

The Newyorker Times

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



New Series, Volume 4
Poughkeepsie, New York

Number 6
June 2003

ANOTHER SUCCESS

By Renée Silverstein

Congratulations are in order for a job well done on Saturday, 17 May, and all of you who made that possible have mine. The evenings spent learning and polishing some challenging music paid off in a grand way. Scott Hitchcock provided the magic that fascinated the audience before the start of the show and throughout his emceeing duties, while we provided the music that lived up to the title theme chosen for the show. Coming on the heels of the Division Contest success, this puts us on the path for even greater success as the year progresses.

The anxiety that overwhelmed me when the guest quartets were not in the building by 8:00 p.m. was quickly dispelled when Reveille and Conundrum got there in time to perform; and perform they did! The laughter and applause that filtered through the curtain was certainly enthusiastic and well earned by all three groups. The Footlighters never fail to entertain, and this year's shtick was hilarious.

The fun continued at the Afterglow, and there are pictures to prove that. [See Pages 3 and 4.]

The show was successful in another respect. All the monies for ads have not been fully received, nor have all the small expenses been submitted, so that the actual figure for net income is unavailable. But the estimate is around \$5500.00. Again, hats off to all who had a hand and a voice in this production, which is all of you—with special kudos to John Hadigan and Steve Hagerdon!

LETTER OF THANKS

By Meghan Dorsey, Baritone
FDR High School's "First Ladies"

[Editor's Note: "First Ladies" is a seventeen-member all-girls high-school barbershop chorus spawned off HarmonyFest participation. Two weeks ago, this chorus travelled to Ithaca College and to SUNY Binghamton to perform and mix it up with both of those renowned college choirs. Laurie Woolever is their high-school music director and has avidly supported Newyorkers endeavors with youth music through HarmonyFest. Laurie and Bill Standish will be "brain-storming" over lunch in the coming weeks to start the planning process to host HarmonyFest 2004 at F. D.

Roosevelt H.S.]

Dear Newyorkers,

On behalf of the "First Ladies" of F. D. Roosevelt High School, I would like to thank you for your \$100.00 donation toward our recent tour. This gesture was sincere and we truly appreciate it. We would like to thank you for encouraging our participation in HarmonyFest, without which the First Ladies may have never existed. We would be more than happy to sing at HarmonyFest 2003 and would be even happier to host HarmonyFest 2004. Once again, thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Meghan Dorsey
Baritone, Senior in the
"First Ladies"

CHAPTER MEMBER TO UNDERGO SURGERY

By Steve Ross,
forwarded by Scott Salladin

Would you do me a favor? I'm disappointed not to attend [the show] . . .

I'm having surgery on 11 June to remove two herniated disks in my neck. The surgery will eliminate the arm discomfort I've been experiencing for a while. I'll be in a collar and on light duty for a few weeks after the surgery, but should have a complete return to normal. No worries.

The favor is, will you please say hello to everyone and give them my regrets at not being with you all?

HCNE 2003 REGISTRATION

By Jim Dodge
NED DVP - Music and Performance
Dean, Harmony College Northeast


Gentlemen of the Northeastern District:

The NED website is now able to accept both individual and quartet registrations for HCNE this summer. Go to <http://newebgroup.com/ned/> and click on Schools, then Harmony College Northeast. You will be guided to the Course Descriptions and (See "HCNE 2003" on Page 2)

The Newyorker Times
 Published by the Poughkeepsie, NY, Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.
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 Chorus Manager John "Duke" Chisholm

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



6 Jun First Friday Luncheon—12 noon, Aloy's Restaurant
 14 Jun Performance at Moulton Memorial Church, Newburgh—arrival time 7 p.m.
 18 Jun BOD meeting—6 p.m. at the church
29 Jun–5 Jul International Convention and Contest, Montréal, PQ, Canada
 2 Jul NO MEETING

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
26 MAY

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 June (date order):

Lew DiStasi	4
Bill Standish	11
Linda Standish	12
Marty Silverstein	15
Sherie Ashdown	23
Eleanor Veltre	24

HCNE 2003 (From Page 1)
 through the registration process.
 We have so many wonderful things planned, including many new courses, that I was afraid to write this e-mail, fearing it would be too long. So look things over and I'll write some shorter messages letting you know what will be happening.
 It is going to be a great school!

IN MEMORIAM: BILL LAHL
 By Bob Chieffo

Bill Lahl, a long-time Kingston and Poughkeepsie chapter member, passed away on 39 March 2003 in North Carolina. Bill McFadden, also a former Kingston and Poughkeepsie member, passed on the attached information, partly in the form of the obituary published in Bill's hometown newspaper.

Bill Lahl was an avid barbershopper and a fabulous natural bass. He sang bass in the Kingston Chapter "King-tones" along with Hal Purdy (another Kingston and Poughkeepsie member), bari, Warren Neals, tenor, and (I think) Bob Poliachek as lead. At my first barbershop meeting at that Kingston chapter, some 40-odd years ago, the King-tones took me out in the hall for some "tag" singing. I was hooked.

Bill was a gentleman and a "real" (Continued on Page 3)

Bill Lahl (From Page 2)

architectural draftsman—from the pencil and paper days. His draftsman's touch is with us today: He designed the Newyorkers logo on the back of our red jacket.

So let's wish him well as he joins that Heavenly Chorus with the with his ol' barbershop buddies.

Bill was born on 3 March 1921. On 28 October 1950, he married Olive Herdman; they celebrated their Golden

Anniversary in 2000 at Tara Plantation. He served in the U. S. Army during WW II; he was stationed in Alaska with the Signal Corps and later at the Pentagon. He was a self-taught artist and calligrapher. He was a member of the Old Dutch Church of Kingston and sang in the church choir.

On the day of his death, his daughter filled his 5-CD changer with barbershop music, which played most of the day. So he died doing what he loved most in life (other than Olive and his family): listening to barbershop music.

SCENES FROM "THE MAGIC OF MUSIC"

Photography by Diane Chieffo and June Pierson



The Newyorkers in action



A tag



Is there a doctor in the house?
The Footlighters in action



Conundrum shows their mettle



Reveille for—or as—some pirates



Emcee Scott Hitchcock makes magic at the Afterglow



Renée captivates Reveille



Scott finishes the show

EXTRAS AT MONTRÉAL CONVENTION

By Alan Lamson
President, NED

With the International Convention in Montreal fast approaching (it is less than six weeks away), I want to let you know of two new Northeastern District Activities that will take place in Montréal. For the past many years, the NED has not had an opportunity to show our support for the quartets and choruses that work so hard all year long to

represent us at the International Convention each year. Yes, we all stand and cheer when they are announced from the stage, but I truly feel that is not enough. This year we want to personally thank the Granite Statesmen Chorus, Northeast Connection, Road Show, and Men in Black for their work.

So this year we are going to hold both a Pep Rally for our district competitors and a Hospitality Room for our competitors and all of the quartets so we can have another opportunity to hear them and (See "Extras" on Page 5)

Extras (From Page 4)

thank them all for a great week. Plus, we are cohosting both events with the Ontario District, so we will have their two choruses, two quartets, and college quartet champions there also.

The Northeastern District and Ontario District Invite You

To a
PEP RALLY
and

HOSPITALITY ROOM

At the International Convention in Montréal

PEP RALLY

Tuesday, 1 July at 4:30-5:30 PM

Le Centre Sheraton

1201 Boulevard René-Levesque West

Join The Granite Statesmen Chorus, Mega-City Chorus,

Northern Lights Chorus, Northeast Connection,

Road Show, TKO, Mirage, Men in Black,

and the ONT Collegiate Quartet representative

Cheer them on before the contests start!!!!

HOSPITALITY ROOM

Saturday, 5 July at 10:30 PM

Le Centre Sheraton

1201 Boulevard René-Levesque West

Hear more of your favorites before you leave for home.

Why walk all over the city? Come to our hospitality room

and hear the best of the best.

**SUPPORT YOUR INTERNATIONAL
REPRESENTATIVES! BE THERE!**

MORE STUFF ON HCNE

By Jim Dodge

NED DVP - Music and Performance
Dean, Harmony College Northeast

In an earlier communication I mentioned our guest quartets (Gas House Gang, Freestyle, the Four Rascals, and our NED District Champ quartets) and the dates (8-10 August 2003) and place (Fitchburg State College), and so I don't need to go over that again. Someone will write to me and tell me I didn't mention the cost so I'd better do that (\$120 full tuition; \$85 for commuters). There, that's the details! On to the school itself.

Always the biggest group at our school are the quartets who come to be coached. We have spaces to coach 36 quartets. At the moment, I have 28 coaches lined up and am

working on the other eight. We coach using the POD system developed at Harmony College in Missouri. Four quartets are assigned to four coaches who will confer with each other to develop the best coaching strategy for each quartet. It has been wonderfully successful and we look forward to it being better each year. Sign up early to assure yourself of a space!

You can read all the Course Descriptions on the NED website (<http://newebgroup.com/ned/>), but here is a heads-up on a new course for us. Many of you new to barbershop probably didn't know that in the early days of our Society, singers didn't use printed arrangements. We called it ear-singing then (we sang the chords we heard in our heads!), and so arrangements were constantly changing. In fact, if it was found out that a quartet used a written arrangement in those early contests, they were disqualified. Gradually this kind of singing became known as woodshedding, kind of an "out behind the woodshed" thing. Actually, the practice could more correctly be called "street-corner" singing because that's where most of it took place in the 20s, 30s, and 40s. I was fortunate to have taken part in this phenomenon along with the teacher of our new course, Don Dobson, and Tommy Spirito. Barbershoppers would gather in Central Square in Lynn every evening and ring some before going home to bed. I didn't know how lucky I was!

If you love to sing and want to sing a lot, take "Woodshedding, Tags, and Then Some." Don Dobson is the tenor of the Four Rascals (who woodshedded most of their songs!). He will be joined by John Fisher who Don says "knows more tags than anyone!" You'll find out how to woodshed and heaven knows what else but it will involve lots of singing! And you'll come away with a greater appreciation for how our hobby evolved.

Don't want to scare anyone but we have found out that the number of beds available to us at Fitchburg State is limited this summer. They have taken two dorms off line while they do repairs and maintenance. We have access to Aubuchon Hall (the same dorm as last year), and it has 288 beds and that's it! Attendance last year was 250 and we have been growing about 50 a year. Keep this in mind if you are putting off registration until later on. We don't want you to get shut out! You can register on-line at the NED website (see above).

It's not too early to remind you that you must bring your own linens AND PILLOW! And remember the fan thing. It will be hot in August unlike what we have been enduring so far this year. Please, just one 75 degree day so I know they still exist!

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