



NED's NEWS

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



NOVEMBER 2021

1946 - 2021 ~ 75 years

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In This Issue...

1. Monthly Featured DVP Letter
2. Fall Contest Summary
3. Contest Results Corrections
4. Mixed Quartet Champions
5. Reminder from Dianne
6. NED Events/Calendar
7. Video of the Month

About "LINKS"

Links to online web pages and email addresses are provided here in this 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 Member Center
Login here: [MEMBERS](#)

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

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

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1. Monthly Featured VP Letter

This month we hear from our Executive Vice President, Mike Savard.

We are, as they say, living in interesting times. Thankfully, we have been able to turn the corner a little bit and despite some concessions to the pandemic, we held a very successful convention in Worcester a few weeks ago - congratulations to our new champions, *The Square Route*, *The Queen's Gambit*, *Vocal Revolution*, and *Voices United!*

This was my first convention as a member of the NED Board, and it's always interesting to have a "behind the scenes" view of all of the work that your fellow Barbershoppers do to make these events happen - and happen smoothly. If you haven't thanked **Bob Bradley**, **Alan Lamson**, and their teams for that, please do! The amount of work they do for us is staggering, and the value they add for the District is beyond measure.



And speaking of interesting times, history was made this year as we held our first District contest which included women and non-binary fellow Barbershoppers as competitors (shout out to *Neapolitan Quartet* who were our first District Mixed Quartet Champs when they competed at the Eastern Division Contest in April 2019, as well as quartets like *Mixed MetaFour* and *Sweet and Sour*, who won mixed competitions held on the district stage as festivals and MBHA events prior to a formal BHS contest). It was heart-warming seeing people like **Carol Kingsbury**, who has been to countless NED contests as a spectator, finally get the chance to cross the stage as a competitor. And the new ensembles delivered, with both *The Queen's Gambit* quartet and *Voices United* chorus putting on performances that earned them Mixed category Championships, and the second-best scores overall in the contest.

As the Society Board collects opinions on how to structure next summer's International contests, and as they prepare to make that decision by the end of this year, I want to take some time to discuss what we might expect from that decision.

If you haven't already seen the five contest considerations the Society Board is evaluating, please feel free to email me and I'll be happy to send you a copy. What I would like to point out about them is that at a minimum, we will have representation of all our members at next International Competition, and that most of the options being considered will result in an open/genderless contest for both the International Quartet and Chorus championship.



Second Nature

I realize that this idea will make many of you reading this uncomfortable. In my professional life as a business consultant, I deal with change management projects on a regular basis, and this is by no means unusual. In our case, we have a majority (males) who have been the only voice in the District and the Society for decades. Now we're asking you to share that space, and it's disconcerting.

The reality we face as District and Society leaders, however, is that we represent all the members of the District and Society, not only the majority. So, if the majority has a preference, but that preference results in other members being marginalized or discriminated against, then that preference can't be what drives the decision.

One thing I've learned in managing change projects is that people, as a rule, over-value what they have, and under-value what they could have after the change is implemented. My ask of you is, regardless of how you feel about this issue, or how the decision goes, if you feel like it didn't go the way you wanted, please stick with us and see how the future plays out.

~ **Mike Savard** • Executive Vice President • michael.w.savard@gmail.com

2. Fall Contest Summary

There were a lot of contest sessions held in Worcester. For complete results refer to the BHS/NED Official Scoring Summary sheets that have been revised and corrected on our District web site. <https://www.nedistrict.org/scores>

Our district champions are as follows:

- Men's Quartet Champion – ***The Square Route***
- Mixed Quartet Champion – ***The Queen's Gambit***
- Men's Senior Quartet Champion – ***Trade Secret***
- Mixed Youth Quartet Champion – ***Mixed and Mastered***
- Men's Chorus Champion – ***Vocal Revolution***
- Mixed Chorus Champion – ***Voices United***



Please refer to the score sheets on the website for complete results. We'll be hearing from ***The Square Route*** in a future issue. You can read a little about ***The Queens Gambit*** later in this issue. Congratulations to all our champions!

PHOTOS! See ALL the photos in folders on [Google DRIVE](#) or [DROPBOX](#)!

[HERE: NEDistrict.org > CONTESTS > PHOTO-ARCHIVE](#)

3. Corrections to the Official Contest Results

So, what happens when quartets get excited, software does not function as planned, the scope of potential contests was expanded as a result of "Everyone In Harmony," and the person in-charge does not exercise enough review? Besides those things being the "perfect storm," it results in errors – and in this case, errors in announcing a few winners at our recent contests at the Fall Convention in Worcester.

Some quartets were so excited just to be able to finally enter a contest and sing that they enthusiastically checked off quartet sessions they were not eligible for. In this case, it was for a few of the Novice Quartet contests that were being held. But the Contest & Judging (C&J) team caught them and verified the fact that they were not eligible and then went to the Barberscore software and deleted their entry into those categories. What we didn't know (and neither did the software developer) was that after deleting them and closing the program, the software reentered every one of them while closing down. And all of this happened just prior to the contest weekend.

So here is some information to straighten all of this out (and, by the way, the scoring summaries (OSS) on the District

website have all been edited to show the correct information).

- Patriot Division Novice Mixed Harmony Quartet Champion is **Mixed and Mastered**.
- Mountain Division Novice Quartet Champion – *there is none - as no quartet was eligible*.
- District Novice Mixed Harmony Quartet Champion is **Mixed and Mastered**.
- District Novice Men's Quartet Champion is **Wicked Sharp**.

On Thursday, November 12, I met up with representatives of **The Queen's Gambit** and **Mixed and Mastered** in Boston and presented the award plaques for Patriot Division Novice Mixed Harmony and District Novice Mixed Harmony Championship to **Mixed and Mastered**. Three of the members of **Mixed and Mastered** were present and **Samuel Dantowitz** (bari) was on the phone (Facetime) with them from California. Members of **The Queen's Gambit** were there to graciously pass on the trophies to **Mixed and Mastered**. Please reach out to **Mixed and Mastered (M&M)** and congratulate them on their additional two awards (they were also Top 10 and District Youth Quartet Champions). You can reach them at [facebook.com/MMquartet](https://www.facebook.com/MMquartet).



The presentation is shown in the photo at right with (L-to-R) **Julie Jeffery** (bari, **The Queen's Gambit**), **Grant Heineman** (bass, **M&M**), **Annie Dickenson** (lead, **M&M**), **Szizsi Hites** (tenor, **M&M**), and **Matt Saucier** (**The Queen's Gambit**). **Samuel Dantowitz** (bari, **M&M**) was there on the phone call.

On the same evening, I met with **Wicked Sharp** at the rehearsal of **Vocal Revolution** in Lexington, MA and presented the award of District Novice Men's Quartet Champion to **Wicked Sharp**. **High Rollers** also graciously sent me all of the trophies for this award so they could be properly presented.

The presentation is shown in the photo at left-below with (L-to-R) **Alan Lamson** (NED VP-Contest & Judging), **Adam Shoemaker**, tenor and **Dick Arscott**, bass. The other members of the quartet are **Marcel D'Anjou**, lead and **Andrew Mendelsohn**, bari. Please reach out to **Wicked Sharp** and congratulate them on their additional award (they were also Patriot Division Novice Men's Quartet Champion). You can reach them through **Dick Arscott** at dick@arscott.biz.



Finally, when the trophy for District Most Improved Chorus was presented to the **Hartford Men in Harmony**, there should have been a presentation of the Dino Houpis Director's Award to the director of the Hartford chorus, **Sebby Massa**. It was not announced. That trophy is being repaired and will be presented as soon as the repairs are complete. Please reach out to **Sebby** and congratulate him on Hartford's achievement at sebastian.massa2@gmail.com.

Congratulations to all and my apologies for the errors.

~ Alan Lamson • DVP-Contest & Judging • janlam314@cox.net

4. Meet our new Mixed Quartet Champions – *The Queen’s Gambit*

The Queen’s Gambit (TQG) is so proud to be this year’s Northeastern District’s Mixed Quartet Champions! We’d like to thank the District for being so welcoming to us and for being such a great audience for our debut performances!

TQG is made up of members of *Voices United* (Southern New England), *Vocal Revolution* (Greater Boston), and members of *Harmony Inc.* and *Sweet Adelines International*.



Vanessa LaRochelle (T), Amanda Pitts (L), Julie Jeffery (Br), and Matt Saucier (Bs) formed in August with the goal of competing in the 2021 NED Contest - and we did just that! We’re not sure what’s next, but we do know we’ll be singing and ringing chords at many NED events in the future!

Find TQG on Facebook here: <https://www.facebook.com/The-Queens-Gambit-Quartet-107342368418380>



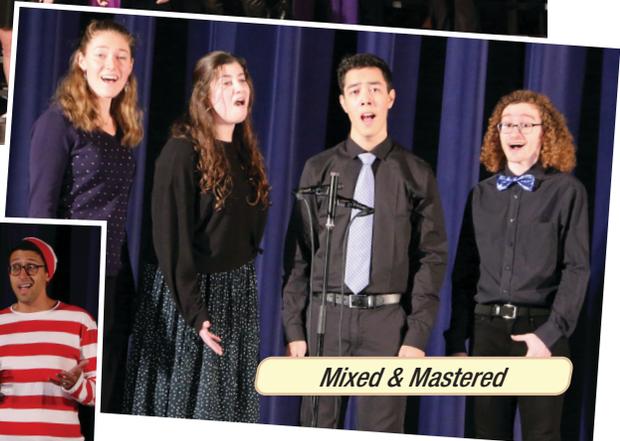
Voices United



The Square Route



Mischief



Mixed & Mastered

MORE PHOTOS!

HERE: CONTESTS > PHOTO-ARCHIVE

5. Reminder from Dianne Brooks

Congratulations to **Dianne Brooks**, recipient of the **NED Barbershopper of the Year Award** for 2021!

See the amazing presentation... [HERE > > https://youtu.be/N2Ck5DAnGG4](https://youtu.be/N2Ck5DAnGG4)

She wants to remind us that growing and maintaining our membership requires constant work:

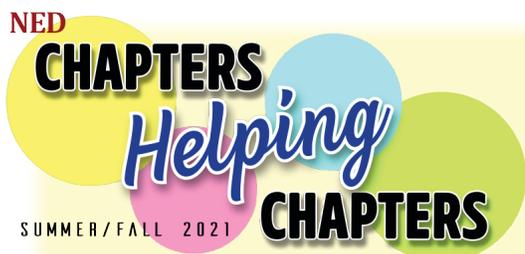
Let's grow our membership!

It's never too late to help another chapter to think of different ways to attract potential members this holiday season - and begin the New Year 2022 with new members on the risers.

Remember... we're all about *Everyone In Harmony*.

Send me your ideas and I will publish them in the next issue of the NED newsletter!

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



- Has your chapter joined the conversation?
- Does your chapter need ideas to rebuild?
- Can you share in your chapter's success?
 - Share ideas! Share successes!
 - A Community of Chapters helping each other!

SEE NEW UPDATES NOW POSTED here:

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

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
Nov. 27	Sat.	Chapter Show - Hartford Men In Harmony	SELECT	New Britain, CT
Dec. 11	Sat.	Chapter Show - Lowell Gentlemen Songsters	SELECT	Lowell, MA
Dec. 12	Sun.	NED Chapter Presidents Forum	<i>t b a</i>	7:00 PM via Zoom
Jan. 7-9	Fri.-Sun.	NED-OLA-22 / Online Leadership Academy	<i>soon!</i>	Zoom meetings
Jan. 11-16	Tues.-Sun.	BHS 2022 Midwinter Convention	BHS (select)	Pasadena, CA
Jan. 22	Sat. (2 shows)	Chapter Show - Manchester Silk City Chorus	SELECT	Manchester (CT) HS
Mar. 18-20	Fri-Sun.	Mixed Harmony Brigade of New England - Rally	SELECT	Bedford, MA
Mar. 25	Fri.	NED House of Delegates meeting	<i>t b a</i>	Via Zoom!

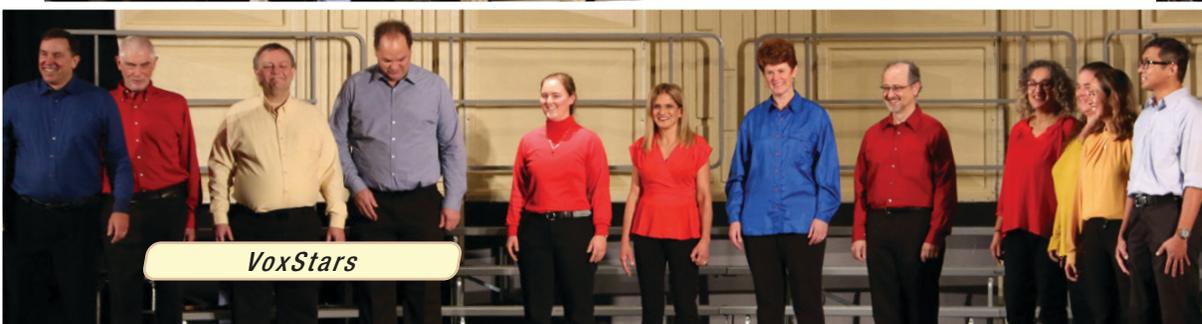
7. Video of the Month

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Barbershop legend **Joe Liles** this past month. I thought it would be fitting to feature Joe and his Seniors Quartet Champion "*Harmony*."

We miss you Joe!

<https://youtu.be/mdZeSydFgXE>

Harmony - They Wrote 'Em in the Good Old Days.
Performed live in Riverside, California during the 2002 Midwinter Convention.



**MORE
PHOTOS!
HERE**

We're constantly looking for newsworthy items to publish here. Let us know what's going on with your chapters and quartets! The deadline for the next issue is Wednesday, December 15, 2021.

Please send any articles and pics of interest to Ed Fritzen, elfritze@gmail.com. Thank you!