



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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Village Vocal Chords win 14th gold in Halifax! Hot Topic quartet champs of HI

by Jerry Walter, Editor



Photo courtesy of Hot Topic Website

2003 Harmony Queens Hot Topic shown with coaches Don Clause and George Gipp.

HALIFAX -- Last weekend Harmony, Inc. held its International Convention and Contest and crowned new and old champions. The new champ is **Hot Topic**, a two-year old quartet from the Terre Haute, Indiana Chapter. The old champ is the **Village Vocal Chords** from the Metro Chicago Chapter.

For the **VVC** this marks the 13 consecutive championships and 14 total wins. Milton, Ontario's **A Cappella Showcase** was second (last year they were second, as well), third place went to Ottawa, Ontario's **Capital Chordettes, Inc.** (up from sixth last year), fourth was Watertown, New York's **Northern Blend** (third last

year) and rounding out the medals was Hudson, Massachusetts' **Women of Note** (fifth in 2002) Last year's fourth place medalist, **Heart of Indiana** fell to number 13.

Vermont's **Barre-Tones** finished 21st. Burlington's **Champlain Echoes** did not qualify this year.

In the quartet contest, **Hot Topic**, ninth place in 2002, beat 24 contenders and beat second place **Mystique** by 141 points (three judge panel). Third place went to **Boston Accent** from Beverly, Massachusetts (Tricia LeBel, Cheryl Brusket, Wendy (Mercier) McCoolle and **Karen Rourke**). Barre's **The long & Short of It** finished 19th, the same as last year.

2004 Chapter planning session

by Jerry Walter

Last Saturday, twelve of your chapter members met with Denis Cushman, from Nashua Chapter, to look at the future of our chapter in the next year. Although every chapter member was invited, only twelve were able to show up and provide input.

Those attending, probably predictable, were Reid Allen, Denis Brochu, Bob Cauley, Charlie Church, Jerry Huetz, Dick Labrecque, Chuck Laufer, Serge Rizzo, Dave Stonecliffe, John Villere, Jerry Walter and John Zweighaft. Meeting from 9 to 3 we discussed a great number of items. We created a "to do" list, identified responsible people and a time line for each item.

Here is a list of "buzz" words and phrases, see if you know what they mean. Greater details will be provided in a subsequent issue.

- Republish member's manual
- Distribute Chapter Mission Statement
- Formalize rules of participation in

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chapter events

- Get member's opinions and feedback on intensity of December 2003's schedule

- Establish Ways and Means Committee

- Appoint Assistant Show Chair (to be 2005 chair)

- Find Program VP

- Find Chorus Manager

- Resolve use of Harmony Foundation money for Ryan Henry

- Define member expectations

- Describe and publish/describe chapter job definitions

- Follow up on member absences

- Establish Halifax travel committee

- Explore potential of a ladies auxiliary

- Confirm meeting space availability

- Take property inventory

- Reestablish Barberpole Cat of the month

- Consider old rep songs for 2005 show theme

- Get new Holiday songs

- Initiate 2004 Singing Valentine

- Resolve new uniform issue

If you think you can help on any of the above, please let Dick Labrecque know ASAP.

Holiday show tickets available now

Plans continue for the joint Holiday Concerts on December 6 (shows at 3:00 p.m. at North Avenue Alliance Church in Burlington and at 7:00 p.m. at Hunger Mountain Christian Assembly in Waterbury Center). This week and next we're looking for chapter members give their best shot at ticket sales. Each chapter member has been asked to sell four or five tickets in advance — this is not a herculean task — please do your best. Ticket chair Jim Mallabar as extra tickets. And we're still looking for door prizes. Anyone with good ideas should see Charlie Church

Update on Gas House Gang

November 17

Hello everyone,

We have been receiving emails wondering what the status is for the GHG so I thought that I would touch base with the Harmonet folks at least!

With the help of Michael Slamka and Tony DeRosa, we have performed on every show commitment. We have always limited ourselves to two shows a month so that we can be home with our families the other half of the month. We also have shows booked through 2004 and some of 2005 which we will be sure to honor.

As for a new baritone, we have not really put out a search at this time. We do want to continue but we are still uncertain of how to go about finding the "right" person. After singing together since 1987, it will really take more than just a good singer to step in. We are family. There is a huge void in our lives without Rob and although there is no "replacement" for him, it will take a special person to join our family. This is a very hard decision to make and one that I think we keep putting off because of the pain to make things final. But, time will tell what happens and will allow us to do what we need to do.

I just wanted everyone to know that the GHG is still performing, still excited about the release of our new CD and still wanting to continue. Thank you all for your prayers, concerns and encouragement — it has meant the world to us.

Kipp, Jim, Rich and Rob

[If you haven't heard the new GHG CD, *The Gas House Gang's 5th*, you are missing a treat. Order for \$15 + \$3 shipping from their web site: <http://www.gashousegang.com> Ed.]



November 29 (Saturday)	-- Holiday Ensemble University Mall 2-5 p.m.
November 30 (Sunday)	-- Holiday Ensemble University Mall 2-5 p.m.
December 6 (Saturday)	-- Annual Holiday Show 3 p.m. North Avenue Alliance Church, Burlington Warm up 1:30 7 p.m. Hunger Mountain Christian Assembly, Waterbury Center. Warm up 6 p.m.
December 7 (Sunday)	-- Elks Memorial Service Warm up 12:30
December 13 (Saturday)	-- Holiday Ensemble University Mall 2-5 p.m.
December 14 (Sunday)	-- Vergennes Holiday Show 2:00 p.m. Warm up 12:30 Vergennes Opera House
December 16 (Tuesday)	-- First 20 Week Club Drawing
December 16 (Tuesday)	-- Caroling and Holiday Party Place(s) to be determined (NEW DATE)
December 20 (Saturday)	-- Holiday Ensemble Burlington Mall 2-5 p.m. (NEW EVENT)
December 21 (Saturday)	-- Holiday Ensemble University Mall 2-5 p.m. (NEW DATE)
December 23 (Tuesday)	-- NO MEETING
2004	
January ?	-- Installation Banquet
January 10-11 (Fri. - Sat.)	-- NED COTS Sea Crest, Massachusetts
February 7 (Saturday) NEW DATE!	-- 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