



The

Undertone



What's Happening in the Burlington, Vermont, Chapter

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

Member of the great Northeastern District since 1947.

We meet Tuesdays 7:00 p.m. at St. Francis Xavier School, Winooski, Vermont -- Call 802 985-8714

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U.S. Supreme Court kills “men only” status of groups!

by Jerry Walter, Editor

WASHINGTON, DC -- April 1

In a landmark decision, the United States Supreme Court ruled today that “men only” organizations are unconstitutional under the 14th Amendment to the Constitution.

The decision follows a series of “equal rights for women” cases where women have been given more and more rights, so that sexual bias, like racial and age discrimination has fallen away.

The 7-2 ruling was read by Justice **Ruth Ginsburg**, herself an expert on sex-biased discrimination, holding that sex-biased discrimination is not avoided by “separate but equal” arguments much as was proposed prior to **Brown v. Board of Education** in 1954. No longer will women sit on the sidelines of organizations such as sports teams and barbershopping organizations, long hold outs in the battle of the sexes.

Courts have long feared attacking “men only” organizations based on the lack of influence exercised by women in high places. Now that the sex barrier has been broken on the U.S. Supreme Court for over 15 years since the appointment of Justice **Sandra Day**

O'Connor, “It’s time that the barrier was removed entirely,” Ginsburg said.

Officials at SPEBSQSA were shocked, indicating, “What else do they want? We let them coach us, we let them write arrangements for us, we recently approved to allow them to direct us, but now we will get beat in contests by them! It’s not fair!”

[This has already happened in last year’s **Buckeye International** competition four of the top five choruses were **Sweet Adelines**, Pasadena’s Verdugo Hills Showtime Chorus walked off as chorus contest winners. SPEBSQSA’s **Heart of America**, Kansas City, finished third. Ed.]

Historically, men’s barbershopping organizations have been made particularly difficult for women to breach due to perceived vocal limitations in women’s voices, forcing them to use non-standard arrangements as well as using C-C pitch pipes etc.

It is ironic that some of the best men’s arrangements were made by women and many men arrangers have arranged for women. More on this on 4/1/04.

Division Contests Friday & Saturday

Coming up next, is our Western Regional Quartet and Chorus contests for both the Yankee and Mountain Divisions to be held at Watervliet High School in Watervliet, New York. See last week’s **The Undertone** for directions.

Green Mountain Chorus members should know the following information.

Uniform is black tuxedo pants, White tuxedo shirt, paisley bow tie and vest, black shoes and socks.

Since we sing first at 12:00 noon, warm up is at 10:30 sharp in our assigned room at the Watervliet High School. The driving time from Burlington is estimated to be at least **three hours**, so you might shoot for an arrival time of 10:00.

There will be no photographs, but there will be a video.

Lake Effect Harmony is singing Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. sharp. You should be able to drive down and back on Friday to cheer them on.

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2001 Northeastern District Bulletin of the Year

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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.

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Division Barbershopper of the year 2000
Charlie Church

Contest stuff

1. Watervliet High School will be open to competitors at 5pm on Fri., 4/4 and at 9AM on Sat., 4/5. On Fri. night, we'll start at 6:45pm with "Dented Fenders"; the Quartet Contest will follow at 7pm. On Sat., we'll start at 11:45AM with the "Rensselyrics"; the Chorus Contest will follow at 12NOON; the VLQ contest will follow the Chorus Contest.

2. Competitors should arrive/park at Watervliet High School by 6:30pm on Fri., 4/4, because there is a HS dance starting at 7pm (in the gymnasium (which is far from the Auditorium we're using).

3. Each competitor's name will be posted on the wall outside their assigned room.

4. There will NOT be any commercial photographer.

5. There will NOT be a "FINAL WARM-UP" room; all competitors need to do their final rehearsing in their own assigned dressing/warm-up room.

6. Competitors will be led from the "QUIET(Band)ROOM" through 2 doors INTO THE AUDITORIUM AT "AUDIENCE-LEFT", immediately turn left, go UP FIVE STEPS, and turn right onto the stage AT "STAGE-RIGHT" and BEHIND THE CURTAIN.

7. Competitors will EXIT AT "STAGE-LEFT" turning immediately right & down two steps, to exit through the Auditorium, or preferably, to join the audience and enjoy the rest of the contest.

8. For the quartets on Fri., THE CURTAIN will be used, and there may be AN ACOUSTIC SHELL (not yet confirmed). For Sat. Chorus and VLQ Contest, the CURTAIN WILL BE USED, and there will not be any acoustic shell.

9. On Fri., our MC will be Alan Lamson.

10. On Sat., Ken Hughes has arranged for a local coed collegiate a cappella group (RPI's "RENSSELYRICS") to be our micesters; our MC will be Greg Caetano

11. COFFEE & DONUTS, SANDWICHES & SODA, BOTTLED WATER & JUICE, etc. will be available (for a donation), at 9AM for "breakfast" and 11AM "for lunch" on Sat. ONLY in the cafeteria on the lower level. Food will NOT be available on site on Friday (except for the Judges.)

12. There will at least TWO AFTERGLOWS after the Friday night Quartet Contest. All quartets whether competing or not are welcome to perform at either or both Fri. night afterglow sites.

13. AFTERGLOW #1 at "ON THE GREEN GOLF CENTER" (& SPORTS PUB), 183 Troy-Schenectady Road (Rt. 2), Latham- TEL: 786-9718. Their Kitchen & Bar will be open 'til

4AM. TV's (for NCAA basketball) are at the bar; there's a pool table on site. Our Afterglow is in a separate room, away from the Bar. - Directions from Watervliet High School parking: head downhill on Hillside Drive for 2 blocks; then turn LEFT onto 12th Ave. for one short block; at the traffic light, turn LEFT onto 19th St./Rt. 2("Troy-Schenectady Road"), going uphill and for 9/10 of a mile to "ON THE GREEN GOLF CENTER" (& SPORTS PUB); their parking lot is behind the pub; their driveway/entrance is before the pub, just past the Car Wash on the right/northside of Rt. 2 ("Troy-Schenectady Road") which is also the road back to the Clarion (Headquarters Hotel), where the Quartet Evals will be held in the Judges' Rooms.

14. AFTERGLOW #2 - "MALT RIVER BREWING COMPANY" is in Latham Circle MALL - TEL: 786-6258. Their Kitchen will be open until MIDNIGHT (or later if people are still ordering); their bar will be open until 2AM. TV's (for NCAA basketball) are at the bar; pool table is on site. Our Afterglow is in separate room away from the Bar. Directions from Watervliet High School parking: head downhill on Hillside Drive for 2 blocks; then turn LEFT onto 12th Ave. for one short block; at the traffic light, turn LEFT onto 19th St./Rt. 2("Troy-Schenectady Road"), going uphill and for 2.75 miles to Latham Circle; then go 270 degrees around the circle and head South on Rt. 9/New Loudon Road; immediately you'll go past Fleet Bank; take the very next RIGHT into the MALL parking lot; Mall River Brweing Co.'s external entrance is to the right of both the Mall's main entrance & the entrance for the Old Country Buffet.

15. For Upscale Dining, consider:

- CENTURY HOUSE, Eastside of Rt. 9, N of Latham Circle
- LEMON TREE, Westside of Rt. 9, N of Latham Circle
- MILANO, Westside of Rt. 9, South of Latham Circle
- KIRKER's, Eastside of Rt. 9, N of Latham Circle

16. For Moderate Priced Dining, consider:

- DAKOTA, Northside of Troy-Schenectady Road(Rt. 7), just West of Latham Circle
- BENNIGANS, Northside of Troy-Schenectady Rd(Rt. 7), W of Latham Circle & W of Northway(US87)Exit 6, in same parking lot as CLARION Inn
- GROUND ROUND, W-side of Rt. 9 just S of Latham Circle
- 17. For Great Bakery/Cafes & Inexpensive Dining,
- VANILLA BEAN BAKERY/CAFE, N-side of Troy-Schenectady Road(Rt. 7), just W of Latham Circle
- BELLA NAPOLI BAKERY/CAFE, Westside of Rt. 9, S of Latham Circle
- 76 DINER, Westside of Rt. 9, South of Latham Circle
- CIRCLE DINER, just off Latham Circle
- FRIENDLY'S, Eastside of Rt. 9, South of Latham Circle
- OLD COUNTRY BUFFET, in Latham Circle Mall, just S of Latham Circle, enter off Rt. 9, just past Fleet Bank

18. There are many fast food places, STARBUCKS, DUNKIN' DONUTS, MacDonalDs, BOSTON MARKET, KFC, Wendy's, etc. as well as DRUGSTORES (CVS & ECKERT), and SUPERMARKETS (HANNAFORD in Latham Farms and PRICE CHOPPER (Rt. 9, North of Latham Circle), all LOCATED N & S OF LATHAM CIRCLE ALONG Rt. 9.

Singing Valentines update

Total income	\$3,346.00	Each organization gets	\$1,271.33
Expenses	563.33		
Net income	\$2,782.67	Wait until next year!	

Music team report - March

1. The Music Team last met on 3/06/03 at the State complex in Waterbury. The following are salient points from that meeting.

2. Greg Morrill noted that Bill Rashleigh of the International staff had called him looking for a ride for his family of four back to BTV airport from the Montreal Convention. Anyone got space? If so, please let Greg or Charlie know and then contact Bill at International.

3. The Team picked the following new songs for the "Mardi Gras /Jazz / New Orleans" segment of the 2004 Annual Show:

- 1) "Darkness On The Delta" (Society arrangement # 7706)
- 2) "Way Down Yonder in New Orleans" (arrangement by Don Gray)
- 3) "South Rampart Street Parade" (arrangement GMC currently has)
- 4) "The Birth Of The Blues" (arrangement by Don Gray)
- 5) "Basin Street Blues" (Society arrangement # 7353)

In addition, we picked the following songs for inclusion in the above theme:

- 1) "Muskrat Ramble" (current GMC repertoire)
- 2) "Just a Closer Walk With Thee" (current GMC repertoire)
- 3) possibly "When The Saints Go Marching In" - we're looking to see if we can improve on the arrangement the GMC used in the 1993 Annual Show.

We engaged in a preliminary discussion of "Songs of Inspiration" part of the 2004 theme. Board and chapter members with song suggestions should talk to C. Church ASAP.

4. The 2003 Western Regional Contests will be held in Watervliet, NY on April 4/5 - GMC is singing first in the chorus contest which starts at noon on 4/5. Warm-up time = 10:30 sharp unless photos/schedule dictate an earlier time. Uniform = white tux shirt, black tux trousers, black shoes/socks, paisley vest/tie. One should allow a minimum of three hours drive time from Burlington.

5. The Team reviewed the status of the 2003 Annual Show - "A Salute To The Buffalo Bills". Chorus song learning is coming along, albeit slowly. At this point we feel that all the currently planned chorus songs will be included in the show. We've still not heard from Lake Effect Harmony as to their participation in the show. An exciting, fun contest will be held on April 29th to audition quartet songs. Second half chorus songs will be determined at the next Music Team meeting.

6. The Music Team is still looking for a person (could be a member, family member, sig other) to plan/coordinate a 10 to 15 minute "event" at chapter meetings one or two times a month. Please see Charlie Church if you have any interest.

7. One year and five year Music Team goals were deferred until Board of Directors holds its planning session.

8. Selection of 2003 Assistant Section Leaders and Assistant Director(s) was tabled due to time.

9. Date and time of next Music Team meeting will be April 16th at 7:00 p.m. in the Secretary's Conference Room at the State office complex in Waterbury. All are welcome.

Respectfully submitted by:

C. Church
Music & Perf VP, 3/30/03

April 1, 2003

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DIRECTOR'S

Never too late!

by Greg Morrill, Musical Director

This weekend is our division contest and while I hope that doesn't surprise anyone, I know that it has snuck up on us!

Our primary objective in this contest is to qualify for the Northeastern District Contest in the fall. Qualification is based on the points you score and not on any placement. As such, for several years now we have pursued a strategy that doesn't over-emphasize the division contest preferring to put more effort into our fall preparation. I share this to explain the relatively low-key preparation we've done for this contest. We still should want to do the best we can and indeed, we can't just coast to a qualification score! One of the most significant factors on Saturday will be the attitude each of us brings to that stage. If you are confident then you can give 100%+ to your performance. If you are worried (tentative), then you will give less than 100%

I put the word "tentative" there because that's the word Karen used to describe us at the Retreat. If you are unsure or worried about anything related to these two songs you have until Saturday to resolve it.

Once we start warm-up Saturday, you must be able to immerse yourself 100% into the performance. I still remember clearly what Gary Bolles said last Fall: "When you guys make-up your mind to do it, you really sing well."

One final note: we are singing first in the Contest per our request. This enabled CVQ and others who are in the Music Man Production in Barre to join us. We really appreciate their willingness to support the chorus by committing to a very long day! Let's show our support for them by attending their production in Barre!

A note from Pat

by Pat Heise, Chorus Coach

To achieve success you need to rehearse at performance levels giving a 100% effort. As you **bring life to your face and bring life to your breath for singing**, you will **bring life to the song!**

I have seen you achieve high levels of singing and performing but at times you do not sustain it consistently for an entire song or set of songs. You need to consciously raise the consistency of your high level of singing and performing. To achieve success at contest or at your annual show it will be hard if you only sustain your effort at 15% to 20% at rehearsal. The tendency is to perform a slightly higher level than what you rehearse at.

Work done between rehearsals, or the lack thereof, shows in each weeks' rehearsal results. Again, to raise your levels work needs to be done between rehearsals as well. Not just on words and notes but on singing effortlessly, with support and with active face and body involvement.

Saturday you need to break that mold and attempt to raise your effort to a much higher level. You can train for a marathon at 10 miles a day for 6 months and you may finish the marathon on race day but not with any "wizbang" form or time. It's the same with rehearsing. If you don't raise the effort at rehearsal and between rehearsals it will show in your performance.

Surprise us on Saturday and from then on raise you personal rehearsal efforts. You have nothing to loose and guess what? You may like it. Effortless singing is a joy. Go for it — see you Saturday.

20 Week Club Winners

Date	No	Winner	Seller
12/10	219	Deana Higgs	D. Higgs
12/17	101	Murielle Rugg	D. Blouin
1/07	225	Carol Hathaway	E. Bechtel
1/14	136	Virginia Charlotte	D. Labrecque
1/21	129	Arletta Allen	A. Allen
1/28	222	Terry Bechtel	E. Bechtel
2/04	119	Bob Goudreau	D. Brochu
2/11	231	Randy-Kay Lavalley	E. Bechtel
2/18	209	Rick Kotulak	J. Walter
2/25	222	Terry Bechtel	E. Bechtel
3/04	43	Corrine Bissonette	J. Walter
3/11	65	John Huetz	J. Huetz
3/18	18	Walter Fisher	E. Bechtel
3/25	140	Pat Bates	G. Brunell



- April 4 - 5 (Fri. - Sat.) -- Western Region Contest/ Convention - Watervliet, New York
See article page 1
- May 2 (Friday) -- 20 Week Club Banquet
S. Burlington K of C
- May 3 (Saturday) -- Saratoga Springs Show
1:30 and 7:30
Featuring The Boston Common
Contact - Bill Pupkis
wrpupkis@nycap.rr.com
- May 31 (Saturday) -- 55th Annual Show
Featuring 2002 Champs
Four Voices
- June 6 (Friday) -- Package Show
Morrisville, VT
- June 22 (Sunday) -- Package Show
Tunbridge, VT
- June 25 (Wednesday) -- Mini Retreat - Dan Signor
- June 29 -- July 6 -- 2003 International Convention and Contest
MONTREAL! Sign up now!
- July 27-August 3 --Harmony College
St. Joseph , Missouri
Sign up now!
- September 19-20 (Fri. - Sat.) -- Fall Retreat place TBD
Coach - Gary Bolles
- October 24-25 (Fri. - Sat.) -- NED Convention and Contest -- Saratoga Springs, NY
- December 7 (Sunday) -- Elks Memorial Service
Warm up 12:30