



# 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.

Jerry Walter, Editor (802) 985-8714  
66 Bacon Drive, Shelburne, VT 05482

March 12, 2002  
Volume 18, Number 8

## The tax man cometh – Just what is deductible?

From Reed Sampson

Some things you do as a Barbershopper are tax deductible. If you itemize you deductions, you may be entitled to include some expense for barbershop activity.

If you had verifiable out-of-pocket expense in connection with a chapter duty as an elected or appointed officer or board member, or, if you sang in one or more local shows, such expenses as travel (14¢ per mile, or actual cost) telephone, postage, parking, etc., for which you were not reimbursed are deductible.

Expense of travel to chapter meetings is not deductible unless you hold an office directly involved in conduct of the meeting.

A different rule applies to travel away-from-home. Transportation, meals and lodging may only be deducted if there is no significant element of personal pleasure, recreation or vacation in the trip. If golf games, sightseeing, and similar activities heavily overbalance singing and participation in meetings as a duty for the away-from-home expenses, these expenses would not be deductible.

The cost of tuition at schools is specifically barred as a deduction as well as dues.

If you use these deductions, here is the procedure. With Form 1040, use Schedule A, under "gifts to charity, other than cash or check," enter the total of your out-of-pocket expense. (Remember the words "non-reimbursed" and "verifiable.") If over \$500 attach the appropriate schedule and categorize the expenses by

groups (lodging, transportation, etc.), captioned "Expenses incurred in connection with contributions of services to an organization classed as exempt under Section 501 (c) (3)." Then state the name and location of your chapter and the full name of the Society.

Your chapter should have a list of events that are applicable to this expense tabulation.

Your cash contributions to the chapter or the Society or to Harmony Foundation Inc. (for the General Fund to support our service projects or to the Endowment Program) are directly deductible. Include this figure in Schedule A, under "gifts to charity, cash or check." Be sure to retain verifying records such as appointment books, calendars with notes, etc.

Additional information is available at: <http://www.spebsqsa.org/Operations/taxdeduct.htm>

## Curling anyone?

By Bob Grevatt

Well you've seen it on TV.....talked about it briefly at rehearsal.....now, there is an opportunity for you to participate! Yes that's right....participate!

On Saturday March 30th ( I know, I know, it's the same day as the planned one day retreat and Easter Sunday is the next day, but one can't have everything! ) arrangements have been made for the Bedford Curling Club in Bedford, Quebec (about 5.5 miles north of the Canadian

See **Curling!** page 2

## Contest travel Plans needed

by Your BoD

Due to the limited number of singers expected for the Mountain Division Chorus Contest this coming April 20 in Manchester, Connecticut, the chapter will not be providing a bus. The board has been thinking of using rented vans for transportation, since the distance is about 250 miles at an estimated **four and one half hours** driving time.

The schedule for the contests will be Division and International Preliminary Quartet Semifinals Contest – 7:00 p.m. Friday April 19; Chorus Contest – Noon, Saturday April 20, International Preliminary Quartet Contest finals – 7:00 p.m. Saturday April 20.

In order to plan for the number and scheduling of vans, we need to know the travel plans of each attendee. We will contact you.

We expect to have at least two quartets in the Friday Contest and would like to leave Burlington between noon and 1:00 on Friday. We can carry ten persons in a 15 passenger van at less than \$10 per person per day.

Saturday we will probably have to leave before 7:00 a.m. and expect to return following the contest without waiting for the evening quartet finals.

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## The Undertone

A publication of the Burlington, Vermont Chapter of SPEBSQSA, Inc., a non-profit, charitable and educational organization, published each Tuesday on which a chapter meeting is scheduled.

Unless accompanied by a byline, all articles are written by the editor, who assumes all responsibility for accuracy and content. Articles represent the opinions of their authors and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the members or officers of the chapter. To the extent permitted by space, all written communications received by the editor will be published. The editor, reserves the right to edit all copy for punctuation and length.

Deadline for copy is 9:00 p.m. Monday preceding each issue. Copy is accepted in the following order of preference: e-mail, IBM compatible 3.5 diskettes - WordPerfect or most any other word processor, ASCII text; binary files in the above formats by modem to editor's home phone; oral dictation by phone and, of course, hard copy.

E-Mail: JerWalter@hotmail.com

### Burlington Chapter Board of Directors

|                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| President                   | John Villeré<br>802 859-3403   |
| VP Development (Membership) | Dick Labrecque<br>802 864-5439 |
| VP Music & Performance      | Charlie Church<br>802 879-1981 |
| Quartet Vice President      |                                |

|            |                              |
|------------|------------------------------|
| Secretary  | Dave Merrill<br>802 658-2531 |
| Treasurer  | Denis Brochu<br>802 860-6465 |
| Program VP | Gary Brunell<br>802 660-8492 |

|                          |              |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Members at Large         |              |
| Al Carpenter             | Dale Higgs   |
| Serge Rizzo              | Jerry Walter |
| Immediate Past-President | Gary Brunell |

### Additional Officers

|                                   |                |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Music Director                    | Greg Morrill   |
| Assistant Director                | Chuck Laufer   |
| Chorus Coaches                    |                |
| Jay Butterfield                   | Steve Janes    |
| Brian O'Leary                     | Steve Plumb    |
| Karen Rourke                      | Steve Tramac   |
| Learning Tape/quartet Coordinator | vacant         |
| 2002 Show Chairman                | Dick Labrecque |
| Harmony Foundation Chairman       | Dale Higgs     |
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| 20 Week Club Chairman             | Ed Bechtel     |
| Uniform Chairman                  | Tif Crowell    |
| Booking Agent                     | Al Carpenter   |

|                            |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|
| Section Leaders            |                     |
| Tenor - Chuck Laufer       | Lead - Denis Brochu |
| Baritone - Reid Allen      | Bass - Jerry Walter |
| Librarian                  | John Zweighaft      |
| Lighting/Sound Coordinator |                     |
| Chorus Manager             | Don Pierce          |
| Package Show Producer      | Charlie Church      |

### Chapter Barbershopper of the year 2001

Ed Bechtel

### Division Barbershopper of the year 2000

Charlie Church

## Curling! from page 1

(Line) to be available for members, their wives, girl friends, significant others, friends, etc., to come and see what this sport is all about.

Anyone who wants to participate can do so. All you need is the following; casual clothes – in case you slip on the ice ( jeans are acceptable ), a pair of sneakers ( or something similar, but not hard soles ), a heavy sweater and/or a warm but lightweight jacket - remember you will be sweeping the ice, and gloves if you feel they are necessary for your comfort.

Arrangements have been made for brooms, sliders and grippers to be available at the club.

While the initial response has been positive, “the more the merrier.” However, for those who do not want to “get on the ice” or feel they cannot, come on along anyway and see what the game is all about. It’s a great spectator sport as well and there is plenty of space to watch the action!

There will be a small charge to offset the rental fee for the club.

## The ABCs of Curling

by Bob Grevatt

For those who will be participating on March 30/02, the following may provide an insight to the game of curling.

The game is played by a two teams of four, consisting of a lead, a second, a third and a skip (captain).

Each player gets to throw two rocks, or stones, in each period, or end. A game consists of eight ends and lasts approximately two hours.

One player releases the stone and two others sweep the ice in front of the stone. The friction created by sweeping melts the ice, allowing the stone to slide further. It also

helps to keep it on line.

As in darts the object of the exercise is to get your playing piece (read stone) closest to the target, in this case referred to as the house.

You can bump your opponents out of position by carefully ramming their stones out of a favourable spot or curling yours into the house. After each player has thrown his two stones, the team with its stones closest to the centre wins the points. A measuring stick is often used to determine who is the closest.

The house (at both ends of the ice) consists of three multi-coloured circles, an outer circle of 12 feet, inside that a circle of 8 feet, inside that a circle of 4 feet and inside that what is called "the button". Traditional curling stones are cut from Scottish granite and weigh 42 pounds each. Do not attempt to lift them! You can hurt yourself but more importantly, if dropped, they will damage the ice which will take days to repair. More details will be forthcoming on the 30th.

Meanwhile, directions to the club are as follows: take 89 north, after crossing the border (make sure that you have some form of photo identification - it may not be needed but then again it just might be), proceed on 133 to the junction of 202 - approximately 5 to 6 miles. For Bedford turn right on 202 and proceed for 4 to 5 miles to the sign indicating the town limits. After passing this sign turn right on Rocheleau (the very first street) then right on Marziali and proceed to the curling club which is in the arena. There are also signs indicating the arena (a skate) and the curling club (name only) on the street signs.

I look forward to seeing you all there! Need a few more of each part as well – don't disappoint!

## **A chording 2 your president – Jim DeBusman says it like it is!**

Jerry Walter invited someone to writ a review of our training session with Jim Debusman. Since no-one else responded I decided to share what I could. I can't pretend to be talented enough to give a reasonable critique of specific aspects of the training. I can tell you that the session, as a whole was both informative and entertaining. I did have the benefit of getting some of the session recorded. So I will share some excerpts. For those who were there, it should be a bit of a refresher. For those who were not there, let your imaginations go!

**“Where is the firmness? Give me firmness.**

**Where has that been hiding?**

**The bottom line is he did two things very well that time:**

**First of all he opened his mouth -- his tongue was down**

**The other thing he did, he put breath under it.**

**God, you're going to have a lead section to die for if these guys remember what to do.**

**Would you please breath right?  
“I will try.”**

**No, No, you will learn. You will change old habits.**

**Okay, Assume the position.**

**Hello... there's a voice you haven't used before.**

**Do you feel that voice? Do you like that voice? That's a new voice, isn't it?**

**When we get ourselves in vocal stress, when we have colds or we have nasal problems or whatever it may be what we'll do, we'll tighten up, tense up and we'll just exacerbate the whole problem. So what we gotta do is we gotta say okay I need to relax ... and do what's right! (Ask yourself) Am I breathing correct? Am I singing without tension? Is my body in proper alignment? Am I buoyant? Am I ready to sing correctly?**

**Now talk that way without push. Do you hear the quality? See what I'm saying, is that part of the vocal stress that you have in your voice is because of the way you talk normally.**

**The point is what you're doing is pushing, not releasing. You need to get your voice out of your throat. You need to focus on support like you do when you sing correctly.**

**And when you're in that position... remember when I told this young man over here what he needed to do in the shower?  
... same thing.**

**That 'G' is pretty hard for you to get, isn't it? ... That's what I thought... Here's your tenor! I think we have a bit of a gold mine just waiting to open up ... Now would you like to support it?**

**See, right away there's tension... This is the problem with the lip shapes. I believe you need to provide a bell for the horn, but I don't think lips should be absolutely so locked in, like we must look exactly like Bill Meyers.**

**The mouth shapes are okay but ... we can't be absolute. There's tension in his lips. Would you please just provide a bell for the horn?**

**You have to practice. Five minutes every day, you need to practice. If you do it five minutes every day, in four to six weeks it will be habit. If you do it once a week, it will be a year - your choice.**

**By the way with TMJ, the way to compensate for it is you only open it up as much as you feel safe to, but you compensate by making sure you put more air out and make sure that your throat and what space you have open with your mouth is really open.”**

All the above quotes were part of the individual training. I loved it! One of the very most important things Jim shared with us was his experience of first getting involved with barbershopping. He stressed that he probably would have bagged out on going to the first rehearsal he was invited to, but the person who invited him insisted on picking him up. It was not that Jim's home was on his way.

Jim later learned that it was quite a bit out of his way. But by picking Jim up - not just the first night - but for the first six weeks, he was instrumental in turning what would have been a no show, into what Jim is to barbershopping today.

Jim urges us to do the same! And, so do I!

[Recalled from memory by:]

**John Villeré, President**

## DIRECTOR'S

### CORNER 95% of life is showing up!

by **Greg Morrill**,  
Musical Director

[The following is dated 3/5/02 ]

I was extremely disappointed in our attendance on February 26! I felt like packing it in right after warm-up! During the winter I know there will be weather-impacted Tuesdays where attendance will be low, but last Tuesday was warmer than many nights in the summer!

The effects of low attendance are many:

! it's difficult to do ensemble coaching because we don't have a representative ensemble,

! it's difficult to have section rehearsals because some sections are so depleted,

! those in attendance aren't motivated to work hard because we don't have a representative ensemble,

! those who are absent not only miss whatever we do at that rehearsal, but will lose some things from previous rehearsals,

! guests aren't very impressed with a skeleton turn-out, and

! your director becomes unmotivated since he'll just end up repeating the same things next week and the next and the next.

We talk big about wanting to sing better, but unless we back that talk up with some action, it's just talk! The easiest action we have at our disposal is to show up!

We can't move forward with attendance like last weeks. If this chorus is important to you, if having this chorus sing better is important to you, if having this chorus survive is important to you, I urge you to make Tuesday attendance a priority!

## Thanks for showing up!

Whew! Last week's attendance was a whole lot better than the week before! And as a consequence I felt we made some good progress. However we still have our work cut out for us.

Our all-day coaching session with Dan Signor is Saturday, March 30th. That leaves just two Tuesdays after tonight to get Mr Touchdown to a point where we can be coached. While last week was encouraging, there's still a lot to be done. You can help this along by listening to your learning tape every chance you get!

And since we're talking about the 30th, let's try to have good attendance at the coaching session. One of the reasons we rescheduled it was to improve attendance. SO make sure your calendars are marked and that you'll be there. After the session you can proceed north-of-the-border for some curling with Bob Grevatt as your host.

## Early Singout next Tuesday

Don't forget, next Tuesday we have a Singout at Country Park on Hinesberg Road, South Burlington. It is located just south of Kennedy Boulevard and Hinesberg Road. It is the second entry on the right heading south. There is a cutout in the curb lane for making a right turn. We sing there almost every year when we go Caroling.

Warm up at 6:30, sing 7:00 to 7:30, return to the high school by 7:45. Uniform is khaki pants, red white shirt and green sweater.

**Board of Directors  
meeting  
tomorrow 7:30  
Shaw's Supermarket!**

## 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 | 211 Adam Socinski    | Dan Blouin     |
| 02/05 | 244 Matthew Higgs    | Dale Higgs     |
| 02/12 | 175 Conrad Hazelton  | Charlie Church |
| 02/19 | 157 Ray Ouimette     | Charlie Church |
| 02/26 | 70 Becky Senesac     | Dan Venditti   |
| 03/05 | 81 Don Goliber       | Dan Blouin     |



|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| March 13<br>(Wednesday)        | - Board of Directors<br>7:30 Shaw's Colchester                |
| March 19<br>(Tuesday)          | - Early Singout Country Park<br>Warm up 6:30                  |
| March 30<br>(Saturday)         | - Spring Workshop NEW DATE!<br>Details TBA                    |
| April 19-20<br>(Fri. - Sat.)   | - Division Contest<br>Manchester, Connecticut                 |
| May 3<br>(Friday)              | - 20 Week Club Banquet<br>South Burlington K of C             |
| May 25<br>(Saturday)           | - Montreal's Annual Show                                      |
| June 1<br>(Saturday)           | - 2002 Annual Show<br>College Days featuring<br>Michigan Jake |
| July-August                    | - Vermont Expos singouts                                      |
| September                      | - Annual Retreat  |
| October 25-26<br>(Fri. - Sat.) | - NED Fall Convention<br>Lake Placid, New York                |

Jerry Walter

## The Undertone

66 Bacon Drive  
Shelburne, VT 05482

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