



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!)

January 2003

28 Members

Volume 31, Issue 1

Many things are going on at North Shore Chapter, but our most important project right now is preparation for Singing Valentines, a key program for our first quarter of 2003.

As Kevin Jones unfolds the plans for this year's effort, let's all give him as much support as we can.

This venture can be a real moneymaker for our chapter and terrific fun for all who participate.

Remien Wins Buckley Award

Bill Remien has been chosen by members of North Shore Chapter as the recipient of the **Tom Buckley** Barbershopper of the Year Award for 2002, in recognition of his many contributions to our chapter in the past year.

A member of North Shore Chapter and of SPEBSQSA since 1975, Bill has served in most chapter offices, chaired numerous committees, and represented us as district delegate. He is the Lead Section Leader, sings lead with the **North Shore Four**, and typifies the barbershop spirit in his readiness to sing in a pickup quartet at any time.

Bill and his wife Marilyn have hosted many chapter social events, not to mention innumerable Board and committee meetings, and both have shown their support for our group in many ways. Whenever he has seen a job that had to be done, Bill has never hesitated to do it or find a willing volunteer to do it.

Bill has not only been a constant booster for chapter involvement, he has also encouraged Shoreliners' participation in district activities, such as conventions and IDAH. We salute our 2002 Barbershopper of the Year: Bill Remien.

Entertainment Sales: It All Adds Up

North Shore members did a good job selling *Entertainment 2003* coupon books, according to Chairman **Pete Brandt**.

To date, we have sold a total of 66 books (compared to 57 sold in 2001-02). This year the books were priced at \$20 each, a savings of \$5 over the previous year's price, but the chapter's rebate per book sold dropped from \$5 to \$4. Our chapter's gross sales so far are \$1,320, and our net profit is \$264. In 2002, net income from \$1,425 in gross sales was \$285. In addition, thanks to the members who made cash contributions in lieu of selling books.

Individuals who still want to sell or buy books to benefit the chapter this year should talk to Pete right away.

Annual Dinner Was Tops!

By all measures, the North Shore Chapter Annual Dinner and Installation of Officers was a rousing success.

The turnout was impressive: 25 members, family, and guests shared an evening of celebration at Hackney's on Lake. In addition, **John Cain**, our chapter counsellor, was on hand to swear in the new officers, and **Aces High**, current Illinois District Quartet Champions, provided their share of barbershop thrills.

The **Tom Buckley** Award was presented for the first time in 14 years, and a feeling of optimism pervaded the room as our chapter formally launched a new year of fun and fellowship.

Thanks go to **Bill Remien** for planning and coordinating a memorable and enjoyable kickoff to 2003.

SINGING
VALENTINES



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CHAPTER OFFICERS

President:
Joseph Schlesinger — 847/328-0921
V.P. Membership & Chapter Development:
Noble LeHew — 847/966-5412
V.P. Music & Performance:
Bill Remien — 847/864-8753
Secretary: Phil Schwimmer — 847/298-4283
Treasurer: Edward Price — 773/334-1419
Immediate Past President:
Bill Remien — 847/864-8753

Bulletin Editor:
Joseph Schlesinger
1570 Oak Avenue, #416
Evanston, IL 60201
phone: 847/328-0921
e-mail: zinger99@juno.com
(backup: schlesmail@yahoo.com)

Rag Deadline: Second Wednesday of Every Month

Board Meetings: First Sunday of each month.
The February Board meeting will be held at 7:45 p.m.
Sunday, Feb. 2, at **Phil Schwimmer's** home,
3432 Salem Walk E., #AG, Northbrook. All chapter
members are welcome.

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

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 ■ **Help fund your district's future!** IDEA
 ■ (the Illinois District Endowment Assurance)
 ■ can always use your support. Find out
 ■ more on the Illinois District Web Site (www.harmonize.ws/ill) or call IDEA Executive
 ■ Director **Jim Graham** at 217/367-8888.
 ■

"From the Top"

What an exciting year this promises to be for North Shore Chapter!

We're poised for growth, for musical improvement, and for fun singing, socializing, and spreading the joy of barbershop.

One ambitious project you've heard me talk about is Barbershop Day in Evanston. This will be something new for us and, at least for the coming year, will take the place of our annual show. Barbershop Day will be an opportunity to increase public awareness of barbershop harmony, in conjunction with Arts Week in Evanston during October.

The possibilities include a parade of Chicago-area quartets, an open-house chapter meeting, special **Shoreliner Chorus** performances . . . maybe even something silly like a quartet-a-thon in a bathtub in Fountain Square.

I am looking for members to volunteer to serve on a planning committee for this event. We need to start planning now, so that everything will be in place by the time October rolls around. (Spring contest isn't really next week—it just seems that way.)

COMING EVENTS

North Shore Chapter:

Every Wednesday night—**Informal Guest Night—BRINGASINGA!**

Sun., 1/19-Sun., 1/26—**SPEBSQSA International Midwinter Convention**—Albuquerque, N.M.

Fri., 2/7 and Sat., 2/8—**IDAH (Illinois District Academy of Harmony)**—Springfield.

Fri., 4/25-Sun., 4/27—**Illinois District Spring Convention**—Peoria.

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

Elsewhere:

Fri., 1/17—**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).

Sun., 2/9—"Young Men in Harmony" **Boys High School Quartet and Ensemble Contest**—1 p.m. at Barrington H.S., 616 W. Main St., Barrington. Hosted by Arlington Heights Chapter. **FREE!!** Open to the public. For more information, call **Jack Musich** at 847/255/0589.

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



Add to this the other activities that are keeping us busy—Singing Valentines, contest rehearsal, coaching sessions (yes, we're planning some of those, too, in March)—and you'll see why we urge all members to pitch in and be part of the action. With everything we're doing, why would anyone want to miss a meeting?

—**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.

Your colleagues at Illinois District are busily encouraging you and other Barbershoppers to attend IDAH (Illinois District Academy of Harmony).

IDAH 2003 will be held in Springfield over the weekend of Feb. 8 and 9.

See the Illinois District Web site (www.harmonize.ws/ILL) for more details, or get information from Bill Remien.

The district has been extending the deadline for discount registration fees, but that will last only so long—so let's act now.

District Directory Now Online

The 2003 Illinois District Directory is now available through the Internet. It is located on the Illinois District Web site (www.harmonize.ws/ill), in a manner of speaking. According to Webmaster **Daniel Garcia**, the Web site is the directory.

To explain: all the contents of what was formerly the printed version of the district directory are located on the district Web site. They're just not necessarily located in one place.

On the district home page, there is a menu down the left side; click on "Information" in that menu, and a pop-up menu will appear containing the following items:

- Chapters
- Quartets
- District Officers
- Committees
- Judges
- Past Presidents

These items replace corresponding sections of the old-format directory. Past district champion quartets are listed under QCA; dates for conventions are shown in the

IMPORTANT: In order to safeguard chapter officers' privacy, addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses are NOT shown for public access. This information, however, is readily available to all members of SPEBSQSA.

The only way to access this information is to log in BEFORE using the directory by entering your member number and your password. This is the same procedure used to access the Members Section of the SPEBSQSA Web site.

Therefore, if you do not have a password, you will need to obtain one via either the Society's Web site (www.spebsqsa.org) or the toll-free phone number for Harmony Hall (800/876-SING).

We will try to print out a limited number of hard copies of the directory for our technologically challenged members. The rest of you can get them at your convenience. Because the district database is linked to the Society's database, the information is constantly kept current.

Chapter Charity Report

Normally I send in the Campbell's, etc., labels to Heartspring once a quarter; but because of two surgeries and hospitalizations, this time there is a bit more accumulation—I believe, August through December. Anyway, we sent in 70 labels this time, with the following thanks, in ascending order:

2 - Jack Cutrera
18 - yours truly
20 - Pete Brandt

And with a drumroll, the winner is . . .

30 - my friend, Stan Sclove

Hope to be back with you all soon.

—**Phil Schwimmer**
Charity Chairman

North Shore Chapter, SPEBSQSA, supports the following charities:

HARMONY FOUNDATION
Sing...for life

 **EISMA**
Evanston In-School Music Association

Committee Chairs Named

We are pleased to announce that we have filled two important North Shore Chapter chairmanships.

Rick Prieto succeeds **Noble LeHew** as our Sunshine Chairman. It will be his responsibility to observe members' birthdays and wedding anniversaries on behalf of the chapter and act as the chapter contact with hospitalized or seriously ill members.

Kevin Jones has consented to chair our 2003 Singing Valentines program. He will be organizing volunteers to sing in quartets on Feb. 14, answering incoming calls and orders, and generally coordinating singers with appointments to sing. It's a mammoth task, so let's be prepared to offer Kevin whatever help he asks for.

We are still looking for a Quartet Activities Chairman. See **Bill Remien** if you'd like to fill this position.

Kettle Sing Aids Salvation Army

The **Shoreliner Chorus'** 21st annual sing around the kettle for Salvation Army garnered \$216.33 in donations, according to Evanston Corps' commanders, **Majors Alberto and Selicia Rapley**. That total is down just a bit from the \$241.32 we collected in 2001, but up from totals received in the years immediately preceding.

Majors Rapley acknowledged that more timely kettle setup would probably have increased contributions during our time slot and promised to address the situation this coming year. They thanked us again for our continuing support of Salvation Army.

P. O. Box 741
Evanston, IL 60204

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The North Shore Harmony Rag • January 2003

Have we forgotten to mention our preparation for spring contest? No, indeed. From now through April 26, we will be polishing our contest set. Our first goal is to be off paper by tonight's rehearsal.

Latest News from SPEBSQSA

Sponsor a collegiate quartet

Preparations are again under way throughout the Society for the MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest. The finals are scheduled for Friday, July 4, at the Montreal international convention.

Each year we have young men who want to compete but have difficulty understanding the style. They often have no one to turn to. We want *you* to be that resource. More and more chapters are becoming proactive in assisting CBQC quartets in their area. They are doing this through both coaching and financial aid. Seek these quartets out or, even better, help get one started in your area.

Find all the information you need at www.spebsqsa.org/college. If you have any further questions, call **Jim DeBusman** at Harmony Hall 800/876-7464, x8566 or **Linda Neuenfeld**, x8591.

What about learning tapes?

Most Barbershoppers are aware there are learning tapes available for most of the more recent published songs.

But what about music from the Legal/Unpublished files? Are there tapes available for this music? No, there are no learning tapes available for any of the 3,000 plus arrangements in the Legal/Unpublished files. There are, however, several men throughout the Society who

make learning tapes for quartets and choruses.

A list of some of those gentlemen is available from **Nancy Foris** at Society headquarters. Reach Nancy at 800/876-7464, x8472, or e-mail to nforis@spebsqsa.org.

—from *SPEBSQSA Update*
Reed Sampson, editor

GOOD POSTURE



**IS
SOUND ADVICE!**