



NED's NEWS

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

MERRY
CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 2021

1946 - 2021 ~ 75 years

Vol. 4 / Issue 12

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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 Saturday, January 15

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1. Monthly Featured Letter

In lieu of a letter from District President **Mike Maino**, I'd like to use this space to reflect a little and share some news that perhaps not everyone in the district knows. Earlier this year, my wife and I decided we wanted to re-locate to North Carolina to be closer to our grandchildren. We purchased some property outside of Charlotte and began the process of building our "retirement" home. We were fortunate to quickly sell our condo here in Connecticut and by the time you read this, Michele and I will be living in North Carolina, awaiting the completion of our new house.

While excited about being closer to our daughters and grandkids, it is always sad to leave behind all the friends we have made here in the Northeastern District. I've been fortunate to be a part of the **Norwich** and **Manchester** chapters here in Connecticut, sang in a number of decent quartets and have been honored to have served both at the chapter and district levels. I was humbled to be named **NED Barbershopper of the Year** in 2017 and serve as your district president from 2018-2020. None of this would have been possible without the support of the many members of the District Board during those years. I would like to particularly thank **Mike Maino** for filling in as acting district president while I recovered from cancer surgery in 2018, perhaps way sooner than he anticipated! Along with Mike, **Alan Lamson, Bob Bradley, Steve Salamin** and **John Englander** were all instrumental in insuring the business of the district went on without a hitch during this time. I am truly grateful.



I'm excited what the future holds for the Northeastern District although a little disappointed I won't be quite as active. I will serve out my term as Immediate Past President. I will continue to work on bringing our 2022 Fall Convention in Saint John, New Brunswick to fruition as well as continue working on this newsletter. I hope to see many of you next summer in Charlotte at our **International Convention**, and it goes without saying, you're always welcome to visit if you should find yourself in the Charlotte area. Once I have a real street address, I'll be sure to update my contact information with the BHS and the district. I'm always reachable at my email, showing below.

Thank you all again for a great 18 years of barbershopping in the Northeastern District.

~ **Ed Fritzen** • Immediate Past President • elfritze@gmail.com



Happy holidays

2. The Square Route ~ It's Hip to be Square ~

Mike Gabriella, Tenor, Dan Washington, Lead, Dan Costello, Baritone, Mark Paul, Bass

We started out in barbershop listening to our favorite quartets singing the simple, elegant songs from the turn of the 20th Century. It wasn't hard to fall in love with those beautiful melodies and engaging harmonies – not to mention the thrill of that ringing sound.

Our journey now is to follow the route that takes us back to that golden era and the music that was born during that time. Our focus is to rekindle this style and to make that the most important part of what we do as a quartet.

Origin

Once upon a time, we were four men who wondered whether we would ever sing again, believing that what we were seeking simply wasn't "out there." Little did we know that was about to change.

In August 2017, Dan Washington, Dan Costello, and Mike Gabriella started singing with Terry Clarke, bass of the Boston Common, well known for their pipe-organ-like sound and masters at putting the song first, above all else. This foursome embraced the afterglow experience and found joy singing and sharing their music. Unfortunately, this abruptly ended when Terry passed in February of 2018.

At the same time, in New York City, Mark Paul was on the lookout for three other singers who shared his desire to sing old-style barbershop. He and Dan Washington had always talked about quartetting together someday. In August 2018 they sang at Alton Bay, heard the potential again, and felt it might be the right time to give it a try.

When they talked about singing old-style songs and arrangements, Dan described how the three of them were mourning the loss of their bass. Mark had no knowledge of the huge singing experience the other three had shared with Terry.

Dan, Dan, and Mike were excited with the discovery of Mark's shared vision and bass pipes and we all decided to see where this could go.

The Route of the Journey

We got together as a foursome in January of 2019 and quickly



The Square Route
(L-to-R) Mike Gabriella, Dan Washington,
Mark Paul, Dan Costello.

found we all loved re-discovering old songs and forgotten arrangements. We resolved to keep it going.

Pulling this off led to some challenging logistics, with three of us in various parts of MA and the fourth in NYC. This meant careful scheduling for long-distance get-togethers. In September of 2019, we spent several days together in Woods Hole, Cape Cod, starting an annual tradition.

Quartet Name – “The Square Route “

We actually went quite a while without a name. We knew we wanted it to reflect our vision of returning to the simple, square style of barbershop music. We feel that “The Square Route” (emphasis on Square) harks back to a time of those “woodsheddable” melodies and speaks to preserving what we all loved when we first joined the Society.

Initially, we thought we would be “The Square Root” but we believe that the word “Route” better represents our intent and is more suggestive of our journey. Now our challenge is to make others aware that it's “Route” and not “Root!”

Influences

The Square Route is fortunate to have found trusted supporters and mentors who have influenced our journey, including prominent barbershoppers Rich Knapp, Larry Tully, and Bill Mitchell.

In 2019 we were graced to connect with Don Barnick, who we consider our “Barbershop Counselor.” Don has two International Quartet Championships – in 1979 as the tenor of Grandma's Boys and in 1992 as the bass of Keepsake. >>



Don initially worked with us in Fall 2019, raising the bar for artistry and musicality. In September of 2021, he spent several days with us during our retreat in Woods Hole. Don has become a great friend and mentor, and he provides us tremendous guidance and encouragement.

He has taught us innumerable tags, and even an entire song that, to our knowledge, has not been preserved on sheet music. Indeed, a quarter of our repertoire is comprised of songs that we've learned by ear – no sheet music. It's been great fun for us to continue working in this old-fashioned tradition.

The Journey Continues

After the many months of pandemic isolation, we found it an extraordinary experience to perform in front of a live barbershop audience at the **NED District Convention and Contest** in Worcester, MA, in October 2021. We were thrilled and honored to be rewarded with the **Patriot Division** and **NED District Quartet Championships**. It was exciting to be recognized for what we have been doing and we are eager to continue our journey together.

So, what's next? One of our next major projects is to drop an album. We have booked an Alaskan land excursion/cruise for Summer 2022 with, of course, some quality time singing the old songs. We are aiming to launch on social media in early 2022.

In the meantime, if you'd like to contact us, you can reach out to **Dan Costello** (voted "Favorite Baritone" by the NED Convention audience, btw!) at:

Dan Costello • (781) 243-1245
danielcostello1@gmail.com



3. Paying It Forward...

Steve O'Connell, director of the **Beverly Northshoremens Chorus** and lead of the quartet, **Essex County 4**, were honored to sing one last time for their dear friend **Jack Dowd** at the Care Dimensions hospice facility in Danvers, Mass., and subsequently for the family of a woman who overheard them as they sang and who asked them to come back and sing at her memorial service.

The facility created a wonderful "news" item in their "Voices of Care" column, with a video - which you can read and view online here:

<https://www.caredimensions.org/...>



ESSEX COUNTY 4 (R-to-L)
 Michael Klein - Tenor
 Steve O'Connell - Lead;
 Irwin Cohen - Bass
 Charles Coogan - Baritone

SMARTEN UP!

Start the New Year off RIGHT!
 Educate Yourself & Help Your Chapter
 With the Resources from...

2022

NEDOLA

Online Leadership Academy

Your Connection To

- Great Ideas
- Great People
- Essential Tools
- Exceptional Experiences

Friday - evening
 Saturday - all day
 Sunday - PM

January 7-8-9

REGISTRATION IS OPEN! MORE INFORMATION HERE:
NEDistrict.org/online-leadership-academy

4. 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
Jan. 7-9	Fri. – Sun.	NED-OLA-22 / Online Leadership Academy	soon	Zoom sessions
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	t b a	Via Zoom!
Apr. 8-10	Fri.–Sun.	NED Eastern Regional Convention and Contests	soon	Resort and Conference Center at Hyannis
Apr. 29-May 1	Fri.–Sun.	NED Western Regional Convention and Contests	soon	Queensbury (NY) High School.
July 24-31	Sun.–Sun.	BHS Harmony University	BHS (select)	Loyola University New Orleans

5. Video of the Month

I thought I'd feature a chorus performance this month. I first became aware of SPEBSQSA back in 1967. My father became a member of the soon-to-be International Chorus Champs, the *Dapper Dans of Harmony*, and soon I was hooked. A good friend of his loaned us some International Contest albums that were produced at that time and the first chorus I fell in love with was the *Louisville Thoroughbreds*, the 1966 International Champs.

While I couldn't find a video of the *Thoroughbreds* from that time, listening to this 1990 recording brought back lots of memories.

https://youtu.be/_OIVwBysirU



Thoroughbreds - That's an Irish Lullabye - Performed live at the Cow Palace in San Francisco, California during the Barbershop Harmony Society's 1990 International Convention

I'm always looking for good newsworthy content to publish here. The deadline for the next issue is Saturday, January 15, 2022.

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

