

The Newyorker Times

The newsletter of Poughkeepsie, New York, Chapter, SPEBSQSA Inc.



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A Letter From the Society President

From *SPEBSQSA LiveWire*, 23 July

Gentlemen:

In June I wrote to say that we must change if we are to grow and flourish in a bright and prosperous future. Several changes have occurred recently to help us on that path, though one of those necessary changes—a reduction in staff—was exceedingly difficult and painful. Nevertheless, with the help of our members, we *will* move ahead and create a brighter future.

At its June 29th meeting, the Society Board reaffirmed the action taken in July 2002 whereby the Board adopted the practice of regularly representing the Society as the “Barbershop Harmony Society” while maintaining the Society’s legal name as SPEBSQSA, Inc. A professional marketing survey of members and prospective members ages 18–54 revealed that both prospective members and our own members preferred “Barbershop Harmony Society” to “Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America.” The Board encourages chapters, effective immediately, to use “Barbershop Harmony Society” in all communication and promotions activities.

The Society Board did not adopt a new logo, but one will be prepared for consideration in the near future. The slogan “Keep the Whole World Singing” will be maintained, given that it has the overwhelming support of both members and prospects in the professional marketing research that was conducted.

A recent and very difficult change was necessary to address our chronic budget problems. We have done what we could to reduce costs and maximize assets over the past few years without reducing staff size significantly. It became clear that we could not continue to ignore the facts: We have been running deficits, and the largest portion of our costs is a result of personnel. The Society Board asked our new CEO, Don Harris, to streamline our current operations in order for the Society to regain a solid financial footing. Sadly, we cannot afford as large a staff today as we have had in the past, and a significant reduction in force on July 15 meant that we had to say goodbye to some very dedicated employees. This was an absolute (See “Letter” on Page 2)

Barbershop Harmony Society Announces Reduction in Force

A press release from Society Headquarters

Kenosha, WI, 15 June— The Barbershop Harmony Society today acted to reduce costs in its headquarters office, laying off several members of its staff.

Accompanied by Society President Rob Hopkins, CEO Don A. Harris announced the reductions in a staff meeting Thursday morning. “There is no easy time to do this, but it is an economic necessity,” said Harris. “We simply cannot afford as large a staff today as we might have had in the past. Under the instruction of the Board of Directors, and with its full support, we have made the hard choices required to maintain a financially stable organization.

“We honor the contributions of all those affected. They have given their time and talents unselfishly, and their legacies will be felt throughout the Society for many years to come.”

A complete listing of work assignments for the continuing staff will be forthcoming next week. “Our barbershop world is very close-knit,” noted Harris, “So, we want to give our co-workers the dignity of sharing the news with their families, business associates and barbershop friends in their own way, in their own time. We would hope our members and friends will help our co-workers maintain their privacy in this matter as they may wish.”

No further staff changes are contemplated at this time, and no immediate changes in member services are foreseen. “I have great faith in the ability of our continuing staff to step up and do whatever must be done,” said Harris. “We will move forward, and we will help our members make their barbershop harmony experience flourish in the years to come.”

The following is a statement added after the release of the above article.

There has been a lot said and speculated on concerning the Barbershop Harmony Society’s plans to carry on its current programs and levels of service to its members. With all my heart, I know that the continuing staff at headquarters is committed to serving our members to the highest professional levels possible in all areas.

That’s not to say that occa- (See “Layoffs” on Page 4)

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Meetings
Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.
First Reformed Church
70 Hooker Avenue
Poughkeepsie, New York
ALL SINGING MEN WELCOME

Website address www.newyorkerschorus.org



12-15 Aug **Harmony Explosion Camp, Fitchburg State College, Fitchburg, MA**
 13-15 Aug **HCNE, Fitchburg State College, Fitchburg, MA**
 3-6 Sep Bolton Landing Festival, Bolton Landing, NY
 22-24 Oct **NED Fall Convention and Contest, Lowell, MA**

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
25 AUGUST



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 SPEBSQSA, Inc.

Happy Birthdays in August:

Nancy Hornick	3
Jack Ostmark	3
Sherie Ashdown	6
Cecilia Monturo	18
Jean Marie Schulze	19
Ray Brock	20
John Fortin	20
Dave Lumb	21
Monica Larkin	25
Tom Koman	29

Happy Wedding Anniversaries in August:

Tom and Patricia Koman	1
Antony and Lynn Takahashi	5
Butch and Sherie Ashdown	6
Dan and Patricia Griffin	8
Eric and Aline Dickstein	26
Macy and Doris Sherow	26

Letter (From Page 1)
 economic necessity. No further layoffs are anticipated at this time.

Our Society staff is dedicated to serving you and meeting your needs. Appended is a new staff organization chart so that you will know whom to contact for assistance. Our CEO Don Harris will soon be hiring staff to fill the few open positions, and those appointments will be announced in *LiveWire* and in *The Harmonizer*.

As part of our plan to help the Society prosper in the future, the Society Board endorsed the marketing plan submitted by Clarke Communication Group as a guide for Society marketing efforts. I invite you to read the plan by going online to http://www.spebsqsa.org/id_062759 and clicking the link to "Strategic Marketing Plan—June 28, 2004.pdf." As a part of our ongoing (Continued on Page 3)

Letter (From Page 2)

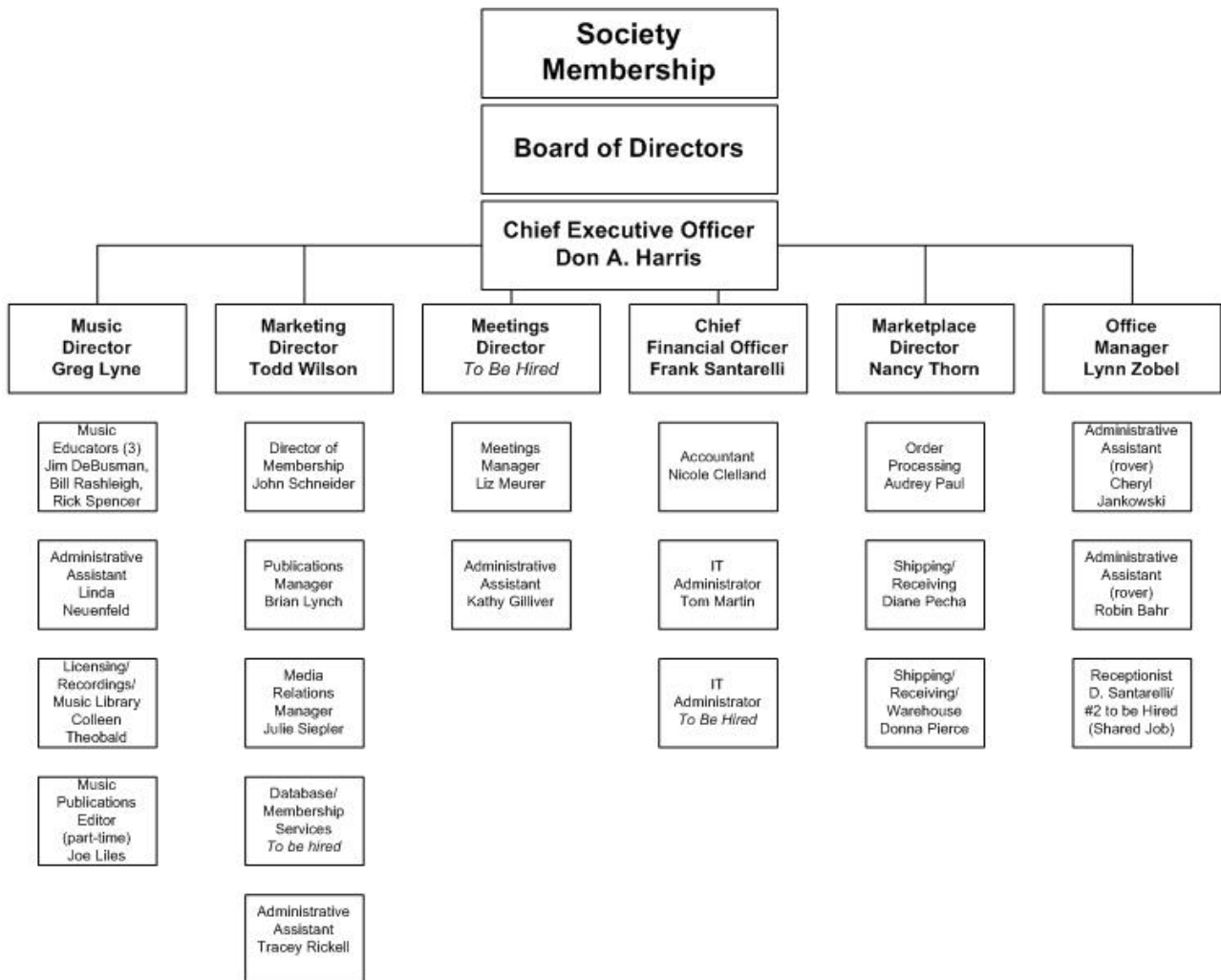
marketing effort, the Board has asked the Society Laws and Regulations Committee to prepare, for action at the next Board meeting, amendments to existing Standard Chapter Bylaws to make the Marketing and Public Relations Officer a mandatory position in chapters in excess of 25 members and a recommended position in all other chapters. We simply need to stop being “the best-kept secret”!

In addition, I am pleased that Todd Wilson will serve as our new staff Director of Marketing. Todd is a 33-year Society member who has won multiple chorus gold medals with the Vocal Majority as well as a quartet gold medal with Acoustix. He was a Certified Instructor for Marketing and PR for COTS for two years prior to joining the Society Board, on which he served as Planning and Program Development Chair and a member of the Board Management Council. Todd’s success in marketing and barbershop at

the highest levels will better position our organization to enjoy increases both in membership and in our exposure to the communities we serve.

Your Society staff and your Society leadership are committed to helping all our members make their barbershop harmony experience become even more rewarding and enjoyable in the years to come. You can help accomplish that goal by sharing your love of barbershop singing with those you meet, and encouraging other male singers to join a Society that will positively change their lives! Thank you for everything you do to make our Society great and for the encouragement and support you give me and the rest of the Board of Directors and staff. Let’s keep the whole world singing!

Sincerely,
Rob Hopkins, 2004 Society President



Layoffs (From Page 1)

sionally we won't stumble just like every organization occasionally stumbles. However, we are dedicated to providing our members with quality service and attention to needs.

Numerous members of our staff will be asked to take on new and/or additional responsibilities as we strive to grow our Society and its service to our members. Those plans will be fully announced in the coming weeks, as internal changes are made. At no time have we ever thought about not having a dynamic membership or public relations function within the Society. Those are critical parts of our operation and will remain on the forefront of our activities.

I appreciate the patience and understanding of everyone as we work to provide excellent service and support for the great American art of barbershopping, while also complying with the fiduciary and budgetary responsibilities of the Society.

Thank you.

Don A. Harris, CEO

Mailing List Management Changes

By George Trigg

Most of the active members received an e-mail message from John Fortin stating that he would no longer maintain the e-mailing list on Yahoo.com, and that unless someone was willing to take over that task, the list would be dropped. We are happy to announce that Eric Dickstein promptly stepped into the breach and is taking over the maintenance. We express to Eric the gratitude of the chapter for this service.

Newyorker Times On Line Again

By Bob Chieffo,
Webmaster (with help)

Thanks to Eric Dickstein, our monthly newsletter, The Newyorker Times, is accessible via the chapter's website: <http://www.newyorkerschorus.org/>. I had trouble uploading the files and Eric came to the rescue. The list is now up to date, and so you can view the current and at least a year's past issues.

They will also be linked to the PROBE (Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors) site,

<http://www.harmonize.com/probe/>,

in the near future.

Please thank Eric the next time you see him.

Latest on Society Reorganization

By Alan Lamson, President NED
Forwarded by Scott Salladin

Note: This article is taken from a communication sent from time to time to chapter presidents in the NED. *The Newyorker Times* has no access to the "last issue" mentioned

in the first line, but the content of the report referred to is presumably covered by the President's Letter that is printed beginning on Page 1 of this issue.

In the last issue I reported on the reduction of Society staff when 10 staff members were laid off. Since then some of the reorganization has been described. As previously reported, the music staff of Dr. Greg Lyne, Jim DeBusman, Bill Rashleigh, and Rick Spencer remains as is. A new Marketing Director has been appointed: Todd Wilson, a current Society Board member, tenor of the Acoustix quartet, and a communications person in his professional life, has been named to that position. Membership will now be under the marketing area. John Schneider, who has been the staff events person for many years, will be the new Director of Membership. Brian Lynch has been named as the new Publications Manager.

A new Meetings Director will be appointed to replace John Schneider. That person will be responsible for all the Society events including conventions and Harmony College.

Scott Hoge, who has been on the staff for several years and is the chief guru on information technology (computer stuff), had previously (like early summer) tendered his resignation so that he and his family could move back to the Virginia area near the rest of his family. We will see him next singing with the Alexandria Harmonizers. So they will be hiring a new IT Administrator to replace Scott.

Thirds, Fifths, and Other Ordinals

By George Trigg

Terms such as "third" and "fifth" crop up frequently in discussion of music, with other ordinals occurring somewhat less often. One chapter member who has been in barbershopping much longer than I have has expressed a lack of understanding of these terms; there are presumably other members of the chapter who are in the same situation. Some confusion can easily arise from the fact that they have three different, but related, meanings. This article is intended to help remove that confusion.

All three meanings have their origin in the musical scale. To begin with, it must be kept in mind that there are two kinds of scales: major and minor. Each consists of a series of seven intervals. Let's start with the more common, the major. It goes like this:

do	full step
re	full step
mi	half step
fa	full step
sol	full step
la	full step
ti	half step
do	

The minor scale is similar, but with some significant differences. (Actually, there are three variants of the minor scale, but for the purposes of this dis- (See "Intervals" on Page 5)

Intervals *(From Page 4)*

cussion only one, called the natural minor scale, is pertinent.) Here the sequence is as follows:

do	full step
re	half step
mi	full step
fa	full step
sol	half step
la	full step
ti	full step
do	

You can see that each scale consists of five full steps and two half steps, but they are arranged differently.

You can also see that in both cases, re is the second note of the scale. Therefore the interval between do and re is called a second. Already there are two meanings for the word "second": the place of the note in the scale, and the interval between that note and do.

Similarly, the interval between do and mi is a third, because mi is the third note of the scale. But now note that the size of the interval between do and mi depends on which scale we are talking about, and so we have a major third and a minor third. It is this that makes it so important for the third to be accurately on pitch, as otherwise the chord is ambiguous.

The argument continues, defining intervals of fourths, fifths, sixths, and sevenths; often it is extended to ninths (the interval between do and the second re above), tenths, and so on. And notice that, like with the third, there are two kinds of sixths and sevenths: major and minor.

The third meaning—or, perhaps better called, the third application—arises from two facts. First, the name of the interval can be applied to any interval of the same size regardless of where it occurs in the scale. Thus, for example, any interval of a full step plus a half step, such as the interval between mi and sol, is a minor third. Second, any chord (with some exceptions that I will mention later) defines, at least by implication, a scale, or better a key, which may be different from the principal key in which the piece of music involved is written. Most chords will imply a tonic triad, defined as first, third, and fifth. It is that triad that defines the scale of the chord. And then each note in the chord can be characterized by its place in that scale. For example, a chord containing the notes G, B, and D, which can occur in a piece written in the key of C, defines the key

or scale of G. So the B is the third in that chord, while at the same time it is the seventh in the key of the piece. If the chord also contains an F, that is the (minor!) seventh—the barbershop seventh—of the chord. There are also chords that contain sixths, ninths, etc. In some chords the fifth is missing; but even so, the sound of the chord will usually imply what the tonic note is.

There is a special name for the interval from do to the note a half step above fa—or, equivalently, a half step below sol. It is called the tritone. It is also called "tonus diabolus," since it is often considered the interval to which the devil tunes his fiddle; the standard violin is tuned to intervals of fifths. It is one interval that divides the octave equally, here into two parts. Three other intervals also divide the octave equally: the second, the minor third, and the major third. Of these, the minor third occurs the most frequently, as it gives rise to what is called a diminished triad. Chords consisting entirely of any one of these intervals are the exceptions, mentioned above, to the rule that any chord implies a specific tonic scale.

Our Sound Is Unique

By Art Waters, President,
Lake County (IN) Chapter
From Lake County's *Overtones*
(where it originally appeared in May 2000)

We who have chosen to sing in the barbershop style are joined together by the notes of the music, the words we repeat, and the emotions we bring to our songs. Our music makes use of a chord structure known as the barbershop 7th. When all comes together, we have music with a sound that we call barbershop. This sets us apart from other singers.

Go where you will, the sound of barbershop makes people smile. And people do enjoy listening to us.

When I sing our music I find a peace that is different from anything else I know. I hope you all experience the same feeling as I do.

We ... need to look to the future. What has happened in the past is what we build upon to make a better future for us and our Society.

We need to be aware of what is presented to the membership and to make wise choices. Keep in mind that we need to be vigilant as well as dedicated to what we do.