



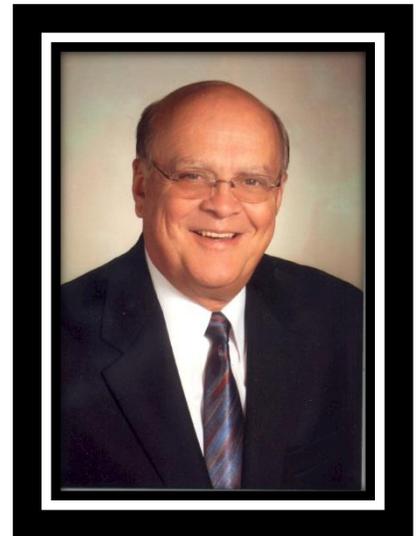
The MVEer Monthly

August, 2014

Spotlight on long-time member Darryl Cremer

How long have you been singing Barbershop?

Somehow it never seems like a long time and yet as the years fly by, it has been a long time. As I look at my fellow MVEer's on the risers, I realize I have sung barbershop longer than some of them have lived – that's scary. The funny thing is, I never liked barbershop and I never wanted to be involved. My dad was a member of the **Racine Dairy Statesmen** in their glory years and relentlessly kept after me, but I was equally relentless in saying "no thanks". In either the 2nd or third trip to Internationals, the Racine Dairy Statesmen were pushing for members so they could compete with 100 men. It was during that push that a friend (a member of the chorus) asked me to do him a favor and sing with the chorus just this one time at the International contest and my dad offered to pay the dues. OK, I could help out one time, but only once. That "one time" changed my strong dislike of barbershop into a very strong like and I never left. That was 47 years ago.



*You had great success with your quartets, but some members may not know about them. Can you tell us some of your earlier quartets and your Senior District Champion **Highpoint**?*

I have had the good fortune to sing in many, many quartets that have competed and won medals and championships at the Division, District and International levels and performed at Barbershop shows across the country. While I have lost track of the number of quartets that I have been a part of and while all of them didn't win championships and medals, I can tell you that each one was a winner. My greatest quartet accomplishment isn't the medals and championships I have won, but the number of life-long friends I have made. My current quartet, **Highpoint**, is a good example of that. I have



sung with **Harry Hanson** and **Bob Wozniak** in many different quartets over the years – probably 10 or 12 different groups, and I enjoy singing with them today as much as I did in the very first quartet that we sang in together. I wish every barbershopper could be fortunate enough to find and have 2 friends like Bob and Harry. I have not had the opportunity to sing with **Mike Ziegler** prior to Highpoint, but I am glad I have the opportunity now. Mike is an excellent singer, a fun guy to be with and he brings an awful lot to the group. Highpoint is another winner and we look forward to competing at the **Senior International Quartet** contest in New Orleans this coming January.

*Darryl, you are the chairman of the **Jane Cremer Foundation**. The website for the foundation says the mission of the foundation is to educate and empower women in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Will you please tell us about Jane and the Jane Cremer Foundation?*

Thanks for asking about the Foundation, Dick. I really appreciate it. The Foundation is an integral and very important part of my life.

Jane passed away due to ovarian cancer 17 years ago. She was very aware of the devastating effects of ovarian cancer having lost her mother and grandmother to the disease. The challenges that she had in getting medical information before and after she was diagnosed is what led to establishing the Foundation. Throughout her treatments Jane said she wanted to find a way to help other women so they didn't have to go through this and to point them in the right direction for information and resources. This vision is what started the Foundation and drives the work of the Foundation each and every day.



The **Jane Cremer Foundation** conducts free cancer awareness and education programs for women in Racine and Kenosha. Each year we conduct programs for the general community, as well as population based cancer programs for the African American and Hispanic communities. Since we began our work, our free programs have reached more than 11,000 women in the fight against cancer and made a positive difference in their lives and the lives of their families.

What are some of the upcoming events for the Jane Cremer Foundation? Is there any way MVE can help?

Each year we conduct 10 to 12 cancer education programs for the women of Racine and Kenosha. Our next 4 immediate programs are –

- **Racine African American** program that will focus on the impact of cancer on the entire family. This program will be held in October.
- **Racine Youth Leadership Academy** program for inner city minority middle school girls. The program will focus on the things young girls need to know as they become young women. This program will be held in November.
- **Kenosha Hispanic** program which will focus on multiple myeloma, a cancer that impacts people of color more than others. This program is conducted completely in Spanish and will be held in November.
- Faculty program for the faculty and instructors at the **Gateway Technical College** in Kenosha. This program will focus on cancer survivorship and understanding cancer survivors. This program will be held at Gateway in October.

We are planning to begin conducting programs in the Milwaukee area this coming fall or perhaps early spring 2015. This will be a new and very challenging venture for us.

We are largely a volunteer driven organization. If any of our MVE members or family would like to know more about us or get involved in helping us with our work, we'd love to talk with them.

Dick, thanks for the opportunity to share information about the **Jane Cremer Foundation**. I truly appreciate it.

Editor's Note: See the foundation's website: <http://www.janecremerfoundation.org/>

Upcoming Fundraisers – Jake Umhoefer

A sneak peek into the upcoming Restaurant Fundraisers:

Thursday, August 14 - **Jose's Blue Sombrero** in Brookfield. <http://www.josesbluesombrero.com/>
20371 W Blue Mound Rd, Brookfield, WI 53045, (262) 432-6667.



25% of all food (not alcohol) sales will be given back to our chorus.

Tuesday, September 16 - Red Robin (Greenfield)

Monday, October 27 - Texas Roadhouse (New Berlin) / Post-District Party!

Wednesday, November 19 – Chili's (Miller Park Way)

Monday, December 15 - TGI Fridays (Greenfield) / End of Year Party!

Renée Porzel will Coach Us on August 18th

Renée Porzel is an internationally recognized teacher and coach, constantly in demand for her expertise in the area of showmanship. She is highly respected for her ability to inspire and motivate others.



Renée is a member of the Sweet Adelines International Faculty Program and has taught at numerous regional and international educational events. She is also active in the International Judging Program as a Certified Showmanship Judge, and has served as the Showmanship Judge Specialist. Renée is also a member of the Sweet Adelines International Board of Directors and serves on the Executive Committee as President.

Renée is a 24-year-member of the **Melodeers Chorus** and serves as an integral part of the musical team, designing award-winning choreography.



Her choreography has helped the Melodeers Chorus win six **Sweet Adelines International** championships – in 1995, 1998, 2001, 2004, 2009 and 2012. She is also the Melodeers' associate director.

Renée attended the University of Illinois, Champaign/Urbana, where she majored in Music Education. She is a lifelong student of dance, piano, voice and theater.

Renée resides in Illinois with her husband, Bob. They are the proud parents of two sons, Aaron and Ethan.

Barbershop Guest Night is Monday, August 25 – Derek Balke, VP Membership

This is the plan for guest night. If you would like any changes, additions, or substitutions please let me know. There is probably a ton more that can be done, and I am going to ask for help from everyone. The purpose for this guest night is twofold. First is to get long term singers, and second is to get

new *a cappella* singers for our holiday show (if they cannot commit to anything long term). I'm still working out the logistics.

Josh has a fantastic letter that he will be sending out that is very targeted to singers, both current and past, people that already know music in general. We are going to title this as an "**Open audition**" night.

When we send out fliers, newspaper ads, or just tell our neighbors, *etc.*, we will call it a "**Barbershop Guest Night**".

I will be explaining the difference next week so everyone is on board in case any member gets asked questions. Basically the difference is we are targeting members, not just guests. While the Open audition phrase dictates something be prepared in advance, this is not the case.

About the night:

1. Food. I'm going to pass around a signup sheet to bring food for the night of the 25th. I plan on bringing cups, plates. I'm thinking light snacks and finger foods.

2. Sarah has graciously offered to make up fliers/posters for us to give and hang in conspicuous places. I will again be asking members for their input as to where, and taking offers for help.

3. We will be bringing out a new song for the night. It is always fun when everyone is on the same page.

4. With Josh and Justin's permission, I will be asking a member to teach us a new tag... something for break so anyone can sing

5. I will be getting a group together to act as mentors for the guests. (Possibly the P-Team) This way, each guest will be given a chance to tell their story, and possible feedback. I will meet with this group and give them expectations. (Also planning a feedback session at a later date).

That's all for now. I'm sure you will all have questions and comments that will be addressed when the time comes! Start getting the word out now!

August 2014						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
July 27	July 28 MVE Practice - 7pm	July 29	July 30	July 31	1	2
3	4 MVE Practice -7pm	5	6	7	8	9 <u>VLQ</u> and <u>quartets</u> Sing for <u>Greendale</u> <u>Days</u> 11am
10	11 MVE Practice -7pm	12	13 <u>Board Meeting</u> 6:30 pm	14 <u>José's Blue</u> <u>Sombrero</u> 20371 W Blue Mound Rd. Brookfield	15	16
17	18 MVE Practice -7pm Coaching with <u>Renee Porzel</u>	19	20	21 <u>VLQ</u> at St. John's on the Lake	22	23
24	25 MVE Practice at 7pm <u>Barbershop Guest</u> <u>Night!</u>	26	27	28	29	30
31	Notes:					

How many barbershoppers does it take to change a light bulb, you ask?

Answer: Five! One to change the bulb and four more to sing how much they miss "that old light bulb of mine." (But learned woodshedders say it is actually takes nine, since it takes four more to plan the afterglow!)