



NED's NEWS

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



AUGUST 2022

1946 - 2022 / 75+1 years!

Vol. 5 / Issue 8

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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.

Almost 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
Thursday, September 15

Creator & Content Editor
Ed Fritzen, IPP

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Marketing & Public Relations

1. Monthly Letter ~ from the VP of Membership & Outreach (M&O)

Since becoming your NED VP of M&O, I have found this position challenging because there isn't a way to determine if I am helping our chapters. I have come to the conclusion that it is ALL OF US as NED members who must work together to make progress for our chapters and our district. This isn't a one-person position.

What I do know clearly is that membership in our district has declined over the last five years, especially since the pandemic began. The GREAT news? Our numbers are rebounding. With five months remaining, we are already ahead of our 2020 membership numbers. Therefore, YOU are doing great job at attracting new members and retaining current members. Don't let your guard down now, we're on a roll! Keep performing well, remember to include a recruitment pitch, and wherever you go, whomever you meet, ask if they enjoy music and invite them to visit a rehearsal. Give them a business card, include your name and phone number - and likewise, get their name and contact information so you can follow-up. Keeping the faith, one step at a time our chapters will grow.

Here are some thoughts and ideas for member recognition, retention, and outreach:

When was the last time we, you and I, took a moment to acknowledge the "core" members of our chapters, the Joe Barbershop member who gives his time to learn his music, be available for gigs, and be counted on when there is a project to be done. Granted, we should all know our chapter director and president, but who puts together our weekly chorus newsletter/bulletin? Who continuously goes the extra mile? Who works behind the scenes for a successful show, gig or special chapter function? Who brings special treats every week for all to enjoy during break? Sure, most members don't do these things for recognition, but isn't it time to let the entire district know who these members are and that they are important to you and the success of your chapter? These questions also extend to our newest "Everyone in Harmony" members.



LET'S ACKNOWLEDGE OUR MEMBERS:

BULLETIN EDITOR PROGRAM: Who in your chapter pulls together a weekly or monthly newsletter/bulletin to help keep your chapter updated with the goings-on of your chapter? It is a joint effort between the editor and your members/leadership and could easily include many great photos >>>



Reading this now online or in a PDF "reader?" - You can hover-over & select the text areas or images and GO!

**NOMINATIONS for the
CPOTY-2021 AWARD
DEADLINE is EXTENDED!**
Now September 10th • Learn more at...
NEDistrict.org/chapter-pres-award

**NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT
CPOTY2021
Chapter President Of The Year**

Presented at the Fall District Convention in Saint John!

and video links. These bulletins can always include some tidbits or ideas/suggestions that just might be a nudge for you to try something new and different in your own chapter, or stimulate ideas and creativity.

Would you be willing and able to share your newsletters/bulletins with me, please? Please add me to your list using my email address: tdbrooks07@msn.com. With every chapter participating - maybe we can resurrect our **Bulletin Editor Program** and acknowledge the greatest editors by division and/or as a district.

BACHELOR OF BARBERSHOP HARMONY PROGRAM:

Did you know this program exists? It recognizes individual great accomplishments in the Barbershop Harmony world and is administered by the **Northeastern District!**

The Society thought there should be some form of recognition for those Barbershoppers who have dedicated their time and effort to helping themselves and others to increase their knowledge of their craft by becoming involved in the many disciplines of this great hobby, increasing their expertise and their enjoyment to become better members and, in short, making this a better place for all of us to spend our leisure time, while providing others who are not members, the opportunity to avail themselves of the entertainment and enjoyment we can provide.



A member who achieves a prescribed level of accomplishment and service is eligible to receive the "Degree" - a certificate for framing and a lapel badge to wear proudly to any Barbershop Harmony event. You can find the instructions and application located on the NED website under "programs". Let me know if you have any questions.

STANDING OVATION PROGRAM (SOP): The main purpose of the program is to put our heads together to determine how welcome our chapter shows and performances make each audience member feel. Our audience represents our supporters, friends, family, and others who enjoy a cappella music. What better time to reach out to potential members. This can be accomplished in so many ways.

Now that we are returning to a "new normal", it is time

to restart our SOP. If you want to learn more about how the SOP team can be of assistance, I'm just an email away. Likewise, if you want to learn more about becoming a member of the team, just email me. I will respond back.



Let's take advantage of this great opportunity to promote our chapter and reach out to other music lovers.

A SIMPLE SHOUT-OUT: Not comfortable yet but still want to acknowledge a member, how about a simple **Shout-Out!**

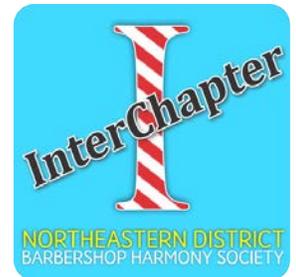


That's right, nothing fancy, just a simple acknowledgment of a member making a difference in your chapter. To do this I will need the following information:

Member Name / Chapter
Briefly, their Importance to the Chapter

[Email me with this information](#); I will make sure this person receives a special **Shout-Out**.

INTERCHAPTER GATHERING: Is there a high school chorus, college corral or community group of singers in your area? Why not reach out to them, invite them to your rehearsal to sing for you, maybe teach them a tag, have fun. Many of us enjoy singing in more than one chapter; just maybe you will interest someone in reaching out to you. The same with a local Sweet Adeline and Harmony Inc chapters, why not invite them over for an evening. One never knows where our next gig might come from or a potential member or creating a mixed barbershop group. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.



SUMMARY: There are many opportunities to recognize your core members and recruit new members. Let's start a buzz of excitement within our chapter and let it spread throughout the district. Don't keep it a secret. Be proud of both current and new members and let us know. I believe **EVERY chapter within the NED has a member or members who stand out... let us know!** A simple name, chapter, and one-liner will do. I leave you with this ... >>>

- ♪ *Winners are not people who never fail BUT people who never quit.*
- ♪ *Don't let mistakes define you, let them teach you.*
- ♪ *Go the extra mile, it's never crowded.*
- ♪ *There is no elevator to success, you have to take the stairs.*
- ♪ *You could make a wish or you could make it happen!*

Let's make it happen in the NED!

- **COMMUNICATE... with your chapter members.**
- **COMMUNICATE... with your community & audience.**
- **COMMUNICATE... with your friends in the NED.**

It's GREAT to be a Barbershopper!

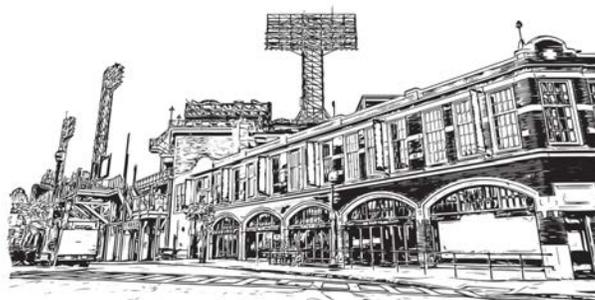
Join us, please. We need you!

~ **Dianne Brooks** • NED VP - Membership & Outreach

tdbrooks07@msn.com

2. Back in the Day - part 3 of 7

Here is **Art Lively's** third installment of the **Fenway Caper**. Thanks, Art! If others out there have remembrances of historical events during the 75-plus years of the Northeastern District, please submit them to Ed Fritzen, elfritze@gmail.com



No Problem? – part 3 by Art Lively

It was a gorgeous day with temperatures close to 90°. We arrived at the Red Sox offices and finally met, in person,, Mary Jane Ryan. Mary Jane had been extremely helpful over the phone and seemed very interested in our having a part in the ceremony. She took time from her busy duties at the Public Relations office to introduce us to Mr. Gene Kirby, Administrative Vice President of the Boston Red Sox. He was equally cooperative and patient as he accompanied us onto the hallowed grounds of Fabulous Fenway Park. I'm sure **Dick Young**, music director, and **Mike Foss**, shared the sane thrilling feeling that I did as we strolled out onto the outfield behind second base.

There we met the head groundskeeper, Joe Mooney, and the head electrician, Bob Ricci. We discussed our list of questions while the warm sun beat down upon us. We wandered across the field to the area around home plate.

It was there that the Chorus would line up to perform for the Bean Town fans. During our trip, we visited the office of Channel 38 WSBK TV and talked briefly with Mr. Dick Beach. We also called the Boston Globe to discuss a pending news release. It was a day to remember, and the BIG DAY was only a week away.



While everything seemed to be going along smoothly, there were two very real problems. The weather on April 7th was one. What would we do if the game was postponed? We agreed not to think about that one until we had to, we just hoped for the best.

The other problem began to bother us. During our visit to the park, it was learned that there was a two and one half second delay in the time it would take the sound of our voices to travel from the loud speakers on the outfield walls, to where we would be standing.

It was a serious problem. Feedback into the microphones concerned us also. Previous entertainers had encountered a great deal of difficulty during their performances. One time, members of a band put their instruments down in disgust. They could not cope with the echo. Soloists have had to wear devices over their ears so that they would not hear the delayed sound of: their own voice. We could not do that. We must hear each other in order to remain in tune. At our clubhouse rehearsal on March 30th, we tried, without success, to simulate this problem.

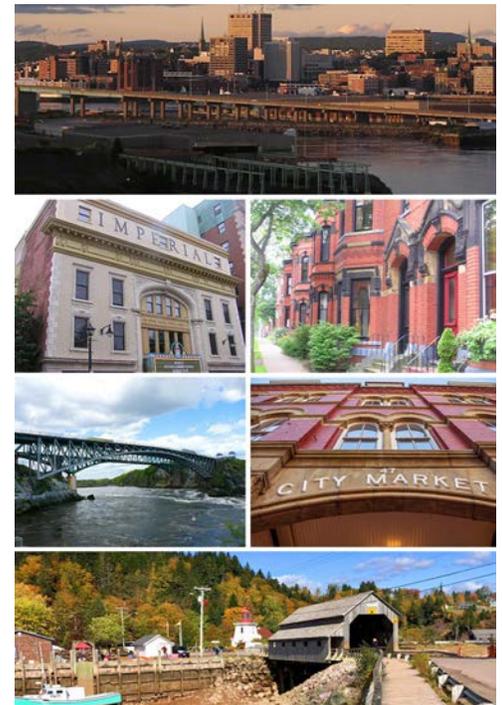
To be continued... (part 4 in September)

3. 75th Anniversary Fall Convention News ~ by Ed Fritzen

The **75th Anniversary Fall Convention team** has been working for what it seems like forever, planning for this Fall's District Convention and Contests in Saint John, New Brunswick. As you all know, **registration** for the convention has been open since June. Quartets and choruses are also able to **enter** the contests. This is far earlier than we normally are able to do this and the convention team was hoping that people would take advantage of being able to register earlier. It really helps the convention team with planning for the convention to have a good idea of how many people we can expect. So, if you have already registered for the convention and your quartet or chorus has already entered the contest, **THANK YOU!** For those who have not registered, there is still plenty of time to take advantage of the early bird rates. If you're still somewhat undecided about attending the convention, here are a few facts that



1. Based on the most recent data, COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths have been declining recently in the New Brunswick area. There are no COVID-19 restrictions in place at this time. Masks are not required and there are no limits on the size of gatherings. This is all good news. The District is requiring that all convention registrants show proof of vaccination. We are striving to make this a safe convention for all attendees.
2. **Saint John, NB** is not really that far from the rest of the NED. It's only 410 miles from Boston, 495 miles from Hartford, 560 miles from Albany and 450 miles (730 km) from Montreal. It's easily a days drive from anywhere within the NED.
3. **Saint John** is truly a destination city with rich history, fine restaurants and breweries. The exchange rate as of Aug 25 is favorable \$1.00 USD = \$1.29 CAD. We are currently scheduling a tour of the city as well as a "pub" tour on Friday. Details should be announced shortly.
4. There will be two great contests featuring the finest quartets and choruses from throughout the NED. Not only will we be having our regular District Quartet and Chorus championships, in all of the new categories, (male, female, mixed), we will also be crowning the **Sunrise Division Champions** in all categories. There could be as many as 22-25 quartets and 21-25 choruses.
5. In continuing with the Sunrise Division tradition, we will have a district wide convention **banquet** following the contests on Saturday evening.
6. Couldn't get to Harmony University this year? We'll have our own "mini" HU on Friday morning and afternoon of the convention week. Instructors include **Joe Cerutti, Eric Ruthenberg, Mark Kettner, Dan Falcone, Rob Mance, David and Sandy Wright, Stef Schmidt, Steve Scott and Steve Tramack**. Course descriptions will be available soon on our website.
7. We have some very special guests for the weekend. The **2019 International Quartet Champions, Signature** will be with us for the weekend. They will be doing outreach activities to the local schools on Friday and



will be featured on our **Show of Champions**, Saturday night after the banquet.

Also joining us for the weekend will be BHS CEO **Marty Monson** and his wife **Amy**.

8. Did I mention the Show of Champions? Following the banquet on Saturday night we will have a "Show of Champions" featuring past NED Quartet champions as well as our guest **Signature**.

I hope this helps in convincing anyone who is "on the fence" about attending this 75th Anniversary Celebration. For all the latest convention information, please visit the NED website. www.nedistrict.org.

Hope to see you all in Saint John!

4. Meredith Bay Jamboree 2022 - A Hit!

Some pictures from the Mini-Golf Tourney, perfs-on-the-bay, Saturday Show & Afterglow. More posted now/soon online at Facebook and NED web site!



Photos by
Dick Arscott, Jim Kenealy, Dennis Ledbetter, Steve Salamin





Steve Irish, Rich Knapp, Shirley Kopka reminisce.



Young... and Experience.
Rich Knapp still has it.



Roger Menard ~ to Dad



Al Gustafson ~ bass of "The Adventurers"

*It was ...
a special night.*



Inside Track ~ to Ronnie Menard & all



NEDAC chorus ~ That Old Quartet of Mine

5. Video of the Month

This month I'd like to feature one of the great quartets from the Northeastern District. Sadly we have come to learn of the recent passing of **Don Dobson**, tenor of the *The Four Rascals*, the last living member of this quartet. In remembrance of Don and the rest of the Four Rascals, please enjoy their performance of *You Must Have Been A Beautiful Baby* recorded at the **1965 International Convention** in Boston, MA.

<https://youtu.be/sP6cyQs26t4>



6. NED Events & Other Important Dates —

Now on the [District Calendar](#) (link).

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

DATE	DAY(S)	EVENT	INFO? (PDF LINK)	LOCATION
Sept. 11	Sunday	Chapter Show: Providence, RI - <i>Narragansett Bay Chorus</i>	SELECT	Providence, RI
Sept. 16-18	Fri.-Sun.	New England Harmony Brigade 9th Annual Rally & SHOW	SELECT	Marlborough, MA
Sept. 17	Saturday	Chapter Show: Brunswick, ME - <i>Nor'easters Chorus</i>	SELECT	Augusta, ME
Sept. 30	Friday	NED House of Delegates Meeting - via Zoom	t b a	Zoom
Oct. 8	Saturday	Chapter Show: Concord, NH - <i>Concord Coachmen</i>		Concord Auditorium
Oct. 15	Saturday	Chapter Show: Brunswick, ME - <i>Nor'easters Chorus</i>		Brunswick, ME
Oct. 20-23	Thurs.-Sunday	NED Fall District 75th Anniversary Convention & Contests <i>Contest Entry & Registration is now OPEN - Book Hotels - Got Passport?</i>	SELECT	Saint John, NB
Oct. 29	Saturday	Chapter Show: Greater Boston, MA - <i>Vocal Revolution</i>		Arlington, MA

Chapter Secretaries, Marketing VPs, Events VPs - PLEASE NOTE: Interactive **INFO links** are provided to your web site event or calendar listing, or marketing piece, if available online. Links cannot be provided to Events on social media sites (e.g. Facebook, etc.).

NED News - Next Issue: How about YOUR Stories & Experiences? We want to hear! Pictures!

[Meredith Bay Jamboree](#) / [Harmony College NE](#) / [Harmony University](#) / [International](#)

Please send articles & pics of interest to Ed Fritzen by **Thursday, September 15** for inclusion in the next issue.

elfritze@gmail.com