



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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Early Edition

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Annual retreat at Lone Pine draws 35 enthusiastic singers !

by Jerry Walter, Editor



Photo by Jerry Walter
Gary Boles and Hershel Pesner duet a matching "ah" vowel at our retreat at Lone Pine Saturday.

COLCHESTER -- The 22nd Annual Fall Retreat was a booming success in every sense of the word, as Gary Bolles returned for a second installment of his tremendous insight in coaching singing barbershop music well.

Those attending the retreat last year recognized the step up in skill level beginning Friday evening. Last year most of the session was spent demonstrating and drilling basic singing habits. Since we have worked on things such as "holding the instrument properly" and "using abdominal breathing."

This year, we were ready to work at the next level of singing the same sounds

at the same time in tune and with the same expression.

Gary began his weekend of coaching Friday afternoon by working with Grade A Fancy for two hours. They showed on Saturday that they could implement many of Gary's points on singing better.

Friday evening 30 singers experienced the ease at which Gary can get a chorus, at least our chorus, to execute what he was trying to demonstrate.

We worked a lot on "feeling the pulse" of our ballad, "Roses of Picardy," not an easy task. All agreed that maintaining the pulse was much more than singing the notes of the song.

Greg is working on sending us less information by his directing style. According to Gary, Greg gives us far too much information, which makes it difficult for the chorus and director to work together.

Much of the all-day Saturday session was spent working on diction, diphthongs and energizing the ends of words and phrases.

The closing "Happy Hour" following was not as successful as anticipated, but was appreciated by those able to attend.

September board meeting highlights

from Draft Minutes

The September Board of Directors meeting was held on 9/10 and the following items are noteworthy:

Approved the payment of District Fall Convention registration fees for chorus members who actually attend the convention.

Approved a second 'annual show' for 2004 to be held in the central Vermont area.

Approved the date of the 20 Week Club banquet as Friday April 30.

Appointed Mo Cerutti as 2004 Annual Show Chairman (for both shows).

Approved the solicitation of the following quartets for the annual show in 2005: Wheelhouse, Riptide, Uptown Sound and Power Play.

The only acceptable date for a joint annual Holiday show is Saturday December 6.

The holiday show in Vergennes on Sunday December 14 has been confirmed.

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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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Chorus Manager	Don Pierce
Package Show Producer	Charlie Church

Chapter Barbershopper of the year 2002

Al Carpenter

Division Barbershopper of the year 2000

Charlie Church

DIRECTOR's

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Good work, guys!

by **Greg Morrill**
Music Director

Great work this past weekend at the retreat, guys! As always you showed great stamina and willingness to be coached. Gary commented on these attributes. He was impressed with the progress you've made in a year and impressed at how responsive you continue to be to his coaching. Now it's up to us to continue the work and improvement.

In the short term we all have some work to do (particularly me!) to incorporate what we did at retreat into our contest package. Our goals remain the same, but we have very little time to become comfortable and confident with some of the changes. Again, some form of review between rehearsals can make the difference. If you're unsure, bring a tape recorder to rehearsal and tape what we do. You can use that as a midweek reminder. Also, taping our run-throughs can give you a learning tape that's closer to what we're striving for.

In the long term, we can start working on more of the ingredients for good singing. Not that we've mastered the basics, but we've improved to a point where they are almost unconscious-awareness. Now we can apply our con-

scious awareness to additional factors such as matching sounds.

Having Gary gave us a good checkpoint that (a) we have improved and (b) we're on the right track. Let's continue along that track by achieving our goal at District!

Barre-Tones show Saturday!

The Barre-Tones present their 32nd Annual barbershop Showcase "Name that Tune" on September 27, 2003 at 7:30 p.m. at the Barre Opera House, Barre, Vermont. Special guest quartet is Change of Heart, 1999 International Harmony Queens.

The Opera House is located in the center of Barre at 6 N. Main Street at the corner of Main and Prospect Streets.

Ticket prices are: Adults - \$12.00, Seniors (60 plus) - \$10.00, K-12th grade - \$8.00, Afterglow - \$3.00 (Hedding Methodist Church, just around the corner at 40 Washington Street.). Tickets are available at Capitol Stationers, Montpelier; Simply Delicious, Barre; Barre Opera House Tickets Office (credit cards accepted) - 802-476-8188; or at the door. Tickets can also be obtained by calling Sharon at 229-9591 or Diane at 485-7712.



September 27 (Saturday) -- Barre-Tones Show
Barre Opera House
7:30 See article this page

October 24-25 (Fri. - Sat.) -- NED Convention and Contest -- Saratoga Springs, NY

December 6 (Saturday) -- Annual Holiday Show (Tentative)

December 7 (Sunday) -- Elks Memorial Service
Warm up 12:30

December 14 (Sunday) -- Vergennes Holiday Show
2:00 p.m.
Vergennes Opera House

December 16 (Tuesday) -- First 20 Week Club
Drawing

2004

January ? -- Installation Banquet

January 31 (Saturday) -- Great Northern Harmony Workshop, Montréal with Uptown Sound

February 14 (Saturday) -- Singing Valentines

March 19-20 (Fri. - Sat.) -- NED Prelims, VLQ and Western Division Contests, Albany area

April 30 (Friday) -- 20 Week Club Banquet

May 29 (Saturday) -- Annual Show featuring Chordiac Arrest

June 27-July 4 (Tues.-Sun.) -- International Convention and Contests - Louisville, Kentucky

Song learning schedule

2004 Annual Show Song Introduction and O.O.S. Dates

Song	Introduction Date	Out of Spots Date
"Battle Hymn Of The Republic"	Done	9/2/03
"South Rampart Street Parade"	Done	9/2/03
"Way Down Yonder In New Orleans"	Done	9/9/03
"Darkness On The Delta"	Done	9/2/03
"The Birth Of The Blues"	Done	12/2/03
"Basin Street Blues"	1/6/04	3/2/04
"Hush"	1/6/04	3/2/04
"The Impossible Dream"	1/6/04	3/2/04
"When The Saints Go Marching In"	3/2/04	5/4/04
"How Great Thou Art"	3/2/04	5/4/04