



The MVEer Monthly

June, 2016

June's Highlights including two Wednesdays

- Mon. May 30 2016 **MEMORIAL DAY – no rehearsal**
- Mon. June 6, 2016 - 7 to 10 pm **Cindy Hansen Coaching**
- Mon. June 13, 2016 – 7 to 10 pm REHEARSAL
- Tues. June 14, 2016 – 7 to 9 pm Board of Director's Monthly Meeting
- Mon June 20, 2016 - 7 to 10 pm REHEARSAL
- Wed.** June 22, 2016 – 7 to 10 pm **David Wright Coaching**
- Mon. June 27, 2015 - 7 to 10 pm REHEARSAL
- Wed.** June 29, 2016 – 7 to 10 pm **Send-Off**

Son John and I shaved our heads with other Boy Scouts as part of the St. Baldrick's fundraiser.

Interview with New MVE Member Brian Lynch

MVEer asks: Brian, clearly you have a beautiful bass voice. What is your past experience in singing?

Brian replies: I grew up in suburban Minneapolis in a Catholic parish with a wonderful SATB Men & Boys choir -- upwards of 30 boys and 15 men, so it was a really impressive, full, traditional sound. I started around fourth grade and I continued through high school, so I've always had deep regard for great liturgical music. I stayed active sang in high school musical shows and choir, but mostly fell away from organized singing after that.



I sang in my **first barbershop quartet** in sixth grade, for a school variety show. I had a novelty item from Spencer's (man, don't go in there today!) -- a little barberpole room decoration. Since we had the prop, we decided to sing as a quartet, with the national anthem of barbershop, "**Goodbye, My Coney Island**

Baby." Flash forward to 1986, to post-college days in Dallas. Another variety show. Another pickup quartet, this time "**Sweet Adeline.**" Done in a month. Meanwhile, ten miles away, the **Vocal Majority** was busy racking up its fifth championship. It's confounding that I lived in Dallas for ten years and never heard of the VM!

Returning to Minneapolis in 1989, my brother invited me down to sing with the **Minnetonka Clippers Chorus.** Two years later, I relocated to Kenosha to work at **Harmony Hall.** Blame my brother Kevin for all that has ensued. (Kevin, by the way, has a drawer filled of medals with the Great Northern Union, and is currently working as the Society's **Chief Strategy Officer.** Don't let him know I said so, but I am tremendously proud of him.)



I visited the **Vocal Majority** last fall, got to direct "*Keep The Whole World Singing,*" earned the coveted pin!

MVEer asks: Did you have a musical background beyond barbershopping? Did you play piano or other instruments?

Brian replies: I'm a singer, and you can't shut me up. I've sung with Milwaukee's **Festival City Chorus,** and quartets include **Starlight, The Mucky-Mucks** (first Buckeye Invitational Comedy Champs!), **Goodfellas** (the quartet **Mike Lietke** never mentions in his bio...) and **Full Voice** (with MVEer **Robb Thiel.**)

MVEer asks: Have you hobbies beyond barbershopping? Woodworking? Theater productions? Skydiving?

Brian replies: For the past 15 years I've performed as the Lorde High Chamberlain in the *Olde English Madrigal Feaste* presented by our local high school music departments. My wife and I coach the jesters, and have a riotous good time. This past year was the first for our son as a jester, and in two years, our daughter can audition; it will be quite a year if both kids are jesters together.

MVEer asks: What do you do for a living, Brian?

Brian replies: I started working at the **Barbershop Harmony Society** in Kenosha in 1991 as a general purpose writer and editor. I have since served the Society as P.R. director, web developer, magazine editor, marketing liaison, and database developer/project manager. When the Society relocated to Nashville in 2007, I stayed here, and spent a few years teaching at **Gateway Technical College.** When Marty Monson was hired in 2012, he called me and said, "I know you're not leaving Wisconsin, but I have some things I'd like you to do." That has since evolved back into regular full time employment. I spend about ten hours a week in videoconferencing, and although it's not quite the same as being there, it's pretty great. I am the luckiest guy in the world.

MVEer asks: Were you originally from southeast Wisconsin? Do you have you have family in the area? Tell us a bit about your family.

Brian replies: I love my work and I love barbershopping, but my wonderful family comes first. My sweet wife **Laura** is a third-generation partner in her family's manufacturing business. My son, **John**, is a sophomore in high school, active Boy Scout (Life, heading for Eagle!), devoted tenor saxophone player. Daughter, **Katie**, is in seventh grade, read voraciously, writes for hours each day, adores her dog **Mel**. God pours out blessings on us far beyond deserving.

MVE says: Brian, thanks for being MVE with us. We are made better with you as part of our MVE Family. Welcome aboard.

Brian says: I am so excited to be part of the team!

My co-workers are a happy bunch.
Lorin May, Harmonizer; Jerney Gover, video production; Amy Rose, Social Media (with glasses); & Becca Grimmer, photography



Nashville 2016 Wahoo! We're going to Nashville in July. <http://www.barbershop.org/nashville/>

International Chorus Contest Friday July 8, 10am – 9pm CST at Bridgestone Arena

The International Chorus Contest has become known as one of the greatest shows on earth by all who have experienced this incredible event. Choruses from all over the world pull out all the stops in this often mind-blowing display of extremely high-level singing and entertainment.

Bridgestone Arena in Nashville

Bridgestone Arena (formerly Sommet Center, Gaylord Entertainment Center and the Nashville Arena) is an all-purpose venue in downtown Nashville, Tennessee, that was completed in 1996, at **501 Broadway** in Nashville.



Holiday Inn Express Downtown Nashville

Is at **920 Broadway**, Nashville, just blocks from the Bridgestone Arena.

(615) 244-0150. The hotel features upgraded and enhanced



200mg WiFi access enabling superior fast connectivity, iHomes and Keurig Personal Coffee Makers in each guest room. A \$10 dollar Facility Fee will be assessed per night that includes nightly receptions with hors d'oeuvre and refreshments in the lobby featuring live entertainment from one of Nashville's rising musical talents, downtown shuttle service seven days a week to Lower Broadway Entertainment District, shoe shine service and one of only three downtown hotels with a seasonal **outdoor pool**. Free breakfast, & free USA Today.

