



the north shore harmony rag



Joseph Schlesinger, Third Assistant
Temporary Editor and Royal Keeper
of the Minor Typos

North Shore Chapter,
Society for the
Preservation and
Encouragement of
Barber Shop Quartet
Singing in America, Inc.

Meetings:
7:45 p.m. Wednesdays,
Presbyterian Home,
3131 Simpson St.
(Golf Rd.), Evanston, IL
(Guests are welcome!)

October 2002

28 Members

Volume 30, Issue 10

RELIVE THE
EXCITEMENT
OF
PORTLAND!

Recordings of
the choruses
and top
quartets from
the 2002
SPEBSQSA
International
Convention
are now
available.

For more
information,
visit the
Society's Web
site (www.spebsqsa.org)
or call
Harmony
Marketplace
toll free at
800/876-7464
(876-SING).

Fall Convention Was Fine!

Not many of our members were able to make it to fall district convention in Peoria, but **Bill Remien** and **Phil Martin** enjoyed the weekend of harmony.

In the chorus contest, Lake County's **Great American Chorus** led the pack with a total of 963 points, followed by the **West Towns Chorus** (Chicagoland West Suburban Chapter, formerly Lombard), who garnered 905 points. Other top-five finishers: **Great Plainsmen Chorus** (West Peoria Metro, third place, 894 points); **Sound of Illinois Chorus** (Bloomington #1, fourth place, 893 points); and **Bell Notes Chorus** (Belleville, fifth place, 828 points).

Aces High were crowned quartet champs, with a total of 1788 points. Second place went to **Pinnacle**, who finished with 1733 points).

Alchemy (whose bass is North Shore Chapter member **George Sotos**) made an impressive third-place showing, ending up with 1716 points. Fourth place was **All 4 One** (1677 points), and fifth place went

to **Crosstown Connection** (1654) in their first contest appearance in many years.

Jim Foley added another district senior quartet gold medal to his collection with **Gym Class's** victory in the senior division.

Spring Convention in 2003 will be April 25-27. Since the **Shoreliner Chorus** plans to be among the competitors, we urge all members to reserve that weekend on their calendar NOW.

District HOD (House of Delegate) Actions That Will Affect Us . . .

- The 2003 district directory will be published online and the printed version discontinued. The directory will be accessible via the district Web site (www.harmonize.ws/ILL). This will save the district considerable money.
- Effective with spring convention, Illinois District convention registration will increase to \$35. No word on late fees.
- Fall convention is rescheduled to Aug. 22-24. Please note!

2003 Chapter Officers Elected

Elections have been held for the coming year's chapter officers. Here's the slate that was voted into office:

President:
Joseph Schlesinger
VP Membership & Chapter Development:
Noble LeHew
VP Music & Performance:
Bill Remien
Secretary:
Phil Schwimmer
Treasurer:
Edward Price

Bill Remien will repeat as immediate past president.

The installation of new officers will occur sometime during late December or, more likely, early January. The winner of the Tom Buckley Barbershopper of the Year (BOTY) Award for 2002 will be announced during that ceremony. Watch for details.



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CHAPTER OFFICERS

President:
Joseph Schlesinger — 847/328-0921
V.P. Membership & Chapter Development:
Kevin Jones — 847/869-2441
V.P. Music & Performance:
Bill Remien — 847/864-8753
Secretary: Phil Schwimmer — 847/298-4283
Treasurer: Edward Price — 773/334-1419
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Rag Deadline: Second Wednesday of Every Month

Board Meetings: First Sunday of each month. The November Board meeting will be held 7:45 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 3, at **Phil Schwimmer's** home, 3432 Salem Walk E., Northbrook. All chapter members are welcome to all Board meetings.

Chapter Web site: www.nsn.org/evkhome/bflat
(Current *Rag* issue is also on the Web site!)

September/October Guests

John Brauer
(saw Evanston Arts Week program)
John Buenz (Martin)
Walter Clements (Prieto)

CORRECTION: In the September *Rag*, we twice referred to **Tom Leaveck's** friend **Ted Briggs** as "Ted Gates." We apologize for the misnomer; apparently, we must have been suffering from a little microsoftening of the brain.

"From the Top"

I used to have a little routine with one of the custodians at my high school. Whenever I ran into him in the hall, I'd ask him, "How are things, Jimmy?" and he'd always reply, "Pickin' up."

Well, things are "pickin' up" at North Shore Chapter. We're continuing to grow, we're learning some new songs, and we're beginning to plan for what we hope is a busy

and rewarding holiday season.

Now that our new chapter officers have been elected, it's a good time for me to remind you that your chapter officers constitute one of the best resources available to answer your questions about our chapter, Society, and music, as well as to help solve any problems you feel the chapter may be facing.

COMING EVENTS

North Shore Chapter:
Every Wednesday night—**Informal Guest Night—BRINGASINGA!**
Wed., 10/16, 10/23, & 10/30—**Open House/Guest Nights.**
Wed., 10/30—"Fifth Wednesday"—???.
Mon., 11/4—**Inaterchapter Bash with Arlington Heights and Chicago Metro Chapters**—7:30 p.m. at American Legion Post, 121 N. Douglas Ave. (at Miner Rd.), Arlington Heights. Note:Our regular meeting the following Wednesday will also take place as planned, for all who wish to attend.
Wed., 11/6—**Regular Chapter Meeting**—Same time, same place.
Sat., 12/21—**Sing Around the Kettle for Salvation Army** (tentative date). Details to follow.

North Shore Chapter Web Site:
www.nsn.org/evkhome/bflat

Elsewhere:
Fri., 10/18—**Interstate Woodshed**—8 p.m. (dinner at 6:30) at American Legion Hall, Hwy. B, Silver Lake, Wis. All Barber-shoppers invited; \$5 donation requested to defray expenses. For information, call the hall at 262/889-8255 or **Gerry Carroll** at 630/543-8808 (days).

Barbershop Harmony Chicagoland Web site:
www.bbs.singer.as

Directions to Nov. 4 Interchapter Bash from Dempster St. and I-294 (Tri-State Tollway): Go west on Dempster St. Turn right on S. Mount Prospect Rd. Continue on N. Mount Prospect Rd. Turn left on U.S. 14. Turn right on S. Dryden Pl. Turn left on E. Kensington Rd. Turn right on N. Douglas Ave. (If these directions are screwy, don't blame me—blame

Your chapter officers are the go-to guys who can offer advice (if you need it), tell you what's really going on within the chapter, and generally enhance your barbershop-ping experience.

Don't be afraid to rely on them.

—**Joseph Schlesinger**
President

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:
North Shore Chapter of SPEBSQSA is a group of men of all ages who enjoy gathering in fellowship to sing in the four-part, a cappella, close harmony style known as barbershop. As we participate in our varied social and musical activities, including both choral and quartet singing, our members can develop their vocal skills and their appreciation of the rich heritage of American song, which we share with our community through performances in a variety of settings.

“Singing is not about the notes; it is about reaching deep down inside yourself.”

—Michael Bolton

“When in doubt, sing loud.”

—Robert Merrill

Baritone’s Creed

—Ed Hinkley (Sarasota, Fla. Chapter)
from the Harmonet

(Yes, we started this whole thing with something called “The Baritone’s Oath” back in June 1997, but constant vigilance is necessary to keep the baris in line. So here’s something else just for them—in verse, to make it easier to remember.)

The bari has the most exacting music to be sung
And it wasn’t any easier
when I was very young,
The barbershopping baritone
is of another breed
And so should stand together
with this most exacting
creed:

1. I will not sing a single note that isn’t right in pitch,
2. I won’t contribute harmonies that have a single glitch,

3. I won’t be last to learn the music; leave that to the lead,
4. I won’t be late for practice ’cause my part has such a need,
5. I’ll fill in cracks and crevices the basses leave behind,
6. I’ll use some sweet finesse in every seventh that I find,
7. I’ll monitor the volume so the chords will really ring,
8. I’ll make a thing of beauty every note that I will sing.

Next month: another creed.
(Hey, didn’t we just run out of parts???)

Announcing: THE AUDIOFILE

Check out this great new addition to the Members Only section of our website (www.spebsqsa.org). It’s The Audiofile, an index to a private collection of more than 12,000 recorded songs – most from the early ’20s to the late ’40s (the golden age of popular song)—and many of them unobtainable from any other source.

Each of these performances is now available to Barbershoppers on cassette or CD (unless protected by copyright, of course).

Access to the database is free for your first look. But after that, we encourage you to make a donation of any size to the Society’s Harmony Foundation. (Well, you had planned to make one anyway, hadn’t you?)

If you see performances you’d like to own, the owner will dub them onto cassette or CD and send them to you at no charge. We ask only for a further donation to Harmony Foundation of \$10 for the first song in a request and \$5 for each additional song.

What a great way to help build The Foundation, right?

Go ahead, log on to the Members Only site and have a look. You’ll be amazed at this database, and you’ll have fun browsing it. If you have questions, contact [former Shoreliner] **Lynn Hauldren**, ELHaul@atbi.com.

—from SPEBSQSA
Live Wire
Reed Sampson, editor

Who’s Yer Chapter Coach?

Why **John Cain**, of course. He’s a member of Northbrook Chapter and lead of the quartet **Retrofit**. More importantly, he’s the resource person to whom our chapter can turn, as well as our liaison with the Society.

We Get E-Mails

Thought we’d share with our readers this e-mail we recently received from **Dave Wuebben** . . .

Oct. 3, 2002

Hi Joseph,

Great to hear from you and the Shoreliners. I am right smack dab in the middle of the first term here at Augustana. Football is going well, we are 1-1 but we had one game cancelled because of lightning. My classes are fairly easy and not too demanding as of yet (just waiting till Finals). I haven’t had time to look up any Quad City groups yet, but I am thinking that after Thanksgiving time I might give them a call.

I am currently taking German, Intro to Biblical Thought and Microeconomics, and I am working as a desk assistant in my dorm. I also landed a summer internship for next summer, with college pro painters.

I will get the opportunity to run my own painting company with their overseeing. Well, I hope to hear from you again soon. I might try to make one of your holiday appearances.

Take Care, Keep the melody flowing,

—Dave

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Evanston, IL 60204

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FOR YOUR
INFORMATION,
LET ME ASK
YOU A
QUESTION:

If Jimmy cracks
corn and no one
cares, why is
there a song
about him?

Chapter Directory Update

add:
Jack Cutrera (Beverly)
lead
1211 Division St.
Melrose Park, IL 60160
(708) 343-1033 /
exp. 3/31/03 (1978)

Bill Gallagher
(new e-mail):
wsg25@earthlink.net

change exp. to 9/3003:
Pete Brandt
Bill Gallagher
Gus Knight
Marvin Pitluk
Bill Remien
George Sotos
Martin Steigman

Meet North Shore Chapter's Newest Member

Jack Cutrera, a Barber-shopper since 1978, has transferred to North Shore's lead section from Chicago Metro Chapter. He lives in Melrose Park with his wife, Beverly; they have three grown sons. Jack is a dual member with DuPage Valley Chapter, and his hobbies include travel and transportation; he owns a vast CD and record collection. Currently retired, Jack was a longtime employee of the Santa Fe Railroad's marketing department.

That GUEST you bring to meeting may end up singing in your next QUARTET!

Quartet News

Alchemy: Chicago Metro Chapter Cabaret (Oct. 12), Western Lights (Sweet Adelines) Show (Oct. 26), DuPage Valley Chapter Show (Nov. 2). Congrats on their third-place finish at district contest!

Chordmasters: Arlington Heights Chapter Cabaret (Oct. 5). Other performances scheduled: Brentwood Retirement Home, Vitas Hospice Care Holiday Party.

Hospitality: Royal Order of Jesters Men's and Women's Brunch, Lisle (Dec. 15).

North Shore Four: St. Matthew's Lutheran Home, Park Ridge (Oct. 10: Mimura-Remien-Jones-Schlesinger); private wedding reception, Highwood (Oct. 19: Mimura-Remien-Jones-Martin).