



International Medalist
GREAT NORTHERN UNION
CHORUS



10,000 LAKES DIVISION – LAND O' LAKES DISTRICT

Volume 12 #2

GNUsNews

August 2007

Busy GNU Chorus and Quartets Performing Often



The **Great Northern Union** was proud to have 4 quartets representing us and the LOL district at the Barbershop Harmony Society's International Convention and Contest in Denver last month. Pictured clockwise from the upper left is **After Midnight**, **Vocality**, **Bandwagon** and 3rd place medalist, **Storm Front** who hail from Denver but have one member who still calls GNU home, Sydney Libsack. More on the International Contest throughout this issue.....



CHAPTER LEADERS

| | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|
| President | Marty Monson | 651-330-7587(H) |
| Immediate Past President | Bill Lydecker | 507-934-1822(H) |
| Secretary | Ricky Chaddock | 763-757-3463(H) |
| Treasurer | Bob Dowma | 651-631-3273(H) |
| Performance co-VP | Darren Hoehne | 952-226-5303(H) |
| Performance co-VP | Gerald Germain | 715-246-5529 (H) |
| Marketing VP | Jared Hoke | 651-433-3865 (H) |
| Membership VP | Ken Slinde | 612-884-4975(H) |
| Fund Development Vice President | Vacant | |
| Mem. At Large | Ken Gilmore | 651-770-1536(H) |
| Mem. At Large | Kevin Lynch | 952-475-0763(H) |
| Mem at Large | Scott Kvigne | 952-431-0596(H) |
| Chorus Mgr. VP | Kent Erlandson | 952-944-9934(H) |
| Presentation | Roger Stanfield | 952-440-3678(H) |
| Librarian | Ken Gilmore | 651-770-1536(H) |
| Sunshine | Keith Fransen | 651-438-1342(H) |
| Uniforms | Roger Stanfield | 952-440-3678(H) |
| Counselor | John Kleiber | 952-944-3704(H) |
| Webmaster | Jeff Aldrich | 651-221-4400(H) |
| | DIRECTOR | |
| Pete Benson | | 612-210-5537(H) |
| | ASSISTANT DIRECTOR | |
| Scott Kvigne | | 952-431-0596(H) |
| | SECTION LEADERS | |
| Tenor | Marty Monson | 651-330-7587(H) |
| Lead | Gary Jacobson | 651-330-4525 (H) |
| Bari | Jim Emery | 612-824-7464(H) |
| Bass | Steve McDonald | 715-262-4606(H) |

BULLETIN EDITORS

Steve and Anne Anderson 612-866-1856(H)
 Email: SteveA1159@aol.com

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What's GN-Youth?

Have you seen this new title on a rehearsal schedule or heard some buzz about a new group of punks and wondered what's going on. Well, I'm here to tell you.

Keeping in step with the Barbershop Harmony Society emphasis on youth recruitment and our own 3-yr plan membership goals, we have implemented a new program to encourage and showcase the younger singers (30 and under) in the GNU. The intention of the group is to be a recruiting arm of the GNU by singing a few songs as a showcase on the GNU concerts. This will be a little extra fun for the young guys as well as an attraction for other young people in our audience. Studies have shown that young people like to sing with young people. Sam Sather and I recently extended our invitation to some high school kids who participated in the Harmony Camp in La Crosse and several have expressed an interest. Ultimately we hope that these young kids will find their place on the GNU risers!

Recently the Society announced a "Youth Chorus Contest" that will take place at the Midwinter Convention in San Antonio next January. We are seriously looking to take the GN-Youth to this event. The group will meet on Thursdays from 6:30 to 7:28. While some of us have met, the official start will be on Sept. 6th. Do you know some young singers who might like to join GN-Youth? We appreciate any support you can give us in this exciting venture!



Pete Benson
 Director

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Minneapolis Commodores compete at International!



The Minneapolis Commodores earned the right to compete at the international contest last fall in Rochester. They had 148 men on stage in Denver with the help of the River City Chorus from Mason City, Iowa who joined them in the competition. Scoring 81.5% and placing 18th overall, they did the LOL district proud and had fun doing it. Pictures by Dan Proctor



Happiness Emporium Hosts Gospel Sing in Denver

By Bob Dowma, Tenor HE

The Happiness Emporium hosted the 21st annual Gospel Sing in Denver (7th one hosted by the HE themselves....since 2001) at Central Presbyterian Church, a few blocks from the Convention headquarters hotel, Adam's Mark. There was an estimated attendance of between 900 and 1,000 singers, and the directing was hot, the visiting groups were hot, the singing was hot, and since the Church was not air conditioned, all in attendance were....rather warm at the conclusion, but there was great singing, and favorable comments at the completion.

The 3 guest directors were Joe Liles, Jim Bagby and our own Pete Benson. Also, our own, "Mr Everything" Judd Orff did a wonderful job with the Stewardship presentation. The guest groups were Heart of Texas chorus, a competitor in the chorus contest from the Southwest District, and Heart to Heart, a mixed gospel quartet from the general Milwaukee area, and the men, Brad Charles and Kirk Hyder are active members of the MVE. They and their wives did a wonderful job with familiar songs like "Amazing Grace", "Operator" and "Great Is the Lord". The Happiness Emporium opened the Sing Along with a number and then did an offertory number after Judd's Stewardship presentation. The HE has already started their search for a suitable Church in Nashville for next year's Gospel Sing.



Powerhouse quartet, Max Q, featuring one of GNUs past coaches, Tony Derosa, singing lead, won the Barbershop Harmony Society international barbershop quartet contest on July 8 by a commanding 300 point lead.

Photo by Miller Photography



OC Times placed 2nd again this year and will be the GNUs featured guests at our season finale on November 17th.



The Midwest Vocal Express wowed the audience again this year with their very imaginative Pinocchio set complete with Geppetto and Jiminy Cricket.

AIC Show best ever!

Every year at the international convention, The **Association of International Champions** puts on a show. This year the convention theme was geared around the musical, *The Music Man*. So the AIC used that theme and sang many of the songs from that show in barbershop harmony. Not only does the AIC chorus sing but half a dozen of the active quartet champions are given 10 minutes each to perform.

The GNU is proud to have Bob Dowma and Rick Anderson of the 1975 International Champion, the Happiness Emporium, as active members. Below are some pictures from the AIC show as taken by Loren May and Grady Kerr.



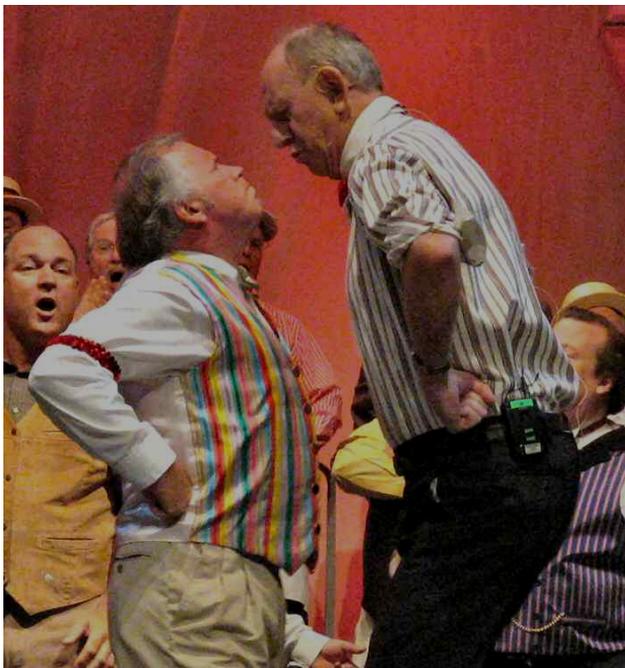
Jim Henry as Harold Hill with **Gotcha!** as the quartet that Harold teaches to sing



Jim Foy of the Happiness Emporium on the train in the 1st scene of the AIC rendition of *The Music Man*



Grecian Urns provided by **FRED**



Iowa Stubborn (**Jim Bagby** and **Bob Dowma**)



Happiness Emporium
Tribute to Great Quartets



The Westminster chorus edged out the returning champion, St. Charles in the chorus contest. The 2 choruses actually tied and the tie was broken by using the best singing category score.

The Barbershop Harmony Society is truly a world wide organization with affiliates in several parts of the world. All of these affiliates are encouraged to participate in the international convention and contest. We often get choruses and quartets participating from England and Sweden. This year, New Zealand and Australia also sent their best to compete. To the left is a collection of the logos used by the affiliates from around the world. Below is a list of their official names.

AAMBS (*Australian Association of Men's Barbershop Singers*)

BABS (*British Association of Barbershop Singers*)

BinG! (*Barbershop in Germany*)

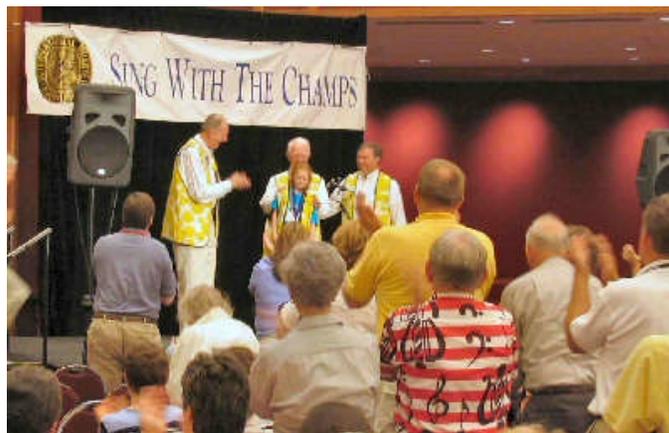
DABS (*Dutch Association of Barbershop Singers*)

IABS (*Irish Association of Barbershop Singers*)

NZABS (*New Zealand Association of Barbershop Singers*)

SNOBS (*Society of Nordic Barbershop Singers*)

SPATS (*Southern Part of Africa Tonsorial Singers*)



Sing with the Champs is always a popular event at the convention. Coordinator **Phil Hansen** was once again successful with the help of many volunteers and champion quartets. There were several lucky singers who got to bust a chord with the likes of **Happiness Emporium** (pictured), **Gotcha**, **Power Play**, **FRED**, **Realtime** and **Vocal Spectrum**. AIC Members served as emcees for the event. Once again this event raised some much needed dollars for the AIC Grants supporting YIH Society-wide.

GNU Road Trip!

April 28-29, the Great Northern Union were the invited guests of the Madison Capitol Chordsmen. The GNU did 2 shows and an afterglow with the help of After Midnight quartet. The next morning they sang for an early church service before heading back to the Twin Cities. The road trip started on Saturday morning at about 6am and didn't finish until late Sunday afternoon. They traveled in style on 2 coaches and had a great time entertaining in Madison.



Day at the Dome 2007



On June 26, the Great Northern Union was joined by Land O Lakes area barbershoppers at the Metrodome in Minneapolis, MN prior to the Twins vs. Toronto baseball game to sing the national anthems of both Canada and the US. Pictures show lots of waiting “back stage” and a pick up quartet for a rendition of “take me out to the ballgame” during the 7th inning stretch. Thanks to David Meyer for taking the photos! Below is the “you tube” site where you can see and listen to the video of that performance.

http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Barbershop+MNTwins+National+Anthem&search=Search



More Performances!

On May 20th we were the guests of the Metropolitan Boys Choir at their show in the Ted Mann theater on the U of M campus. Gold Rush quartet got a chance to sing a couple numbers during the show.

And pictured are shots from our show with Cantus at St. Olaf Catholic Church on June 9th and the ever popular Como Pavilion invitational put on by the St Paul North Star Chorus every July. A new chorus from St. Cloud joined the throng directed by GNU dual member, Jeff Goenner



Upcoming events

Aug 9 Recording session

Aug 19 Performance at Grace Church

Aug 26 Performance at Mt Olivet

Aug 30 Recording session

Sept 20 Performance in Faribault





Quartet News



Anything Goes quartet from Mesa, Arizona featuring GNU member Don Challman, singing lead, sang the national anthem at a Cubs game on March 19th in front of a crowd of 10,234 fans. Norm Wolfe, Herm Bauer and Jack Payne round out the foursome. They had a very busy winter performing 34 times in 4 months. That is an average of twice a week. Isn't it great to be retired!



Billed as the "Steve Anderson Quartet", this bunch of guys sang the national anthem at a Relay for Life event in White Bear Lake Friday, July 27th. Relay for Life is an all night event that benefits the American Cancer Society. Joining Steve was Steve Hardy, Ricky Chaddock and Brent Buresh.

The **Great Northern Union Chorus** meets every Thursday from 7:30pm to 10:00pm, at the United Methodist Church of Peace, 6345 Xerxes Ave S, Richfield MN 55423

"Early-Bird" rehearsals are held at 6:30pm for practicing choreography. Members are urged to call the **GNU Hotline** at 763-476-7383 weekly for the latest word on rehearsals, performances, and other pertinent information. Also find us on the web at www.gnunion.com



JUDGE CATEGORY SCHOOL

--Jim Emery --

Every three years the Barbershop Harmony Society's contest and judging program requires every contest judge to recertify. Certification is done at an intensive 5 day school called Category School. 2007 marks the end of a three year cycle and the beginning of a new cycle, and the 2007 Category School was held July 25-29 at Missouri Western State University in Saint Joseph, Missouri. This is also the site of the society's annual Harmony University which took place the week after Category School.



All society contest judges wishing to continue as certified judges attended this event last month. Each of us attended classes from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm each day, learning, discussing, being tested, giving role playing eval sessions, and running mock contests. It was a pretty intense 5 days! It was also very rewarding, though,

as we honed our scoring, eval giving, and contest administering to perfection and resolved any outstanding controversies from earlier contests during the last three years.

The Great Northern Union is blessed in having eight judges within its ranks, more than any other chapter in the society. I am pleased to report that all eight GNU judges successfully completed their 2007 certification at this year's school. Newly recertified are:

David Bowen, Contest Administrator
 Don Challman, Presentation
 Jim Emery, Singing
 Tom Matchinsky, Singing
 Roger Meyer, Contest Administrator
 Doug Miller, Presentation
 Judd Orff, Presentation
 Roger Stanfield, Presentation

James Estes, a former member of the GNU, was also certified for the first time in the Singing category, as was Warren Hettinga, a transplanted former LOL'er that many of you may know. Many of you also know another GNU member, Barry Clapper, who has been a

Presentation judge for many years. Barry decided to retire from the judging program this year. We will certainly miss him in the program.

Please congratulate our newly recertified GNU judges when you get the chance and thank each of them for the effort each invests in judging our society contests.

JUDGE CANDIDATE PROGRAM

What does it take to be a Barbershop Harmony Society contest judge? Could you qualify? How do you enter?

Are these questions you've ever had? Well, if you think you might like to consider entering the judging program, now is the perfect time. Applications to become a candidate judge are being taken now until the end of 2007.

If you'd like to find out what it takes to become a judge, contact me or any of the other currently certified GNU judges. We'd be glad to explain the program and discuss the necessary qualifications and the process to become certified.

I'm excited to say that I know several of you are already actively considering that process now. Let us certified guys help you with that consideration. If you decide to throw your hat in the ring, we'll do everything we can to help you through the process.

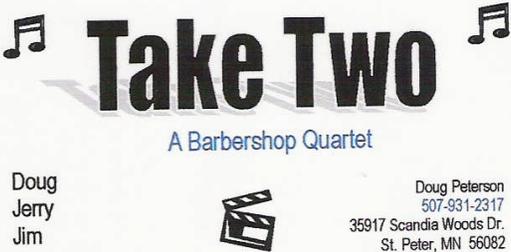
Judging is a lot of work, but it is also a lot of fun, and you'll be working with some of the best talent the society has to offer. Think it over. Maybe you could do it!



Take Two
A Barbershop Quartet

Doug Peterson
507-931-2317
35917 Scandia Woods Dr.
St. Peter, MN 56082
peterfam@myclearwave.net

Doug
Jerry
Jim
Leonard



Bandwagon

Contact:
Jim Barloon
3823 Oak Park Circle SE
Rochester, MN 55904

Come along for the ride!

Phone: 507-288-3021 Email: jibbass@juno.com

Please support these GNU quartets

Ellis Jones, Tenor Bruce Gray, Lead

MAGIC
Barbershop Harmony & Sleight of Hand

507-934-2372
bgray@gustavus.edu

Don Miller, Baritone Bill Lydecker, Bass



After Midnight
a barbershop quartet

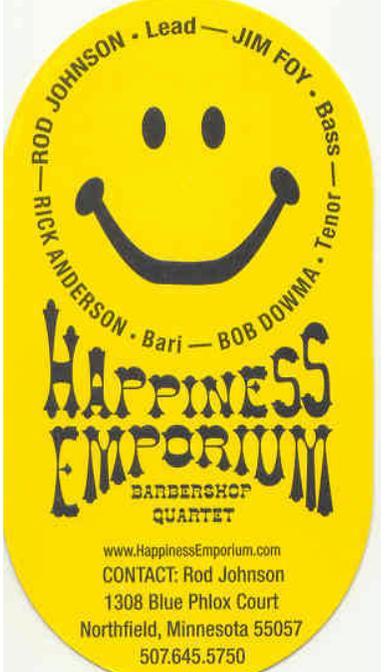
Tom Marchinsky
952-931-9715
tom_bbshcp@hotmail.com



—ROD JOHNSON - Lead— JIM FOY - Bass—
—RICK ANDERSON - Bari— BOB DOWMA - Tenor—

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Bob Griffith
9124 Utica Ave S
Bloomington, MN 55437
952-831-5473

