the amount of: \$ _____

PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| Name: | Chapter: |
| Home Phone: | Cell phone: |
| Email: | Date: |

HOTEL: If you need hotel accommodations please contact the LA Coordinator and he will provide hotel information to you.

Schedule: Registration: 8:00 – 9:00 Joint session: 9:00 – 9:15 Morning session: 9:15 – 12:15
 Lunch 12:15 – 1:00 Combined sessions - 1:00-2:30 Afternoon sessions: 2:30 – 4:00 Closing: 4:00-4:15

Leadership Schedule . . . (cont'd from pg. 11)

Form includes a section to complete for hotel rooms, the arrival and departure dates, and the number of rooms needed for your chapter.

Be sure to read **Stephen Rafe's** article below on "What Kind of Chapter Leader Are You?" Stephen is a long time barbershopper who really cares about our hobby and is committed to helping to keep our heritage alive for tomorrow's generations to enjoy.

Stephen served on the Society's Marketing Committee in the 1990s, and was instrumental in developing the Dieringer study. As a member of the Society's Service Study Committee, he was involved in the establishment of Sing America and Sing Canada. He also headed the Society's Leadership Study Task Force and was the keynote speaker at the Society's International Leadership Forum in 1994. Nearly a dozen of his articles on leadership have been published in "The Harmonizer." Stephen served as a faculty member of COTS for six years and was also a faculty member at Harmony College-East for two years. He is a well-published author and experienced teacher on communications and leadership.

Stephen is a member of the year-old Germantown, MD Chapter and sings bass with their *Harmony Express Chorus* (M-AD's Southern Division Plateau AA champions). We are fortunate and delighted that Stephen will be joining the faculty of the District's Leadership Academy this fall.

What Kind of Chapter Leader Are You?

by **Stephen C. Rafe**, Germantown, MD Chapter

Most likely, you are a barbershopper primarily because you want to socialize with others, achieve vocal excellence, or help lead your chapter.

Those three possibilities emerged when the Society's Marketing Committee commissioned the Dieringer study of new members and potential new members in 1993. The goal was to determine why men join our organization or might be interested in joining. Researcher David C. McClelland referred to the possibilities as Affiliation, Achievement, and Power/Leadership and described them as the three primary drives found to one degree or another in all individuals and organizations.

Priorities

The Dieringer study identified the desire to socialize (*affiliation*) as the most powerful reason for joining and staying. This makes sense for a volunteer, nonprofit organization of men whose primary purpose is to assemble to sing. The study also showed that new members have a strong desire to sing well (*achievement*) once they are on board. This is also consistent with our awareness that members want to sing well in public and in competitions.

However, the desire to be a leader (*leadership*) came up short. The study team surmised that part of the reason was that very few people would be willing to commit to a leadership role before joining. And brand-new members usually have little opportunity to become leaders. The study's eye-opener was that members, as a whole, had a low interest in leadership. Yet, leadership is essential to the entire future of barbershopping.

Past District President, **Art Maynard**, said it this way a few years back in the "Mid'l Antics": "It is no secret that when chapters collapse it is usually because of a weak or non-existent administration. This occurs as a result of a lack of leadership talent, apathy, or even recycled officer burnout."

We are not alone. McClelland pointed out that it is difficult for any group to come up with leaders. The problem is universal and even enhanced in volunteer organizations, such as ours, where members' motivation to do anything needs to come from within. It can't be ordered or commanded.

Good News

The good news is that the problem can be overcome. The techniques of effective leadership can be taught and learned. And every current study proves it. The process begins with our chapters' two principal leaders—the president and the chorus director. To succeed, they must start with an accurate assessment of what the members, themselves, want and expect from their barbershopping experience. From there, all future efforts to recruit and retain members should focus on that understanding. A five-minute survey of members can help determine in just ten questions whether affiliation or achievement should be the priority—and to what degree. For a copy and guidelines for interpreting the results, e-mail me at rapport1@verizon.net.

Then What?

Joseph Yeager said we need three things for success in anything we do: The *tools* or *skills*, the *opportunity* to use them, and the *desire* to succeed. We can acquire the tools by educating ourselves in the styles, techniques, and behaviors we need to be good chapter leaders. The Leadership Academy will provide this. There, we can also learn how to match our chapters' individual visions, missions, goals, and objectives with the wants, needs, and expectations of members and prospective members. However, the *desire* to succeed depends on each individual. As **Art Maynard's** words suggest, we need to build future leaders and we need to learn how to do that best.

The Future

No one can "make" you want to take on the job. Yet building chapters and preparing new leaders is essential to the Society's future and success. While no one can "motivate" you to take on the task, you are needed. The challenge is there and, yes, there is work involved. And at times it will not be easy. However, it will always be important. And it will be valued by all those for whom you have helped to build our legacy: The opportunity to sing barbershop harmony in a healthy and prosperous organization.

Stephen C. Rafe, from the Germantown, MD Chapter, is committed to helping to keep our heritage alive for tomorrow's generations to enjoy. He has served on many Society leadership and marketing committees and task forces and has an extensive educational background and teaching and writing experiences on organizational leadership and marketing.

Please add the "Mid'l Antics" editor to your chapter bulletin e-mail list to provide us with chapter news.

Some Food for Thought

Chris Papa is a physician, is married to a physician, and watches his diet. He has some observations to share.

On the morning following my enjoyment of a joint chapter meeting, my weight had suddenly jumped several pounds. Let's see, I had two hot dogs, a few diet sodas, and, of course, a handful of pretzel and potato chip treats along the way. Consulting the online sources for sodium content of foods, I came up with the following estimates: hot dogs 1100 mg (x2), rolls 300 mg (x2), mustard 1200 mg, sauerkraut 750 mg, salted potato chips 168 mg/oz (x4), salted pretzels 200 mg/oz (x4). This all totals to a whopping 6200 mg of sodium for just the evening's input, added to whatever else I had ingested during the day. When you consider that the currently recommended amount for a low salt diet for senior citizens is about 1000 mg per day, it is easy to see that I had consumed much too much salt, and this was reflected in water retention, a gain in weight and an unneeded burden to my body.

It would be prudent if meetings, picnics and other snack rich events practice more forethought, and consider the effect on the members' health when ordering the menus. Lots of low salt snacks, including hot dogs, potato chips and pretzels are commercially available (http://www.taquitos.net/snacks.php?category_code=92) so that, without even changing the menu, we can contribute to the health of our singing buddies. They, their significant others and their physicians will heartily approve.

I'll send you my bill in the mail! 🎵

—**Chris Papa**, editor of the Red Bank Area, NJ
"Atlantic Gazette" chapter bulletin



Too Late to Publish in Last Issue

Congratulations to Barbershopper of the Year 2009:

Rob Wolff, Dundalk, MD Chapter
The Chorus of the Chesapeake

Congratulations to Barbershopper of the Year 2010:

Jackie Sheehan, Tunkhannock, PA Chapter
The Endless Mountains Chorus

KEEP THE WHOLE WORLD
SINGING

One Memory from the Northern Division Contest

Remember those seven quartets from the Westchester County Chapter who kept singing the same old songs at the Northern Division Quartet Contest back in May? Well, I asked **Steve Delehanty** about it and he said **Neal Kellogg** got the chorus learning the barbershop polecats. In an e-mail to the chorus, Neal explained to them that "the plan is to have all of us learning polecats, with the goal of earning the Society's 'Polecat Pin' after you sing all twelve. We will be tracking our progress on a spreadsheet so everyone can see our progress. Credit will be given for polecats sung at contest or in an official valentine quartet. **Scott Colman** will be the scorekeeper, so when you see the sheet, ask him to check off the songs you have done. Then hook up with three others, and when you feel ready, ask **Keith Harris** [director] to sing in front of the chorus, and earn a check mark for another song. Complete all twelve for the pin."

As **Steve Delehanty** explains it, "We decided that we wanted to get as many guys involved in quartets as expressed an interest. We rehearsed on a different night than the regular chapter meeting and learned the polecat songs and "I Don't Mind Being All Alone," which is a perfect song for this type of program. We actually had two more quartets in the contest who were previously organized and also part of another. The quartet members were mostly first-timers and we put them with a veteran or two. We would have won the Novice award but the guys were so new, they didn't know to register for that."

Neal adds that learning to sing the barbershop polecat songs in quartets is helping the chorus—both with singing skills and improving focus on stage.

From my viewpoint as a member of the audience, I appreciated the effort put forth by the barbershoppers quartetting for the first time in contest and hope they learn ALL the polecats.

—**Linda Williams**, Editor

BARBERSHOP HISTORY QUIZ ANSWERS (from page 9)

1. Disney's *Dapper Dans* Barbershop Quartet
2. This quartet has been performing in the original Disney theme park, Disneyland, in Anaheim, CA, since opening day in 1959. (No, not with the same four guys!)
3. In recognition of a half-century performing barbershop harmony to countless listeners.
4. On July 4 during the 2009 International Quartet and Chorus Competition, which coincided with the *Dapper Dans*' semicentennial and conveniently took place right in Anaheim.
5. The Society's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Love, Harmony, and Charity



The *Long Island Harmonizers* quartet representing *The Harbormen Barbershop Chorus* are seen here presenting a check in the amount of \$450 to MaryEllen Polit, Acting President & CEO of the Good Shepherd Hospice Center in Port Jefferson Station on June 9. The check was a portion of the proceeds received by the chorus during their Annual Show on April 24. This brings the total amount donated this year to \$850. This money will be going towards the new Inpatient Hospice Center adjacent to St. Charles Hospital. *The Harbormen* have raised over \$10,000 for the Good Shepherd Hospice over the past 12 years through their Singing Valentines Program, Annual Shows, and various paid performances. The Good Shepherd Hospice is the chorus's local community project. The members of the quartet are (L-R): **Bob Freudenberg**, baritone; **Gary Wilson**, bass; **Herb Mordkoff**, lead; and **Dave Lance**, tenor. Holding the check with Herb is Ms. Gillan.

—**Herb Mordkoff**, VP Community Relations,
North Brookhaven Chapter

Take Me Out to the Ball Game!



The Grand Olde Tyme quartet sang the National Anthem on June 11 for the Reading Phillies baseball team. L-R: **Ernie Fink** (tenor); **Eric G. Phillips** (lead); **Arlan Davis** (bass); and **Jim Garraway** (bari). Quartet members are from the Reading and Pottstown, PA chapters. —submitted by **Eric Phillips**.

Barbershop Energizes Germantown School

Eight area barbershoppers brought four-part harmony to the students of Germantown Friends School at three workshops on April 7.

Organized by the *Mainliners'* **Dwight Florence** under the chapter's Youth Outreach Program, separate workshops were held for the Middle School A Cappella Chorus, the Upper School Chorus and the Middle School A Cappella Club.

Doug Pratt, Associate Director of the *Mainliners*, opened the workshops by describing the origins of barbershop harmony, then introduced the *For Fun Four*, a quartet of veteran singers, who entertained with several numbers. The foursome included **Chuck Lower**, tenor, musical director of the Bucks County Chapter; **Jim Frazier**, lead, a *Mainliners* quartet man; **Les Moyer**, baritone, a chorus and quartet coach; and **Ig Jackovac**, bass, vocal coach and president of the Lansdale, PA Chapter *North Pennsmen* chorus.

In the Middle School session, the A Cappella Chorus performed its version of "Bye, Bye Love," a barbershop number they had practiced. Pratt then taught them "Shine On Me." In the Upper School session, three members of *Those Young Guys* quartet were joined by Jackovac as bass and performed "Wild Irish Rose."

"These boys and girls proved to be excellent singers," Florence said, "and were soon ringing their chords."

—**Art Miller**, editor of the Bryn Mawr, PA
"Harmony Local" chapter bulletin

Abington-Levittown Chapter News

The *BucksMont Squires of Song* performed at Oxford Valley Mall for the "Middletown's Annual Earth Day Event." There were at least 15 tables with vendors and sponsors highlighting the Earth Day 2010 eco-friendly message of a clean and healthy environment.

The performance had 18 singers, with Smitty directing, entertaining a "drive by" audience of shoppers stopping to enjoy a moment away from their busy day. We had two quartets join us, *Vaudeville Daze* (**Chester Klabbatz**, **Joel Bacher**, **Al Moss**, and **Tom Hankin**) and *Director's Choice* (**Tom Ferguson**, **John Gessner**, **Mike Smith**, and **Gene Terinoni**) and we are happy to report it was Gene's first public appearance in a quartet!

—**Joe D'Andrea & Mike Smith**, editors of the
Abington-Levittown, PA "Squires" chapter bulletin



Lansdale's Anne—One of U.S.

On March 24, a group of us traveled to the United States Citizenship Immigration Service Building in Philadelphia to see Director **Anne Bureau**, of the *North Pennsmen Barbershop Chorus*, become a citizen of our great country. We applaud her and the 60 others from 30 countries that persevered through the procedure which culminated with citizenship.

Upon arriving at the USCI Building we all were screened through a metal detector. A gentleman (lawyer) asked me if I was looking for the happy room or the sad room. He informed me the happy room was where people became citizens and the sad room was a court room where people were sentenced to deportation.

As we entered the happy room, before almost everyone else, I realized it was a "friendly room." Boy, I kept thinking how neat it would have been to sing to everyone. Anne and Ig (Anne's husband and coach of the *North Pennsmen*) arrived shortly after us.

At 3 p.m. the official ceremony took place. The ceremony was impressive and inspiring in many ways. We viewed people from 30 countries becoming what we all take for granted, a citizen of the United States. I kept looking at each U.S. Citizen to be, with joy and admiration filling my heart. They did it the right way!!

Big surprise—as Anne was doing necessary paperwork with the clerk, she asked if we could sing the National Anthem. We didn't even have a lead until he arrived at the last minute. We then had 6 basses, 1 bari, 1 tenor and 1 lead. Anne directed us while also singing lead and looking at the words in her program at the same time! Amazing woman! Should have heard the tag!!

Guys, it doesn't get any better than that. We definitely were the best barbershop chorus in that room! How proud we were. Anne's last official act as a Canadian Citizen was to request that we sing her new National Anthem. How neat is that? We will never forget the 24th of March 2010. Thanks, Anne, for the Golden Memory. God Bless You.

—**Don Detweiler**, Lansdale, PA Chapter, *North Pennsmen*



After the ceremony—notice how proud we are of Anne!!

Bay Country Chorus Sings for Wounded U.S. Warriors



On June 29, 22 members of the Bay Country Chorus traveled to the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda to visit with wounded Marines.

Phil Stapleton, a member of the chorus, worked with the appropriate department at the hospital and set up the visit. The chorus' goal was to provide entertainment for patients, family members, and hospital staff and to express thanks to the sacrifice the Marines have made. In addition to their repertoire, the chorus brought along several dozen large pizzas and a variety of desserts for lunch.

"This is the first time we've done this," said Stewart Darrow, president of the Bay Country Chorus.

The father of one wounded Marine being treated at the Hospital said, "It really helps all of us to know that someone cares. During my son's stay at the hospital, it has been remarkable to see the number of volunteers and groups like the Bay Country Chorus who come here to give thanks and to support our wounded warriors."

Members of the chorus were moved by the experience, and described the event as awe-inspiring. Stewart described a young soldier in his early 20s who was missing a leg and had a broken arm. "Just seeing those guys and what they've been through."

After the visit, Sgt. Joe Bradley of the Marines' Events and Visitation office at the Hospital said, "You guys were great. Keep me posted on when you want to schedule the next visit."

The Bay Country Chorus hopes to make a return visit to the National Naval Medical Center, and perhaps to Walter Reed Army Medical Center, later this year.

—**John P. Fahy**, VP Publicity, Easton, MD Chapter
Bay Country Chorus



Singing Valentine Concert— Destination: Iraq or Afghanistan

This story comes from the Worcester, MA Chapter, Northeastern District. Being the editor of the "In Tune with the Hunterdon Harmonizers" chapter bulletin, I am a member of the BHS PROBE bulletin sharing group. Rusty and I thought this story worth sharing with OUR district.

On Thursday evening, February 11, as a kickoff of the Singing Valentine weekend, *The Men of Song* presented a very special Singing Valentine to, and through, a very special audience.

The concert was "a tribute to spouses of National Guard service members currently deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan."

During the performance, which was video-recorded in its entirety, the spouses of service members in the audience were invited to join in "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" as a sing-along under the direction of **Tad Wallace**.

During the song, the camera slowly panned the audience to record everyone singing to *their sweetheart* in Iraq or Afghanistan. To ensure that nobody would be missed, the song was sung a second time, but only after the videographer repositioned the camera.

The full concert was produced as a DVD, and the Men of Song provided enough copies to enable the National Guard to deliver an individual DVD to every single service member overseas, whose spouse or partner was present at the concert.

Not only did the chorus present Singing Valentines to all of the spouses, but it also made it possible for each spouse to deliver a *personalized Singing Valentine* to his or her currently deployed partner.

With the support of a number of sponsors, every honored guest was presented a long-stemmed rose and a "Valentine Teddy Bear." Door prizes were drawn for family portraits, dinners for two, and two separate "Romantic Getaways" to be redeemed when the deployed service member returns home.

We would be remiss, if we did not publicly thank (in alphabetical order) those who generously assisted in this endeavor: Boston Harbor Hotel, Boston Marriott Copley Place, Charter TV3, Country Bank, Danielson Flowers, Fox 25 TV, Gardner Automotive, the Manor Restaurant, New England Aquarium, Premiere Self-Storage, Rick English Photographer, Walmart (West Boylston), WCRN 830 AM Radio, Worcester Airport Limousine Service, Worcester Telegram and Gazette, and the members of *The Men of Song* who raised close to \$1000 by "passing the basket" at rehearsal one night.

This concert was performed for a "special audience." A special audience ... indeed!

—**Bob Chisholm**, Worcester, MA Chapter, *The Men of Song* from "Key Notes" chapter bulletin edited by **Roy Hayward**

Nassau Mid-Island Chapter (One Way to Attract New Members)

It was a dark and stormy night. I was on the subway on my way home, and I was dog tired. Since my station is the last stop, I really didn't have to worry about keeping awake, so I probably dozed in and out of consciousness as usual. As the train got closer to the end of the line, the number of passengers thinned out to the point where I could notice that two young men a half a car away were singing something a cappella. I didn't stare, but I was instantly wide awake. After another couple of stops, the train was almost empty, except for the three of us. I moved closer and pretended to read my magazine. I could eventually name that tune they were singing. It was "Lida Rose" minus the lead and baritone.

Since these young men were clearly music lovers (and since I don't have a shy bone in my body), I sat next to them in an otherwise empty subway car and sang right along. They politely welcomed my participation. After singing, we had just a few minutes to chat together. They attend high school in the Bronx and live in Queens. They had just sung with their quartet in a performance of *The Music Man*. I told them as much as I could about the Society and the chapter, repeating a few times that they should visit our Web site at longislandharmonizers.org. It was gratifying to share some music with a couple of enthusiastic young folks, and I hoped (but hardly expected) to see them again. Imagine my surprise when their full quartet showed up at our chapter meeting on June 15!

Moral: Someone once said, "The Kingdom of Barbershopping is like a mustard seed. If you scatter enough of them around, you never know which ones will take root."

—**Stephen Stojowski**, Nassau Mid-Island, NY Chapter, *The Long Island Harmonizers*; from their "Toosday Toons" chapter bulletin edited by Charles Bell



"Hi" *SCHOOLERS*—The foursome (left to right), Kevin Montevirgen, tenor; Shawn Geller, lead; Gerald Tabaosares, bass; and Andrew Jorquera, bari, are shown with Chapter President **George Seelinger**. Called the BBQs (for Bronx Barbershop Quartet), the teens actively participated in the rehearsal, including performing two songs on their own. All attend the Bronx School of Science. Photo & caption by **Bob Heim**.

Music and "Fun" . . . (cont'd from pg. 4)

And their responses validate the research data: That an element of "competition" in our singing, just like in athletics, business, and politics, fuels their need for an added meaning—significance, if you will—associated with doing what they love. For these men, striving to be "among the best" and "improving," according to a legitimate competition rubric and with qualified judging, satisfies a "need" they both understand and appreciate. And the proof is also in the caliber of improved singing quality and overwhelming increase in participation in our youth-related competition vehicles: High School Adjudications (in M-AD and elsewhere), the Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contests (at both district and the International level) and the superb Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival, even still in its infancy, which is now held at our Society's Mid-Winter Convention (coming up in Las Vegas in 2011!).

Even within my own chapter, largely of "senior" age, the newer, "younger" members ALL understand, accept, and seem to thrive on both the notion of competition and participation in our contests as individuals. There wasn't one "younger" guy who didn't relish the one-hour evaluation experience AND the chance to "reprise" our contest set during the evening of our recent divisional convention... the latter a direct result in our chorus's intentional dedication to and understanding of "why" we compete at all. And I'm convinced these younger men will become the foundation of our chorus's future as a better-singing, better-performing, better-recognized singing organization as a result of our commitment to competition as a key element of our Society's activity.

Thanks for considering what's here! Please know, whatever your viewpoint, that I remain your advocate to provide whatever resources you or your chapter may need to succeed musically. I welcome your feedback along the way; so feel free to e-mail billcatps@aol.com or call me at 571-213-7376. I'd love to hear from you!

Quartets in Philly



L-R: Three Good Men, *Cherry Hill, NJ*; Off The Record, *Chicago, IL*; and 2nd Generation, *Allentown-Bethlehem*, strike a pose with NBC-10's Justin Pizzi following a segment on the 10! Show. Photo & caption by **Eric Herr**, DVP Marketing & PR.

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| | Western Division (WD) June 4 & 5 – Raddison – Camp Hill, Pa | *Early Regular Registration(s) @\$30= _____ |
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This tag was arranged by **Burt Szabo** who while teaching for many years at university levels, has composed and arranged a great variety of music for school and church use, and for barbershop quartets and choruses. He is a long time member of ASCAP, both as a composer and as a music publisher, and is a 50-year member of the Barbershop Harmony Society. This tag is taken from *Burt's Big Book Of Tags, Volume 1* (Orlando, Florida: Choral Concepts Publishing, 2004). Reprinted with permission.



You'll Want Me Back, Wait And See

You'll want me back, wait and see, wait and see.
 just you wait and see.
 see.