



GNU's NEWS

THE GREAT NORTHERN UNION CHORUS NEWS

for the

HILLTOP CHAPTER

10,000 LAKES DIVISION - LAND O'LAKES DISTRICT

of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.



GNU's NEWS

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Special Edition District Contest 2002, Fargo



The Great Northern Union on stage in Fargo

GNU: Wild Card to Montreal!

WOW! What a natural high in Fargo! Great Northern Union once again saw the fruits of their rehearsals pay off in a very respectable score. Although second in the district for the first time ever, GNU placed 6th in the ranking of all district choruses, which is qualifiable for Montreal in July 2003.

How about those gentlemen "against" whom we competed? MVE was superb, as director Russ Forris gave generous kudos for GNU, stating that we "paved the way" for big things in LOL. In return, Roger Meyer had kind words for our worthy competitors; and turned over the trophy with a cordial handshake, and said they could have it "for 52 weeks". GNU again sent flowers, which were at MVE's rehearsal hall when they arrived for their first post-district meeting.

Guys, we now know how to live our songs! You have learned these lessons well under the tutelage of Scott, the Music Team, and all of our coaches: In all that we sing from here forward, let us each take responsibility to

remember the level of craft to which we have risen, and carry on to additional excellence. There will be nearly 10 excellent choruses trying to get 5 medals in Montreal. Need we say more? This group is up to the challenge! There is work to do. It is a challenge and we need your continued commitment.



Kirk Hyder, President of MVE, accepting the district trophy from GNU President Roger Meyer

HARMONET Summary of Top 10 2002 District Chorus Contest Scores

CITY/STATE	CHORUS NAME	DIST	SCORE	%	#MEN
1 Dallas Metro, TX	The Vocal Majority	*SWD	1126	93.8	147
2 Toronto, ONT	The Northern Lights	*ONT	1074	89.5	41
3 St Charles, MO	Ambassadors Of Harmony	*CSD	1579	87.7	95
4 Greendale, WI	Midwest Vocal Express	*LOL	1567	87.1	64
5 Alexandria, VA	Alexandria Harmonizrs	*MAD	1553	86.3	86
6 Hilltop, MN	Great Northern Union	@LOL	1535	85.3	71
7 Houston, TX	Tidelanders	@SWD	1022	85.2	83
8 Denver MH, CO	Sound of The Rockies	*RMD	1532	85.1	107
9 Wasatch Front, UT	Saltaires	@RMD	1513	84.1	62
10 Greater Ctrl OH	The Alliance	*JAD	1008	84.0	45

(*) By District Name Signifies 2003 Int'l Chorus Representative
 (@) Signifies possible eligibility for a "wild card" slot
 (Note: this is just a prediction and is NOT official!)
 3-judge/Category Panel Score (1800 max) -----+ 2-judge/Category Panel Score (1200 max)

Men,

Thanks for a great weekend! Your performances in both the afternoon and evening were terrific. I can't tell you how proud I am to be associated with a group of your caliber. You are also to be commended for your great attitudes and displays of professionalism throughout the entire weekend. There seemed to be a good balance of humility and "just wait until next year!!!" Thanks Roger Meyer for a classy presentation!

Pumped for the future,

PETE BENSON

GNU's new director **Pete Benson** celebrated his "thirty-something" birthday with cake and other refreshments during break at an October rehearsal. It surprised him and certainly provided fuel for further singing as we finished out rehearsing in preparation for Fargo. And again, great to have you aboard, Pete!



Birthday boy - Pete Benson



GNU

BRAVO thanks you for the all the support this past weekend in Fargo. We enjoyed every last minute of our championship year and look forward to our next steps towards International. It would be great to join GNU in Montreal!



On stage and sounding great, retiring 2001 District Champions, **Bravo**; Marty Monson Mike Farris, Dan Schroeder, and Dave Roesler

If anyone is looking for something to do...**BRAVO** has a couple local performances in the next two months..

- Minnetonka Clippers Show: "Love That Barbershop" Saturday, November 2nd, Hopkins Center for the Arts, 3pm and 7pm
- Treasure Island Talent Contest, Sunday, December 15th (time to be determined) Red Wing, MN

We would love to see you in the audience!

Cordially, BRAVO

Chatroom Chatter



Here is an e-mail exchange between Ev Nau of the Midwest Vocal Exchange (MVE) and Jim Emery of the Great Northern Union (GNU) before the weekend in Fargo.

Subject: RE: Repeat District Chorus Champs

From: Ev Nau "Hilltop has won every year they've competed -- 16 times in a row, a truly remarkable streak and one that is hard for anyone to top. Imagine, since the formation of their chapter, they have never lost the district championship when they have competed! That's worth a tip o' the hat from all of us. My best wishes to all

of them this weekend in Fargo as they go for #17. Of course, they are competing against our chapter (Greendale), and we know what we're up against, a very classy, deserving champion who will not beat themselves. Those who will miss it will also miss one of the most hotly contested championships of the season: last year, we tied and Hilltop won the tiebreaker. Can't get much closer than that. See you in Fargo, and I can't wait for the fun to begin!"

Subject: Good luck from the guys at Hilltop

From: Jim Emery And good luck to you, too, my friend. Wish to all your fellow MVE guys the best from all of us at Hilltop. This has certainly blossomed into a great rivalry, hasn't it? Yes, we won't beat ourselves, but you may pull it off. Whoever wins this weekend, it will certainly be a well-deserved victory. See you in Fargo!"

From: Ev Nau "A "Great rivalry" is a true understatement. Never in my life have I seen two organizations who are so close in their purpose and friendship that competition becomes not a contest between them, but a mutual source of improvement for each. What a way to prepare, knowing that the other guy is trying just as hard as you are!

I sense your chapter is like ours in so many ways, but perhaps most important, it understands the contest mentality as it was intended to be. In Greendale, we talk about "winning the contest" not "beating Hilltop." There is a profound difference in approach, and I suspect your chapter shares that view and perhaps that is why we are so close. We will never "beat" you, but we can win a contest by scoring the most points . . . And so can you.

That is the real essence of our mutual respect and friendship. Our guys want you at the top of your game to test yourselves and us. We know (and so do you) that Herculean efforts will produce two exceptional performances that will honor both chapters and thrill an audience while raising the level even more than we did last year. May it always be so. You will not find this in other districts, believe me. Mores the pity, for we have each helped the other raise the bar, and I'm sure that will happen again in Fargo

Regardless of the outcome, may you and your chapter experience every success. We'll let others tell us who scored more points, but in every other way, we'll each walk away winners. The respect will continue to grow, and the other districts will continue to wonder how we do it.

Don't you wish other chapters in other districts could share our philosophy and our fiercely competitive but friendly rivalry? I sure do. I can see what it would do for membership Society-wide!!!!

Stay well. Let's plan to hoist a few in celebration of our mutual successes in Fargo".

Great Northern Union members were everywhere in Fargo at this fall's Land O' Lakes District Convention.



Nouveau, comprised of **Tony Blackwood**, **Duane Rygg**, **Jim Olson**, and **Dave Boyd** took 3rd place



Novice Champions "Live Wire", **Brent Buresh**, **Steve Hardy**, **Scott Kvigne** and **Steve Anderson**,. (Do those guys know how to live a song, or what!!!)



The Happiness Emporium, 1975 International Champions; **Bob Dowma**, **Rod Johnson**, **Jim Foy**, **Rick Anderson**, sang at the **Association of District Champions** show Friday night



We also loved cheering for **Relative Pitch**, the father and son teams of **John Chouinard** and **Jim Hall**, with sons, **Joe** and **Matt**.

Other GNU Members Doing Double-Duty at District

The Roadrunners, with **Rich Slind**, **Norm Wolfe**, **Dwight Mennenga**, and **Norm Erickson**, sang in the Seniors contest.

James Estes sang in 2 different parts in 2 quartets. Baritone in **High Esteem** and Lead in **Four Weeks**.

Special Alliance was scheduled to sing, but one member fell ill and they were unable to appear.

Duane Hutton and **Bob Brutsman** were Masters of Ceremonies for different quartet contest sessions.

Several members participated in the District Board meeting, as well as the House of Delegates

A number of GNU members also sang with other choruses including Minneapolis, Mankato, Fargo-Moorhead, St. Croix Valley, and La Crosse.

CHAPTER LEADERS

President	Roger Meyer	763-476-7382(H)
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Treasurer	John Babbs	952-474-9404(H)
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Fund Development Vice President	Harvey Berwin	651-698-3515(H)
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Presentation	Roger Stanfield	952-440-3678(H)
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Sunshine	John Chouinard	651-462-2780(H)
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Pete Benson		701-642-2484(H)
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR		
Scott Kvigne		952-431-0596(H)
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Lead	Tony Blackwood	952-922-4564(H)
Bari	Scott Kvigne	952-431-0596(H)
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Innovation, 2000 District Champs; Tom Machinsky, David Bailey-Aldrich, Jim Barloon, Jim Emery. The ADC show was their last performance as a quartet.



We also heard a very credible performance by **Mood Swing**. Made up of, **Tom Semple, Brad Berget, Daryl Mortek and Albin Peterson.**

Traveling Trophy

GNU has been making the traveling District Trophy a true traveling one. Each rehearsal night, a new man was selected by the previous recipient to possess the nearly 4-foot high gold prize for one week. Now the MVE members have this honor for 52 weeks then we are gonna go for it again, right guys?



GNU members who have recently had the opportunity to take home the District Trophy include: **Corey Hanson, John Kleiber, Dave Bowen, Jim Barloon, Jim Lutz, Bob Dowma.** Congratulations!

Hall Of Famers Inducted

The Land O' Lakes District is proud to place the name of Richard 'Dick' Teeters and Duane Hutton into the Land O' Lakes District Hall of Fame.

Dick Teeters (left) is a 32-year member of the Society and is currently with St. Paul **North Star Chorus**. He has served the District as PROBE officer and member of the panel that judges District newsletter competition. Has taught Bulletin Editors class at COTS. Dick sings tenor in a quartet that is actively involved in the Youth Outreach program and which has introduced thousands of high school and elementary children to the world of barbershop harmony. He received the District BOTY award in 1993. For the past 13 years, he has been the editor of the **PitchPiper**.



Duane Hutton is a 20-year member of the Society and is currently with **The Great Northern Union**. His contributions to the district include serving as chairman of the Southwest Division contest. He has been a Quartet Coach at both Clear Lake and La Crosse Mini-HEP Schools. He has been an Area Counselor, Division Vice President, District Secretary, Executive Vice President, District President and International Board Member. Duane was instrumental in starting the Land O' Lakes District Top Gun Program and the John Foster Friendship Award. He received the District BOTY in 1995. He has sung lead in some well known district quartets but perhaps the one many of us will remember is when he sang with his dad and brothers in the quartet **Dad and His Lads**

They both received a plaque and lapel pin to signify their achievement. Congratulations Dick and Duane.



Was that Rick or Steve?

I can't tell you how many times I have been called "Rick" at barbershop functions. The reason is that Rick Anderson is my twin brother. We both started singing barbershop in the 9th grade when we were part of the quartet in the musical, The Music Man. That quartet, named "**The Music Men**", stayed together throughout high school. We didn't know anything about SPEBSQSA until our junior high choral director entered us into a contest with Young Men in Harmony (YMIH).



After high school, **The Music Men** broke up as we all headed different directions for college. While in college, Rick went to a rehearsal for the St. Paul **North Star Chorus** and the next thing I knew, he was in a quartet named **Class Reunion**. They won the 1983 District Championship. Then Rick got into another quartet called **Northern Comfort**. They went on to win the 1986 District competition. Rick is now the baritone in **The Happiness Emporium** and has been with them for 12 years. As you can see, Rick left me in the dust as far as quarteting is concerned. He is very well known in the LOL District and deservedly so.

Well, now it is my turn. This past weekend in Fargo I began my claim to fame as a member of **Live Wire**. We were fortunate enough to capture the District Novice Quartet Championship. And, I actually had more people call me Steve than Rick! What a great hobby we have and what wonderful people there are in the LOL District. I can't wait until the next convention.

Steve (not Rick) Anderson



1983 District Champions, **Class Reunion**- Eric Strand, John Dixon, Mike Farris, Rick Anderson



A GNU Halloween A call was put out only one day before rehearsal to come in any old barbershop costume and we got 15 responses in the form of some pretty creative outfits! All should be noted as deserving honorable mention. The actual winners of small prizes went to the following: Mike DeMay for "Best Barbershop Look"; Dave Spiedel for "silliest", and to Lance Johnson for "best overall"

Our number one supporter, Barbara Parks, along with Steve Nolte, and Roger & Theresa Meyer, brought refreshments.

(Back row, L-R) Darrell Eggertson, Art VanderWater, Steve Nolte, Jim Lutz, Corey Hanson, Dan Vander Ploeg, Cleon Wallin, Mike DeMay, Lance Johnson, Bob Griffith, (front row) Roger Meyer, Mike Brama, Dave Spiedel, John Babbs

It's Officially Official



As of Halloween night, Pete Benson is our full fledged and official director! He led a noteworthy first rehearsal with a lot of new music. Additionally, Pete, being the teacher that he is, had prepared remarks that very admirably outlined his plans for this tenure.

Suffice it to say that his slogan will be a take-off of the original "Fun through Musical Excellence". "PRIDE" is the slogan which stands for: **P**ersonal **R**esponsibility **I**n **D**eveloping **E**xcellence".

His plan, which was supported by the music committee's new commitment standards, was accepted with resounding approval from the membership.

The new methods for tracking eligibility for contests, shows, and similar performances, will be easier to compute. The new tracking standard, based on a point system includes a 75% attendance commitment with front row requirements at 80%.

This approach takes into account the level of "importance" of several types of events. For example, the annual show or annual retreat event weighs in with more points than does a church performance. But it all "counts, and this concept was acclaimed as easier and more fair for qualification purposes.

In regards to reaching performance standards, it was emphasized that the leaders want individual members to succeed, and plan on working hard to obtain that success.

Thanks to the 'engineers' of this whole new reach for excellence! Enthusiasm of this "PRIDE" concept means that we feel the energy from within, which in turn holds great promise for more good things.

Full speed ahead!

OFFICIAL SCORING SUMMARY, SPEBSQSA, Inc., International Chorus Prelims and District Contest

Land O' Lakes District, Chorus Finals, Fargo, ND, October 26, 2002

Contest Legend: 1=Land O' Lakes District International Preliminary Chorus, 2=Land O' Lakes District District Chorus, 3=Land O' Lakes District Most-Improved Chorus (Raw), 4=Land O' Lakes District Plateau A Chorus, 5=Land O' Lakes District Plateau AA Chorus, 6=Land O' Lakes District Plateau AAA Chorus

Chapter / Nickname	Song	MUS	PRS	SNG	total	Avg.	men
1 Greendale, WI (1,2,3,6)	<i>Be Our Guest</i>	260	263	262	1567	87.1	64
Midwest Vocal Express	<i>I'm Going To Be A Star</i>	260	260	262			
2 Hilltop, MN (1,2,3,6)	<i>There Goes My Heart</i>	256	260	255	1535	85.3	71
Great Northern Union	<i>Taking A Chance On Love</i>	253	255	256			
3 Fox River Valley, WI (1,2,3,5)	<i>Sweet Adeline</i>	232	227	228	1351	75.1	34
Pride of The Valley Chorus	<i>Sweet Georgia Brown</i>	224	219	221			
4 Minneapolis, MN (1,2,3,6)	<i>I'll Be Seeing You</i>	207	204	223	1240	68.9	80
Commodores	<i>Raise Your Baton My Leaderman</i>	199	196	211			
5 Mankato, MN (1,2,3,5)	<i>The Mem'ry Of Love That Is Gone</i>	212	192	196	1194	66.3	42
Riverblenders	<i>Meet Me In Rosetime Rosie</i>	204	194	196			
6 Fargo-Moorhead, ND (1,2,3,5)	<i>Aura Lee/Love Me Tender - (Medley)</i>	198	200	198	1180	65.6	37
Great Plains Harmony	<i>Are You Lonesome Tonight?</i>	195	194	195			
7 St Croix Valley, MN (1,2,3,5)	<i>May I Never Love Again</i>	198	192	182	1136	63.1	39
Croix Chordsmen Chorus	<i>Alabamy Bound</i>	191	190	183			
8 Stevens Point, WI (1,2,3,5)	<i>Foolish Over You</i>	196	182	197	1134	63.0	32
Northern Gateway Chorus	<i>Bright Was The Night</i>	188	181	190			
9 Clara City, MN (1,2,4)	<i>My Ideal</i>	192	189	185	1132	62.9	27
West Central Connection	<i>Old Songs Are Just Like Old Friends</i>	189	187	190			
10 La Crosse, WI (1,2,3,5)	<i>Basin Street Blues</i>	185	195	189	1107	61.5	42
Coulee Chordsmen	<i>South Rampart Street Parade</i>	168	187	183			
11 Winnipeg, MB (1,2,3,5)	<i>That Old Quartet Of Mine</i>	188	181	187	1102	61.2	39
Golden Chordsmen	<i>Let The Rest Of The World Go By</i>	181	181	184			
12 Bismarck-Mandan, ND (1,2,4)	<i>Side By Side</i>	190	179	182	1097	60.9	19
Northern Lights	<i>From The First Hello (To The Last Goodbye)</i>	186	173	187			
13 Appleton, WI (1,2,3,5)	<i>The Sweetheart Of Sigma Chi</i>	186	180	177	1087	60.4	30
Fox Valleyaires Chorus	<i>California Here I Come</i>	181	183	180			
14 Greater Grand Forks, ND (1,2,4)	<i>Zip-A-Dee Doo-Dah</i>	180	181	181	1066	59.2	18
Valley Chordsmen	<i>Dixie</i>	168	180	176			

Greendale, WI is the District Chorus Champion, the Plateau AAA Champion, and qualifies to represent the Land O' Lakes District at the International Chorus Contest next July.

St Croix Valley, MN is the Most Improved Chorus.

Clara City, MN is the Plateau A Champion.

Fox River Valley, WI is the Plateau AA Champion.

Panel: Administrator(s)

Brian Ayers - EVG

Ed Bejarana - FWD

Music

Steve Armstrong - ONT

Chris Arnold - ONT

Phil Ordaz - FWD

Presentation

Steve Janes - NED

Roger Ross - SUN

Adam Woods - ILL

Singing

Tim Brooks - DIX

Dan Smith - JAD

Russ Young -



Scott Kvigne – leading once last rehearsal before the contest



“Swan-Song” – We think not!

Interim director Scott Kvigne was heard saying in Fargo: “Who else has had a Debut and a Swan song all in one”? Well, the editors, among many others, wish to point out that neither is the case! Scott is a man of many talents. He has been with us for some time now and has always supported the group in many ways; and will continue to do so. We are very grateful for his high level of commitment and consider him to be neither “debuting” nor “swan- singing”!

Yes, the Internet had it a bit wrong when suggesting that this talented guy was “only” an “interim” sort of director. Nothing of the sort and for that we are all grateful.

We are waiting to prove to the rest of the world that the new team of Pete, along with Scott backing him as Assistant Director and Music Vice President, will forge new (and higher) ground.



Bob Dowma (right) – In a rare relaxed moment before hitting the stage

The Great Northern Union Chorus meets every Thursday from 7:00pm to 10:00pm, at the Greater Minneapolis Jewish Community Center, 4330 Cedar Lake Road in St. Louis Park. Diving North on Hwy. 100 take Cedar Lake Rd. exit and follow to end; driving south, take 394 W, exit on Park Place, which runs in to Cedar Lake Rd. The telephone number at rehearsals is 952-377-8330. “Early-Bird” rehearsals are held at 6:00pm for practicing S.P. moves. Members are urged to call the GNU Hotline at 651-643-4468 weekly for the latest word on rehearsals, performances, and other pertinent information. Also find us on the web at www.gnunion.com

