

The Newyorker Times

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



New Series, Volume 7
Poughkeepsie, New York

Number 9
September 2006

Albuquerque: History Meets Harmony

From the Society's Newsletter *LiveWire*, 8 August

No matter what makes barbershopping great for you, you'll find it at the Midwinter Convention! Fun awaits you in the great Southwest, 21–28 January 2007:

The best shows!

- Hear your favorite quartet medalists
- Hear your seniors favorites in the AISQC Champions on Parade

More singing!

- Tags, fun and more
- Lots of time and friends to share the ancient art

of tag-wrangling

Great location, events and tours!

Spectacular sightseeing, scenery, history!

New schedule!

Friday afternoon, 26 January: Seniors Quartet Contest

Friday night, 26 January: An outstanding show!

Saturday afternoon, 27 January: Buffalo Bills–Era Quartet Contest. Sing the old songs the way they did fifty years ago. Experience the five-category judging system, and see how your quartet might have done against our most famous champs!

Saturday night, 27 January, 7:30 p.m.-10:00 p.m.: Show of Champions—top quartets plus the new champs!

All these events will take place in Kiva Auditorium in the Albuquerque Convention Center, located right across the street from the Hyatt Regency Hotel, the headquarters hotel for this convention.

Order online to select your own seat for the Midwinter Convention: www.barbershop.org/ID_061551.

Nashville Harmony Experience Planning Begins

From the Society's Newsletter *LiveWire*, 8 August

What will the Society's new HQ look like? Talk to the team planning the public spaces of the proposed facility.

Planning is under way for a public exhibition area in

the Society's new Nashville headquarters. Preliminary plans call for visitors to be able to experience the thrill of ringing a four-part harmony chord, view recorded performances of championship quartets and choruses, and make contact with chapter representatives near their homes. The Society has hired veteran museum planners LaPaglia & Associates of Murfreesboro, TN, to help with the effort. Working title for the project is the Nashville Harmony Experience.

Got an idea that you'd like the planners to consider? Send an email to NHEIdeas@barbershop.org. The message will reach LaPaglia & Associates and members of the Society Board's Public Facilities Subcommittee (Peter Feeney, Dick Girvin, Bob Morrissey, Roger Ross, and Rick Spencer).

According to reports from the Nashville Convention and Visitors Bureau, Music City USA attracted more than 800,000 visitors in a recent 12-month period.

NED Fall Convention, 27–28 October 2006

Forwarded by Scott Saladin

John Zweighaft, Burlington, VT, has asked why a small venue was being used for the fall convention in Providence, RI. Steve Isherwood, Providence Chapter, explained that larger venues were expensive and had small stages and no parking. Contestants would have to be bussed from a school. Also downtown hotels are expensive. The high school chosen for the venue has a 1200-seat auditorium and enough classrooms to house all contestants. There is lots of parking and the headquarters hotel is 1 mile down the street.

Steve stressed that hotels must be booked by members. Registration packets are available. DVP Events Steve Wheaton said forms are posted on the NED website.

Steve Isherwood reported that there would be a Friday night afterglow called "2 Tags and a Joke" where groups will be judged on their performance. On Saturday evening rooms will be available at hotels for group meals. On Saturday night there are three afterglow rooms that can be sponsored by chapters. On Sunday (See "Convention" on Page 3)

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- 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



- 21 Oct VA Medical Center, Castle Point—arrive at 9:30 a.m., performance at 10:30 p.m.
- 27,28 Oct NE District Convention, Providence, RI

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE
27 SEPTEMBER**

Happy Birthdays in September:

Suzanne Bram	22
Diane Chieffo	26
Lois Hitchcock	27
Angela Betscha	30
Barbara Booth	30
George Trigg	30

Happy Anniversaries in September:

Steve and Joan Ross	27
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Directions

by Renée Silverstein

**PURPOSE OF VOCAL CRAFT WORK
(WARM-UPS—UGH!)**

This is what I think are the reasons for teaching the classic basics of good singing that we, the music team, coaches, and voice instructors, try to instill in singers. The basics should be the ability to produce a smooth even tone consistently. The tone needs to move quickly, clearly, and freely whether loud or soft regardless of what our lips and tongue are doing to form consonants. These are not minute details but do require intense concentration without getting uptight about them and losing the message and emotion in the lyrics.

Not to put down the performers of today but with the microphone coming along in the early '20s the need for physically developing the is not necessary. Most of our performances (and all of our rehearsals) do not have or require amplification. Therefore in order to project our music we must sustain our lines, sing our soft notes without sounding breathy, and develop the resonance to carry through space. This also applies to public speaking, preachers, teachers, politicians, and stage actors. Microphones are not always there.

So let's go through the paces each week, internalize, improve, keep making beautiful music to keep it alive and, of course, hear the audiences burst into applause. Worth the effort? Yes, Sir.

Convention (From Page 1)

morning there will be a brunch at 10:00 AM at a cost of \$16.95. Steve is also working on historical video. Rod Rodrigues said the school venue is excellent. He also said stage dimensions and curtain are on the web site and a choral show is available.

Confessions of a Barbershopper

From a Barbershop Member

Stolen from Simcoe (ON) Chapter's *Scoops & Slides*
by way of Greater Montréal's *Mini-Pitch*
and adapted to us
Or could it be you?

In the back of my brain I have a name of a man who said he might be interested in singing. I told him about our regular Monday night practices at the Poughkeepsie Reformed Church and that he would be welcome. Deep down inside of me, I knew that would not be enough to ensure his attendance at one of our meetings; but I have to confess, that is all I did.

A few weeks went by when I recalled that conversation and I realized that I should have called him as said something like, "John, I'm just following up on our conversation about the opportunity for you to attend one of Barbershop practices. You know since this is the start of a new year it would be an excellent time to experience barbershopping. We are learning some new songs so you will fit right in with

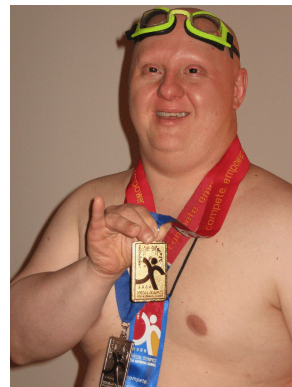
the rest of us (so-called experienced) barbershoppers. As well, we will sing some songs that we know well, and you can listen to what can be accomplished with a little practice. For this one time, would I be able to pick you up and take you to our meeting?"

Then I realized that really is not a very tough commitment, and I can do that.

Tom Chieffo with Medals

Photo by Bob Chieffo

Last month's issue showed the medals that Tom Chieffo won in the National Special Olympics Games in Ames, Iowa. Here they are with Tom showing them off.



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

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