



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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Mini-retreat next Wednesday with Dan Signor!

by Jerry Walter, Editor

As, hopefully, many of you know, next **Wednesday**, we will be meeting at 7:00 p.m. for a coaching session with Dan Signor, director of the Hanover, New Hampshire Chapter's North Country Chordsmen.

Why an outsider?

While Dan may be considered an "outsider" since he isn't a chapter member, he certainly should be familiar to virtually all of our regular members. Dan is, by profession, a music educator, he teaches choral music to middle school students, who couldn't be more unlikely to take to the rigors of singing properly.

Like famed directors who have preceded him, Dan, insists on having his performers do it "the right way, every time."

So, if you know what to do and can actually do it, then why not execute properly every time. It's all about tolerance and discipline. That is, what is your tolerance to per-

forming an imperfect job with your singing?

Can you discipline yourself to practice what you know is correct until it becomes a habit? Yes, if you pay close attention to what you are doing.

Consider singing the Barberpole Cat songs. Normally, we just "sing away" not paying attention to technique. Just a bad habit? Perhaps, but it is one that can be changed.

How many of us can put your hands on the orange-yellow "GMC MEMBER VOCAL GOALS" sheet handed out a few months ago? How many recall the goals it lists?

Perhaps we need to re-review those goals so that they are not forgotten entirely.

Always hold your "instrument" in good singing position.

Always use abdominal breathing.

Always sing with a resonant freely supported sound.

See **Goals** page 2

Tunbridge show Sunday 6/22

by Don Pierce, Chorus Manager

Our second summer Package Show will be this coming Sunday, June 22, for the Vermont History Expo 2003 at the Tunbridge World's Fair Grounds in Tunbridge, VT. Warm-up will be at 12:00 p.m., with show time at 1:30 p.m.

Our performance will last 45 minutes. Sign-up for this event is light so far, particularly in the lead section.

Admission tickets to the fairgrounds for chorus members will be distributed tonight at the break. Based on the brochure distributed in all the local media and by Al Carpenter, this should be a very interesting event to attend -- bring the family -- come early and stay late! Detailed information can be
See Tunbridge page 4

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The Undertone

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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Chapter Barbershopper of the year 2002

Al Carpenter

Division Barbershopper of the year 2000

Charlie Church

YMIH Update: The Half Steps graduate!



Photo by **Jordan Silverman**, for the Free Press

The Half Steps, fresh from our annual show, sing the "Star Spangled Banner" at their Essex High graduation last Saturday. They are: Billy Thompson, Drew Carlisle, Joel Pastor and Sam Chapple-Sokol.

Goals from page 1

Always sing the same sound at the same time as the rest of the ensemble.

Always sing in tune.

Always sing with emotion and color.

Always sing with the proper volume relationship.

Always be prepared to sing new music as it is scheduled to be sung and to be out of the spots on the risers.

Always be up to date on chorus repertoire.

Always know the melody.

Always remember to smile.

If you can just work on one of these each day, they will become habit and you can then just stand up and sing for the pure pleasure of singing.

Don't miss next Wednesday's mini-retreat!

Driving to Montréal?

Canadian Customs suggests that you have a US Passport and a photo ID. My experience has been that Vermonters are merely asked where they are going, why and for how long, and whether they are going to leave anything in Canada. Those living further away, and many of you have had this experience coming to district conventions in Montréal, being more suspicious, especially if wearing beards, may require more proof of civility.

Returning has been more rigorous. U. S. Customs will usually ask for a photo ID, may check your trunk [for terrorists], ask how long have you been in Canada and whether you are bringing anything back that needs to be declared. [Like we know better than they what is declarable!]

Music team update:

by *Charlie Church*, Music VP

The Music Team would like to take a minute of your time you update you on three special upcoming events:

1) Tonight, we will kick-off the songs for the 2004 Annual Show. Music packets with all the 2004 show music will be a passed out. learning tapes on CD and cassette will also be available. The songs on the learning tapes will be in the order that the chorus will learn the music. During rehearsal, a learning tape CD will be played and Greg will go over many of the songs. The idea here is to introduce the music and allow chorus members to work ahead at their own pace. The objective is to be "out of spots" very soon after a song is in-

troduced. We continue to find that lack of knowledge on "notes and words" is a major deterrent to our progress in improved vocal production. For those members who haven't been around for a while, your attendance will allow you to get in the "ground floor" for 2004 music.

2) A Package Show this coming Sunday, 6/22/03, in Tunbridge. All the details are in this week's Undertone. The Music Team would respectfully point out that this show may well be the biggest potential audience we will have all year. So far, 18 guys are signed up - this includes nine Basses and three Leads! Might there be a potential problem here?

3) There will be no chapter meeting next Tuesday, June 24, - instead we will meet on Wednesday 6/25/03. The rea-

son for this change is that we're having Dan Signor coming to coach us. Dan's own chorus meets on Tuesday's and thus the meeting night change for us.

As many of you know, Dan brings a lot to the table in terms of our vocal enhancement. Dan is a music educator, a Singing category judge, sings in a couple of great quartets, has his chorus moving up rapidly in District competition, and is on the District's Singing A's team. The Music Team considers this a "must attend" event for both chorus and quartet members. This coaching session will actually be the kick-off event for the Fall Contest. We're scheduled to work with Dan from 7:00 to 9:30 - we may go until 10:00 if the mood is right and progress continues to be made. Please plan to come early and stay late. you'll get a lot out of the evening.

Playbill for Sunday:

- o "Happy Days Are Here Again"
MC
- o "Muskrat Ramble"
- o "Alexander's Ragtime Band"
MC
- o HV - 1 song
- o Dreamers - 1 song
- o "Goodbye, Dixie, Goodbye"
- o "Sam, You Made The Pants Too Long"
- o "So High, So Low, So Wide"
(w/MC voice over)
- o Grade A Fancy - 1 song
- o "That Lucky Old Sun"
MC
- o "The Lion Sleeps Tonight"
- o CVQ - 1 song
- o "Hello, Mary Lou"
MC
- o "God Bless America"

NED News:

by *Jim Dodge*,

NED DVP Music & Performance

Montréal news

Right about now, all of us who are going to the International contest in Montreal are getting our tickets. For many of you, it will be your first International so these are exciting days. Here are a few tips to help you make this a wonderful experience.

For the best info you can get about Montreal, go to the district website (<http://newwebgroup.com/ned/>) and click on the Montreal logo. The Montreal chapter has compiled an "everything you need to know" page that literally covers the works. You can click on the Bell Centre and get a seating chart to see where you are sitting. You can find tips on what you need to know to cross the border. You will find out that you need extended medical coverage once in Canada. If you drive, you need an extended insurance certificate from your

insurance man. You will find out what restaurants Murray Phillips likes (if you want a gourmet delight, follow Murray :>)) A great source of info!

Some HCNE news! We registered our 26th quartet this weekend. I've asked our Registrar, Don Houldsworth, to stop accepting quartet registrations when we reach 28. We have that many coaches at this time. The next quartets after that will be given a place in line so that, as we sign up more coaches, we can add quartets in the order of their registration.

Another convention tip for you first-timers! When you arrive, you will have to register. This will probably take place at the Headquarters hotel (help, Murray!) but they should know at each hotel. You will get a name badge and a plastic holder. The single ticket you received in the mail is then placed in the holder and displayed at the door for each contest session.

Directions to Tunbridge:

From I89 - get off at Exit 3 and head east for approx 6 miles on VT Route 14. The turn north onto VT Route 110. The fairgrounds are 6 miles from the intersection of Routes 14 and 110. You can also get off I89 at Exit 4 and head east through East Randolph but this looks like a cowpath on the map.

Adventurous folk can also get there by taking Route 110 south from where it intersects with US Route 302 in East Barre. The distance from this intersection to the fairgrounds is approx 22 miles.

Tunbridge from page 1

found at: "www.vermonthistory.org/expo".

Directions to Tunbridge can be found elsewhere in this issue. Enter the fairgrounds through Gate #2. Show your admission pass at the gate and you will be directed to the designated parking area for Expo participants. You will also be given a map of the grounds. Head for the Main Stage entertainment area at the fairground's Grandstand, We'll be warming-up at or near the Main Stage.

Uniform for this event is white tux shirt, black tux trousers, back shoes/socks and paisley ties and vests. **Quartets - please note that the chorus uniform is to be worn.** We know of no available dressing area so you might either want to come dressed or plan to use a rest room on the fairgrounds.

Convention Update: Volunteers still needed!

by *Bruce Checca, House Chairman*
bchecca1@nycap.rr.com

I have several spots that need to be filled yet...

One is for several people to watch over the BarberTots room -- **no, you don't have to baby-sit anyone!** This job is to make sure that the room is OK. Parents have to be in the room with their children at all times!

There will be a live feed from the stage into the room, so you can still see all of the sessions. Times are whenever an event is going on in the Bell Center -- including the AIC show, World Harmony Jamboree, College contest, etc.

Let me know if you are interested in staffing this spot for a session.

The other need is for a Floor Captain willing to oversee the volunteers on one of the three Bell Center levels we are using at all the contest sessions. That means being there for all the sessions, in touch with me by radio, and seeing to any problems that arise on that floor during the sessions. I have two of the three floors covered already, so if you're interested in taking this on, let me know ASAP.

Thanks... Bruce

Where are my seats?

When you receive your tickets, there will be a Section number, Row and Seat number. Check the location on the seating chart at the nedistrict.org web site at /Montreal/international/molsoncenter.htm [Yes, I know it's the Bell Centre, but the address is correct. Ed.]. The floor seating is divided into nine sections numbered as:

9 8 7 with 1 being nearest the stage.
 6 5 4 Each section is about 17 rows
 3 2 1 by 14 seats wide.



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|-------------------------------|---|
| June 22 (Sunday) | -- Package Show Tunbridge, VT Vermont Historical Society 1:30 p.m. show |
| June 24 (Tuesday) | -- NO MEETING See next entry |
| June 25 (Wednesday) | -- Mini Retreat - Dan Signor 7:00 p.m. St. Francis School |
| June 29 - July 6 | -- 2003 International Convention and Contest MONTREAL! Sign up now! |
| July 11 (Friday) | -- National Anthem Vermont EXPOS Warm up 6:30 |
| July 27-August 3 | --Harmony College St. Joseph , Missouri Sign up now! |
| August 1 (Friday) | -- National Anthem Vermont EXPOS Warm up 6:30 |
| August 8-10 (Fri. - Sun.) | -- Harmony College NE |
| August 23 (Saturday) | -- Package show Vergennes |
| Swptember 16 (Tuesday) | -- Early Singout Wake Robin Shelburne 6:30 |
| September 19-20 (Fri. - Sat.) | -- Fall Retreat place TBD Coach - Gary Bolles |
| September 20 (Saturday) | -- Champlain Echoes Show Flynn Space, Burlington |
| October 24-25 (Fri. - Sat.) | -- NED Convention and Contest -- Saratoga Springs, NY |
| December 7 (Sunday) | -- Elks Memorial Service Warm up 12:30 |
| December ? | -- Annual Holiday Show 2004 |
| January ? | -- Installation Banquet |

