



MAD represented by:
6 quartets • 3 youth quartets
1 middle school ensemble
4 choruses
at the big show in Nashville

Volume 47, Issue 3 • FALL 2016

A BULLETIN FOR EVERY BARBERSHOPPER IN THE MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT



YOUTH WORLD CHAMPS PRATT STREET POWER!

Tenor: Vincent Sandroni

Lead: Ed Schubel

Bass: Darren Schmitte

Baritone: Ben Hawker





PRATT STREET POWER TAKES WORLD YOUTH GOLD
MAD well represented by six quartets, four choruses, three youth quartets and a middle school ensemble.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To perpetuate the old American institution, the barbershop quartet, and to promote and encourage vocal harmony and good fellowship among its members throughout the Mid-Atlantic District by the formation in every city, town, and hamlet, of local chapters, composed of members interested in the purposes of this corporation, which shall be the same as the purposes of the Society; to hold annual, local, and district contests in quartet and chorus singing, to encourage and promote the education of its members and the public in music appreciation; to initiate, promote, and participate in charitable projects; and to promote public appreciation of barbershop quartet and chorus singing by publication and dissemination thereof.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

MAD CONTINGENT SHINES in Nashville

PSP takes Youth crown
Da Capo reaches finals
Three choruses place in top 10
Wildcat Harmonizers wow crowd

Mid-Atlantic District's **Pratt Street Power** got the International convention in Nashville started with a bang. This brand-new quartet won the recently re-named Harmony Foundation International Youth Barbershop Quartet Contest Tuesday evening in Schermerhorn Symphony Center, the home of the Nashville Symphony Orchestra, with a score of 82.0%. The quartet was formed only four months before the contest.

Although youth quartets can no longer compete in both the youth and open quartet contest during the same year, 13 of the 30 competing youth quartets posted scoring averages of at least 76% — the qualifying score for the open contest — including all

See **NASHVILLE**, continued on next page



PRATT STREET POWER



STUDENTS OF THE GAME



BROTHERS IN ARMS

photos this page — Chris Wethered



NASHVILLE

Continued from previous page

our M-AD youth quartets.

The second highest scoring Mid-Atlantic District quartet in this contest was **Students of the Game**, tying for tenth with a score of 77.4%. The third M-AD quartet, **Brothers in Arms**, placed 13th with a score of 76.4%. The quality of these youth quartets is amazing.

For the first time, youth down to middle school age were allowed to compete. Some performed at a level that would have qualified them for the M-AD district contest. Several of the previous years' competitors competed in the open quartet competition.

Barbershop Harmony Society International Quartet Contest

Da Capo was M-AD's highest scoring quartet, achieving a spot in the finals round and placing 10th in the open contest with a score of 86.4%.

Route 1 advanced to the semi-finals and placed 19th with a score of 82.4%.

The rest of our M-AD quartets placed as follows: **Gimme Four**, 24th with a score of 80.3%; **Frank the Dog**, 28th with a score of 79.4%; **Last Men Standing**, 30th with a score of 79.1%; and **Up All Night**, 31st with a score of 79.0%.

First place, after two second place finishes, was taken by **Forefront**, from the Cardinal District, with a score of 93.3%. Second place went to **Lemon Squeezy**, from Sweden, with a score of 92.8%. Third place was taken by **Main Street**, from the Sunshine District, for a record seventh time, with a score of 92.6%. **Signature** from the Sunshine District, placed fourth with a score of 90.9%. Last year they placed 15th. Fifth place went to **Throwback** also from the Sunshine District, with a score of 89.1%.



DA CAPO



ROUTE 1



GIMME FOUR

THROWBACK

photos this page — Lorin May

See NASHVILLE, continued on next page



FRANK THE DOG



LAST MEN STANDING



UP ALL NIGHT

NASHVILLE

Continued from previous page

Barbershop Harmony Society International Chorus Contest

The chorus competition was held Friday with two sessions totaling 29 choruses. First place went to the **Ambassadors of Harmony** from the Central States District, with a score of 96.8%. **The Central Standard Chorus** also from the Central States District was second, with a score of 95.2%. Third place was taken by the **Masters of Harmony** from the Far Western District, with a score of 94.0%. Fourth place went to the **Toronto Northern Lights** from the Ontario District, with a score of 92.8%. **Sound of the Rockies** from the Rocky Mountain District placed fifth, with a score of 90.2%.

The **Alexandria Harmonizers** tied for sixth with a score of 89.6%. **Parkside Harmony** from Hershey, PA, in their first international competition only a year and a half after their founding, placed eighth, with a score of 87.8%. The **Voices of Gotham** placed tenth with a score of 87.3% and **Brothers in Harmony** placed 14th with a score of 83.4%.

The Association of International Champions presented their annual show on two consecutive evenings. The **Auto Towners** were honored on their 50th anniversary and **The Ritz** on their 25th. The AIC Chorus presented several numbers directed by Tony De Rosa. The remainder of the show saw performances by The Ritz and several recent championship quartets.

Without a doubt, the audience favorite at this convention was the performance of John Wernega's **Wildcat Harmonizers**. These elementary and middle-school students brought tears of joy with their tightly choreographed routines and youthful zest and innocence. M-AD attendees were proud to claim them as from our District. It was amazing. You shoulda been there! If you have not attended an international convention you cannot possibly know what you are missing. Try it, you'll like it!

Adapted from an article by Bruce Hansen in the August 2016 issue of The Atlantic Gazette.

photos this page — Lorin May



ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS



WILDCAT HARMONIZERS



PARKSIDE HARMONY

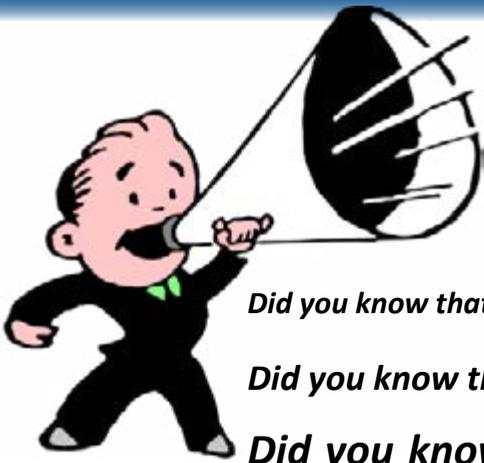


VOICES OF GOTHAM



BROTHERS IN HARMONY

photos this page — Chris Wethered



Calling All Seniors

Did you know that there are approximately 2,000 seniors (age 55 and up) in the Mid-Atlantic District?

Did you know that seniors make up 78% of the district membership?

Did you know that in the last three years only seven (7) senior quartets have entered the District Senior Quartet contest at the Spring Prelim Convention?

That's a participation rate of 1.4%.

Only six (6) senior quartets entered the last three division contests. Let's face it, there is a serious lack of participation by senior quartets in all of the district contests. In a district the size of ours — with as many senior singers we have — one would expect many more senior quartets to participate.

A little history is in order.

Since 2014 the Spring Convention has combined the District Senior Quartet contest with one of the four contests for District Representative to the Mid-Winter International (Note: Two "sessions" within one contest). The three division contests are also considered International Pre-Lims for senior quartets to establish a score for final determination of the District Representative.

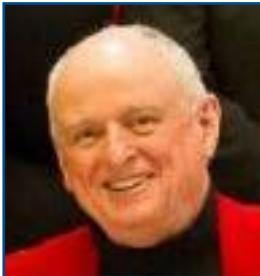
Thus the District Representative is not known until after the last division contest in the spring. All this is now described on the M-AD website by starting with **M-AD Home**, clicking on **Site Map** and scrolling down until you get to the **Contest and Judging** information.

Following the Spring Convention, I thought

there should be a way to get more senior quartets to participate in the competition opportunities. Let's just say that Gary Plaag made me an offer that I couldn't refuse. Before I knew it, I become the Senior Quartet Advocate for the District. In the absence of other guidance, I see my role as:

- Encouraging the formation of more senior quartets and their participation in the competition processes,
- Advocating and lobbying for rule changes that will facilitate and reward senior quartet participation, and
- Improving district-wide recognition of our successful senior quartets.

If you have any suggestions that could be the basis for policy and program changes that would enhance the entire spectrum of senior quartet life in the district, please contact me at philip.merkel@verizon.net. I look forward to serving you and representing your interests to the district management team.



by Phil Merkel, Senior Quartet Advocate

Oh, what a beautiful morning!

Gents Nite Out Quartet continues to entertain all over the Harrisburg area. Over the last 3 months we recorded 14 jobs. Here are two that really stand out.

The first one was for a couple who attend Harrisburg chapter shows regularly, but had to miss this year since the wife was in the middle of chemotherapy. The husband called and requested a visit from a quartet because his wife was terribly disappointed at missing the annual show. Gents Night Out sang Ain't Misbehavin' and Up a Lazy River along with several other tunes for the couple and a friend who just happened to be visiting at the time.

Turns out that Up a Lazy River was the wife's favorite song and she used to dance to it when she was in high school. And her friend was touched by Ain't Misbehavin' since she had just lost her husband a month earlier and the lyrics ("No one to talk too, all by myself, no one to walk with but I'm happy on the shelf") touched her deeply.

Gents Night Out had no idea our song selection would hit that close to home. But you can never tell when the music we perform is going to resonate so powerfully with someone in the audience.

The second one was for a guy from Albany, NY, who ordered a song for his dad's first day of his retirement and at 7:30 in the morning. It seems that when he was growing up his dad would come in every Saturday morning and wake him and his brother up singing show tunes. His dad's favorite was "Oh What a Beautiful Morning".

He and his brother hated that song and wanted the quartet to wake their dad up with that song as payback. And it was to be sung outside his bedroom window which was to be opened by his wife without his knowledge!

Well turns out dad was already up and sitting on the screened in porch, drinking coffee when we came through the side yard and snuck up behind him and burst into "There's a Bright Golden Haze on the Meadow".

He about fell off the chair, doubled over, and howled in delight. We finished off with a few more songs and then went to breakfast. All in all, it was well worth getting up at 5 a.m. to sing — just for that reaction.

We just love being in a quartet. You never know how you will touch someone's life.

— By Don Myers

A Case Study in Reaching Out



Members of the Richmond Chapter introduce barber-shop harmony to the Virginia State University School of Music in Petersburg. BHS HQ provided copies of articles on the roots of barber-shop to flesh out the seminar. All agreed: It's a Better World. Singing.

Pat Stapleton, VP of Membership and Chapter Development for the **Richmond Chapter** had an idea. He looked around the local area and realized that Richmond had a rich history. Not only rich in traditional historical sites and events, but rich in the culture of harmony singing going back to the very beginnings of black history in our country. And in his view, this was an opportunity and an untapped source of future barbershop singers.

Pat contacted Cortez Dial, a fellow University of Southern California alum who was a faculty/staff member at the Virginia State University (VSU) in Petersburg, Virginia. The VSU student body is predominantly African-American and the school has an excellent music program, featuring a Gospel Choral group that has toured internationally for several years. Cortez, formerly Chief of Staff to the University President, helped Pat get in touch with the VSU School of Music.

Pat and fellow Richmond chapter member **Jerry Parr** met with Professor James Holden, Professor George Tuckwiler, the Interim Chair of the School of

Music, and several other members of the music faculty. Pat and Jerry proposed a program to introduce barbershop harmony to the students, and to alumni who might not have found an avenue to keep their craft alive. Ms. Anita Wynn, VSU head of alumni relations, joined in the discussion and was highly interested in this discussion and the information Pat and Jerry provided about the African-American roots of barbershop music.

Shortly thereafter the Richmond chapter sent a VLQ to VSU as featured performers at a noon general seminar attended by students from the School of Music. BHS HQ provided copies of articles on the roots of barbershop and, in addition to the VSU students, a local middle school music teacher brought her entire class to the performance. The program was a great success, and the music well received. The program was the talk of campus for the next week!

Here are some of the lessons Pat learned from this effort in his own words.

Target marketing. "Go after the best prospects who already have an interest in singing. In this case it was music school alumni and students in the music school."

Fill the pipeline. "Sales guys will tell you that there is a huge importance in developing as many prospects in the pipeline as possible, because the actual sales close rate can be very small, and the sales cycle can be very long!"

Branding/networking. "Establish brand visibility right up front. Make sure people are aware of you and what you do. Spend time networking in target rich environments where your target market hangs out. And have a killer elevator speech and be able to recite it with precision."

Disciplined follow-up. "The "sales cycle" can be a long one. It may take more than one discussion! But making news go viral, like the link to the Virginian's performance last year with Trace Adkins, certainly can help the recruitment effort."

Outbound prospecting. "Quite simply, that's each of us! Sure, we may feel that we have already talked to almost everyone we come in contact with about our own chapter and love of barbershop, but think about it. Have you really dug into your own target markets? Really? Craft and practice your elevator speech for the random moment when it can be used and have maximum impact. Keep it targeted, and realize that it takes more than one ask to make a sale!"

Create raving fans. "This is how you build your reputation. When people get interested enough to look you up or accept your invitation to visit, you'd best be ready to give them an experience that matches your marketing material and they will crave to repeat the experience. For the Virginians, we build our reputation by singing in front of folks whenever we can and using YouTube, Face Book, Twitter, and whatever else we can do to get our group in front of folks who still don't know about us, and get them hugely wild about us!! What they see online is what they'll get in person. And that really helps close the sale."

A Legend Retires

The Bucks County Country Gentlemen chorus held a thank you dinner for Chuck Lower Sunday, June 26. Chuck retired as their chorus director at the end of 2015.

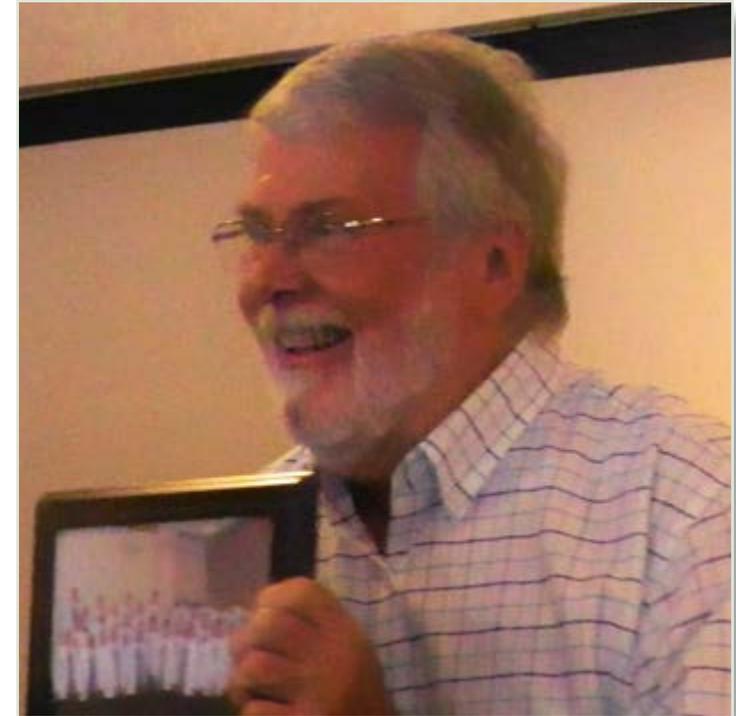
Chuck had directed the BCCG chorus for eleven years from 2004 to 2015. During that time he led the chorus to several most improved chorus awards and twice was crowned the Atlantic Division plateau AAA champion (2010 and 2012). In 2010 Bucks County qualified for the Mid-Atlantic District chorus championship for the first time in 15 years, and we have earned that honor every year since then.

Chuck has been an active singer, director, and leader in the Mid-Atlantic District since he joined the Society in 1961. In addition to Bucks County he has directed the Wilmington, Abington and Lansdale choruses. He has sung in many quartets including the 1997 Mid-Atlantic District Champion Free Trade Agreement. He is a long time faculty member at Harmony College East, a past District Vice President for Chorus Director Development, a member of the M-AD Honor Chapter DELASUSQUEHUDMAC, and a member of the Mid-Atlantic District Hall of Honor.

Chuck was succeeded as Bucks County chorus director by his daughter, Stephanie Bricston. He still sings with the chorus, his quartet "What's Up, Chuck", and with his grandson, Cory Bricston.

The members of the Bucks County Country Gentlemen thank Chuck for his tireless efforts which were so vital in bringing the chorus to a higher level of singing and performing the songs we all hold so dear.

We all join with Bucks County in saying thank you, Chuck for your many years of dedicated and selfless service.



Hail and Farewell

This summer the **Harbor City Chorus** of the Baltimore chapter sent **Director John Rogers** and **President/Associate Director Fred Frey** to **Harmony College East** in June. They took advantage of the close proximity of Salisbury State University, weekend format, variety of courses, world-class faculty, and the chance to network with peers from across the Mid-Atlantic District to hone their directing skills and learn from the best how to build the chapter in membership and musical performance skills. They returned to the chapter with renewed confidence, great ideas, and a determination to help the chapter thrive.

The chapter also bid farewell to two longtime members who have now transferred to the heavenly choir. Past member and fine tenor, **William Malstrom** passed away on March 23, 2016. **Granville O. Soper**, a member during the 1990's passed away on June 23, 2016.



Mount Vernon Honors Founding Director Bob Wachter

At their recent 20th Anniversary luncheon, the Harmony Heritage Singers offered a moving tribute to Director Emeritus Bob Wachter.

Bob was feted as a 64-year Society member, towering bass, well-known coach, and first director of the Harmony Heritage Singers (Mt. Vernon, VA chapter).

Mike Everard and co-founder John Adams teamed up to deliver a history of the Harmony Heritage Singers. Special guests Wanda Wachter (Bob's daughter), Librarian Sarah Garcia, old football teammate John and Ginny Walters, and long-time friends Bede and Mary Kay Bender as well as Bill Colosimo, Dick Powell, Alan Wile, and Joe Berger stepped up to deliver the rest of Bob's story.

Bob is a member of the Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodshedders (AHSOW) as well as a member of the Mt. Vernon, Arlington, and Alexandria chapters. He has been a director for over 40 years and directed the Harmony Heritage Singers in over 400 performances over the last 18 years.

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



The order of the day was gifts — of words, songs and artifacts — to guest of honor Bob Wachter who has given so much of himself over the last 64 years to help others experience the joy that is barbershop harmony.

Photos at left show performances by Potomac Quartet, Special Blend Quartet, special guest quartet Capital Reunion, and the Harmony Heritage Singers under the direction of the maestro himself.



Interchapter Madness

Red Bank hosts summer sing

On a hot, muggy Tuesday night, 85 enthusiastic barbershoppers converged on the Red Bank Elks for the an interchapter wingding hosted by the Chorus of the Atlantic.

The Ocean County Oceanaires, Rahway Valley Jerseyaires, and the Cherry Hill Pine Barons came out in force, as well as representatives from Princeton and Hell’s Kitchen, to enjoy the camaraderie, food and drink—and of course, the singing.

In addition to the four choruses, some 19 quartets strutted their stuff, including 10 “organized” quartets and three randomly assembled.

Frank Glaz, Programs VP of Red Bank, had put out the challenge to all invitees to write parodies based on polecats and perform them in a competition to be judged by the chorus directors.

Six quartets “heard the call” and came prepared to show off their comedic and musical skills. The quartets each did their thing, scattered throughout the evening’s program.

After due deliberation, the judges announced the winner, a foursome from the Oceanaires who sang Let Me Call You Tweet heart, a send-up of social media. Frank even had prizes (barbershop beer glasses) for the winners.

Another highlight of the evening was the first public performance by Red Bank’s newest (and youngest) member, John Me-deiros, singing bass in a quartet (supported by seasoned bass Jack McDermott). John was then introduced to the audience by Red Bank Director Craig Page, who led all in a warm rendition of You’re As Welcome As The Flowers in May.

Before the evening ended, all got together for the group photo above.

— By Bruce Hanson, editor, *Atlantic Gazette*, a publication of the Red Bank Area Chapter.



FROM TOP: Participants in Interchapter Madness; Guests fill up on hot dogs and baked beans; Red Bank takes its turn; The Oceanaires perform, under the direction of Richie Lavene; the Pine Barons came all the way from Cherry Hill to sing; The Jerseyaires, now sing as a mixed chorus; Rahway’s parody quartet study their lyrics..



Cones with a Cop *Dapper Dans are cool treat at National Night Out*

The Dapper Dans of Harmony sang in front of the Grover Cleveland Birthplace, a National Park dedicated to the only U.S. President born in New Jersey August 2.

Along with the rest of the community, The Montclair Chapter celebrated the Borough of Caldwell’s “Cones with a Cop,” event at the National Night Out.

It all started when Michael Guerriero, owner of Gelotti Ice Cream in Caldwell approached The Dapper Dans and several other civic groups, including the local fire and police departments with his ideas to spice up the annual event. From there it took just six days to pull it all together.

“Everyone just started calling and asking how they could help,” said Guerriero. “We’re very appreciative of

everything and everyone who came to help.”

This ice cream social was intended for residents to enjoy dessert while spending time with the local law enforcement. Town officials helped organize additional activities across the street at Grover Cleveland Park, to accommodate overflow and provided crossing guards.

“We are grateful for Gelotti’s. For putting this together, and for giving us the opportunity to come and meet everyone in a very relaxed setting, which is the key,” said Caldwell Police Chief James Bongiorno. “We all work together, the police, the merchants, and our residents and it’s great to be able to have everyone come together.

State College welcomes new director

The Nittany Knights are delighted to welcome Graham Sanders to the State College Chapter as the new front-line director. Originally from Chichester, England, Graham and his wife Laurel moved to the States 11 years ago to raise their two daughters, Erika and Michele, and have settled permanently in State College.

Trained as an opera singer, at the London College of Music, Graham debuted with Oper der Stadt Bonn in the role of Roderigo in Verdi’s *Otello* in 1993. He subsequently sang with the Bremen, Germany, opera company through 1999.

Since 2000, Graham’s career as a free-lance soloist has included the roles with the Dresden Semper Opera and more recently at the Hungarian State Opera House, Chicago Lyric Opera, and Scottish Opera.

In addition to opera, Graham has experience in choral conducting and particularly enjoys working with male

choruses and ensembles. He has been the director of the St. Luke’s Lutheran Church choir in Centre Hall for three years. Graham is a member of the PSU music faculty and also gives private voice instruction.

He is excited about barbershop and is looking forward to helping to grow the chapter.

Graham will be directing five show songs this year.

Welcome to our family, Graham and Laurel.

— By Paul Wagner, President, State College, PA Chapter





Barbershop Harmony goes coed!

MBHA
provides resources

- to help you start your mixed-voice barbershop harmony ensemble,*
- advocacy**
to create contest opportunities, and a
- forum**
to exchange information about this new arrangement of our favorite art form.

www.mixedbarbershop.org
www.facebook.com/groups/mixedharmonysingers/
 901-300-MBHA (6242)



SECTION REHEARSALS: *dos and don'ts*

Section rehearsals can play a very powerful role in your chorus' growth and development, and most singers **LOVE** to have sectionals! The reason singers enjoy sectionals is because they want to use that time to learn their music. This

can be quite frustrating for the chapter's Music Team if high-quality learning tracks were provided to the chorus.

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

The men are supposed to learn their parts on their own so as to maximize efficient rehearsal time, but this is often not the case. The purpose of my article this edition is to highlight ways to make your sectional rehearsals as productive as possible, and to list activities to avoid during sectional time.

What to do during a section rehearsal

Sing sing sing! Many singers want to talk during sectional time — especially to tell you the places in the song where they don't know their notes! It is important that the Section Leader actively leads the sectional and focuses everyone into singing with precise attention to detail.

Make sure to inform your Section Leaders ahead of time when you will have sectionals (to the greatest

extent possible) and what parts of what songs you specifically want them to rehearse. This affords them the opportunity to write out a game plan for how to work with their sections.

Section Leaders, if you have advance warning that the chorus will have a sectional rehearsal, you might wish to ask the members of your section in advance which parts in the songs are most difficult for them to sing, and why. This information might help you prioritize the topics to cover in your sectional rehearsal.

Spend the majority of your time working to establish sectional unity: singing like one voice. This, by necessity, involves all of the basic singing skills, such as proper breathing, consistent air flow throughout the sound, tall vowels, singing with a consistent timbre, turning diphthongs together, etc. Set the bar high and give your singers plenty of repetitions to help them achieve great things in a short amount of time.

As the director, you should tell your singers what songs they will practice in their sectional, which measures to practice in those songs, and how long the sectional will last. Encourage and expect your section leaders to develop a lesson plan ahead of time to help keep the section on point.

In my opinion as a director, the most important thing that should be accomplished in a section rehearsal is that the section must come back singing with a much more unified sound. Period. Meaning that if I assigned

three pages of a song for the section to rehearse, I would rather they only worked on two pages but made incredible progress on those two pages. If this is the case, the likelihood is great that they will carry over much of this unified singing in the third page anyway.

Once your singers come back from their sectionals, you **MUST** have them sing and work through the areas they just practiced as a chorus to show them (and you!) how much improvement they made in a short time. Your singers will greatly anticipate and relish sectional time when they learn just how helpful it is.

Schedule section rehearsals regularly. All of the best choruses in our Society use this tool a great deal, most of them at least twice a month or more. The success that sectionals can bring to a chorus cannot be overstated.

What to avoid during a section rehearsal

Avoid talking! Even the Section Leader should use sound bytes as much as possible (“again”, “tall, not wide”, “beautiful sound; now sing with your heart”, etc.) so as to keep the men singing continuously.

Avoid allowing the sectional to become a discussion with the singers. The Section Leader is in charge and should direct the sectional in full.

Avoid teaching the singers their notes. Yes, there will be the occasional note that is egregiously inaccurate, and

Spend the majority of your time working to establish sectional unity.

you can clean up that spot quickly. However, if you have provided quality learning tracks and your singers have had sufficient time to work with them at home, then hold your singers accountable to prepare for rehearsal ahead of time.

Avoid “singing the song all the way through” in a sectional. Remember, the most important aspect of this time is creating sectional unity, and that means lots of repetitions to hone the finished product.

Avoid using sectional time to run errands (going to the bathroom, making a phone call, checking email on the phone, etc.). Hopefully your chapter meeting allows for breaks each week. Sectional time is so valuable so ensure the men give it their proper attention.

The director's best friend

In a very real sense, the section rehearsal can be a director's best friend. Once your singers decently know a song, sectionals can help them become confident on their parts and sing in a much more unified fashion. I strongly urge you to consider making section rehearsals a staple in your chorus' music plan.

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

Robust field named for District Contest

Now that our three division contests are completed the qualifiers for our fall District quartet and chorus contests has been named. Here are the qualifiers who have registered to compete in Lancaster September 15-16:

*This is an un-ordered list of competitors.
Contest Drawing is still pending.
This is not the final singing order.
Some groups register hardships, restricting them to a specific session.*

Session 1

Quartet Semi-Finals

Friday 5:00 pm

New Kid In Town

MT: MC: Route 1

Up All Night

Gimme Four

Hello Newman

Youth Reclamation Project

Handsome Reward

Da Capo

29 Seconds

Flash Point

The Bourbon Street Four

Party of Five

Sounds Dangerous

Hudson Line

Pratt Street Power

Brothers In Arms

LoCo 4

The Fource

Break From Blue Collar

Hershey Transit Co.

Loudmouth

My Uncle Murray

Forecast

Spruce Street

Achording To Dad

Distinction

** 25 Contestants **

Session 2

Chorus Contest

Saturday 9:00 am

Westchester County, NY

MC: Gentlemen of the College

Frederick, MD

Fairfax, VA

Lansdale, PA

Cherry Hill, NJ

Bryn Mawr, PA

Alexandria, VA scratched

Dundalk, MD

Hell's Kitchen, NY

Five Towns College, NY

Montclair, NJ

Harford County, MD

Queen Anne's County, MD

Bucks County, PA

MT: Lancaster Red Rose, PA

Caldwell, NJ

Princeton, NJ

District of Columbia, DC

Hershey, PA

Anne Arundel, MD

Philadelphia, PA

Loudoun County, VA

Harrisburg, PA

** 21 Contestants **



Do You Wanna Be a Judge?

Your chance to apply to become a Contest Administrator, Music, Performance, or Singing judge is just around the corner. Every three years, just prior to Harmony University, judges in all four categories must attend judge Category School in order to recertify and those who have been candidate judges-in-training have the opportunity to join the judging ranks as certified judges. This year, 2016, is a Category School year and there are two significant changes to the contest and judging program. 1) the Presentation Category (PRS) is changing to Performance (PER). You can read all about that change in the Mar-Apr 2016 version of The Harmonizer; and 2) the judging program is accepting applications from not only men, but also women. You can read all about this change here: [Female Judge Applications](#).

Those interested in applying to become judges (male and female) in one of the four categories (CA, MUS, PER, SNG) have until December 15, 2016, to submit their applications. Information about applying to be a judge and the certification process can be found in section VI. APPLICANT AND CANDIDATE REGULATIONS of the Contest and Judging Handbook, located as a .pdf at the BHS website: Contest and Judging Handbook. Applications should be submitted through the Contest and Judging VP, Gary Plaag.

Time to place your ads in the Convention Program Book

We are almost to the end of the 2016 convention cycle and the Events Team would like to thank everyone who has participated as a competitor or spectator to help support our wonderful district.

The chapters that assisted with hosting the Events were a great help to the district and their efforts are very much appreciated. The **Reading, PA** chapter hosted its very first event and did a wonderful job with the 2016 International Quartet Preliminary Contest.

The 2016 District Fall Convention on September 16-17 is fast approaching and the Events Team is anticipating a wonderful convention with a very special addition this year. There will be a Chorditorium for our quartets and choruses to show off their wonderful music and talents. The Chorditorium will be open immediately following the Saturday Night Jamboree and will be held in Freedom Hall A.



Walter L Griffith Jr
M-AD VP Events

Please be sure to purchase your wristbands at the registration table or at the door. More information is available on the district website at www.midatlanticdistrict.com.

We have decided not to have a Jumbo Tron this year at the Fall Convention due primarily to the very high cost.

We encourage all chapters and quartets to place an ad in our program book to inform everyone in the district of your upcoming activities. The revenue from these ads helps to defray the cost of printing and also helps offset the cost of the convention.



Please contact James Botelle at gblead@verizon.net for more information or to place an ad. The cost of an ad is at the right:

**DEADLINE FOR PROGRAM
BOOK ADS IS SEPT. 3!**

PAGE SIZE ^E	DIMENSIONS	COST
FULL PAGE	8" H x 5" W	\$100
HALF PAGE	4" H x 5" W	\$80
QUARTER PAGE (VERT)	4" H x 2½" W	\$60
QUARTER PAGE (HORIZ)	2" H x 5" W	\$60
Corporate Sponsor	2" H x 2½" W	\$35
Patrons	25 characters/line	\$5 per line
Memorials	25 characters/line	\$5 per line
PREMIUM POSITIONS		
INSIDE FRONT COVER	8" H x 5" W	\$150
INSIDE BACK COVER	8" H x 5" W	\$125
OUTSIDE BACK COVER	8" H x 5" W	SOLD
CENTERSPREAD	8"H x 10½" W	\$250

Process for Ordering Tickets Streamlined

The M-AD Events Team has made it easier for you to order tickets to our division and district conventions. No longer do you have to use the link mad-registrations.org. In fact, if you try to use it you will get an error page.

Just go to the M-AD website home page (www.midatlanticdistrict.com/) and then scroll down to Convention Information. Click on "Purchase Convention Tickets" and you will be taken to the MAD Contest Registration Page where you can purchase the tickets you want for the events you wish to attend. For those of you who like to book mark your favorite pages, the link to go directly to the Contest Registration page is <http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/?Code=Registrations>.

Share the Joy!

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

Does your chapter want to interest and recruit new singers?

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Your next opportunity is the Fall District Convention Sept. 16-18 in Lancaster, Pa.

DEADLINE FOR PROGRAM BOOK ADS IS SEPT. 3!

Rotary Club of
James City County



Charity Concert Series
presents

SOUNDWORKS



Saturday, September 3 7:30 PM

Tickets: \$18

Kimball Box Office (757) 565-8566

Information: (757) 753-5577

Kimball Theatre

424 West Duke of Gloucester St.

Williamsburg, VA 23185

<http://soundworkschorus.org>

Where should you be going...

Saturday night from 10 pm to 1 am

In Lancaster, PA on September 17, 2016?

The answer, of course, is to the...

“CHORDITORIUM”

in **Freedom Hall** at the **Lancaster Convention Center**
for a **Mid-Atlantic District Convention Afterglow...**

For only \$5, you will be admitted to this large ballroom filled with a stage in front, a bar and food tables in the back, and around 30 ten-round tables with chairs, where you can feast on free pretzels and chips, buy drinks, buy slices of pizza, and listen to tons of quartets (and hopefully some choruses) come across the stage to perform for you. With emcees like Rick Taylor, who will introduce the performers and occasionally lead us all in songs, this will be a night to remember. No worries about disturbing other guests of the hotel.

Sponsored by the Chapters from: Cherry Hill, Fairfax, Loudoun and Frederick. We hope to see you there!

(Prepay for tickets for your chapter members at www.pinebarons.org and pick up your tickets at the registration desk as you arrive.)



\$\$\$\$\$ Opportunities \$\$\$\$\$

M-AD Barbershoppers proved once again that they are generous to a fault: At Harmony College East-2016, you willingly, voluntarily, and with no coercion (???) parted with your hard-earned cash to support the District's Youth in Harmony program, as each anxious donor jockeyed with others to exchange "pleasantries" with me and my "lovely assistant" (Bob Eckman).

Some contributors were quick to exchange a \$20 bill for a bonus strip of 24 "opportunities"; others preferred to negotiate; while still others gave \$5 once, twice, three, four or more times during the two-day campaign. When the supply of available "opportunities" had been exhausted, the total amount donated came to a record **\$1,600!** A true boon to M-AD's YIH program. Thank you, one and all!

As indicated above, the motivation for such generosity was not the possibility of taking home a collection of prize goodies (although winning an HCE scholarship and a collection of material items certainly was inviting). No, it was because all the proceeds were targeted specifically to support youthful singers in M-AD.

Once again, your money-hungry, sweet –talking, diplomatic barkers are grateful to each man and woman who willingly responded to subtle and sensitive invitations to open your wallets, especially those who didn't wait to be asked but came to the table with money in hand. Your friendship, good humor, willingness to be cajoled and to exchange in friendly repartee ... and your demonstrated commitment to further the future of barbershop harmony ... just go to prove that "Mid-Atlantic District Barbershoppers are THE GREATEST!"



ABOVE: "Lovely Assistant" Bob Eckman makes hungry cafeteria-bound HCE students an offer they can't refuse.

RIGHT: Bucks County Country Gentlemen Director Stephanie Bricton hands over cash for "opportunities."



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



Pete Tyree, bari of the Orphans; Jim Foy, bass of Happiness Emporium; and Bill Myers, bass of Revival, singing with John Fynmore, the tenor of Audacity, 2009 Senior Champs, sing one together after a pickup quartet contest at the April BQPA convention

Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association / Pioneers

Join us for 4 days of do-it-yerself quartetting, in Chicago, the weekend AFTER Labor Day, **September 7 – 10**

No assignments, no prerequisites! Guys and gals welcome! We'll sing the songs that YOU love to sing

REALLY inexpensive rooms

Sing 16 hours a day, in quartets: old songs, tags, woodshedding, or familiar arrangements – your choice - in pick-up quartets

For more information, visit www.bqpa.com





Another great AHB show is coming your way!

The Atlantic Harmony Brigade will light up the end of the summer season with an outstanding rally and barbershop show at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Claymont, Delaware (just off I-95 outside of Wilmington) Saturday, August 20 at 7 p.m.

Featuring the 2015 Mid-Atlantic District 1st Place Quartet, Route 1 as our headliner, the event promises to be another in our series of great shows. Also participating will be 114 man brigade ensemble, quartets from the Middle Atlantic region, quartets from other parts of the U.S., and even international representatives.

The current Brigade movement originated in North Carolina in 1993, and has grown to a number of Brigades across the U.S. and now in Europe as well. Brigades foster the concept of Extreme Quartetting....which is described as a "spine-tingling,

hair-raising, lock-n'-ring, a cappella in the barbershop style... where 80 - 120 or more highly-prepared quartet singers getting together, having learned 10-12 pretty hard pieces of music, get together for one weekend to compete in a random draw contest, and just have wall to wall singing. It is all about singing great charts with guys who are committed and confident singers (and are a bit crazy to be daring to do this in the first place).

So, if this sounds like your type of fun, please consider joining us next year in 2017 for the whole Rally to take your place in the Brigade. But for this year, come to our show in August to really get a flavor of the quality performances. To learn more, and for ticket info, please head to www.AtlanticHarmonyBrigade.com.

Soundworks in Concert Fall Season - 2016

Come join us for our 2016 Fall Concerts!



Saturday, September 3

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of James City County
Where: Kimball Theatre
424 W. Duke of Gloucester Street
Williamsburg, VA
Concert Time: 7:30 PM
Tickets:\$18
Kimball Box Office:(800) HISTORY
Information: 757 753-5577



St. Christopher's School

Educating Boys For Life

Wednesday, October 12

St. Christopher's Concert Series
Where: Luck Leadership Center Playhouse
Concert Time: 7 PM
Free and open to the public
Information: soundworkschorus.org

Sunday, October 30

"AWARENESS CONCERT"

Sponsored by Boys Home of VA (Covington, VA)
Where: The Robins Theatre, The Steward School
11600 Gayton Road, Richmond, VA 23238
Concert Time: 3 PM
Free and open to the public - Special Seating for Donating Organizations and Individuals
Ensembles performing: **Soundworks, VA Girls and VA Boys Choirs, The Beaux Ties of St. Christopher's School, Main Street Station and Uncommon**
Information: www.liftingofvoices.org



Soundworkschorus.org



immerse yourself
in a weekend of

MAD barbershop



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

A BETTER WORLD. SINGING

*Innovations at HCE 2016 offer opportunity
to balance coaching, classes, free time*

If you couldn't make Harmony College East this year, then you really missed a great time. We had a record number of students, a near-record number of quartets, and a bumper crop of youth participants. And by all accounts, folks had a whopping good time, with lots of fantastic singing, congenial tagging in the quad, and, as usual, the best teachers and coaches available anywhere.

One of the goals for HCE has always been to keep evolving, keep trying new things, keep pushing ourselves to be even better than last year. I think, we've



by Roger Tarpy,
VP Music & Performance

done a fairly good job in this respect. For example, over the past few years, we've offered 26 new courses or activities, and have benefitted from the services of 35 new faculty/coach members. Happily, this pledge to keep improving has paid off in terms of the number of both

students and quartets in attendance. So if you've been to HCE in the past, give HCE 2017 a try -- it's almost certain that there will be some great new programs and teachers that will challenge and stimulate you in new ways.

One of the innovations this past year was the inclusion of a Tag Singing session prior to the Friday show, and a Pole Cat Sing-a-long before Saturday's show. The first was led by none other than MAD's own maestro **Bill Stauffer** – the director of the International Top Ten chorus **Voices of Gotham**. Many of the tags that Bill had us sing through were printed on the tag sheet, so we could easily read along. A few others were new, a bit challenging, but, of course, truly beautiful.

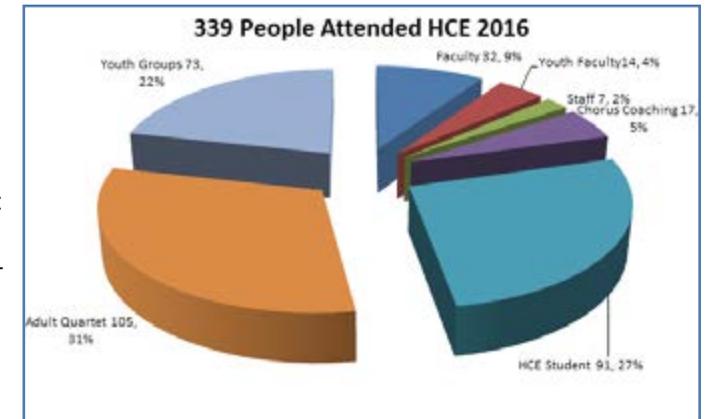
On Saturday, the singing was conducted by **Steve Armstrong** – director of the International Gold Medal chorus **Toronto Northern Lights**. What terrific fun. Sure, we sang a couple of easy tunes, like Wild Irish Rose, but Steve also managed to include a whole bunch that were somewhat less familiar, including a few from the new **Barberpole Cat** songbook. With about 200 friends singing along, it wasn't hard to participate even on these less familiar songs. And, not

surprisingly, with all that great music swirling around, the result was awesome.

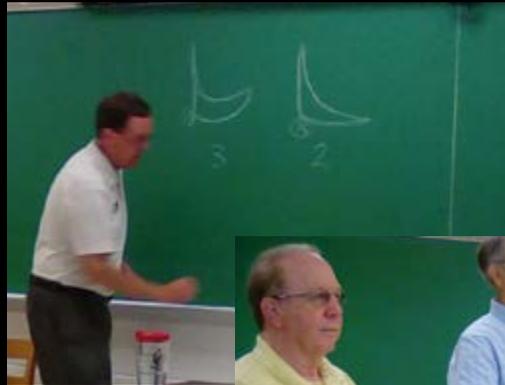
Another innovation – this one for the quartets who came to get coached – was to give each foursome its choice of schedule. Some experienced groups wanted as much coaching as they could get, so they opted for four 3-hour coaching sessions over the two days. Others chose a mixture of coaching and classes. Some newcomer quartets made yet another, somewhat more relaxed, choice of having 90-minute coaching sessions. Although the scheduling was a bit tricky, the strategy seemed to work extremely well. At least that's what most of the groups reported – they really liked being able to choose how to balance coaching, classes, and free time.

Any down sides to this past HCE? Well, we had the usual snafus, like lost keys, malfunctioning computer projectors, and a bit of rainy weather one evening. But the most conspicuous problem was that we didn't have access to the usual quartet coaching dormitory – Chesapeake Hall. Chesapeake is great because it contains suites with bedrooms as well as a social area where the coaching takes place. Because of renovations, that dorm wasn't available, so we had to settle for another dorm and schedule the coaching in one of the bedrooms. Not ideal, but it worked OK and no one really had a problem. Happily, I'm told that Chesapeake Hall will be fully up-and-running by Fall 2016, so we'll certainly be able to use it again in future years.

The planning for the next HCE (2017) starts early this Fall. Treat yourself to a great weekend and give it some consideration. It's scheduled for June 15-18. Talk with your chapter or quartet friends about attending. It's an expenditure that pays huge dividends both to the participant, and to his chapter.



ROTOGRAVURE HARMONY COLLEGE EAST



HARMONY

The song that sits at V7. The drive to resolve to home is strong, by the music lingers in that state of wanting to resolve, but delaying for 4 measures. The motion in the harmony is an arpeggio to pull back to I, until it finally does on "you".

"The delay of the V7 for resolution is, in our ears, almost irresistibly compelling. The delay is sweet, it is, in fact, the central propulsive force in our music; it is unending and unresolvable."



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A Heartfelt 'Thank You' to all!

Wow.

It's been almost a week, and I still cannot believe that I won the International Youth Barbershop Quartet Contest with Pratt Street Power. When I first became a barbershopper about five years ago, I only dreamed of competing in the youth contest, and now I am honored to be mentioned among many of the greats who have won before us.

The feedback that the quartet and I have received this week has been just amazing. And while it's great to hear feedback about how well we sang, the amount of feedback about our character has been truly overwhelming and humbling. One of the most memorable comments I received was, "I am so happy that you won so that people now realize all of the good you have already been doing to give back."

And that, to me, is what is most exciting about winning. Not about being immortalized forever, or being thrust into the spotlight. But the opportunities that I now have to help give back to all of the people and organizations that have done so much for me.

I have so many people to thank for helping get me here:

First and foremost, a big thank you to my family: Mom, Dad, and **Chris Hawker**. Your support for me over the years cannot be measured, both in music and in life. The values I have learned from you have made me into a man that I am happy to be, and I am proud to be your son/ brother. I love you so much!

Thank you to **Frank Cimino, Stephen Holmes, and The Maryland State Boychoir**. Thank you for introducing me to **Darren and Vince**, and for fostering my love of music from an early age. Thank you for helping me grow as a musician, as a leader, and as a man.

Thank you to all of my music teachers, especially the Voice Division at Towson University, for training me to succeed in my career as a professional musician. You have helped me take my raw talent and taught me how to gain

control over my voice. I have come so far as a singer and as a musician in the last ...7... years, and it has so much to do with you.

Thank you to **Glenn Phillips** and **The Heart of Maryland Chorus** for getting me involved with barbershop. Glenn, if you and the chorus hadn't been so welcoming when I first walked in the door for a guest night in January of 2011, I don't know if I ever would have joined the BHS. You have provided so much support for me in my musical endeavors, both with your wallets and with your hearts.

Thank you to **Joe Cerutti** and the **No Borders Youth Chorus** for providing me with my first youth barbershop experience.

Thank you to the **Atlantic Harmony Brigade** for introducing me to **Ed**, and for providing me with a fun quartetting experience from early in my barbershop days.

Thank you to **East Coast Sound**, for providing me with my first opportunity to sing on the international stage. Special thanks to **David, Will, Joe, and Paul** for all of the hard work and dedication they have put into the chorus and the youth in our district.

Thank you to **Sfourzando** for giving me my first quartet experience. The only downside to winning is that I can't compete next year with **Christian and Nunzio**. The S4Z years were some of the greatest times in my life.

Thank you to my brethren in **Ear Candy**. Singing lead with you has caused huge growth in my quartetting ability, both as a lead and as a baritone. I can't thank **Glenn, George, and Larry** enough for all you have done.

Thank you to my girls in **Half & Half. Karisa and Lindsay**, you helped me learn how to work hard in a quartet, and showed me how fun **Mixed Barbershop** can be.

Thank you to The Mid-Atlantic District for all of the support you have given me over the years. A special thanks to **Gary Plaa** for teaching me so much over the years in the youth camp at HCE, to **Douglas Carnes** for being the first person to hire me to do an arrangement for the district, and to **Kevin Boehm** for allowing me to be on the coach-

ing staff this year.

Thank you to **The Barbershop Harmony Society** and **The Harmony Foundation** for providing us with the support and the opportunity to come to Nashville and compete.

Thank you to all of my barbershop friends, for making every convention I go to feel like home. I never feel better than I do when I'm with you. I wish I could tag you all, but there are too many to count.

I will shoutout to **Matthew D. Gorman** though. Thanks for supporting me on **BarbershopMe**, driving stupid long distances to come hang out and tag, convincing me to be a fool in the name of barbershop, being the first person I saw when crossing the contest stage, and for getting right in the line to be the first to congratulate me after we won. So glad to call you a friend!

Thank you to all who have taught me anything about barbershop, whether in a contest eval, at HCE, or at HU.

Congratulations to **The Ambassadors of Harmony** and **Forefront** on their gold medals as well. I have looked up to both of you for a long time, and I am honored and humbled to share our victory with you.

A shoutout to the guys in **Flightline, The Mission, Ohana Means Family, and Frontier** for being one of the coolest group of medalists in CBQC/ YBQC history. Thank you for making this contest one of the best of all time. All of you have bright futures ahead, and I couldn't be more excited to see what happens for all of you going forward.

A special thank you to **Sean, Jay, Brian, Brandon**, and the rest of **Parkside Harmony**. Being a member of this chorus has been the greatest experience of my life. What an amazing brotherhood we have established in the last year and a half. Thank you for showing me how an A level ensemble functions, and for showing me just how much artistry you can pull out of a piece of music.

A special shoutout to **Brothers In Arms. Jordan, James, Kevin, and Michael**, you guys are still to this day one of

See THANK YOU, continued on next page

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NEXT DEADLINE:
Nov. 10, 2016

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

[LIKE US ON FACEBOOK](#)

THANK YOU

Continued from previous page

my favorite quartets of all time. Watching you guys grow into one of our district's finest quartets, and into four of my best friends has been amazing. I love you all and can't wait to continue to watch you mature and gel even more than you already have. Now go learn my chart!

A special thank you goes to **Pookie and Stephanie** for walking us through the pattern on Tuesday. Thank you for being a part of our amazing journey and for helping us stay in the game. You can't realize how much that means to me, and I hope that you can continue to fill that role for us in the future!

A special thank you goes to all my best friends in the world. I have never had better friends and a better support system than I do right now, and I owe you all so

I have a confession to make

It's about time you knew the truth. It's something that I never wanted to get out, but I feel it's time now that you knew. So, here goes.

Since I took over the Dundalk Chapter newsletter from Al Evans in late February, I think I've been to every chorus rehearsal. I've wanted to get the pulse of what's going on first-hand, so I could report accurately to the chorus.

But that's not my confession.

What I didn't want to admit to myself or to anyone — especially members of my chorus — is the following: There have been some Tuesday nights when I really didn't feel like going to chorus rehearsal.

There. I said it. It's out.

You see, Tuesdays are one of my long work days. Many times I leave work after 8:00 and feel so tired I just want to go home and flop into bed.

But, I always end up going to chorus rehearsal anyway,

much. Whether you were in Nashville or rooting me on from home, your support means the world to me. You were all with me at some point this week when I crossed the stage, and there was at least one moment during either the quartet or the chorus songs that I was singing directly to you. I love you all so much!

And last but not least, a big thank you to **Vincent, Darren, and Ed**. This journey has been incredible. I can't believe how fast the last four months have flown by, and how much growth we have felt, both as friends and as musicians. I absolutely cannot wait to see where this journey takes us. I love you guys, and I can't wait to break the DB soon!

My future as a barbershopper has never looked brighter. Pratt Street Power will be competing at District in September, and is starting to work show rep into the mix so we can start performing on chapter shows and at YH

and you know what? I sing with some great guys. It's really fun. Time flies by, and every week I learn something I didn't know before about the craft of barbershop, from Rick Taylor and now from Kevin King. All the singing, the learning, and the camaraderie brings me back to life. It energizes me, so by the end of rehearsal, hey, I'm ready for more.

That's one reason I encourage fellow chorus members to sing in a pick up quartet afterwards, so I can sing one or two more with them "for the road." Sometimes the only person available is Brian Owen, and I even sing with him!

So, when I get home, am I ready to flop into bed?

Not exactly, because now when I finally get home on Tuesday nights, I can't sleep! I'm so wound up from a great, fun night of barbershopping at the Dundalk Chapter.

Can somebody please help me?

John Markel
Editor, SkipJack News

camps, which I'm super excited about! I'm also starting to increase my workload as an arranger, as well as looking into the possibility of making learning tracks. I'm still planning on applying to the Music Category in the fall. I also have lots of cool opportunities with my choruses to increase my involvement in the musical leadership.

So a lot has changed. But at the same time, nothing has changed. I'm still the goofy kid who sings really loud tags late into the night. I'm still committed to bringing youth into barbershop. I'm still working hard for all of the barbershop organizations I am involved with. And I'm still just as excited to be a part of this family as I was when I first joined almost five years ago. I have had so many gold medal moments so far along my journey, and I cannot wait to see what is waiting for me in the future!

Ben Hawker
Baritone, Pratt Street Power

CLARIFICATION



Tunkhannock Chapter members Bill Burrige, Raleigh Bloch, Paul Schuler and Jim Cooley were not identified in this photo from the Summer 2016 *Mid'l Antics*.

The chapter was instrumental in helping a local soup kitchen raise funds to purchase a larger building and continues to provide support for the kitchen's ongoing needs.