



NED's NEWS

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

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In This Issue

- Letter from the President
- Video of the Month

District Web Page
nedistrict.org

Society Web Page
barbershop.org

Submit articles and other
information for the NED News
to Ed Fritzen:
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Deadline for the
APRIL Newsletter is
Wednesday, April 15

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Edited, produced & published by
Steve Salamin

Letter from the President

What a hectic two weeks it has been due to the impact the spread of COVID-19 has had on all our district events. I will attempt to summarize all that has happened and hopefully bring everyone up to date on what has transpired recently. I see no need to reiterate information about the COVID-19 virus itself and the health challenges it is presenting, leaving that to all the news organizations and other readily available sources. You can find the most accurate information there. I'm more concerned in how this outbreak has affected our events.

By now you know that both the Eastern and Western Regional Conventions have been cancelled. The venue for our Eastern Regional was lost to us when Clark University closed until May. Cancelling the Western Regional came considering the strong recommendation of the BHS to cancel or postpone all District spring events, along with the restrictions that local municipalities are imposing on large gatherings. As of this writing, all refunds have been processed for both these conventions and should show up in your credit card accounts as refund. We have been assured that there will be no cancellation fees from the hotels in either Worcester or Lake George. Thanks go out to both **John Englander** and **Bob Bradley** for insuring this and that our members don't incur any expenses.

The staff at Harmony Hall in Nashville has established a task force to monitor the situation. They have made no plans to cancel our **International Convention** at this time, but as you can imagine, there are many factors which might affect this, and the information is changing daily. For now, the quartets who would like to qualify for the International Quartet Contest will be allowed to do so by submitting a video tape for scoring by judges. The tape should contain four songs, in two sets, a semi-final set and a final set. The videos will be scored, and qualifying quartets will be invited to compete at International. All the details should be coming soon from the C&J committee. The District is looking into the possibility of providing the resources to make a high-quality video for our quartets wanting to submit a video. This all depends upon finding a venue, an agreeable date and most importantly that there are no restrictions placed on such a "gathering". Again, more information will be coming very soon. This is the information as I know it as of this writing.

The District has no plans to cancel either **HXNE Camp**, or our **Harmony College Northeast/Leadership Academy** weekend in August. Plans are also continuing to hold our Fall Convention in Saint John, NB, which will now also include contests for all of our Divisions. The board will monitor the situation and will make the appropriate decisions based upon the best information available, keeping in mind the health of our members, families, fans and the local community. I thank everyone for their patience and support during this unprecedented time.

Questions about Events

I've done my best to keep everyone informed during this rapidly changing situation, but I'm sure there are many questions you might have. **Steve Salamin** has created a [COVID-19 Update](#) page on our web site, where you can find the most recent and accurate information about the affects this outbreak is having on our events. Here: <https://www.nedistrict.org/march-covid19-impact>

If there are other questions not answered there, please contact myself (elfritze@gmail.com), Bob Bradley (rbradre@bestweb.net), Alan Lamson (janlam314@cox.net), or John Englander (j.englander@comcast.net). We'll do our best to answer any questions.

Engagement

The COVID-19 virus has caused cancellation of many chapter meetings and rehearsals. Without these weekly gatherings, I think most us realize just how important singing barbershop is and not having our meetings has left a huge hole in our week. Our style of music doesn't adapt well to social distancing and is a very intimate experience. We draw on each other and rely on each other to produce our unique sound. During this time, I was wondering what everyone is doing to remain engaged in our hobby. I know I can work on my music, but I can only sing baritone so long by myself or against a learning track. I miss the contact with others, and the camaraderie of weekly chapter meetings and/or quartet rehearsals.

How is everyone else coping? If you have any ideas how we can best stay connected and engaged during these times, I'd be interested in hearing about them and sharing them here. The District President's Council is discussing this now and other districts are sharing their plans on how they will replace their spring events. I'll pass on any information here, as well as any decisions the board makes.

Upcoming NED Events & Important Dates –

Please verify any future event date/time at the respective event page, online. There will be adjustments.

More online at the NED District Calendar - <https://www.NEDistrict.org/calendar>

DATE	DAY	EVENT	LOCATION
Mar. 20-22	F-Sun.	Mixed Harmony Brigade of New England - CANCELLED	Bedford, MA
Apr. 01	Wed.	Beverly Bash - CANCELLED	Beverly, MA
Apr. 4	Sat.	Chapter Show – Concord, MA - "POSTPONED"	Bedford, MA
Apr. 17-19	F-Sun	NED Spring EASTERN Regional - CANCELLED	Worcester, MA
Apr. 23-26	F-Sun	HI: Area 2 Convention & Contests - CANCELLED	Framingham, MA
Apr. 23-26	F-Sun	SAL: Region 1 Convention & Contests - CANCELLED	Springfield, MA
May 1-3	F-Sun	NED Spring WESTERN Regional - CANCELLED	Lake George, NY
June 30-Jul 1	Tu-Sun.	BHS: International Convention – Microsoft Theater	Los Angeles, CA
July 26-Aug. 2	Sun-Sun.	BHS: Harmony University – Belmont University	Nashville, TN
Aug. 6-9	Th-Sun.	NED Harmony Explosion Camp Northeast (HXNE)	Worcester, MA
Aug. 7-9	F-Sun.	NED Harmony College & NED Leadership Academy	Worcester, MA
Aug. 14-16	F-Sun.	Alton Bay Barbershop Jamboree – Singing on the Lake!	Alton, NH
Oct. 22-25	Th-Sun	NED Fall District Convention & Contests "NEDCON-2020"	Saint John, NB

Video of the Month

Happy St. Patrick's Day for all of our Irish members, and those who wish they were Irish!

Select: <https://youtu.be/PVmavDQg72Q>