

The Newyorker Times

The newsletter of Poughkeepsie, New York, Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society



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Poughkeepsie, New York

Number 4
April 2006

“Sound Celebration” —Annual Show News

By Bob Chieffo

Congratulations to Swing Shift for winning the 2006 Yankee Division Championship. Now we have more to celebrate at our “Sound Celebration” show: three quartet champions.

Speaking of “more,” the ads are rolling in, thank you all. But we can always use more! I’m a bit behind myself, but next week I do my selling. Kudos to Joe O’Neill, Dave Reynolds, and Scott Salladin for walking (driving?) that extra mile and bringing in a bunch of early ads. So far we have about half of last year’s quantity. We have to fill the book to pay the bills. Keep ‘em coming. Get your ads to Scott. He sends out ticket certificates for half- and full-page ads, and does a whole bunch of bookkeeping before passing them on to Diane. So you can see, producing a show is a lot more than what you do on the stage.

And speaking of Diane (my lovely wife), she is doing a bang-up job on the ad book. You already have seen what a great job she did on the mailer and poster. That work sure is time consuming. And she’s been doing all this while preparing for Regional (District) competition with Song of the Valley chorus in Philadelphia.

The flyers/mailers are being printed and should hit the post office by April 7. By the time you read this, the 8.5x11-in. poster, with tear-off tabs on the bottom, will be available in hard copy. I’m printing a bunch with black ink on glow lime paper. That ought to stand out on the grocery store bulletin board! Be sure to cut to separate the tabs before posting.

Also an Acrobat PDF poster will be e-mailed to members so you can print your own in color on white paper if you wish. Or e-mail it out to friends and other organizations. Eric Dickstein will post a copy of the mailer on our website. Anyone can print it out and send it in to Scott.

Eric has also formatted and printed our show tickets on the computer. You will have them to sell by the time you read this. So hop to it getting ads in by April 14 and start selling tickets.

This is the 45th anniversary year of the Poughkeep-

sie, NY, Chapter in the Barbershop Harmony Society. Be proud to be part of this heritage. Let’s celebrate in grand fashion by putting on an entertaining AND profitable show. Dig deep into your heart and go that “extra mile” for our “Sound Celebration.” It’s great to be a Barbershopper!

Swing Shift’s Reaction

By Garry “Butch” Ashdown

Just a BIG congratulations from Swing Shift on the wonderful job you did at Division this past weekend. It was so GREAT to see the fun you had on stage as well as singing so wonderfully. All 19 of you and Renee did the absolute best we’ve seen in years. You all have a lot to be proud of. We sure are proud of you!!!!

And thanks for everyone’s support of us during the quartet contest. We’re so happy to have won and represent Poughkeepsie the best we could. We felt it was the best contest we’ve ever performed in and are happy with our results!

Paradox did a nice job in the contest too! There are many positive remarks about what they did and they should be proud also of their efforts.

Looking forward to performing on the annual show with you all and going to the District contest in Providence in the fall. Keep up the great singing.

John, Butch, Greg, and Jim
Swing Shift

2006 Yankee Division Quartet Champions

What Could Be Better?

By Renée Silverstein

Better could be coming in first. Better could be 100 men on stage. Better could be lots of things, but to me better is being better than you were before. And that’s what we were at this Division contest, by 111 points! When you work diligently at being a better singer and performer and have those things rewarded by the judges and appreciated by the audience, what could be better? Feeling good about yourself is MUCH better. We earned it. I commend all of you for the hard work, the commitment, and the (Continued on Page 2)

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Barbershop Harmony Society
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- Chorus Director Renée Silverstein
- Chorus Manager Scott Salladin

Meetings

Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.

First Reformed Church

70 Hooker Avenue

Poughkeepsie, New York

ALL SINGING MEN WELCOME

Website address www.newyorkerschorus.org

Poughkeepsie Chapter

Mission Statement

The mission of the Poughkeepsie Chapter shall be:
To perpetuate the art of Barbershop Harmony, and
To promote and provide opportunities for vocal harmony activities for its members and potential members such as, but not limited to,
 Quartetting,
 Vocal crafts and techniques,
 Coaching,
 Chorus singing, and
 Competitive preparation and participation,
and
To provide public appreciation of barbershop harmony through public and charitable performances, and
To promote good fellowship and camaraderie among its Membership, and
To foster and enhance the ideals and principles of the Barbershop Harmony Society



- 20 May** **Annual Show, F. D. Roosevelt High School, Hyde Park**
- 2-9 Jul** **International Convention and Contests, Conesco Fieldhouse, Indianapolis, IN**
- 23 Aug** National Anthem for Renegades, Dutchess Stadium—6:00 p.m.
- 21 Oct** Performance at Castle Point VA Medical Center—10:30 a.m.
- 27,28 Oct** **NE District Convention, Providence, RI**

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE

26 APRIL

Happy Birthdays in April:

Patricia Griffin	4
Ron Pierson	17
Bev Waltke	21
Lyndell Schaffer	23
Renée Silverstein	27
Joan O'Neill	28

Happy Anniversaries in April:

Joe and Joan O'Neill	24
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What Could Be Better? (From Page 1)

result. The consistent opinion of the men we trust to adjudicate our performance is something quite rare. The point spread between the judges, between the songs, and between the categories was as close as we've ever scored—not an easy thing to accomplish. Perhaps being men in labor is a good thing—from a female point of view.

Let's continue along this path through the show performance, through the District contest, through the holiday season, and onward. Too rah rah? (And I don't mean the Irish Lullaby; in this case, I'm the cheerleader.)

Comments on Contest

By Jim Dodge

Director, Portsmouth (NH) Yankee Clipper Chorus
Singing A's/NEDHEP Coaching Staff

[Ed.note: This is evidently part of a longer commentary, called "Hoorays from Jim Dodge"; the first part was never received by the Newyorker Times.]

I would be remiss if I didn't mention the obvious improvement in singing that (See "Comments" on Page 3)

Coments (From Page 2)

was witnessed all weekend. The Most Improved title in the chorus contest was richly contested. EVERY CHORUS improved their scores from last year. Leading the way was Norwich whom we have already mentioned and who won the trophy by jumping 124 points. Close behind were Poughkeepsie (Renée Silverstein) at +111 points and Danbury (Joe Hudson) with a 109-point leap. Not far behind were Central CT (Steve Delehanty and Bob Ranno) with an amazing package arranged by Steve and including a community sing. Their efforts bumped them up 76 points. Bridgeport (Chris Andrade) put together a +73 package. Manchester was also on the plus side.

And it was great to see New London back in harness after a few years not competing.

Congratulations to all the singers in Yankee for showing that good singing creates positive chorus attitudes and helps with recruitment. All the choruses mentioned above (save Norwich) had more men on stage than last year with Bridgeport leading the way with a jump from 17 to 33. Way to go, Coastal Chordsmen!

NED is proud of all of you!

An Apology

By George Trigg

I discovered when I started to fold the March issue for mailing that the process I had used to produce the master copy, which is different from what I used before, had reduced the image size to 94% of the original. One result is that the effective type size, instead of 9 point, was just under 8.5 point. The difference is subtle enough that I did not notice it before I had the copies made. I hope that it did not cause difficulties for anyone with less than perfect eyesight, and I apologize if it did. I now know that it happens and how to avoid it, and it will not happen in the future.

100% Club Campaign Can Earn You a Free Ride On Society Dues

From the Society's newsletter *Live Wire*, 3 March

A new campaign is coming this year to reward your recruiting efforts: For every new member you recruit, you will receive a 20% discount off your Society dues in 2007.

The 100 percent club

Recruit five members in 2006 and your dues are waived!

- Everyone can win, not just the superstars!
- Simple and easy to understand.
- No need to "sign up" or to "pay to play."
- Recruit all year long!
- Hold your guest night on your schedule.

You're the boss! We've got your plan!

That's right! You'll receive a free ride in 2007 and pay

no Society dues. Most districts and many chapters are extending this campaign to include district and chapter dues as well so don't miss this great opportunity! Also, 100% Club members will receive a special member button, which can be worn proudly at chapter, district, and Society events. 100% Club members will receive special recognition at district and Society events.

Chapters with a large number or percentage of 100% Club members will also receive special recognition! 100% Club awards are based on recruiting throughout the year of 2006.

Can I use many of the same tools and support materials that were provided for "You Can Sing Too"? You bet! The support materials that helped you with "You Can Sing Too" can still be used to help you become a member of the 100% Club!

- Radio Spots
- Newspaper Ads
- Recruitment Do's and Don'ts
- Prospect Prompter
- Guest Survey Form
- How To Sell Barbershop To A Prospective Member
- The www.youcansingtoo.com external website
- New Toll-Free Recruitment Hotline

Plus, don't forget about the new recruitment brochure now available from Barbershop Harmony Society Headquarters! This new brochure can be customized to suit your chapter. It is available in lots of 10 for \$2.00 plus shipping. Contact the Harmony Marketplace at (800) 876-7464 or order online at www.harmonymarketplace.com.

You Can Do This... Like These Guys!

Bruce Richardson, Kankakee Chapter
Member 3 months; recruited ten new members since August 1, 2005

"I joined the Society in July of 2005, so my enthusiasm is still fresh and genuine, and I think guys I talk to sense that. The old me would have been extremely shy about approaching anyone. Now I talk to anyone who will listen. If you want the new members, you gotta get out there and keep casting that line. Every new member can be your big one!"

Steve Tremper, Central Carolina Chapter
Member 24 years; recruited seven new members since August 1, 2005

"I was a barbershopper for over 24 years before I brought in my first member! Membership recruiting is not a one-shot deal, with a well placed radio ad or a single guest night. It is a relentless activity, one that must be tended to daily. Figure out what motivates you to want to bring in a new member to the Society. It's a great feeling when a new guy says, 'Where have you guys been all my life?? I love this!'"

The Top Ten [sic] Reasons To Recruit

1. More members means (See "100%" on Page 4)

100% (From Page 3)

more tenor singers.

2. More members means more quartet singers.

3. More members means more tag singers.

4. More members means more people to sell show tickets, bigger show audiences and louder applause for your performance.

5. More members means more future role models. Imagine being the genius who recruited guys like Jim Clancy, Dave LaBar, Dave Stevens, and Jim Kline. Imagine the countless lives your protégés might influence.

6. More members means more future coaches for your chorus or quartet. The new guy you recruit might eventually be the one who brings out your inner champion.

7. The average chapter loses about 11% of its members each year. The average chapter must recruit four new members each year just to replace the members it loses.

8. Operating without a plan to replace these lost members can have a devastating impact on your chapter and your barbershop experience.

9. More members means more dynamic and talented music and administrative leaders to grow existing chapters or start new chapters.

Balancing a Barbershop Chord

From Greater Montréal's *Mini-Pitch*,
Murray Phillips, Editor

A request was made on the Harmonet for information regarding "the intricacies of balancing the barbershop cord [*sic*]." Bill Biffle, former Singing Judge, replied with the following three rules:

- The melody is always predominant (easily audible).
- Roots and fifths are louder than 3rds and 7ths.
- Lower notes are sung with a bit more relative volume than higher ones.

Occasionally one might ask the root and fifth singers to lighten up when the lead(s) is(are) on a 3 or 7, but rule #1 always supersedes. That's why it's rule #1!

Website for Poughkeepsie Newyorkers: <<http://www.newyorkerschorus.org>>

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