



Hatter Chatter

Newsletter of the Danbury Chapter, Yankee Division, Northeastern District of the Barbershop Harmony Society
Meeting every Tuesday, 7:15 p.m. at Church of Christ, 90 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, Connecticut

Volume 22 Number 1

www.madhatterchorus.org

January 2015

Northeast District Leadership Academy

By Andy Bayer and Jimmy Hopper

Waking up at 5:00 a.m. on a winter Saturday morning is not normally something we would do -- even when we were non-retired workaholics. However, we can report that this exceptional effort was definitely worth the exertion!

We attended the full day session on "Supercharging Your Chapter" led by Paul Ellinger. He had a very effective way of presenting his recommendations based on facts and what he has learned from surveys and interviews with many different constituencies within our hobby. His presentation was actually compelling. Find below some bulleted highlights:

- When asked: "What are your responsibilities to your chapter," less than 1% identified recruiting new members. In reality, it is every single individual's role to approach potential new members and introduce them to the joy and satisfaction of participating in our hobby.
- We tend to use CDs and DVDs to create "I want to/have to join" goose bumps among listeners. However, this is not a very effective method to increase membership. There is nothing that can replicate the experience of being at a live performance.
- What proves to be much more effective is to sing more of what the audience wants to hear as opposed to what we prefer to sing. In other words, it is much more beneficial to sing songs that are warmly familiar to the audience with words that they often mouth from memory.
- In addition to this "familiarity litmus test," it is critical that the audience members see us as approachable. In other words, they can see themselves as easily fitting-in with the men singing in front of him.

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Mad Hatters Install Officers

By John Bradley

On Tuesday evening, January 13, the Danbury Mad Hatter Barbershop Chorus held its annual Officers Installation Dinner at Nick's Restaurant & Catering on Starr Street in Danbury. While chorus members, wives, significant others and the rest of the gang munched on Chicken Francese, Eggplant Parmigiana and Baked Ziti, chapter president, Danny Anderson, inducted the 2015 Board of Directors. (Danny was self-inducted.)

Music director, Joe Hudson, then joined Danny in presenting the chorus's 2014 service awards.



*The 2015 Mad Hatter Board of Directors.
Picture by John Bradley.*

The 2014 Rookie of the Year award went to Keith Korb, who, according to Joe, memorized the entire repertoire quickly and attended most every rehearsal and performance. Andy Bayer won the Outstanding Service award based, among other contributions, on his leadership as the annual show chairman. The Most Improved award went to Art Cilley, while John Bradley and Joe Hudson shared Above and Beyond recognition.

Mad Hatter of the Year honors went to Jimmy Hopper for his service as Music VP as well as his willingness to sing all parts, mentor individuals and share his musical knowledge and energy with the entire chorus.

Leadership Academy

Continued from the previous page

- Thus, performances that are familiar coupled with performances that are approachable make for something very special and attractive to the non-member.
- The most effective way of sharing our message of fun and camaraderie with others is in face-to-face conversation (rather than phone, or handwritten letter, or business card, or mass mailer, or handout) because it is more active and personal. The more active and personal your chosen approach is, the more effective it will be.
- The only two effective ways that people begin their journey into barbershop are by personal invitation or by hearing, in person, our familiar, approachable music.
- Individuals tend to join chapters for a) FUN b) CAMARADERIE and c) a truly ALTRUISTIC PURPOSE (an unselfish regard for or devotion to the welfare of others). They do not tend to join chapters just because the members sing well or are medal winners.
- The idea behind the chapter committing to an altruistic purpose is that members will feel much more invested in their participation and membership if they see it as serving a higher purpose than just a pleasurable experience for themselves alone. Moreover, if all funds received by the chapter for sing-outs only go back into their own collective pockets (so to speak), then there isn't as much satisfaction in what they do as there is if they are also helping others "in need." The recommended best choice is to pick a local charity where chapter members can be personally involved and see the results of their assistance. This also helps the chapter's outreach to the public as they see themselves supporting an organization which is helping others within the community who are in need.
- There are certain protocols that should be used in engaging and inviting a potential new member to attend a rehearsal.
- A short, direct script was shared with participants that should be used during the initial face-to-face conversation with a potential invitee. It includes statements that reaffirm the fun, camaraderie and altruistic purpose of the chapter and addresses the typical non-committal response of the person to whom you are speaking.
- An appropriate "cattle call" statement was shared with the group, as well. This is the type of statement that one would make at a performance/annual show, etc.
- If one adopts the "Supercharging Your Chapter" program, you need to be committed to practicing the script every week.

In addition, the chapter should be performing in regular street clothes at least twice per month in restaurants, malls... anywhere.

- You should be perusing the audience and noting which individuals are toe tapping and/or mouthing the words and those should be the persons whom you approach and engage in the "talk."
- Those who have committed to the rigor of this program have seen tremendous, sustained growth in the size of their chapters.
- This program has not been promoted in the *Harmonizer* for fear that it will be bastardized and not presented with the appropriate foundational understanding and commitment on the part of the entire chapter. In other words, this is a long-term commitment on the part of a chapter and needs the full endorsement of its members who must receive significant training for success.

I am glad to report that Jimmy Hopper and I attended this session since it is always helpful to have four ears receiving the same information. We will present this core of information to the Board at the January 31 Board of Directors Planning Meeting to discuss its applicability to our needs and to begin the discussion as to our degree of interest in and level of commitment to this rigorous a program -- which can be very beneficial to our chapter's growth. While the point was made several times throughout the session, that improved singing should NOT be the basis used to attract new members, the best way to improve our sound will be to put many more men on the risers!

As an aside, the day was well organized; we even had the opportunity to have our meals in the new/additional dining facility on the Worcester State campus. It is an impressive hall with a beautifully scenic view. Congratulations to our own Robert Bradley, producer extraordinaire, for all his efforts to make this academy a success. I would encourage other members of our chapter to attend this event next year. There is always something to learn, and the district makes the effort to provide us, at a very minimal cost, with this special annual learning/growth opportunity.

Leadership Academy Treasurer's Class

By Dickson DeMarche

NED Leadership Academy - Is this a misnomer? It sounds as if this day-long event is designed only for Board Members and Officers of the chapter but it is far from that. Just take a look at what Andy and Jimmy have to say and what Wynn and Dr. Bob experienced. A lot of what is offered has to do with music. Unfortunately, my class was one of those designed for officers....Oh, well.

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Treasurer's Class

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Nonetheless, I found the Treasurer's class to be very beneficial. What made it particularly valuable was the fact that the instructor, John Englander, was an experienced treasurer and had the good judgment at the outset to ask the 13 of us in the class what level of experience each of us had.

It varied, but no one needed to walk through a primer on what to do, so John loosely followed the flow of the PowerPoint presentation and entertained questions at each interval. It was in answering those questions that the best information came out -- from the instructor as well as the others in the class.

BUT, the best part of that Saturday was partaking of three good meals in the companionship of the other chapter members (actually, I had to skip dinner in order to get home for an engagement, but two out of three ain't too bad) and to participate in the two General Sessions which involved chances to sing with the other 150 or so participants and improve singing technique. All in all, a pleasurable and productive way to spend a winter Saturday.

Improving Your Chapter

By Robert Golenbock

The Northeastern District offered a wide array of learning opportunities at this year's Leadership Academy. There were classes for presidents, treasurers, and a variety of other leaders, including secretaries. Since I have no real interest in being a better secretary (like you couldn't tell), I looked into the other offerings.

The main attraction this year was "Supercharging Your Chapter," about which I hope we will be hearing a lot more. There are apparently so many things we're doing wrong, but I expect we will rectify our mistakes really soon.

The basics of developing a supercharged chapter start with a connection to a charitable organization and include a new way to encourage new members. I can't wait to try this new way of thinking. But I actually didn't go to "Supercharging Your Chapter." I went to a program run by Adam Scott for directors, assistant directors, and section leaders that helped us identify different ways of helping our chorus improve by emphasizing creativity and developing measurable, definable goals.

He recommends making each week a musical experience where the chorus improves and feels better at the end of the meeting than they did at the beginning. His recommendations include making sure the goals of the chorus and of the director align well and developing a multi-year plan. To achieve goals, he recommends communication between the director and the chorus and having the leadership keep a positive attitude.

I had the opportunity to act as section leader for this very talented and well-prepared group, and clearly I was in over my head. I did help with the overall plan for singing the song that we were assigned, but we really didn't have the time to do more than take a look at the rhythmic elements that might trip us up during the brief sectionals on the risers. Most of the other leads already had the words and music down!

Just as John Ward suggested, Adam demonstrated how the section leaders need to "remove a variable" to clean up sloppy passages and work on sectional unity. By his example, Adam also showed us how to encourage focus and listening.

His discussion of pacing was mirrored by his pacing of our class: light-hearted moments with an "Aha!" moment to boost member satisfaction.

Finally Adam emphasized that section leaders should be empowered to address artistic issues as well as note errors. So I hope I'll be more effective at subsequent rehearsals. You can let me know when I ask, in the words of former NYC Mayor Ed Koch, "How'm I doing?"



Quartet Corner

News from our chorus quartets

Traveling Men – *By Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox*

The traveler-in-chief of the Traveling Men quartet in the months of December and January was baritone Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox, who in the past month has seen both the cedar-covered shores of the Pacific Northwest and the temple-covered beaches of Goa and Karnataka; he has basked in views of both Mount Whitney and Mount Everest (the latter view being a lamentably foggy one).

Fortunately, with the exception of lead Danny Anderson's brief trip to the Midwest, the other Traveling Men cultivated their roots in the Danbury area and entertained audiences with the benefit of the formidable services of substitute baritones Jimmy Hopper and Joseph Hudson.

With the capable help of Jimmy Hopper, the Travelers performed at the Lions Club luncheon on December 18. Jimmy sang with the quartet again at the Mad Hatter's First Night performance at the Saint James Church in Danbury, and armed with reinforcement baritone Joe Hudson, the Traveling Men ran up to the barricades for the benefit of the Danbury Museum and Historical Society, performing at this year's Hat City Ball on January 16th.

Now that baritone Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox is back in the fold, the Traveling Men plan to sing at a few local events in the next month or two.

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Quartets

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Real Chemistry – By John Bradley

On Sunday, January 11, the quartet met at the Somers Manor Nursing Home in Somers, New York, to help a resident named Mary celebrate her 95th birthday.

Mary was in no short supply of energy as she joined us in “Whisperng” and “Let Me Call You Sweetheart.” We also entertained Mary, her family and a number of other residents who wheeled their way to the party.



Emails to the Editors

Please e-mail your questions and comments to either the Hatter editor, John Bradley, at jbrad1313@earthlink.net, or the Chatter editor, Dick Zang, at jezang@charter.net. If your e-mail appears, you will receive an autographed picture of our 2008 Yankee Division Bulletin Editors Award

At a recent performance, your emcee said that the song, “Shenandoah,” is a sea chantey. How can that be? It’s a song about a river, not the sea.

Debra from Danbury

Debra, a sea chantey, shantey, shanty or chanty, doesn’t have to be about the sea. By definition, it’s a song with alternating solo and chorus, of a kind originally sung by sailors while performing physical labor together. According to Alan Lomax in *Folk Songs of North America*, Francisco Fabri, a fifteenth century Venetian friar, wrote this about “chantying”: “there are those that sing when work is going on because work at sea is very heavy, and is only carried on by a concert between one who sings out orders and the laborers who sing in response.”

The chanty genre was typified by flexible lyrical forms, which in practice provided for much improvisation and the ability to lengthen or shorten a song to match the circumstances. Its hallmark was call and response, performed between a soloist and the rest of the workers in chorus, often performed as the seamen raised the ship’s anchor or hauled ropes. The leader, called the *shantyman*, was appreciated for his piquant language, lyrical wit, and strong voice. Shanties were sung without instrumental accompaniment and, historically speaking, they were only sung in work-based rather than entertainment-oriented contexts

The origin of “Shenandoah,” like many folk songs, is not known, but it is said to have originated with French voyageurs traveling down the Missouri River. The lyrics tell the story of a white trader who fell in love and courted for seven years the daughter, named Sally, of an Algonquian chief, Shenandoah. American sailors heading down the Mississippi River picked up the song and made it a capstan shanty. By the nineteenth

century, “Shenandoah” had achieved widespread popularity, both on land and at sea.

There are many versions of the lyrics. This one appeared in *Sea Songs and Shanties*, collected by W.B. Whall, Master Mariner (1910).

Miss-ou-ri, she's a mighty riv-er.

A - way you rolling riv-er.

The red-skins' camp, lies on its bor-ders.

Ah-ha, I'm bound a-way, 'Cross the wide, Miss-ou-ri

The white man loved the Indian maiden,

A - way you rolling riv-er.

With notions his canoe was laden.

Ah-ha, I'm bound a-way, 'Cross the wide, Miss-ou-ri.

"O, Shenandoah, I love your daughter,

A - way you rolling riv-er.

I'll take her 'cross yon rolling water."

Ah-ha, I'm bound a-way, 'Cross the wide, Miss-ou-ri.

The chief disdained the trader's dollars:

A - way you rolling riv-er.

"My daughter never you shall follow."

Ah-ha, I'm bound a-way, 'Cross the wide, Miss-ou-ri.

At last there came a Yankee skipper.

A - way you rolling riv-er.

He winked his eye, and he tipped his flipper.

Ah-ha, I'm bound a-way, 'Cross the wide, Miss-ou-ri.

He sold the chief that fire-water,

A - way you rolling riv-er.

And 'cross the river he stole his daughter.

Ah-ha, I'm bound a-way, 'Cross the wide, Miss-ou-ri

"O, Shenandoah, I long to hear you,

A - way you rolling riv-er.

Across that wide and rolling river."

Ah-ha, I'm bound a-way, 'Cross the wide, Miss-ou-ri.

Baritone Maze Contest

Congratulations to Mad Hatter music director, Joe Hudson, for being the first to solve this very difficult maze.



Mad Hatter Chorus – Scholarship Award Committee

John Dunkle Memorial Scholarship

Submitted by Andy Bayeer

Background

Long-time chapter member, Terry Dunkle, made a contribution to the chapter in memory of his son, John, who passed away in June, 2011. The only condition was that the money be used to encourage chapter membership especially among the young. There were no other strings attached.

An initial committee was formed to determine how best to utilize the donated funds but was abandoned after proposed plans became too grandiose for our chapter's human capital resources. The money has been kept in a separate account and now totals \$2,125.00.

Scholarship Goal

To introduce high school age students to the pleasure of singing a cappella music in the barbershop harmony style and to plant the seed for membership in a later-in-life activity in a chapter near their hometown. In addition, we would like this scholarship to be permanent and self-sustaining.

Proposed Plan

In keeping with Terry's wishes, the committee recommends that we introduce young adults (teens) in our surrounding communities (Danbury, Bethel, Newtown, Brookfield, New Milford, New Fairfield, Ridgefield and Redding) to the joys of a cappella singing in the barbershop harmony style by providing them with an initial experience at the Harmony Explosion Camp (HX Camp) during the August Harmony College Northeast event in Worcester, Ma.

It is known that this is a phenomenally intense experience where participants are surrounded by an enthusiastic cadre of relatively young instructors and performers who truly model a love of singing and entertaining.

This experience has been transformative for many young people, and we have experienced a return to our chapter of those whom we have sponsored in the past to pay a visit and to sing along with us. Being able to piggyback on an already existing, popular and well organized program is the way to go for a chapter with limited resources.

Specifically, we are recommending that we offer two \$150.00 scholarships to be awarded to two students nominated by either Mad Hatter Chorus members or area high school choral directors.

In the event that there are no nominees, we recommend that the director of the Northeast District's Harmony Explosion Camp (or his/her designee) reduce the registration fee of two Connecticut campers who are in need. If the funds are not

expended, they will be held in the account for future scholarship awards.

Our second recommendation is that we market our December holiday show as an opportunity for audience members to make this scholarship a sustained reality through their generous donations and that an appeal for donations be made during our performance.

Logistical Protocols

A letter about the available scholarships (including a paragraph from Terry about John's love of vocal a cappella music in the barbershop style) and a nomination form will be sent to surrounding town high school choral directors in early February.

Nominations will be accepted until the end of March. (The letter will also offer a free, no-strings attached demonstration/lesson possibly to students in the choral program about a cappella music performed in the barbershop style.)

If there are more than two nominees, the nominees' names will be placed in a hat and two names will be drawn totally at random. The individuals whose names are drawn will be identified as the award recipients.

Scholarship awards will be made by mid-April. The recipient(s) will receive both a letter and "mock" check he/she can submit along with his/her completed application.

Check(s) will be sent directly to Harmony Explosion Camp on behalf of the recipient(s), who will be required to send his/her own check for the balance due along with the application.

Other Marketing Potential

Articles (and photos of mock check awards) in surrounding town newspapers, Northeast District chapter and other publications, as well as *The Harmonizer*, can bring notoriety to our efforts and encourage other chapters to preserve and encourage barbershop quartet singing in America.

Baritone Deep Thought of the Month

**I asked a librarian if she was free this afternoon.
She said she was all booked up.**



Three Things

After each coaching session, Mad Hatter members are encouraged to share three things they learned or were impressed with. The following was compiled after the January 20 coaching session with John Ward, tenor of Up All Night and certified singing judge.

- Make sure the tune-up is not a throw away, and sets the mood of whatever piece you are about to sing.
- Slow down the first 2 notes of "Blue Velvet" in order to emphasize "this is what the metaphor is!"
- In "Bye Bye Love" make sure that the bell chords are correct. And the best way to make sure they are correct is to sing them in the same space as everything else, don't come in too soon, don't come in too late...come in right on time. And make sure that each part is of equal volume when entering so that no note is lost in the mix.
- Make your breaths part of the song.
- About 80% of the emotion is conveyed by body language (the other half by the words).
- Decide on the message of the song, then everybody get on the same page.
- Each song needs to have a plan which the group buys into. This should be practiced in sectionals,
- Difficult measures should be spoken over and over to get the meter and vowels together
- Avoid excessive mouth and jaw movement.
- Keep embouchure small but with big space inside for resonance.
- Start "Blue Velvet" with enough volume so you can get quieter at "Softer than satin was the light from the stars."
- We should use sectionals primarily for working on unison singing
- Make sure that the 'B's are relaxed and not pronounced in "Bye Bye Love."
- Determine where in your head you should sing to produce your personal best resonance and don't worry about how wide you open your mouth or drop your jaw - We all have different sized and different shaped mouths.
- An open tone does NOT mean a dark tone. Think wide and bright!
- BASSES - The intro to "Bye Bye Love" is "dim" not "doom."
- Let the melody guide the dynamics internally with each phrase.

Repertoire Notes



"Come Go with Me" is a song written by C. E. Quick (aka Clarence Quick), an original member (bass vocalist) of the American doo-wop vocal group, The Del-Vikings (also spelled Dell Vikings). The song was originally recorded by The Del-Vikings in 1956 and was released on Fee Bee Records.

Norman Wright was the lead vocalist on this song. When the group signed with Dot Records in 1957, the song became a hit, peaking at Number Four on the Billboard Hot 100 chart and becoming the group's highest-charting song. The song was later featured in the films *American Graffiti* (1973), *Diner* (1982), *Stand by Me* (1986) and *Joe Versus the Volcano* (1990).

When Paul McCartney saw John Lennon for the first time in 1957, Lennon was performing this song with his band the Quarrymen. According to McCartney's recollection in *The Beatles Anthology*, Lennon, who did not recall much of the song's lyrics, inserted lyrics from blues songs (including the line, "Down, down down to the penitentiary").

Survival Tips for Barbershop Singers

From the *North Shore Harmony Rag*

Adapted from Teresa Radomski's article on the Internet "Center for Voice Disorders of Wake Forest University," as seen in *Nodakord Notes* (Bob Hankins, editor).

- **Warm up, energize!** Most singers arrive at rehearsals exhausted from a day's work, so it's important to begin with a physical warm-up. Stretching and loosening exercises and relaxed humming get the voice going, before heavy vocalizing. Warm-ups should begin in the car!
- **Think posture!** "Collapsed" posture limits breathing capacity. Sitting erect with both feet flat on the floor, music at eye level and shoulders relaxed is less tiring in the long run.
- **Breathe!** This may seem obvious, but it is the singer's responsibility to maintain adequate ventilation--not "gasping" in order to maintain the director's beat. Good directors indicate breaths with their gestures, but they may not apply to each singer's capacity.
- **Sing the right part!** It is hoped that all singers are in the best section for their voice. Trying to stretch your range can lead to vocal strain. If the part you sing is uncomfortable, request a change.
- **Don't oversing!** Singing loudly in order to hear oneself over other singers usually stresses the voice. "Showing off" one's voice is inappropriate in group singing--it doesn't contribute well to a choral "blend," and it is usually resented by fellow singers! If you need to check the accuracy of your pitch, simply put a finger in one ear. Even when fortissimo singing is required, it is wise not to push the voice.
- **Prepare your music!** Whenever possible, try to learn your part before coming to the rehearsal. If you are insecure about pitch, it is unlikely that you will sing well. Hesitation impedes good vocal technique.
- **Avoid talking!** Not only is chatting disruptive to others (especially the director!), but it tires the voice.
- **Take care of your health!** Avoid smoke and alcohol, postpone partying until after the final performance! Hydrate--drink plenty of fluids.



The President's Podium

By Danny Anderson

A new year has begun for the Danbury Chapter. A new slate of board members has been installed who are continuing the practice of gathering on a Saturday in January to talk about the past year's chapter activities and to formulate plans for the New Year. We will meet on January 31 and welcome chapter members to attend.

The installation dinner was well attended, and I wish to express my thanks to each who attended along with your spouses. A good time was had by all, and my congratulations to each of the awards winners.

The Music Committee has scheduled several coaching sessions for us. We had our first of the year with John Ward, a singing judge, who put us through the paces on two songs. There were many take-aways from the session which we now must work on. I believe that these thoughts will appear in another section of the *Hatter Chatter*.

We are within a few weeks of a major fund raiser for the Chapter, Singing Valentines. The Board is asking each member to book one singing valentine to be delivered by one of our quartets. We will be using Facebook to advertise this event. We have yard signs which need to be placed, so select a location you think will be seen by a large number of people.

Earlier Joe sent to each member, as email attachments, copies of two different flyers to download, print and post, I hope you have done this. I usually send a copy of the flyer to friends with whom I exchange emails. You might think about doing the same.

Last week we recognized Walter Barlow as a man of note for having recruited Rich Waag. Rich attended our last guest evening, enjoyed the evening and has continued to attend our meetings. Rich will be a great addition to the lead section and the chorus.

In the near future we will be hosting another guest night. Begin now to think of men who you might invite. These events have fostered the successful recruitment of several men, I being one of them when Jim Hopper invited me, Nick, Lyle and Dessain.

We all know that once a person experiences the joy of ringing a chord and the friendliness of the chorus he usually gets hooked. Thus, we get more men to visit us and experience what we have to offer.

As we continue into this new year, let's pledge to spread the word about what we have to offer as a chorus, practice our music, attend each practice and sing-out. By doing this we will become a larger chorus and be better performers.

Let's have a wonderful year.

District Dirt

By Robert J. Bradley

Leadership Academy was a gamble this year. As of the end of December, we had one person registered. Without the help of Antonio Lombardi, our District Secretary, and Steve Salamin, our PR person, I would have been at Worcester State by myself with Paul Ellinger. As it turned out, we had over 180 students for one of the best registrations we have had in years. I thought our faculty was excellent, and I am always amazed at the amount of work done by members of our district to help other members. All of our teachers were volunteers, who provide their own materials and set their own class agendas.

There is a feeling among the teachers that they want the students to get the best information for their individual jobs that we can give them. I was told by Dick Powell, our society Board member and teacher of the presidents class, that one district was bragging that they had 39 members at their leadership academy. The important thing about the school is that you can pick up tips from others and also learn the technical part of your job – the skills needed to get what you need to do done.

I was president of the Danbury chapter for many years and attended the leadership academy, then called COTS, every year. The important part to me was to interact with other presidents and to share problems and experiences. I made some contacts during that time that I still have to this day and through them I became interested in getting involved in the District Board.

I can see the working of the Danbury Board of Directors, and I am always impressed that the members have a great board to lead them. So too does the District. There is a group there that is very concerned about each and every chapter. We discuss those we think are in trouble, those who are doing well and what we can do to be of assistance to both. Due to geography, the board may not always be visible, but the concern is there and the willingness to aid. We have the best group of guys running the district that I have seen in my years of being involved in NED.

I am looking in the future to add more singing and fun to the Leadership Weekend, and have long-term plans for a change in direction. As we do not have our spring contests any more, maybe we could look toward more of a winter convention with classes, singing and coaching. I am also looking into venues that are all under one roof -- we come in Friday and leave Sunday never braving the weather.

Paul Ellinger was informative, interesting and has a different approach to singing and to life in general. His basic philosophy is to keep it simple and to change one's mindset to that. He looks to grow a chapter, sing out in public more, go to areas where a street magician would perform, sing one song and interact with the audience.

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January Board of Directors Meeting

Respectfully submitted by Robert Golenbock, Secretary

Meeting called to order by Danny "Haven't I Suffered Enough?" Anderson at 6:05pm on January 6, 2015, at the Church of Christ.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The report, which was sent out earlier, was actually read by Andy Bayer, who asked that we specify in this month's Minutes some of the incentives suggested for selling valentines. Eventually the report was received on a motion by Andy, seconded by Dickson DeMarche.

TREASURER'S REPORT: We did well last month. For the year we had a negative cash flow of \$200. Dickson is sending out 1099's as well as the file which contains our financial transactions for the year. The report was received on a motion by Robert Golenbock, seconded by Al Paparesta. Unfortunately, Al's term of office ran out in December, so I had Jimmy also second the motion.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Richard Waag has been officially approved by the Barbershop Harmony Society as a member. We welcome Richard as our newest member. Andy Bayer is planning another Guest Night in April or the end of March since the last one was so successful.

VP PUBLIC RELATIONS: Al Paparesta took a moment to thank everyone for their enormous help while he was Vice President of Public Relations. We in turn thanked him for the enormous efforts he continues to make on our behalf. One of his campaigns right now is to do Singing Valentines to spouses of active servicemen. Al has some names and will speak to the proper authorities for permission. We also have permission to sing inside Stop & Shop in Danbury before Valentine's Day. Art Cilley, our new PR VP, is working with Al to find corporate sponsors. They put together a proposal that includes a number of issues that require investigation, and they are assembling a committee to evaluate how to go about setting up a corporate sponsorship. They want to seek funds from the Danbury Cultural Commission as well. As Bob Bradley has had much experience raising funds for non-profit cultural organizations, we are asking him to help us with our plans.

MUSIC COMMITTEE: There was no meeting this month.

OLD BUSINESS: Peter Daubner has been coerced into becoming our Show Chairman. Andy Bayer, as co-chairman, will show him the ropes.

A committee of Andy Bayer, Jim Hopper, and Robert Golenbock met to plan how to use the money Terry Dunkle donated for a Scholarship Fund as a memorial to his son, John. This fund, originally to be used to encourage chapter membership, especially among young men, has not yet been utilized. It is our goal to encourage high school students, both men and women, to the Harmony Explosion Camp by offering them one of two \$150 scholarships.

The details of the program are available in a report that Andy can make available to anyone who is interested. We will be sending out letters to local high school choral directors and, we hope, replenishing the funds by earmarking all donations at our Annual Holiday Concert to this fund. Terry is aware of our plan and supports it. A motion by Andy Bayer (seconded by Robert Golenbock) to provide two \$150 scholarships for HX camp sustained through contributions at the holiday concert was passed.

Our Valentine's Day campaign includes plans to sing to the Danbury Mayor's staff and the people at the *News-Times*, publicizing our singing to a military spouse, brochures, pamphlets, print ads, online ads, radio, and Facebook ads beginning on February 1. We plan to hand out a sheet to help members sell singing valentines. We are offering an incentive to members. If a member buys a Singing Valentine, the quartet will sing to his wife and then the member can sing to his wife as well.

NEW BUSINESS: We are planning a Board retreat with members of the Music Team to set goals for the coming year.

MEMBERS PRESENT: A. Paparesta, H. Belafonte.

OFFICERS PRESENT: R. Golenbock, D. Anderson, A. Cilley, D. DeMarche, A. Bayer, J. Hopper, P. Daubner.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17pm. Next meeting February 3, 2015.

Dirt

Continued from Page 7

If we all maintain a regular singing out program, more and more men will see us and membership will grow.

I was able to get a lesson in Wave Box singing as I acted as driver and host for him. Again keep it simple -- change the mind set and better singing will evolve.

I was glad to see Jimmy, Andy, Dr. Bob and Wynn from our chapter. I hope I did not leave anyone out. At these events, I don't get a lot of time to spend with my own chapter members and I regret that. Please know that I brag about "youse guys" all of the time and bring you up as good examples.

As I spend more and more time with District programs and problems, I am very proud to be a Mad Hatter. We are on the right track. We are well run, with great members and management. Keep it up guys, you are a shining example of all that is right and fun with our hobby.

I know there is a large and talented team working to improve Harmony College and the fall experience.

And speaking of the fall, get ready for the fall convention in Burlington, VT.

New England Harmony Brigade

The music is now chosen for the 2015 New England Harmony Brigade, scheduled for September 18th-20th in Marlborough, Mass (same location as last year). The organizing committee is busy at work, and making the learning tracks to help everyone learn the new songs. The song selection this year is really very enjoyable. You will be glad you came.

Registration numbers are running well ahead of the numbers for last year at this time.....so this may be the first year we are oversubscribed.

Remember, the price for the 2015 Rally is going up to \$298.00 but if you apply before January 31' you can still get last year's price of \$285.00. But you must act now!

January 31, 2015 - NEHB members need to [sign up by this date](#), to keep their priority status.

January 31, 2015 - Everyone who wants to [lock in last year's price, must apply by this date!](#)

Explosion Camp Northeast

For a third time (in my role), it is my distinct honor to announce that **Harmony Explosion Camp Northeast 2015 (HXNE2015)** is happening this year and is continuing to grow and impact lives!

To say that I'm personally excited is an understatement! Our leadership team is working non-stop to make sure this is an experience of a lifetime...for ALL who attend!

As in the past, our district continues to partner with organizations such as the Harmony Foundation Intl., Sweet Adeline's Intl. & Harmony Incorporated.

Help us refer anyone you talk to, to our website:

nedyh.groupanizer.com

or to me (hxcamp@nedyh.groupanizer.com) for more information or questions! Registration is already open and more information will be launched on our website in the coming weeks!

A special note: we've included on our website a "Frequently Asked Questions" section. We hope that the FAQ's can help you spread the word, or answer your personal questions.

You'll notice that we've selected some truly top-notch teaching faculty (info about them on our site) for our youth AND our adults...*(Did I mention we have a Music Educator Track?! More information, see the flyer or contact me).*

Which also means we're going to have a really exciting show on Saturday, August 8, 2015... SAVE THE DATE!

I look forward to hearing from you! Please don't hesitate to call me or email me if you have any questions!

More information to come! As always, thank you for supporting HXNE as well as Youth in Harmony!

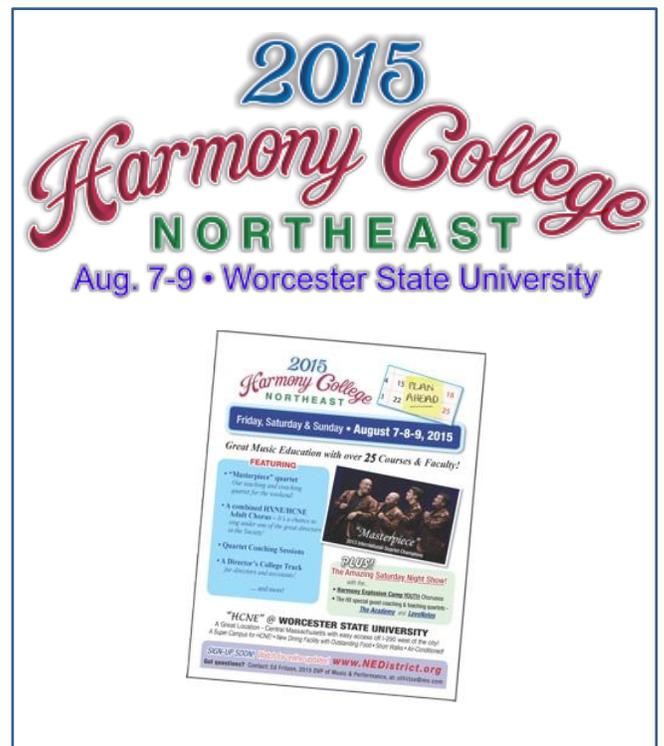
Harmoniously,
Antonio Lombard

NED Barbershopper of the Year

I am deeply humbled to have been selected as the NED Barbershopper of the Year for 2010. I received this award at the 2015 NED Leadership Academy, as I did not attend the District Convention last October. It was an honor to serve all of you as a member of the NED District Board for over nine years. I loved visiting your chapters, meeting and getting to know so many of you personally, installing your officers, and even emceeding a few shows. Sandy and I have many fond memories from the last decade.

Thank you all for giving me this wonderful opportunity to be a part of your barbershop lives. Working with and for you has changed my life forever. I am ever grateful. See you on the risers.

Walt Lane



Confessions of a Retiree's Wandering Mind

Contributed by Dick Zang

I had amnesia once - maybe twice.

I went to San Francisco. I found someone's heart. Now what?

Protons have mass? I didn't even know they were Catholic.

All I ask is a chance to prove that money can't make me happy.

If the world were a logical place, men would be the ones who ride horses sidesaddle.

What is a "free" gift? Aren't all gifts free?

They told me I was gullible, and I believed them.

Teach a child to be polite and courteous in the home and when he grows up, he'll never be able to merge his car onto the freeway.

Experience is the thing you have left when everything else is gone.

One nice thing about egotists, they don't talk about other people.

My weight is perfect for my height - which varies.

I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not sure.

How can there be self-help "groups"?

If swimming is so good for your figure, how do you explain whales?

Show me a man with both feet firmly on the ground, and I'll show you a man who can't get his pants off.

Is it me or do buffalo wings taste like chicken?



Chapter president, Danny Anderson, welcomes all to the Installation Dinner. Picture by John Bradley



Keith Korb receives Rookie of the Year Award. Picture by John Bradley



Mad Hatter of the Year, Jim Hopper. Picture by John Bradley.



And, of course, there was singing. Picture by John Bradley.

Name the Venue

The Danbury Mad Hatters recently performed at this venue. Can you identify it?



Ye Olde Joke Boarde



Submitted by the Unknown Barbershopper

The elderly barbershop baritone was at the doctor's office for his yearly exam. After completing it, the doctor commented that he appeared to be in pretty good shape. The old fellow said that everything was fine except that he was up two or three times each night to use the toilet.

"You best be careful stumbling around in the dark," warned the doctor. "If you fall and break something it will be a long time healing."

"Oh, no problem," replied the old baritone. "The good Lord always turns on the light for me.

Later, the doctor got to thinking about the old baritone and the light. Concerned that he might have a mental problem, he called the old fellow's wife. She groaned and said, "Oh, don't pay any attention to him. At night he forgets where the bathroom is, and grabs the refrigerator door instead."

. . .

A barbershop baritone goes into a restaurant for a Christmas breakfast while in his home town for the holidays.

After looking over the menu he says, "I'll just have the eggs Benedict."

His order comes a while later and it's served on a big shiny hubcap. He asks the waiter, "What's with the hubcap?"

The waiter sings, "There's no plate like chrome for the hollandaise."

. . .

As we waited for a bus in the frosty weather, the barbershop baritone next to me mentioned that he makes a lot of mistakes when texting in the cold.

I nodded knowingly. "It's the early sign of typhothermia."

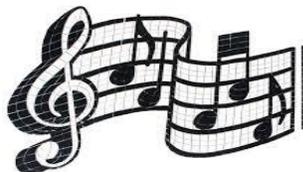
Current Mad Hatter Repertoire

Regular Repertoire

Almost Like Being In Love
Breaking Up Is Hard To Do
I Don't Know Why (I Just Do)
It's Only A Paper Moon
On The Sunny Side Of The Street
Shenandoah
I Don't Know Why (I Just Do)
Crazy Little Thing Called Love
Happy Together
They Say It's Wonderful
Fun in Just One Lifetime
Where is Love
Don't Believe My Heart Can Stand
Another You.

Patriotic/Inspirational

Armed Forces Salute
God Bless America
I Believe
Star-Spangled Banner
This Land Is Your Land/America The
Beautiful



Coming Soon

Beach Boys Medley
Blue Velvet
Bye Bye, Love
Daydream
Come Go With Me
Tonight, Tonight
How Deep Is The Ocean
Moonlight Brings Memories
The Long and Winding Road
59th Street Bridge Song (Feeling
Groovy)
50's Rock and Roll Medley
The High Cost of Low Living

The Danbury, CT Chapter SPEBSQSA

104 Lexington Blvd.
Bethel, CT 06801
203-744-9480

President:	Danny Anderson
Musical Director:	Joseph Hudson
Assistant Director:	Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox
Director Emeritus:	Don Sutherland
Membership VP:	Andy Bayer
Public Relations VP:	Art Cilley
Music VP:	Jim Hopper
Secretary:	Robert Golenbock
Treasurer:	Dickson DeMarche
Program VP	Vacant
Member at Large:	Peter Daubner
Member at Large:	Walt Barlow
Member at Large:	Wynn Wilcox
Immediate Past President	Robert Bradley
Uniform Chairman:	Andy Bayer
Harmony Foundation	
Chairman:	Danny Anderson
Music Librarian:	Peter Daubner
Sunshine Chairman:	Don Smith Package
Show Chairman:	Dick Walter Chorus
Manager:	Robert Golenbock

The Hatter Chatter

Serving the Mad Hatter community since last Tuesday

John Bradley, hatter editor editor 39 Beekman Drive Lake Carmel, NY 10512 Jbrad1313@earthlink.net	Dick Zang, chatter 2 Camelot Crest Sandy Hook, CT 06482 jezang@charter.net
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Proofreader: Miss Taralily

The editors of the Hatter Chatter welcome submissions from all chapter members and friends of the Mad Hatters. E-mail, mail, paper airplane us your thoughts, observations, opinions, singing tips and whatevers, and we'll turn them into Pulitzer Prize copy

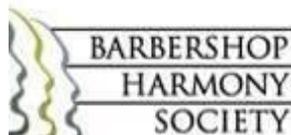
February Milestones

Birthdays:

5 - Linda Anderson
8 - Vikki Bradley

Wedding Anniversaries:

9 - Chuck and Judith Kreiger



Mark Your Calendars

Planning Session

Saturday January 31, Church Of Christ, 90 Clapboard Ridge Rd., / Danbury, CT. 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Singing Valentines Promotion

February 7 and 8, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. Details to be announced.

Coaching Session

Tuesday February 24, Church Of Christ, 90 Clapboard Ridge Rd., / Danbury, CT. 7:15 pm.

Performance

Saturday, February 28, Meadow Ridge Assisted Living, 100 Redding Road, Redding, CT. Warm-up 3:30 pm. Sing 4:00 to 5:00 pm.

Performance

Saturday, March 14, St. Paul Episcopal Church, 802 Bantam Road, Bantam, CT. Warm-up 2:30 pm. Sing 3:00 to 4:00 pm.

Annual Show

Saturday, May 16. Details to be announced.

**2015 Fall
DISTRICT
CONVENTION**
BURLINGTON, VT Oct. 16-18

**2015 Northeastern District
Fall Convention & Contests**
Friday & Saturday, October 16-17
Burlington, Vermont

**HOTEL RESERVATION INFO
and other information - soon!**