

The Newyorker Times

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



New Series, Volume 5
Poughkeepsie, New York

Number 2
February 2004

Death Takes Another Oldyorker

By Bob Chieffo

I got word on 22 January that Glenn H. Smith passed away on Friday, 16 January. He was at home with his wife Carole, son "Skipper," and daughter Kira. There were memorial services that day in Olympia, Washington, where he and Carole lived.

Glenn was an avid barbershopper, primarily baritone then later bass, and a player with the Riverbank Banjo Band locally. He started barbershopping in the Kingston Chapter; then when he moved to Hyde Park in 1969, he transferred to the Poughkeepsie Chapter. He was always active musically with the Newyorkers. In 1978 he was our official Director. But for many other years he was either baritone or bass section leader and assistant Director.

He and Carole moved out to Olympia after his retirement from IBM in the early 90's. He was active with the Tacoma, Chapter singing in the Totem-Aires chorus and bari in the Treble Makers quartet.

Condolences may be sent to
Carole Smith and family
7130 Rich Road SE
Olympia, WA 98501

Poughkeepsie Hosts Successful CDWI-2

By Chuck Eaker

NED VP Chorus Director Development
Forwarded by Eric Dickstein

On September 20, 2003, the Poughkeepsie Newyorkers chorus hosted the first level-2 Chorus Directors Workshop Intensive (CDWI) ever held in the Northeastern District. Directors attending a level-2 CDWI must have first attended a level-1 CDWI. The NED thanks the Newyorkers for hosting a smooth and rewarding CDWI.

The directors participating in the CDWI were Renée Silverstein, director of the Poughkeepsie Newyorkers; Mike Nichols, director of the Saratoga Springs Racing City Chorus; John McEndarfer, director of the Leominster Johnny Appleseed Chorus; and Rich Gervais, assistant director of the Schenectady Electric City Chorus. The NED is certainly a better place because of the continued commitment of these directors to improving their directing and rehearsing

skills. We thank them for helping to make the CDWI such a great success.

In the CDWI, five directors spent Saturday morning with two Society-Certified CDWI trainers discussing the problems directors encounter and identifying skills they wanted to work on. The afternoon was spent working on those skills in front of a chorus which was video-taped. The director then reviewed the tape with one of the trainers. Each director was in front of the chorus several times.

The CDWI program is the Society's most measurably successful program ever. Over 95% of responses to surveys returned by participants, trainers, and choruses strongly agreed that the workshop was a success. Even the members of the hosting chorus indicated that they learned a lot from the workshop and would gladly do it again. For more information about the CDWI program, visit the NEDCDA web site at <http://www.nedistrict.org/nedcda> and click the "CDWI" link on the left.

The Twelve Rules of Practicing

By Wynton Marsalis

From *The Pitch Piper*, bulletin of the LOL District
by way of the Winter 2003 *Nor'Easter*

Trumpet great Wynton Marsalis's conversations with other musicians inspired the following rules, but they apply equally to all creative pursuits.

1. **Seek out instruction.** It could take years to figure out what a good teacher could show you quickly.
2. **Write out a schedule.** Include fundamentals always.
3. **Set goals.** Chart your development. Challenge yourself.
4. **Concentrate.** Develop the ability to *focus*. Do not just go through the motions.
5. **Relax; practice slowly.**
6. **Practice hard parts longer.** Confront your deficiencies.
7. **Play with expression.** Give yourself over to what you are doing. Do everything with the proper attitude. Do not be a cynic. The expression you play with is your style.
8. **Learn from your mistakes.** Do not be too hard on yourself. Resolve to improve each day.
9. **Don't show off.** Expression, not tricks or gimmicks. Showing off misses the point of (See "Rules" on Page 2)

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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



13-14 Feb Singing Valentines program
 19-21 Mar Spring and Western Regional Convention
 -Albany, NY
 8 May Yankee Division Contest, place to be determined

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
25 FEBRUARY



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 February (date order):

Doug Murray	11
Greg Howard	12
Ralph Harlow	22
Steve Plumb	26
Eric Dickstein	28

Happy Wedding Anniversaries in February:

None known

Rules (From Page 1)

- group playing.
- 10. **Think for yourself.** Respect your teacher, but think things through for yourself.
- 11. **Be optimistic.** How you feel about living is who you are.
- 12. **Look for connections.** The more you discover similarities in things that seem to be different, the greater the world you can participate in.

Something To Remember

From Danbury Chapter's *Hatter Chatter*,
 Bob Bartley, Editor

A person comes for the music and stays for the friendship. Let's expand our circle of friendship in 2004.

June Pierson Gets New Hip

By Bob Chieffo

Ron Pierson's wife June underwent successful (right?) hip replacement at St. Francis hospital on 27 January. Ron called Diane about 4 p.m. to say that all went well. She was in and out of the operating room in about 40 minutes! Modern medical magic! Ron (See "June Pierson" on Page 3)

June Pierson (From Page 2)

said that she was on a “drip on demand” for the pain but had only needed to use it once in two hours so far.

She was to be in St. Francis for the remainder of the week. After recovery from the surgery, she was to move into Phys Therapy/Rehab unit.

Note from Oldyorker Bob Hirsh

Forwarded by Bob Chieffo

Hi Chief,

Thanks for the January New Yorker Times. It's obvious that Barbershop is alive and well in the Hudson Valley. Also, it's a nice article about Newt—we'll all miss him.

Sorry I can't make the Installation Dinner on Saturday (I'm going to Alexandria's). Good luck to the 2004 Officers and Board.

We had a visitor last night at Alexandria's rehearsal. While I didn't recognize him, I immediately spotted the Poughkeepsie name badge. It was Jim Cramer, visiting Quantico from his Marine assignment in NC. Hes starved for Barbershop in NC and can't wait to get back to Stewart (and the New Yorkers). He sends his regards to everyone.

Please share my greetings with the chapter and wish everyone a happy and healthy year.

Bob Hirsh
RMHirsh@aol.com

Don Harris Hired as SPEBSQSA Executive Director

From the SPEBSQSA Web site
Forwarded by Scott Salladin

The Barbershop Harmony Society has selected Don Harris, an experienced association CEO from Dallas, as its next executive director. The hiring decision and offer came by unanimous vote of the Board of Directors at its Midwinter meeting in Biloxi.

“We had a tremendous pool of qualified applicants,” said Society President Rob Hopkins. “Don brings us an exceptional combination of talents and past achievement in association management, marketing, and strategic planning. We're excited to bring his fresh perspectives to the operation of our Society.”

As executive director, Harris will oversee an annual budget of \$6.5 million and a staff of 34, chair the Society's Operations Team, and sit on the Society Board ex officio as its secretary. He succeeds Darryl Flinn, executive director since 1996, who will retire in August.

A summary of credentials follows.

DON HARRIS—Career highlights
EVP/Chief Staff Officer of the National Independent Automobile Dealers Association

- CEO of the Bowling Proprietors Association of America

- CEO of the International Nortel Networks Users Association.
- Served on White House Conference on Small Business.
- Served on Board of Directors for five non-profit organizations.
- Certified Association Executive (CAE)
- Launched a magazine editing career that led to Publisher and VP of the Dallas–Fort Worth Home & Garden Magazine: Bayland Publishing Co., Inc.
- Founded a successful, mid-size public relations, advertising and marketing firm, developing strategic marketing communications programs for national clients.

Serenading on St. Patrick's Day

By Scott Salladin

We will be extending the quartet experience to St Patrick's Day this year. On 17 March we will offer a green carnation, two Irish Songs, and a Certificate for two tickets to our Annual Show at F. D. Roosevelt High School on May 15 for \$50. Start planning now to be in a quartet.

100 Ways You Can Take Part In Your Chapter

Forwarded by Scott Salladin
Original source unknown
(Concluded)

- Mark music manuscript changes/presentation notes in pencil on your own music; these things are generally not cast in stone.
- Show the person up front that you're paying attention by your face and body language.
- Rehearse your songs at least once a week at home.
- Wear your name badge.
- Organize a picnic, golf outing, card game, or the like for the chapter.
- Bring a gift to rehearsal to raffle off as a quickie fundraiser for the chapter.
- Review the music to your old songs periodically, to make sure you're still singing all the notes correctly.
- Sell one or more ads to businesses you patronize.
- Offer to lead physical warm-ups.
- Find a new member and let him/her “fifth-wheel” with you. (Note: Fifth-wheeling is by invitation ONLY.)
- Greet a guest by name when it's obvious that you haven't read his/her name tag.
- Try to refrain from joking, carping, or otherwise interrupting while on the risers.
- Realize that learning your part means learning all the interpretive planning, not just words and notes.
- Take voice lessons or a voice class.
- Perform every time you sing, even if the only audience is the wall. This will help the director and coaches to correct problems and give everyone around you a burst of energy. (See “100 Ways” on Page 4)

100 Ways *(From Page 3)*

Bring back as many handouts as possible from educational weekends/functions for the chorus administration/music team to go over.

Offer to help a member of your chapter with their dues, or give a monetary gift to your treasurer to be used for a member who needs some help.

Encourage local youth to start a "harmony club." Form a high school boys' or girls' barbershop chorus.

Assist local high school music directors with education of barbershop harmony.

Send a picture and article to your local newspaper.

If you find yourself with some free time, call your president and offer to help.

Donate a barbershop tape or CD to your local library.

Send a barbershop CD to a local radio station and ask for airplay.

Help set up blackboard/flip chart/dry erase board—whatever is used to teach craft during rehearsal.

Offer to coach quartets, teach music theory, or give one-on-one vocal production instruction.

When offered a stick of gum or breath mint, accept it.

Stay "positive."

Learn to read music.

Lend a fellow member a barbershop tape or CD that he hasn't heard.

Form an ad-hoc/pick-up quartet and sing for the chorus.

Always show up prepared for a performance: correct uniform/costume, correct make-up (if applicable), warmed up, and ready to perform.

Offer to help build props for your annual show.

Support all of the barbershop organizations (SAI, HI, SPEBSQSA) and fellow chapters/choruses by attending every show and event in your area you can. We are all in this together!

When traveling, try to visit a chapter meeting wherever you happen to be.

Be mindful of members' individual personal lives. Everyone can give only what he personally can. Take what you can get from each member and encourage him to be happy, relax, and enjoy the hobby.

Support youth outreach however you can.

Take your quartet to a local high school and give a presentation on barbershop harmony.

Never give anything less than your best effort every time you sing.

Keep the Whole World Singing and Harmonize the World!

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

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