

55 YEARS *The*



Undertone



What's Happening in the Burlington, Vermont, Chapter

Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet singing in America, Inc.

Member of the great Northeastern District since 1947.

We meet Tuesdays - 7:00 p.m. South Burlington High School, South Burlington, Vermont - Call (802) 985-8714 for Information.

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66 Bacon Drive, Shelburne, VT 05482

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A-Chording 2 your President: "Get involved, it's your chapter!"

by **John Villeré**, President

I'd like to share a little more about my COTS experience earlier this month. Chapter Officer Training for Secretaries and Treasurers contains a lot of "Nuts and Bolts" information about the exact processes that are involved in fulfilling the position. Chapter President training deals with such topics as Leadership Skills, Chapter Goals, Problem Solving and Board of Directors. Try getting a good handle on those subjects. It's as simple as holding on to a raw egg -- without the shell.

The Presidents' trainer conducted an interesting exercise. We were given a list of nine common chapter activities and asked to rank them in order of importance to ourselves. We were then asked to re-rank them in order of what we expected would be the priorities of the chapter as a whole. On my own list 33% were the same, 44% were only one ranking apart while 22% were as much as five rankings apart. Many of the trainees had much broader discrepancies. And remember that those were our very own numbers.

We can only guess what the results would be if the actual memberships were polled.

My point is this: the board of Directors and I need your input. Chapter leadership, like many of the politicians we all observe, default to agendas that conform to our own individual priorities. At best, we will give substantial weight to what we assume the chapter membership, as a whole might want. But without your input, we are only guessing.

If you care, share. The board's members-at-large are there to represent the membership. Share your thoughts and feelings with them, preferably in writing. Better yet, become a board member. We still have unfilled chapter officer positions as well as the potential for additional active members-at-large.

Get involved. Contribute your thoughts, your time, and your energy. Our organization will become a more satisfying experience for your efforts. Harmony is more than just a way of singing; it can be a way of life. **Do**, as well as **sing**, your part.

Valentines Day Coming fast!

by **Jerry Walter**

Please be advised, Saturday is the last day on which we can guarantee delivery of a Singing Valentine to your loved one.

Valentines Day is next Thursday, February 14, and we need Sunday to get organized and to assign deliveries to quartets. Speaking of which, we still need commitments from several players.

As of this writing I have three quartets, one from the Champlain Echoes, and two from our chapter. Please let me know tonight if you can be available to sing in the morning or afternoon on Thursday.

Again this year we will be accepting orders throughout the day on Thursday and quartets will be assigned on an as available basis. Please turn in any orders you have as soon as possible.

Please accept my apologies, but my real work interfered with my barbershop activities today preventing additional articles from being printed.

Jerry Walter, Editor

DIRECTOR'S

C O R N E R Are you an everyday barbershopper?

by **Greg Morrill**,
Musical Director

While the weather impacted our turn-out at the special rehearsal with Jim DeBusman last week, those who did brave the weather got some one-on-one vocal coaching! I was amazed at how quickly he made some dramatic changes in a couple of guys. Jim is a very talented musician and voice teacher. I'm sorry the weather didn't cooperate to give everyone a chance to meet him. However, if we had a full turn-out, the evening would have been different with more ensemble coaching and less individual attention. So those who did benefit can thank the weather for providing such an opportunity!

Now how can those individuals retain what Jim was telling them? This is a specific example of a general problem we have in this hobby. Whether it's individual coaching sessions or attending classes such as those held in Montreal this past weekend or even our weekly rehearsals, how do we retain as much as possible so that we can progress and not regress? If those individuals who got coached by Jim sat down 24 hours later and

wrote down what Jim had told them, they would probably be able to remember 75% of what he said. If they waited 48 hours and then tried to write it down, they would remember less than half of what he said! And if they waited a week, they'd be lucky to remember 10%! And notice I say, "Write it down!" because unless we write it down there is a compounding effect: if I remember 75% in 24 hours, then 24 hours later I'll remember 75% of the 75% I remembered the day before!

To combat this, we need to make Barbershop part of our everyday life and not just something we do on Tuesdays. As anyone who took music lessons knows: it's hard to improve between lessons if you don't practice! We've set objectives for singing better as a chorus which translates into each individual singing better. I recommend that each of us try to find some time in our busy daily schedule to review and practice barbershop! Review what we did at the last rehearsal, review the music learning schedule, practice good singing habits, practice with your learning tapes! The top choruses are made up of people who make this level of commitment. There is no shortcut! If we want to be a top chorus, each of us will have to make the commitment.

20 Week Club Results

12/25	3	Marion Beaulieu	Dan Venditti
01/01	33	Carol Henson	Dick Labrecque
01/08	247	Bob Bouvier	Dick Labrecque
01/15	75	Donna Walter	Jerry Walter
01/22	80	Christina Gonillo	Ed Bechtel
01/31		To be drawn on 02/05.	



February 14 (Thursday)	- Singing Valentines
March 2 (Saturday)	- Spring Workshop Details TBA
April 19-20 (Fri. - Sat.)	- Division Contest Manchester, Connecticut
May 3 (Friday)	- 20 Week Club Banquet South Burlington K of C
May 25 (Saturday)	- Montreal's Annual Show
June 1 (Saturday)	- 2002 Annual Show College Days featuring Michigan Jake
July-August	- Vermont Expos singouts
September	- Annual Retreat
October 25-26 (Fri. - Sat.)	- NED Fall Convention Lake Placid, New York

Jerry Walter

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**IT'S GREAT TO BE A
BARBERSHOPPER!**