



# Mid-Atlantic District Association of Quartet Champions



October 31, 2014

Dear Quartet Champ,

The **Mid-Atlantic District Fall Convention** was held in Wildwood, NJ on October 24-26 and hosted by the **Bryn Mawr Mainliners**. Our 16<sup>th</sup> annual quartet champs association reunion and the Saturday night **Show of Champions** performance was a wonderful overtone to a great weekend of close harmony, tough competition, good camaraderie, and heart-warming fellowship. By my count, throughout the weekend there were **48** past champ singers on hand representing **42** District champion foursomes (highlighted on last page) spanning 6 decades ... from the **Out-of-Towners** (1960) to the **Mayhem** (2014).

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

The **2015 Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions** are ... **LAST MEN STANDING** – **Drew Feyrer** (L), **Mike Kelly** (Bs), **Edward Bell** (Br), and **TJ Barranger** (T). They sang “*All the Way*”, “*I Never Knew/Get Me to the Church on Time*”, “*Queen of the Senior Prom*”, and “*Hey, Good Lookin*” to earn a score of 2,853 (79.3%). They also won the **Most Improved Quartet Award**. The quartet is now our **70<sup>th</sup>** champion since 1945 for a total of 218 Men to have earned this distinction. Drew, Ed, and TJ are first-time champs and this is Mike’s third win.



Take a bow, Fellahs!



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

- ✚ The Friday evening **Quartet Semifinals** featured **28** quartet competitors including **5** foursomes containing **8** M-AD quartet champion singers: **Brandon Brooks** (Wheelhouse), **Joe Eckert** (New Release), **Rich Gray** (Runaway Sound, Wheelhouse, Touchstone), **Jeff Glemboski** ('Round Midnight), **Joe Hunter** (Four Under Par, Reveille), **Mike Kelly** (Casino, Wheelhouse), **John Ward** (Reveille), , and **Mark Sanders** (Keystone Congregation) in competing quartets **MADMEN**, **The Facetones**, **Up All Night**, **Last Men Standing**, and **Faces 4 Radio**, respectively. Our 2014 champs, **Mayhem** (Neil "Pookie" Dingle, Ken White, Mike Pinto, and Matt Fellows), served as the mic-testers to set the bar high. The "mic coolers" were a special treat for the audience ... a quartet from the U.S. Army Band called **550 Chord** (pictured right; SPC Andrew Thomas, SSG Clifford Hinson, SSG Billy Carmack, and SPC Justin Mann).



- ✚ Immediately following the announcement of the Top-11 quartets (yes, 11 due to a tie) and the mic-tester quartet the **MADAQC Chorus** gathered for the first of two weekend rehearsals. Best buddies **Rick Taylor** (Arcade, Old School, and MAD Hatters) and **Kevin King** (Untouchables, Pros 'n cons, BSQ) were again our honorary co-Directors, though Kevin could not attend Friday due to an illness in the family. Rick ran us through "That Old Quartet of Mine" and "This is the Moment" and we were off for a good night's sleep (well, maybe a beer and some tagging first).



- ✚ The chorus contest started insanely early on Saturday morning and it was a VERY busy day for **8** quartet champs who were preparing to direct their competing choruses: **Bill Colosimo** (Copyright '86) with the **Singing Capitol Chorus**; and **Jeff Glemboski** with the Long Island Sound; **Rich Gray** with **The Pine Barons**, **Richard Lewellen** (Four Aces) with the **Fairfax Jubil-aires**; **Chuck Lower** (Free Trade Agreement) with **Country Gentlemen**, **Jack Pinto** (BSQ, Old School) with **Brothers in Harmony**, **Big Apple Chorus**, and **The Garden Statesmen**; **Rick Taylor** with the **Chorus of the Chesapeake**, and **Mike Wallen** (Alexandria's Ragtime Band, Copyright '86, Casino) with **The Virginians**.

- ✚ At the conclusion of the chorus contest and following the Directors Service Recognition segment the current Mid-Atlantic District "**Hall of Honor**" members were invited to the stage for the induction ceremony for this year's distinguished recipients. 2014 HoH Chairman **Ron Knickerbocker** (Regents, Curtain Call, and Free Trade Agreement) read the detailed biographies and then presented the recipients with commemorative engraved silver plates and HoH name badges. The honorees were



Doug Brown, Oley Olson, and our very own **Bob “Diz” Disney** (pictured above; Union Jacks, B&O Connection, Arcade). Congratulations to all of the inductees and thank you for your lifetimes of service and contribution – artistically and administratively!

✚ The **2015 Mid-Atlantic District Chorus Champions** were announced ... the **Alexandria Harmonizers** under the direction of **Joe Cerutti** staging 106 men posting an impressive score of 1,637 (90.9), their highest District score since 1997. They sang “*Someone like You*” and “*Anything Goes*” to a standing M-AD ovation. This was the Harmonizers’ 25<sup>th</sup> District championship since their first in 1977.



The Hamilton Square, NJ **Brothers in Harmony** under the direction of **Jack Pinto** placed 2<sup>nd</sup> staging 102 men and earned a score of 1,542 (85.7).



The Hell's Kitchen, NY **Voices of Gotham** directed by Eric Engelhardt and Matthew Gallagher placed a close 3<sup>rd</sup> staging 49 men and earned a score of 1,535 (85.3).



The Manhattan, NY **Big Apple Chorus** also under the direction of **Jack Pinto**, placed 4<sup>th</sup> staging 28 men and earned a score of 1,382 (76.8), and the Dundalk, MD **Chorus of the Chesapeake** under the direction of **Rick Taylor** staging 55 men earned a score of 1,373 (76.3). It is highly likely that the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place choruses will be offered a wildcard to the Pittsburgh International Contest next July so M-AD will be well-represented.

- ✚ At 3:00, the MADAQC Chorus assembled again for 2<sup>nd</sup> rehearsal. Rick was at his chorus' evaluation session, so Kevin took us through the paces and then most of the guys headed off for a quick dinner before the evening activities started at 7:00.
- ✚ The **Quartet Finals** turned out to be a close battle between **MADMAN** and **Last Men Standing**. In the end just 2 points separated the two foursomes for the championship. Wow, 9 judges, 4 songs per quartet, and just 2 points difference ... now that is what I call a barn-burner!
- ✚ The **Show of Champions** featured great performances by the top 3 choruses: **Voices of Gotham**, the **Brothers in Harmony**, and the **Alexandria Harmonizers**. To close out their championship year, **Mayhem** thrilled the audience to their feet with an exciting and highly-entertaining performance. Thanks, Champs, keep up the good work!



The **MADAQC Chorus** was now lined up on the ramp, ready to take the stage. **Steve White** (MADAQC Prez, C86, The Bay Rum Runners, Phat Cats, Touchstone, and MAD Hatters) was our emcee. He acknowledged the organization's 16<sup>th</sup> year, highlighted some of the guys in attendance

including first-timer **Dick Bentz** (Friends of Yesterday), recognized the **50<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of our 1965 champs, the **Townsmen** with **Dave Brown, Dick Geiger, Ed Waesche** (late), and **Roy Schmidt**, and the **25<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of our 1990 champs, **Broadway** with **Rick King, Tom Sterling** (late), **Cal Sexton**, and **Jay Nickel**.

**Townsmen**



**Broadway**



Steve also paid tribute to the passing this year of 3 great quartet men ... always to be remembered:



**Frazier Pitman** (pictured left), baritone of our 1989 champs, **Tradewinds**, left us in September.

**Tommy Dames** (pictured right), tenor and lead of our 1955 District champs and perennial international medalists, the **Easternaires**. Tommy was on the risers with MADAQC last year, but left us in March.



**Joe Mazzone** (below), the velvety-voiced lead of 3 District champions ... our 1971 champs, the **Exclusives**; our 1972 champs and 1974 International Champs, the **Regents**; and our 1983 champs, **Curtain Call**. Joe left us in January.



With everyone now ready on stage, a foursome made up of **Kevin King, Steve White, Rick Taylor**, and **Rob Seay** started off singing the first 4 bars of **"That Old Quartet of Mine"** and then were then joined by **Mayhem**. Rick then turned around and began directing the **MADAQC Chorus** as we sang the remainder of the song in tribute to all of our quartet pals over the years, many of whom are no longer with us. A slide show of photographs from all 69 past champions was displayed on the Jumbo Trons during our performance. I am sure that some on the risers felt some goose-bumps during the lyric **"The night the crowd applauded when we won our first big prize"**.



**THE BIG FINALE:** As the Top-11 quartets huddled back stage, anxiously awaiting for what could be a “momentous moment”, District President **Bill Colosimo** (Copyright '86) announced the much-awaited results. **Mayhem** stood ready to hand out lapel pins and offer congratulations to the Top-3 finishers.

**... in 3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Gimme Four**

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



**... in 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – MADMEN**

Rich Gray (L), Joe Eckert (Bs), Brian Schreiner (Br), and Brandon Brooks (T)



Also rounding out the **Top 10** were champs **Joe Hunter** and **John Ward** in **Up All Night** (4<sup>th</sup> place, below left) and **Mark Sanders** in **Faces 4 Radio** (8<sup>th</sup> place, below right).



The last men standing were, well ... **Last Men Standing** who were crowned the **2015 M-AD Quartet Champions** and awarded the traveling **MADAQC/Oriole Four Trophy** by **Bill Colosimo** and Contest & Judging VP **Gary Plaag** (Hijinx), individual **James E. Grant Performance Award** trophies (always provided by **Bob Disney** on behalf of Arcade), and shiny blue 1<sup>st</sup> Place lapel pins.



**Kevin King** then directed the **MADAQC Chorus** in singing our traditional song of celebration and congratulations, **"This is the Moment"** as the quartet stood embracing each other, their pride of accomplishment showing. Towards the end of the song the chorus turned, locked arms, and faced the quartet for the big emotional tag. **Welcome to the fraternity, Champs!**



- ✚ Bill Colosimo led the entire audience in *“Keep the Whole World Singing”* bringing to a close another fantastic barbershop convention. The hall cleared out quickly as it was a very long day and folks headed off to the many hospitality rooms for more fun, food, tagging, and quartet singing.



- ✚ Several champs wore multiple hats throughout the weekend to help the fall convention run smoothly and efficiently. We applaud District President **Bill Colosimo**, Contest & Judging VP **Gary Plaag**, Chief Information Officer **Mike Kelly**, 2014 Hall of Honor Chairman **Ron Knickerbocker**, and candidate judge **Joe Sawyer** (Iguanas in Flight). These men continue to contribute at an extraordinary level and we thank them.

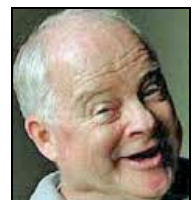
Well, that that about does it for a recap. My apologies if I have left anyone out or missed highlighting a champ quartet that may have been attended. I look forward to seeing you all again very soon. Please plan on joining us next year in Wildwood and stay well.

Yours in friendship, service, and close championship harmony,

*Steve*



Always remembering our dear Freddie





## Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Champions

1	1945	<i>NY City Police Department Quartet</i>	36	1981	<i>Vaudeville</i>
2	1946	<i>Harmoneers</i>	37	1982	<i>The New Yorkers</i>
3	1947	<i>Four Chords</i>	38	1983	<i>Curtain Call</i>
4	1948	<i>Potomac Clippers</i>	39	1984	<i>Pros 'N Cons</i>
5	1949	<i>Columbians</i>	40	1985	<i>Alexandria's Ragtime Band</i>
6	1950	<i>Melloaires</i>	41	1986	<i>Four Under Par</i>
7	1951	<i>Volunteers</i>	42	1987	<i>Northeast Extension</i>
8	1952	<i>Jerseymen</i>	43	1988	<i>Copyright '86</i>
9	1953	<i>Ryth-O-Mats</i>	44	1989	<i>Tradewinds</i>
10	1954	<i>Play-Tonics</i>	45	1990	<i>Broadway</i>
11	1955	<i>Easternaires</i>	46	1991	<i>Untouchables</i>
12	1956	<i>Hometown Quartet</i>	47	1992	<i>Arcade</i>
13	1957	<i>York-Aires</i>	48	1993	<i>Doubletake</i>
14	1958	<i>Oriole Four (1970 International Quartet Champions)</i>	49	1994	<i>Bingo Brothers</i>
15	1959	<i>Checkmates</i>	50	1995	<i>BSQ</i>
16	1960	<i>Out-Of-Towners</i>	51	1996	<i>The Bay Rum Runners</i>
17	1961	<i>Rocket Tones</i>	52	1997	<i>Premiere</i>
18	1962	<i>Main Street Four</i>	53	1998	<i>Free Trade Agreement</i>
19	1963	<i>Yankees</i>	54	1999	<i>Hijinx</i>
20	1965	<i>Townsmen</i>	55	2000	<i>Casino</i>
21	1966	<i>Hallmarks</i>	56	2001	<i>Runaway Sound</i>
22	1967	<i>Continental Four</i>	57	2002	<i>Reveille</i>
23	1968	<i>NOVA Chords</i>	58	2003	<i>Wheelhouse</i>
24	1969	<i>Classics</i>	59	2004	<i>Phat Cats</i>
25	1970	<i>Union Jacks</i>	60	2005	<i>Iguanas in Flight</i>
26	1971	<i>Exclusives</i>	61	2006	<i>Four Aces</i>
27	1972	<i>Regents (1974 International Quartet Champions)</i>	62	2007	<i>Ringers</i>
28	1973	<i>Fifth Edition</i>	63	2008	<i>New Release</i>
29	1974	<i>Friends of Yesterday</i>	64	2009	<i>Old School (2011 International Quartet Champions)</i>
30	1975	<i>Reign-Beaus' End</i>	65	2010	<i>'Round Midnight</i>
31	1976	<i>Sound Revival</i>	66	2011	<i>Touchstone</i>
32	1977	<i>Sussex Counts</i>	67	2012	<i>MAD Hatters</i>
33	1978	<i>Baltimore &amp; Ohio Connection</i>	68	2013	<i>Frank the Dog</i>
34	1979	<i>Four Cracker Jacks</i>	69	2014	<i>Mayhem</i>
35	1980	<i>Keystone Congregation</i>	70	2015	<i>Last Men Standing</i>

Note: Represented in Wildwood this year

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.