



International Medalist
GREAT NORTHERN UNION
CHORUS



HILLTOP CHAPTER • SPEBSQSA

10,000 LAKES DIVISION - LAND O' LAKES DISTRICT

Volume 10 # 6

GNUsNews

October 2005

GNU Quartet and Chorus Take 1st in La Crosse

The **Great Northern Union** did it again as they captured the Land O' Lakes District Trophy for the 18th time in the last 20 years. Doubly sweet was the fact that "**After Midnight**" (pictured below) captured the quartet championship. The GNU had 3 quartets in the contest and all placed in the top 10. In addition to "**After Midnight**", were "**Bandwagon**" and "**AARPs-a-Chord**". Congratulations to all the competitors!



Congratulations are in order for the Hilltop Seniors quartet **AARPs-a-Chord** (Pictured above). Based on their score, **AARPs-a-Chord** is eligible to compete as a "wild card" quartet at the **International Seniors Quartet Competition**. Each of the 16 districts has chosen their representative and the next nine quartets with the highest score are being invited to complete the slate of 25 quartets.

The competition will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 21, 2006 at the Sacramento Convention Center Memorial Auditorium.

Members of **AARPs a Chord** are Mark Conlon (tenor), Gary Jacobson (lead), Robert Griffith (bari), Lance Johnson (bass)

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District 2005

While all of my dreams were not necessarily fulfilled in LaCrosse, I count the weekend a huge success. Sure we may have hoped for a few more points but some things are unfortunately out of our control. I believe our first

success was in our contest day preparations. Our rehearsal, focus, and "ramping up" on Saturday morning seemed to be perfectly timed, thanks to our leaders and each singer's personal motivation level. We are definitely getting better and smarter about what it takes to prepare on the contest day.



Secondly, I was encouraged by our reaction to a "dead stage." An amateur singer would have tried to compensate for the lack of sound coming back by oversinging. You didn't do that! Instead, you followed the plan and trusted the feeling you had already rehearsed hundreds of times, a sign of a true champion.

Thirdly, we won the contest!! That is something I certainly do not take for granted and neither should you. Sitting in the crowd waiting for the results made me just as nervous as it always does. And nothing can replace the rush of hearing GNU announced as the winner.

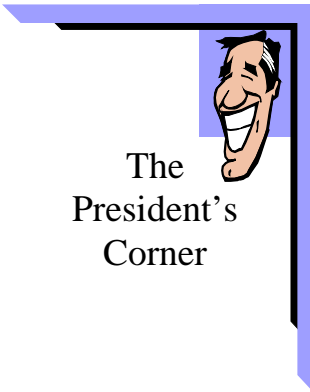
Fourthly, we should be proud to have several great competing quartets representing our chapter. Notably, our Champion, 3rd place medalists, and senior representatives to International all came from GNU. These guys benefit our chapter in many ways.

Lastly, we were chosen as the LOL representative to International in Indianapolis. We have lots of new and exciting things on the horizon and I look forward to even more success in 2006.

PETE



A detailed look at the entire list of scores from the fall district chorus contests shows clearly the benefits of the "at-large" chorus eligibility for the International Contest in Indianapolis. In addition to the obvious gain in registrations (from singers, families, friends, and fans), this policy allows some excellent choruses - which might not otherwise be able to qualify - the opportunity to sing on the international stage. (Editors note: Remember that the winners of each of the 16 districts automatically go to International. Then the next 14 highest scoring choruses throughout the society are also invited to go. In addition there is an invitation to overseas choruses.)



The President's Corner



When this fall's scores are ranked, the following observations can be made. The top 8 scores were obtained by district champions (including GNU at #7), but the next seven were at-large choruses, as were the 17th, and 19th through 22nd. The final 8 (of 30) were district champions. Some of the at-large choruses are :

Cincinnati Western Hills (former gold medal winner), Phoenix (gold medal winners as the Phoenicians), Singing Buckeyes, Big Apple, and, of course, Midwest Vocal Express.



GNU has benefited from this policy. Our string of consecutive appearances at international would have ended several years ago, when Greendale finished ahead of us in 2 district contests.

Bill Lydecker – GNU President



Midwest Vocal Express (pictured top right), from the Greendale, WI chapter sang their "County Fair" set at District and, although they took 2nd place, scored well enough to ensure a spot at the International Contest in Indianapolis next July.

Pictured Middle right, **Quest**, Jay Althof (tenor), Mike Laurel (lead), Tim Milbrandt (bass), Brent Graham (bari) sang their swan song as outgoing District champs.

Lower left is **Bandwagon**, Keith Olson (tenor), Sam Sather (lead), Jim Barloon (bass), Jim Larson (bari). They took 3rd place in La Crosse.



Saturday evening contest was great with **After Midnight** (upper left) and **AARPS-a-Chord** (middle left). But **Hot Dog, Pop and two Small Fries** (above) stole the show, with their 9 year old lead, winning the District Novice Championship. **Happiness Emporium** was on hand to present the Novice champion plaques and Bob Dowma made good use of the photo opportunity.

Below left, **After Midnight** lit up the afterglow room.





The **Great Northern Union** had another wonderful afternoon at the Fairmont Opera House on Sunday September 18th. We performed as part of a benefit for the Red Rock Center for the Arts (pictured below) Performing with us were Fairmont's own barbershop quartet, **Escalade** (pictured top left), so named for the Cadillacs that the lead singer, Tom Hawkins, sells.

GNU also had 2 quartets sing. **Bandwagon** (pictured bottom left) who placed 3rd in the District contest last week and **After Midnight** our new 2005 LOL District Champs.

Big thanks to Kathy Litchfield (lower left) for manning the GNU marketing booth.



Marketing the GNU

In a 3 part series, **Loring Harrop** shows us how we market the **Great Northern Union**. This is part 3 of 3.

What ever happened to GNU 'stuff'?

Where are those cool embroidered sweatshirts and knit shirts?

They're still there, in a manner of speaking. Holding inventory of items like shirts poses problems for any company, but for an organization like the GNU, which has no retail outlet to sell on a continuous basis, they tend to sit unless a volunteer carts them around and makes them visible. This requires a decent amount of effort, as Mike DeMay repeatedly tried to tell chapter members. It also requires a bit of cash up front, which we can't spare. The generosity of Bruce Watson (Valley Trophy) in 'floating' a small amount of inventory, such as on those nice looking purple coffee cups we sell, isn't something we can take for granted.



Enter the internet. By digitizing our logo and other designs, courtesy of GNU's graphic designer and adding some photographic talent from the Meyer family, we're able to offer a much wider selection of GNU items to both members and fans.



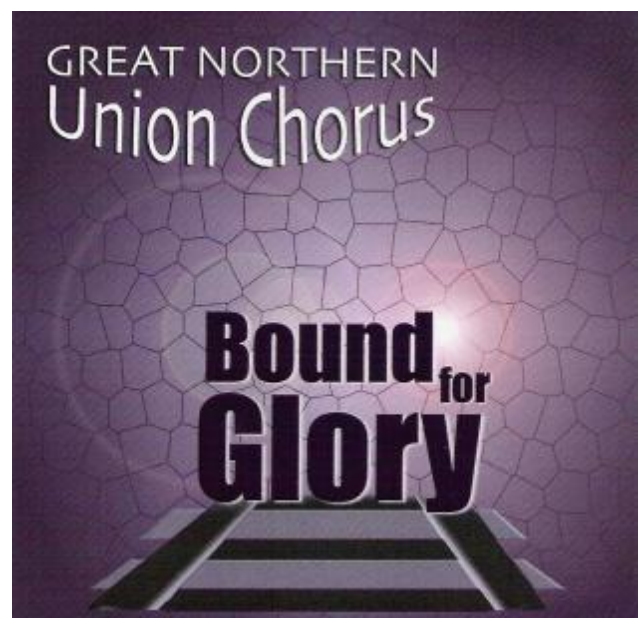
There are some drawbacks. The quality of a shirt produced with this technology just isn't as high as the embroidered version. We've looked for online embroidery options, but none offer the storefront provided by CafePress.com. We're continuing to leave the door open for GNU contacts, including our current supplier (Taho Sports) or internal contacts to fill this void, but the issues of inventory and an online marketplace are tough to overcome.

CafePress prices are based on the cost to produce a single item. For anyone who works in a manufacturing environment (and many who don't), you know that making just one of anything is considered a "custom order" and costs more than "production orders" (essentially buying in bulk). CafePress offers a deep discount option for buying 15 or more of anything, but again, GNU isn't interested in stocking a bunch of something we can't sell - like those t-shirts for Day at the Dome (oops!).

The upside, as with tickets and CDs, is convenience. Customers can order 24 hours per day. You can send someone a gift: a tote bag with the GNU photo of 'Midnight Choo Choo' on one side and our performance at the Vikings/Packers game on the other. Other items, like tile coasters and postcards may also become popular. How about a Christmas card with **Live Wire** having a snowball fight? Those red shirts and charming grins make a great picture against Minnesota snow.

Soon, GNU will launch our new website with a new look and more functional calendar. A members-only portion will house learning files and uniform requirements so members can go to one place to see the calendar and download helpful tools. We've worked very hard to improve service to GNU members and fans and welcome feedback on what we're doing well and what we can improve next.

Loring Harrop
Marketing Team
The Great Northern Union Chorus
Leaders In Men's A Cappella Performance
Marketing@gnunion.com
<http://www.gnunion.com>



Simply 70's

*The Great Northern Union in concert with
2005 International Barbershop Quartet Champions--
Realtime*

2005 LOL District Quartet Champions--After Midnight

2004 LOL District Quartet Champions--Quest

2003 LOL District Quartet Champions--Nouveau

Macalester College mixed a cappella group--Scotch Tape

Saturday, November 19

1:00 & 7:00pm

Great Benson Hall

Bethel University

Call Bob Cannella at 651-454-4459 for tickets



Members: Get to know "em

be singing in choir with a new director, Pete ?????, I forget....nice young fella'. Kelly teaches Early Childhood Education at St. Paul College.

I work as a test technician in the Environmental Lab for Goodrich Aircraft Sensors (formerly Rosemount Aerospace) in Burnsville. We test aerospace hardware under stressful conditions. Basically, I try to break things!

My first barbershop experience was in high school, in 1970-71, in suburban Kansas City. We formed a quartet for the school talent show and sang the hot new song from the Harmonizer, "The Chordbusters' March". Two of us joined the local chapter, the North Johnson County chapter, now called the Overland Park chapter.

I was out of barbershopping until around 1986, when I joined the Bloomington chapter. I had a great time with that great bunch of guys. When my quartet, **Crosstown Revue** (our eventual bass was GNU's own Don Knecht), wound up being 3 Minneapolis Commodores plus me, I joined the Commodores, which I also enjoyed very much. But I began to wonder if I could make it as a GNU member. When the 2000 international convention would be in Kansas City, I decided to give it a try. Pretty lucky timing, to get a medal my first time out! It has been very satisfying to be a part of GNU, learning a lot, and contributing at whatever level I can. I am currently the Administrative Section Leader for tenors, and am on the learning team and the chapter board as an at-large member.

There have been many highlights for me in the quick 5 years as GNU member. Besides many satisfying competition performances; singing the national anthem at the Vikings and Twins games, and in an octet at the

Meet Chuck McKown

I live in Lakeville with my wife, Kelly, kids Pete and Emily, although Pete is currently spending one semester at Oxford University in England through a program at Normandale Community College. Emily is excited to be starting her first year of high school at the new Lakeville South, and to



Brainerd NHRA Nationals drag races, thanks to Jim Lutz rank right up there.

Regarding hopes and aspirations: I'd give my right arm to be ambidextrous, and I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize!

Meet Tom Semple

Tom Semple, one of our fine leads, lives in Shakopee, having come from Northeastern Montana to Minnesota for college. He grew up on a family farm, and his mom still lives there. Tom's wife, Kirsten Vagge, is a wonderful English teacher. She was previously involved in music performance, and has always encouraged Tom in his various musical endeavors.



Tom has a Bachelor's degree in computer science, and is employed by a small company in Bloomington. He "is" the IT department. The company sells pontoon boats, and also components.

Tom has been in barbershopping for 15 years, joining St Paul North Star Chorus about the time he graduated from Macalester. He has been with GNU for 12 years.

As for previous barbershop experience he has been in a number of registered quartets since 1996. He says that he appreciates the opportunity that it gave to get to know those 16 guys better. He further says about quarteting that it is a good way to improve skills and he recommends the experience to others. He himself has focused recently on the chorus but just may get back into it.

The "incredible visual energy and full forward sound" attracted Tom to GNU. "To me, he says, if you want to attract someone who will help to maintain an improve the performance impact, you really have to do everything the best way possible (even management and administration) and you have to be a highly visible presence right here in the Metro. This is where we can gain the most members for our chorus and for the audience. Once the show is over, it is important to be approachable and to talk to the audience". He states further that he was greeted with much camaraderie after his original GNU visit, which was for the "Silent Don" Russian Quartet show.

Tom closed his submission with heartfelt thanks to all of the GNUers (leaders and members) who have in their own ways "made each week a wonderful new experience".



Singing Legal Music

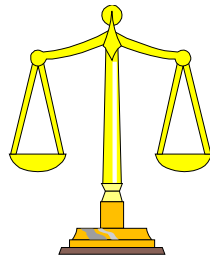
Get some insight into copyright procedures.

By John Schneider, Society Legal Counsel & Joe Liles, Publication's Editor

For far too long, the Society has not enforced the requirement that choruses and quartets sing only legal music in our contests. Because of the potential liability for songs that we want to/have put on CDs and now DVDs, we can no longer put ourselves in an exposed position.

Therefore, effective immediately, we expect that all quartets and choruses will sing only cleared, legal music in all contests. We will expect that all choruses and quartets will completely fill out all the required contest entry forms in a timely manner and that they will have performed the required steps to make sure that all their songs are legal and that they have legal permission to sing every one of those songs.

Regarding enforcement- if it is determined prior to a contest that a song on their entry form is not legal and that they are planning on singing that song, they will not be allowed to perform. If it is determined after a contest that they have performed illegal music, they will be disqualified and will lose their placement and medal, where appropriate.



We ask that the CJ-20 form, paragraph 5, which says "We certify that we have complied with the copyright law in the acquisition and learning of our contest songs/arrangements. We understand that ineligibility will be the consequence for violation of this statement" be bolded on the form for purposes of emphasis.

Making this announcement now will give choruses and quartets sufficient notice of the enforcement aspects of this policy. If a song has been purchased from the published or unpublished catalog of the Society, it is legal. If obtained from any other source, it is the responsibility of the chorus and/or quartet to contact the arranger to determine if clearance has been given for the use of that music. If there is still a question after contacting the arranger, the chorus or quartet should contact the Society office for further assistance.

We ask that you publish this information far and wide. We will do the same. It is important to note that this is not just another empty gesture (you know, another

warning that is never enforced). All it takes is one lawsuit to cause the Society much grief. We cannot allow that to happen. Maybe we've been lucky so far but we cannot depend on that good fortune continuing.

A Few Facts Concerning Copyright Issues:

- Songs and arrangements written before 1923 are in public domain (no longer protected by copyright). 1923 songs become public domain in 2018.
- Songs and arrangements written from 1923 thru 1978 are protected for 95 years from their year of creation. Arrangements of those songs are the property of the owner of the song, not the arranger.
- Songs and arrangements written since 1978 are protected for the lifetime of the composer(s) plus 50 years. Arrangements of those songs are the property of the owner of the song, not the arranger. However, an arrangement of a public domain song can be copyrighted by the arranger.
- To arrange a song, an arranger must be granted permission by the owner of the copyright of that song. **Until permission has been granted, it is in violation of copyright law for a copy of the "planned" arrangement to be rehearsed or performed.** The arranger(s) and performers would be exposed to litigation.
- The arranger of a protected song has no distribution rights to that song, other than that allowed in the agreement between the copyright owner and the arranger. Any distribution of subsequent copies is an exclusive right of the copyright owner, not the arranger, unless the arranger owns the copyright.
- Singing illegal music on shows and in contests is in violation of copyright law. For many years our competitors have vouched for their compliance by signing the contest registration form that includes this statement: #4. "Certifies that we have complied with the copyright law in the acquisition and learning of our contest songs/arrangements. We understand that ineligibility will be a consequence for violation of this statement."
- Consideration is being given to making this statement more predominant and clearer, since ineligibility can be declared before or after the contest.
- BHS is in full compliance with copyright law and expects all members to be the same. Copyright law as it pertains to our organization has been covered at COTS, Harmony College, publications, and in many district schools for years.

Continued on page 9

Singing legal music from page 8

- Enforcement of copyright laws is our obligation and is meant to protect the Society and its units from litigation. It is not intended as a punitive action against any quartet or chorus but is necessary for legal protection.
- The Society has had the rules in place for many years that allows for disqualification and/or ineligibility in contest situations. We have now given notice of our intent to make our performing units comply with federal law as well as Society rules and regulations.

Acquiring legal arrangements for shows and contests is easier than you might think.

- All arrangements purchased from BHS, published or unpublished, have been legally cleared. For a complete list, updated daily, go to our website.
- Before you get an arrangement from outside the BHS catalog, and if you are concerned about the legality of the arrangement, you should ask for a copy of the signed form of approval between the publisher/owner and the arranger.
- If an arrangement needs clearance the Society provides this service. Just plan ahead. On the average it takes from 30 to 60 days to hear back from a publisher. Contact: library@barbershop.org or call 1/800 876-7464 ext 8476.
- On the BHS website do a search for "copyright basics" and get a free document explaining many more details including recordings.
- Purchase "COPYRIGHT: The Complete Guide for Music Educators 2nd Edition" by Jay Althouse from Harmony Marketplace, stock # 6072. It is only \$13.95.

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

"Early-Bird" rehearsals are held at 6:00pm 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

Events to Remember

November 19th Bethel University Show

6 weeks vacation from Thursday rehearsals

December 18 Vikings National Anthem

January 5, 2006 back from rehearsal vacation

January 14 & 15 Chapter Officers Training Seminars (COTS)

January 15 Church performance at St Andrew's in Mahtomedi

January 28 Spouse Appreciation Dinner





We had great fun at our guest night.

Thanks to Pete and Scott for a night in which the guests could really participate. Among the 15 guests there were 11 men who could be considered prospective members. I got additional information from 2 of them who seemed really interested in the chorus. I had a chance to really talk with a few of them.

Andrew Ringham, a of M student who had attended last fall came back bringing Andrew Berkavitz another U of M student and they are singing in a quartet. I think we can expect to see the whole quartet in the future. And Greg Rosevold from Mankato also is interested if he can get several others to ride with him (i.e. Bruce Gray and perhaps Bill Lydecker) Thanks to Bruce Gray, Corey Hanson, Mark Sathe, Doug Chapman, Dave Bowen, Bill Lydecker, Roger Stanfield, and Jim Johanson for producing a guest. And many thanks to Mary and Lauralee for being our guest greeters for the evening.

Don Knect
Membership VP



After Midnight
a barbershop quartet

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

Gary Jacobson - Lead
Mark Conlon - Tenor
Bob Griffith - Baritone
Lance Johnson - Bass



Aarps-A-Chord

Contact:
Bob Griffith
9124 Utica Ave S
Bloomington, MN 55437
652-831-5473

Ellis Jones, Tenor Bruce Gray, Lead



MAGIC

Barbershop Harmony & Sleight of Hand

507-934-2372
bgray@gustavus.edu



Don Miller, Baritone Bill Lydecker, Bass

Got Music?
Have a
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Duane Jim**
A Barbershop Quartet

Contact: Jim Olson
14466 Everest Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124
Phone: 952-431-3110
email: olsoncrew@aol.com


Bandwagon

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

Come along for the ride!

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

Quest
BARBERSHOP
QUARTET



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Bravo

Dave, Dan, Mike, & Marly

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work 763-241-9336 dschrades@msn.com

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



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Contactman: DOUG MILLER 4822 Rutledge St.
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GOLD RUSH
A Land O' Lakes Quartet

STEVE NOLTE CLEON WAHLIN
STEVE ANDERSON STEVE HARDY*

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