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Northeastern District — The Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

Volume 45, No. 4

Winter, 2004

Granite Statesmen and Bourbon St. Win District

What I Know Now

by Alan Lamson
President, NED

I recently read an interesting article in *Fast Company* magazine (November 2004 issue) with the same title. It was a series of items that a new company officer (COO and Vice-Chairman) found after entering the "real world" of corporate America. I found it to be a pretty good summary of my past two years serving the Northeastern District as your president. I will bet that those of you who have served your chapter in some capacity during the past year or two will find many of these items to be true also. And for anyone who is just embarking on the journey of service to your chapter or other, let me suggest that you will find these to be true of your endeavor also.

1. "The biggest surprise moving to the "real world" was the strength of organizational forces that reinforce silos." — Silos refers to performing work that is in your area of responsibility only and not relating across the organizational structure to work together and share information and effort. We are so busy "doing our job" that there is not enough time (Cont. on page 14, col. 2)

Come to the Friday Night Show At COTS

by Leo Ouellette, DVP CSLT

DVPs **Steve Isherwood**, Events; and **Rick Barry**, Marketing and PR are planning a barbershop show to kick off your COTS weekend in January. The show will be on Friday night at a local theater or at the Grand Hotel. Several male and female quartets, as well as a local school group will hopefully fill out the show schedule. So if you have not signed up for COTS yet, do it soon and come to the show.

Consult the district web site (www.nedistrict.org) for details.

Wheaton and Phillips NED BOTYs For 2003

by Murray Phillips
Greater Montreal Chapter

One of the presentations made at the NED District Convention was to **Steve Wheaton** and **Murray Phillips**, who were selected as Barbershoppers of the Year 2003 for the Northeastern District. They were recognized for their many contributions to the district and chapters, but specifically for their work on the successful Society International Convention held in 2003 in Montreal.

COTS 2005—It's Not Too Late To Register!

by Bruce Checca,
District COTS Coordinator

No, it's not too late—even though COTS 2005 is right around the corner. Have you talked about attending in your chapter? It's a great place to gather new ideas about how to help your chapter. And it's for people who are in the same situation that you are.

This year, the NED is trying several things new for COTS.

First, we've changed our location. We're moving to the Grand Hotel in North Conway, New Hampshire. Located at the base of Mt. Washington, this is a wonderful spot to visit. If you have a computer, check out their site at www.northconwaygrand.com. The hotel complex is on the grounds of the biggest outlet shopping center in upstate NH, with over 50 stores. Women will love it.

Second, we're planning a big show on Friday night. We've lined up a few choice quartets and some others for a super event. And it's included in your two-night (Cont. on page 14, col. 3)

Membership—How Did We Do In 2004?

by Walt Lane,
DVP, Membership Development

As of mid-October, membership is down in the NED. We have 35 fewer members in October than we did in January. We are recruiting new singers, but not as many as leave our chapters.

The Truro Chapter is once again building numbers on the risers, thanks to **Keith Goudge** and a few others. 22 chapters have more singers on their risers than last year. More chapters are seeking new singers on a regular basis. About 15 chapters prepared a Chapter Orientation Plan and a Recruiting Plan.

Membership Summits were held at COTS in January, at the All Maine Sing in June, and at Harmony Homecoming in July. While they were somewhat abbreviated, we still got a message to those who attended on the importance of bringing in new singers.

The Bachelor of Barbershop Harmony Program continues to recognize members in NED who have contributed "above and beyond" to their chapters over the years. We have awarded 18 certificates this year.

The district web page has been updated to include a monthly report on membership numbers, reports from Kenosha, brief statements on what's happening in membership in the district, and other stuff which might be of interest to chapter members and officers.

So where does that leave us? What needs to be done next?

First of all, I have not yet been able to convince every member in the NED that getting new members into each chapter is really, REALLY important. I believe I have been able to influence only about 15% of the 2300 NED members on that point. So I need to say it again: membership is every member's personal business, and every member should invite (Cont. on page 7, col. 2)

Make it Happen in 2005

by Greg Caetano
2005 District President-Elect

As you read this, we are rounding the bend into the end of the calendar year and looking forward to 2005. 2004 has been a stellar year for the NED, with many contributions from members and chapters. Take a minute and list all the activities you participated in this year.

Did it take more than one sheet of paper? Should it? Of course! There are so many ways to expand your barbershop experiences that you should not wait for anything.

You've probably heard the saying: "There are those that watch it happen, those that make it happen and those that just say: What happened?" I suggest if you want to have some of the best times in your barbershopping life, choose "Make it Happen!" I have and 18 years later, I'm ready to keep going.

Outgoing district President **Alan Lamson** urged us not to seek permission, but to "Pursue the dream." Many chapters and members are fulfilling those barbershop dreams by taking up Alan's charge. The successful ones are those who chose to "Make it happen."

(Cont. on page 15, col. 2)

Calling All Quartets

by Cotton Damon,
VP Contest & Judging

How would you like to spend an enjoyable week in Salt Lake City, Utah in late June/early July singing with the best quartets in our Society? It may be yours for the taking if your quartet plans now to be in Warwick, RI on March 18 and 19, 2005 for the International Preliminary Quartet Contest. That's when quartets compete for the distinction of representing our Northeastern District at the International Convention in Salt Lake. It is your opportunity to reach the pinnacle of your barbershop career.

(Cont. on page 15, col. 2)

Deadline for the next issue: February 15, 2005

The **Nor'easter** is the official publication of the Northeastern District (NED) Association of Chapters of the **Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.** It is published four times a year: April, July, September and December. SPEBSQSA is a non-profit educational and charitable organization. The **Nor'easter's** goal is to promote barbershop quartet harmony by publishing stories of interest to barbershop singers in the NED. We welcome articles and letters, but reserve the right to edit or decline submitted material. We do not accept unsigned material. Accepted material becomes the property of the **Nor'easter**. Articles without a by-line are by the editor. Opinions are the authors', and may not be those of the District or the Society. Articles may be reprinted, with credit, please. The **Nor'easter** is printed by the Beacon Press Corp., Warwick, R.I.

Your Standing Ovation Program Team At Work

by **Bill Bolis**, SOP Co-chairman

I've just witnessed something so incredible, it bears sharing with the district. On Saturday, September 11, I visited the Camden, Maine **Windjammer Chorus** for a second year in a row, to give an SOP review of their 11th annual *Waves of Harmony* show.

The year before, I had made some suggestions on how to enhance and generate mood, and dress the risers and stage with eye candy to further the musical experience of their audience. They not only used my suggestions, but also came up with great ideas of their own.

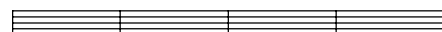
As I stood by and watched folks entering the Camden Opera House, a recording of songs from the New Orleans riverboat days was playing really toe-tapping music. It was playing just loud enough so people could still chat, and enjoy the music as well. One fellow strolled by me, caught the beat of the music, and almost danced all the way to his seat. At that point, I said to myself, this is going to be interesting.

At 7:00 PM, the show began and from that time on, I had to make a conscious effort to make notes about the show. That's what happens when things are that entertaining. The show had the flow, color and texture you associate with the performance of an International caliber ensemble. From the curtain to the intermission, I was lost in the entertainment value created by this sixteen-man chorus and their guest performers.

In the second half, it didn't take me long to get lost again. The **Maine-ly Harmony** ladies' chorus of Harmony

Incorporated, led by **Kathy Greason**, opened and performed wonderfully. The featured ensemble for the evening was Nashua's own **Octoberfest** who blew the audience out of their seats with their final song. It was hard to think with all the screaming going on. The grand finale was another incredible experience, especially being September 11. The Cub and Boy Scouts from the area took part, marching down the isles with Old Glory waving gallantly as they marched. **Standing Ovation?** You bet there was—a big one!

My thanks go to **Kathy Chamberlain**, **Granville Ames** and every man in the Camden, Maine **Windjammer Chorus** for making this an experience to remember! What's the point? It's not just to tell you all about this wonderful experience I enjoyed. It's to remind every chorus and quartet in the great Northeastern District that your district Standing Ovation Program team and the Singing A's coaching staff are ready and available. All we need is to hear from you. Call or e-mail us.



Orientation, The Key To Successful Recruitment

by **Walt Lane**,

DVP, Membership Development

Orientation is the key word in the never-ending quest to add singers to your chapters. And it begins the moment a prospective member visits your chapter meeting. Is there a plan in place in your chapter to give that prospective member the best possible opportunity to remain on your risers for the next several years?

What is orientation anyway? What does it include? Who does it? If you don't know the answers to these questions, your chapter probably doesn't have a comprehensive plan in place.

An orientation program begins with the manner in which a prospect is greeted when he arrives. Who meets him, signs him in the guest book, gives him a book of music for the evening, introduces him to the music director, assigns him to a buddy in one of the sections for tonight's singing—these are just the first-night procedures. Will he be asked to sing in a quartet that first night? What will he take home with him? Will he be contacted during the next several days, and by whom?

Over the next several weeks, the program should provide the new singer with lessons on good singing techniques, on basic stage presence, some early practice on the songs in the repertoire, and maybe a pole-cat program. He should be introduced to the basic governance of your chapter—who the offic-

ers and board members are and how the board functions, as well as some basic information about the Northeastern District and the Barbershop Harmony Society. Is there an audition program he must follow? When will he be told about expenses (membership, uniform, travel, etc.)?

Those are just a few of the major points for an orientation program. Much more can be included. What is important is that there be a plan in place, designed to make the prospect feel as comfortable as possible each time he visits your chapter, and designed to get him up to speed with your chorus as soon as he is able. That process may take six months or longer, so the plan should take that into consideration.

My goal is for each chapter in the NED have a written orientation program in place and working in 2005. And every chapter member should know how it works and should follow it each time a prospective member visits the chapter meeting. If you bring in a new singer, make certain he is given the best possible opportunity to become a successful singer on your risers.

More information is available at COTS, CAPCOTS, and the Member Services webpage at www.nedistrict.org, or from any member of the NED Membership Committee.



Calling All Frank Thorne Members

by **Walt Lane**,

DVP-Membership Development

I have made several long trips of late, and, on one of them, I got to thinking about membership in NED, specifically about membership in the Frank Thorne Chapter in NED.

I have been receiving information on the numbers since I have become the MD-VP, and Frank Thorne members in our district constitute more than 1/3 of the entire "chapter" in the Society. At last count, 72 of 192 resided within the NED, and that number has increased over the past several years. Since 2001 or so, Frank Thorne members have been included in the membership count of each district. I have included Frank Thorne membership numbers on my web page monthly report.

So, as I was heading back from Halifax early in October, I began to wonder if the district officers ought to be doing more on behalf of you men in that category. I certainly don't think I should be sending you recruiting suggestions, or asking you to become involved with orientation, as I do with the regular chapter officers.

No, my thoughts are more in line

with, "What are your concerns? What can we do to make your membership in NED a more positive experience? Are we communicating with you on a regular basis? Do you receive the *Yahoo* groups notices from the district officers? Do you receive information about the division and district conventions, HCNE, COTS (There are classes at these latter meetings for all members). Should we form a Frank Thorne *Yahoo* Group to get information to you more easily?"

I would like to hear from some of you 72 Frank Thorne members regarding these, or other, questions. Please email me at wlane937@nycap.rr.com, or phone me in the evening at 518-762-8259 if you would prefer to chat one-on-one.



Division Contests 2005

by **Cotton Damon**,
VP Contest & Judging

Now that the Fall District contests have been held and all the category winners have been duly recognized and rewarded, it's time to start thinking ahead to the 2005 contest cycle which begins with the Spring Division contests. The dates for these contests are:

March 18-20
Patriot/Int'l Prelims
Warwick, RI
(Host Chapter: Providence)

April 8-10
Mountain/Yankee
Brattleboro, VT
(Host Chapter: Springfield)

April 30
Granite & Pine
Topsham, ME
(Host Chapter: Brunswick)

The Sunrise Division contest will be held in conjunction with the district contest in Halifax, NS on September 30 - October 2.

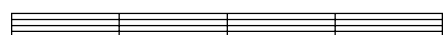
Traditionally, the Granite & Pine Division has had the most contestants entered. Since this is a division only contest and needs only to have a single panel, it is possible that there won't be any room to accept out-of-division contestants. Our experience with this situation at the 2004 Yankee Division contest proved that it is difficult to get a second panel at the last moment to handle the increased number of contestants, let alone the increased financial drain created on the district treasury. So please write your division contest date into your calendar and make every effort to be a part of that weekend.

See you there.

50th Anniversary Gala for the *Granite Statesmen*

by Neil Singer
Nashua *Granite Statesmen*

On February 26, 2005, the Nashua *Granite Statesmen* will celebrate 50 years as a chartered chapter in our Barbershop Society. This event will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Nashua, New Hampshire. It will be a night of celebration and nostalgia, culminating with the premiere showing of *From the Heart*, a video program commemorating 50 years of great music and fellowship. We want to locate chorus alumni and other barbershoppers with ties to Nashua through the years, who would be interested in participating in this event. If you fall into this category, you can contact our event chairman, **Dick White** at rrwhite9833@comcast.net, or call **Neil Singer** at 603- 497-2379.



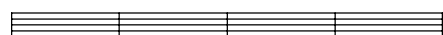
Providence Chapter's Director Resigns

by Barry Hoffman
President, Providence Chapter

Music Director **Ted Doran**, who has been associated with the Providence Chapter since 1978, has announced that he will step down from the director's position effective no later than February 28, 2005.

During his tenures, Ted led the *Narragansett Bay Chorus* to nine district championships. In recent years, he has kept the chorus in the upper echelon in district competitions, with four second place and two third place finishes in the past six years. Ted stated that he had made the decision to leave some months ago, but wished to see the chorus through a successful September show, and the October district competition before leaving.

The Providence Chapter has established a five-man search committee to find a new director. Anyone interested in applying may contact President Barry Hoffman at barryhoffman@cox.net.



Why "He Sings Like A Bird" Means Something

from *The Troubadour*,
bulletin of the Pioneer District

Canadian researchers have shown that humans aren't cut out to discern certain pitches like their feathered friends.

Testing on humans, rats, and three

different species of birds shows that the birds, even ones raised in isolation, are better at identifying, classifying, and memorizing absolute pitches than both humans and rats, with humans performing just slightly better than rats.

"It's amazing how dissimilar the results of this test are when you compare humans and birds," said Chris Sturdy, a psychology professor at the University of Alberta. "Humans and rats are weak

by any standard, and they're awful when you compare them to the songbirds."

Sturdy said humans perform fairly well in tests of relative pitch, which refers to the relationship between two pitch sounds played one right after the other, allowing the listener to use one pitch as a reference for the other. However, when humans try to comprehend absolute pitch, which refers to a pitch played alone without any external stan-

dard to contrast them with, their ability is "lackluster at best," he said.

Sturdy believes that it is too early in the ongoing research to speculate extensively about the cause of the striking difference between the absolute pitch processing abilities of birds and mammals. Whatever the cause, Sturdy thinks it cannot be special to humans because rats are no better at judging absolute pitch than humans.

...Weather Bulletin!.....Immediate Release Requested!...

...a Storm Watch is in effect for the Northeastern District...

2004 International Semi-Finalists and 2002 Rocky Mountain District Champions, **Storm Front**, will be moving into your area in the near future.



Dave Jim Syd Darin

Storm Front

Come see these three-time International Semi-Finalists at an event near you!

March 18-20, 2005 **NED Preliminary Convention** – Providence, R.I.
August 12-14, 2005 **Harmony College Northeast**

Think you might like them on your show?
Want to hear what they sound like?

For booking and recording info, contact:

Sydney Libsack
334 Octillo Street
Brighton, Colorado 80501
720-201-5193
syd@stormfrontquartet.com

Or visit them online at www.stormfrontquartet.com



Nominated for Best Barbershop Song of the Year by Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards!

Mountain Division News

by Carl Phillips,
Mountain Division Reporter

Red Sox and Mountain Division Are Winners!

The Mountain Division is proud that two of our quartets finished first and second in the Northeastern District quartet contest. Heartiest congratulation go to the 2004 NED Quartet Champion, *Bourbon Street*, from Saratoga Springs, et al, with **Bill Hoogeveen, Mike Nichols, Tom McQueeney, and Bob Nitzsche**. Great singing, guys! Also, congratulations to the *Chord Sharks* from Pittsfield, MA. They not only placed second, they were also the Novice Quartet Champion. Other competing Mountain Division quartets included *High Voltage* (tenth), *CVQ*, and *The Cavaliers*. The NED Seniors Quartet Contest had two Mountain Division participants: *Elderly Brothers* and *The Dreamers*.

In addition, congratulations to all the competing Mountain Division choruses, who did well individually and as a group: Burlington, VT (fifth), Greater Montreal, PQ (sixth), Saratoga Springs, NY (seventh), Pittsfield, MA (tenth), and Schenectady, NY (eleventh).

At the convention, previous NED Seniors Quartet Champions were hon-

ored. Congratulations to the *Old Smoothies*, the 1991 Seniors Champion from Burlington. Also honored were 50+ year Society members, including **Ed Bechtel, Fran Sheridan, and Monroe Allen** from Burlington, and **Ed Gifford** from Schenectady.

My thanks to **Jerry Walter, Jerry Huetz, Murray Phillips, John Rusk, Jeff Bradway, Rich Gervais, Ken Kitchell, Gary Sandman, and Ed Delehanty** for providing chapter inputs.

Burlington, VT: The Burlington Chapter was busy over the summer, singing the *National Anthem* at local *Vermont Expos* baseball games, and performing at the Vergennes Day celebration. They worked hard preparing for the district contest with coaches **Karen Rourke** and **Pat Heise** (also their Co-Director).

They have increased their membership to 60 members, which helped them move up two places, finishing fifth at district. They're back in the medals again and are hoping to stay there in the future. They were represented by three chapter quartets in Lowell: *High Voltage* and *CVQ* competed in the district Quartet Contest, and *The Dreamers* sang in the Seniors Quartet Contest.

They are looking forward to a great holiday season with performances in the local University Mall, a holiday show in Vergennes, and their eighth seasonal

show with the Harmony, Inc. *Barre-Tones*. They will close out the year with performances at Rutland's *First Night* celebration on New Year's Eve.

Greater Montreal, PQ: The *Island City Chorus* enjoyed singing at the district convention after a two-year hiatus. They were pleased to win the Plateau A, Small Chorus trophy, placing sixth, and improved their average percent score by eight points over their division performance with only 23 men on stage!

At the NED District Convention, **Steve Wheaton** and **Murray Phillips** were announced as the 2003 NED Barbershoppers of the Year. They were recognized for their contributions to the district and chapters, but specifically for the successful Society International Convention held in Montreal in 2003. Congratulations gentlemen, very much deserved.

Chapter member **Bob Ebers** has been appointed Vice-Chairman of the SPEBSQSA Marketing and Public Relations Committee. The chapter is proud of Bob, and wishes him every success in his adventure in the Society M&PR Committee. The chapter is also pleased to announce that **Murray Phillips** has been appointed to the Society Events Committee. The Events Committee plans and oversees all Society convention sites and activities, provides leadership in planning for all district events, and assists the Society staff in running the national conventions.

The *Island City Chorus* presented its annual Christmas Show on Dec. 4. The West Island Sweet Adelines chorus joined them to sing songs of the season. The show benefitted the *Montreal Gazette* Christmas Fund.

Pittsfield, MA: The *Berkshire Hillsmen* competed in the district contest, and placed tenth out of 22 choruses—not bad being in the top ten! But the best news was that one of the chapter quartets, *Chord Sharks*, came in second in the quartet contest, and also won the Novice Championship. The quartet has been together only a few months, and they won the Mountain Division Quartet Contest in the spring, the first time they competed.

The chorus has been working to improve its singing, and their scores this year were up in all areas. Their annual show was a success, and they cleared enough to keep them going for another year. They recently hosted a great inter-chapter night with the Schenectady chapter, and they'll have another meeting with them in November.

The chapter will perform for the local Elder Hostel group, nursing homes, and for the *Red Lion Inn* in Stockbridge in December. They are still trying to find more singers, but with the area losing jobs, they can't seem to find them. All in all, the chapter is in great shape,

and they are having FUN.

Saratoga Springs, NY: New chapter members bring new ideas and a new enthusiasm to the hobby. This was certainly the case when new member **Vic Del Negro** helped organize a new chorus singout, a *Dessert Cabaret*, which served as a fund-raiser for the chorus' landlord, the K of C. The successful event had lots of singing and lots of eating, but most of all, lots of good will spread amongst all who attended. Special thanks to chorus member and pie baker extraordinary **Larry Wilbur** and his staff of chorus wives for providing the desserts.

Congratulations to the 2004 NED Quartet Champion *Bourbon Street*, and *Racing City Chorus* chapter members **Bill Hoogeveen** and chorus director **Mike Nichols**. Their fellow chapter members are very proud of them!

Check out future goings on of the chapter at www.RacingCityChorus.org.

Schenectady, NY: The *Electric City Chorus* has been busy this fall with sing-outs and other society activities. Their annual show, *Make 'em Laugh*, featured 2000 FWD Quartet Champion and perennial International competitor, *Freestyle*. Their combination of theatrical hi-jinks and top-notch singing was a real audience pleaser.

The chorus has three holiday performances scheduled at local shopping malls and retirement villages. The chorus is in the process of planning an inter-chapter event with Pittsfield and hopefully other nearby chapters.

Chapter quartets have been busy singing in the community as well, appearing at local fairs and charity events this summer and fall. *Power Surge* entertained at the State Convention for the DAR in September, and during the recent district convention, sang at the Chordatorium. Upcoming quartet schedules include charity event appearances and preparing for February 14.

At the district convention their beloved **Don Flom** celebrated the 50th anniversary of his NED champion quartet, *Pacemakers*. Don sang in the NEDAC chorus this year, bringing to him an even greater appreciation of the song *That Old Quartet Of Mine*.

Springfield, MA: The *Chordsmen* have been focusing on chapter growth and learning new songs. With their Music Director **Harrison King**, they performed several times during the summer, including one memorable singout at a picturesque combined llama farm and B&B in the Berkshires. They also performed for opening night at *The Big E*, a New England Fair, with chapter quartet *Gabriel's Horn*. They also sang at the Summit House on top of Mt. Holyoke, as part of their summer concert series. (Cont. on page 5, col 4)

Manchester's Silk City Chorus presents
"Once Upon a Time"
Featuring



GOTCHA
2004 International Champion Quartet

THE BOSTON COMMON
Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of
their International Championship

Plus
The Silk City Barbershop Chorus

January 15, 2005 at 1:30 & 7:30 pm
Manchester High School, CT
134 E Middle Turnpike
call 860-529-3664 for ticket info

Notes From The District Secretary

by Doug MacLean, NED Secretary

Report 2005 Chapter Officers

As you are aware, the Society requires all chapters to report their new slate of officers by October 15. Reporting is fairly simple. Go to the Society site, click on the *Members Only* link, and enter your membership number and password. If you don't have a password, there are instructions how to get one. Once you are in the *Members Only* page, under *Chapter Info*, click on *Report Chapter Officers*.

Go to <https://secure.spebsqsa.org/members/ChapterOfficerUpdate.asp>, enter your chapter number and click on *Submit*, then click on *Get 2005 Officers*. Then for each office, click on *Choose an Office* and pick the appropriate office (there are 30 to choose from). Click on the pull-down menu under *Member Number or ID* and select the member by name. When you click on *Save* at the bottom of the menu, the names will appear under *Name* and the officers will be reported to the Society and displayed under *Chapter Officers* on the *Members Only* page.

If you have any questions, contact me.

Chapters Must Incorporate — It's the Law

Every chapter must be incorporated under the laws of the state or province in which it's located in order to be chartered by the Society.

A chapter that is not incorporated is not technically in compliance with the Society Bylaws, Statements of Policy, rules and regulations, and is not eligible

to compete, have a vote in the House of Delegates meeting in its district, register quartets as part of its chapter (which will affect their ability to compete, too) or be covered under any of the Society's liability insurance coverage.

Failure to provide proof is cause for the Society to suspend the chapter and could lead to charter revocation. During the suspension period, Society regulations stipulate that members of a suspended chapter cannot receive their Harmonizers, that the chapter chorus cannot compete, and that the chapter loses its vote in the House of Delegates meeting. Also if a chapter is not incorporated, its officers are personally liable for actions taken against the chapter.

Please check the NED web site *Members Only* page for a link showing incorporation procedures for states and provinces and another showing chapter incorporation status. I have no input from the following chapters:

CONNECTICUT:

K-001 Bridgeport
K-005 Central CT
K-006 Danbury
K-008 New Haven
K-009 Norwich
K-010 Enfield
K-011 Litchfield City
K-012 Waterbury-Derby
K-062 New London

MAINE:

K-043 Mid-Coast

NEW HAMPSHIRE:

K-040 Keene
K-050 Hanover
K-056 Nashua

K-058 Portsmouth
K-068 Concord
MASSACHUSETTS:
K-033 Beverly
K-051 Leominster
K-054 Cape Cod
K-060 Haverhill
K-083 Norwood

QUEBEC:

K-045 Gtr. Montreal
K-082 South Shore

Please forward your state or province requirements to me so that I can create a database of state and province requirements in the NED. You can contact me at:

Doug MacLean, NED Secretary
88 Oceanview Dr.
Bedford, NS, Canada
B4A 4C5
Phone: 902-835-4499, or e-mail:
doug.maclean@sn.sympatico.ca

Mountain News (Cont. from page 4)

The *Chordsmen* presented their 34th Annual Show in Chicopee, MA, featuring guest quartet *Four Voices*, the 2002 International Champion. The show also featured a quartet of four local high school students they sent to *Young Men in Harmony* camp this past summer.

The chapter is now preparing for their Spring show, *Concert Against Hunger*. This is a reprise of last year's successful show, which will once again raise money for local food kitchens. In

April of 2005 they will host the Mountain Division competition in Brattleboro, VT.

Of special note, **Dick Moriarty**, past president of Springfield, has taken over as Mountain Division Manager. Congratulations, Dick!

Troy, NY: The *Uncle Sam Chorus* has recently acquired a new Music Director, **Larry Moss**. Larry has taken over from **Carl Capuano**, who is now helping as Assistant Director. Larry has stepped right in, and he has the experience they need to continue their progress. The chorus is learning some new songs, and they plan to compete at the division contest in the spring. They have performed at several parades during the summer. The chapter has a few new members, and like everyone else, they are looking for more.



Murray Phillips on Society Events Committee

Murray Phillips of the Greater Montreal Chapter has accepted an invitation from **Michael Mathieu**, Chairman of the Society Events Committee to serve on the committee for 2005.

The primary purpose of the Events Committee is to plan and oversee all Society convention sites and activities. It will assist the Society Staff convention manager in running the 2005 national convention in Salt Lake City. In addition, the committee will provide leadership in stimulating planning for district events.

Harmonious support grows musical scholarship

Members from the Halifax Regional Municipalities' three barbershop choruses united for love last Valentine's Day. For \$40, people could send a unique singing Valentine to the ones they love.

The proceeds, just over \$1200 this year, go toward the **Sing Sunrise Prize in Choral Music** at Dalhousie, established in 1996 by the Atlantic Division of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

So far the singers have raised \$8,000. "We want to be part of the music community in general," says **David Bain**, director of the Millstream chorus. "And we want to promote interest in all types of choral music through the scholarship."

Bain's uncle Wilfred Bain, a former dean of music at the University of Indiana, was instrumental in creating Dal's music department.



Singing for love and money – barbershop quartet croons a singing valentine in support of a Dalhousie music scholarship

So Many Good Hearts

by Tom McQueeney
baritone, *Bourbon Street* quartet

Bourbon Street is honored to be your 2004 NED Champion Quartet. But we didn't achieve it all by ourselves. Family members, friends, coaches, and others, all contributed in "unsung" ways. So *Bourbon Street* would like to "shine a little light on" all of those good hearts.

Our quartet formed on February 23, 2003. Our first cry for help was to the town supervisor in Wilmington, VT. With our members spread from Saratoga Springs, NY, to Henniker, NH, we needed a mid-point location to rehearse. **Charley and Brenda Waldron**, who own both the *Vermont House* and the *Bakery Bistro* in Wilmington, provided a rehearsal site. We rehearse for three hours in the *Bistro* and then, over a wee dram, perform a few numbers for the patrons of the *Vermont House*.

For a coach, we've been fortunate to get **Steve Plumb**, a former NED Barbershopper Of The Year and Society Contest & Judging Chairman. He keeps us on track and brings out our best.

We're grateful to the judges—not just for selecting *Bourbon Street*—but for taking the time to be with us and help us all. The eleven who served NED this year generously shared their talents with us because they love our hobby.

Thanks also to Toronto's **Steve Armstrong**, the *Big Apple*'s **Roger Payne**, and past Society President and arranger extra-ordinaire **Ed Waesche**, who created our arrangements.

The NED has a program called *Singing A's*. It's the brain child of a former NED quartet champ, **Gary Bolles**, and our district's VP for Music & Performance, **Jim Dodge**. And here's the best news of all: it works. We're sold on the results this wonderful set of sequenced fundamental skills development steps can provide. It's a first-things-first approach that makes us build our performance skills on a solid foundation, as opposed to the way many of us have done it in the past. The *Singing A's* program doesn't offer any magic bullets, but for those willing to commit to methodically building a strong foundation of musical fundamentals, it may be the best, most effective approach to improvement we've ever seen. This year, every quartet in the Saturday night finals scored in the B performance range. Many of those quartets are on the path to *Singing A's*, thanks to Jim Dodge and his division coaches.

On behalf of *Bourbon Street* — **Bill Hoogaveen**, tenor; **Mike Nichols**, lead; **Bob Nitschke**, bass; and me, **Tom McQueeney**, aging baritone—thank you. We're indeed blessed to be surrounded by so many dear hearts and gentle people.

Change Is Constant!

by Leo A. Ouelette, DVP CSLT

Before I retired last January, I was used to hearing almost every day that "Change is constant." I often wondered when that comment would invade my dealings in our hobby. All that changed recently with the announcements from the Society about staff reductions, a new name for our Society (Barbershop Harmony Society) and a more business-oriented approach to overall Society, district and chapter operations.

But change is not a bad thing! In fact, this is terrific news! I want our hobby to be around for my grand kids and their grand kids, and so on. I want all who follow us to enjoy our hobby as much as we do.

If you or your chapter is feeling lost about what these changes mean and how to deal with them, help is available for you from your chapter counselor. If you are not sure who this person is, please e-mail me at leolead@maine.rr.com or call me at 207-646-0907. I will get your chapter counselor in touch with you ASAP!

I have great news about incoming chapter counselors for 2005. They will be trained at COTS in January. Two new candidates bring a wealth of experience and stature to the Chapter Counselor Program in the NED. They are **Jim Kissack**, former NED President and current member of the Providence chorus; and **Joe Millette**, former music director of the Lowell chapter, and currently a member and associate director of the Schenectady chapter. Please join me in welcoming both Jim and Joe to their new positions to help chapters in the NED. Their chapter assignments will be made by **Allen Mckenzie**, the incoming DVP CSLT for 2005.

This will be my last article as DVP CSLT as I have the good fortune and privilege of becoming the Executive VP starting in January. The last three years as DVP CSLT have been challenging and exciting. The CSLT faction in the Society has been deeply involved in the changes I mentioned earlier, and I welcomed my part, although small, in those actions.

I want to thank all of the chapter presidents, the chapters and the chapter members for their help and openness these last three years. I know I can expect the same level of help and candor in the future.

But most of all, I want to thank the chapter counselors who work with their assigned chapters and do whatever they can for them. I know they will all support Allen Mckenzie as he takes on the important job of DVP CSLT in January.

Thanks again, and remember...
KEEP THE WHOLE WORLD SINGING!

Unofficial Logo Contest for the Barbershop Harmony Society

With the change in our Society name has come the need for a new logo. From all over the country, artistic members have been submitting suggestions. Here's what contest headquarters has received so far.



from Dick Johnson



from Bill Rohlin



from Larry D.



from Doug Parker



from Keith



from Paul Gerard



from Ryan



from Howdy Davis



from George Williamson



from Keith Eckhardt



from Jeff Ulrich

Granite & Pine Stuff

by Roger Arend, Staff Reporter

Hanover's annual show in September with the *Boston Common* was a great success. The 800 seats of the Lebanon Opera House were sold out, as were the 110 tickets for the Afterglow. The *North Country Chordsmen* have a busy winter planned with a Veteran's Day performance at the White River Junction, VT, VA Hospital; a Christmas show at the Claremont Vo-Tech School; several holiday singouts; and singing the national anthems of both the U.S. and Canada at several Dartmouth men's and women's hockey and basketball games.

Waterville's annual show on October 2 was a great success with the *Breakaway* and *Back Bay Four* as guest quartets. NED Immediate Past President **Art Lively** was on hand to evaluate the show through the Standing Ovation Program, a first for the chorus. At the afterglow, **Gary Frosch** was accorded the Barbershopper of the Year and **Dave Stevenson** was recognized for serving ten years as the music director. Following **Rick Barry's** suggestion to push membership during intermission, at the next rehearsal they hosted a guest night. The *Chordsmen* had five guests, but only one repeat prospective member. They are now gearing up for their annual Christmas singing marathon at several care facilities. It will involve three nights and a Saturday afternoon, concluding with a ladies' night hosted by **Galen** and **Gertrude Larrabee**. They will also perform at the Goodwill-Hinckley School Festival of Lights.

The **Camden Chorus** held their 11th annual show on September 11. It received rave reviews ever since from folks who attended to the Standing Ovation Program reviewer, **Bill Bolis**. **Swiss Hardy** received the 2004 BOTY award. **Jay Wiley** was the emcee. The *Windjammers* were pleased to have their own quartet, *Starboard Watch*, as well as *Maine-ly Harmony*, a Harmony Inc. chorus and a VLQ under the direction of **Kathy Greason**, and special guests from the Nashua chapter. *Octoberfest* did a wonderful performance both during the show and at the Afterglow. Congratulations to *Octoberfest* for placing fifth at the district convention in Lowell in October. The *Windjammer* Chorus is getting ready for Christmas season singouts.

In Keene, NH, the Lions Club, which presents a musical show each year as a fund-raising venture, is next year presenting the show beloved by all barber-shoppers, Meredith Willson's *The Music Man*. The show dates will be Thursday, February 10, 2005 at 8:00 PM, the following night at the same time, with two shows on Saturday, February 12: a matinee at 1:00 PM, and the final show at 8:00 PM. The show will be at the wonderfully restored Colonial Theater in Keene. Keene chapter quartet, *Junction 1 3 5* will play the bickering members of the school board who find friendship and harmony in barber-shop song—no surprise there! *Junction 1 3 5* comprises **Allan Treadwell**, tenor; **Casper Bemis**, lead; **Andrews Cooke**, bass; and **Mel Andrews**, baritone.

If you want to see the show, contact Keene's Colonial Theater at www.thecolonial.org, the Keene Cheshiremen at www.cheshiremen.org, or a quartet member at meldrews@webryders.net. Order early, as this is a popular show and is likely to sell out quickly.

Angus Dei: To play with a divine, beefy tone.

Autumn Harmony Fest 2004 Show in The Sunrise Division

by Paul Vautour, President, Moncton Chapter, with input from Mark Radcliffe, Sunrise Division Manager

This year, the three New Brunswick chapters in the Sunrise Division combined to successfully plan an annual show which was performed in each of their cities this Fall. The concept of a tri-city barber-shop production began in January with a conversation between Chapter Councilor **Gerry Cormier** of Moncton, and **Bob Ellis**, past president of the *River Valley Chorus* of Fredericton. Bob Ellis, who is also a dual member in the *Men of Fundy Chorus* of Saint John, approached the three chapters with the idea and all agreed. 27 members of the Moncton Chapter, 38 members of the Saint John Chapter, and 13 members of the Fredericton Chapter took part. Several meetings were held in Sussex NB, which is approximately equidistant from the three cities. It culminated with a tri-city mass chorus practice there in September. To the ear of the writer, some of the chords sounded shaky, at best.

each venue. We were blessed that a women's chorus participated. The *Elm City Echoes* of Fredericton performed in this first performance. Their sparkling costumes were an analogy of the wonderful music renditions they delivered.

The Moncton show was held on October 23 at the Moncton High School. Two female quartets, *Best Foot Forward* and *Putting on Aires* were in fine voice and complemented the *Just for Harmony* quartet of Moncton in maintaining momentum between acts. The plan was to have an Afterglow only after the final performance in Saint John, but an overzealous stalwart, **Don McGowan**, wouldn't have any of that and organized his own Afterglow in Moncton. Friends and former barber-shoppers also attended, and Don didn't fail to amuse them with his one-liners.

The Saint John show was held on October 29 at



Pictured above is the 78-man Autumn Harmony Fest 2004 Mass Chorus. It comprised members of the Fredericton *River Valley Chorus*, the Saint John *Men of Fundy* and the Moncton *Barbershop Chorus*. They dressed identically for the show openings, but appeared in their respective chapter costumes, as shown above, for the finales.

The shows were performed on the last three consecutive week-ends in October, and audience turnout (conservative in numbers) was similar in each city. But their enthusiasm and appreciation of the music was voiced in their applause and warm post-show comments.

The first production was held in Fredericton on October 16 at George St. Middle School. At a pre-show practice there, chapter directors **Boyd Clory** of Moncton, **Debbie Hatfield** of Saint John, and **John DeDourek** of Fredericton were artistically resplendent in formatting the massed singers to fit their respective styles. Assistant directors **Johnson Smith** and **Gerry Cormier** also demonstrated their skills at directing several of the *Moncton Barbershop Chorus* numbers at

the Harbour View High School. The Saint John *Sea Belles*, a women's chorus, participated, augmenting the basic tri-city production. The official Afterglow in Saint John was also a great success under the guidance and comedy of emcee **Paul Chamberlain** and **Dave MacKenzie**. 120 people booked for it. *Just for Harmony*, the *Sea Belles* and a pick-up quartet, *The Misfits* also performed.

A special thanks goes out to the ladies who took part in the shows in all three cities. Bless them; they always add so much to a performance.

Combining the resources of several small chapters to produce a show is a unique idea with great possible results. This might be a worthwhile idea for some of our smaller NED chapters in 2005.

Membership

(Cont. from page 1)

every man he comes into contact with to visit his chapter on meeting night.

Next, I have not yet been able to convince every chapter president and chapter development VP that using a planned, written Orientation Program is the best means of keeping new members, and having them sign up year after year. Proper orientation makes happy singers, and happy singers rarely drop out.

Third, I don't believe that most NED members

use the district web site. While the Member Services page is primarily for the VP of chapter development and the chapter president, I hope that all members would check in every month or so to see what's there. The other pages are full of topics that pertain to chapters and members.

You can help with all of this by asking your chapter leaders about membership, and especially by asking a friend to visit your chapter.

"Sell something special—Singing!"

OFFICIAL SCORING SUMMARY, NED Quartet Finals, Lowell, Massachusetts, October 23, 2004

Contest Legend: 1=Northeastern District Quartet (2 Rounds) , 2=Northeastern District Novice Quartet (2 Rounds)

Finals	Song	MUS	PRS	SNG	Subt	Prev	Total	Avg
1 Bourbon Street	<i>One For My Baby</i>	210	216	209	1270	1269	2539	70.5
(1)	<i>Lover Come Back To Me</i>	213	215	207				
2 Chord Sharks	<i>Memories</i>	213	207	210	1250	1257	2507	69.6
(1,2)	<i>Let's Get Away From It All (Parody)</i>	209	211	200				
3 Seventh Wave	<i>Walkin' My Baby Back Home</i>	202	203	200	1206	1247	2453	68.1
(1)	<i>A Bundle Of Old Love Letters</i>	203	198	200				
4 Breakaway	<i>One For My Baby</i>	202	208	204	1210	1235	2445	67.9
(1)	<i>I'm Alone Because I Love You</i>	196	197	203				
5 Octoberfest	<i>One For My Baby</i>	210	211	203	1227	1200	2427	67.4
(1)	<i>That's Life</i>	203	204	196				
6 A Simple Pleasure	<i>Each Time I Fall In Love</i>	197	205	197	1195	1226	2421	67.3
(1)	<i>On A Slow Boat To China</i>	195	203	198				
7 SEEYA!	<i>I'll Be A Song And Dance Man Again</i>	197	192	196	1163	1194	2357	65.5
(1)	<i>Taking A Chance On Love</i>	195	187	196				
8 Applause!	<i>Memphis Blues</i>	198	197	192	1148	1183	2331	64.8
(1)	<i>Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star</i>	177	191	193				
9 Back Bay Four	<i>Alone (Medley)</i>	196	191	192	1161	1164	2325	64.6
(1)	<i>Midnight Rose</i>	192	196	194				
10 High Voltage	<i>I'm Beginning To See The Light</i>	183	188	176	1071	1160	2231	62.0
(1)	<i>Orange Colored Sky</i>	175	179	170				

Bourbon Street is the District Quartet Champion.
 Chord Sharks is the Novice Quartet Champion.
 Seventh Wave is the Most Improved Quartet.



Bourbon Street, 1st place



Chord Sharks



Seventh Wave



Breakaway



Octoberfest



A Simple Pleasure



SEEYA!



Applause



Back Bay Four



High Voltage

District Quartet Contest Contestants



Cavaliers



Chordially Yours



Concord Express



Melodies and Memories



New Friends



Scollay Square



District Chorus Contest Contestants



Chorus champs, Nashua's Granite Statesmen.



Concord, MA; Sounds of Concord

OFFICIAL SCORING SUMMARY, NED Chorus Finals, Lowell, Massachusetts, October 23, 2004

Contest Legend: 1=Northeastern District International Preliminary Chorus, 2=Northeastern District Most-Improved Chorus, 3=Northeastern District Plateau A Chorus, 4=Northeastern District Plateau AA Chorus, 5=Northeastern District Plateau AAA Chorus

Chapter/Nickname	Song	MUS	PRS	SNG	Total	Avg	Cnt
1 Nashua, NH (1,2,5) Granite Statesmen	Nice Work If You Can Get It There Used To Be A Ballpark Right Here	235 228	241 238	235 232	1409	78.3	65
2 Concord, MA (1,2,4) Sounds of Concord	You Tell Me Your Dream Love Is Just Around The Corner	224 227	222 224	220 219	1336	74.2	42
3 Providence, RI (1,2,5) Narragansett Bay Chorus	There Goes My Heart Back In The Old Routine	219 222	224 224	224 220	1333	74.1	34
4 Manchester, CT (1,2,4) Silk City Chorus	Once Upon A Time Ain't Misbehavin'	200 196	213 204	207 201	1221	67.8	48
5 Burlington, VT (1,2,4) Green Mountain Chorus	Way Down Yonder In New Orleans Basin Street Blues	201 190	206 203	208 203	1211	67.3	35
6 Greater Montreal, QC (1,3) Island City Chorus	Beautiful Dreamer Give My Regards To Broadway	198 197	204 201	199 198	1197	66.5	23
7 Saratoga Springs, NY (1,2,4) Racing City Chorus	When Day Is Done You Make Me Feel So Young	191 196	201 202	201 197	1188	66.0	36
8 Portland, ME (1,2,4) Downeasters	Smilin' Through Got My Thumb Out/King Of The Road	193 191	203 197	201 193	1178	65.4	34
9 Hanover, NH (1,2,4) North Country Chordsmen	That Old Quartet Of Mine I Love To Hear That Old Barbershop Style	194 191	191 189	196 195	1156	64.2	28
10 Pittsfield, MA (1,2,3) Berkshire Hillsmen	Mary, You're A Little Bit Old Fashioned Sweet Georgia Brown	177 175	202 194	194 187	1129	62.7	22
11 Schenectady, NY (1,4) Electric City Chorus	Let's Get Away From It All My Wonderful One	182 174	188 189	194 194	1121	62.3	28
12 Central, CT (1,2,4) Connecticut Yankee Chorus	Dancing The Old Fashioned Way Take Me To The Land Of Jazz	188 180	188 182	184 184	1106	61.4	27
13 Portsmouth, NH (1,2,3) Yankee Clipper Chorus	Moonlight Becomes You I've Been Workin' On The Railroad	188 183	181 176	188 178	1094	60.8	22
14 Bangor, ME (1,3) Maine-ly Music Chorus	Wonderful Day Like Today Give Me A Barbershop Song	172 172	175 182	188 190	1079	59.9	18
15 Lowell, MA (1,2,3) Gentlemen Songsters	I've Been Workin' On The Railroad When There's Love At Home	173 165	201 192	176 170	1077	59.8	18
16 Beverly, MA (1,2,4) Northshoremen	Pretty Baby Carolina In The Morning	172 172	178 176	183 178	1059	58.8	31
17 Dartmouth, NS (1,2,4) City of Lakes Chorus	I'm Alone Because I Love You For Me And My Gal	172 173	176 178	173 182	1054	58.6	40
18 Worcester, MA (1,2,5) Men of Song	Dream A Little Dream Of Me Get Out And Get Under The Moon	168 163	188 178	177 176	1050	58.3	42
19 Laconia, NH (1,3) Lakes Region Chordsmen	Zip-A-Dee Doo-Dah I Love To Hear That Old Barbershop Style	176 173	169 172	179 180	1049	58.3	19
20 Poughkeepsie, NY (1,2,4) New Yorkers	I Love To Hear That Old Barbershop Style Heart Of A Clown	174 173	175 169	178 176	1045	58.1	20
21 Lincoln, RI (1,3) Ocean State Chorus	For The Sake Of Auld Lang Syne If All My Dreams Were Made Of Gold	171 170	163 160	172 167	1003	55.7	15
22 Danbury, CT (1,3) Mad Hatters	Fortune In Dreams Always	158 156	161 156	159 158	948	52.7	20

Nashua, NH qualifies to represent the Northeastern District at the International Chorus Contest next July.
 Portsmouth, NH is the Most Improved Chorus. Greater Montreal, QC is the Plateau A Champion.
 Concord, MA is the Plateau AA Champion. Nashua, NH is the Plateau AAA Champion.



Providence, RI; Narragansett Bay Chorus



Manchester, CT; Silk City Chorus



Burlington, VT; Green Mountain Chorus

OFFICIAL SCORING SUMMARY, NED Int'l. Senior Quartet Prelims, Lowell, Massachusetts, October 22, 2004

Finals	Song	MUS	PRS	SNG	Subt	Prev	Total	Avg
1 RING!	From The First Hello Barbershop Strut, The (Parody)	195 202	196 200	194 198			1185	65.8
2 Maine Arrangement	That's An Irish Lullaby Moment I Saw Your Eyes	185 178	174 174	188 179			1078	59.9
2 Top Drawer Four	Lazy River Red Roses For A Blue Lady	188 181	183 181	174 171			1078	59.9
4 Imagine That!	Them Was The Good Old Days If The Rest Of The World Don't Want You	168 168	186 173	167 164			1026	57.0
5 Elderly Brothers	When You And I Were Young, Maggie I Love A Jolson Song	176 175	160 163	162 165			1001	55.6
6 The Dreamers	Let Me Call You Sweetheart Sam, The Old Accordion Man	175 162	165 163	167 163			995	55.3
7 New Old Friends	I Will Be Your Pal That's What I Call A Pal	140 139	153 143	147 142			864	48.0

RING! qualifies to represent the Northeastern District at the International Seniors' Quartet Contest next January.



Senior quartet winners, RING!



Greater Montreal, QC; Island City Chorus



Saratoga Springs, NY; Racing City Chorus



Portland, ME; Downeasters



Hanover, NH; North Country Chordsmen



Pittsfield, MA; Berkshire Hillsmen



Schenectady, NY; Electric City Chorus



Central CT; Connecticut Yankee Chorus



Portsmouth, NH; Yankee Clipper Chorus



Bangor, ME; Maine-ly Music Chorus



Lowell, MA; Gentlemen Songsters



Beverly, MA; Northshoremen



Dartmouth, NS; City of Lakes Chorus



Worcester, MA; Men of Song



Laconia, NH; Lakes Region Chordsmen



Poughkeepsie, NY; Newyorkers



Lincoln, RI; Ocean State Chorus



Danbury, CT; Mad Hatters



Northeast Connection—Hail and Farewell



**ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM
NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT REGIONAL CONVENTION
MOUNTAIN & YANKEE DIVISIONS
APRIL 8 - 9, 2005 Brattleboro, Vermont**

REGISTRATION FOR INDIVIDUALS ONLY, NOT CHAPTERS

Competitor	\$20.00
Single Event (Non-competitor).....	\$15.00
Junior (18 or younger) Competitor	\$10.00
Junior (18 or younger) Non-competitor	\$ 7.50
Collegiate Registration.....	\$ 7.50

REGISTRATIONS ARE TRANSFERABLE BUT NOT REFUNDABLE

Complete this form, listing names and chapters of all attending. Please print neatly.

LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CHAPTER	TYPE EVENT

Registrations will be held at the NED registration desk located in the headquarters hotel. Pre-registration cutoff is April 1. Send completed registrations to the address below.

Clip and mail to:
Michael R. Strianese
7 Hurlburt Drive
East Haven, CT 06512-1109

Enclosed is a check for \$ _____
to cover registrations above.
Make check payable to:
"NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT"

**ADVANCE REGISTRATION FORM
NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT SPRING CONVENTION
SPRING QUARTET PRELIMS and PATRIOT DIVISION CONTESTS
MARCH 18-19, 2005**

REGISTRATION FOR INDIVIDUALS ONLY, NOT CHAPTERS

Competitor	\$20.00
Single Event (Non-competitor)	\$15.00
Junior (18 or younger) Competitor	\$10.00
Junior (18 or younger) Non-competitor	\$ 7.50
Collegiate Registration.....	\$ 7.50

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to cover registrations above.
Make check payable to:
"NORTHEASTERN DISTRICT"

From Our Society Board Member

by Paul Arnone, Society Board Member

Hi folks, we've been an exceedingly active Society in the first three quarters of the year.

- Executive Director **Darryl Flinn** retired and **Don Harris** became our new CEO.
- 100 frontline directors and assistants will attend Directors College on full scholarship, bringing the expected total to about 250.
- Some 80 directors have participated in the Chorus Director Workshops Intensive sessions offered this year. We currently have 296 directors involved in the director certification process.
- YMIH programs have reached over 8000 young men and women in direct school visitations.
- More than 1500 are expected at Harmony Explosion Camps this summer.
- Some 4000 have attended district festivals this year.

We are still shrinking as a Society, with a loss of 1.8% or about 555 members from the same time last year. Our retention is a constant 87%, but the base rate continues to shrink.

21 *Roadshow* events exceeded all expectations, with 3,504 members taking part and bringing along 245 prospective members.

At the Louisville convention, the Society Board received an in-depth report from the Marketing Task Force Committee as well as several studies done by research firms. It resulted in adopting, once again, the use of *Barbershop Harmony Society* as our DBA name. SPEBSQSA will remain our legal name, but barbershoppers are encouraged to begin immediately using *Barbershop Harmony Society* in all communications.

Clarke Communications Group proffered a plan and study for what we do with the intensive information received.

It's not too early to begin planning for next year's convention in Salt Lake City. We have the use of the brand new 22,000 seat auditorium of the Mormon Church for our contest venue. Plush seating in a semi-circle with sight lines never before realized at one of our conventions. I can't wait to go. Can I expect to see you there?

There is a new organizational chart for our Society (available on the website). Given the financial state we're in and the changes to the way we do business as a Society, there have been adjustments at Society Headquarters. Some layoffs, some lateral moves and some hiring of marketing people have occurred. As difficult as the process was, it was handled professionally and with great support for our friends who are no longer employed by the Society.

Much information has been given about the qualifications and resume of our new CEO, Don Harris. I'd like to take a few lines to help you all understand what a quality individual he is. It has been my pleasure to be in his company and to see him "face the troops" and interact with them in many situations. I can't begin to explain the talents and skills he brings to our Society. We (the Society) have put him in difficult situations as part of our charge to him. He has comported himself exceedingly well, while being on a steep learning curve. He has gone far beyond the expectations of the job description. When next you are in or near his company, shake his hand and thank him for the many efforts he has put forth for the future of our Society. Better yet, send him a message of thanks today! Warm fuzzies are always in season!



The 2004 Bolton Landing "Unfestival"

by **Bruce Checca**, Executive Director

"This has certainly been a great year for festivals, hasn't it?" That was my comment to **Drew Kirkman** after hearing from him that the Sunshine had also been cancelled. We decided that the next time we're together, we'll go somewhere and drown our sorrows.

What did it take to make us cancel one of the major events in the barbershop world after almost a year of planning and after spending \$7,000.00? In our case, it came down to a lack of money, pure and simple.

Since its inception, the Bolton Landing Barbershop Quartet Festival had been about bringing Joe and Jane Barbershopper together with the top people in barbershopping at the lowest cost we could manage. For most years, the festival alternated between making a small profit and suffering a small loss. But over those years, we had managed to build up a reserve that allowed us to pay for about half of the festival's up-front costs—advance advertising, flyers, postage, airfares, etc.—usually in the \$15-18,000 range. As the festival started to grow, we found a local businessman who allowed us to put the airfares on his personnel credit card, and we paid him back as money from tickets trickled in. The local Chamber of Commerce assisted us by underwriting our losses when they occurred, and we paid them back the following years when we made a profit.

For several years, we were hit with increasing costs and level attendance. It meant no profits, but it had a more pronounced effect. The Chamber of Commerce decided that they couldn't afford to cover our losses any more and suggested we find other means of financing. After discussions and research, we determined that the best alternative would be to incorporate and form a chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. And so the Bolton Landing Chapter of SPEBSQSA was born. It allowed us to go after the grants and corporate support we needed to keep the festival going. We also obtained a corporate credit card for things like airfares and advertising, a good thing because our friend was no longer able to let us use his card due to personal finance problems.

2002 and 2003 were bad years for the festival due to the events of Sept 11. Despite our efforts to increase attendance, it was down 20-25%—the same as it was for much of the tourist industry in the area. We suffered major losses both years. Fortunately, we had the chapter credit card to fall back on, and proceeded to accumulate \$14,000 in debt.

We went into 2004 having trimmed as much as we could without cutting out the heart of the festival. We increased our advertising, hoping to attract more people. Nevertheless, ticket sales were anemic. Normally, we would have sold 400 advance tickets by early spring. This year, 57 people purchased tickets in advance. So we didn't have enough money to purchase airline tickets for the quartets, or put down the necessary deposits on the things that make up the festival.

I went to Louisville to talk to each of the quartets in person before we made the final decision. I owed them that; and so in mid-July, we started shutting things down.

I'll never forget that Wednesday in late July when I went to the town supervisor's office and told him that we were shutting down the festival. I told him that we didn't have the \$20,000 we needed to make things fly. He suggested a short-term bank loan, and I told him we couldn't guarantee to pay it back. He said he'd bring it up at the county board meeting on Friday,

and I left to inform the hotels and other vendors of the cancellation.

On Friday afternoon, I got a call from the supervisor telling me that the county board had voted to authorize up to \$20,000 of "bed-tax" money for the festival. This tax supported things that promote tourism in the county. **WE WERE SAVED!**

I immediately started to undo all the cancellations I had done a few days before! The supervisor called and said we needed to sit down and work out the details. We agreed to meet on Tuesday morning. I spent the weekend calling quartets and vendors, and putting the ticket sale web-site back on-line.

Tuesday at 8:30am, I met with the supervisor in his office. He told me that he had control of these funds, and the loan papers would be ready in a few hours.

"What loan?" I said. "I thought these funds were grants to promote tourism?"

"Not in my town, they aren't," he said, "They have to be paid back."

I had already gone through this with him the previous Wednesday. We couldn't guarantee a loan would be paid back.

"No guarantee, no funds!" he said. He made it clear that a lot of people in town would be glad to have their quiet little town back as well.

I spent the next day or so undoing all of the things I had spent the weekend re-doing! At this point, my heart really wasn't in it.

So where did that leave us?

Two days later, I got a call from the mayor of nearby Lake George Village.

"Is it true that the barbershop festival has been cancelled?" he asked. "If you're looking for a place to hold it, we'd like to talk to you about it. Not only am I the mayor, but I'm also the chairman of the committee that puts on annual events like the Americade, the Balloon Festival and the upcoming Elvis Festival." (Americade is a motorcycle rally that draws about 50,000 people each summer; the Balloon Festival is for hot air balloons and draws 50-60,000 each year. The Elvis festival is new this year, and drew about 10,000.) He told me that they gathered about \$165,000 in corporate support for those events.

We're now talking with the Village about moving the festival there—about 10 miles from Bolton Landing, but a world away in accommodations and attitude! We're taking this opportunity to make changes that some of you have suggested since all this came about—to make the festival better and even more fun! If you have any suggestions, drop me a note at Barbershop@aol.com.

And the "Unfestival?" On Saturday, September 4, 105 people showed up at Twin Pines for a picnic that was organized by **Addie Wheaton** and **Jeff Forman**. These people had decided to come to Bolton Landing in spite of everything. It was a great time. Thanks, Addie and Jeff.

What I Know Now

(Cont. from page 1)
for the job of a leader. That job is to energize the behavior of the entire organization.

2. "Everything takes longer than you'd like it to." — Amen.

3. "But I also can't believe how much fun this is." I cannot express how much I have truly enjoyed these past two years. Label me sick; label me crazy; but it is true. I have so many new friends and acquaintances that will forever be just that to me. Each of you is

different. There are so many of you to work with and talk with. The Northeastern District is rich in untapped strengths in its people. In these two years, I promise you that I have not been bored.

4. "The best way to develop people is to give them assignments that really make them stretch." Part of the job as leaders of our chapter or the district is to develop our successor. You need to see what they are made of. How will they deal with being stretched, and will they recognize and conquer their own misgivings and shortcomings?

5. "And of course, I waste the most time on paper-work" (or e-mail).

6. "I've learned so much, with so much more to go." If we don't learn from our efforts and our experiences, then we have not really challenged ourselves. The learning curve as district president is steep, but the opportunities that face this district are limitless, and I would not have missed being a part of that.

7. "Five years out, I'll be doing something very interesting." I don't know what that will be, but I do know now that I still need to repay many of you, my chapter, and the Society for the opportunities I have been given and the benefits I have received.

What a great hobby! What a great group of guys! Thank you for the opportunity to serve you the past two years. I am sure that you will do the same for **Greg Caetano** as he steps up to serve you as the new district president in the next two years.

COTS 2005

(Cont. from page 1)
stay at the Grand. We're going to advertise this show to the public to make them more aware of this great hobby of ours. Come on and show them why you keep coming back for more.

COTS this year has a stellar cast of characters. The list of instructors is a great cross-section of the talent available in our wonderful hobby. Our own **Paul Arnone** will be the dean this year. **Dennis Cook** (RMD) will handle the Presidents' class. **Ted Leinbach** (DIX) will be the Secretaries' instructor. Treasurers will work with **Paul Cartright** (CSD). Our old friend **Charlie Davenport** (MAD) will handle Chapter Development. From FWD comes **Clark Abrahamson** to help us with Marketing and PR. **Burt Szabo** will take on the Chorus Directors. Brand new NED President **Greg Caetano** will see that all of the Music & Performance guys get it right. **Mike Fasano** (MAD) will work with the YMIH group this year. NED IPP Alan Lamson will instruct the Chapter Counselors. And this year, Gordon Clarke will teach all of you who want to learn about Grants in a district-sponsored class. As part of our continuing efforts to help you improve the way your chapters run, at our General Session Saturday evening, **Diane Ouelette** will speak on the subject of conflict resolution and interaction.

What is all this going to cost, you ask? The prices for two nights accommodation with four meals (Sat. B/L/D and Sun. B) are as follows: \$210 if you share a room with another student; \$310 if you want a single room; \$385 for a husband/wife.

Make your reservation as soon as possible. If you're a new chapter officer, ask your chapter president to sign you up. This is a valid chapter expense. You can make your own reservation on the district web site, or you can contact me by e-mail at barbershop@aol.com or by phone at 518-339-7646. Let's make this a great year.

Director's College - Don't Miss It

by **Kathy Chamberlain**, Director, Camden, ME
Windjammer Chorus

I got a wonderful opportunity last summer, a scholarship to attend Harmony College/Director's College in Missouri. Little did I know or could I have imagined what was in store for me—to take a week off from work and to sit in a classroom from 8:45 a.m. to 9:45 p.m. (except for mealtime). But it turned out to be one of the high points of my life, to be in that environment where learning so much was so much fun, so satisfying. I was like a sponge, soaking up musical knowledge from teachers such as **Kirk Young, Mike Martin** and **Royce Fergusson** of *Revival*, as well as **Dr. Greg Lyne** and **Bill Rashleigh** of SPEBSQSA.

Did we have Theory II homework? You bet. Was I up until midnight some nights getting it done? Yup, but it was so worth it. Kirk knew he had a lot of ground to cover in a short time, having us for only an hour a day, so we had to hit the books at night. Do I understand chords better? You bet. Thanks, Kirk.

If you haven't been there, I can't begin to tell you what it's like. What I can tell you is, if you haven't been, you owe it to yourself to go. This year, there were 200 directors at Director's College and 400 or so students in Harmony College. When those voices were put those voices together in general sessions, the rafters rang with chords. How can you beat it? My advice: plan now to attend next year, wherever it will be. You owe it to yourself and to your chapter to go.

Thank you to the Chorus Directors' Development Team of **Chuck Eakers** and others, and also to SPEBSQSA for my scholarship.

Now Or Never

by **Rick Barry**,
DVP Marketing and Public Relations

Folks have been talking about change for many years.

"Sing just the old songs,"

"No, sing some new songs"

"We want to compete,"

"We don't want to compete, we just want to have fun."

Whatever you have said or think, if you don't start doing something for the public or your community, you won't have anyone to do it with. Society Board Member **Paul Arnone** recently reported that the Society is losing 500 men a year. The Northeastern District has lost 3,000 in the 13 years I have been a member. We can no longer do things the same old way, and thankfully your district board realizes it and has made changes. For instance, next month is COTS. You can no longer say, "It will be just like last year" or "I know all of that."

This year, it will be at the North Conway Grand Hotel at the height of tourist season. There will be plenty to do for your entire family, and it will be in a location that doesn't have a barbershop exposure. Instead, they have thousands of condos owned by folks who have money and time on their hands for a great hobby. The district is planning a show for the public.

Those who attended the district convention in Lowell were shown what is coming at COTS and in Halifax next year. You may have also seen some folks there who don't belong to our Society—yet. In Lowell,

the convention was open to the public. The public are the folks who live in the community, and could be future members.

Many chapters have a Public Relations Officer who has received information from me called *Just Sing Somewhere*. That's really all you have to do: sing somewhere and make sure the public knows about it. The days of promoting our hobby to ourselves is over. You can't recruit someone who already joined. Have a show, sing the National Anthem, sing at a flag-raising, do singing valentines. But make sure the public knows about it

So Long, Farewell, Auf Wiedersehen, Goodbye

by **Ed Dunn**, *Nor'easter* editor

It's been five years since I became *Nor'easter* editor. It's been an exciting, challenging job. Now it's time to pass my green eyeshade and red pencil to another. Starting with the next issue, the *Nor'easter* will be in the capable hands of **Jerry Walter**. Jerry was editor of the Burlington, VT Chapter's weekly bulletin for over 11 years. He was the NED BETY in 2001 and won silver awards in 1995, 1996, 1997 and 2003. He was also editor of the daily bulletin for the 2003 International Convention in Montreal. So, dear readers, you're better hands than Allstate. I'm looking forward to see what happens to these pages under his direction. Good luck, Jerry.

Calling All Quartets

(Cont. from page 1)

Your quartet will need to prepare four songs that meet contest acceptability. You'll sing two of them in the Friday night semi-finals, and if you are in the top 10 that night, you will sing the other two in the finals Saturday night. Any quartet attaining the minimum required score (2736 last year) will be invited to Salt Lake. The SCJC will propose next year's qualifying score for Society Board approval at the Midwinter convention in January. The score has been the same for several years and the expectation is that it will not be increased for 2005.

Entry into this contest will be through the Society website, just as we do for division contests, and will begin on December 1, 2004. Please give this your top consideration. We'd love to see you on the stage in Salt Lake.

Make It Happen

(Cont. from page 1)

The district management team members are committed to help this district make it happen. We have a new location for COTS; we're reformulating how *TopGun* will assist our quartets; we exposed the folks in Brattleboro, Vermont to barbershop during our Mountain/Yankee Division Regional Convention; we've had more festivals and opportunities to sing for the youth of the district; our Sunrise brethren are hosting the Fall Convention in Halifax; and the whole team is always thinking of including the public. Yes, the PUBLIC!

So be part of this terrific experience and "Make it Happen" in 2005!

NED CHAPTER ETERNAL

Silas Eulian, Saratoga Springs, NY
and Pittsfield, MA: 12/18/2003

Gerry Walton: 12/29/2003

Victor Brewer, Cape Cod, MA: 1/14/2004

Charles Mansfield, Portland, ME: 1/21/2004

Newell Varney, Frank Thorne: 2/19/2004

Robert Page, Bridgeport, CT: 3/1/2004.

Donald Packard, Pittsfield, MA: 3/1/2004.

Harold LaFosse, St John's, NL: 2/28/2004.

William Kingsbury, Norwood, MA: 4/13/2004

Albert Elwell, Portsmouth, NH: 4/14/2004.

Emmett Ste Croix, South Shore, QE: 4/22/2004.

William Gramley, Portland, ME: 4/26/2004.

Royal Rollins, Jr., Brockton, MA: 5/10/2004.

Earl Hollis, Scituate, MA: 5/13/2004

Kenneth Braley, Hanover, NH: 5/17/2004

Charles Walper, Saint John, NB: 6/2/2004

Robert Levangie, Fredericton, NB: 6/7/2004

Bernard Pesner, South Shore, QE: 6/18/2004

Philip Davis, Portsmouth, ME: 6/23/2004

Alfred Reiling, Schenectady, NY: 7/8/2004

Carroll Parry, Hartford, CT: 7/13/2004

Ross Buddenhagen, Schenectady, NY: 7/19/2004

Dale Higgs, Burlington, VT: 8/14/2004

Henry Beekmann, Portsmouth, ME: 8/17/2004

Edward Miller, Poughkeepsie, NY : 10/13/2004

Introducing Early Bird Registration for HHE05

by **Ian Ferguson**,
HHE05 Committee Chair

The Halifax Harmony Experience 2005 (NED Halifax Competition/Convention) Team is ecstatic about the great reception we received in Lowell in October. Our thanks to **Rick Barry** and the others on his team for letting us see and experience first-hand the joys and challenges of hosting the contest. Now it's time for our team to focus on the planning, so we can be good hosts to you who are coming to Halifax for the district convention next September.

One of the new features we are introducing for the competition is Early Bird Registration. Why the hurry to register, you may ask? While Early Bird Registration is a common feature of many conventions, the NorthEastern District has never, to our knowledge, used it for the Fall District Competition. For the event, the district has some significant early cash flows, mainly deposits that are payable to the venue where our event will be held, well before the district's traditional registration timetable. Hence, we are asking those who are sure that they will come to Halifax to consider registering early.

We are making it worth your while to be an "Early Bird" and register between now and December 31, 2004, thanks to great support from many local Halifax businesses. As of the end of October, we already have over 20 fabulous incentives for you to be an "Early Bird," and the responses from the business community continue to come in. So far, these range from gifts such as fine blown-glass crystal from *Nova Scotia Crystal*, and brunch or dinner for two at *Seasons Bistro*, to sight-seeing tours, spa treatments, aqua massages, winery tours, a free night's accommodation, and even a weekend car rental from Hertz.



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Nor'easter Policies

Changes of Status or Address
Please do not send address changes to the editor. We get our mailing list from the Society, so such changes should be sent to the International office at:
SPEBSQSA., Inc.
7930 Sheridan Rd
Kenosha, WI
53143-5944
If you have a computer, please update personal information on the Society website, www.spebsqsa.org, "Members Only" page. Have your last *Harmonizer* and your member number handy for identification.

Non-member Subscriptions
U.S. non-members may subscribe to the *Nor'easter*-U.S.: \$6/yr, \$15/3 yr. Please send your address to the editor with a check made out to "NED-SPEBSQSA."
With our mailing system, we can't promise to notify you when your subscription expires. Please keep track and renew in time to keep your *Nor'easters* coming.

Advertising
Ads must be barbershop-related, to size, and camera-ready. Payment must accompany the ad— a check to "NED-SPEBSQSA" in U.S. funds. Mail or e-mail both to the editor before the deadline. Scan photos or art work at 170 dpi.

Advertising Rates

Ad Size	Mbr. ¹	Com. ²
Full-Page (9.75" Wide x 12" High)	\$250	\$375
2/3 Page (7.25"W x 10.5"H)	\$170	\$255
1/2 Page (9.75"W x 6"H / 4.75"W x 12"H)	\$130	\$195
1/3 Page (7.25"W x 5.25"H / 4.75"W x 8"H)	\$90	\$135
1/4 Page (7.25"W x 4"H or 4.75"W x 6"H)	\$70	\$105
1/8 Page (4.75"W x 3"H or 2.25"W x 6"H)	\$40	\$60
Business card	\$20	\$30
Display ad in 2.25" W column:		
per Col. In.	\$7	\$10.50

¹ SPEBSQSA Activity/Group
² Commercial

To Submit An Article
Anyone may submit an article. Naturally, barbershop activities in the Northeastern District are our primary interest. Submit your article to the editor, preferably by e-mail, with the article included or attached, to edunn2nd@aol.com. We prefer *Word*, but can read other major formats. The editor's postal address is in column 1.
Include your name and identification as you want it to appear in your by-line. Also include your phone number and e-mail address so we can contact you if we have a question.
We like pictures and prefer a photoprint. Identify the people and the activity of any you submit. It will be returned if you ask and your address is on the back. If you want to email a photo, scan it in jpeg format at 170 dpi and same size. Scanning at a lower resolution will result in poor reproduction.

2005 NED Officers

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VP, Events Steve Isherwood 401-941-1978 SingNBC@aol.com	

NED Barbershop Events for 2004 and 2005

*If you know of an event that should be included in this list, please send the information to the editor.
First, be sure to clear the date with the District Secretary.*

DISTRICT AND SOCIETY EVENTS

CHAPTER OPERATIONS TRAINING SEMINARS (COTS) – Jan 7-9 2005 at Grand Hotel, N. Conway, NH

TOP GUN QUARTET COACHING – Jan 7-8 at Grand Hotel, N. Conway, NH

HOUSE of DELEGATES (HOD) MEETING – Jan 8 at Grand Hotel, N. Conway, NH

CDWI LEVEL 2 – Jan 22, Hanover, NH

MIDWINTER CONVENTION – Jan 23-30, Jacksonville FL

GREAT NORTHERN HARMONY WORKSHOP – Feb 5 - Montreal Area

NED BOARD MEETING – Feb 19 (T)

NED HEP TRAINING – Feb 26 w/ Gary Bolles. No further information.

NH YOUTH FESTIVAL & ALL NH SING – Mar 5 (tentative)

SPRING PRELIMINARY CONVENTION and Patriot Division Contest – Mar 18-20, Warwick RI

WESTERN REGIONAL CONVENTION (Mountain & Yankee Division Contest), Apr 8-10, Place TBA

GRANITE & PINE DIVISION CONTEST – Apr 30, Brunswick, ME

CHAPTER SHOWS

NASHUA, NH – Dec 18, 2004. Annual Christmas Cabaret at Bishop Guertin School.

MANCHESTER, CT – Jan 15, 2005 at Manchester, CT High School. No further information.

NASHUA, NH – Feb 26. 50th Anniversary Celebration.

CONCORD, MA – Apr 16 at Concord/Carlisle High School. No further information.

DARTMOUTH, NS – May 6-7 at Carrefour Du Grand-Havre. No further information.

NASHUA, NH – May 21. No further information.

If you'll send information about your event to the editor, he'll replace the "No Further Information."

Deadline for the next issue: February 15, 2005