

Mid-Atlantic District Association of Quartet Champions

October 9, 2003

Dear Champs,

Well, we had another successful gathering and performance of the **MADAQC Chorus** on the District Jamboree in Wildwood. With the King Family (**Freddie and Kevin**) at the helm, we staged 58 men representing 38 M-AD championship quartets, from the **Easternaires** (1955) to **Wheelhouse** (2003). **Frank Hendricks** did a marvelous job emceeing this year. The chorus sang well and the audience was delighted. It was good to see so many of you who have participated since our inception in 1999, and nice to welcome some first-timers this year. We have heard from numerous other champs who could not make it, but will be there next year, so let's shoot for 65-70 men in October 2004.

Your championship spirit and pride was never more evident than during the heartfelt and emotional rendition of "That Old Quartet of Mine" dedicated to the memory of the 58 men who have departed our foursomes since 1945 and especially to the four gents we lost this past year. This song was complimented with a slide show presentation for the audience to see featuring pictures of every M-AD Champ Quartet. And as always, you sang a very personal rendition of "This is the Moment" to congratulate the achievement of our new District Quartet Champions, **Phat Cats**. On a very personal note as one of the Cats, the "moment" was overwhelming. Thanks! We hope that through our obvious joy and swelled hearts, you relived the moment when you were crowned a champion.

The District leadership was again pleased that the MADAQC Chorus brought an appropriate crescendo to a wonderful weekend of barbershop and harmony. President Joe Berger would like us back on the Jamboree again next year, so be sure to put it on your calendars for October 2, 2004. Adding to the festivities that weekend, we hope to organize a "Reunion of Champions"; so, call your singing buddies, dust off those rehearsal tapes, and get working on that old soft shoe again.

We are now in our fifth year as a Champs Association. This year through our Outreach Program under the leadership of **Ron Knickerbocker**, the MADAQC plans to increase its support and involvement in the District's harmony education activities for quartetting. Ron and I certainly hope that many of you will participate as quartet coaches and mentors. We are also currently working on the necessary legal steps to become incorporated and will soon apply to the District for formal affiliation. And, your Board of Directors is considering the viability of submitting a bid to host a Prelims contest/convention in the near future.

We are now online with a MADAQC web site, www.harmonize.com/madagc. The site will be used to communicate within our organization and to provide a public archive of the District's rich history of quartet champions through the use of photographs, biographies, and possibly sound bites. The password to the Members-Only section of the web site is "MADCHAMP." We are collecting quartet biographies, so please send me something about your quartet(s) as soon as you can. There are 18 biographies posted so far. We are also starting to build an archive of photographs for the web page, so send me scanned pictures or mail them to my home address.

One last thing. Thanks to those who have contributed financially to help run our organization and build up the kitty to help support District quartet programs. So far, we have received over \$1,200. If you haven't already, but would like to send something along, my address is listed below. I am also looking for a volunteer to serve as MADAQC Treasurer.

Thank you again. I will be communicating with you throughout the year and look forward to seeing everyone again very soon.

Always a pleasure,
Steve White
MADAQC Prez

702 Moxley Drive, NE
Leesburg, Virginia 20176