



MID-ATLANTICS

Volume 45, Issue 1

WINTER 2014

A BULLETIN FOR EVERY BARBERSHOPPER IN THE MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT



INSIDE:

Convention News — Book hotels NOW for District Harmony Foundation — Meet the Wile Challenge Harmony College East — “The Greatest Weekend of Barbershop on the East Coast!”

Educational articles of all kinds

News and views from Qs and Choruses

and, as always, pictures, pictures, pictures!

photo by Becca Grimmer, BHS

FACES 4 RADIO – 2014 INTERNATIONAL SENIORS QUARTET CHAMPIONS

SINGING IT ALL DEPENDS ON YOU and IT’S YOU

M-ADness in Long Beach

District seniors quartets bring home heavy hardware



photo by Miller Photography



YOUTH RECLAMATION PROJECT – 2014 International Seniors Quartet 4th Place Bronze Medalists singing *If We Can't Be the Same Old Sweethearts and Nice Work, If You Can Get It.*

photos by Becca Grimmer, BHS



AMERICAN IDLE – 2014 International Seniors Quartet 12th Place Finishers singing *They Wrote 'em in the Good Old Days and Auld Lang Syne.*

2014 SENIORS CHAMPS! — *Faces 4 Radio* with Robert Bristow (T), Mark Sanders (Br), Brad Brooks (L), Jeffrey Winik (Bs), sport big grins to go with their shiny, new gold medals as Mark lifts high the trophy. The quartet represents the Bryn Mawr, Harrisburg, Reading, and Hamilton, N.J. Chapters.

WOW, there sure was some great singing and exciting results from the 2014 Barbershop Harmony Society Mid-Winter Convention in Long Beach, Ca. and our Mid-Atlantic District Seniors Quartets dominated the competition.

Faces 4 Radio with Brad Brooks (L), Jeffrey Winik (Bs), Mark Sanders (Br), and Robert Bristow (T) are now wearing shiny Gold Medals.

Youth Reclamation Project with Roger Tarpay (L), Vic Owen (Bs), Hardman Jones (Br), and Mike Wallen (T) earned a 4th Bronze Place Medal.

And **American Idle** with Hal Kraft (L), Tom

Felgen (Bs), Rick Ashby (Br), and Bob Schellhamer (T) finished in 12th Place.

That's right, of the 29 quartet competitors from around the Society and international affiliate organizations, M-AD sent three quartet representatives and earned two medals. You will also note with pride that all three quartets contained M-AD Quartet Champions in Mark, Mike, and Hal and a two-time International Champion in Tom, and there are six DELA and three Hall of Honor members. That's just how we roll on the East Coast. As the sayings goes, "These guys are good!"

Congratulations and well-done, fellas!

Get scoresheets at www.barbershopconvention.com/longbeach



LOOK WHAT WE GOT! — Singing the songs *Blue Velvet, That's Life, and So Long Mother*, East Coast Sound received the ranking of Superior and earned a gold pin for their efforts.

Superior!

East Coast Sound earns festival's top rating

This year, East Coast Sound (introduced by **Joe Cerutti** as "the artist formerly known as Tri Star Chorus"), was the only chorus from the Mid-Atlantic District to attend the BHS-sponsored International Youth Chorus Festival. Singing the songs *Blue Velvet, That's Life, and So Long Mother*, East Coast Sound received the ranking of Superior and earned a gold pin for their efforts.

Since its inception in 2008, the Youth Chorus Festival at the society's Mid Winter Convention, has grown at an amazing rate. This year hundreds of young people

were able to meet in Long Beach, California to sing their hearts out in front of the best audience on Earth.

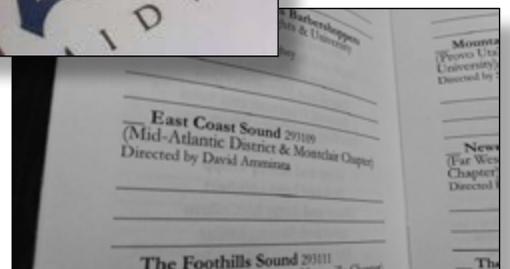
The festival has become a cornerstone of the Mid-Winter Convention, which also hosts the seniors international contest as well as a number of exciting performances from the year's current medalists.

Each chorus gets to sing three songs in front of an international panel of judges, who then score the choruses and prepare an evaluation for each group. The score and evaluation will then help the chorus learn

and grow musically for the following year.

In addition to preparing their own music, this year all of the youth choruses were asked to prepare a piece of music called **Sound Celebration**, written and arranged by **Tom Gentry**, to be sung together alongside the 2013 International silver medalists the **Westminster Chorus** as one giant ensemble. All of the youth chorus members were instructed to learn the piece beforehand, and then a master class taught by **Justin Miller** and the Westminster Chorus made the music come alive.

Superior. continued on the next page



Superior,
continued from previous page

At the Saturday evening show, the giant youth ensemble sat in the balcony, and at the end of Westminster's set, Justin turned around and from the edge of the stage, directed the ensemble through Sound Celebration. It was an incredible musical experience to be a part of.

None of the amazing activities that take place during the Youth Chorus Festival would be possible without The Harmony Foundation. An exhaustive amount of work must go into the planning and execution of this life changing event, not to mention the staggering cost of housing and feeding hundreds of young singers. For that, the foundation has our undying gratitude. The lives of all of the young people who attended the festival will never be the same, having been enriched by the program made possible by your generosity. From the bottom of our hearts, Thank you Harmony Foundation.

The chorus is always eager to find new members and help spread the joy of barbershop harmony with other young men who like to sing. East Coast Sound is already signed up for next year's festival, and any questions regarding the experience or how you can become involved in the chorus can be emailed to eastcoastsound2014@gmail.com. As always, the support of our district was instrumental in make our trip possible, and East Coast Sound would like to extend our sincerest thanks to all who donated.

— by **Joe Servidio, Jr.**



FROM TOP: East Coast Sound rehearses the staging for Blue Velvet.

Tom Moyer discovers beggars can't be choosers. Having forgotten to pack his shoes, he ended up onstage with two borrowed right foot shoes.



Joe Servidio, Jr., Will Downey, Paul Franek and David Ammirata — Gimme Four, 2013 M-AD Collegiate Quartet champs, and members of East Coast Sound — celebrate ECS's first Superior rating.

participate in an experience not matched anywhere else in the world.

"Our underwriters are men and women who understand the transformative power of music," says Harmony Foundation CEO Clarke Caldwell. "Over and over, we see these young singers tap into something deep and personal; they connect to a world of people who create something meaningful and beautiful and affirming."

Twelve choruses have already signed up for the 2015 event in New Orleans, a sure sign of the continuing growth of the program.

— from **Livewire**, 6 Feb. 2014

Opportunities abound for youth singers

Youth In Harmony Adjudication: Our annual Youth In Harmony adjudication will be held on Saturday, March 15, in Reston, Va., at the M-AD Spring Convention and International Quartet Preliminary Contest. This is an "open" adjudication, so please get started enlisting your local high school and collegiate quartets (male and female). As

YOUTH IN HARMONY UPDATE

by **Gary Plaag,**
VP Youth in Harmony



always, the more groups the merrier.

Quartets earning a superior, outstanding

or excellent rating earn full and partial scholarships to attend the Youth In Harmony camp at Harmony College East, a \$100 stipend (one per school) and a participation plaque for their school music program.

Detailed information about the adjudication is available on the M-AD website as well as on the Mid-Atlantic Youth Barbershop Facebook page. Link: http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/pdf/YIH/YIH_Adjudication_Reg-2014.pdf

HCE Youth In Harmony Camp

It's not too early to be thinking about encouraging a Youth In Harmony quartet, ensemble or individual to attend our

annual Youth In Harmony Camp. Feel free to sponsor a group or individual to attend.

Held in conjunction with Harmony College East at Salisbury University in Salisbury, Md., the fun starts the evening of Thursday, June 12 and runs through Saturday, June 15. Everyone goes home on Sunday morning.

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

GQ and Gimme Four will be the teaching quartets, along with an all-star cast of coaches including Sean Devine, Eddie Martinez, Carolyn Sexton, Mark Kettner, Anne Bureau, TJ Barranger, and more.

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

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

HARMONY FOUNDATION



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

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

Here's how it works:

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

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

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



DOUBLE DOWN

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

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

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



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

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

Here's how it works:

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

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

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



DO YOU LOVE OUR CONTEST/JUDGING SYSTEM? READ ON!

Competition . . . the most exhilarating or tortuous event on our calendar. The beloved-by-some and dreaded-by-others happening that thrills or terrorizes so many of us. The time of year when we work so hard to sound better, but, alas, often receive the all-too-familiar news – “more of the same.” Or worse!

Let me relate a story that should sound familiar. Last



by Roger Tarpy, VP Music & Performance

fall, following a judge's feedback session at District, a friend came up to me and said in his most exasperated voice something like, “What do those judges want! One tells us to do it one way, and the next one comes along and says the exact opposite. This whole business is horse feathers.”

(Actually, he was way more expressive than that).

The detail in question had to do with the “size” of a gesture. A coach had previously told my friend's chorus that a certain move (“a look of surprise”) had to be subtle in order to appear authentic and sincere; if the gesture were too “big,” it would come off as excessively cartoony and fake.

The District judge, in contrast, criticized that aspect of the performance, claiming that the move had to be exaggerated to be effective. Audiences don't understand (or even see) “small” gestures; one needs to portray an idea with full-blown dramatics.

I sympathized with my friend as best I could, muttering, in the judges' defense,

something about how difficult it is to judge an event as abstract and complex as an artistic performance, to communicate precisely with language, and to see the forest when all the trees are in the way.

But he wasn't having any of it. He expressed only anger and frustration at being expected to improve his singing and performing, but not being instructed, in clear and consistent terms, how to do it. He believed his scores didn't reflect his hard work, and so while the winners were celebrated, the rest were . . . well . . . you guessed it . . . losers.

Is it any wonder that so many of our choruses decide to stay home? Take the year 2013. Astonishingly, less than half of our chapters participated in a Division contest (43 out of a total of 88)! The picture for quartets is similar. Gone are the days when we had nearly 50 competing quartets at the International Prelim contest. Nowadays, we barely draw a handful.

I'm guessing that something needs to change, or be explained, if competition is to flourish and to serve as a healthy catalyst for growth rather than an occasion when all but the winners feel devalued.

I don't have the answer, but I'm certain we need to debate this whole issue more fully. To that end, I'd like to solicit your ideas and opinions.

Please tell me what you believe is good and/or bad about our contest and judging system. If you like to compete, then how do you explain or defend it to your friends? If, on the other hand, you hate competition and believe that it undermines our efforts

I'm guessing that something needs to change, or be explained, if competition is to flourish and to serve as a healthy catalyst for growth rather than an occasion when all but the winners feel devalued.

to promote the singing of barbershop harmony, then what are your reasons for believing that?

Email your ideas to me (rtarpy@verizon.net); I pledge to share them with everyone in a future *Mid'I Antics* article. The debate will surely help to promote greater clarity and, who knows, maybe some useful change.

The pros . . .

Here are a few observations of my own that may provide a starting point for debate. First, some arguments in favor of competition:

- It triggers a period of self-examination and a flurry of work all aimed at better singing.
- The singing skills and habits derived from preparing for a contest transfer to the rest of the repertoire – we sing better overall.
- Improving as a group elevates our self-esteem, broadens our appeal to the general public, and deepens our appreciation of the hobby.
- Working hard to do well promotes greater camaraderie; it inspires members to nurture an important aspect of their personal life; it changes attitudes toward the prospects for growth of the chapter.

- It even affects how we understand and feel music generally.

And cons . . .

Now a few counter arguments – why the judging process can turn competition into an unfathomable and distinctly unpleasant occasion.

Complexity. Musical performances of all sorts are really, really complex, and so the job of parsing them is conspicuously hard. They are simply too multi-dimensional and nuanced for anyone to expect that a simple and accessible set of rules (for creating “artistry”) could be formulated.

Understanding a performance occurs in the context of one's own life history, so its message is as personal as one's individuality. It's therefore not surprising that we may feel one way about our performance, but discover that someone else sees it in a wholly different light.

We may, for instance, believe that we're doing a move in a confined and “subtle” way, or in a full-blown and “dramatic” fashion, but, in the eyes of others, neither may be happening.

Language. It doesn't take a Mid-East diplomat to realize that language is agonizingly limited. One may wish to express something about, say, “surprise” (an

inner, private, complicated feeling) but one is forced to use public words that vary in their referents.

It's all in the semantics.

Is the advice “make the move subtle and authentic” necessarily contrary to the advice “make the move visible and dramatic”? I'm claiming not. The two suggestions may seem to be at odds, but that's surely a consequence, in part, of using words that can only dance around the true meaning of the abstract state “surprise.”

Forests and trees. A judge eventually arrives at a single number that represents the performance – the forest. But, in generating that number, he or she relies exclusively on trees that are visible at any given time – mistuned chord, moment of flat intonation, phrase sung with good balance, energized swipe, and so on.

It's often hard to see the forest for all the trees, because one may recognize a particular tree – say, a sync error – and begin to suspect that the entire forest is comprised of such trees. That's a trick that our attentional and cognitive machinery often play, and when it happens, a whole lot of interesting trees may be missed.

Sorry to say it, but our perceptual and cognitive systems are not well designed to sample all the trees, systematically weigh the evidence, and then accurately infer what the forest truly looks like.

OK . . . that's my abbreviated take on the subject. Now it's your turn to generate a more far-reaching discussion. With less than half of us participating in this most salient of all BHS initiatives, I think such a discussion will be valuable.

Check out new dates and venues for 2014 contest cycle!

Walter L Griffith Jr
M-AD VP Events



The 2014 Competition Cycle is posted at www.midatlanticdistrict.com.

2014 Spring Preliminary Quartet Competition will be held in the beautiful Hyatt Reston Hotel in Reston VA on March 14-15, 2014.

2014 Atlantic/Western Division Convention will be held at the Harrisburg Hilton Hotel on May 16-17, 2014.

2014 Southern Division will be held at the Hotel Roanoke on May 30-31, 2014.

2014 Northern Division will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Scranton, PA on May 2-3, 2014.

2014 Fall District Convention will be held in Wildwood, NJ on October 24-25, 2014.

The 2014 Competition Cycle is already posted on the Mid-Atlantic District web site, www.midatlanticdistrict.com, and there are changes that should be noted as we move into the new year.

And now, on with the show . . .

The **2014 Spring Preliminary Quartet Competition** will be held in the beautiful Hyatt Reston Hotel in **Reston, Va. March 14-15**, hosted by the **Fairfax Jubil-Aires**. There is exciting news from the hotel for us, as I understand the train to Washington, D.C. will have a station right in Reston Square for traveling to the nation's capital.

This would be a great opportunity to schedule a visit and do some sightseeing plus enjoy your favorite hobby. The hotel information is on the web site so make your reservations early, and purchase your registrations to attend the competition to see which quartets will make it to Las Vegas in July 2014.

The **Northern Division** will be held **May 2-3**, at the Hilton Hotel in **Scranton, Pa.** This hotel is located in downtown Scranton within walking distance of the Steamtown Train Station. This is a wonderful historic station that will make you want to take a sightseeing train ride and enjoy the sights



The 2014 Spring Preliminary Quartet Competition will be held in the beautiful Hyatt Reston Hotel in Reston, Va. March 14-15.

The **Northern Division** will be held **May 2-3**, at the Hilton Hotel in **Scranton, Pa.**, within walking distance of the Steamtown Train Station.

of northeastern Pennsylvania.

The Events Team does not have a host chapter for this event, so please have your chapter consider helping the District and having fun at the same time by hosting this event. If your chapter wishes to host this event, please contact me at lmabari1@aol.com for additional information.

The 2014 **Atlantic/Western Division Convention** will be held at the **Harrisburg Hilton Hotel May 16-17**. The Harrisburg Chapter will host. This hotel is in the Capital City of Pennsylvania and is a wonderful place to visit. We need to take a quartet or chorus there to perform for the lawmakers in the wonderful rotunda. Wow, what a great sound!



The Harrisburg Chapter will host the Atlantic/Western Division Convention at the Harrisburg Hilton Hotel May 16-17.



The **Southern Division** will be held **May 30-31. Yes that's right, not on Memorial Day weekend again for the second year in a row.** The **Virginia Gentlemen**, under the direction of **Bill Clarke**, will host this event. The location is the wonderful and spectacular Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke, Va. This facility is a definite winner and a wonderful place to perform and enjoy the scenic beauty

The **Southern Division** will be held **May 30-31, missing the Memorial Day weekend again for the second year in a row.**



of this area of Virginia.

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

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

The Wildwood Convention Center is excited to have us return to New Jersey. The District has many memories of the Wildwoods from Monster Trucks to torrential rain storms. I am excited to see what's in store for us as we return to New Jersey again in 2014.

The District Events Team is looking for a Host Chapter for this event as well. Please help the Events Team and the District and

host this event. If your Chapter can help please contact me at lmabari1@aol.com

The Fall Convention is unusually late in 2014 due to the Holy Days of our Jewish barbershop families and friends. The ability to have the convention this late in October also presents additional challenges.

The Wildwoods is a resort area and hotels will be closing due to the end of the season. The hotels assured me they will remain open if we need their hotels but **we need to let them know as early as possible.** Therefore I am requesting that if you or your Chapter is planning to attend the Fall Convention in 2014, please secure your hotel as early as possible. Not sure? Please make your housing reservation as early as possible, anyway, so you are not disappointed by waiting until the last minute. You can always cancel if plans change!

The 2014 Convention season looks like it will be both exciting and busy with quartets competing to go to **Las Vegas, Nev.** and choruses competing for the opportunity to represent the District in **Pittsburgh, Pa. in 2015**. Please make your plans early. I am looking forward to seeing everyone next year as we continue to be the best District in the Society.



Make your contingency reservations, **NOW**, for the District Convention in Wildwood Oct. 24-25.

Did You Wanna Be a Judge?

If you did and you didn't apply before December 31, 2013, then you'll have to wait until August of 2016. Nine of our M-AD brethren DID apply to become judges and have begun the process of taking their initial tests. Those passing the "applicant" testing process will be invited to attend "candidate school" this summer (July 27-29). Those who pass candidate

2014 Contest & Judging Update

by Gary Plaag,
VP Contest and Judging



school will practice judge for the next two years until ALL judges and candidate judges must attend Category School

for recertification/certification. I will announce the candidates after candidate school the first part of August.

Spring Contest Entry

The on-line contest entry process for ALL of our M-AD spring contests are up and ready for you to enter your group. Please do this as early as possible so we know whether we need to increase the number of judges. The entry deadline is 30 days prior to the contest date.

Please remember that if your group cannot compete on your normal weekend (Spring Prelims, home division, etc.) you must request a "hardship". Hardship requests for singing outside of the M-AD for International Quartet Prelims must be requested from the M-AD Contest & Judging VP (Gary Plaag) and M-AD President (Bill Colosimo), as well as from the President and C&J Representative for the district in which you wish to compete.

For Division contests, in order to sing outside of your home division, you must request permission from the M-AD Contest & Judging VP prior to submitting your entry. Approval of hardship requests is not guaranteed and is dependent on the number of home division groups that have already entered the contest.

Similarly, if your group needs to sing early or late in the contest schedule for a particular event, and/or has dual members with other competing groups and needs to be separated from those groups, you must indicate your request in the comments section of the contest entry form. Once the draw for singing order has occurred it is very difficult to accommodate hardship requests. Some may not be granted. So, if you know your group MIGHT have a hardship, identify it at the time you enter the contest online.

You can always check who has already entered the particular contest by going to the M-AD webpage and clicking on the particular convention, and then "contestant order of appearance". Please note that the order of appearance is *manually* updated by the C&J VP once notice of your entry is received. This may take a day or two. If, after 3-4 days, you don't see your group's entry listed, please contact C&J VP Gary Plaag at gplaagbhs@gmail.com for assistance.

Also, please note that the order of appearance is random UNTIL the official draw is completed (shortly after the entry deadline of 30 days before the first contest session of the particular convention).

As always, if you have any problems or questions about contest entry, please let me know.

'Best Seat In The House' Auction is BACK!

by Gary Plaag, VP Contest and Judging

Just ask any of the three individuals who won the "The Best Seat In The House" auction at District Convention last fall. Sean Thomas, Chris Buechler and Stephanie Dingle found out what it's like to sit in the judging area or "pit" at last fall's District Quartet and Chorus contests and they couldn't stop raving about it (well, as a Contest Administrator Chris is used to sitting there, but Shawn and Stephanie couldn't stop raving.). Would you like to experience the same thrill of sitting "up front" in the midst of the judges at all four (4) of our Spring conventions? Would you like to be a fly on the wall at the evaluation sessions (Music, Presentation and/or Singing)? Good news: YOU CAN!

Again this spring, at the International Prelims AND at each of the three (3) division conventions (Northern, Atlantic/Western, and Southern), we are auctioning off the "best seat in the house" - ONE seat in the judges area (aka "pit") for each contest session (Friday night quartet semi-finals and evals, Saturday morning/afternoon chorus finals and evals (for divisions), Saturday night quartet finals and evals (for prelims) and evals, and the Saturday morning/afternoon Youth In Harmony Adjudication and evals (for

prelims). Winners for all contest sessions also receive a really nifty name badge that looks like a real judge badge (actually, it's a little nicer!) and is a really cool memento to keep in your "I love me" drawer.

Bidding for each event opens 6 weeks before the date of the first convention event and runs until 12 noon on the Friday that falls two (2) weeks before that convention's first event. Bidding starts at \$50 and continues in \$10 increments until we get to \$1 million (or as high as bidders want to go <wink>). Please note that if you win the bids on one, two or all three sessions you will still need to purchase an all-events registration for the convention at the regular convention registration price. Proceeds are split 50/50 between Harmony Foundation and the M-AD Endowment Fund.

The link to the "Best Seat In The House" auction is located at <http://bestseat.org/>

Please feel free to bid high and often...and check the bid status frequently...if you truly want a unique convention experience. As my uncle used to say "ain't nothin' like a good biddin' war!" Let the bidding begin!

Senior Q selection process changing

2014 Selection Process for MAD District Senior Quartet Champions and MAD International Senior Quartet Representative

In 2014, the way in which we choose our MAD Senior quartet representatives to the subsequent International Senior Quartet Contest held at Mid-Winter is changing.

The selection of the MAD District Senior Quartet Champions will still take place at the Spring Convention, in conjunction with the International Preliminary Contest and the annual Youth Adjudication.

Past MAD Senior champion quartets are not eligible to compete for the District Senior Quartet Championship.

Here's how selection of the MAD Senior Quartet Representative to the International

Senior Quartet contest at Mid-Winter will work in 2014:

- Compete with 2 songs in the Seniors International Preliminary category at one of the following four (4) competitions:
 - March 14 – Reston, VA – MAD International Quartet Preliminaries
 - May 2 - Scranton, PA – MAD Northern Division quartet contest
 - May 16 – Harrisburg, PA – MAD Atlantic/Western Division quartet contest
 - May 30 – Roanoke, VA – MAD Southern Division quartet contest
- Quartets should strive to compete in their "home" division, if possible. Hardships to sing outside of a quartet's "home" division will be considered on a case-by-case basis, and will be dependent on the number of "home" division quartets entered in that

particular contest.

- Quartets in the International Senior Quartet Preliminary category may only compete at ONE (1) of the four (4) events.
- The highest scoring senior quartet from these four (4) events will be named the MAD representative to the subsequent International Senior Quartet Contest held at the BHS Mid-Winter Convention.
- Other MAD senior quartets that compete but are not selected as the highest-scoring senior quartet will be considered for participation at the International Senior Quartet Contest at the Mid-Winter convention via the established BHS international senior quartet competition's wildcard process.

There will no longer be an MAD senior quartet contest at the Fall District quartet contest.



immerse yourself
in a weekend of

MAD barbershop

What you can expect

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

Where, When, Cost?

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

Jun 12-15, 2014

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



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

Who is welcome?

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



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

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



Questions
or Comments?

Ig Jakovac
ijakovac@comcast.net

Roger Tarpy
rtarpy@verizon.net

Gotham teaches you how to raise funds online

You CAN Do This, Too

Those guys in the Hell's Kitchen, New York, Chapter have done it again. Not only are they raising funds effectively, but they're also teaching other chapters how to do the same.

"A few months ago, the chorus decided to put together an online fundraising campaign. It has been an incredible learning experience, and we were pleased to find that it was not only effective - but much easier to set up than we ever anticipated."

Check out their video at

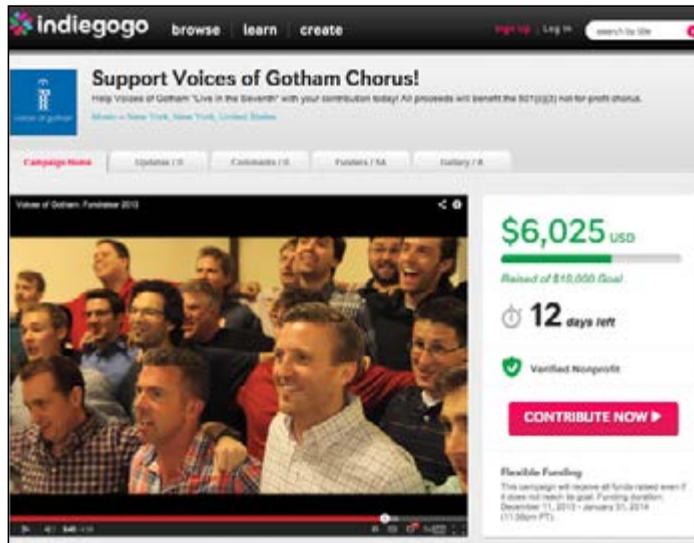
www.indiegogo.com/projects/support-voices-of-gotham-chorus

7 Tips for Online Fundraising

1. USE A PROFESSIONAL FUNDRAISING PLATFORM!

Using a professional platform instantly raises your campaign's credibility. There are several trusted platforms with tried-and-true templates and systems for not only managing donations, but tying those donations to "Thank You" gifts automatically. There is a fee for this level of polish and credibility, but many services offer great discounts for not-for-profits. [Recommended platforms: Indiegogo; Kickstarter]

Note that there are fundamental differences between how these platforms work; if you don't hit your target financial goal on Kickstarter, for example, you do not receive any contributions. Indiegogo, on the other hand, allows you to keep all proceeds even if you don't hit your goal



(although the fee is substantially lessened if you do!).

2. CREATE A VIDEO!

Fundraising campaigns with a video raise, on average, 122% more than those without (according to Indiegogo). Even a no-frills video explaining your chorus' needs goes a long way toward making your campaign compelling and shareable. Plus, as a singing organization, it is the absolute best way to showcase your talent and make a case for a donation!

Our video was a real labor of love, and we had an amazing time making it. Have a look and think about what your chorus' unique message might be.

3. USE YOUR MEMBERS' SKILLS!

If you are feeling more ambitious about your campaign video, do yourself a favor and ask your members if they have any hidden talents. By asking that very question, we put together a team that included multiple

branding/marketing creatives and directors, a broadcast journalism major, a motion graphics animator, and a professional cameraman and documentarian. And as for talent? Your chorus may not have a documentary filmmaker in its midst, but I guarantee you will find 20 guys clamoring

to give an on-screen interview! All told, this video was produced completely through volunteer efforts; the



only chorus expense was a pack of AAA batteries for the microphone.

4. MAKE YOUR CASE!

Tell your audience exactly what your chorus plans to do with the money, and don't hesitate to mention the minutiae. It takes a lot to successfully run a chorus - rehearsal space, copyright fees, coaching, riser storage, costumes, props, travel and registrations - and a non-singer may not realize that. Give your audience real world examples of your needs to justify your 'ask.'

5. OFFER GIFTS!

Motivate your audience with tangible rewards. Odds are you have a great big pile of merchandise in storage (chorus t-shirts, water bottles, albums, etc.). Use it as an incentive for your donors! Don't have merchandise to give away? Get creative! For a donation of \$50, our chorus is singing a personalized song featuring the donor's name, uploaded to YouTube for all the world to see. For \$500, we are providing the donor with two prime tickets to our upcoming show!

6. ALLOW ANONYMOUS DONATIONS!

Some people don't want the spotlight; they just want to help! More than half of our donations have been anonymous contributions. This also allows for a wonderful opportunity for an individual, corporation, or group to offer an anonymous "matching gift" - a huge motivator to your donor base. In the days leading up to your campaign's official launch, why not reach out privately to anyone who has expressed the desire to contribute, and put together a "matching gift" challenge together?

7. USE SOCIAL MEDIA TO GET THE WORD OUT!

Now that your fundraising campaign lives online, it is incredibly simple to share it via Social Media like Facebook and Twitter. Ask friends, family, and community members to get the word out. There's no telling who you'll reach!



Have questions about online fundraising, branding, or how to support a chorus in a large metropolitan area?

Email Brian Lindvall at president@voicesofgotham.org.





Memorable Moments in Gettysburg, Pa.

Saturday, November 23, certainly was one of the highlights of the year 2013 in Gettysburg, PA. All year long, the 150th anniversary of President Lincoln's powerful Gettysburg Address was celebrated.

On this Saturday, crowds were treated to a stirring, colorful parade paying homage to the thousands of Confederate and Union soldiers who gave their lives in our Country's Civil War, on the soil of Gettysburg.

Before and after the moving parade, concerts were staged at the Gettysburg Area High School. Members of the Philadelphia, PA, Sounds Of Liberty Chorus, along with its director Lori Ludlum, felt honored to join their voices to a 150 member chorus. Opening the programs, Lori directed the chorus in singing our National Anthem and in the finale: God Bless America – both in the barbershop harmony style.

The thrill of singing with a quality mixed-voices ensemble, composed of over 100 high school students, made the many rehearsals (following regular Tuesday evening Chapter Meetings) of "Gettysburg" and "Civil War Cantata," compositions of Richard Fuchs from Long Island, NY, well worth any personal sacrifices. Yes, memories to treasure!

— By Al Smith



Morris Music Men are talent contest finalists

Some times you find opportunities. And sometimes opportunities find you.

Last fall, the Morris Music Men contacted *Morristown Life*, a monthly magazine circulated by mail in Morristown, Morris Township and Morris Plains, and asked if they'd be interested in running a feature story about the chorus. The answer was yes, and a great photo-filled four-page cover story appeared in the publication's December issue (see below).

Then opportunity knocked. Literally. About midway through our first chorus rehearsal after the story

appeared, there was a knock at our door. In came three persons representing Morristown's Got Talent, an organization that has staged a local talent contest for the past six years. They asked to hear us sing something, so we gave them a rousing rendition of "If My Friends Could See Me Now" from the musical *Sweet Charity*.

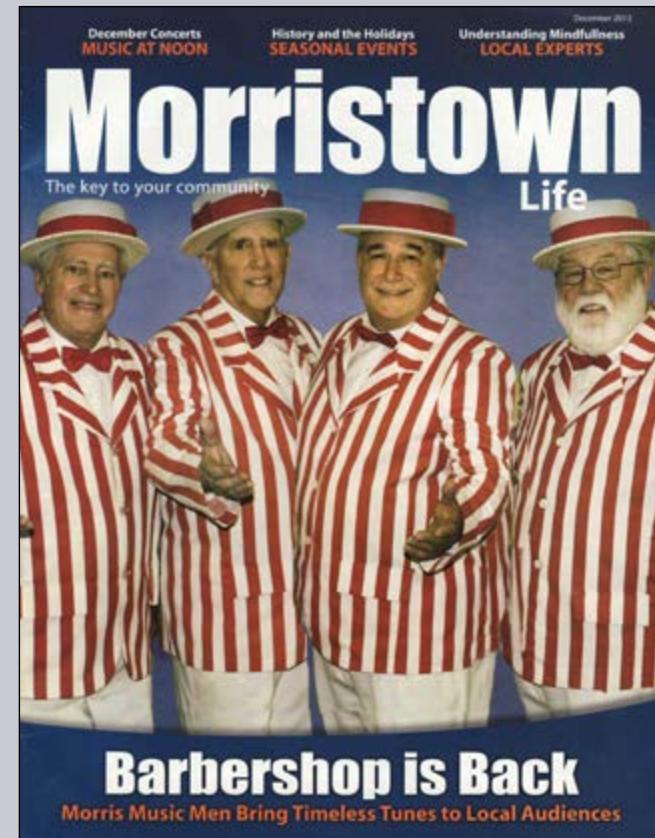
They liked what they heard so much that they invited us to audition for the contest. We took them up on the offer and were selected as one of 16 finalists—out of over 70 acts that auditioned. Many of the acts are teens and young adults. It's probably safe to say that we're the only act to include a great-grandfather!

The Morristown's Got Talent Contest is a major event in the Morristown area. It's a fundraiser for the Morris Educational Foundation, a nonprofit that has over the past two decades given \$ 1.5 million to Morris School District schools through grants, scholarships, technology, cultural arts and more.

The contest itself will take place on the evening of Wednesday, February 26, at the 1,200-seat Mayo Performing Arts Center in Morristown. This will be by far the largest venue in which the Morris Music Men have ever performed. At stake are prizes for the top three acts of \$1,000, \$500 and \$250.

The contest will be emceed by Tara Bernie, a senior producer for NBC's Access Hollywood and Access Hollywood LIVE.

Win or lose, this is a great opportunity for the Morris Music Men. As the contest approaches, we're getting publicity all over the place. And on the night of the contest, an awful lot of the people in those 1,200 seats will be having their first experience of a barbershop chorus.



Hunterdon stages splashy holiday musical fantasy

The Hunterdon Harmonizers, an all-male *a cappella* singing group based in Flemington, presented their annual holiday show at Hunterdon Central High School.

The program, "Alex in Winterland," was presented in the afternoon and evening and the audience was filled with people of all ages, from youngsters to seniors.

Alex is a tale of intrigue, political power and nostalgia, with music presented in the inimitable Harmonizer style. Characters besides Alex included the White Rabbit, Pirate King, Elvis, Frosty Cannoli, King of Hearts, Kris Kringle and the Mascarpone Gang.

In addition to the performers, more than a score of people were involved in the show committee, handling everything from writing and production, stage direction, costumes, set design and construction, to publicity and ticket sales.

The Hunterdon Harmonizers welcome visitors to their weekly Tuesday evening practice sessions (7:45-10:30 p.m.) sessions, both singers and non-singers alike.

They meet at the Flemington United Methodist Church, 116 Main St. For further information, go to their website.

— Terry Wright/Hunterdon County Democrat





Carroll County names 2013 BOTY

The Old Line Statesmen Barbershop Chorus presented the 2013 Barbershopper of the Year award to Dave Highfield at their annual Installation of Officers banquet in December. The award recognizes Dave's outstanding service and accomplishments as a member of the chorus and of the Mid-Atlantic District of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

The Old Line Statesmen Chorus has brought a cappella harmony to Carroll County since 1982 and has been the 2009 and 2010 Plateau A Champions, and the 2012 Plateau AA Champions in the Mid-Atlantic District. Please call 410-795-5050 or go to our website (www.oldlinestatesmen.org) for additional information.

Dave Highfield, left, accepts his BOTY plaque from chorus president Pat Liebkecht who said, in part, "Way to go Dave! Your support and community leadership has made us very popular this year!"



Chordial Agreement, (from left: Tenor: Dave Harbove, Lead: Don Pearce, Bass: Dave Landolt, Baritone: Tom Wilson) added a lot of levity to the performance with their comical rendition of Lollipop.

Long Island Harmonizers spread Christmas cheer to hospitals

"CARRYING THE BALL" in spreading Nassau Mid-Island holiday cheer at local hospitals along with **Long Island Harmonizers** chorus members was **Maurice Debar**, shown with Laura Grau, Manager of Volunteer Services at Winthrop-University Hospital in Mineola, one of four local health care facilities visited by the chorus. Staff and patients were also serenaded at Rockville Centre's Mercy Medical Center, Oceanside's South Nassau Communities Hospital and St. Francis Hospital in Roslyn.

— *Courtesy of Jan. 2014 Toosday Tunes; Bob Heim, editor*



How sweet it is!

The **North Pennsmen Chorus** chose "A Chocolate-Flavored Christmas" as a theme for this year's holiday show. So, naturally, they had to dress as Oompah Loompahs and sing such like-themed songs as the Willy Wonka Medley and I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas.

‘Old Bones’ lived a life of song



Francis “Bix” Doughty was born January 10, 1914 and passed away in Reston, Virginia, on December 23, 2013, just shy of his 100th birthday. Bix was an avid member of the Barbershop Harmony Society and was proud to have been a member of the **Poughkeepsie New Yorkers**, the **Fairfax Jubilaires**, and the **Harmony Heritage Singers** of Mt. Vernon, Va.

When asked to explain his life-long love of singing, he gave all the credit to his mother, “My mother was a very smart woman. She graduated from the University of Michigan and then went to Chicago for a year to study piano. After that she became a principal of a high school in Upper Michigan. After she got married, she stayed home as a full-time, stay-at-home mom to raise 8 children.”

And she made sure that there was music in the home. Bix, his father, and two other brothers formed a quartet. Bix took some piano lessons, but his true love was harmonizing through the simple act of joining together with others and lifting voices to the heavens.

It would require a complete book to describe all of the singing that Bix did throughout his lifetime, but let’s focus on some highlights. After WWII, he was a paid soloist at a church in Poughkeepsie, and sang in numerous choirs for many years. For about ten years, he sang with a double quartet known as the **Octavians** (who not only sang, but also played the bottles).

In 1996, after his wife of 46 years, Dorothy, died, he went to visit a niece, and she took him to a barbershop show. He immediately joined the Poughkeepsie barbershop chapter and remained an avid barbershop singer for 20

years until his death. In 1998, Bix went to Tampa to the senior quartet competition and was introduced to woodshedding. Realizing that this is what he had already been doing since he was a child, he quickly qualified in all parts as a woodshedder. One of his biggest thrills at the competition was singing with the **Jurassic Larks**, the winning quartet that year.

In May of 1998, having relocated to Northern Virginia, Bix joined the Fairfax Jubilaires and later became a dual member with the daytime barbershop chapter known as the Harmony Heritage Singers. In 2001, Bix started singing with the quartet **RingQuest**. He also found time to sing with the Vienna Presbyterian choir, and with a small church in Reston.

“I’m really a baritone, but I like to sing all the parts. In the church choirs, I just sing whatever is needed most”, he said.

Last year, ye editor had the delight of seeing Bix for the first time and was enthralled as the 99-year-old song and dance man took the stage with the Fairfax Jubilaires to sing Old Bones. I can see him now in his overcoat and cane singing and smiling at the pure joy of being able to do so.

But I love life, I’d like to do it again

Though I might not be much more than I’ve ever been

Just to have the chance to turn back the hands

And let my life begin

Oh yeah, I’d like to do it again!

It’s difficult to put into words how much impact a man like Bix can have on those who love to sing. But the Jubilaires gave it a try in a special issue of their chapter bulletin. Here are some of their reminiscences.

Jonathan Doughty (Bix’s youngest) – “Singing kept Bix young at heart and added years to his life - it was the reason we were all able to enjoy his presence for as long as we were able. Thank you for that.”

Pete Berme – “When we rode together Bix would often quietly sing a song or two to himself. I was amazed at how many I didn’t know—not just the words but the tunes as well. They were from a different era, probably the one SPEBSQSA was formed to preserve. I guess that’s what made Bix such a hit at woodshed conventions in Baltimore. That, and his ability to harmonize all four parts!”

Ron Obermeyer – “Everyone, including me, remembers Bix for his outstanding and enduring performances of Old Bones but I

will always remember his limitless knowledge of words and melody to “old chestnuts” that he would “throw out” for one and all to woodshed to. I had never heard of most of them, as was the case with most of the Jubilaires. He must have learned them as a young boy and I believe that would have been before recordings were available, so he learned them by listening and singing them. They were great for woodshedding since none of us “youngsters” had ever heard of them and couldn’t “lean on” some familiarity with the song to woodshed our part. He loved to sing them and his repertoire was endless.”

Roger Lemieux – “Bix worked at his music. He would sit at his little piano and pound out the melodies until he had them committed to memory. Even in his early nineties, his memory for music was phenomenal. I never saw Bix get angry at anyone over anything. He was above all pettiness and his friendship was solid and respectful, a perfect “gentleman.” We will miss him greatly.”

Bill McDonald – “Bix had a wonderful mind, even in his 90s. He could sing songs in English, French, and German and rattle off Gilbert and Sullivan lyrics, usually without pause. He had an extensive repertoire of old songs that served him well at barbershop woodshedding competitions and helped him win his prized Final Four hat and a Gold Medal as Tenor. In the last year or so he learned Put Another Log On The Fire and hoped to find a quartet with whom to perform it. I am certain he is singing it right now!”

Red Bank quartets have interesting holiday experiences

As singers, there is perhaps no better time of year to get into public view and share the holiday spirit. Our performances change people's lives. Their daily cares vanish, for a brief moment, as we take them on a musical journey. Their spirits are lifted with fond memories of Christmas past and hopeful anticipation for the days to come.

I have been lucky to perform with several great quartets this season. On Nov. 30, **Red Bank Quartet**, (Jon Greene, Frank Glaz, Terry Schmalzried and Allen Dean) performed on the streets of Red Bank for the RiverCenter Holiday Harmonies program.

On Sunday, Dec. 8, **The Salt Creek Four** performed for a lovely couple, Liz and Pete Canonico, who were celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary at the Salt Creek Grill in Rumson. Liz called seeking a quartet to surprise her husband at dinner.

Pete is a big doo-wop fan and Liz thought this was a close as she could get on short notice. **Jon Greene, Terry Schmalzried, Kirk Thomson and Allen Dean**, entertained the couple at their table for a half hour as other restaurant patrons listened in and applauded. With some encouragement, Pete was persuaded to stand up and sing a few songs with the quartet, including, *Under the Boardwalk* and *In the Still of the Night*. The couple was enthralled with the live music and so were the other patrons.

One young boy approached us as we were concluding our set with the *Canonicos* and asked if we'd sing for his grandfather who was celebrating a birthday with his family in another room. We said we would if the young man would take our

photo singing to our couple.

We concluded our rendition of *Happy Birthday* and started heading for the door when we were approached by another man who told us his group was having a birthday party for a 12-year-old girl named Julia. He related that the girl's mother was 8 months pregnant during 9/11, searching everywhere in the city that day for her husband who died in the tragedy.

Without hesitation, the quartet strolled over to their table and sang *Happy Birthday* to the girl and her party. The man kindly offered us some holiday cheer on his tab.

As we sat at the bar enjoying our beverages, we sang a few holiday songs, much to the approval of the bar patrons. Another round was poured courtesy of a lovely lady across the bar from us. Another woman requested *Silent Night*, and the bar hushed as we sang softly... *Shepherd's quake, at the sight...*

As we said our goodbyes and headed back into the dark wintery night, we knew that we had touched lives and that our own lives were deeply affected by what we do.

It's the most wonderful time of the year....

— by Allan Dean



Birthdays boy, Pete, sings Under the Boardwalk with The Salt Creek Four.

Razzmatazz Reunited!

After a nearly two year "vacation" from each other, the boys of **Razzmatazz** could not stand not performing together, and so we reformed the quartet in November 2013. Surprisingly the name was still available (you'd think with such a clever name some other quartet would have grabbed it the instant it became available!)

For the newer Barbershoppers, Razzmatazz is a popular MAD show (and contest) quartet which has performed in over 300 chapter shows, over 50 contests and countless banquets and private gatherings in the 24 years it has been singing together. Not blessed with the best of voices, (just shows how far you can go by fooling most of the people most of the time) they chose to concentrate on making people laugh by providing

entertaining show (and contest) packages. They were rewarded with return show engagements at chapter after chapter.

In spite of their vocal limitations they recorded three CDs and sold *thousands* of them (*Who'd of thunk it!*). They also made a VCR (remember those) and a DVD of a live performance at a chapter show. (Still have some of those left). The crowning achievement of their career was winning the Buckeye Funnybone Quartet Contest in 1998. This further spread their unique brand of entertainment into Ohio, Indiana, and points west. They have headlined chapter shows in 12 states and the District of Columbia.

The pace of performing caught up to them in 2011 and they retired. Missing the rehearsals where they could constantly bust on each other, laugh at their foibles and enjoy an occasional melodious chord, they reformed (well, they got back together but they are definitely not reformed). Because they are now officially



"old farts" they will be seen competing in the next MAD International Prelims in the Seniors category. (Rick's been there for quite a while but he had to wait for some of the others to catch up).

Meanwhile, they are happily working on coming up with new material for a show package. It will be the sixth different show package of their long run together. (the Hat and Cane package, Handyman package, Amish package, Fifties/Oldies package and the Golf package preceeded.)

We've decided to take this edition of the quartet at a more leisurely pace, not rehearse as often, not accept shows so distant that they consume an entire weekend, and not worry about contest results (as if we ever did!) We look forward to just enjoying our time together – after all that's what being in a quartet with your best friends is all about!

ANIMAL MAGNETISM

Dr. Jeff Whall (Lead) finds that the large animal holding cages of his new Veterinary Clinic in Burtonsville, Maryland are still not enough to hold back the animal magnetism and beastly enthusiasm of his other 3 Wise Men quartet members, George Korch (Tenor), Joe Chilcoat (Baritone) and Tom Nisbet (Bass)



AHB offers Extreme Quartetting

Apply for youth scholarships, now!

Although the Harmony Brigade and "extreme quartetting"™ did not originate in the Mid Atlantic District, nevertheless MA-D's Atlantic Harmony Brigade (the A.H.B.) has been an innovative force in the larger movement, which now includes eight official Brigades throughout the U.S.A (www.HarmonyBrigade.org)

Among its many successful initiatives, the A.H.B. spearheaded free Brigade Scholarships for young men (ages of 18 and 25). They are open to men whether or not they are in a quartet or even in the Society. Its success has led the way for other Brigades to offer similar scholarships.

While the regular cost to participate in the "all-inclusive," retreat-like weekend is \$290 (including meals, hotel accommodations, quality learning materials, etc), each year the A.H.B. awards, free admission for up to ten qualified young men. Since the A.H.B. Scholarship's inception in 2008, the AHB has awarded over 32 scholarships valued in excess of \$10,000.

The weekend (Aug. 22-24) is an intense, participatory experience. One hundred and twenty four capable quartet men (divided into thirty one per voice part) attend the convention, by application and invitation. They are fully committed and prepared to sing all 12 of the championship songs they are sent in April. The weekend is spent singing with dozens of quartet partners and it includes an adjudicated quartet contests (judged this year by O.C. Times) and there is a fully staged show (Sat. Aug 23rd).

Although each scholarship applicant applies by and for himself, most of the AHB's past scholarship awardees eventually find themselves in registered quartets competing at the District and International level. Many



Christian Diaz, Alex McCoy and Ben Pollack and Kelby Carson, all Brigade scholarship winners, put together a crazy, full-length parody including seeing-eye dog Elvis that totally cracked up the audience

quartets form as the direct result of Brigade networking.

While the program is not for everyone (it's for highly motivated, self-disciplined men with a strong work ethic and musical backgrounds) Scholarship applicants do not have to be experienced barbershoppers. They may qualify if they have been otherwise routinely involved in alternative, serious musical disciplines (such as band, orchestra, oratorio, musical theater, collegiate a cappella, etc). Deadline to apply is THIS MONTH.

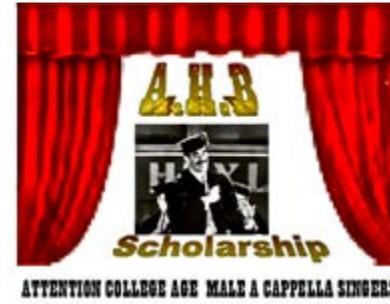
Perhaps the A.H.B.'s most poignant experiences with Scholarship attendees occurred, in 2012, when Kelby Carlson, (a non-barbershopper at the time, albeit studying voice) was awarded a scholarship. Against ridiculous odds he randomly drew, for his Brigade contest quartet, three other scholarship awardees (Christian Diaz, Alex McCoy and Ben Pollack).

Miraculously, with almost no rehearsal, they cobbled together a crazy full-length original parody of the song they drew and incorporated Kelby's seeing-eye dog, Elvis, into the theme and the cho-

rography. Not only did they sing well, but they absolutely cracked-up the audience and rightly won the entire contest! It's on Youtube. The following year Kelby joined BHS, joined a competing collegiate quartet and made it to International!

Young men, like these bring to the Brigade weekend a great deal of verve, good fellowship, talent and they demonstrate the promising future for quartet singing. In return the Members of the A.H.B. gladly give it their full support.

The Atlantic Harmony Brigade is offering ten FULL scholarships for men aged 18-25. Scholarships are NO BORDER; they're open to men in all districts. First to apply and qualify are first awarded. For an application or info visit www.atlantic Harmony Brigade.com/scholarships.html



ATTENTION COLLEGE AGE MALE A CAPPELLA SINGERS

Full scholarships are now available for up to ten qualified* male a cappella singers ages 18 to 25 to attend the 2014 Atlantic Harmony Brigade and its™ "eXtreme Quartetting" Convention in Wilmington, Delaware on August 22-24th, 2014. You'll enjoy a resort weekend of active, wall-to-wall singing in dozens of barbershop quartet combinations created from over one hundred other well-prepared, pre-screened singers.

You'll also receive fully interpreted learning materials, high-quality sheet music and audio tracks for twelve challenging championship-level songs and you'll have sixteen weeks to learn them completely. You'll participate in an adjudicated quartet contest with three other randomly-selected partners, a showcase performance on Saturday evening and hours of informal quartet singing & partner mixing all weekend long!

The Harmony Brigade™ "extreme Quartetting" experience is for highly motivated, self-starting, ambitious and competent vocalists who have music and vocal training and/or qualified solo or small ensemble a cappella performance experience and references. Scholarships include: meals, three days and two nights hotel rooming, all required learning materials and all registration fees. Transportation to Wilmington, Delaware is not provided but may possibly be arranged for singers in the Mid-Atlantic area.

Applications are available upon request by writing to ahb.scholarships@gmail.com

Find us on FACEBOOK

*Qualifications, applications and invitations by prospectus only; Scholarships are open only to first time Brigade participants.



The A.H.B. is a member of the Association of™ eXtreme Quartetting Harmony Brigades, a 501 (3) (c) subsidiary of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Neal Siegal, Scholarship Coordinator. Phone: (516) 671-2534.



You must pay the rent!

The younger members of the McAuliffe family “wear” the mustaches from the program at the 2013 M-AD Ocean City contest. They are (from left to right) **Chelsea Minton** from Boston, **Neal McAuliffe** of Richmond, Va, **Jessica Minton** from Washington, DC, **Claire McAuliffe** and husband **Will McAuliffe** of Fairfax, and **Katie McAuliffe** of Alexandria.

Demetri “Dee” Paris

On November 12, 2013 Demetri “Dee” Paris died peacefully at home with his son Thomas by his side. Dee was active and engaged with his full life of over 98 years until cancer came at the end.

Dee was born on July 12 1915 in Excelsior Springs, Missouri, to parents Teresa and Thomas, and also had a sister Katherine, all now deceased. His beautiful wife Virginia Cruze Paris went to heaven in 1991. Dee is survived by his son, Thomas Paris of Maryland and his daughter DeeAnn Paris of West Virginia.

Dee was a decorated WWII combat veteran, retired U.S. Army Armor officer, a Barbershop Harmony singer for over 67 years, Mid-Atlantic District Hall of Honor member, charter member of the Mid-Atlantic District Honor chapter (**DELASUSQUEHU-DMAC**), winner of the International Barbershop Harmony Society chorus championship with the **Singing Capital Chorus** of the Washington D.C. chapter and a retired State Department official.



DEE PARIS, circa 1945 with the 9th Armored Division in WWII – a Battle of the Bulge vet

LETTER

THANK YOU!

On Sunday September 29—5 days before the M-AD Convention—I was talking with my brother (Jerry). He had returned that morning from the SLD Fall Convention, and he was feeling quite sad. The next Saturday, he was going to participate in a 50-kilometer walk/run along the Oil City Trail in the Appalachian Mountains. He had suggested that his district (the SLD) try to get some members to sponsor him, with the proceeds going toward the expenses of their youth chorus at the up-coming Mid Winter Convention in Long Beach, CA. They agreed, but someone got too busy to make it happen. He was very sorry he wouldn’t be “running for someone”, so he would have some added incentive to finish the event. A few minutes after we hung up, I called him back and asked him how he’d feel about making the same offer to the youth in the M-AD. I was already scheduled to visit the Bryn Mawr and the Hamilton Square Chapters that week, and I thought that it could be announced at the contest sessions, and we’d get some sponsors. He thought that sounded like a great idea.

Sure enough, I got good support from members of the 2 chapters I visited, and DP Colosimo wrote some announcements for the M.C.s to read at our convention. Even in that short time, we wound up with 43 sponsors for various amounts per kilometer. By

the way, for those of you without a Physics book handy, a kilometer is approximately 5/8 of a mile, so 50 km is a tad over 31 miles (and Jerry was supposed to cover that distance in 1 day!).

Jerry was very happy when I called him the Friday evening before his event and told him that I had sponsors for around \$1250.00 at that point. He told me later that it helped a great deal at a couple of points that he was running for something besides the satisfaction of finishing the trail. By the way, he received special recognition for being the oldest participant (at 73 years of age—old enough to KNOW BETTER!) and the oldest person to finish.

On November 15, I gave District Treasurer Bob Eckman \$1,532.00, which will go toward our youth chorus expenses on their trip to Long Beach in late January. Jerry and I both greatly appreciate the support we received from the members of the M-AD on VERY short notice. So, as I said in the title, thank you, M-AD (and thank you SLD for giving us this opportunity!).

— Ron Knickerbocker



Alexandria Harmonizers present six events for all ages

SingStrong DC,

February 21-23, 2014

One of the most inspiring a cappella events takes place every year right here in Northern Virginia. SingStrong is a weekend-long a cappella music festival and symposium, featuring groups from around the world performing every style under the sun, from barbershop to doo-wop, pop to jazz, beatbox to over-tone singing and beyond. Profits support the Alzheimer's Association and local music programs.



The Harmonizers will be performing at the Finals "Pros" concert on Sunday, February 23, beginning at 2pm. Also at this show will be national beatbox champion Kaila Mullady, NYC songstress Grace McLean, local legends the Capital Hearings, and NBC's "The Sing-Off" alums the Funx and Ten!

All concerts and classes take place at 11400 South Lakes Dr., Reston, VA 20191. The afterglows will take place at the 5-star Westin Reston Hotel. SingStrong is \$100 for a full weekend's pass, however, tickets to our Sunday 2pm matinee are only \$30! Tickets can be purchased at the SingStrong website.

So, come and see what's happening in modern a cappella, and come out and support the Alexandria Harmonizers!

30th Annual Harmony Sweepstakes

Mid-Atlantic Regional

March 8th, 2014



The 30th Annual Mid-Atlantic Harmony Sweepstakes will be held at America's Legendary Music Hall, The Birchmere, in Alexandria, VA on Saturday, March 8th, beginning at 7:30pm. Tickets are available by calling the Birchmere box office at 703-549-7500 OR by ordering online from Ticketmaster.

The Harmony Sweepstakes A Cappella Festival, one of the premier American showcases for vocal harmony music. The annual national competition draws from hundreds of vocal groups from around the country with regional competitions in eight cities. The winning group from each festival is flown to perform in front of celebrity judges and a sold out house of enthusiastic a cappella fans at the National Finals, which will take place May 17th, at the Marin Veteran's Auditorium in San Rafael, CA.

So come out the the Birchmere on March 8th, it will be a great show and you'll get to see some of the best vocal harmony in the Mid-Atlantic!

The A Ca-Challenge

Saturday, March 22, 2014

Come and join the Alexandria Harmonizers on Saturday, March 22nd from 8pm to 10pm, at the beautiful and world-famous Lincoln Theater in Washington, DC as we host a night of competitive a cappella performed by some of the DC region's best groups! Tickets are only \$25-\$35, and are available exclusively at the Lincoln Theater website.



We are very excited about this event because it is our first sponsored prize competition. We are producing it in support of the art of a cappella, of which barbershop-style singing is a major part!

We'll be sharing the stage with outstanding a cappella groups like the George Washington University Vibes, The University of Mary Washington Symfonics, The Noctonals, the Chromatics, Capital Blend, and Word of Mouth. The groups will be competing for a 1st Prize of \$1000, 2nd Prize of \$500, 3rd Prize of \$250 and several \$100 Prizes!

Remember, tickets are only available at the Lincoln Theater website. So please reserve this date and plan to join us for a night of excellent a cappella entertainment!



Youth Harmony Festival

April 5th, 2014

Please join the Harmonizers as we once again bring music and performance to today's youth, on Saturday, April 5th at the Durant Memorial Center in Alexandria, VA. The Harmonizers present an all-day close harmony camp for local high school students, culminating in a joint evening concert with the students and the Harmonizers.

We have assembled an elite cadre of top-shelf talent for the day:

Harmonizer Associate Director, Tony Colosimo, Richmond director, Erin O'Dell Cook, M-AD Collegiate Quartet Champions "GIMME FOUR", SAI Region 14 Champions "SHADES OF JADE", and the Harmonizers own internationally-renowned choreographer, Carlos Barillo!

If you know a youth (under age 18) that would be interested in attending, go to [this website](#), and reserve a spot. Reservations are only \$15 and are conveniently payable by PayPal, Credit Card or Check.

Harmonizers 2014 Normandy update

We cannot begin to express how excited we are to be traveling to Normandy with a chorus of over 100 men to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of D-Day.



The trip is shaping up to be the trip of a lifetime for the Harmonizers and their travelling companions. We will be in Europe from June 2nd through the 10th. Currently, we're confirmed to perform at Normandy Omaha Beach D-Day site, the Luxembourg Gardens and possibly Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, and at the Cologne Cathedral in Cologne, Germany.

We're currently learning new music like "Something About a Soldier", a "Tribute to World Peace" and "Bring Him Home" (from the musical "Les Miserable"), as well as dusting off songs from our repertoire that haven't been performed in a while.

Stay tuned to this space for additional updates!

Crescendo - The Concert!

June 21, 2014

Come celebrate a night of powerhouse music and choreography at the George Mason University Center for the Arts. The Harmonizers and the Ambassadors of Harmony come together in a historic evening that promises to wow you with ringing chords and moving performances! Joining these two powerhouse choruses are the stellar quartets "CROSSROADS", "VOCAL SPECTRUM", and the



Harmonizers own "DA CAPO"! It will truly be a night of Barbershop at it's Best and Biggest!

Tickets are available on the GMU Center for the Arts website.



Brooke Point Chorus Patrons
Proudly Present

SOUNDWORKS

March 22

7:30 PM

Ticket Prices
Students with ID - \$5
General Admission - \$7

**Busch Garden A Cappella Sing-Off
Champions**
**Six-Time Mid-Atlantic Southern Division
Champions**



Photo by Kim Kiely, Photography

Brooke Point High School Auditorium
1700 Courthouse Road, Stafford, VA 22554
On the web <http://stafford.brooke.schoolfusion.us>
Phone: (540) 658-6080
www.soundworkschorus.org



Save The Date!!

The Brothers in Harmony Spring Concert

May 10, 2014 2:00 PM

Lawrence High School

2525 Princeton Pike Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Featuring



PLUS

A "Special Guest"

To order tickets, call – (215) 794-8075
www.brothersinharmony.org



NO BORDERS!

The 3rd annual **NO BORDERS YOUTH CHORUS** of just under 100 men, under the directorship of Joe Cerutti and assistant director Tony Colosimo, performed at Carnegie Hall December 26. Guest soloist was **Tim Waurick**; guest quartet was **LUNCH BREAK**; and guest emcee was **John Miller** (two-time quartet gold medalist with **NEW TRADITION** and **GRANDMA'S BOYS**, and Chief Marketing Officer at NBC Sports Group).

The young men of the **NO BORDERS YOUTH CHORUS** came from around the world – three countries, 24 states and provinces, 50 schools and 66 choruses. December 26, the same day as their performance, was the very first time these singers rehearsed/performed together.

This year, 20 selected members from the chorus performed Beethoven's 9th Symphony with a guest orchestra and chorus from Japan.

Timely Notes for Chapter Treasurers

If you are a new Treasurer and didn't make it to a Leadership Academy, you can download the Treasurers Manual from the Society website (also under Documents). And, there's a really useful month-by-month reminder list in the document "Chapter Pres, Sec & Treas Guide". Go to: <http://barbershop.org/document-center/category/70-chapter-treasurer-and-expenses.html>



by Bob Eckman, M-AD Treasurer

Harmony Society. Here is what each chapter Treasurer needs to do:

- File IRS Form 990-N or Form 990EZ or Form 990 with the IRS by the May 15 deadline. The table below shows which form you will need to complete, based on the chapter's gross revenue and year-end total assets.
- Send a copy of the completed 990 form to the Society office and retain a copy for the chapter.
- Submit a copy of the chapter financial review and year-end financial statements (Statement of Assets and Liabilities, and either a Balance Sheet or a cash account reconciliation report

May 15 is the deadline for filing your chapter's IRS 990 form as well as reporting the completion of the annual Financial Review.

Failure to file a 990-N, 990-EZ or a full 990 at least once every three years will lead to the automatic loss of a chapter's non-profit tax status, with negative consequences to the chapter, it's patrons, the district and the Barbershop

for chapters using the Cash Basis of accounting) to the Society office by May 15.

- Record completion of the 990 and Financial Review in EBiz (chapter Treasurer or Secretary).

IRS Form 990 Filing Information

Every US chapter MUST file an IRS 990 (N, EZ or the full form) by May 15.

For the 2013 tax year, here are the filing requirements:

Reference material and instructions for filing is available on the Society web site. From the main page, select Resources and Document Center in the top menu bar, then Tax Documents. Once you file, be sure to update your 990 status on EBiz.

Chapter Financial Review

Section 4.4 of the Chapter Treasurers Manual describes the financial review process. A sample form is in the Chapter Treasurers Exhibits manual and is available in Excel format on the Society web site (Resources/Document Center/Chapter Treasurer and Expenses/Chapter Treasurer Templates). As noted above, the completed Financial Review Form and year-end financial statements should be sent to the Society office. Update EBiz to record your completion of the review.

Useful Links

990N Filing: <http://epostcard.form990.org/>

If you would like to automate (somewhat) the filing process for forms 990 and 990EZ, the Center for Charitable Statistics at the Urban Institute runs an online 990 preparation and filing site. I've used this service for over 7

years and find it simplifies the work and reduces errors. Similar to tools like TurboTax, it guides you through the preparation of the form and checks for errors. It also saves your data from year to year for the historical parts of the form. The site is free for organizations with less than \$100,000 in gross receipts. Fees for larger organizations start at \$35. As part of the service you can file your 990 electronically with the IRS. You receive a .pdf copy for your records (and to email to Society HQ). Point your browser to: <http://efile.form990.org>

Finally, if you have any questions about the 990 filing or the Financial Review, please drop me an email or give me a call.

Bob Eckman, District Treasurer, (434) 589-1262
bob.eckman@comcast.net

CHAPTER GROSS RECEIPTS	FILE THESE FORMS WITH THE IRS	SEND TO SOCIETY HQ
\$0 - \$50,000	Form 990-N (electronic filing only)	File a copy of the electronic receipt with the Society office
\$50,001 - \$199,999, and total year end assets under \$500,000	Form 990EZ, Schedule A and Schedule T (if unrelated income is more than \$1,000)	File a copy of these forms with the Society office
\$200,000 and over, or total year end assets over \$500,000	Form 990, Schedule A and Schedule T (if unrelated income is more than \$1,000)	File a copy of these forms with the Society office

voices of gotham's indiegogo campaign was a success!

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

VOICES OF GOTHAM CAN'T WAIT TO SHOW YOU WHAT WE HAVE PLANNED FOR 2014 AND BEYOND!

The power of positive energy

It puts the 'fun' back in fundamentals

Barbershop Harmony Society leadership has been challenging chapters for the past several years to put more "fun" back into chapter meetings. Multiple Society-wide surveys in the past decade have revealed that a large percentage of barbershoppers feel that the music is getting too "serious," often because the contest stage is taking on too great an importance, and subsequently the "joy of singing" for many has diminished.

We all joined the Society because we love to sing barbershop harmony, but we choose to remain in the Society year after year



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

because we continue to enjoy the hobby.

We directors play a pivotal role in this regard, given how much time we spend in front of the chorus. Sure, we all want to improve musically and set our sights to higher musical standards. But we must ensure that our "drive to succeed" does not outweigh the need for our singers to have a good experience each time we get together to sing.

The power of positive energy plays a critical role in putting the "fun" back into singing. No matter how high you set the bar for success, positive energy does wonders toward fostering high morale and group unity, and constantly reinforces our love for singing.

One major hurdle that the director must overcome is the common tendency to isolate something in the singing that is going wrong and then stop to fix it. Instead, focus on something that is going right, and then challenge the men to do it ever better:

- (One way): Guys, that sounded choppy choppy choppy! Can't you sing it smoother?!?!?
- **(A more positive way): Leads, what a lovely, smooth melody you just sang! Basses, I bet you can sing your part just as smoothly this next time. Leads and Basses together; Baritones and Tenors, you be the judges!**
- (One way): Men, you look like a bunch of trees when you sing! No life or expression!
- **(A more positive way): Dave and Mike and Bob, come down off the risers and face the group. Fellas, these three men demonstrated TERRIFIC emotion and expression that last run-through! Let's sing it again, and this time, don't watch the director. Instead, just look at these three guys' faces and see if you can out-sell their performance!**
- (One way): Where is the air in the sound??? Every time you got to the end of a phrase, the sound died away!
- **(A more positive way): Wow! Did you hear how well in-tune that you sounded for the most part? Lots and lots of good choices, and did you hear the ring on that Chinese seventh??? If we can put more air into the tone and maintain it consistently all the way through each phrase, imagine how much better that will be! Let's do it again!**

*Variety is the spice of life,
and a chapter meeting filled
with interest and variety is
fun fun fun!*

Another way that positive energy can foster more fun in the chapter meeting is by planning a challenging and rewarding rehearsal. After warm-ups, just ease into the "meat" of the rehearsal by singing through a well-established repertoire piece or two that the chorus already knows.

Starting with a known quantity promotes confidence and allows the guys to get on the same musical page. Make sure to alternate between ballads and up-tunes, throw in some choreography review, work through some new music — which might, in fact, be quite difficult and taxing for the group — then sing a fun song or two to relax a bit.

Don't endlessly work the same passage or song over and over; mix things up to allow a sense of balance. And make sure to regularly incorporate some of the "eight points of fun": teach a tag, have a quartet activity, work on barbershop craft, break out into sectional rehearsals, welcome the guests and enjoy break time with them and each other, woodshed or sing a polecat or two, etc. Variety is the spice of life, and a chapter meeting filled with interest and variety is fun fun fun!

Finally, I highly recommend allowing plenty of time to celebrate your successes. They can be little ones: praise the chorus for learning and singing through the first half of the new contest ballad; thank the members with a perfect weekly attendance record each month; applaud the chorus for putting yeoman efforts into learning so much of their new choreography in less than a week.

Or they can be large successes: congratulate the men on a job well done on the annual show; rejoice with the chorus after performing and having a blast on the division contest stage; organize a chapter summer pot-luck picnic to celebrate all the musical joys of the first half of the year, or have a winter holiday party to cap off a terrific singing year together—and invite spouses, family members, and dear friends to come.

The power of positive energy knows no boundaries, and when the men leave the chapter meeting energized and excited, they will be anxious for next week's meeting to come. They may also bring a couple of friends next time to join in the fun. They might even want to spend extra time practicing their music and singing techniques at home in preparation for next week's musical adventure.

Whatever skills we directors are able to teach the men in our choruses, we must certainly encourage our singers to enjoy every bit of the ride!

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

Are M-AD Leadership Academies successful?

You bet they are!

Leadership Academy (LA) is where your chapter leaders acquire the knowledge and skills (or tricks of the trade)



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

they will need to be successful in the coming year.

In M-AD, we rotate faculty members so participants don't see the same faces every year. And we have found over time that each of our faculty members brings unique perspectives, experiences, and teaching techniques to their classes. This ensures participants are always entertained and actually learn new things, even if they are repeating in their jobs.

If you are a chapter secretary or treasurer, there always seem to be some changes to keep you on your toes. Why complicate your life by not knowing about them?

If you are in any other position, chances are there have been some new and interesting developments that can make that job a lot more fun. In 2013 we asked the students if they had learned at least one new thing or had acquired one new skill they could take home and put to immediate use as a result of attending their classes. The results at all three LAs were the same. It was unanimous – all hands

were raised in agreement.

In 2013 we had 174 officers (about 31.5% of the possible 552 officers who could have attended) from 39 chapters (about 42% of our 92 M-AD chapters) attend our LAs. That's an increase of 45 students, but unfortunately a decrease of 4 chapters from our 2012 LA attendance.

We know that asking all new chapter officers to take a day to attend a Leadership Academy can be a burden for some. But we also know that some chapters find it difficult to afford to send their officers to a Leadership Academy.

So in 2011 the M-AD Board of Directors approved recommendations to continue holding three annual LAs to reduce transportation and per diem costs and use a tiered attendance payment plan. The following pricing was and will be in effect up until two weeks before each LA starts. After that each student will cost \$45.00.

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

I have a dream. In my dream every one of our 92 chapters sends at least one officer to one of the three Leadership Academies that will be scheduled at the end of 2014. For this to happen, each chapter has to conduct their elections in early October, then report their officers in eBiz, and register at least one of them for one of the following three Leadership Academies:

October 18, 2014 – Southern LA in Northern Virginia

November 1 or 8, 2014 – Northern LA in Morris Plains, N.J. (date dependent on when the Society Leadership Forum is held in Nashville, TN)

January 17, 2015 – Central LA in Newark, Del. (great option if your chapter held late elections or just could not attend either the northern or southern LA)

Note that if an officer can't attend one of these Leadership Academies, your chapter is free to send someone else to cover the class and bring back the information.

In this way your chapter doesn't lose out and the officer involved may have just found an assistant! Plan now to take advantage of this chance to transform your officers into the leadership team your chapter needs to have a fabulous and fun-filled future.

If you have any questions that were not covered during your last LA session, feel free to call the faculty member for your session or see the 2014 *Who Do You Call?* document posted on the M-AD website.

HARMONIZER SHOWS 2014

THE METRO- AREA'S BEST MODERN A CAPPELLA GROUPS WILL COMPETE IN...

The Lincoln Theater
Washington DC

The A Ca-Challenge

WITH A \$1000 PRIZE TO THE WINNER OF THIS CONTEST, HOSTED BY THE ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS!

MAR 22

THE ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS & THE AMBASSADORS OF HARMONY, TOGETHER IN...

CRESCENDO!

TWO MEN'S CHORAL POWERHOUSES IN THEIR FIRST JOINT SHOW! WITH TOP QUARTETS VOCAL SPECTRUM, CROSSROADS, & DA CAPO!

GMU Arts Center
Fairfax VA

JUN 21

THE ULTIMATE WOMEN'S CHORUS MEGA-CONCERT IS

Harmony at the Harbor

HOSTED BY THE HARMONIZERS, STARRING THE PRIDE OF BALTIMORE CHORUS, AND FEATURING THE GREATEST SLATE OF FEMALE QUARTETS YOU WILL EVER HEAR!

Meyerhoff Hall
Baltimore MD

NOV 3

EVERYONE WANTS TO BE THE FIRST TO START THE SEASON AT

The Harmonizer Holiday Show

ALWAYS SOLD-OUT EARLY! CELEBRATE WITH THE ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS AT THEIR WACKIEST AND THEIR MOST SUBLIME!

1st Baptist Church
Alexandria VA

DEC 5-6

Society Board inducts new men plans to establish new working relationship with staff

NEW BOARD MEMBER ELECTED:

The Mid-Atlantic District's **Doug Brown** (Hell's Kitchen Chapter) joins **Gary Plaag** and **Dick Powell** on the BHS Board of Directors. Doug was elected to fill out the remaining two years of **Dave Calland's** term when Dave resigned to join Harmony Foundation.

SOCIETY BOARD QUARTERLY REPORT

GETTING ON WITH THINGS:

We don't have a large corporate staff in Nashville to take on all the work that needs to be done to sustain our chapters and the Society. This is where the Society Operations Team comes into play. Staffed by volunteers from across the Society, the OT reports directly to Society CEO **Marty Monson**.

In 2014, the OT committees will focus on fewer initiatives in an effort to do a few things well versus many things not so well. Below are some items from each committee worth noting, to give you an idea of the direction things are heading.

Chorus Director Development Committee (Joe Cerutti, Staff – Steve Scott, Volunteer)

In 2014 the CDDC will focus primarily on developing content for major areas of education within the BHS and managing programs such as Director Certification.

CDDC will also help develop a follow-up plan for those music educators we reach at American Choral Directors Association events throughout 2014.

Contest and Judging Committee (Rick Spencer, Staff – Kevin Keller, Volunteer)

Judges will be reviewing sheet music and assigning new difficulty levels that align with the levels found in other major distributors of choral sheet music. They will also assess the contestability of these pieces.

Chapter Support and Leadership Training (Mike O'Neill, Staff – David Montgomery, Volunteer)

This is an area that continues to struggle in achieving its goals of supporting and training chapter officers. In 2014 they will identify short-term needs of today's Leadership Academies and develop an operations model for leadership training going forward.

Events (Dusty Schleier, Staff – Kevin Pape, Volunteer)

The events committee may become two sets of "work groups." One would focus on district-level support and training and sharing of best practices for district-level conventions. The second work group would serve as the permanent volunteer team in charge of various aspects of Society-level conventions.

Chapter Development (formerly membership) (Caki Watson, Staff – Christian Hunter, Volunteer)

The Chapter Development Committee will collect "best practices" and communicate these on an ongoing basis, especially as they relate to the recruitment focus area of the chapter visitation program.

Music & Performance (Adam Scott, Staff – Larry Monson, Volunteer)

The Music & Performance committee will



photo credit — Patty Leveille, BHS

Society Immediate Past President Alan Lamson inducts the 2014 Board of Directors as Mid'l Antics editor Roxanne Powell looks on. New to the board this year from the Mid-Atlantic District are (from left) Dick Powell and Doug Brown, while Gary Plaag will be serving his third year as member-at-large.

develop and test a model to plan, organize, and run a music festival.

Marketing & Public Relations (Brian Lynch & Lorin May, Staff – Steve Stripling, Volunteer)

In 2014 we'll be exploring the possibilities of establishing a smaller committee or align this function with the PROBE team. The committee will work with PROBE to find and share content that demonstrates chapter success stories in all aspects of their lives.

Outreach (formerly Youth in Harmony) (Joe Cerutti, Staff – Terry Reichenbach, Volunteer)

In 2014 the Outreach committee will focus on communication and support for Outreach programs and assistance in this area to the BHS staff. The committee will restructure and function as a smaller workgroup with specific objectives for each of the main Outreach initiatives.

LONG ISLAND SOUND CHORUS PRESENTS

Barbershop memories...

**NATE AND TOM
GO TO COLLEGE**



Sunday, February 16, 2014 at 2PM at the Dix Hills Performing Arts Center

305 N. Service Road, Dix Hills, NY 11746

Featuring Internationally Ranked Quartets

- 'Round Midnight

- The Good Old Days

With:

- Quatrain

- Bodyguard

Ticket prices are \$15 adults, \$10 seniors/students,

\$25 VIP section (center of first 3 rows)

For tickets and information, call Steve at (516) 223-4705

or email smarrin1@aol.com

The article which follows, "Our Dimensions and Our Opportunities" is a reprint from the December, 1953 edition of the **Harmonizer**.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

by Rob France,
VP Atlantic Division



I find this article worthy of reprinting here and now because it serves as a reminder of the great breadth and depth of opportunity and skill level available to us as members of this singing Society.

In other writings I've begun to refer to the Barbershop Harmony Society as "our fair Society" because there is a lot of opportunity for me. Singing in a quartet can be a very challenging, revealing, and rewarding experience. Singing in a chorus is totally different. Use of musical skills, administration skills, or and leadership skills can be explored to whatever depth you care to strive for.

As a fairly recent inductee into the Barbershop Harmony Society, I have learned a great deal from reading through some of these past articles. For instance, while it was not possible for me to attend International convention in 1960, I can gain a sense of what happened by browsing through the write-up.

And again, some of the issues which challenge us now, in today's culture, are not really new issues. Some of our issues have been the same throughout the years. Sometimes returning to a former thought pattern, as captured in these articles, helps to spur new thought, or serves to challenge our new thinking.

This article, along with the entire collection of past editions of the **Harmonizer**, can be found on the Barbershop Harmony Society website at <http://barbershop.org/the-harmonizer.html>. I'm sure glad someone decided that it was worthwhile to capture these precious resources.

An Address to the SPEBSQSA House of Delegates, Detroit, June 11, 1953

by Dean Snyder, Int'l 2nd Vice-President,
Chairman, Int'l Committee on Long Range Planning

Mr. President and Members of the House of Delegates:

I

I am glad to talk with you about the future of our Society. It is perhaps the most important subject we could discuss at this first meeting of the new House of Delegates. Fifteen years of history lie back of us. Our foundations are strong. We can look forward with confidence and it is appropriate to do so.

The occasion is important. "The old order passeth, giving way to the new" is an apt quotation to describe our meeting here. The House of Delegates plan broadens the base of representation in our Society. It is evidence both of our vigor and our maturity that we could make this significant change so smoothly. As a legislative body, we are charged from here on out with responsibilities as leaders and as statesmen. This day is an important milestone in our progress.

The subject is important. You have asked me to discuss long-range planning. What could be more vital? The biologist defines life in terms of growth. Our existence as a Society and our growth as a Society are likewise one and the same thing. During the past year, we have given fresh dignity and emphasis to the business of looking ahead. We have stopped using a microscope to find flaws in favor of binoculars to view—as Rowland Davis once said—"The third range of mountains ahead", and we have begun to examine our growth in qualitative rather than quantitative terms. Where do we want to be ten years from now, five years from now—or next year? That is the question.

Long-range planning is not magic. We want to be practical. We are not searching with binoculars for magical illusions or mystical visions of outer space. We are searching to find something that can be seen, understood, and applied. Do we have dimensions as a Society? I think so, and in a minute I will try to tell you what I mean, but first, we must dispose of another preliminary item.

Long-range planning is not a set of reports. Written material may not be the answer to what we are seeking. This job is different from framing a new set of by-laws or revising the contest judging rules. The administrative form and the management of our Society are important, but this is not our life blood, nor our real substance. What we are, what we stand for, and

where we are going—these things represent the substance of our inquiry.

We have said that these things must be seen, understood, and applied. We must do more than read about this substance. We must "feel" it, think it, talk about it, and we must do something personal about it.

I prefer to think that long-range planning is in large part thoughtful discussion and thinking ahead, not just a lot of reports on paper. Above all, it is the active participation of each one in our affairs as a Society and with an eye to the future.

Where do ideas come from? Our Committee has utilized these last few months in a review of our problems—the microscopic approach—and in the exchange and collection of constructive ideas. A large bundle of correspondence has resulted. Many persons other than the committee members have contributed. Past issues of the **Harmonizer** have been combed. Discussions at the Boston mid-winter meet-

ing were most helpful. I want to thank a host of our members for the thought and attention given to long-range planning. These sparks of renewed interest are very valuable to the Society. Before we are through, many more must become involved in this process of "thoughtful discussion and thinking ahead."

II

I promised to talk about our dimensions as a Society because unless we can see and "feel" what we are, there is nothing substantial to take hold of as we move forward. I believe that we have, within the concept of our Society, something larger and more marvelous than we have ever dreamed of—if we can but see its three dimensions and relate those dimensions to our opportunities for growth and for public acceptance.

The horizontal dimension. Within our Society framework, there is possibility for a wide range of activities. No member need suffer because he can't sing in a quartet, and no member need grow old in service. We are a quartet society, yes, but we are a lot more than just a quartet society. Think of the many opportunities that our members have! Here are some of them:

We can sing in quartets.

We can sing in choruses—small choruses of "precisionaires" or large choruses comprised of singers from one or several chapters.

We can compete in quartet and chorus contests.

We can take part in chapter leadership and administration — as officers or committee chairmen.

We can take part in area, district, and international affairs as officers, area counselors, or on committee assignments.

We can become specialists—judges, chorus directors, quartet coaches, parade producers, song leaders, masters of ceremonies.

We can write and edit — articles for chapter bulletins, district publications, and the **Harmonizer**, as well as humorous pieces and show scripts.

We can study and learn more about harmony, ear-training, history of music (e.g., history of popular music in America), barbershop craft, including the famous Reagan "clock system".

We can compose the lyrics and melody of songs.

We can make arrangements (see pages 18-19, June 1953 **Harmonizer**).

We can become collectors—old songs, quartet records, tape recordings, back issues of the **Harmonizer**, pictures of Society quartets and special events.

We can visit other chapters, travel and attend parades, help organize new chapters.

We can make new SPEBSQSA friends in other parts of the country and keep in touch with them through correspondence — exchanging ideas, music, and just "gossip".

We can have a wonderful vacation one week in every year by attending the International Contest and Convention.

We can make talks about SPEBSQSA and properly interpret its program and its craft concepts to clubs and civic organizations, to school and college music groups, and to people generally.

We can take part in chapter programs of community service — sing in hospitals, military camps, civic and church gatherings, aid in campaigns for charity and for cultural development — and thus work to make our communities better places in which to live.

We can help make America strong by helping to "Keep America Singing".

Communication is important

Before you judge an article by its title, consider what you think this article is about, then read the article and see if you guessed correctly. Communication takes many different forms in today's culture. I will not attempt to comprehensively treat this topic in this little article.

I think we can all agree that when we sing a song, we are communicating some message to our audience. If we are successful singers then after having sung a song, the audience should be able to feel what we mean.

NEWS from ATLANTIC DIVISION
by Rob France,
VP Atlantic Division



I don't know what instruction your director has given, or what coaching you've received, but I believe I've heard that on many levels from several sources, and I've experienced it as I'm sure you have too. Sometimes lyrics are incredibly beautiful, and sometimes the lyric is a simple utility to convey a thought.

Sometimes you can cause the listener to change his perception based on how the lyric is delivered. For instance, think about the different feel you get when hearing the original Breaking Up Is Hard To Do from the early 60s, as compared to the "remake" by the original artist as a "blues-y kind of feel".

Many years ago, before we had computers, cell phones, and the internet, folks used to go for a nice Sunday afternoon drive and "come a-callin'". For folks

to be sociable and nice, they would come a-callin' not too early and not too late. A real, live, knock on the door was followed by greetings, catching up, settin' up in the living room, kids playing in the yard, or playing this or that game, and momma fetching tea and biscuits, cookies, or some little snack to have.

Sometimes folks would gather 'round a piano and sing some hymns from church, or popular tunes heard on the radio.

As the adult-folk sat and caught up there would be stories to tell, news to tell from either family, talk of current events, and perhaps some future plans. Sometimes conversations were between all parties and sometimes between two or three individuals; sometimes a little louder; sometimes quieter.

The "art of conversation" was essential, but not always had. When the visit was done, the folks had connected with each other, and passed along best wishes for each other.

Have you ever done this? If yes, then it is likely that you are a little older than me, and you might still do this with the many friends that you made along your lifetime. If you have not, then I'd guess you are similar in age to me, or younger, and part of our "now" generation.

As many of us are aware, today's culture operates at a more frantic pace and can be construed as "noisy". Cable television, satellite radio, internet, websites, email, cell phone, texting, blogging, tweeting, online newspapers, social media, etc., etc. — lots of information infiltrates our day. Some of the younger generation is "comfortable" in this culture. If they cannot "be online", they are out of place, or out of sorts, and get upset about it until they can get online.

OK, now for what is on my mind.

Years ago life was simpler. People came a'callin',

you could stroll along the lane if you wanted to, greet some passers-by, or putter around the garage or shop for awhile, maybe even hum a tune or two. When the latest issue of this-or-that magazine arrived you could re-connect. You would receive letters and other correspondence in the mail, and if something urgent came up, the organization you were in would activate the phone chain.

You would communicate in a more personal manner, often in person, verbally, with inflection, expression, and meaning, or in well written prose (probably this article is not a good example of great prose).

Now-a-days, everyone sends EMAIL because it is faster, cheaper, and widely effective. However, even though the method of communication is different, the goals of communication are the same. In order for communication via email to be successful, as the sender, or originator must take caution in using words, phrases, and structure so that the message can be perceived by the reader. It is vitally important that the email be re-read before hitting send because once it is gone, it's out there. Sometimes some things are better left out-of-print, but this really depends on the audience.

Now we've arrived at the most critical part... the response by the reader. In the living room or in person, when communication happens, you can see it in each other's eyes or other bodily reactions to what is said. Not so in email. The sender may take extra time and care in crafting a nice, well written message and send it out, expecting to convey an important message. If the recipient reads the message, the information is received and likely perceived. That is great, but communication has not really occurred because the sender has not received a response!

Often times we find ourselves frustrated at

If the recipient reads the message, the information is received and likely perceived.

That is great, but communication has not really occurred because the sender has not received a response!

communication through email because one party or the other misinterprets what is written, or there is no closure to the conversation. Often times the tell-tale sign of this is the comment "Hey, did you get my email?" or "What did you mean by that!?"

When in person, or even talking on the phone, we know we've communicated by the litany of "oh", "yes", "what", and "I hear ya – I know what you mean". We know we've reached the end of the encounter because we say "good-bye".

I think it is important as e-mail writers we realize that we need to be sure we understand how someone may interpret, or misinterpret what we say, and to be patient to make sure the correct message is perceived by our readers. Readers, it is vitally important to give some indication or feedback to the writer to let them know you understand.

Novels, literature, books, magazine articles, newspaper articles are usually one-sided communication for which there is little or no opportunity for reply. Some e-mail is like that, but some is bi-directional and requires response and reply.

At the end of the day, it's just another means by which we can communicate. Use the tool wisely and it won't injure you in any way.

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GROWTH + E*CITEMENT

Participation is up across the board

NEWS from WESTERN DIVISION



*by Don Myers,
VP Western Division*

I am pleased to report that **George Birse** has accepted appointment as the new Chapter Counselor for the State College chapter. George attended the M-AD January 11 Leadership Academy and completed training with none other than M-AD CSLT VP **Chuck Harner**.

Chapter Counselors across the division are reporting positive results for their chapters with the **York, Pa.** chapter surging out in the lead for growth and excitement. One of the more encouraging signs in the division is that 12 chapters have indicated they plan to participate in the joint Western/Atlantic division convention scheduled for May in Harrisburg. Included in the 12 is the **Lebanon Singing Cedars**, who have not participated in a division convention since 2009.

The Youth in Harmony program is alive and well in the Harrisburg chapter. Their continuing program is drawing 8-10 young men each week, despite school being back in session.

We are working to finalize details for two chapter president council meetings tentatively scheduled for late February and August. These meetings provide and opportunity for chapter presidents in the division to share information, help each other with various challenges, and build on the foundation set at the M-AD Leadership Academy.

Among the fun things a DVP gets to do is conduct chapter officer installations and be invited to officiate at chapter singing events. I had the pleasure of doing both at the end of 2013. On December 21 I installed the officers of the **Reading, Pa.** chapter and on October 21, along with my quartet **Gent's Night Out**, judged the Lebanon chapter's Novice Quartet contest.

REALIZE YOUR DREAMS THROUGH PLANNING

Seven results to be desired

Happy New Year and welcome 2014! It's going to be another great year of singing and performing. As 2013 is behind us we can celebrate the fun that we had singing and performing for others and for ourselves.

NEWS from SOUTHERN DIVISION



*by Hardman Jones,
Acting VP Southern Division*

It was a great year for singing in the Southern Division. Now it is the time to put your plans together for 2014. *What are your hopes and dreams for 2014? What are your chapter's plans for more singing fun in 2014?*

Hopefully you have started the planning to make 2014 a year filled with great singing, great performances and great fun. There will be many opportunities to sing this year...and I know that we all want to sing and perform our best for our audiences. Do your homework, learn your music, and be prepared for every chapter meeting, rehearsal, and performance to sing your best.

Some of the things that I would like to see happen in the Southern Division this year:

Emphasis on retention. We joined the Society because we love to sing and have fun doing it. Let's do all that we can to keep the fun in singing for everyone. Pay special

attention to our newest members... get them involved in a singing activity...quartet, octet, VLQ, big chorus. Find a job that they can do and make a contribution to the chapter.

Increase in membership....recruit more good men that enjoying singing.

More SD quartets competing in Roanoke in May. There were 22 quartets competing in 2013. It would be great to have 25 or more.

More SD chorus competing in Roanoke. 13 SD choruses competed in 2013. It would be great to have 15 or more.

Greater participation at Harmony College-East from the Southern Division. HCE is a fantastic weekend for singing and fellowship. There are opportunities for quartet coaching by some of the best coaches in the Society, new courses to be offered, great shows, and.... best of all....great fellowship and opportunities for singing all during the weekend.

More inter-chapter activities. This is a great way to share the joy of singing with others.

More singing – There will be many opportunities to sing with others and ring a chord....a quartet, chapter meeting, public performances, Division and District conventions, International conventions, Harmony College East, Harmony University, the quartet Brigades... So many songs....so little time.

More to come on all of these initiatives. Have a great year. See you in Roanoke in May.

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NEXT DEADLINE:
Apr. 15, 2014

Want to see your name in "print?" Have you or your quartet or your chorus had an amazing barbershop experience? Tell me all about it: editor@midatlanticdistrict.com

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Making a Difference!

The photo inset to the right shows the terrific group of men who serve you as your District's Board of Directors for 2014. It is our commitment to do all we can to continue to guide our District's path toward "True North," providing the programs and resources for chapters and members to have the most positive and satisfying educational, performance and social experiences possible! We are committed to "making a difference" in

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by **Bill Colosimo,**
M-AD President



your barbershop life. But it is important to see how all components of our Society are joining to "make a difference," too! Even you!

A New Theme

More and more, you'll see and hear the new tagline of our Society, "Making the Music that's Making a Difference." Your Society Board and our effervescent CEO, Marty Monson, have embarked on an effort to enhance our "brand"—the impression on the public that promotes who we are and what we do—by crystalizing the joys of singing, the service we perform and the outreach we extend to our communities and other like organizations into this important message. As scores of Society leaders met in Nashville in November, including six representative leaders of MAD, we engaged in discussions and crafted specific plans to move our Society and our art form into a new dimension of success. We agreed that we could no longer be the "best kept secret," either as a form of music or as an organization, if we were to be true to the Society's mission

and vision of enriching lives through singing!" But we also agreed that—in order to move forward in a substantive way—we'd have to have more than the active involvement of our Board, our CEO and our District Presidents Council. After all...what's at the core of our organization? Our CHAPTERS!

We Asked...You Answered...We ACT!

In order to determine how we might unify our resources to truly "make a difference" with our music and our organization, to engage the largest number of men of all ages in a way of life in which music plays such a profound role, and to encourage young people to discover the power of music—particularly singing in groups—in our schools and communities, the entire Society—including MAD—embarked in 2011 and 2012 on a rigorous survey of all Society chapters to determine their most pressing needs. Upon analysis of the results, all District Presidents and the CEO aligned to prepare and execute action plans that directly address the top five "focus areas" identified by virtually all chapters:

- * More shared activities among chapters
- * Improve communication with Staff, Society and District leadership
- * Help with recruitment (NOT just "new members," but qualified music leaders and patrons, too!)
- * More coaching resources and opportunities
- * Modernization of our music (this is primarily a Staff initiative)



I'm so privileged to serve as President of the Mid-Atlantic District Barbershop Harmony Society with such a hard-working and talented Board of Directors! FROM LEFT, Roger Tarpy, Richard Powell, Keith M. Jones, Bill Colosimo., Ig Jakovac, Robert Eckman, Hardman Jones and Dennis Ritchey. (Not pictured, Christian Hunter.) Together, we're serving 90 chapters and 3000 men who are "Making the Music...that's Making a Difference!"

You will see a powerful summary of this Society-wide initiative, all designed to enhance your chapter and your personal barbershop experience, in Marty Monson's article in the most recent Harmonizer (Jan-Feb 2013, pp. 14-17). Or simply click here: <http://bit.ly/1fQmLMM>.

Trust me when I tell you that this is the most fundamentally significant approach to advancing our Society—and your enjoyment of it—that I have seen in my 37 years as a barbershopper! And I'm so excited for all of us that I'm giving my "all" to the effort!

District's Commitment to helping your Chapter "Make a Difference"

My "all," though, is but a small drop in our success bucket as a District! Your Board, with what I anticipate will be the full support of your House of Delegates in March, has agreed to channel all our 2014 efforts toward meeting these needs...your needs! In fact, the first resolution at this January's Board meeting stated: "The Mid-Atlantic District Board of Directors commits to

concentrate its 2014 policies, operations and resources toward successful achievement of the goals established Society-wide as the outcome of the 2013 Society Leadership Forum."

Throughout the pages of this issue of *Mid'l Antics*, and in every program offered to you and your chapter, you'll see the tireless effort of all the "real workers," the members of your District Operations Team, under the fine leadership of EVP Ig Jakovac, who are empowered by the Board to work directly with you to help you build and sustain success in your chapter!

One of the potential outcomes of our renewed efforts at "making a difference" that Marty and I envision together extends far beyond our "internal health." A picture with his article shows the Rose Bowl in Pasadena...full...chal-

lenging us to, chapter-by-chapter, develop a presence in our community which will introduce men who love to sing—particularly young men—to be among 100,000 we can touch with our music through workshops, festivals and clinics in 2014. Growing and sustaining you and our chapters is important, first and foremost! But just imagine the potential impact we can have together when we leverage our collective successes! Wow!

This coming year is truly an opportunity for significant positive outcomes for all of us...if we work TOGETHER! That's the key. For all my passion and the support you give me, I can't do it alone. But together, we CAN "Make the Music that's Making a Difference!" So...when you see me at our upcoming Spring Convention and Contest in Reston in March ([REGISTER NOW!](#)), please make a point of connecting with me. Or, as I always do, I welcome your emails or calls to discuss how we can help you and your chapter! billcatps@aol.com or 571-213-7376.