



The MVEer Monthly

June, 2013

What Did You Do this Week for Membership?



Ev Nau, recently retired from the Harmony Foundation as Director of Major Gifts, came to speak to the chorus late in May and left us with the challenge to talk about singing, get people who might become members “ready” to come, and to invite them. He did not think that special membership nights were as successful as talking and truly listening to guys who would find our hobby thrilling. He had MVE members play act talking to

guys in line at the bank or other places. What would you say to stranger? How would you engage him in a conversation about the **MVE** and Barbershop Singing?”

Well, one tactic he uses is to wear his BHS pin *upside down* just so people suggest that he turn it right-side up. This is just the opening to create an opportunity to talk about his love of barbershop singing. He listens for guys who whistle or sing under their breath. He engages almost all guy he encounters. With 30% of guys having some singing experience, and with about 10% of guys having the ability to sing in our chorus, your charge is to talk to 10 guys. One out of 10 should be ready to sing a great tag or two. Strangers are even better than friends as if they don't fit our profile, they there is nothing lost in engaging them on our hobby.

What will you do for membership this week?

MVE Intern Sarah Farley

Hello! My name is **Sarah Farley**, and I am the summer intern for Midwest Vocal Express. I am a senior at *Marquette University*, and I am originally from Wayzata, Minnesota. I have loved singing since a very young age, and am currently singing in an all *female a cappella* group at Marquette, called *the Meladies*. A few other fun facts about me are that I have been in 8 musicals, I am an adrenaline junkie (rollercoasters, cliff jumping, skydiving – you name it, I'll do it!), and I absolutely LOVE sushi.



I am incredibly excited for the opportunity to work with the group this summer, and can't wait to get to know you all better. Most of the work I will be doing is concerning social media, advertising, and promotional work to spread the word about the upcoming MVE tour! After sitting in at my first rehearsal, I was very impressed and really eager to get started! I immediately felt welcomed, and I already look forward to a very busy and fun summer working with Midwest Vocal Express.

Interview with New MVE Member Justin Fermenich

MVEer asks: Justin, you have a great lead voice. Please tell us about your singing background.

Justin replies: Thanks for the compliment! Musically I was greatly influenced by my Dad. Some of my earliest memories are of my father's band practicing in the basement of my house. I decided to go a more classical route than he did with formal voice training and school choirs. That work won me a vocal talent grant to **Mankato State University**. Since college I've sung with the **Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra Chorus** and the **Philharmonic Chorus of Madison**. In 1999 I got my first taste of Barbershop singing with the **Festival City Chorus** and I've been singing barbershop as often as life has given me the opportunity.

MVEer asks: Our Groupanizer website lists **Amy** as your significant other. Tell us a bit about her as the MVE is really an extended family of all our families.



Justin replies: Amy and I met in 2011 and are engaged to be married, with our marriage planned for November of 2014. She works in Milwaukee in investment real estate. She also writes a blog for the **Journal Sentinel's** Purple Wisconsin project. In her free time she volunteers for many various Milwaukee area nonprofits and is passionate about improving our community. Needless to say, I'm a heck of a lucky guy. She wanted me to add that she's very excited to get to know the rest of the MVE family.



MVEer asks: To get to know you a little better, Justin, tell us about your job and other hobbies or interests.

Justin replies: I'm a systems administrator for a telecommunications company in Madison and I've been working in the IT industry for 16 years. With the 3 hours of commuting I'm doing every day I don't find myself with a lot of time on my hands. During the summer I like taking my recumbent trike out on rides. I try to go out for at least 2 charity rides a year. My favorite is the Figure 8 the Lakes R.E.A.C.H. ride. It's a 38 mile ride around lakes Mendota and Monona in Madison.

In the winter I love to downhill ski. Amy is the co - president for ROMP (Residents for Offleash Milwaukee Parks) so I try to help with their events where I can.

I wanted to thank you all for the warm welcome I've received. I'm thankful for the opportunity to grow as a musician and performer. The diversity the MVE has in its membership is refreshing and appreciated. I'm happy to be able to call myself a part of it.

MVEer says: Justin, we're so glad you are on the risers and we welcome Amy to the MVE Family as well.

June 2013						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
May 26	May 27	May 28	May 29	May 30	May 31	1
2	3 MVE Practice @ 7 Basses and Baris at 6:30	4	5 Adrian Schild's funeral at Hales Corners Lutheran @ 11 singout 6:30pm MVE Board Meeting	6	7	8
9	10 MVE Practice @ 7 Various Sectionals at 6:30	11	12	13	14 Flag Day 	15
16 Father's Day 	17 MVE Practice @ 7 Various sectionals at 6:30	18	19	20	21	22
23	24 MVE Practice @7 sectionals at 6:30	25	26	27	28	29
30	<p>So, two basses walk past a bar.... Hey! It could happen!</p> <p>Q: What has eight legs and sings? A: A barbershop quartet!</p>					