



# the north shore harmony rag



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

North Shore Chapter,  
SPEBSQSA  
(The Barbershop  
Harmony Society)

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

October 2004

25 Members

Volume 32, Issue 10

Your internal clock is not out of whack. This issue is a week late, thanks to your editor's heart improvising a crazy calypso beat. Long story short: we're now sporting a shiny new defibrillator that will deliver an electronic kick to the chest if we ever again lapse into that fascinatin' rhythm. Meanwhile, don't forget to reset your external clocks Sunday morning (spring forward, fall back!).

## Northbrook Wins Triple Crown at Fall Convention

It was a clean sweep for Northbrook Chapter in Peoria Sept. 24 and 25.

**New Tradition Chorus** reprised their **Stephen Foster** contest set from International in Louisville to win their 15th Illinois District championship, followed by **Brotherhood of Harmony Chorus** (Lake County), **Sound of Illinois Chorus** (Bloomington #1), **West Towns Chorus** (Chicagoland West Suburban), and **Second City Chorus** (Rockford Metro). In all, 14 choruses competed this time.

Meanwhile, **Lakeside Edition**, representing Northbrook and Frank Thorne Chapters, bested 23 other quartets to win district gold in their first contest. Second to fifth place were **Skyline, tsunami, Savoir Four**, and **Talismen**. In addition, **Talismen** (Lake County, Northbrook, and Frank Thorne Chapters) won the right to represent Illinois District in the international senior quartet contest at Midwinter Convention in Jacksonville.

But wait, there's more . . . see below.

## Results of Sept. 29 Chapter Meeting

North Shore Chapter members gathered Sept. 29 to discuss our chapter's future and what changes, if any, should be made to our chapter structure and philosophy.

After an informal introductory session designed to facilitate our learning more about each other, the discussion turned to what kind of an organization our chapter should be, whether a system of rules should be put in place, and how those rules would be implemented.

continued on page 3—  
see MEETING

## North Shore Four Receives Quartet Service Award

Illinois District conferred its **Ed Wilson** Quartet Service Award for 2004 upon our own **North Shore Four**.

In the 16 years since becoming registered with the Society, this foursome has served as North Shore Chapter's philanthropic arm, bringing \$1,000-1,500 into our treasury each year from paid performances.

In addition, the quartet members have volunteered their time to represent North Shore Chapter in many musical appearances throughout Chicagoland, assist in our member recruiting efforts, and educate the public about barbershop harmony.

North Shore Four has truly been a labor of love for us Shoreliners. Since 1988, these members have sung in public as part of the quartet:

- Pete Brandt
- Barry Cain
- George Carlson
- Christian Carranza
- Fritz Caspersen
- Phil Dillard
- Jay Elliott
- Scott Friedman
- Bill Gallagher
- Bob Gelber
- Ramin Khamsei
- Kevin Jones
- Tom Leaveck
- Noble LeHew
- Bob Levi
- Phil Martin

- Paul Mimura\*
- Keith Mockenhaupt
- Rick Prieto\*
- Bill Remien
- Ted Riley
- Dick Robbins
- Joseph Schlesinger\*
- Justin Schoolmaster
- Raymond Schwarzkopf
- Phil Schwimmer\*
- Fred Smart
- Martin Steigman
- Elmer Sweet
- Dick Yanow

\* (Quartet members currently registered with SPEBSQSA.)

All 30 present and former North Shore Chapter members listed above share in deserving recognition for their public service in the spirit of harmony.

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### CHAPTER OFFICERS

President:  
 Martin Steigman — 847/675-9223  
 V.P. Membership & Chapter Development:  
 Joseph Schlesinger — 847/328-0921  
 V.P. Music & Performance:  
 Paul Mimura — 847/677-8092  
 Secretary: Pete Brandt — 847/674-6349  
 Treasurer: Edward Price — 312/751-4019 (days)  
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**Rag Deadline: Second Wednesday of Every Month**

Board Meetings: First Sunday of each month.  
 The November Board meeting is scheduled for 7:45 p.m. Sunday, **Nov. 7**, at **Marty Steigman's** home, 4322 Greenwood St., Skokie. All chapter members are welcome.

**Chapter Web site:**

<http://www.harmonize.ws/shoreliners>  
 (Current Rag issue is also on the Web site!)

### OUR VISION STATEMENT:

North Shore Chapter of SPEBSQSA will:

1. Provide, to whatever extent possible, organized chorus activities and organized quartet activities at every regular chapter meeting.
2. Actively seek public performance opportunities for the chapter chorus.
3. Continuously strive to increase its active membership.
4. Continuously strive to improve the musical quality of its chorus as a collective unit and the musical ability of its chapter members as individuals.
5. Contribute to the cultural panorama of the communities from which our organization draws its membership, thereby:
  - a. Increasing its visibility in the local community and fostering a positive perception of our organization,
  - b. Enhancing public awareness of, and appreciation for, barbershop harmony, and
  - c. Creating opportunities to recruit new members.

### In Memoriam: Bob Porter (1938-2004)

We don't normally observe the passing of former members, but this one was special. **Bob Porter**, past chapter president, passed away Sept. 19 after several years of declining health. In addition to singing, Bob was an avid golfer.

### COMING EVENTS

#### North Shore Chapter:

Sat., 12/18—**Sing Around the Kettle for Salvation Army**—11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Jewel Foods, 2485 Howard St. (just east of the North Shore Sanitary Canal), Evanston.

Sun., 1/23-Sun., 1/30—**65th Annual International Midwinter Convention**—Jacksonville, Fla.

Fri., 2/4-Sat., 2/5—**IDAH (Illinois District Academy of Harmony)**—Holiday Inn City Centre, Peoria. See story on page 3.

#### North Shore Chapter Web Site:

<http://www.harmonize.ws/shoreliners>

#### Elsewhere:

Fri., 11/19—**Interstate Woodshed**—8 p.m. (dinner at 6:30) at American Legion Hall, Hwy. B, Silver Lake, Wis. All Barbershoppers invited; \$5 donation requested to defray expenses. For information, call the hall at 262/889-8255 or **Gerry Carroll** at 847/678-0092.

Fri., 12/3-Sun., 12/5—**Northbrook Chapter Holiday Show**—2:30 (Saturday and Sunday) and 8 p.m. (Friday and Saturday) at Glenbrook South H.S., 4000 W. Lake Ave., Glenview. Featuring: **New Tradition Chorus** (current International Third Place Chorus and 2001 International Champion Chorus/current Illinois District Champion Chorus), chapter quartets. Tickets: \$21 (VIP main floor center, evening), \$18 (VIP main floor center, matinee), \$16 (main floor and mezzanine, evening), \$16 (main floor and mezzanine, matinee); \$2 discount for students and senior citizens, matinee; all seats reserved; group discounts available. For more information, call 800/SHOWCHORUS (746-9246), or see **Joseph Schlesinger** or **Dick Yanow**.

**Barbershop Harmony Chicagoland Web site:**  
[www.bbs.singer.as](http://www.bbs.singer.as)

### September/October Guests

Joe Dembinski (Northbrook Chapter)  
 Dale Jergensen (Arlington Heights Chapter)  
 Joe Leopold (Schlesinger)  
 Joe Shacter (Schlesinger)  
 Byron Tsang (Schlesinger)  
 James Zirkle (Schlesinger)

Aside from being a major catalyst in our chapter's growth during the 1970s, Bob is the guy who changed my life by introducing me to North Shore Chapter and SPEBSQSA. Thanks for everything and rest in peace, big fella!—J.S.

### 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.

“Music was my refuge. I could crawl into the space between the notes and curl my back to the loneliness.”

—Maya Angelou

“We long to make music that will melt the stars.”

—Gustave Flaubert

“You are the music while the music lasts.”

—T. S. Eliot

## Meeting

(continued from page 1)

While no earth-shattering decisions emerged from the meeting, several points were endorsed by consensus and, in addition to the questionnaires we received from chapter members, will form the basis of the Nov. 9 music team meeting:

- Attendees generally agreed that it would be better for our **Shoreliner Chorus** to forgo contest this coming spring and instead focus on building up our numbers.
- Members acknowledged a need for our music team to impose quality controls on our performing chorus, to the extent that a system of qualifying chorus participants might be desirable.
- Members agreed that it is important to include organized quartet activities along with chorus rehearsal as part of each chapter meeting.

Once the music team forges a recommended plan for the chapter's music program and recommends it to the Board, the Board will then develop an entire master plan and present it to the members for ratification. This is likely to happen some time in November. At that point, with a new sense of direction and purpose, we hope we will be able to proceed with our director search.

## Chapter Directory Update

New address and phone:  
Phil Schwimmer  
8583 Springfield Ave.  
Skokie, IL 60076  
(847) 208-6055 / (847) 208-6055

Change exp. to 9/30/05:  
Pete Brandt      Marvin Pitluk  
Bill Gallagher      George Sotos  
Larry Kohn      Martin Steigman

## Six Things Every Director Wishes You Already Knew About Rehearsing

—Bill Rashleigh, Society Music Specialist

1. For the chorus to improve, each man must leave his own behavioral comfort zone. Improve one aspect, skill, or attitude each and every time you sing.
2. Become emotionally involved in the music. The music does not need to be complex to produce complex emotions. Anything less than full effort will result in a less satisfying musical experience for you and your audience.
3. Listen and extinguish comments while on the risers and during rehearsals.
4. Singing well takes a lot of exertion. Singing requires more concentration for a longer period of time than any other activity. Focus on the job at hand.
5. Skills take time to learn and more time to re-learn. The instruction is simple: sing all the word sounds in proper balance, with proper tone, with perfect unity, while expressing them in a heartfelt manner.
6. Have fun! Like each other and share in the joys of making great music because you don't know when you won't be able to do so again.

(pinched from *The Schoenbrunn Sheet*, Tuscarawas County Chapter, [Ohio.] **George Kaiser**, president and editor)

—seen in North Coast, Ohio Chapter *Johnnycake Ridgerunner*, **Stan Wardwell**, editor

**COTS (Chapter Operations Training Seminar) and IDAH (Illinois District Academy of Harmony)** are coming up! Find out more at the Illinois District Web site:

COTS (Nov. 20-21): Pere Marquette, Peoria  
[www.harmonize.ws/ILL/events/COTS](http://www.harmonize.ws/ILL/events/COTS)

IDAH (Feb. 4-5): Holiday Inn City Centre, Peoria  
[www.harmonize.ws/IL/events/IDAH](http://www.harmonize.ws/IL/events/IDAH)

You can register for COTS online with your charge card; online IDAH online registrations will be coming in November. In the meantime, contact **Syl Wetle** at 322 Bayview Pt., Schaumburg, IL 60194 — phone: 847/882-9555 — e-mail: [smwetle@aol.com](mailto:smwetle@aol.com).

**Chapter Nominations Update:** We're still looking for candidates to fill the 2005 slate of officers. If interested, see **Joseph Schlesinger**, **Rick Prieto**, or **Phil Martin** right away.

## Quartet News

The only activity we have to report is **North Shore Four's** (Mimura-Prieto-Schwimer-Schlesinger) performance in lieu of the **Shoreliner Chorus** at the Arts Week Evanston Music Showcase Sunday afternoon, Oct. 10. Good crowd, good show. At the risk of seeming self-serving, congrats to the quartet on winning the **Ed Wilson Quartet Service Award!**



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**WANTED:**

A go-getter to manage North Shore Chapter's 2005 Singing Valentines program. Previous experience not necessary, but desire for success is.

If interested, talk to Paul Mimura.

# *Celebrate the Holiday in Song!*



## **SINGERS WANTED**

For

## **NORTH SHORE HOLIDAY CHORUS**

Men of high school age or older who like to sing are invited to join members of the Shoreliner Chorus (North Shore Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society/SPEBSQSA) in performing holiday music during November and December 2004.

Music will be available. Rehearsals are every Wednesday, October 13 through December 15 (except November 24), starting 7:45 p.m. at Elliott Hall, Presbyterian Home, 3131 Simpson Street (Golf Road), Evanston. Participation is free.

Performances will be scheduled throughout Evanston and possibly in other North Shore suburbs; dates and locations will be announced as they are confirmed. Grand finale: Carol around the kettle for Salvation Army, Saturday, December 18, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Jewel Foods, 2485 Howard Street, Evanston.

For information, call Joseph Schlesinger at 847/328-0921 or e-mail [zinger99@juno.com](mailto:zinger99@juno.com) (backup: [schlesmail@yahoo.com](mailto:schlesmail@yahoo.com)).