

Mid-Atlantic District Association of Quartet Champions

October 5, 2004

Dear Champs,

The 6th annual reunion and Jamboree performance of the **MADAQC Chorus** during the M-AD Convention in Wildwood, NJ was a fantastic success. I have received kudos and thanks from the current District President Joe Berger, the incoming District President Alan Wile, and the District Events Team. They were all very appreciative and have invited us back next year to add the appropriate crescendo to a wonderful weekend of fellowship and barbershop harmony.

Freddie and Kevin King were again at the directing helm with Bill Colosimo putting us through our paces at one rehearsal. We staged 60 men on the Jamboree, plus 3 more men backstage in two of the Top-3 quartets waiting for the results. A total of 40 championship quartets were represented, from the 1949 Columbians to our current 2004 champs, Phat Cats. Barry Galloway contributed his resonant baritone voice as our emcee. Your championship spirit and pride was never more evident than during the heartfelt rendition of "Auld Lang Syne" dedicated to the memory of the dear men who have departed our foursomes since 1945. And you sang a very personal rendition of "This is the Moment" to congratulate the achievement of our new 2005 District Quartet Champions, **Iguanas in Flight** (Tony Colosimo, Wayne Adams, Andrew Kay, and Joe Sawyer). This was only the 3rd time in our 60-year history that we have added a son of a champion father to our roles -- the previous being Scott Disney (father Bob) and Kevin King (father Freddie). It was a teary moment when Bill came down from our ranks to congratulate his son Tony, give him his championship pin and a well-deserved hug, and welcome him and his quartet into our fraternity. How great is that?

It was wonderful to see so many of you who have participated since our inception in 1999, and it was particularly nice to welcome some first-timers this year including Billy Ball, Dave Brown, Artie Dolt, Joe Mazzone, Mike Pinto, Carl Roberts, and Roy Schmidt. We have heard from numerous other past champs who could not make it, but intend to be with us next year, so let's shoot for 75 men in October 2005.

Adding to the convention festivities this year was a **MADAQC Showcase of Quartet Champions** held during the Saturday evening buffet dinner. The Showcase featured the 1975 Reign-Beaus' End (their 30th anniversary), 1996 The Bay Rum Runners, 2003 Wheelhouse, and 2004 Phat Cats -- with Bill Colosimo on the microphone as emcee. Cash contributions totaling \$650 came from a very appreciative audience and were accepted by Howard Fetterolf on behalf of the M-AD Endowment Fund. We plan to host the Showcase again next year, so call your singing buddies and get working on that old soft shoe.

Your Board of Directors met in September to begin planning the coming year. High on our agenda: (1) complete our legal incorporation papers to become an affiliated District chapter, (2) expand our outreach activities as coaches, instructors, and mentors in the District's various harmony education programs, (3) participate in the organization of the International Chorus/Quartet Qualifier Sendoff/Fundraiser, (4) submit a bid to host the 2006 M-AD International Preliminary Contest, (5) rebuild and engrave the District Quartet Trophy to include the first 30 champion quartet names and allow for additional names, (6) establish a MADAQC Scholarship Fund to help quartets with coaching and harmony education expenses, (7) hold a Breakfast of Champions social event at the next District Convention, (8) create a logo and MADAQC shirts, and more. ***If you are interested in heading up or participating in any of these activities, please contact me as soon as possible.***

MADAQC is on the Internet with a web site maintained by Mike Kelly, www.harmonize.com/madaqc. The site is 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 and biographies. We are still collecting quartet biographies, so please send me something about your quartet as soon as you can. There are 18 biographies posted so far. We are also starting to build an archive of photographs, so send me scanned pictures or mail them to my home address.

One last thing, there are no dues for our organization; however, **we do accept contributions**. We have a small, but growing bank account. Our administrative expenses are quite low due to the contributions of your Directors and Board Members, but there will be costs associated with our plans described above. If you would like to send something along (payable to MADAQC), my address is listed below. I am also looking for a volunteer to serve as our Treasurer and handle our tax matters, once incorporated.

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

For Freddie, Kevin, your Board of Directors, and myself ... always a pleasure, Gents!

Steve White
MADAQC President

702 Moxley Drive, NE
Leesburg, Virginia 20176
(h) 703-669-4451
jerristev@aol.com