



# The MVEer Monthly

February, 2015



## **MVE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS 2015** by Jim Schmidt, MVE Chapter President 2014 and 2015

I would like to thank each of you for being here tonight to celebrate this past year and to recognize our Chapter's MVP's of 2014. Many thanks to **Vintage Mix** for starting our evening off in such a special way. Your energy and stage presence is a shining example to all of us as performers.

I would like to thank our installer, **Mike Hansen**, for doing such a wonderful job. You will always be part of the MVE Family no matter what road you may travel.

To the outgoing members of the board, thank you for serving your Chapter so well and for all that you did during your terms. I would like to take a moment to thank **Fred Graskamp** for his service as a board member for 6 years and as our Chapter Secretary for the past 5 years.

To those who said yes when asked to serve on the Board this year, thank you for stepping up to the plate. To each member, there are many tasks that come up each year; some small and defined and some that take more time and commitment; please take a moment when you can and think of some way you can use your talents to lend a hand this year. Here are two examples: When I was looking for someone to put together tonight's program, **Randy Will** said yes. (Thank you Randy, awesome job. When he reached out for some help with the visual presentation, **Gary Pratt** and **Eric Senn** said yes.) The other is **Jim Franklin**. Jim offered to do the ice breaker with **Meta**. So I guess it took about five to replace Walt and Bonita as Hosts. As you can see, saying yes or asking if you can help someone can be as simple as taking a small task of someone else's full plate.

I could stand here and thank each one of you individually for the contributions you made this year to the Chapter, but this would turn into the length of a **Mike Lietke** speech. So I will simply say: Thank you for all you have done. Speaking of Mike, we are all aware that his life journey will take him away from us for a while. And while we hope that time away from us is short, I just wanted to take a moment to recognize Mike for his unwavering passion and love for this chapter since he became a member. Thank you Mike!!!

The past few weeks have been interesting to say the least, but 2015 has already started off with some very positive signs that point to an exciting year of opportunities and growth. If you were there Monday night, something magical happened. After a long break, we stood up and gave what I call a MVE Medalist Performance of **Stars and Stripes Forever**. How do I define a Medalist Performance, by the reaction of the audience? In this case, it was the look on **Josh's** face at what we had just done. He was stunned, speechless. We earned our early release Monday by giving that performance. That is what the MVE is all about – to raise the performance bar a little each week along the way. It's about the journey that started 26 years ago. The idea of a chorus that would make musical and performance excellence its cornerstone. For each member to be creative, to be fearless, embracing his own character in the incredible stories we choose to tell, touching our audiences in a special way, and for Greendale to become a unique Chapter in the Barbershop Harmony Society.

During our journey through the years, we have overcome a number of obstacles along the way, including some things that have happened on the contest stage (remember Montreal? Or just recently, the missing risers at the Division Contest?) Did we panic? No! We go "OK." We adjust to the situation and put on a Medalist Performance.

There have been a number of discussions in the past few months between the music leadership of this Chapter and myself. And I can assure you that the seeds have been planted to "reboot" the MVE. Not only to focus on our musical excellence, but to inspire and encourage members to once again become fearless, engaging, artistic performers, showing our hearts, and leaving everything we have on the stage at the end of each performance we do. If we all work together as a team with those goals in mind, there is nothing we can't accomplish. If we do that, we will receive the spontaneous standing ovations that truly artistic performances deserve.

This year we will have a number of chances to receive that kind of standing ovations – at our shows, performances, and contests. This year we have the privilege and honor once again to return to the International Stage. I am

looking forward to working hard together as a team, to laugh and have fun along the way, to discover new ways for us to engage an audience, to improve our individual performance, to bond with each other along the way; then we will walk onto that stage united as one, ready to bring the audience with us on the journey knowing we will be at our best that day.

Pittsburgh is just another stop along the way as we continue on the quest for excellence in everything we do and to rekindle the buzz among our society brothers and fans one again so that the phrase, "I can't wait to see what Greendale is going to do," becomes the new normal among them once again.

The Board and the Performance Team are ready to provide positive leadership – to inspire and challenge each of us to be our best. My desire is that each one of us can see the possibilities that lie ahead, this year and beyond.



*Barbershopper of the Year*  
*Tim Zielke*



**President's Award**  
Jake Umhoefer



*Cherries Jubilee*



***The Do It Award***

*Gerry Feldman*



**Matt Nagel**

Russ A Foris  
Director's Award

- "Do it Award" - Gerry Feldman
- "Rookie of the Year" - Michael Mularski
- "President's Award" - Jake Umhoefer
- "Russ A Foris Director's Award" - Matt Nagel
- "Barbershopper of the Year" BOTY - Tim Zielke

## **Story Tellers Project in Land O' Lakes District**

The LOL District is involved with a program call the **Story Tellers Project**.

This project is meant to tell stories about how our Hobby and art form has a positive effect on our communities and in the lives of our audiences. If you or your Chorus\Quartet have any of these types of stories please forward them on to me! Also if your chorus has a monthly newsletter, please email me the past couple months!

I'd love to read your stories and pass them on to the Project Team for consideration! It would be great to see several feature stories from the LOL!

Look forward to hearing from all of you!

**Justin McCullough** [jumccull@yahoo.com](mailto:jumccull@yahoo.com), **Great Plains Harmony, Past Tenor of Wireless and The Bottom Line**

*Editor's Note:* I emailed our MVEer Monthly for several months to Justin.

## **Future Fundraising Outings** – Scott Ganswindt

Our next 2 outings can be officially put on your calendars. Wednesday, February 25 at **Fuddruckers** in Brookfield and Thursday, March 26 at the **Chancery** in Wauwatosa. Come and join us at both.

**Address:** 16065 West Bluemound Road, Brookfield, WI 53005  
**Phone:** [\(262\) 784-3833](tel:2627843833)



**Drastic Measures** singing "Happy Birthday to you" to **Kandy Marcus** at the recent January 29 outing to California Pizza Kitchen in Bayshore Town Center. Thank you Drastic Meausres!

## February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 <b>7 pm Rehearsal</b>	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 <b>7pm Rehearsal</b>	10 <b>6:45 pm Board Meeting</b>	11	12	13	14
15	16 <b>7 pm Rehearsal</b>	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 <b>7pm Rehearsal</b>	24	25 Fuddrucker's in Brookfield near Brookfield Square Mall fund raiser. 	26	27	28

