



## ***SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMBERS***

### **Victor Onuffrief**

#### ***Lead***



I was born in August 1945 in Munich, Germany. My first ten years were spent growing up in Munich. Our family came to the U.S. in 1955. The next 15 years were spent in Cleveland, Ohio, where I went to Lincoln High on the west side of Cleveland. I graduated in 1963 and then went to Case-Western Reserve University in Cleveland. After graduating from that school in 1967, I enrolled in Cleveland State University College of Law in 1967 but was drafted into the Army in 1969. I served two years in the Army, which included 13 months in Vietnam. After that period of time, I returned and finished law school in 1973 and thereafter was admitted to the Bar in Ohio.

My wife, Laurel, and I have three children. The oldest, Nick, lives in Seattle, works for Oracle and has two boys. My second oldest is Victoria. She graduated from Case-Western Reserve University, lives in Chicago, and works for Habitat for Humanity. My youngest son, Ian, graduated from the University of Miami, now lives in Las Vegas and will start law school at UNLV in the Fall.

My education includes a B.A. degree in Russian from Case-Western Reserve University and a J.D. degree from Cleveland State University.

I spent 30 years specializing in labor and employment law in the corporate environment. After graduating from law school, I started my career with Ford Motor Company and was a Labor Relations Representative in Cleveland. Later, I moved to Ford World Headquarters in Dearborn, Michigan, where I was a member of their Arbitration Proceedings staff. Thereafter, I took a position with the Hanna Mining Company, headquartered in Cleveland. I was responsible for all industrial relations activities in the western area mining operations. In 1983 I was hired by Ryder Systems in Miami, Florida, as Director of Labor Relations for a newly created Logistics Division.

I spent the next 20 years with Ryder in several of their divisions, working in labor relations and human resources. Eventually, I became the Group Director of Labor Relations, and then Senior Labor Counsel for Ryder System, retiring in 2003.

*Continued.....*

.... Continued (Victor Onuffrief)

After almost 25 years as a board member with the Discovery Children's Museum, including President for a period, I'm now on the Advisory Board. I still exercise and take walks with my dog. Since we're both getting older, the walks are getting shorter.

Travel, along with my kids when they can get away, is a favorite pastime, especially small boat river cruises in Europe, as well as in the United States. I still enjoy riding my motorcycle, and usually go on a couple of long rides with a fun group of motorcycle enthusiasts. We just completed an 1800 mile trip through the Western States.

Reading, plunking my guitar, taking German lessons, and, of course, singing Barbershop fill the rest of my time.

**You don't stop singing barbershop because you  
get old.**

**You get old because you stop singing barbershop.**

**Sing barbershop.**

**STAY YOUNG FOREVER.**

### **A Note from Randy & Avona Preston**

Hi Guys!

Avona and I have bought a home in Grovetown, Georgia. This will put us closer to our grandchildren and family.

I hope to return to singing with the Garden City Barbershop Chorus in North Augusta, SC.

I started with the City of Lights chorus in Las Vegas as a Tenor and sometimes Lead. Later I also joined the Gambelaires singing Bass and Tenor. Somehow I became an unofficial liaison between the two choruses during the merger process. Then I worked with everyone to choose a new chorus name and logo. Thus, the Silver Statesmen Barbershop Chorus was born on January 1st, 2015.

I have been a part of three official quartets and filled in with other quartets whenever asked.

Never one to be left out of anything, my wife, Avona, has been active with the Silver Statesmen both in charge of uniforms and providing many baked goods for breaktime.

Over the years, I've made many friends that I will always keep in my heart. All of you have been a big part of my life and while life keeps moving, we are moving with it.

We will miss all of you!

Keep the Whole World Singing,

Randy & Avona Preston

## Fifth Wheeling - A “no-no” in Barbershop

(submitted by Brian Sellnow)

Fifth wheel may be popular among the camping crowd, but in the barbershop quartet community it's considered a major breach of etiquette. It's a term we use when someone joins in uninvited with a quartet that is singing a song, behavior that should be avoided at any time.

When a quartet is singing, the harmony parts must conduct a fine balancing act to ensure they are properly balanced with the lead, so that the chords can lock and ring and enhance the melody. Adding another harmony part upsets that balance - suddenly there is twice as much bass or baritone. Jumping in with the lead is even worse, since now there are two distinct voices that the harmony parts must match.

For established quartets, this is a rather rude imposition. They've practiced and sung together, and jumping in shows a lack of respect for the work they've done to sound good. Even for pick-up quartets, it's impolite. Most of us don't have the opportunity to sing in quartets as often as we like, and turning that into gang-singing kind of ruins the experience.

If you hear four guys singing, and want to sing with them, wait patiently. Listen to how they sing, and enjoy the performance. When they finish, ask politely if you can sing with them. If they decline, accept it graciously. They may have any number of reasons: they're practicing or warming up, they want to sound good in front of an audience, maybe they just need a break.

If you are singing in a quartet and someone wants to sing the next song with you, make an effort to accommodate them. Much better to have someone bragging that they sang along with your quartet than to have people muttering "what a bunch of jerks". Remember that we're all brothers in harmony, from the international champions to the newest recruit.



**BARBERSHOP HARMONY**

Is music that is performed in the 21st century, structured and preserved in the 20th century, uses Romantic dynamics and rubato, Classical form and structure, a Baroque harmonic plan, Renaissance tone production, and Medieval tuning practices. It is truly a music influenced by all time.

 The Silver Statesmen  
SilverStatesmen.com



## Silver Statesmen & the Rockets Red Glare

Usually on July 3rd, it has become an annual tradition to be invited to the Las Vegas Ball Park to perform the National Anthem before the baseball game starts and then another patriotic song during the "7th Inning Stretch".

It's usually one of the largest crowds we get to sing for during the year and fireworks at the end of the game to celebrate Independence Day is a fitting end to a great evening!



The audience view of us up on the Jumbotron



Game Over...  
Fireworks Start



"The Duck" chatting it up with JD Massa



More Fireworks

**FROM OUR DIRECTOR:**  
**GORDON'S GAUNTLET OF  
WANDERING THOUGHTS**



Hey Guys,

I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy as our summer continues to roll and while many of us are traveling. As we continue to make the chorus sound better, let's take time to revisit the Four Pillars:

Posture – Tall and relaxed, shoulders back. Allow the lungs and abdominals to work for your best sound production.

Placement – Sip a quick breath, don't gulp. Chin free from tension, no stretching for high notes (use your head voice for that).

Above the table – Approach your notes from above, not reaching up because most of the time you'll never make it and we go flat. Imagine the sound produced comes from just under the eyes, above high cheekbones, light, not muscled.

Vowels – Get to the target vowel ASAP. Consonants tie words together, often attaching final consonants to the beginning of the next word so that sound doesn't stop.

These are things to think about as we progress as a chorus and continue to entertain our audiences with the best we have to give.

Sing-cerely,

Gordon



**What? Weekly Chapter Meeting & Rehearsal**

**When? Thursdays, 7:00 pm**

**Where? Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, 10265 Bermuda Rd, LV 89183**

**Our chorus and quartets love to sing for our audiences and to share our love of barbershop.**

**You are invited to join with us to enjoy an evening of camaraderie and great barbershop harmony. Don't miss out on the fun. Come and see what it's all about!**

## Who's A Yankee Doodle Dandy??

(This may be late for July 4th, but is still interesting information)

“Yankee Doodle went to town  
A-riding on a pony,  
Stuck a feather in his cap  
And called it macaroni.”

Now, that being “handy with the girls” bit sounds a little risqué and why would anyone call a feather “macaroni”? Let's define a few 18th century terms for help:

**Yankee:** Some linguists trace this term to 1683 and Dutch settlers of New Amsterdam (now New York). The derogatory term refers to the Dutch feminine diminutive name Janneke or masculine diminutive name Janke, which would be Anglicized as "Yankee" due to the Dutch pronunciation of J as the English Y. In colonial times it was "used as a nickname for a Dutch-speaking American" and ultimately grew to include any New England colonist as a “put down.”

**Dandy:** A dandy was a self-made man who strove to imitate an aristocratic lifestyle despite coming from a middle-class background, especially in late 18th- and early 19th-century Britain. In colonial America the term was used to "deride the ... poverty and rough manners of citizen colonists. It suggested that while a fine horse and gold-braided clothing were required to set a dandy apart from those around him, the average American colonist's means were so meager that even ownership of the basic finery would not qualify one of them as a "dandy" compared to their even less sophisticated Eurasian compatriots.

**Doodle:** The term Doodle first appeared in English in the early seventeenth century and is thought to be derived from the Low German (a language close to Dutch) dudel, meaning "playing music badly" or Dödel, meaning "fool" or "simpleton".

**Macaroni:** The Macaroni wig (see below) was an extreme fashion in the 1770s and became contemporary slang for foppishness.

So, here we have it then...picture a British aristocrat, looking down his nose at the upstart “Yankee” trying to rise above his station, riding on a pony, rather than a proper horse, thinking that by simply sticking a feather in one's cap would make him out to be noble. Humph! Who do they think they are? The British were also insinuating that the colonists were low-class men lacking masculinity, emphasizing that the American men were effeminate.

Of course, the colonists were quick to embrace the lyrics and tune making it their own. Is there any better way to blunt an insult than to turn the intent around (“Sticks and stones may break my bones...etc.”)? It should be no surprise that the song became popular among the Americans as a song of defiance. As per the American Library of Congress, the Americans added 15 additional verses to the song, mocking the British troops and hailing the Commander of the Continental army, George Washington. ... next page ...



A Dandy



Macaroni Wig

... Yankee Doodle Dandy ...

By 1781, "Yankee Doodle" had turned from being an insult to being a song of national pride. Well, that explains the lyrics, but what about the tune? The tune of "Yankee Doodle" is thought to be much older than the words, and many people knew the melody, including those of England, France, Holland (modern Netherlands), Hungary, and Spain. The earliest words of "Yankee Doodle" came from a Middle Dutch harvest song (which is thought to have followed the same tune), possibly dating back as far as the 15th century. It contained mostly nonsensical and out-of-place words, both in English and Dutch: "Yanker, didel, doodle down, Diddle, dudel, lanther, Yanke viver, voover vown, Botermilk und tanther." Farm laborers in Holland at the time received as their wages "as much buttermilk (Botermilk) as they could drink, and a tenth (tanther) of the grain".

So...Who's a Yankee Doodle Dandy? We all are and be proud of it!

Spirit of '76



## DIRECTOR WANTED – LADY LUCK SHOWTIME CHORUS

The Lady Luck Showtime Chorus, Las Vegas, Nevada, SAI Region 11, is seeking a director. We are a growing, Regional 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place award winning chorus of enthusiastic and friendly women who love to compete and to entertain our community. The position is currently open, as we continue to sing.

Check us out at [ladyluckshowtimechorus.org](http://ladyluckshowtimechorus.org)

Email: [llscdirectorsearch@gmail.com](mailto:llscdirectorsearch@gmail.com)

or call Lorraine Lederer at 914-441-9215



***The Nugget*** is ***your*** newsletter and vehicle for sharing information, stories, and news about the chapter, chorus, quartets, and the people in them. To make it interesting and a fun read, I would encourage all of you to provide articles for publication, photos of quartets in action, our members, chorus on the risers..... Anything that you find interesting and would like to see in the newsletter to share with others. — The Editor

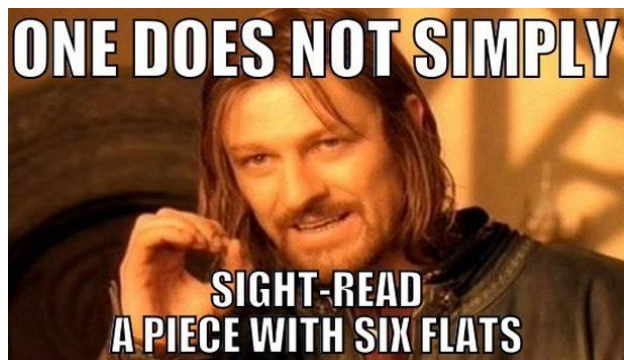


## Adam's Ten Commandments of Tag Singing

(as found on the BHS website and originally posted May 28, 2014)

With a busy summer of barbershop cookouts, barbershop camps, barbershop conventions, and barbershop hanging out in the backyard, it seemed timely to refresh ourselves on some rules of etiquette.

1. Thou shalt not tag jack (also known as altering the words or notes of existing tags)
2. Thou shalt not 5th wheel
3. Thou shalt not encroach upon the space of others
4. Thou shalt not obnoxiously add 9ths and 7ths to existing tags including and especially the Westminster flat 7
5. Thou shalt not intrude upon, or ask to sing with an obviously established tagging quartet unless invited by someone in said quartet
6. Thou shalt not be too exclusive but read the social signals that anyone should be able to read and INVITE others to join or sub in to the next tag. Thou shalt encourage other's enjoyment of tag singing too.
7. Cousin Shane Scott's tenor rule of "if thou full-voiceth the penultimate 2, thou must also proceed to full-voiceth the 3".
8. Thou shalt apply proper balance to the chords (no blastissimo or molto screamissimo thirds, etc)
9. Thou shalt know all four parts to a tag before proceeding to teach the tag.
10. Thou shalt not add the second half of the new "Behind" tag ("The world") to any other tag except said "Behind" tag.



## Silver Statesmen Calendar

### Upcoming Events

#### 2023

12-15 Oct - District Fall Convention - Gilbert, AZ

11 Nov - Veterans Day Performances (so far): TLC Rehab, Las Ventanas of Summerlin, Oakmont of LV

8 Dec - Xmas Show - 7:00pm - Windmill Library Auditorium, 7060 W. Windmill Ln, NV 89113 (FREE)

10 Dec - Xmas Show - 2:00pm - Clark County Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Rd, LV 89121 (FREE)

21 Dec - Smith Center (Nutcracker Suite): Chorus will sing in the foyer as people arrive

#### 2024

13 Jan - Songs of Love & Songs We Love to Sing - 2:00pm - Summerlin Library, 1771 Inner Circle Dr, 89134

14 Feb - Singing Valentines

3 May - Division Convention - Location TBD

9 Jun - If the Lord Be Willin' - 2:00pm - Windmill Library Auditorium, 7060 W. Windmill Ln, NV 89113

15 Jun - Patriotic Concert - 2:00pm - Clark County Library, 1401 E. Flamingo Rd, LV 89121 (FREE)

16 Jun - Patriotic Concert - 2:00pm - Windmill Library Auditorium, 7060 W. Windmill Ln, NV 89113 (FREE)

18-20 Oct - District Fall Convention - Bakersfield, CA

Stay up-to-date with us by visiting our "Shows & Events" page on the website at:

[www.SilverStatesmen.com](http://www.SilverStatesmen.com)



## Your Daily Chuckles

Why did the server bring the customer an iPhone charger? He asked for apple juice.

I used to have a dog named Rex. I'd put on his leash and take him for a walk. Then he died, and now he's kind of a drag.

Let's take a minute to remember the boiled water. It will be mist.

My email password was hacked again. That's the fifth time I've had to rename my dog.

Did you hear about the origami teacher who quit? Too much paperwork.

KID: Dad, are we pyromaniacs? DAD: Yes, we arson.

My wife asked me to do some odd jobs. She gave me a list of 10, so I did 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9.

Who is the coolest doctor at the hospital? The hip doctor.

Did you hear the joke about the time a mosquito landed on my leg? It was a knee-slapper.

Why couldn't the vampire's wife sleep? Because of his coffin.

Did you hear about the man who couldn't drive his friends underground? He had carpool tunnel syndrome.

Who stays out all night on St Patrick's Day? Paddy O'Furniture. (sorry about that one... Patio Furniture)

What did the Time Traveler do when she was still hungry after a meal? She went back four seconds.

Where might you get a haircut and a hotdog? At a Barber-Q.

A dad was washing his car with his son until the son said, "Dad, can you please just use a sponge?"

Why is everyone so tired at the beginning of April? Because they just finished a 31-day March.

I always found it a little counterproductive when a teacher would say, "Don't get smart with me!"

Everyone has a favorite word. Mine is "drool." It just rolls off the tongue.

What do you call someone who pretends to be Swedish? An artificial Swedener.

## Our Mission Statement:

**"To share our passion for music, to preserve the art form known as Barbershop singing, to enrich the lives of our members, community, and audiences through performance and to bring people together in harmony and fellowship."**

