



Mid-Atlantic District Association of Quartet Champions



October 14, 2013

Dear Quartet Champ,

The **Mid-Atlantic District Fall Convention** was held in Ocean City, MD on October 5-6 and hosted by the **Alexandria Harmonizers**. Our 15th annual quartet champs association reunion and the Saturday night **Show of Champions** performance was a spectacular tag to a wonderful weekend of close harmony, tough competition, good camaraderie, and heart-warming fellowship. By my count, throughout the weekend there were **45** past champ singers representing **38** District champion foursomes (highlighted on last page) spanning 6 decades ... from the **Out-of-Towners** (1960) to the **Frank the Dog** (2013).

Here is a weekend recap. First, to the end with the quartet results:

✚ The **2014 Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions** are ... **Mayhem** – Neil “Pookie” Dingle (L), **Ken White** (Bs), **Mike Pinto** (Br), and **Matt Fellows** (T). They sang “*When My Baby Smiles at Me*”, “*If I Ruled the World*”, “*Cotton Club Medley*”, and “*I Am What I Am*”. The quartet is now our **69th** champion since 1945 for a total of 216 Men.



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

✚ The Friday evening **Quartet Semifinals** featured **27** quartet competitors including **7** foursomes containing **8** M-AD quartet champion singers: **Brandon Brooks** (Wheelhouse), **Mike Wallen**

(Alexandria's Ragtime Band, Copyright '86, Casino), **Mike Pinto** (Phat Cats, Ringers), **Joe Hunter** (Four Under Par, Reveille), **John Ward** (Reveille), **Al Fennell** (The New Yorkers), **Hal Kraft** (Keystone Congregation), and **Mark Sanders** (Keystone Congregation) from competing quartets MAD Men, Youth Reclamation Project, Mayhem, Up All Night, Quatrain, American Idle, and Faces 4 Radio, respectively. Our current 2013 champs, **Frank the Dog** (**Tom Halley, Steve Kirsch, Ross Trube, and Tim Knapp**), served as the mic-testers and set quite a high bar.

- ✚ Prior to the announcement of the Top-10 quartets and mic-testers for the Saturday night finals there was a performance by the **Alexandria Harmonizers** for score. Their trip to Normandy France and Köln Germany early next June for the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion precludes them from competing at the Southern Division contest, so they were granted special permission to qualify this weekend to compete in Wildwood, NJ next October. They staged 100 men and earned a score of 1,605 (89.2%), reprising their 3rd place medal performance in Toronto this past summer with *"All the Things You Are"* and *"Anything Goes"*.



- ✚ Congratulations to **Faces 4 Radio** (Brad Brooks, Jeff Winik, **Mark Sanders**, and Bob Bristow) who qualified to represent the Mid-Atlantic District at the **International Seniors Quartet Contest** this coming January during the Mid-Winter Convention in Long Beach, CA. **Youth Reclamation Project** (**Mike Wallen, Vic Owen, Roger Tarpy, and Hardman Jones**) may also earn a wildcard invitation.



- ✚ Immediately following the announcement of the Top-10 quartets and mic-testers, two-thirds of the **MADAQC Chorus** gathered in a ballroom for the first of two rehearsals. **Rick Taylor** (Arcade, Old School, MAD Hatters) and **Kevin King** (Untouchables, Pros 'n cons, BSQ) took the reigns this year as our honorary **co-Directors**. Kevin directed a very interpretively-artistic run through of *"This is the Moment"*. Rick then began work on our new song, **Ed Waesche's** beautiful arrangement of *"That's what I Call a Pal"* which sounded great from the gate. Thanks to every man who took up



the challenge and came to OC with the song memorized. This made a huge difference. For the Show of Champions, we staged 40 men with several additional champs waiting backstage with their competing quartets.



✚ The chorus contest started early on Saturday morning and it was a busy day for 8 quartet champs who were preparing to direct their competing choruses: **Larry Bomback** ('Round Midnight), **Rick Taylor** (Arcade, Old School, MAD Hatters), **Mike Wallen** (Alexandria's Ragtime Band, Copyright '86, Casino), **Richard Lewellen** (Four Aces), **Bill Colosimo** (Copyright '86), **Rich Gray, Jr.** (Runaway Sound, Wheelhouse, Touchstone), **Chuck Lower** (Free Trade Agreement), and **Jeff Glemboski** ('Round Midnight).

✚ At the conclusion of the chorus contest, and following the Directors Service Recognition segment, the **Mid-Atlantic District "Hall of Honor"** members were invited to the stage for the induction ceremony for this year's distinguished recipients. The 2013 HoH Chairman Scott Ward read the detailed biographies after which the recipients were presented with commemorative engraved silver plates and name badges. The honorees were our very own **Joe Hunter**, Keith Jones, and Jere Richardson (posthumously). Congratulations to all of the inductees and thank you for your lifetimes of service and contribution to barbershopping in our great District.



✚ The **2014 Mid-Atlantic District Chorus Champions** were announced ... **Hell's Kitchen Voices of Gotham** under the direction of **Larry Bomback** staged 50 men and took top honors with a score of 1,506 (83.7%). They sang "The Way" and the "New York Medley" to a huge M-AD ovation. This is their first championship. Well done, men!



The Chorus of the Chesapeake under the direction of **Rick Taylor** placed 2nd (77.6%), Long Island Sound under the direction of **Jeff Glemboski** placed 3rd (75.7%), Westchester Chordsman under the direction of Keith Harris placed 4th (75.7%), and The North Pennsmen under the direction of Anne Bureau placed 5th (73.7%). Several of these choruses could earn a wildcard to the Las Vegas International Contest next summer.

- ✚ At 4:00, the MADAQC Chorus assembled again for a final practice. Rick and Kevin worked the two songs, and then most of the guys headed off for a quick dinner before the evening activities started again at 7:00. It sure was sounding good.
- ✚ The **Quartet Finals** turned out to be a close battle between Gimme Four who were just 2 points behind on Friday night over Mayhem who edged them out on Saturday to win by 24 points.
- ✚ The **Show of Champions** featured performances by the top 3 choruses: Long Island Sound from Five Towns College, NY, Chorus of the Chesapeake from Dundalk, MD, and then the new champs ... the Voices of Gotham from Hell's Kitchen, NY.

Frank the Dog, one of the District's most popular champs, thrilled the audience with an exciting and flawless performance to close out their championship year. Ross said it best when asked about their experience as champs, "It's been just a heartwarming year, that's the best way I can describe it. Like a year-long family reunion". Thanks, guys, keep up the good work.



The **MADAQC Chorus** was now lined up in the wings, ready to take the stage. **Steve White** (MADAQC Prez, C86, The Bay Rum Runners, Phat Cats, Touchstone, MAD Hatters) was our emcee. He acknowledged our long time partnership with the District and our 15th year on the Show of Champions, and then brought the whole gang onto the risers, announcing the quartets represented from current to most senior.



On a special note, Steve recognized the **50th anniversary** year of our 1963 champs, the **Yankees** with **Don MacFarlane**, **Joe D'Erico**, **Pat DeNegri**, and **Tom Maggaro**. The ever-youthful Don is the only



surviving member and was on hand to receive a rousing applause. It was also the **25th anniversary** of our 1989 champs, **Tradewinds** with **Lynn Conaway**, **Barry Brown**, **Frazier Pitman**, and **Eddie Ryan**. Lynn proudly represented this quartet, the first of his two championships.

Yankees



Tradewinds



Steve also paid tribute to the passing this year of 3 great quartet men:

Billy Ball, lead of our 1949 champs, the **Columbians**. Billy was an International Contest Chairman of Judges in the 1970's and coached quartets and choruses at all levels. For many years, he sang a sweet baritone in the Good Life quartet who toured the world as ambassadors with the USO and did a special tour to England which quite possibly sowed the seeds to what we know as the British Association of Barbershop Singers (BABS). He worked with the **Washington Redskins** for 50 years as co-founder of the **Redskins Singers**, coordinator of the **Redskins Marching Band**, and eventually became the Director of Entertainment. Billy was a true gentleman in every sense of the word.



Dave Mittelstadt, lead of our 1954 champs and International medalists, the **Play-Tonics**. Dave also sang baritone for many years with another popular and highly accomplished quartet ... the **Easternaires**. There were many other foursomes over the years (Villageaires, **Main Street Four**, Showtime, The New Harmony Delegation, The Travelaires, Notewits, Mint Condition, and Four Old Parts), but one of Dave's most memorable foursomes was **SAGE** (2004 District Seniors Quartet Champions). It was a wonderful collaboration with 3 other greats ... **Freddie King**, **Tom Felgen**, and **Dick Weber**. Dave also earned 2 International Chorus Gold Medals (1967 & 1970) as the Musical Director for the **Livingston Dapper Dans of Harmony**. Dave was honored by induction into DELASUSQUEHUDMAC, Sage Lake, and the M-AD Hall of Honor.



Harry Williamson, tenor our 1972 champs, the **Regents**, who went on to become our **1974 International Quartet Champions**. Harry was also the tenor in our 1984 the **Pros 'N Cons** who placed in the Top-10 at Internationals with **Freddie King**, **Kevin King**, and **Tom Ewald**. In addition to his enormous vocal talent, good nature, and comedic timing, Harry was an accomplished chorus director, a sought after coach, a harmony education program faculty member, and a longtime friend to many-many barbershoppers throughout the District and Society. He was also inducted into DELASUSQUEHUDMAC.



Rick then directed the MADAQC Chorus in singing *“That’s what I Call A Pal”* in tribute to these men and to all the fellahs who we’ve sung next to over the many years, some of whom are no longer with us. Their memories live on in our hearts and in the songs we sing.



THE BIG FINALE: As the Top-10 quartets huddled back stage, anxiously awaiting what could be for each a “momentous moment”, C&J Vice President **Gary Plaag** (Hijinx) and the Panel co-Administrator Jim Nolan discussed some house-keeping and announced the much-awaited results. Frank the Dog panted nervously, ready to hand out lapel pins and congratulations to the Top-3 finishers. This year after the announcement of placement, each of these quartets sang one final song to an appreciative M-AD audience.

... in 3rd Place – Up All Night

Cecil Brown (L), Dan Rowland (Bs), **Joe Hunter** (Br), and **John Ward** (T)



... in 2nd Place – Gimme Four

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



Also rounding out the **Top 10** were past champs **Brandon Brooks** in MADMEN (4th), **Brett Thomas** in Low Down Sound (6th), and **Mark Sanders** in Faces 4 Radio (8th).

Mayhem was crowned champions and awarded the traveling **MADAQC/Oriole Four Trophy** by District President **Bill Colosimo**, individual **James E. Grant Performance Award** trophies provided through **Bob Disney** (Union Jacks, B&O Connection, Arcade), and shiny blue 1st Place lapel pins. This was followed by lots of hugs, handshakes, and slaps on backs with the rest of the champ. The quartet gave their thanks to the many coaches and family members who helped them achieve this goal ... and then sang a final song, *"If I Ruled the World"*. Perfect!



Kevin then directed the MADAQC Chorus in singing our traditional song of celebration and congratulations, *"This is the Moment"* (arranged by his dad, **Freddie King**) as Mayhem stood embracing each other. A few tears were shed (mostly by Pookie), and by some others who were reliving in their hearts and minds the night they became champions. Welcome to the fraternity, champs!



✚ New **District Chorus Champion** director, **Larry Bomback**, then led the entire audience in *"Keep the Whole World Singing"* as all of the champs locked arms together, bringing to a close another fantastic barbershop convention. The Convention Center cleared out quickly because it was now off to the hospitality rooms for more fun, food, and quartet entertainment.



✚ Several champs wore multiple hats throughout the weekend to help the convention run smoothly and efficiently. I would like to highlight and applaud the activities of three special champs: our District President **Bill Colosimo**, our Contest & Judging Vice President **Gary Plaag**, and our Chief Information Officer **Mike Kelly** (Casino, Wheelhouse). These men continue to contribute at a very high level. Thanks for all you do.

✚ For a recording of the MADAQC Chorus performance, please logon to the M-AD website. These links may be helpful:

http://134.192.106.36/v_files/MAD/2013/Fall/Jamboree/MADAQC-ThatsWhatIcallAPal~HFPUB.mp4
http://134.192.106.36/v_files/MAD/2013/Fall/Jamboree/MADAQC-ThisIsTheMoment~60RDS.mp4

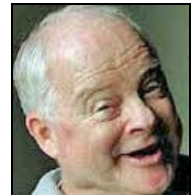
Okay, that about does it. Sorry if I have left anyone out or missed highlighting a champ quartet that may have been represented. **Remember that we are moving back to Wildwood, NJ next year and the date will be later than usual ... October 24-26, 2014.** It is my goal to stage a 65-man champs chorus again as we did in the mid-2000's. Please make plans to join us for the best barbershop harmony on the east coast ... <http://www.mad-registrations.org/>. Remember that YOU are forever a part of this District's great quartet legacy. I look forward to seeing and hearing you again very soon. Please stay well and stay tuned.

Yours in friendship, service, and close championship harmony ...

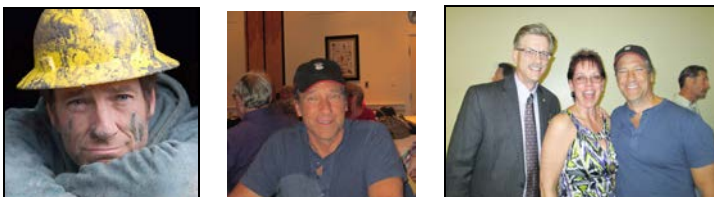
Steve



... Always remembering our dear Freddie



PS: For some of us, there was an unexpected treat at the end of the weekend. Freddie's former high school student ... **"Dirty Jobs"** host, **Discovery Channel** narrator, **Ford Motor Company** spokesman, and our old friend **Mike Rowe**, dropped by on Saturday evening to enjoy some great quartet singing, and to party into the wee hours in the Dundalk hospitality room with his old pals **Rick Taylor**, **Rob Seay**, **Dave Hinman**, Pat Paul, P.M. Nathan, and many others. Years ago, Mike sang in quartets including Tyson's Street with Pat and **Michael Gellert** (Casino), and Semi-Fourmal from the Dundalk chapter ... wearing tuxes and tennis shoes, of course.



(Above right: gratuitous photo with my wife, Jerri, who has known Mike for 30+ years)

Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions

| | | | | | |
|----|------|---|----|------|--|
| 1 | 1945 | <i>NY City Police Department Quartet</i> | 35 | 1980 | <i>Keystone Congregation</i> |
| 2 | 1946 | <i>Harmoneers</i> | 36 | 1981 | <i>Vaudeville</i> |
| 3 | 1947 | <i>Four Chords</i> | 37 | 1982 | <i>The New Yorkers</i> |
| 4 | 1948 | <i>Potomac Clippers</i> | 38 | 1983 | <i>Curtain Call</i> |
| 5 | 1949 | <i>Columbians</i> | 39 | 1984 | <i>Pros 'N Cons</i> |
| 6 | 1950 | <i>Melloaires</i> | 40 | 1985 | <i>Alexandria's Ragtime Band</i> |
| 7 | 1951 | <i>Volunteers</i> | 41 | 1986 | <i>Four Under Par</i> |
| 8 | 1952 | <i>Jerseymen</i> | 42 | 1987 | <i>Northeast Extension</i> |
| 9 | 1953 | <i>Ryth-O-Mats</i> | 43 | 1988 | <i>Copyright '86</i> |
| 10 | 1954 | <i>Play-Tonics</i> | 44 | 1989 | <i>Tradewinds</i> |
| 11 | 1955 | <i>Easternaires</i> | 45 | 1990 | <i>Broadway</i> |
| 12 | 1956 | <i>Hometown Quartet</i> | 46 | 1991 | <i>Untouchables</i> |
| 13 | 1957 | <i>York-Aires</i> | 47 | 1992 | <i>Arcade</i> |
| 14 | 1958 | <i>Oriole Four (1970 International Quartet Champions)</i> | 48 | 1993 | <i>Doubletake</i> |
| 15 | 1959 | <i>Checkmates</i> | 49 | 1994 | <i>Bingo Brothers</i> |
| 16 | 1960 | <i>Out-Of-Towners</i> | 50 | 1995 | <i>BSQ</i> |
| 17 | 1961 | <i>Rocket Tones</i> | 51 | 1996 | <i>The Bay Rum Runners</i> |
| 18 | 1962 | <i>Main Street Four</i> | 52 | 1997 | <i>Premiere</i> |
| 19 | 1963 | <i>Yankees</i> | 53 | 1998 | <i>Free Trade Agreement</i> |
| 20 | 1965 | <i>Townsmen</i> | 54 | 1999 | <i>Hijinx</i> |
| 21 | 1966 | <i>Hallmarks</i> | 55 | 2000 | <i>Casino</i> |
| 22 | 1967 | <i>Continental Four</i> | 56 | 2001 | <i>Runaway Sound</i> |
| 23 | 1968 | <i>NOVA Chords</i> | 57 | 2002 | <i>Reveille</i> |
| 24 | 1969 | <i>Classics</i> | 58 | 2003 | <i>Wheelhouse</i> |
| 25 | 1970 | <i>Union Jacks</i> | 59 | 2004 | <i>Phat Cats</i> |
| 26 | 1971 | <i>Exclusives</i> | 60 | 2005 | <i>Iguanas in Flight</i> |
| 27 | 1972 | <i>Regents (1974 International Quartet Champions)</i> | 61 | 2006 | <i>Four Aces</i> |
| 28 | 1973 | <i>Fifth Edition</i> | 62 | 2007 | <i>Ringers</i> |
| 29 | 1974 | <i>Friends of Yesterday</i> | 63 | 2008 | <i>New Release</i> |
| 30 | 1975 | <i>Reign-Beaus' End</i> | 64 | 2009 | <i>Old School (2011 International Quartet Champions)</i> |
| 31 | 1976 | <i>Sound Revival</i> | 65 | 2010 | <i>'Round Midnight</i> |
| 32 | 1977 | <i>Sussex Counts</i> | 66 | 2011 | <i>Touchstone</i> |
| 33 | 1978 | <i>Baltimore & Ohio Connection</i> | 67 | 2012 | <i>MAD Hatters</i> |
| 34 | 1979 | <i>Four Cracker Jacks</i> | 68 | 2013 | <i>Frank the Dog</i> |
| | | | 69 | 2014 | <i>Mayhem</i> |

Note: Represented in Ocean City

Note: Due to a change in accounting, there was no 1964 champion.

Note: The *Garden State Four* were the 1946 International Champions, but never M-AD champs.