



## DISTRICT CHAMPS

*Parkside Harmony &*

*Gimme Four / see pages 3-7*

**Volume 48, Issue 5 • WINTER 2017**

**A BULLETIN FOR EVERY BARBERSHOPPER IN THE MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT**



**PARKSIDE HARMONY AND GIMME FOUR WIN THE GOLD  
AT 2017 DISTRICT CONVENTION**

*Congratulations!*



## 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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• Mike Fitch • Phil Merkel • Shana Oshiro



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THREE SELECTED FOR DISTRICT HALL OF HONOR



**LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

January 6 • Fairfax, Va.

January 27 • Wanaque, N.J.

February 10 • Newark Del.

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## Perfect Ditch

Reading  
convention  
hits the ball  
out of the  
park

Perfect acoustics. Perfect sightlines. Exciting performances. New champs. Honors, galore. This year's Mid-Atlantic District Fall Convention, held in Reading, Pennsylvania September 15-17 at the Santander Performing Arts Center and hosted by the Alexandria Harmonizers, was a true happening.

First, to the end. The Saturday Night Show of Champions performance was fantastic, as usual! About 45 past champs representing 37 foursomes attended the convention spanning 6 decades ... from the Out-of-Towners (1960) to Da Capo (2017).

Now let's back up to the quartet results:

Our 2018 Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions are ... Gimme Four with members Dave Ammirata (L), Will Downey (Bs), Joe Servidio (Br), and Paul Franek (T).

They sang Rhythm is Our Business, Come Dance with Me, I Get a Kick Out of You, and Five Minutes More to earn a score of 2,958 (82.2%). The quartet is now the 73rd champion since 1945 for a total of 225 men to have

**DISTRICT**, *Continued on next page*



**2018 Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions GIMME FOUR**

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



**DA CAPO**



**PARTY OF FIVE**



## DISTRICT

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earned this high distinction. All four men are new to the fraternity of champions. CONGRATULATIONS, gents!

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

The presenters for the Friday Quartet Semifinals were Bill Colosimo (Past District President, Copyright '86) for the first half and Tony Colosimo (Iguanas in Flight, Da Capo) after the intermission.

Our current 2017 M-AD Quartet Champs, Da Capo (Tony Colosimo, Andrew Havens, Joe Sawyer, and Ryan Griffith), served as the Mic Tester quartet and our current 2017 International Seniors Quartet Champions, Party of Five with Ross Trube (Frank the Dog), were the Mic Cooler quartet.

The semifinals featured 23 quartet competitors including 4 foursomes containing 5 past M-AD quartet champion singers: Ken White (Mayhem) in Capital City Close Harmony Club, Al Fennell (New Yorkers) in Quatrain (Sr); Mike Wallen (Alexandria's

Ragtime Band, Copyright '86, Casino) in Youth Reclamation Project (Sr); and Will Cox (Hijinx) and Rick Savage (Premier) in Silver Alert (Sr).

## Chorus Contest

Saturday had a very early start for many and was an incredibly busy day for 8 champs who were the Musical Directors of competing choruses. Bill Colosimo kicked things off by directing the Joe and Jane Barbershop Chorus who served as the Mic Testers. A couple of champs joined in as did some DELA members and BHS CEO/ Executive Director Marty Monson.

Ken White was the Presenter for the chorus competition session and Da Capo (working exceptionally hard throughout the weekend) was also Mic Coolers after the chorus contest.

At the conclusion to the chorus contest, Ron Knickerbocker (Regents, Curtain Call, Free Trade Agreement) along with Glenn Phillips gave out several Chorus Directors Service Recognition Awards for those celebrating 10 years and more as chorus directors. And speaking of chorus directors, it is also well worth noting that David Am-

mirata and Will Downey from Gimme Four also co-directed two choruses, East Coast Sound and The Dapper Dans of Harmony who placed 5th and 13th, respectively.

Mid-Atlantic District Hall of Honor members (many of whom are quartet champions) were invited to the stage for the induction ceremony for this year's recipients of the District's highest award. Keith Jones (2017 HoH Chairman) read the criteria and short biographies after which the recipients were presented with commemorative engraved silver plates and name badges. The distinguished honorees were Glenn Phillips, Neil Keihm, and Hardman Jones. Each man received a hearty stand ovation from the audience for their lifetime of service and contribution to barbershopping in our great District.

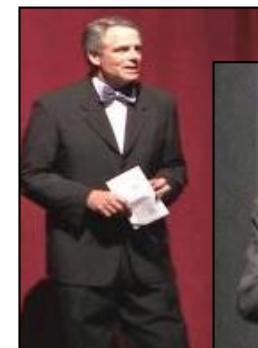
DVP-Contest and Judging Gary Plaag (Past District President, Hijinx) announced the much-awaited results. The 2018 Mid-Atlantic District Chorus Champions ... Parkside Harmony (Hershey, PA) under the co-direction of Sean Devine and Jay But-

**DISTRICT**, *Continued on next page*



### MASTERS OF CEREMONIES

Anthony Colosimo, Bill Colosimo,  
Ken White, Kevin King



### MASTERS OF CEREMONIES

Dennis Ritchey, Steve White, Rick Taylor, Gary Plaag

## DISTRICT

*Continued from previous page*

terfield. They staged 51 men and scored 1,642 (91.2%) to qualify for the International Contest in Orlando next July. Their songs were Between the Devil and the Deep Blue Sea and Don't Be a Baby, Baby. This was Parkside's 2nd consecutive District Chorus Championship. They earned a 5th Place medal in the 2017 International Chorus Competition this past summer in Las Vegas.

Filling out the Top-5 were the Alexandria Harmonizers who placed 2nd with a score of 1,596 (88.7%) staging 82 men, Voices of Gotham with a score of 1,561 (86.8%) staging 36 men, The Brothers in Harmony (Hamilton Square, NY) who placed 4th staging 43 men and earned a score of 1,499 (83.3%), and East Coast Sound (Caldwell, NJ) who placed 5th staging 22 men and earned a score of 1,417 (78.7%).

Immediately following the chorus competition, Ross Trube (Frank the Dog) again managed the ever-popular Tag with the Champs event in the Santander lobby to support the District's Youth in Harmony program. Da Capo was the featured champ. The event generated a lot of enthusiasm and over \$500 for a great cause.

Kevin King was dressed to the nines as the presenter for the Quartet Finals which were quite exciting with 3 quartets scoring International qualifying numbers. Add these to the active previous champs Da Capo, Route 1, 'Round Midnight, plus some new foursomes with great potential and clearly the M-AD is going to be well-represented next summer at the Big Show in Orlando, FL. The M-AD Spring Prelims Convention April 6-8, 2018 (Reading, PA) is going to be a real barnburner.

Our very dapper District President Dennis Ritchey emceed the Saturday night Show of Champions which featured performances by the Top-3 finishing choruses: Voices of Gotham, the Alexandria Harmonizers, and our repeating new champs Parkside Harmony. Congratulations again to all!

2017 M-AD Champs Da Capo thrilled with a beautifully sung package to close a great championship year. They were unable to compete in Las Vegas due to a

"baby watch" for Tony. Thanks, guys, keep up the good work. You have shown yourselves to be true champions, especially with the volunteer support and contributions to the District.

Steve White (Copyright '86, The Bay Rum Runners, Phat Cats, Touchstone, and M-AD Hatters) was the Emcee for the MADAQC segment. The Association again showcased an active and very popular quartet champion, Route 1 (2016 M-AD Champs; Scott Disney, Thomas Moyer, Brian Schreiner, and Brandon Brooks). For their second song, they began That's What I Call a Pal, but were then pushed out by the M-AD Hatters (2012 M-AD Champs; Scott Disney, Steve White, Rick Taylor, and Rob Seay) who were then pushed out by Wheelhouse (2003 M-AD Champs; Rich Gray, Mike Kelly, Jeff Gray, and Brandon Brooks).

Together they crushed the tag and then enjoyed an enthusiastic roar from an appreciative audience. It was a wonderful demonstration of friendship and close harmony among quartetmen.

The curtain then opened on MADAQC Chorus who were standing proud on the risers. Steve commented on how many championship quartets were represented, the presence on the front row of lifelong pals Larry Reagan and Bob Parry from the Out of Towners, and recognized our two International Quartet Champions, Ron Knickerbocker (Regents) and Jack Pinto (Old School).

It was the 25th anniversary of our 1993 Champs, Doubletake with Bill Stauffer (L), Tony Carlini (Bs), Rob Rund (Br), and Jamie Carbone (T). Bill and Rob were at



the convention to celebrate.

It was the landmark 50th anniversary of our 1968 Champs, the NOVA Chords with Scott Werner (L), Dick Whitehouse (Bs, deceased), Brian Rodda (Br, deceased), and John Adams (T).

### The Big Finale

As the Top-9 quartets huddled back stage, anxiously waiting to hear what could be for each a "momentous moment", Gary Plaag announced the results as Da Capo stood ready to award the lapel pins and congratulate the Top-3 finishers:

3rd Place (2,770 76.9%) – Brothers in Arms

**DISTRICT**, *Continued on next page*

**FROM TOP: MADAQC Chorus welcomes Gimme Four to their ranks with This is the Moment; longstanding chorus directors are honored on their 10th and subsequent milestone anniversaries; Hall of Honor distinguished honorees Glenn Phillips, Neil Keihm, and Hardman Jones display their silver trays.**

# FALL DISTRICT CONVENTION



2nd Place – Alexandria Harmonizers (Alexandria, VA) under the direction of Joe Cerutti staged 82 men and earned a score of 1,596 (88.7%)

3rd Place – Voices of Gotham (Hell's Kitchen, NY) under the direction of Bill Stauffer staged 36 men and earned a score of 1,561 (86.7%)

## DISTRICT

*Continued from previous page*

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

2nd Place (22,779 / 77.2%) – Forecast

Tyler Rackley (L), Kevin Jones (Bs), Travis Murray (Br), and Michael Fitch (T)

Also, in the Top 10 was Youth Reclamation Project who were named the Most Improved Quartet and will represent the M-AD at the International Seniors Quartet Contest next January at the Mid-Winter Convention. Unfortunately, they had to scratch from the Quartet Finals due to a sudden illness. Silver Alert were the runners up in the contest for the seniors and placed 14th.

Gimme Four was then crowned champions and awarded the traveling MADAQC/Oriole Four Trophy, individual James E. Grant Performance Award trophies (provided annually by Bob Disney in memory of Jim and Arcade), and shiny blue 2018 1st Place lapel pins.

Kevin King then directed the MADAQC Chorus in singing our traditional song of celebration and



congratulations, "This is the Moment" (arranged by Freddie) as Gimme Four stood embracing each other – their pride of accomplishment showing proudly.

Rick Taylor (Arcade, Old School, M-AD Hatters) then led the entire audience in Keep the Whole World Singing ... bringing to close another fantastic barbershop convention as only the Mid-Atlantic District can do. Every champ then congratulated Gimme Four with handshakes, hugs, and slaps on their backs.

Immediately following the close of the convention, the action moved to the Dasani Lounge of the Santander for a Quartet Champion's Reception

where Steve White formally welcomed Gimme Four into the fraternity and Da Capo offered congratulations and gave personal legacy gifts along with MADAQC badges. Photos were taken and everyone ate a delicious cake provided by Frank the Dog. Many guys remained for a while to chat and sing tags before heading off to the afterglows.

Finally, Harmony Foundation International's Bob Rund and Rick Taylor presented District President Dennis Ritchey with a big-big check (\$28,000) that represents the Donor Choice funds that come back to the District through member designations.

— By Steve White, editor, MADAQC Newsletter



*Harmony Foundation International's Bob Rund and Rick Taylor present District President Dennis Ritchey with a check for \$28,000, representing the Donor Choice funds that come back to the District through member designations.*

# MID-ATLANTIC DISTRICT QUARTET CONTEST

**2017  
DISTRICT QUARTET CHAMPIONS  
Gimme Four**



**2nd PLACE MEDALIST — Forecast**



**3rd PLACE MEDALIST — Brothers in Arms**

# Quartets

(in order of appearance)



THE FOUR



DISTINCTION



29 SECONDS



PARK SLOPE FOUR



LOCO 4



RP3 HARMONY



FOR STORIES



BROTHERS IN ARMS



# Quartets

(in order of appearance)

ROTOGRAVURE



RETREADS



GIMME FOUR



LANSDALE STATION

District Convention



CAPITAL CITY CLOSE HARMONY CLUB



LOUDMOUTH



MADHATTAN

WINTER 2017



QUATRIN



BREAK FROM BLUE COLLAR



RAZZMATAZZ

# Quartets

(in order of appearance)



HELLO NEWMAN



AGE OF FLIGHT



FORECAST



SILVER ALERT



NATURAL SEGUE



YOUTH RECLAMATION PROJECT



Mic Cooler POTOMAC SOUND



**LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**  
 January 6 • Fairfax, Va.  
 January 27 • Wanaque, N.J.  
 February 10 • Newark Del.

# Choruses

(in order of appearance)



HEART OF MARYLAND CHORUS



CATOCTONES



COUNTRY GENTLEMAN



THE NORTH PENNSMEN

Check out the many, many more Division Convention photos at <http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/photos>

Contest score sheets may be found at <http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/scores>

# Choruses

(in order of appearance)



ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS



LONG ISLAND SOUND



SONS OF THE SEVERN



THE MAINLINERS

Check out the many, many more District Convention photos at <http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/photos>

Contest score sheets may be found at <http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/scores>

# Choruses

(in order of appearance)

THE DAPPER DANS OF HARMONY



WESTCHESTER CHORDSMEN

CHORUS OF THE CHESAPEAKE



PARKSIDE HARMONY

# Choruses

(in order of appearance)

Contest score sheets may be found at <http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/scores>

Check out the many, many more District Convention photos at <http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/photos>



VOICES OF GOTHAM



THE PINE BARONS



OLD DOMINION CHORUS



THE VIRGINIANS

# Choruses

(in order of appearance)

Contest score sheets may be found at <http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/scores>

Check out the many, many more District Convention photos at <http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/photos>



BROTHERS IN HARMONY



PRIDE OF DELMARVA



EAST COAST SOUND



Mic Testers JOE & JANE BARBERSHOPPER CHORUS

## Register Now! Leadership Academies Announced for 2018!



by **Bob Eckman,**  
MAD EVP

The District will hold three Leadership Academies in 2018. Leadership Academies (LAs) provide education and training for key chapter officer positions in six tracks:

- President/EVP
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Music & Performance
- Chapter Development/ Membership
- Marketing & Public Relations

All new and old chapter officers are invited and encouraged to attend. Incoming officers and directors can all benefit from attendance at one of the District's LAs where you will learn all about your new positions, make important contacts with your peers from chapters across the District, and connect with instructors who can mentor you throughout the year. You will gain the knowledge and skills ("tricks of the trade") you need to carry out your duties and responsibilities in an efficient and effective manner.

Feedback from previous attendees indicates that even "old dogs" (guys who are repeating in office for the umpteenth time) learn something new from the instructor or other class members. With the Society's increased emphasis on the Healthy Chapter initiative and our new vision, Everyone in Harmony, even experienced officers will benefit from our

knowledgeable faculty.

So, don't miss out on the opportunity to learn something that will make your life easier and more fun in 2018.

As in the past, group pricing is available up to 2 weeks before the Academy you'll be attending. Bring all your chapter officers and learn together! It's great team-building.

The dates, locations and coordinators are:

### Southern • January 6, 2018

Lord of Life Lutheran Church,  
5114 Twinbrook Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032

Coordinator:

Cliff Shoemaker  
9711 Meadowlark Road  
Vienna, VA 22182  
Home Phone: 703-281-6184  
Email: cliff@attorneyaccess.net

### Northern • January 27, 2018

Wanaque Elementary School  
1 1st St, Wanaque, NJ 07465

Coordinator:

Rich Galdi  
24 Cannonball Rd  
Wanaque, NJ 07465  
Cell Phone: 973-573-0124  
Email: rgaldi@optonline.net

### Central: • February 10, 2018

Glasgow High School  
1901 S College Ave, Newark, DE 19702

Coordinator:

Rob France, Jr.  
4803 Rush Dr  
Pipersville, PA 18947  
Home Phone: 215-766-8066  
Email: rob@soundkat.com

Complete the [REGISTRATION FORM](#) and mail it along with a check to the Coordinator of the location you wish to attend.

I'm looking forward to seeing you!

Number Attend	Cost /Student	Total Cost
1	\$45.00	\$45
2	\$42.50	\$85
3	\$40.00	\$120
4	\$37.50	\$150
5	\$35.00	\$175
6	\$32.50	\$195
7 or more	\$30.00	\$210 plus \$30 ea. over 7

## ANNUAL HOLIDAY (BEER) BLAST THURSDAY, DEC. 28, 2017 • 7P-12A



**NEW LOCATION**

**Dundalk American Legion Post #38**  
**3300 Dundalk Ave. / Dundalk, MD**  
**21222**



**NEW LOCATION**

**\$10 PER PERSON**  
**(Price includes Beer & Soda)**

**Food Available For Purchase**

**AND**  
**CELEBRATE WITH**

☆☆☆ **ARCADE** ☆☆☆

**ON THE 25th ANNIVERSARY**  
**OF THEIR DISTRICT QUARTET TITLE**



**Call 410-647-4710 for information**

Mid-Atlantic District  
Musical Assistance Service

## Could your chorus or quartet benefit from skilled coaching?

Probably. No matter where you are on the scale of excellence, input from a skilled and experienced coach can help you to advance to the next level of performance.

The Mid-Atlantic District is ready to assist you in securing coaching that would benefit your group. Through the Musical Assistance Service, you can identify coaches in various areas of performance, and receive reimbursement for expenses incurred in bringing a coach to your group or in traveling to the coach's location.

You may find a coach on the listing provided on the Musical Assistance Service website, or find one on your own. The Coaching Coordinator will work with you in locating a qualified coach to meet your particular needs.

Who uses the Musical Assistance Service? Choruses and quartets at every level, from those competing for the first time to championship-level performers.

Limitations? Just a few. Reimbursement is made up to \$75 per coaching session, and each group is eligible for reimbursement for up to five sessions per year. No reimbursement of coaching fees is made; only approved expenses as shown on the District Expense Report will be reimbursed.

You'll find a detailed description of the program, and links to all necessary forms and the list of qualified coaches, at [www.midatlanticdistrict.com/?Code=MAS](http://www.midatlanticdistrict.com/?Code=MAS).

Questions? Please contact

Chuck Lower  
Coaching Coordinator  
251 Copper Beech Drive  
Blue Bell, PA 19422  
267-470-4090  
[chucke80@comcast.net](mailto:chucke80@comcast.net)



The Alexandria Harmonizers



PRESENT  
***Peace & Joy: An A Cappella Holiday Concert***



With Special Guests



**Virginia Bronze**



**Pratt Street Power**

**December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 8:00PM and December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 2:00PM**

T.C. Williams High School  
3330 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22302

Tickets: \$25, \$30 or \$35  
[www.harmonizers.org](http://www.harmonizers.org)

or

<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/alexandria-harmonizers-15043680749>

20% Senior (65+) and 50% Student Discounts on \$25 and \$30 seats



The Alexandria Harmonizers, Inc. gratefully acknowledges the operational support it receives from the Commission for the Arts of Alexandria, Virginia.

# Audio and video recordings are essential in creating an outstanding chorus

We directors have a unique perspective in assessing our choruses' sound and performance because we always stand out in front. We hear and see everything that the chorus is doing. Yet the men on the risers hear mostly their own voices and the voices surrounding them, and they cannot appreciate the visual performance because they cannot watch the group from the risers. How can we provide them our unique perspective? Simple: by making audio and video recordings and having our singers listen to and watch them. My article for this edition presents a number of reasons why we should be recording our singers on a regular basis, offers some ideas on to how to do it, and lists some of the strides we can make once we have implemented such a program.

## 1. Make audio recordings of the chorus so your men know how they really sound. –

Our singers try their best to create the sound that we want from them, but from their vantage point they cannot accurately assess how well they achieve the goal. So pick a skill that you are working on—for example, diction or diphthong turns, etc -- and record a page or two of any song in your repertoire and immediately play it back to the chorus. They can now better judge how well they did. They will also be able to hear when they succeeded and when they did not, giving them a more comprehensive understanding of their overall sound.

## 2. Have your men make individual audio recordings so they can learn to become better singers.

This idea often receives push-back from singers who don't wish to make an audio recording "because I shouldn't have to audition in order to sing on the contest stage." Please note that this concept has nothing to do with an audition process. It is simply a means by which to get each singer to listen to his own voice -- which will open his eyes to what he truly sounds like

-- and then submit his recording to his section leader for feedback and ways to improve. Singers at all levels improve when taking private voice lessons. These audio recordings serve as mini-voice lessons, and you can repeat them as often as you wish. Simply have your men bring an audio device to rehearsal (MP3 device, mobile phone, etc), record part of a song during a run-through, and have them listen to their recording a few times and then send it to their section leaders for review.

## 3. Your section leaders will learn a lot about their singers and their section via an audio recording program.

Regular audio recordings will enable your section leaders to better understand the strengths and weaknesses of their singers and better design rehearsal drills to make necessary improvements. Audio recordings also demonstrate the places where their singers are generally struggling. Wrong notes across the section become evident when analyzing audio recordings. In addition, an audio recording program allows your section leaders to have a much greater role in the musical direction of your chorus, which encourages and bolsters their commitment to the group. Directors will also find that their section leaders run sectional rehearsals much more capably once they better understand their singers, where they are succeeding, and where they need the most help.

## 4. Use the audio recording program to teach your singers to become more discerning in how they listen and how they sing.

Record your chorus and make the audio available to your singers, either via email or on your Chapter website or private channel (recommended). You do

*Audio and video recordings put them in front of the chorus and enable them to listen and watch from the director's perspective.*

not have to record an entire song: the intro or Section A or the tag is sufficient; whatever you think best. Then have your singers listen to the recording a few times and answer some homework questions about it. Over time they will 'hear' a lot more musical things and will become much more discerning in their critical analysis. This translates into adopting better singing techniques and learning to be more consistent in implementing them. Please keep in mind

that it is as critical to point out where your singers are successful as it is to point out where they need to improve. Feedback should never be a list of negative statements; that will not serve you well.

## 5. Use video recordings to demonstrate the chorus' ability to implement the performance plan as a unit.

This item encompasses a lot of things simultaneously: a) When choreography moves are involved, is everyone doing the correct move? At the correct time? b) Are the faces of everyone in the chorus engaged, and are they sending the same message? c) Are some singers facially engaged sometimes but then 'zone out' during parts of the song? d) What is the singing posture of the men on the risers? e) Are there parts of the song's performance plan that don't seem to be working, even though the men are engaged and doing a good job?

There is an endless list of things that video recordings make evident. The most important thing for you, the director, to realize is that your singers have no idea exactly how they look on the risers until they see for themselves. Your singers will get a lot out of studying their video recordings and will become much more competent at successfully delivering a good perfor-

mance. As with the audio program, I recommend you make regular use of the video recorder, make the videos available to your men, and have them answer homework questions in order to improve.

by Glenn Phillips,  
DVP Chorus Director  
Development



## 6. Use video recordings to teach the performance and choreography plan to your singers.

In addition to writing down the performance plan for your songs, consider having someone on the music team make a video recording of the plan and make it available to your Chapter. You can make separate videos for the front row and/or the left and right sides of the chorus, if necessary, and you can even use existing technology to splice multiple videos together to make one video encompassing all sections of the risers. Many people learn visually, and this is a terrific resource by which your singers can learn their 'moves' and their performance plan.

Our men want to be at their best when they sing for our audiences, but they can only sing and perform as well as they know how. Audio and video recordings put them in front of the chorus and enable them to listen and watch from the director's perspective. This valuable opportunity clearly demonstrates the things they are doing well and highlights areas for improvement. I strongly urge you to come up with an audio and video recording program for your Chapter chorus. The potential for growth is exponential!

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

# District Hall Of Honor Inducts Three New Members

By Keith Jones, Chairman, 2017 Hall of Honor Committee

On behalf of my fellow committee members: Roger Tarp, Bill Colosimo, Oley Olson, and Jay Butterfield, I was privileged to announce this year's honorees Saturday, September 16, during the Fall District Convention in Reading, Pennsylvania. Here's some additional information about each of the three men (in alphabetical order):

## HARDMAN JONES

Hardman first joined the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS) and the Mid-Atlantic District in 1970 as a member of the Norfolk, VA Chapter, where he assumed his first leadership position soon thereafter. More recently, he held major chapter positions in both the Richmond, VA Chapter and the James River, VA Chapter. The Richmond Chapter honored him as Barbershopper of the Year in 1974 and with the Lifetime Service Award in 2008.

At the District level, Hardman served more than five years as Chapter Counselor and later, Chapter Advocate for three chapters. He served for seven years as the District Vice-President (DVP) for the Southern Division and another seven years as the DVP the Chapter Support and Leadership Training function. In addition, Hardman served for four years as a Member-at-Large on the District Board of Directors. For several years, he has been on the faculty of our Leadership Academy (formerly COTS) schools and for the past eight years, has been a member of the Harmony College East support team.

Hardman served the James River Chapter as both Secretary and Treasurer and sang many performances with the chapter's award-winning small chorus.

Over the past thirty years, Hardman has led the Richmond Chapter's Virginians chorus as interim musical director on at least three occasions, adding up to a tenure of ten years as music director. In addition, he has served the chapter as an assistant director for most of the past three decades.

Hardman has also excelled as a quartet man over the past forty years, in at least eight registered quartets. Two of those (City Slickers and Youth Reclamation Project) earned fourth-place medals in the International Senior Quartet Championship Contest.

## NEIL KEIHM

Neil was first introduced to barbershop harmony singing as a teenager, when the father of one of his high school classmates bought a book of barbershop arrangements for the boys and two of their choir mates to sing around the piano. That was way back in 1949 and although he enjoyed it, Neil didn't think it would affect his life in any way. Boy, was he wrong about that!

Neil joined the Society and the Mid-Atlantic District in 1975 as a member of the Wilmington, Delaware Chapter. A few years later, he moved to Connecticut and became a dual member of the Westchester, NY Chapter (M-AD) and the Bridgeport, CT Chapter (NED). He has sung with at least six registered quartets over the years.

In Bridgeport, Neil served on the Board of Directors, wrote and produced the chapter's annual show, and was honored as their Barbershopper of the Year in 1984. Later that year, he returned to Delaware and rejoined the Wilmington Chapter and became a dual member with the Newark (pronounced New Ark, they'll have you know!) Delaware Chapter. He served as Music VP and wrote and directed the annual show.

In 2004, Neil joined the Dundalk, MD Chapter and since that time, sang in numerous division, district, and international contests with the Chorus of the Chesapeake. He has attended Harmony College (now Harmony University) at least a dozen times and the various Harmony Education Program (HEP) schools, including Harmony College East, most of the past 25 years.

Neil served as President of the Wilmington Chapter in 1989 and has held many different leadership positions in the years since; since 2014, he has served as Chapter Secretary.

At the District level, Neil has served as DVP for the Atlantic Division, as Member-at-Large of the District Board of Directors, as DVP for Member Services, and as a Chapter Coach, Chapter Counselor, and Chapter Advocate. In 2008, he was elected to the District Honor Fraternity, DELASUSQUEHUDMAC. Also that year, he began his extraordinary service as Assistant District Secretary for Show Clearances, from which

he is retiring at the end of this year.

The boy who sang a few songs with his buddies around the piano grew up to be a life-long, accomplished, and highly regarded and cherished barbershopper, and we're all the better for it!

## GLENN PHILLIPS

Glenn is currently the Music Director of two M-AD chapters and also serves as the DVP for Chorus Director Development for our District. Throughout his 34 years of barbershop life, he has been actively engaged in all aspects of musical leadership, coaching, directing, arranging, and performing.

Glenn joined our District since 2007, transferring to the Dundalk, MD Chapter from the Far Western District, where he sang with the Foothill Cities, CA Chapter (Masters of Harmony) and the Whittier CA`

In Dundalk, Glenn served as Music VP, section leader and Assistant Director until accepting the position of Music Director of the Patapsco Valley, MD Chapter in 2010. In 2011, he also became Music Director of the Queen Anne's County, MD Chapter, and has directed both choruses in both shows and contests in the ensuing years.

Over the years, Glenn has sung in ten registered quartets, two of which are still active, and has won a quartet championship in the Atlantic Harmony Brigade. He is a regular instructor at Harmony College East, working with both the Youth in Harmony Camps, teaching beginning and advanced director classes, and serving as a quartet coach.

Glenn supports our hobby as a long-term member of the President's Council and is also a member of the District Honor Fraternity, DELASUSQUEHUDMAC.

In conclusion, we had much more detail about each of these men, so I chose to highlight just some of their qualifications and accomplishments for this article. Please congratulate them on achieving this high honor, and make sure that they're wearing their Hall of Honor badges at all District conventions!



HARDMAN JONES



NEIL KEIHM



GLENN PHILLIPS



The Northeasters Barbershop Chorus from Honesdale, Pennsylvania, chose the theme Let Freedom Ring for their annual show in September. Northeast Spirit Quartet was the hit of the show singing, Please Mr. Columbus. Guest Quartet, Studio 4, and four local quartets rounded out the performance.



— By Clyde Kreider, President

# RAHWAY VALLEY

## Novice Quartet Contest

Our  
**57<sup>th</sup>**  
Novice  
Contest

**Feb 24,  
2018  
7:00 pm**



### Admission FREE

featuring

- Last year's Quartet Champ
- Atlantic Harmony Brigade contingent
- Tag-singing event
- Post-event snacks reception
- Local Diner Afterglow - BYOB

Roosevelt School

811 St George Ave at Stanton St, Rahway, NJ  
[www.Jerseyaires.org](http://www.Jerseyaires.org) [heidymoretti@gmail.com](mailto:heidymoretti@gmail.com)



2012 Novice winners — and 2017 Mid-Atlantic District Champions — Gimme Four return to entertain at the annual February event.

## Rahway Valley Chapter hosts 57th Annual Novice Contest

*Registration opens December 1*

Come check out the 57th annual Rahway novice contest. This is an absolutely exciting event for novice quartets who wish to have fun in front of an audience while also receiving scores and reviews from certified BHS judges.

The Rahway Novice Contest has served as a valuable tool for quartets working towards developing their performance skills as well as targeting better scores in preparation for upcoming prelims and division contests. Many notable MAD quartets have used this contest as a springboard to bigger events.

This year's contest will feature the return of Gimme Four. They not only won the 2012 Rahway novice contest, but they also went on to win the 2017-18 MAD quartet championship and compete at International.

Come join us for a fun night of singing tags with Gimme Four and other new-found friends. We always have an afterglow at a local BYOB diner where we have been known to sing until the wee hours of the morning.

Contest applications will open December 1 and close when all 10 slots have been filled. This will also be the second year the Rahway Novice Contest will be open to mixed quartets. The cost per quartet is \$40 or \$50 with a video. The contest is free to the general audience. Email [heidymoretti@gmail.com](mailto:heidymoretti@gmail.com) for more info.

— By Heidi Moretti

# RAHWAY VALLEY

## Novice Quartet Contest

Our  
**57<sup>th</sup>**  
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Roosevelt School

811 St George Ave at Stanton St, Rahway, NJ

[www.Jerseyaires.org](http://www.Jerseyaires.org) [heidymoretti@gmail.com](mailto:heidymoretti@gmail.com)

# Two M-AD quartets to be featured in TV documentary

*Canadian company films Gimme Four and Forecast in rehearsal and performance*



Those who attended the Fall District Convention in Reading, Pennsylvania may have noticed a visiting Canadian camera crew doing interviews, talking with quartet singers, and filming some of the contest sessions. The visitors were from Quiet Motion, a television production company from Montreal, Quebec, in the USA for the weekend to learn about barbershop harmony and film a documentary about quartet competitions.

Champions du Monde (World Champions) is a Canadian television documentary series that “dives head-on into the colorful world of the most fascinating championships that exist.”

According to Olivier Morin, the host of the program, he and his crew are traveling around the world to film episodes of the show. From time in Bulgaria to witnessing an opera-conducting competition to experiencing a thrilling rattlesnake wrangling contest in Texas, the 26 segments of this show will feature a wide variety of championship competitions – includ-

ing a full episode that will feature two of our own Mid-Atlantic District barbershop quartets, Forecast and Gimme Four.

“It was my first time actually witnessing a barbershop quartet in action,” says host Olivier Morin, “I had heard it on TV, but when you hear it in person you get a totally different feeling!”

These two M-AD quartets were selected to be profiled for the show as they prepared to take the stage and entertain audiences in Reading, Pennsylvania for the District Competition in September 2017. The Canadian camera crew came to the USA and traveled first to spend time with Gimme Four and learn more about how they work together to prepare for competition.

“The first team we met was Gimme Four, rehearsing in a living room in New Jersey,” says host Morin,

“...we could not tell who sang which part, it sounded like a whole instantly!”

— Program host Olivier Morin

“It was nice to see them all come together so easily, we could not tell who sang which part, it sounded like a whole instantly!”

If you want to hear more from Paul, David, William, and Joseph about the experience filming in New Jersey, they say you will just have to “Wait until you see what they filmed before we got to District...”

In addition to participating in a number of behind-the-scenes interviews and warm-up room video recordings, Forecast spent Saturday afternoon with the film crew visiting a local tourist destination high up on nearby Mount Penn. Highlights of the trip to the Reading Pagoda landmark included experiencing the picturesque views of downtown and the surrounding area – along with the opportunity to capture footage of Mike,

Tyler, Kevin, and Travis singing together in a unique historic setting.

Program host Morin even sang a tag with the quartet, and reports, “Forecast, they love to sing. It’s palpable. It’s warm, sincere, and you can’t resist smiling!”

The episode of Champions du Monde featuring Forecast and Gimme Four is scheduled to air in the spring of 2018 on TV5 in Canada.

“I’m especially looking forward to hearing the great stories about barbershop harmony that were told by individual members of both quartets,” says Forecast tenor Mike Fitch, “especially since they will be professionally overdubbed into French for this broadcast!”

The program is planned for syndication worldwide in 2020 when an English language version of the episode will also be available. Stay tuned for additional information when the episode is released and available to watch!

# Race relations and Barbershop

## Shameless joins HALO in community consciousness-raising session



HALO



SHAMELESS

Shameless Quartet, like so many other quartets, has sung for many different events but not until recently for a race relations discussion group. We were invited by HALO quartet to participate in one of a series of discussion sessions on the topic.

HALO is the first African American ladies' competing quartet and has initiated the Race and #RealTalk program to promote better communication and understanding between the races. To our knowledge, this is the first effort to employ barbershop as a basis for addressing a major social problem.

The force behind this initiative is Shana Oshiro, a music therapist, and her sister, Niambi Powell, a licensed counselor and social worker. Shameless had sung on various occasions with Epic, Shana's 2012 Harmony Queens quartet, so it was a reunion of sorts for us to participate in this program.

The Race and #RealTalk initiative uses barbershop four-part harmony as a model for bringing together and understanding differing perspectives and opinions of our cultural and national identities. Just as there are four quite different barbershop voice parts that come together to make the whole better than the sum of the parts, Race and #RealTalk extends the

analogy to address misunderstandings, pre-conceived notions and even prejudices among different groups.

To quote their material, "In Barbershop it is the alignment of differing harmonic perspectives and functions that make the music work. Can we learn to find beauty in holding the tension with one another when we confront issues of race? And will holding that tension and experiencing it as a beautiful thing even in our discomfort allow us to continue the conversation and make social progress?"

The Shameless Quartet contributions were to demonstrate a couple of classic barbershop songs and then to help the group learn a tag, a relatively difficult tag. [But I think you could learn to love me given time - given time]. None of us were familiar with this tag.

After a demonstration, everyone sang the tag first in the voice parts that they thought they would be most comfortable. Then Shana had everyone switch to the parts that they thought they would be most uncomfort-

*... it could become a community outreach program that would bring both greater diversity within the barbershop community as well as better race relations more widely.*

able with. The purpose of the exercise was to self-locate our personal perspectives relative to the truth of America's history and to practice attempting to identify with perspectives that are different.

Race and #RealTalk is a creative and effective way bring disparate views and personalities together to achieve a positive result. It could remain the effort of a single quartet to do what they can within a small community to improve race relations. Or it could become a community outreach program that would bring both greater diversity within the barbershop community as well as better race relations more widely.

The vision for the organization is to develop the program to be shared in more places and to have at least one home base ongoing "chapter." To learn more about HALO and their initiative, go to [www.haloquartet.com](http://www.haloquartet.com).

— By Phil Merkel and Shana Oshiro



## Oasis quartet gets *energized* over fund raising

Oasis quartet enjoyed a warm reception as the featured entertainment at the Plumstead Township Fall Festival last month in New Egypt, N.J. It was a gorgeous day for strolling the streets of town and harmonizing on street corners.

The following weekend, the foursome tagged along with the New Egypt Elk's Lodge #2457 at a fund raising Pub Crawl to benefit the Lodge's Veterans Burial Fund. Oasis will be raising on-tune to raise donations for the Veterans Burial Fund early next

year, donating a portion of their Singing Valentines proceeds to this great cause!

Oasis Quartet is (T) Patrick Casey, (L) Mark VanBruggen, (Br) Jim Ewin and (Bs) Andrew Gensey Jr. Members of the quartet represent the Bucks County, Hamilton Square, Manhattan, Ocean County and Princeton Chapters. For more about Oasis, visit [Oasis Barbershop Quartet](http://OasisBarbershopQuartet.com).

THE NORTH PENNSMEN  
BARBERSHOP CHORUS  
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LIVE A CAPPELLA CHRISTMAS SHOW

<p>DATES/TIMES: FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1ST AT 7:30 PM SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND AT 2:00 PM</p>	<p>TICKETS: IN ADVANCE SENIORS/STUDENTS: \$12.00 GENERAL ADMISSION: \$15.00</p>
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# Students **WOW** barbershop crowd in **LAS VEGAS**

In the Fall 2017 issue of Mid'l Antics, we mentioned the inspired singing of two very young quartets coached by John Wernega — **The Quintones** and **Elementary Mix** — who served as mic coolers for the youth quartet contest in Las Vegas last July. The two quartets, with their coach, also performed as an ensemble in scholls and other venues all over town to much acclaim. Check out Mike Kelly's video of the **Wildcat Harmonizers** [here](#).

*The Fairfax Jubil-Aires 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Show:*



*"Rat Pack" Revival - The Music of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, and Sammy Davis, Jr.*

*New Time & Location!*

*3:00 PM – One Show Only  
Saturday, March 24, 2018  
Centreville High School  
6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton, Va*

*Featuring: Pratt Street Power  
2016 BHS International Youth Quartet Champions!*

*The Bella Nova Chorus and Quartets  
and the Fairfax Jubil-Aires*



*Tickets will be available through the  
[www.fairfaxjubilaires.org](http://www.fairfaxjubilaires.org) website*

# Seeking Secret Santas of Song

*Jersey Harmony Explosion needs YOUR help to introduce secondary students to barbershop harmony*

The Caldwell and Montclair chapters are co-sponsoring a youth harmony festival. Jersey Harmony Explosion will take place Saturday, Feb. 3, 2018, at James Caldwell High School in West Caldwell, N.J.

Douglas Carnes, director of The Great Northern Union chorus, will be head clinician. The male teaching quartet will be 2017 3rd place medalists, After Hours and the female teaching quartet will be 2018 Sweet Adelines 2nd place medalists and 2014 Rising Star champions, Class Ring.

Youth in Harmony is a subject near and dear to the hearts of both the Caldwell and Montclair chapters, according to Joe Servidio, Jr. who is president of both chapters. In fact, the Caldwell chapter was founded in 2006 as Tri Star, a youth chorus sponsored by the Montclair chapter and later chartered into the BHS as East Coast Sound. The two chapters work together closely to promote barbershop harmony throughout New Jersey.

Jersey Harmony Explosion is simply the next step for the two chapters as they embrace the BHS vision of Everyone In Harmony.

Festival Chairman Will Downey anticipates as many as 200 campers will attend the event. Groups from High School and Middle School programs from all over New Jersey will take part in the program.

The festival will be a one-day program featuring some of the very best talent that the Barbershop world has

*Programs like JHE expose young people to Barbershop specifically, and a capella singing in general, at an early age so that they can enjoy it for a lifetime.*

to offer. Campers will work with After Hours and Class Ring on the many aspects of singing and vocal performance.

The festival will culminate in a blockbuster show Saturday evening as the individual groups, our teaching quartets and then a chorus of all students and faculty will perform. The public is welcome.

Many times at conventions and events, Barbershoppers are heard to lament that they wished they knew about our hobby earlier in life so that they could have enjoyed it longer.

Programs like JHE expose young people to Barbershop specifically, and a capella singing in general, at an early age so that they can enjoy it for a lifetime.

As with any endeavor of this nature the biggest hurdle is funding. Several chapter members have been generous contributors and they have received a grant from the Rubenstein Foundation.

However, they have not reached their fund raising goal.

JHE has instituted a "Secret Santa of Song" program. Mid-Atlantic district members can give the gift of music to a young person with a donation to Jersey Harmony Explosion. All gifts are tax deductible.

For more information contact us at [jerseyharmonyexplosion@gmail.com](mailto:jerseyharmonyexplosion@gmail.com)



**SECRET SANTA OF SONG**

**I would like to be a Secret Santa of Song**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I prefer to remain anonymous:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make checks payable to Montclair Chapter and send to: Montclair Chapter c/o William May, Treasurer 9 Taylor Dr. West Caldwell NJ 07006**



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

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**NEXT DEADLINE:  
FEB 21, 2018**

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

*"All Things Must Pass  
None of life's strings can last  
So I must be on my way  
and face another day."*

- George Harrison, 1970

After nine years of singing together, Frank the Dog has reached the time to say, "we must be on our way."

Tenor Tim Knapp has taken a new professional position in Boston, and baritone Brian Lindvall has accepted a new career move that will take him to Atlanta. So, as they say, it is time.

It has been an amazing journey of laughter and fun, of friendship and musical creativity; a long journey filled with proud accomplishments. It has been a great time of meeting and sharing shows with the many barbershop chapters and quartets across the country.

We have each grown and learned how to be better singers and better performers. But we have also learned from each other, over the many hours of time together, how to be better husbands, fathers, sons and citizens. We have coached each other in dealing with stress and the many challenges that are

Hi, all,

This is to make sure you know that Jerry DID finish the 50-km race last month. He said he felt like ... (quite bad!) when he crossed the finish line, but by the next day he felt fine and, in fact, went to help clean up the site.

Incidentally, Jerry was VERY appreciative of your pledges. He has told me a couple of times how it gave him quite a bit of incentive to keep going when his body was giving him quite another message. Especially this year his body was giving the opposite message because it was so hot and humid. Jerry said all of the finishing times were slower than last year. Also, there were more leaves down along the rocky trails.

part and parcel to life. We have become very dear friends.

We would like to thank our original baritone Matthew Halley for helping start Frank the Dog. We would like to thank baritone Ross Trube for helping us win the 2013 Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Championship and achieving Top 20 Quartet in the Barbershop Harmony Society, which we cherish so dearly.

We thank all the fans who have supported us, cheered us on and barked at us over these many years.

We thank the Mid-Atlantic District of the Barbershop Harmony Society, who have been so supportive. We thank all the coaches and advisors that have given their energy and ideas to help us be as good as our talents would take us. We thank our friends and families for their encouragement.

Finally, we'd like to thank our wives, who have been amazingly understanding and supportive. They, above all, understand that this thing we call barbershop is something that is part of who we are, and makes us better men, and more complete human beings.

We end as great friends and thankful for the experience we fondly called, "The Dogs."

Some of you made a pledge on this event, and most of you have already sent me the money. If you made a pledge based on Jerry's finishing the race, you can now send me a check—made out to me. If you DIDN'T make a pledge earlier, but would like to now, that would be greatly appreciated. Just make out a check payable to me and send it to me at the address given below.

Thanks for your help with this. I promise that every cent will soon be with the treasurer for the use of our youth chorus(es) going to Orange County, CA!

Ron Knickerbocker  
315 Horseshoe Lane  
Downingtown, PA 19335

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