



The MVEer Monthly

July, 2016

July is International Contest in Nashville, Baby!

Jun 29 2016 - 7pm to 10 pm MVE International Send Off

Jul 3 2016 to Jul 10 2016 International Contest

First Practice in Nashville is Wed **July 6** at 6 pm & MVE sings 14th on Friday, **July 8**,

Jul 24 2016 to Jul 31 2016 Harmony University

MVE Wins the Land O' Lakes District Chapter Achievement

Awards – Jim Ansay, Chapter Secretary

The MVE was recently awarded first place for the **2015 LOL District Chapter Achievement Awards Program** with a total of 2,271 points. The next highest point total was 2,141.



There are several categories for which points can be awarded such as membership, music activities, contests, musical education, and chapter activities. The areas where the chorus received a large number of points were performing our annual **Spring** and **Christmas** shows, as well as other non-show performances throughout the year. These included the **Governor Inaugural, Cudahy High School, Milwaukee Brewers** and **Marquette University** games, and the **Youth in Harmony Workshop**. Points were also awarded for our participation in the Chapter Division and District contests. In addition, we received points for our VLQ performances for the various Greendale activities, the **VA Hospital** and **Ronald McDonald House**, the fundraisers at local restaurants, as well as the many chorus coaching sessions we had.

Our chapter quartets also contributed greatly to our point total. Points are awarded for quartet participation in the Division and District contests. Points were also given for chapter quartet performances throughout the year. A special acknowledgment must be given to the **Easy Days** quartet as their activities greatly added to our point count. They had 170 performances during 2015 in addition to doing singing valentines and attendance at Harmony College. In addition, along with the quartet **Delight**, they also contributed by performances involving youths.

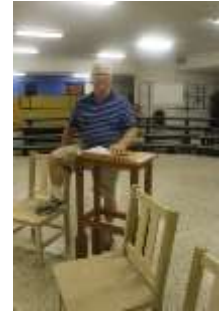
Congratulations to all for making this happen and keep up the outstanding work.

(editor's note: The Chapter Secretary sends in our worksheet of points. We have a consistent record of winning this award thanks to everyone's participation, especially our active quartets, and even the number of newsletters per year count in our total.)

Bob Krantz, Fabulous Bass and Master Professional Furniture Craftsman – Dick Marcus



Our own, **Bob Krantz**, is owner and chief designer at **Krantz Design** (<http://www.krantzdesign.com/>). He has a large workshop at W315n7848 WI-83, North Lake, WI 53064. His designs have won awards in Chicago, Spring Green, and the *Best of Category* from the Wisconsin Designer Crafts Council's Morning Glory show.



Who built the memorable **M V** and **E** boxes for our Green Army Set in Montreal, Canada in 2003? Who built **the music stand** on wheels that Josh uses every Monday night that every coach we have lusts after?



Who built the **chairs** we are using for the Good Times Set in Nashville? You guessed right: **Bob Krantz**.



When I asked Bob what project he was most proud of, it was for our 2005 Salt Lake City set for County Fair.

He built a huge, lighted **high striker strongman with bell** that was able to be dismantled into a relatively smallish box for transport across country.

Bob also built **four strollers** strong enough to move 4 adult guys in the New Dad's set in 2004 in Louisville, Ky.



It takes many talents to be a winning chorus, **Harry Hanson's** upholstery and recording skills, **Randy Will's** marketing talents, **John Purvis's** videography expertise, **Dennis Monroe's** prodigious skills at selling raffle tickets at bars, and many others. So, when you think of **Bob Krantz** and all that he does for this chorus, think about your own talents. You have many abilities. **We need all hands on deck!**



Preparing for Nashville with Coach Cindy Hansen

Photo essay by Randy Will, June 6



Nashville Order of Appearance

MT – Smorgaschorus

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Vocal Revolution | 16. Toronto Northern Lights |
| 2. Vocal Evolution (BHA) | 17. Atlanta Vocal Project |
| 3. Upstate Harmonizers | 18. Carolina Vocal Express |
| 4. Harbourtown Sound | 19. Ambassadors of Harmony |
| 5. Brothers In Harmony | 20. Sound of the Rockies |
| 6. Great Lakes Chorus | 21. Men of Independence |
| 7. Sound of Illinois | 22. Houston Tidelanders |
| 8. Southern Gateway | 23. Northwest Sound |
| 9. Alexandria Harmonizers | 24. The Alliance |
| 10. THX | 25. Central Standard |
| 11. Salem Senateaires | 26. Vocal FX |
| 12. Masters of Harmony | 27. The New Tradition |
| 13. The Thoroughbreds | 28. Voices of Gotham |
| 14. <u>Midwest Vocal Express</u> 😊 | 29. Music City Chorus |
| 15. Parkside Harmony | |

On Friday, July 8, 10am – 9pm

Interview with New MVE Member Steve Christenson

MVEer asks: Your cool email tag is sturtevantsteve@aol.com. I take it you are from Sturtevant, Wisconsin? Have you lived there all your life?

Steve replies: I am originally from Bloomington, MN...yes...MN!!! Go Vikings!!!! However I have lived in the Racine area for 24 years and in Sturtevant for the past 12.

MVEer asks: Oh no, yet another Steve who roots for the Vikings!? Nevertheless, we thank you for adding your lead voice to the MVE. Clearly you've sung before. What is your past experience in singing?

Steve replies: I have sung in church choirs since I was a kid but 4 years ago got involved with the **Racine Dairy Statesmen** under the directorship of **Bill Griffiths**.

MVEer asks: Outside of barbershop singing, did you have other musical interests?

Steve replies: Besides singing with you guys I do sing with a quartet that was started a few months back. Otherwise the occasional breaking into random song (and for anyone unfortunate to be around me, dance) and singing in the shower!

MVEer asks: No photos of singing in the shower, please. But what other interests or hobbies do you have, Steve?

Steve replies: First and foremost I read. I love to read! Sci fi and fantasy! However any good story can draw me in. I also do ceramics and have a ceramic studio in my basement.

MVEer asks: You'll have to bring in a ceramic for *show-and-tell* sometime on a Monday night. Your work would have been great for our Gnome set. But what work do you do?

Steve replies: I am a self-employed general contractor. My company is called **Aspen Construction** and I do all aspects of residential remodeling. Feel free to call me for a quote at 262-308-8081!

MVEer asks: Very cool. Always a good idea to have MVEers helping MVEers. Tell us a bit about your family.

Steve replies: Well my family consists of my mom and dad who still live in the same house I grew up in and just recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary! My one and only sibling, my brother, is a pastor of a church in Orange, CA and is married with two of the best nephews an uncle could ask for! Otherwise I have a dog named **Trooper**, a white German Shepard, and two cats.

MVE says: Steve, you are a natural for "Storytelling Through Song," in your expressive movement on stage and facial expression. We are so lucky to



have you with us. Thanks for being MVE with us.

Steve replies: Thanks!!! It has been such a great learning experience singing with MVE and I look forward to where we are going!!!

Nashville Notes from Derek Balke

I wanted to share some info on the **Holiday Inn Express Nashville-Downtown** (920 Broadway, Nashville, TN 37203) that we are staying at in Nashville, and since I like to do things in bullet form:

- ↪ They have a microwave, mini-fridge and coffee in each room.
- ↪ There is a complimentary breakfast each morning.
- ↪ Parking at the hotel is approximately \$30 per night. (I did go on the city website and found parking at other places for less, but it will be a hike to get to the hotel)
- ↪ With taxes, the rooms will be approximately \$206.49 per night.
- ↪ Details will be coming out soon with when and where to meet for our first rehearsal on Wednesday, but likely at 6PM somewhere in our hotel.
- ↪ Drive time to Nashville from Greendale is 8 hours 30 min. If you've not done that drive before, be aware of the traffic through Chicago. It might take you extra time with traffic. Also remember there are tolls on the way too.
- ↪ The venue is about 5 blocks from our hotel.



Editor's Note: Stay hydrated over several days.

Quartet Contest starts at 10am on Wednesday July 6. First off is **Chord Smash** (LOL) with **James Estes** at 10am. Ninth is **The Underground** (LOL). **After Hours** with **Bryan Ziegler** sings 16th after a song premier by 2015 winners **Instant Classic**. Our own **Midnight Croon** (LOL) sings 25th with **Cody, Tim, Josh, and Jake**. Go guys! There are 58 quartets singing all the way to 10pm.