

The Newyorker Times

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



New Series, Volume 5
Poughkeepsie, New York

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June 2004

Editorials

Salute to a Trouper

The Newyorkers' Annual Show this year was tinged by sadness: Show Chairman Bob Chieffo's mother died a couple of days before the show. Although the end was not unexpected, it came earlier than anticipated. But Bob showed himself to be a real trouper, and continued to shepherd the show through a marvelous performance on the night of 15 May. Not only that, but he contributed his brand of humor to the set put on by his quartet, the Footlighters. We thank him for his devotion to the chapter, as we extend our sympathy in his loss.

Possible Ways to Raise Funds

We recently chatted with Bob Waltke on a business matter, and the conversation turned to other topics. In particular, Bob offered a couple of suggestions as to how the chapter might generate some additional income.

One is that we produce one or more CDs for sale. Bob says he has suggested this to a member of the music team, and got the response, "We aren't good enough." It is true, of course, that we are not good enough to compete with the Vocal Majority, the Big Apple Chorus, or even the Granite Statesmen. But that does not necessarily mean that we could not sell CDs of our songs to our own following—and that extends well beyond just our families and close friends. There must be people in the area who are acquainted with our singing and would like to be able to enjoy it "on demand." We propose that the members of the chapter think this over and let the music team have their input on the matter.

The second is that we develop repertoire of patriotic and similar songs and be prepared to put on concerts on patriotic holidays such as Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Veterans' Day. It might well be possible to obtain venues at little or no cost; Bob has suggested that his church's gymnasium might be available for such an event. Here, again, we urge the members of the chapter to let their views be known about the value of such an effort.

The Annual Show

We had hoped to have a review of the Annual Show to include in this issue. Unfortunately, the person who had agreed to provide the copy failed to follow through. We will try to have the material for the July issue. Meanwhile, we have pictures, on pages 3 and 6.

George Trigg

The Hummers

Forwarded by Alan Lamson,
NED President

Hi guys,

I received this e-mail today regarding this group of guys who like to get together and sing. They are not necessarily all former members of the Whiffenpoofs any more. However, they do this once-a-year outing and take the harbor cruise and have dinner. Everyone pays his own way.

If you have anyone in your chapter that might be interested in joining them for their cruise/meeting next month, please pass on Dick Thalheimer's name, phone, and e-mail

(at bottom of his message). Since one of our overall goals is to encourage music in the community, what better way than to participate in this and encourage their group to stay together and, perhaps, even grow.

Alan Lamson
NED President

----- Original Message -----

From: Dick Thalheimer

Gentlemen,

There is a group here in Connecticut that might be of interest to you, and which you and your fellow singers might be able to help. The Hummers is almost 70 years old. It was originally past members of the (Continued 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 June Performance at Glen Spey—arrival time 3:00 p.m.
 28 Jun–3 Jul International Convention and Contest, Louisville, KY
 12–15 Aug Harmony College Northeast and Harmony Explosion Camp, Fitchburg (MA) State College
 3–6 Sep Bolton Landing Festival, Bolton Landing, NY

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
25 JUNE



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):

Maria Fortin	1
Lew DiStasi	4
Larry Rand	7
Bill Standish	11
Linda Standish	12
Marty Silverstein	13
Barb Troan	14
Eleanor Veltre	24
Jim Larkin	30

Happy Wedding Anniversaries in June:

Tony and Faith Krzywycki	9
Bob and Bev Waltke	18
Larry and Nancy Rand	21
Bob and Lois Hitchcock	27

In Memoriam

Dorothy McFadden, wife of Oldyorker Bill McFadden
 Doris Booth, sister of Bill Booth and mother of Oldyorker Bill Blair
 Mary Chieffo, mother of Bob Chieffo
 Levi Leroy Hagerdon, father of Steve Hagerdon
 Rose Tritto, mother of Jack Tacinelli
 Oldyorker Bill Lahl

The Hummers (From Page 1)

Whiffenpoofs who gathered periodically to dine, sing, and drink. Over time, that group aged and the group almost died, but it was resurrected by a friend of mine (also my dentist). For the last 30 years, we have gathered at Mystic Seaport for an evening of music, friendship, food, and drink. While there is considerable musical talent in the group, the only requirement to attend is an interest in the kind of music we all sang in college. Typically, there is general singing while cruising on the (Continued on Page 4)

Some Pictures From the Annual Show

Photography by Lois Hitchcock and Bob Chieffo



The Newyorkers say "Be A Clown"



FDR High's "First Ladies" persuading "Mr. Splatter" to "Join the Circus"



"Stumbles" the Ringmaster



Show Chairman Chieffo in his role as a clown



The Newyorkers' own Hudson Valley Edition



Guest quartet Scollay Square

More pictures on Page 6

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

The Hummers (From Page 2)

Mystic River on the steam boat Sabino, close harmony using the Yale song book, some Broadway tunes, and the odd solo or small group.

Unfortunately, this group too is aging and attendance gets lower every year. There seems to be a sharp line at about 1964. Those of us who graduated from college before that time tend to relate to that music, and those who came after that year do not. I was discussing this with a classmate of mine from Bowdoin who sang with the Meddies and he mentioned SBEBQSQA. If you know of members of your organization who might be interested in this event, which is being held this year on Monday, June 7, please have them call or e-mail me. It would be great to rejuvenate this group and not lose this wonderful musical heritage.

Dick Thalheimer

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Office: 860-236-3301

E-mail: dthalheimer@neguild.com

Thanks for Phillipstown (Cold Spring) Performance

Forwarded by Renée Silverstein

Gentlemen: Below is an e-mail I received from the woman in charge of the Phillipstown Concert program. I echo her remarks wholeheartedly. We should be very proud of our performance. Renée

Renée -

I'm sorry I didn't have a chance to speak to you after the concert today. The chorus was wonderful, and you added that extra spark.

The men's choir was excellent too, and we plan to send a donation to their music ministry fund.

As a choir member, I can appreciate good diction, clear direction, staying on pitch, and singing from memory. The Poughkeepsie Newyorkers have it all. They deserve to do very well in the upcoming competition.

Thank you for bringing us this wonderful group. It's obvious that they enjoy singing!

Rose Champlin

for Philipstown Concerts

2004 Harmony College Northeast, 13-15 August, Fitchburg, MA

By Roger Menard
Dean, HCNE

Learn to be a better singer and performer.

Improve your quartet or chorus.

Become a more informed barbershop enthusiast.

Laugh and sing the weekend away with folks who love our hobby as much as you do!

See one of the best barbershop shows ever in New England.

Whatever your reason, make sure you sign up today for Harmony College Northeast, 13-15 August. Friday night includes a barbecue and an informative workshop to improve your singing. Saturday is quartet coaching and hours of individualized instruction on a huge variety of barbershop related topics. And, of course, there is a Saturday night show featuring no less than five International level quartets, a few NED champs, and the current college quartet champs. The show line-up also features the 100+ man Harmony Explosion Chorus featuring high school singers from across the district. Free pizza and an afterglow directly follows the show!

It is hard to believe, but ALL of this is yours for only \$120.00 AND we even include food and lodging for the weekend. How do we do it?

Visit www.nedistrict.org and click on "schools" to learn more and to view the current class offerings. New ones are still being added! You can even register and pay online to make it simple.

ATTN: Music Team Leaders and Chapter Board Members:

Has your chapter started a scholarship to get your membership to this school? More skilled, better informed, and happier members make every program work better for your organization. Even if your guys have attended before, there are nine new class offerings this year!

I also would challenge you, as leaders of your chapter, to show your newest members that there is a lot more to this barbershop world than just chorus rehearsal once a week. Please take this chance to urge them to join us at the school so they can learn more about this amazing hobby. Pay their way if you have to! Even if your chapter foots all or part of the bill, I promise the new guys will come back supercharged about barbershop and ready to make a difference as a better informed, more enthusiastic member of your chapter.

ATTN: Quartets

We have only 36 spots for the quartet coaching program this year. Make sure to sign up early!

Please direct any questions or comments about HCNE to: rogmenard@aol.com. SEEYA!

X-TREME LOUISVILLE —X-TREME HERO WORSHIP

By Reed Sampson

From *SPEBSQSA LIVE Wire*, 31 May 2004

Meet your heroes at the Louisville convention.

We've put the "convene" back into convention! Come together with friends, old and new, and with singers and teachers whose talents you've admired for years.

An international barbershop convention is the place where you can find yourself singing a tag in the lobby with a venerated champ, hearing from him how it felt standing in the wings waiting for the announcement of winners, or learning from him how to make (See "X-treme" on Page 5)

X-treme (From Page 4)

the most of your own voice.

For a schedule and complete listing of free courses on Thursday, July 1, go to

www.spebsqsa.org and click on **x-treme classes**.

Meet your quartet heroes:

- Learn from **Power Play**, 2003 International Quartet Champion
- Spend an hour chatting with **Bluegrass Student Union**, 1978 International Quartet Champion
- Spend an hour chatting with **The Suntones**, 1961 International Quartet Champion
- Spend an hour with **HEAT**, 2003 MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Champion
- Spend an Hour with **Swinglish Mix**, Sweet Adelines International 2004 International Champion
- **Sing with the champs**—your opportunity to be a part of a gold-medal quartet (www.AICgold.com)
- Enjoy **Dinner With The Champs**

Listen to your chorus heroes:

- Enjoy an HOUR-LONG Show with the Vocal Majority, 10-time International Chorus Champion
- Attend open rehearsals and pep rallies of contending choruses

Learn from your heroes:

We assembled your hero teachers, coaches, and singers to create x-treme classes—a dozen great courses covering all aspects of music, performance, quartet singing, personal vocal technique—all *FREE* with your convention registration!

Upcoming Performances

By Steve Hagerdon
Chorus Manager

Please note the schedule and check your own to see if you can participate:

6/13: Glen Spey Cultural Series Concert, 3 pm. Paid. Risers needed. Please sign up so I can conclude details.

July/August: some Sunday morning, date TBA, free church service for Moulton Baptist Church (“Choir for Hire” performance).

PROSPECTIVES: PLEASE START CHECKING YOUR CALENDARS FOR THESE POSSIBILITIES

As soon as potential dates can be developed I will inform all.

September, date to be announced (Saturday or Sunday): Washington Headquarters paid gig.

September: Moulton Baptist Church; paid job; replaces the one we had to cancel on account of insufficient parts

Castle Point Veterans’ Hospital: more details to follow.

Nursing homes: we wish to reinstitute some Wednesday evening nursing home performances. As soon as they are

set up you will be notified.

Your participation is eagerly anticipated in as many of these performances as is possible. We do not want a repeat of a cancellation we had to invoke because of lack of participation. We have been fortunate in securing several well-paid performances which our treasury desperately needs, so please make your best efforts. If the word gets around regarding our Sunday morning “Choir For Hire” program, there may be additional gigs in other churches, as many choirs adjourn for the summers.

Keep the Whole World Singing!

Barbershop Groups Win Outside of Category, Too

From *SPEBSQSA Live Wire*, 10 May 2004

The Contemporary A Cappella Society has announced the 2004 winners of the Contemporary A Cappella Recording Awards (CARAs). Quotes are from *The Contemporary A Cappella News*, April/May 2004 issue, used by permission. (To see the complete list of winners in all categories, go to www.casa.org.)

Best Barbershop Album of the Year: *Vocal Majority X*. “Here they are in full musical splendor. One judge was so impressed, he deemed them ‘the finest choral group in all of human history.’ The ‘X’ signifies the number of SPEBSQSA international gold medals they’ve received in the past 30 years, with song selections from each of those winning years. Not only is it the finest in barbershop choral singing, it is a great look at the history and evolution of the art form in the last 30 years.”

Best Barbershop album of the Year Runner-up: *The Gas House Gang’s 5th*. “Lush, tight harmonies and near-perfect blend demonstrate the majesty that is The Gas House Gang. Their diverse style serves them well as they serve up jazz, contemporary, comedic and even gospel-flavored tunes with a distinctly barbershop flair! Funny and fun, yet sentimental and haunting in turns.”

Best Barbershop Song of the Year: “The Best Times I Ever Had” by Power Play from the *SPEBSQSA Top 20 Quartets 2003*. “It’s a family affair with Power Play as the members are all related. Everything about the tune fits. They take us on a journey of love and mirth that makes us all want to be related to them. And it’s live!”

Best Barbershop song of the Year Runner-up: “Somewhere Over the Rainbow” by Unplugged from *Electrified*. “The women of Unplugged deliver this classic with amazing confidence, grace and ability, featuring the lock and ring of a quartet singing a great chart.”

Best Religious Song of the Year Runner-up: “Ezekiel Saw the Wheel” by The Gas House Gang from *The Gas House Gang’s 5th*. “GHG’s ringing chords and infectious energy are impossible to resist. The tenor, low bass and a veritable freight train of spinning wheels show off the group’s signature rich sound.”

Best Comedy Song of the (See “CARAs” on Page 6)

More Pictures From the Annual Show



Dick Schaffer, Joe O'Neill,
and Mike Murphy as clowns



George Trigg,
the barker



Hunters and clowns



The ladies, bless 'em,
helping with sales



Guest artist
Mr. Pockets

CARAs (From Page 5)

Year Runner-up: "We're Little But We're Loud" by The Gas House Gang from *The Gas House Gang's 5th*. "Nothing subtle about The Gas House Gang's loving homage to geeky short guys who sing. Admit it, you love them, too. This song features the glorious image of a barbershop singer who 'throws back his head like a lovesick calf' and the musical punch line of a four-part imitation of a claw hammer banjo solo."

CASA also announced the winners of the fourth annual A Cappella Community Awards (ACAs). Winners are chosen by fans' votes. In the Favorite Barbershop Group category, the winners are the Masters of Harmony. "The Masters of Harmony, an all-male chorus based in Santa Fe Springs, CA, has been dedicated to barbershop music since 1985. Under the direction of Mark Hale, they won the Barbershop Harmony Society (SPEBSQSA) gold medal in 2002. The Masters have won five international championships

and numerous other recognitions, and were inducted into the Barbershop Hall of Fame in Sharon, PA, in September 2002."

(To see the complete list of winners in all categories, go to www.casa.org.)

QualCore Conducting Surveys of SPEBSQSA Members

From *SPEBSQSA Live Wire*, 3 May 2004

Phase Three of the research project is now under way. Say what you think and help market the Society.

In May/June 2004, QualCore Research will undertake a research project among SPEBSQSA members in the USA and Canada. This is the third phase of a research project undertaken by the Marketing Task Force under direction from the Society Board, aimed at

• understanding why men join (See "Survey" on Page 7)

Survey (From Page 6)

the Society;

- understanding public perceptions of the Society and barbershop harmony; and ultimately
- finding ways to identify and turn prospects into members.

If you are contacted regarding these surveys, we hope you'll respond enthusiastically and candidly to the interviewers. Your participation is voluntary, of course, but vital to the growth and success of the Society. All personal information collected is kept strictly confidential, and is for use in the aggregate only, that is, to create statistical studies of the group, and not for storing personal information about our members. All parties to the study are specifically prohibited from using this information for any purposes other than this project.

For further confirmation, follow the link to the Society's web site, www.spebsqsa.org/qualcore, or search under Who We Are > Mission > QualCore Research conducting surveys for SPEBSQSA.

Rehearsal Guidelines

By Joe Hudson, Assistant Director,
Danbury Chapter
From Danbury's *Hatter Chatter*

Editor's note: There are one or two details in the following material that deviate from the way things are done in our chapter. But it seemed that there is enough in it worth taking account of to warrant publishing it in our newsletter.

I have been involved in barbershopping for many years even though I have only been registered in the Society for one year. In that one year, I have met some of the nicest, kindest people in the nation. This is not a Society just for singing; this is a Society for living.

The reason I say this is because some issues need to be

addressed, and one of them is the way rehearsals are run. I admit that I want to have a good time as well; however, there is a time and a place for everything. When it is time to work, it is time to work. When it is time to play, it is time to play. This is not only true in rehearsals, but also in life.

Very important is the respect for others around us. If someone has something to say, give them the chance to say it. Don't interrupt. If you have something to contradict, or want to correct what has been said, wait until they have finished their statement to see if they are finished with everything they wanted to say.

There are a few guidelines I wish to set forth for this chorus during rehearsals. I feel they will help to improve our friendships and our unity as a chorus and as a family.

1. Leave your ego and attitudes at the door. We are here to have fun. All the troubles from the day are gone for that two and a half hour block when we are with each other.

2. Always have a pencil at rehearsals. A pencil can be erased if things are changed. Pens cannot. Therefore, a pencil is very helpful when something is said about a particular thing.

3. One speaker at a time. If someone has something to say, don't interrupt. Not only is it disrespectful, they may have a question that you would ask later on. Also, if you interrupt, then we have to waste time by repeating what was just said.

4. Always come prepared. For each new song, you will be given a schedule on what will be rehearsed week to week. At home in between rehearsals, work on what will be scheduled and what was worked on in the previous rehearsal; it will help our learning rate improve immensely. That means **more songs** and **more perfection**.

And last but not least,

5. Sing! Sing! Sing! We are a Barbershopping Society. So we will spend a vast majority of the rehearsals singing. Come prepared to sing.

If we *all* follow these simple and easy guidelines and rules, we will have more effective rehearsals and more *fun* at rehearsals.