



NED's NEWS

A monthly newsletter for members and friends of the
Northeastern District of the Barbershop Harmony Society.



AUGUST 2021

1946 - 2021 ~ 75 years

Vol. 4 / Issue 8

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About "LINKS"

Links to online web pages and email addresses are provided in the PDF doc throughout in text and images. Light blue text.

All are interactive - just hover & select and your browser will do the rest!

District Web Page:
nedistrict.org

Society Web Page:
barbershop.org

BHS MemberCenter Login:
members.barbershop

Submit articles and other information for the NED News to Ed Fritzen:
elfritze@gmail.com

The **deadline** for the next **NED News** is Wednesday, September 15

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1. Monthly Featured VP Letter

*This month we hear from VP of Membership and Outreach, **Dianne Brooks** about some new programs and initiatives that can benefit each chapter in the District. Thank you, Dianne!*

These past twenty months have given our singing world a challenge indeed. You have met and surpassed that challenge! I am amazed by all the ingenuity in our district. You embraced the most from Zoom, Jamulus, and tech savvy ideas such as group singing while in your own vehicle. You showed that obstacles can be overcome if we put our mind to it and work together!

During Zoom sessions, did your chapter have members you could count on to attend regular rehearsals? Were they the same ones every week? If so, I want to thank each of you for helping to keep your chapter together. For those who did not want to or unable to participate, I understand, virtual rehearsals just weren't the same. However, I trust you have returned to in-person rehearsals and are back helping your chapter rebuild. It is through working together we can return to and surpass our membership goals.

These past eight months have given me a huge challenge as your incoming VP of Membership & Outreach. With all our chapters in turmoil just trying to keep our membership staying constant or climbing, each chapter seems to be consumed with all they can handle at the moment. For all of us, it's rebuilding and returning to the way we were. For me, it's all about YOU, the member - because EVERY MEMBER COUNTS! There are so many ways I could help, directions I could go, there needed to be an effective team willing to go the distance with me. As I knew would happen, members volunteered and we put together a **Member's Task Force**. The purpose of the task force is to:

- ♪ regularly communicate with their chapters, but a minimum of once a month.
- ♪ encourage chapters of our support.
- ♪ offer our assistance in their rebuilding process.
- ♪ share the latest about ideas, suggestions, reminders.

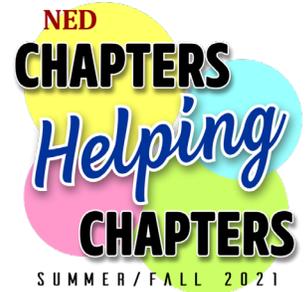
These are the awesome members who have become part of the **Member's Task Force**:

Granite Division	Dick Lebreque	Burlington Chapter
Pine Division	Marshall Wagner	Portland Chapter
Patriot Division	Don Carlson	Worcester Chapter
Mountain Division	Stephen Dyer	Saratoga Chapter
Yankee Division	Bill Standish	Poughkeepsie Chapter
Sunrise Division	<i>(needed!)</i>	

Heartfelt thanks to **Brian Yager** and **Lee Daum** for their help on the task force. Personal reasons have led them to step down.

As we all know, whether in our personal lives, work or hobby, communication is an overwhelming task and can only be effective if there is a two-way response. There is still room in the task force for more members who would like to help. Simply send me a message, please! > > >

Another initiative I felt would be helpful for all of us is to **share** information. Hence, we began the **Chapters Helping Chapters** initiative. I believe if each chapter shared with other chapters some of their strategies/goals in their rebuilding process, it might stir a new thought/new way for other chapters to proceed, one idea at a time. For example, answers to the following questions might be helpful to share. If you have an answer that your chapter has found works, share that with others - submit to me now! We can't assume we are all at the same level; some of us might like a little nudge:



- » How are chapters handling the current lack of parts (e.g., no tenors or baris) to help return songs to performance level? What do you suggest if our chapter policy is vaccinated members only and our only tenor or bari is unvaccinated?
- » How can we develop a marketing plan when everything remains so unsettled?
- » Should we really consider having a chorus dinner and invite guests at this time or invite perspective members to a rehearsal? Isn't it too risky?
- » We are hoping to hold our show and/or holiday concert. How do we distribute flyers, place notices in church bulletins and further get the word out with everything being so iffy?

There are so many areas of concern for all of us. By sharing information with each other, we will be able to more efficiently help each other get back on track. **We can make this program successful by sharing!** See some examples of how our chapters are meeting these challenges - now posted online on the NED web site (more on that below).

<https://www.NEDistrict.org/chapters-helping-chapters>

Thinking ahead... We are planning to have a Members Desk at the 2021 and 2022 conventions. There, any member can ask questions, chat about their concerns, things that are going well, submit an idea, suggestion, or thought that might be valuable to another member/chapter. If you have no concerns or ideas, do stop by to say "Hi!" anyway - grab a candy or two and drop your name in the bucket for a drawing.

Lastly, I appreciate your support. COVID has immeasurably affected every member and every chapter, and continues to this very moment today. Our main goal is to stay together as best as we can, and safely move forward. Please know that I am here to help you and your chapter - in any way I can - on ways to recruit and retain members and reach out to other organizations, including Harmony, Inc. and Sweet Adelines, to get re-involved within your community. Again, if you have a thought or an idea to share, do drop me an email.

~ **Dianne Brooks** • NED DVP-Membership and Outreach • tdbrooks07@msn.com

2. Chapters Helping Chapters – UPDATES!



Indeed, we have received some EXCELLENT plans and ideas already! Check out their submissions, now posted on the NED web site ... **Resources > Chapters Helping Chapters** page. They have shared chapter goals/strategies with you. Let's keep those thoughts and ideas rolling in, please!

<https://www.NEDistrict.org/chapters-helping-chapters#submits>

~ **Dianne Brooks** • NED DVP-Membership and Outreach • tdbrooks07@msn.com

3. Other Chapter News

a. Saratoga Racing City Chorus Reemerges - submitted by Gary Glidden

After a very successful Singing Valentine event in February 2020 the Saratoga Springs NY chapter suspended chapter meetings the first Tuesday in March due to the rising risk of infections due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Little did we realize that it would be eighteen months before we could meet as a chapter again inside without a mask and vaccination by one of the approved vaccines. >>>



We discovered new ways to sing and meet weekly with 'ZOOM'. Under director **Rich Gervais** we added five new songs to our repertoire with learning tracks. ZOOM also provided a better way to hold chapter board and music committee meetings without traveling and providing a place to meet. Every Tuesday evening we laughed and had a lot of fun telling jokes, reminisced about past shows and videos of quartets, and sang. It was fun but like all barbershoppers, we missed singing live!



Saratoga Racing City Chorus

In the summer of 2020 we tried meeting at an outdoor pavilion at the Saratoga Springs Eagles Club with masks and social distancing. It was a little better but still not great.

In April 2021, our director, **Rich Gervais** decided that ten years of directing the Racing City Chorus was enough and he wanted to just enjoy singing with the chorus and his quartet. **Gary Glidden** took over as RCC director officially on June 8th and we had our first live chapter meeting on the same evening with many happy returning members and a few guests!



The Remnants - Lou Fisher, John Senecal, Rusty Senecal, and Steve Dyer.



High Rollers - Mike and Chuck Packevicz, Jack Fair and Bill Wright.

We started preparing for our first show appearance at Lake George, NY outdoor theater at Shepard's Park in the village. The Racing City Chorus, Saratoga's own **Remnants** quartet, and featured guest quartet **High Rollers** with **Mike & Chuck Packevicz, Jack Fair** and **Bill Wright** put on an hour show to a large audience. We started up the **B.o.B** (Barbershop on Broadway) again singing downtown every Thursday evening. We have also started meeting once a month in southern Saratoga County in Clifton Park, to draw guests from the capital district area. The future looks bright again and it's great to be singing live again!

b. Barbershop Returns to Western Connecticut! - submitted by Robert Bradley

It's been a long time comin', but the **Danbury Mad Hatter Chorus** is back! Barbershop harmony is being heard again in the hills of western Connecticut and eastern New York.

Chorus quartets got our post-pandemic schedule started by appearing twice in June, most notably, **Blue Moon** entertained passers-by on Ridgefield, CT's, Main Street during Make Music Day, a free celebration of music held in venues around the world every summer solstice. The full chorus made its debut at Atria Assisted Living, also in Ridgefield. The sound was a bit rusty at the start, but things came together with the nods and smiles of a lively audience.



We've also presented the National Anthem at a number of Danbury Westerners baseball games and learned that we are quite adept at conjuring rainstorms. The Westerners, by the way, is a collegiate summer baseball team based in Danbury, CT, and is a member of the New England Collegiate Baseball League.

Most important, our Annual Show, **Disney Melodies**, is scheduled for September 25, at 2PM and again at 7PM, at the Church of Christ, 90 Clapboard Ridge Road, in Danbury. For those whose entertainment travel range does not include Danbury, the show will be available virtually.

Disney Melodies will feature the **Mad Hatter Chorus** and its quartets: **Blue Moon, Kismet, Square Root of Sixteen, Traveling Men**, and **Unfiltered**, performing songs from a number of Disney movies, like The Jungle Book, The Lion King, Beauty and The Beast, Toy Story, Coco, and others.

For more information and to buy tickets, visit the chorus website at: <https://madhatterchorus.org>

4. Committee News - submitted by Dianne Brooks, Awards & SOP Chair:

Chapter President of the Year Award: LAST CHANCE! Nominations for the 2020 CPOTY Award are due by Wednesday, September 1, 2021. Submit your nomination from here: <https://www.nedistrict.org/chapter-pres-award>



2019 Performance Awards: "Awardees:" Do you know where your trophy is? A reminder that all awardees at the 2019 Eastern, Western and Fall District conventions are responsible for returning their trophy to the Fall District Convention in Worcester on or by October 29, 2021 - please.

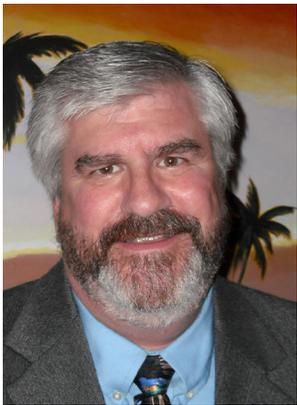
SOP - Standing Ovation Program: As you tentatively make plans for a show and/or holiday concert, remember to send your date via the Show Clearance Form to the NED Secretary. I would also appreciate your sending me the details for two reasons: 1) in the event you would like your chapter show reviewed, and 2) because I enjoy attending as many shows as possible.



As an added reminder, I will gladly review a major performance when asked. In July, I reviewed a gig for Saratoga **Racing City Chorus** which was well received by their director and music team. It is through things such as proper sound system, good singing with a varied song line-up and a good emcee that will keep an audience entertained and interested in returning ... and even possibly learning more about your group and inviting to become a member!

If you have thoughts or questions about becoming a show reviewer or want to know more about the Standing Ovation Program, let me know and I will set up a virtual meeting to discuss the topic.

5. In Memorium – Steve LeClaire



It is with great sadness to report that long time NED member **Steve LeClaire**, most recently of the **Central Connecticut** and **Manchester** chapters, passed away earlier this month after a 12-year battle with cancer. Steve was an inspiration to us all, not only in how he lived and loved our hobby, but also in how he approached the end of his life in such a positive and uplifting manner. Steve was a force at both the district and chapter level. He ran a very successful **Harmony Explosion Northeast Camps** and also organized the very first **Connecticut Day of Harmony**. Both events reached hundreds of youth and spread Steve's love of Barbershop. He also served on both boards of the Manchester Chapter and Central Connecticut chapter, taking on the task of raising awareness of both chapters in the community and obtaining corporate sponsorships. No matter what the task, Steve was ready to volunteer and was successful.

At heart though, Steve loved music and singing. He loved to perform no matter what the occasion. If a chapter chorus needed a tenor in order to perform, Steve was always there. He was dual member in many chapters, in addition to the Manchester and Central Connecticut chapters, and in some cases, his membership kept those chapters alive. Steve was a fixture on the contest stage as well, competing with many different quartets in contest, often times just to give a new member a chance to compete and perform for the first time. This was on top of competing with his choruses. He said on many occasions, it was his singing and performing that kept him going during his battle with cancer. A



large gathering of members representing the **Manchester, Central Connecticut, Waterbury-Derby** and **Hartford** chapters attended a memorial service celebrating Steve's life. We sang "The Irish Blessing" - one of Steve's favorites. I'm sure he heard us and was smiling.



Rest in Peace, Steve.



Three Quartets - One Contest / Fall-2018

- *I Don't Know Why*
- *Late Risers*
- *TMI*

6. NED Events & Other Important Dates —

Now on the [District Calendar](#) (link). More information & links may be found there!

Organizers: Please submit/provide/verify your future event date, time and link. Attending? Look at the online calendar!

DATE	DAY(S)	EVENT	INFO LINK	LOCATION
September 19	Sunday evening	NED Chapter Presidents Forum, 7:30 PM		Zoom
September 24	Friday afternoon	NED House of Delegates Meeting	<i>t b a</i>	Zoom
Oct. 29-30	Friday & Saturday	NED Fall District Convention	<i>SELECT</i>	Worcester State U.
Jan. 7-9, 2022	Friday-Sat.-Sunday	NED-OLA-22 / Online Leadership Academy	<i>t b a</i>	Zoom
Jan. 11-16	Tues.-Sun.	BHS 2022 Midwinter Convention	<i>t b a</i>	Pasadena, CA

7. Video of the Month

I think it's time for some comedy to help us forget all the troubles of our world today. Remember when we were able to enjoy performances like this in person? I'm sure that day will come again. In the mean time, enjoy this 2011 International performance by **Lunch Break** ...

<https://youtu.be/tqwkJGMOEbs>



Please submit any articles you feel may be interesting for our members and fans of the Northeastern District today! The deadline for the next issue is Wednesday, September 15. Please send news, articles, pictures event dates and more, to **Ed Fritzen**, editor: elfritze@gmail.com. THANKS!