

THE SOUND OF SENECA

Volume 2, Issue 1

Spring 2020



Looking Back While Moving Ahead...Happy New Year and welcome to a new decade for barbershop and the Seneca Land District!

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Congratulations to both Mohawk Valley and Liverpool for placing in the top 5 of the HFI Chapter Challenge! Harmonic Collective placed 1st in the entire Society!

The Seneca Land Vision: To be an ever-growing organization that is ageless, colorless and dedicated to the average singer having fun creating and preserving extraordinary music in the barbershop style. A brotherhood known in their community for making a difference through singing.



President's Address, January, 2020



So, it's a new decade! Best wishes to everyone in Seneca Land District as we enter the 80th year since our first chapter in Warsaw was formed. This particular year in our history seems to suggest a question. Should we think of this as an opportunity for 2020 hindsight or 2020 foresight? "Yes" might be a thoughtful answer! Described differently, we should probably engage in 2020 vision.

Hindsight sometimes gets a bad rap, justly so when it's used simply as a roadblock in considering change. How many of us in our chapter lives have heard someone question why something is done in a particular way and are told "well, we've always done it that way"? It's just as frustrating to propose something only to be told "we did that once, and it didn't work" (and you investigate a little only to find that the example cited was 20 years ago). The question then becomes how can we honor our past, remembering those who were key in making us who we are today without blinding us to the changes that we need to benefit and pave the way for those who follow us? More fundamentally, perhaps it's worth some thought about whether we have an obligation to those who follow us. Hopefully, the answer is obvious.

Every chapter likely has stories of guys in the early days of the chapter, men who might not physically be with us any longer, but remain part of the chapter almost as legends. Many of us have gone to memorial services for men in the chapter way before our time and thought "what a shame I never knew that man". Many of those men had significant influence on the culture of that chapter as it exists today; they're really the role models of days gone by. Some history that your President misses is SPEBSQSA (aka Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America); now we're called the Barbershop Harmony Society. We all understand that BHS is easier for the public to relate to and understand, but it's always struck me that O.C. Cash, Rupert Hall and the other men who started this organization in 1938 showed incredible forethought by including both our mission and how we were to carry it out all in the name of our organization. Gone now but hopefully not forgotten are words like "preservation" and more importantly "encouragement", which parenthetically is often the subject of discussion when your District President visits a chapter. Those who know the smiling face above also know that anyone who suggests to him that Barbershopping is "just a hobby" is in for a discussion about Barbershopping being a passion, not just a hobby. Why do we have guys who've dedicated their entire adult lives to "just a hobby"? Why do we all week after week, year after year gather for chapter meetings on Tuesday nights? Yes, Liverpool, we know you meet on Sunday; we say this lovingly and as a compliment: you're outliers!



Looking Back...

Take a look at the many events that have taken place across the district over the past few months.

Looking Back while Moving Ahead... #SLDProud

This naturally leads us to the other side of the coin, which is in what manner should we exercise 2020 vision that honors our history and at the same time doesn't limit our vision of the future, still paving the way for those who follow. It's probably evident to all of us that society and our collective culture in 2020 have changed since 1938. One way BHS has elected to reflect the cultural changes we're undergoing is the vision of Everyone in Harmony, which was an initiative announced two years ago. We freely admit the obvious and acknowledge that there are members in the District and furthermore across the Society not altogether comfortable with this concept.

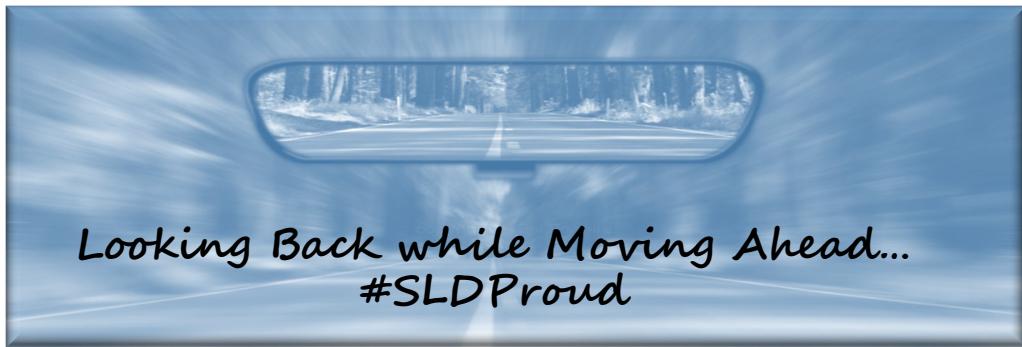
The hard reality is membership across the Society has been dropping by about 1,500 or so every year for years. There's a chapter that I visit every year for their invariably creative annual show; their Show Program has some material about barbershopping and the Society, including a comment about membership at the 38,000 level. That only lives in some dim corner of our fond memories! The number would be closer to 18,000. If you're bored some Friday night and want a little excitement, go to the Society Member Center, get to reports and look for the Society Membership Report. For our 17 districts in the Society, as of this instant, the Carolinas District is up a little over 3%, Rocky Mountain is essentially at 0% change. Everyone else, including our wonderful district SLD is down, some by double digits. Guys, those of us with even passing skills in math know that this isn't a good thing! Some of us might not feel that Everyone in Harmony reflects their outlook. Well, fine! We're all the products of different life experiences; it's pretty natural that we as individuals each form our own opinions. To go on, as this initiative was rolled out, a key underpinning was that each of the roughly 800 chapters in our Society could make its own decision in this regard, each chapter could elect to remain a male only experience, they could convert to mixed, or they could host a female only chorus within the chapter. To bring it closer to home, we should each ask ourselves just how EiH (that's what those "in the know" call it) affects our daily lives as barbershoppers. Worded differently, in what way does an initiative promulgated out of Nashville, over 786 miles from sunny downtown Webster (you of course can substitute your own home town) in any way diminish the joy each of us gets on so many levels from sharing the gift of song?

To our gentlemen and a slowly growing number of ladies scattered across SLD, each of us has a responsibility to preserve the art form that we all enjoy so deeply for future generations. Remember our traditions, but reflect how we can be relevant to today's generations.

As always, these articles are intended to promote some introspection. Do feel welcome and invited to seek out that smiling face above and share what impact barbershopping has had in your personal experience and how we can make it better.

Please recall our 2019 District President's motto which we carry into this new decade; let's all be sure to "**Be the Best You Can Be!**"

David C. Bay, President, Seneca Land District
SLD_District_President@outlook.com



Looking Back...

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Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Binghamton Chapter: 'Hometown Harmony'

The Helen Foley Theater at Binghamton High School was really rockin' Saturday November 2! The Southerntiersmen Chorus presented their 73rd annual show, *Rock and Roll is Here to Stay*, to a packed house. "Your best show ever" was a common response by the audience in the lobby after the show. The Southerntiersmen heartily agree – we had a blast!

The Binghamton area is blessed with a wide variety of talented choral groups, so the show committee decided to focus on that theme for their show. "There's no place like home", as Dorothy said. Ragtime Rick Pedro once again rocked the audience before the show with his energetic piano rags and jazz favorites. He then joined the chorus for the show's rousing signature song, *Rock and Roll is Here to Stay*. Wow! Thank you, Rick.



Our featured youth quartets were The Wonderettes and The Plaids from Seton Catholic Central High School in Binghamton. In March 2019, they and the Seton Show Choir won five gold medals at the Worldstrides Boston Heritage Festival! These young people really know how to entertain with their smooth harmonies, strong solos, and creative choreography. And in October 2020, the Show Choir will be touring Italy with a special performance for Pope Francis. Wouldn't you like to be on that trip?



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Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!



Our four chorus quartets were also highlighted in the second half of the shows including Terry and the Pirates, Vocal Impact, Group Therapy, and Just 4 Men. Group Therapy were the 2018 Seneca Land District (SLD) Mixed Quartet Champions, and Just 4 Men were the 2019 SLD Senior Quartet Champions. Just 4 Men sang songs highlighting the beautiful voice of Dr. Juliana Sabol (Mac's wife): Ave Maria and Lida Rose (from The Music Man).

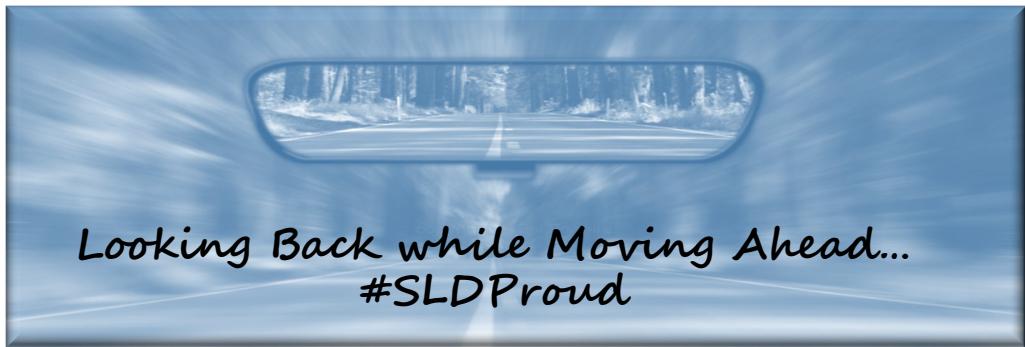
Dr. Sabol is an Associate Professor of Voice in the Setnor School of Music's Voice Department at Syracuse University, and is a distinguished soloist. Quartet baritone Dave Scott also provided a lovely guitar accompaniment on Ave Maria. These two numbers were definite audience favorites!



With an ongoing commitment to coaching and singing excellence, the Southerntiersmen Chorus (2018 SLD Chorus Champions) were at the top of their game for this show! The audience loved the variety of rock and roll era favorites, as well as the inspiring climax to show with everyone singing God Bless America. And the confetti cannon at the end was exciting... and surprising!

We extend a special thank you to SLD President David Bay for evaluating our show through the Standing Ovation Program. By all measures, this show was a smashing success, and one of our best shows ever. We celebrated our passion and friendship with a delicious afterglow buffet and even more singing. We truly love to sing!





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Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Binghamton Chapter: CHOW Update—Feeding the Hungry Back in 2004, Deacon Ed Blaine was Director of the Community Hunger Outreach Warehouse (CHOW®) in the greater Binghamton community. John Rice of the Southerntiersmen Chorus approached Ed with an idea for an annual holiday choral concert the first Sunday in December. The Southerntiersmen would act as official sponsor of the concert, which would involve other local choruses or choirs, with all ticket proceeds being donated to CHOW. Ed thought that was a wonderful idea, providing the community with a quality holiday concert and generating much needed funding to support CHOW.

Well, Ed joined the Southerntiersmen in 2006 as a result of hearing us sing at that concert. Fun and quality a cappella harmony in the barbershop style rang his bell and he had to be a part of the chorus. Ed emceed his 15th Annual CHOW concert on December 10, 2019, with the Southerntiersmen Chorus, Endwell Community Chorus, and Southern Tier Christian Community Choir highlighting the show. In the past, other community choral groups such as the Binghamton Downtown Singers and the Crosbys of Binghamton University have participated in the concert.



Southerntiersmen Chorus



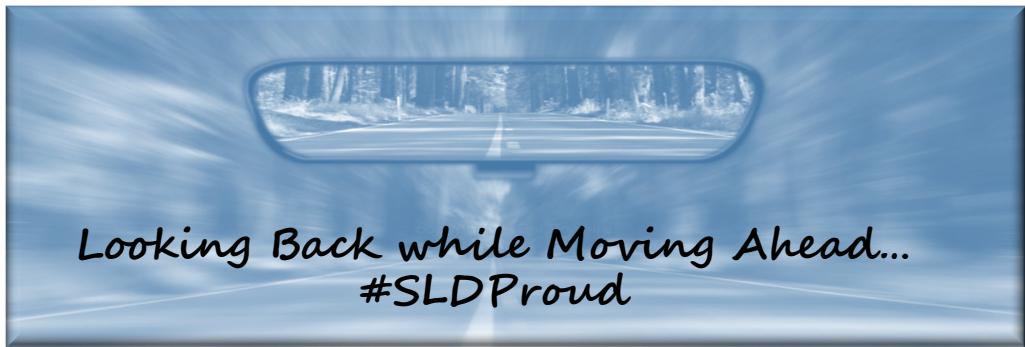
Southern Tier Christian Community Choir

CHOW, through its network of nearly 100 partner agencies (pantries, community meals and non-profit organizations), distributes over 175,000 pounds of food each month. Jack Seman is Director. Jack was born and raised in Binghamton and began volunteering in the CHOW Warehouse nearly five years ago. With experience managing the warehouse and food sourcing aspects of CHOW as well as knowledge of the community, he has been in the Director's position since March of 2017. CHOW distributes over 2 million pounds of food each year. CHOW also has many other programs to generate grassroots solutions to hunger in our community.

The annual CHOW concert has raised nearly \$27,000 since 2004 to feed those in need in the Tri-Cities area. The Southerntiersmen are very proud of their commitment and contribution to the community – it brings us great joy and helps those in need! Thank you, Ed, for singing lead with the Southerntiersmen and being an inspiring community leader.



Endwell Community Chorus



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Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Canton Chapter: The Goldenaires were busy this last quarter with their Nov. 30th show, raising \$1600 for a large home nearby that has been renovated as a place for families with young cancer patients/ or life threatening diseases to seek peace and quiet, take part in special activities (similar to Make a Wish), and to be together as a family to have fun and enjoy each other. This was the wish of a local teenager who passed away a couple of years ago that the chapter has been able to help make come true.



Additionally, members of the Canton chapter were busy with Christmas sing outs at the St. Lawrence County Historical Association home; a local independent living facility (where they also practice) that has more than thirty residents.

And finally, we had the privilege of singing at the local Methodist Church to raise money for the Church and Community Program as well as a couple ring and sings for the Salvation Army. All in all a very busy and rewarding holiday season!





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Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Crawford County Chapter: Yesterday's Sound Chorus, the Crawford County chapter of BHS, remains active in Meadville, PA. For the past two years our members have been having fun learning and performing songs from Barberpole Cat Songbook 2. In September we were treated to a reunion performance by chapter quartet MMBRs.

In December 2019 we performed several well received Christmas programs for Meadville area assisted living/nursing homes. Our performance included two songs from the Seneca Land District Christmas song book that were arranged by chapter member Pete Gifford. If you happen to find yourself in Meadville on a Tuesday night, please join us for rehearsal. We meet at 7 pm in the Community Room of Cribbs Hall, Wesbury United Methodist Community. For more information please feel free to contact Mark Fiely at 814-720-5540.



Finger Lakes Mixed Chorus: This holiday season, we enjoyed singing for our community and community events during the holiday season. The Annual Tree Lighting was well attended and Santa arrived just in time to help light the tree. We also had a full house at one of our many sing outs during the holiday season. We're not sure who had more fun, our audience listening to us and joining in with singing some of the songs, or the chorus singing to such an appreciative audience.



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Looking Back while Moving Ahead...
#SLDProud



Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Liverpool Chapter: Harmonic Collective was quite active this past season. The chapter traveled to two nursing homes, as well as attended the Village of Liverpool's Tree Lighting Ceremony to spread some holiday cheer through song.



As in past years, they also collected donations in support of the local charity they have partnered with over the past few years: Vera House. Vera House does outstanding work in the Central New York area providing resources and supports to victims of abuse. As part of their 'For Peace and Harmony' effort, HC donated money raised across the year and gift cards donated during the holiday season of a total value of \$1,000.

Finally, the chapter also celebrated their year together at the annual End of the Year party. The evening was a time where the membership reflected upon the previous year, sharing food, laughter, song, and holiday cheer! This year, The Liverpool Chapter celebrated two people



in particular. As a young chapter, Liverpool was honored to recognize Rick Collins for receiving his 50 year member pin, as well as celebrate our first ever Barbershopper of the Year, Brian Sagrestano.



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Looking Back while Moving Ahead... #SLDProud



Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Mark Twain Chapter: The Mark Twain Chorus, in conjunction with the **Crystal Chords**, put on a successful and entertaining Annual Show in late October. Guest quartet, **Aged to Perfection**, 2018 Harmony, Inc. Harmony Queens wowed the audience with their performance. A portion of the proceeds from the show was donated to The Food Bank of the Southern Tier.

Immediately following, Chorus members began “dusting off” their Christmas repertoire, only interrupting their work to prepare a one-hour concert at the Church of the Redeemer on November 10th. This was part of the 2019-20 recital series supported by a community foundation and made available at no cost to the public. The audience was well-engaged and several expressed their thanks and enjoyment to Chorus members.

At the end of November we sang at a local outdoor Christmas Land while people strolled the grounds or awaited a visit from Santa and his reindeer. We also braved icy roads to perform on the Powers Theater stage of the Clemens Center for the annual telethon of the oldest charity in Chemung County, The Arctic League, an organization that collects funds to provide toys and other Christmas items for children across the County.

The Power of Music: During the Christmas Season, the Chorus sang for staff and residents of three nursing facilities in the area. There were several people who knew the words and would sing along and, occasionally, one who would “direct” as we performed. Indeed, we found – as others have – we received as much enjoyment from the experience as we gave, if not more.

We had a special sing-out arranged by one of our members for a second year in a row at a residential facility treating addiction. While we did a “seasonal” program, we modified it to include up tunes and doo-wop, adding “That’s Life” to help the residents know we are with them in their struggle. Several came up at the end and personally thanked every member they could. We were deeply moved and grateful for the opportunity to share joy with them for a few minutes of their life.

As 2019 drew to a close, the Chorus held its annual year-end party, a time of socializing, singing and raising funds for Harmony Foundation. Members, spouses, and friends enjoyed a buffet dinner and good conversation. Butch Talada, aptly ran a lively auction of donated items for Harmony Foundation. David Allen, Chapter President, reflected on accomplishments during 2019, the 65th year since the Chapter received its charter while Chorus Director David Cloyd spoke about his vision for the future of the Chorus.

Quartets **Pasture Prime** and **Staff Meeting**, along with the Chorus, sang for all present. President Allen presented member Paul Lindsey with the BOTY (Barbershopper of the Year), for his ongoing efforts on behalf, and in support, of the Chapter.



Director David Cloyd

The Chorus is looking forward to a great year in 2020!

Looking Back while Moving Ahead... #SLDProud

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Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!



Mohawk Valley Chapter: (left) Highlighting our final quarter of the year was 2018 BOTY Chaz Zelows presenting Brian Sagrestano with the Mohawk Valley Chapter's Barbershopper of the Year for 2019 on December 6, 2019 at the Savoy Restaurant in Rome.



Oswego Chapter: (right) At the Oswego Valley Snowbelters Christmas party and Installation of Officers, Barney Johnson was awarded BOTY for 2019, presented by 2018 BOTY Roger Wells. The Snowbelters are also hard at work preparing for their upcoming show being held on May 9th at the Oswego Alliance Community Center in Oswego.

Titled " A Whole New World" it will be presented as a matinee at 2:01 and an evening performance at 7:31PM. The **Northern Blend** women's chorus from Watertown will join with the Snowbelters in the first half and the show will feature **Lip Service** and **For Heaven Sake** during the second half.

For more information E-mail Roger at bariwell39@yahoo.com. Have a great 2020!

Don't forget!

Our district webpage has both a chorus and quartet photo directory—just look for the Chapters and Quartets categories along the top line, hover over either of them and select the Directory option.

Make sure your chorus information is up to date, and if you have a registered quartet that we haven't yet added to our page, email a photo and the quartet's information to SLDwebmaster1@gmail.com and it will be posted right away.

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Looking Back while Moving Ahead...
#SLDProud



Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Rochester Chapter: Happy New Year! We hope you all had a happy holiday season, and that 2020 is treating you well thus far.

Like most of you, the Chorus of the Genesee was busy during the holiday season with singouts and holiday parties. The first of our holiday performances was the Pittsford Candlelight Night on Dec. 3. *Fever Pitch*, one of our chapter quartets, was kind enough to represent the entire chorus at this event.



Thursday, Dec. 5, we tried to be two places at once, but since that's not actually possible, chapter quartet, *Jump Start*, sang at the Park Ave. Open House, while the rest of the chorus performed at the Town of Greece Tree Lighting Ceremony.



Our annual Breakfast with Santa was held Saturday, Dec 7 at Harmony House. We want to thank Larry Michlin for being the best Santa out there – everyone had a great time!



We spent the evening of Dec. 10 singing at the Eastview Mall in Victor. *Fever Pitch* made an appearance during our set, and the audience had a great time singing along with us, too!



CoG 2019 BOTY
Rob Billings



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*Looking Back while Moving Ahead...
#SLDProud*



Jacksonville in winter? Let's just say it was... well 'seasoned' for SLD!

Just 4 Men was proud to represent the Seneca Land District and our Binghamton chapter at the Barbershop Harmony Society's convention in Jacksonville, FL in January. We enjoyed the warm weather and sunshine, along with some GREAT dinners, all researched and planned by our wives. We bumped into a number of Seneca Land friends and other BBS acquaintances during our stay.

The HQ hotel was great and the theater, a well restored old fashioned one seating just under 2,000, was a block and a half away. It was a thrill to step onto the stage before a large audience. We were happy to place 13th in the contest, where the silver medalist quartet came from England and the 10th place quartet was from Sweden! We also had a chance to hear some of our younger generation perform and the top five quartets from the International finals last year.

A very pleasant surprise happened on Wednesday evening when we were guests of our baritone Dave Scott's son, Dave Scott Jr.; a pilot in the Navy stationed in Jacksonville. He arranged for a coach from within his chapter to come and give us some pointers. It turned out to be none other than 'Signature' coach George Gipp. George spent hours with us that evening returning to give us more help Friday afternoon and again Saturday morning before contest. Again, we had a fantastic time and were thrilled to be among your representatives at this event.



Upgrated, our other senior quartet representing Seneca Land District in Jacksonville also had a great time and great showing at midwinter. While enjoying the opportunity to compete on stage, they want to make sure to take time out to thank both the Binghamton and Warsaw chapters for their generous financial gifts, as well as George Ball for his generous personal donation, to assist with the costs of traveling and competing and making this trip possible — thank you SLD for always coming through!

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*Looking Back while Moving Ahead...
#SLDProud*

The Seneca Statesmen made the district proud putting in countless hours of hard work across many months, traveling from all over the district to meet and rehearse in Rochester this past year, and having it pay off with a rating of 'Outstanding' in Jacksonville. Congratulations and thank you to the 27 SLD members who took the stage to make our district #SLDProud!



MrPClose@aol.com —A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THANKS...

In addition to thanking all of our seniors for representing us in Jacksonville, there is one in particular we would like to offer a very special thanks to. You will recognize the young man in the front row as our district editor, **Pat Close**. Pat has dutifully served our district for many years and in many different capacities. After 10 years serving as editor of the district newsletter, he is stepping back to relax a little more and handing those responsibilities over to myself, David Lunden, for future editions of the Sound of Seneca.

I can't thank Pat enough for his endless hard work, support of a new vision, and friendship as I have transitioned in. There is no greater example in our district of someone who **LIVES** the phrase 'In Harmony'. Thank you from the bottom of my heart Pat—and I know the entire district thanks you for all you've done to make us ALL #SLDProud!

From Pat: "I'd like to make sure to thank all of the readers for their support in the good times and their understanding when it was lean. It was a privilege to do this for the district".



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Looking Back while Moving Ahead... #SLDProud



Honoring and remembering the voices before us...



John Fabian, known to all of us as "Slim", John Fabian was a larger than life and absolutely loyal friend. I first met

Slim when he joined the Oswego Valley Snowbelters Chorus in April of 1998. He was a walk-on guest and introduced himself to me by saying: "Hi, my name is John Fabian but some people call me "Slim." I looked him square in the eye and replied back: "And some people call me HANDSOME!" Right away I knew I was going to love this man. In his 22-year BHS membership, John belonged to 3 different chapters (Oswego Valley, Onondaga County and the newly formed Webster senior's chapter), serving as board member, secretary, president and immediate past president. He sang in two quartets (Avalanche and Four Feet of Snow) as well as AHSOW (Ancient Harmonious Society of Woodshedders).

John loved his barbershop hobby and many times told me that it actually saved his life, especially after he lost his beloved wife Nancy "Dede" in June of 2018 to cancer. John especially enjoyed travelling to district and International Conventions, both summer and midwinter. He competed in midwinter Internationals with the Seneca Statesmen telling me it was one of the highlights of his life fulfilling a lifelong dream of standing on the International stage. He told me it was especially special to stand on the Grand Ole Opry stage in Nashville. John himself developed cancer just about a year after losing Dede and fought it with great humility and grace. He never

complained to me once about his ailment rather he reveled in the fact that he lived a great life, enjoyed his family, friends and barbershop hobby and had absolutely zero regrets. I hope you were happy with the Harmony Katz's tribute to you at your funeral. BHS member #269096, please know that you were much more than a number to all of us. The Lord made you so large in order to hold that enormous heart you possessed. I will miss you so very much my friend. I know one of the first things you did when you arrived in heaven was to look up Chuck Wert to sing a tag with him. In one of our private conversations, you promised you'd say hello to him for me. Thank you for sharing your friendship with all of us. Enjoy the biggest stage of them all Slim! -Bobby

Tom Volk LIVED barbershop. He was consumed by it, always striving to make himself a better singer, his quartet

a better quartet and the Southerntiersmen a better chorus. In recent years, perhaps the last four or five, he attended Harmony University on his own dime, refusing to allow the chapter to pay his registration and travel expenses. He always returned with renewed excitement and information to share with his brothers in harmony. He seemed to be involved in multiple activities at any given time, and he enjoyed it! He would show up early each week for the Early Birds rehearsal and lead that small group in warmups and rehearsing songs that the octet, In One A-Chord, would sing at shows and church services. He was also lead in the quartet, Vocal Impact, and loved singing in a quartet. He had been in several quartets over the years and loved each one. We will miss his ready smile, his contagious passion for singing and his friendship.



Mario Inglesi It is with a heavy heart that the Friends of Harmony share the news of Mario Inglesi's passing

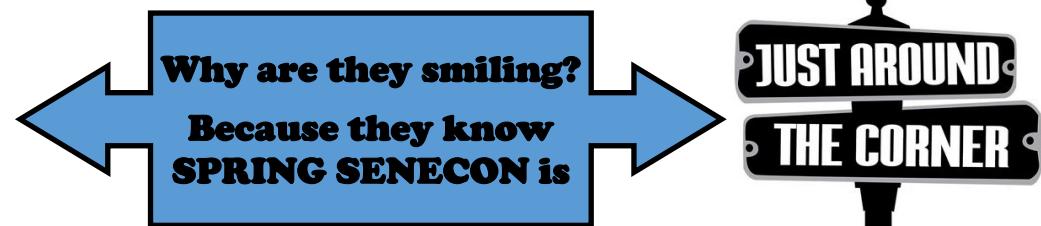
this past week at the age of 81. Mario was a good-natured, hard-working lead in the Friends of Harmony for nineteen years. He recently sang with the Seneca Statesmen Seniors Chorus, hoping to sing with them at the 2020 Mid-Winter Convention in Jacksonville, Florida. Mario fell and suffered a brain injury in late December, and had two surgeries and subsequent treatment at Mercy Hospital of Buffalo. Mario and his wife Mary have been the happiness at so many Friends of Harmony gatherings, and he will be sorely missed. His address is 41 Cowing Street, Depew, NY 14043. His voice and presence on our risers will be sorely missed.



Moving Ahead...

Here's a glimpse at the events and information for the next few months.

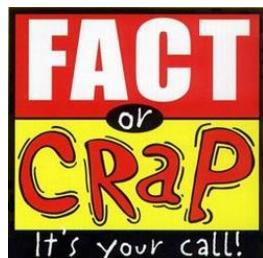
Looking Back while Moving Ahead...
#SLDProud



APRIL 3rd and 4th, 2020!

Get ready for another exciting SLD spring convention! Held once again against the scenic backdrop of Geneva, we are looking forward to a great time singing, celebrating, and seeing members from across the district. Start planning now for a great weekend of barbershop!

So let's get started with the information you need to know as winter breaks into spring...



- ...There will be a wonderful wine tasting on Saturday afternoon from 2:30—4:30 in the hotel ballroom for the unheard of low price of \$5.00 per person—**FACT!**
- ...There will be a VLQ contest as part of the full competitive lineup this year—**FACT!**
- ...Rates have been negotiated for groups to have Saturday late evening parties—**FACT!**
- ..."Fact or Crap" will once again take place Friday night in the Chorditorium after the quartets perform—**FACT!**

Look for details on each of these four facts coming out over the next few weeks via Constant Contact messages and on our webpage.

Registration and convention details will be available on our district webpage as of Saturday February 8th. Visit www.senecaland.org - hover over the 'Events' category at the top and select 'Spring Senecon' from the drop down options!

COMPETITOR INFORMATION—READ CAREFULLY!

If you intend to compete as a quartet, mixed quartet, district chorus, or mixed chorus, please make sure you are aware of the following two important pieces of information:

- 1) Contest Entry - Barberscore opens for contest entries on February 17. www.barbersccore.com
- 2) NON-NEGOTIABLE—The ABSOLUTE drop dead date for the district to receive your contest entry IN BARBERSCORE is FRIDAY, MARCH 13th. No entries will be allowed to compete after this date—make sure you get yours entry in!



16
FEB

Statesmen rehearsal

- 📅 Sunday, February 16, 2020
- ⌚ 1:30pm-4:30pm
- 📍 Harmony House, 58 E Main St, Webster, NY 14580, USA

7
MAR

Parkside Harmony, Hershey Theatre Show

- 📅 Saturday, March 7, 2020
- ⌚ 2:00pm-4:00pm
- ▼ Show more

15
MAR

Statesmen rehearsal

- 📅 Sunday, March 15, 2020
- ⌚ 1:30pm-4:30pm
- 📍 Harmony House, 58 E Main St, Webster, NY 14580, USA

**Visit the full SLD
Events Calendar on
our district
webpage under
the Events tab.**



3
APR

SLD Spring convention / contest

- 📅 Fri, Apr 3 - Sat, Apr 4, 2020
- ⌚ All day

5
APR

SLD House of Delegates Meeting

- 📅 Sunday, April 5, 2020
- ⌚ 9:00am-12:00pm
- 📍 Geneva NY

18
APR

Mohawk Valley annual show - Hear the People Sing

- 📅 Saturday, April 18, 2020
- ⌚ 7:30pm-9:30pm
- 📍 Clinton High School, Clinton, NY 13323, USA
- ▼ Show more

19
APR

Statesmen rehearsal

- 📅 Sunday, April 19, 2020
- ⌚ 1:30pm-4:30pm

**Add your event for
the whole district to
see by emailing
sldwebmaster1
@gmail.com**

Sound and Skills

This month's tip comes from another great director in the society—Mr. Dusty Schleier!

"Feel free to share this and edit as desired..." (editors executive decision to not change a word) "...Sing with passion for the music. All the time. From warmups through 'Keep the Whole World Singing', be passionate about the music you are making. If you get used to ALWAYS singing with passion, it will be easier to bridge the gap between rehearsal technique and the actual performance. Passion for the music is something that can always be present, even on a first read-through. Specific performance skills aren't required, just a commitment to honoring the music every time you rehearse and perform."

We appreciate Dusty having been a part of our previous convention time, and thank him again for offering his insight and advice from a directors point of view—here's to being 'In Harmony'!

Don't forget...

Submissions for each edition for the Sound of Seneca need to be sent to sldwebmaster1@gmail.com by the 15th of the month before each edition is being mailed out. Send us your suggestions and ideas as well for what you might like to see in future editions.

Also...

Remember to keep your information on the web page current as well! If you have a registered quartet—we have a district quartet directory—make sure to send your quartet information to SLDwebmaster1@gmail.com if you want it shared on our site.

Society Resources

This month I would like to highlight a district resource. With a new webpage (www.senecaland.org), some members have asked where certain resources and information are now located.

Take a look at the 'About Us' heading to find information for chapter officers to help in leadership positions, some district documents, programs, current recognitions, and even an SLD glossary for district newcomers.

While on our webpage, take a few moments to look under the 'History' category at our '50 Golden Years of Harmony' archive, graciously offered to every member of the district in pdf format by Bob Coant. This book is a wealth of memories, information, and proud SLD history—thank you Bob!





'Step up to the mic!'

Taking time each quarter to hear the stories of our brothers throughout Seneca Land.

Precious gifts and past the pins...

In the last newsletter we celebrated the judging and singing careers of Don Stothard and Tracy Robertson sharing the plaques and pins. And this month we pick up where we left off with the story of another half century of harmony and what comes after pins.

Our first Seneca Land story begins with the most precious of Christmas gifts being given to **Rick Collins**, December 25, 1969. Plummer Collins gave his son a membership in SPEBSQSA. Neither Rick or his dad had any idea how this gift would affect either one of them. Fifty years later, December 29, 2019, Rick received his 50th year pin at the Liverpool Chapter of BHS, the Harmonic Collective Annual End of Year celebration dinner.

Rick requested the pin be presented in front of his fellow members, with longtime friend Rick Taylor in attendance to present. Both Taylor and Collins have known each other since 1974 as fellow Mid Atlantic barbershoppers. When asked how he felt about reaching this milestone Rick shared; "I had no idea what 50 years meant until now. I'd seen other friends receive their pin, including Rick Taylor. The one thing I can't wait to experience is Harmonic Collective giving me the 50 claps of membership. Hopefully the next 50 years will bring a Seniors Quartet to HC. I've asked the few 55 year olds we have and I'm still working on it. Thank you to my HC family for welcoming me. I have never worked so hard in my Barbershop life, and loved every minute of it."

The most important lesson Rick has learned from his many years in barbershop? "Treat all barbershoppers the same, no matter if they are gold medalists or international presidents. We are all in it for the same reason, the love of harmony." And his message to those coming in to this wonderful hobby and craft? Simple, Rick would want our



our new barbershoppers to simply honor the men who came before us, remembering that we stand on the shoulders of those who went ahead of us. Congratulations Rick!

But what happens once you get past pins? For the best answer to that question in Seneca Land, one would certainly have to visit the Warsaw chapter. While I was unable to directly connect with Dick Kennedy—one of our longest standing members soon to receive his 70th year membership badge, I had a wonderful conversation getting to know **63 year member Tom Flint**.

Pictured here with his wife Janice, of whom Tom asked to be quoted as saying "...a dang good looking woman—make sure they know that!", he began his barbershop career at age 20 and has been with the Warsaw chapter alone for all of 63 years!



Brought into the fold by the baritone of local quartet O-At-Kans, Tom remembers falling in love with the power of ringing a chord—and if they did so while near a tuned piano, the strings would vibrate.

Proud and protective of his chapter, Tom still has the original charter on his wall signed by O.C. Cash himself. He recalls one point in the chapters history when membership was struggling and the Society wrote them all letters telling them they had been placed in Frank Thorne and that he needed to send in the charter. If the Society thought that was going to happen, they certainly had another thing coming. Tom shares that he refused to turn it over, telling them they could come and get it if they wanted to try. Shortly after that, Jim Steadman went to bat and gathered members from other chapters to join and bring the numbers back up to where they needed to be. Additionally, Tom takes pride in the fact that Warsaw members have never had to pay more than \$1.00 a year for chapter dues.

While Tom admittedly struggles with the changes we have experienced in the Society and feels his older memories are better than his newer ones, his dedication is unparalleled and it was a pleasure hearing him tell stories of laughter, fun, and harmony with the likes of Phil Embury, Joe Lyles, The Notecrackers, and more. The pride he takes in his little chapter surviving all these years is palpable through the phone.

One of Tom's hopes is that newer barbershoppers will still go back to the 'old ways' that he remembers where you might lose points or get marked off for singing the sixth chord—and you sang arrangements because they were simply enjoyable to sing. An officer in the chapter for more than 50 years, supported by a wonderful wife as he spent three nights a week at rehearsals for so many years, I was humbled and grateful to have had the chance to hear his story. Better than pins or badges is hearing the story of those who have gone before. Kudos Tom Flint and thank you for carrying the barbershop banner all these years!

Consider encouraging these brothers by sending a note to their chapter in their name, letting them know how great it is to hear their story.

Check out 'Step up to the mic' again next edition as we turn our attention to two of our newest district members.

Seneca Land District SPEBSQSA
5 Fourth Avenue
Franklinville, NY 14737-1301
www.senecaland.org

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Seneca Land Leadership

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For positions listed below, please refer to the BHS Member Center for contact information.

DISTRICT OPERATIONS TEAM

VP Contest and Judging: Don Stothard
VP Chorus Director Development: Eva Hillman
VP Events: Todd Horton
VP Marketing/Public Relations: David Lunden
VP Membership: Art Zelesnikar
VP Youth: Adam Surasky
VP CSLT: -- Open
VP Music: Skip Berenguer

Allegheny Division Manager: Jim Barickman
Appalachian Division Manager: Gene Evans
Catskill Division Manager: Tom Jones
Ontario Division Manager: Dave Lawson

DISTRICT COMMITTEES AND APPOINTMENTS

AHSOW: Larry Horn
Archives/History: - Bob Coant
B.O.T.Y.: Tom Jones
Chautauqua: George Jarrell
Convention Chair: Don Stothard
District Directory Editor: Jim Barickman
Endowment Fund Chair: Butch Talada
Ethics: Gilbert Durham
Financial Review: Don Morgan
Hall of Fame (HOF): Pete Hart
Historian: Carl Smith
Laws & Regulations: Nathan Bell
Nominations: Art Zelesnikar
Services Chairman: Butch Talada
SLAQC: Pete Frank
SLD Chefs: David Lewis, Butch Talada
Sound of Seneca/Convention programs: Pat Close
Social Media: Ben Casper
Standing Ovation Program: Mike Lurenz
Web Master: David Lunden

Message from the Editor:

Publications: The Sound of Seneca will publish four times each year. It will be emailed and posted online on the 1st of February, May, August, and November, with copies mailed to membership across the first week of those months.

Submissions: All submissions are subject to the approval of the editor and must be received by the 15th of January, April, July, and October respectively. Photographs with accompanying write-ups are encouraged. Content may be edited to accommodate amount of space available.

For submissions, questions, or comments, please contact:

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