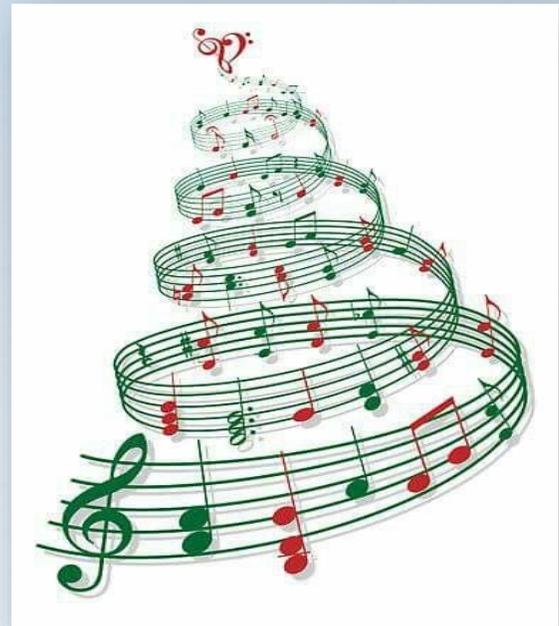

THE SOUND OF SENECA

Volume 2, Issue 4

Winter 2020



Holidays In Harmony!



Closing out the year on a high note... Jump in to perform, or come join us to enjoy some holiday joy, fun, and harmony—take a closer look on page 21!

What's inside this quarter...

- ◆ Notes from the President Page 2-3
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Are you ready to see our
NEW Seneca Land LOGO?

Turn to our 'Step Up to the Mic' feature on page 23 for an unveiling of our new logo, and the story behind the change.

Our Mission: Make Life Better Singing Barbershop Music

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, November, 2020

Isn't this a face that any mother would love? You should too! Most of us recognize Dave Lunden, District Marketing VP who was key in the redesign of our district website, is now also the Editor of our quarterly Sounds of Seneca and in his free time President of the Liverpool Chapter. Any past or current editors know that Dave has the thankless and often frustrating job of collecting content for the electronic and paper editions four times a year. It's common to see the airways abuzz just before cutoffs from him in search of material from our chapters in SLD.



You might think of Sounds of Seneca as just a district news piece, but it's so much more. It benefits our chapters and members in ways we might not think. There isn't anybody who doesn't enjoy being mentioned in print or better yet seeing their picture; it's a great way to acknowledge and publicize our members' contributions to their chapters. In the same fashion that social media helps families no matter how far dispersed feel connected, our barbershopper family enjoys the same feeling. It's not unusual to spot little gems of ideas from the articles in Sounds of Seneca that you might not have thought of yourself, it's a great way to share ideas with other chapters in the district.

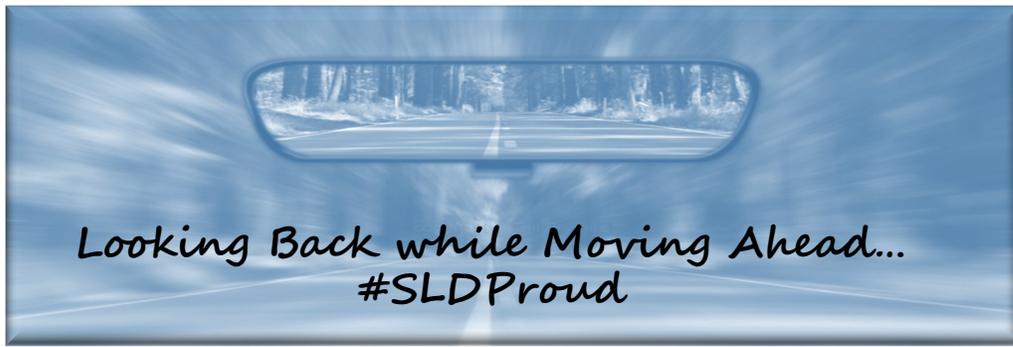
For those receiving this in hard copy, it's a great coffee table piece to generate discussion with friends and family. As a membership tool, how many have had visitors to your home browse the Sounds of Seneca and ask about Barbershopping? Or with a little marketing savvy have forwarded the electronic edition to someone you've recently performed for or a prospective group that you'd like to engage your chapter? What a great way to enhance your image and be part of a community far larger than yourself!

None of us suspected in March that we'd be in November having not been able to hold face-to-face rehearsals, have shows, do singouts or go to Convention. We know that a number of chapters in an effort to keep their members engaged and connected with one another have had weekly or periodic teleconferences via Zoom, and know of at least one chapter holding parking lot rehearsals via wireless mics and an FM station on each car radio. Share what you're doing with the District and put a smile on both our faces. Let's work our Sounds of Seneca Editor fingers so hard he has to put out an extra edition! Dave Lunden's email address is dlunden@nscsd.org. He'll love hearing from you!

Do recall our District President's motto; let's all be sure to "**Be the Best You Can Be!**" even in these incredibly unusual times.

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





Looking Back...

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

Notes from the Editor regarding this Winter 2020 Sound of Seneca edition:

In addition to being emailed to members and posted on our webpage, this edition will again be mailed out in hard copy.

Please note specific changes to this edition in an effort to continue keeping us connected during the pandemic:

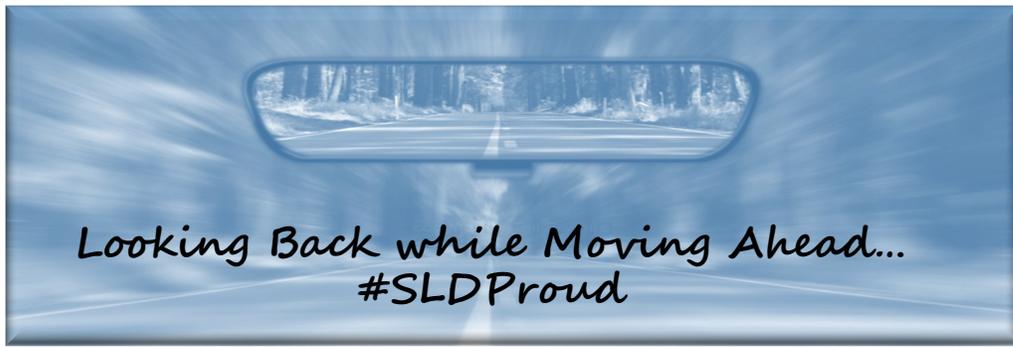
- As a result of most in-person events being cancelled for many chapters the past few months, **this edition of the Sound of Seneca is primarily focused on, and dedicated to, our chapter Directors in honor of the hard work they have all done to sustain our choruses during these challenging times.**
- For this edition, our 'Step Up to the Mic' page will focus on our new logo. We will return to spotlighting district members in the next issue.
- This edition of Sound of Seneca does not include a district calendar page due to the cancellation of all events but you will notice a number of 'Notes to Remind You' posted on various pages offering important information.
- At the start of the new year, a new email distribution list will be created from the BHS membership center to use for next years mailings. **Please take a moment to make sure that your email address is the correct one so that you don't miss communications from the district.**

We hope you are staying healthy and safe and look forward to seeing everyone again in the fall!

Do you have changes to your chapter, chorus, or quartet information? Don't forget to email any changes to sldwebmaster1@gmail.com so that we can make all of your updates on the district webpage!

Even without our major events, if your chapter has been busy during the pandemic and you want to share pictures of what you have been doing on our district web page —please email photos you would like considered for our photo carousel to:

sldwebmaster1@gmail.com



Looking Back...

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

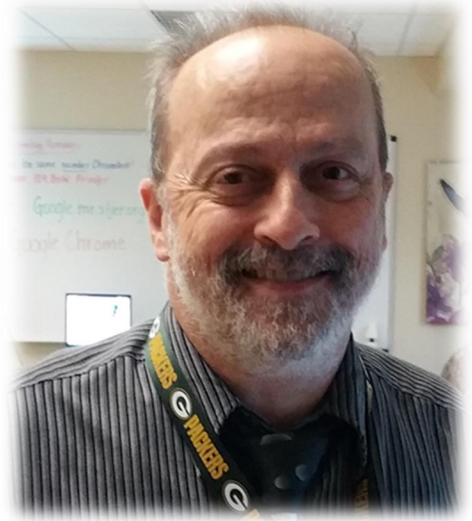


Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Binghamton Chapter: 'The Solid Rock of the Southern Tier'

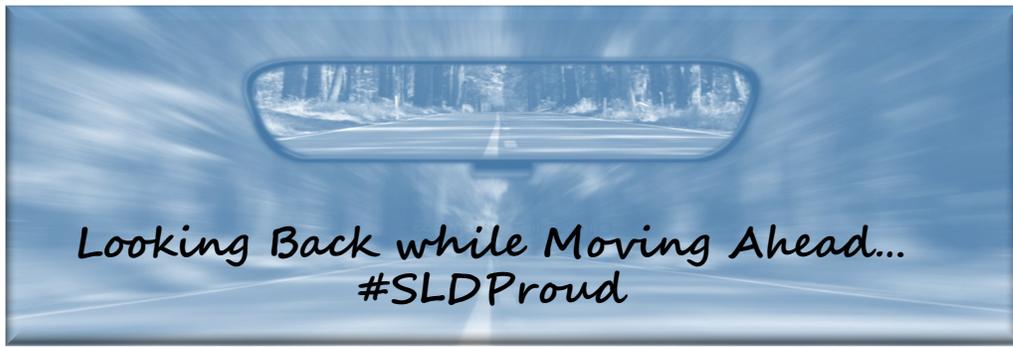
Mike Lurenz has been the director of the Southerntiersmen Chorus since 2007. Prior to that he had been an associate director. He joined BHS in 1981 and over the years he has belonged to 6 quartets: Ambrosia, Route 26, The Troubadours, Pro Tem, Varsity Club and Terry and the Pirates.

Mike taught in the Catholic Schools of Broome County at St. James Middle School for many years before his current "day job"- teaching English in the Maine-Endwell School District where he's been for 21 years. He has been one of the most beloved teachers at Maine-Endwell -- having received the distinguished teacher's award numerous times. This award is voted on by the Senior Class. He's not only loved for his phenomenal teaching style, but he is regarded as one of the most kind, easy going, and compassionate human beings ever to grace Maine-Endwell's halls. Additionally, Mike is a recipient of the Maine-Endwell PTSA Lifetime Achievement Award.



If you ask a Southerntiersmen Chorus member to describe Mike you'll hear descriptors like gentle, caring, patient conscientious very smart and willing to learn. He is the glue that has kept this chorus together through hard times. His care, concern, and human respect for all has brought out the best in this chorus. He has taken us to places we never thought we could reach. In addition to his duties as a front-line director of our chorus, Mike is the coordinator of the Senecaland District Standing Ovation Program (SOP). And yet, this mild-mannered ~~reporter~~ teacher possesses a 2nd degree black belt and is an junior instructor at the Hidy Ochiai Karate – Tora Dojo in Vestal, NY. Master Ochai is one of the world's premier karate performers. Perhaps it is the influence of this martial arts training that has created the wonderful director we call Mike Lurenz.

Our world-class vocal coach, Eddie Martinez sums it up: *"It's always a pleasure to work with Mike. His kind, gentle spirit and openness to learn and grow are exactly what a coach wants to experience from the directors and ensembles we work with. I always look forward to my sessions with Mike and his chorus and quartet."* Mike's a first-class guy! "



Looking Back...

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



Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Black River Valley Chapter: 'Our Formation to our Future'

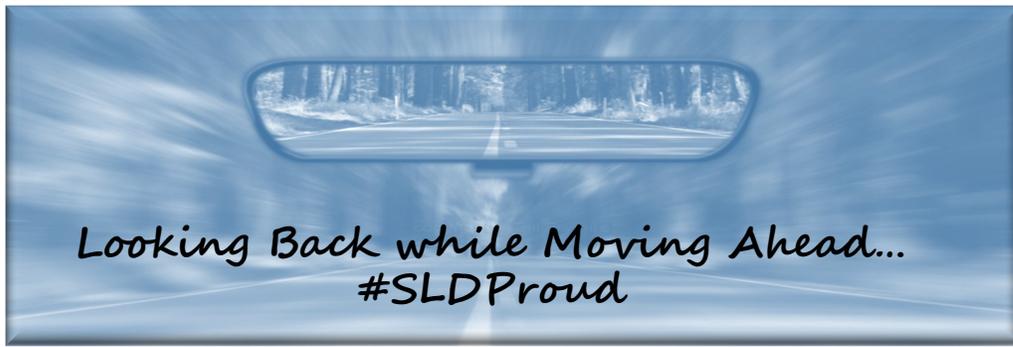
Often inspired by a musical lyric or melody line, Turning Point director Brad Lundquist is known to change interpretations! This of course opens a flurry of discussion on which version he really meant. It takes a while to fall into place but in the end one common and unified musical thought is expressed. The flurry of experiences in his musical journey is also a story worth telling.

Brad has a B.A. in the multi field major of Music, Theater Arts and English. With theater experience both on and backstage, his degree was in voice production. To make it authentic, some English literature and dramatic playwrights were added as well, directly influencing his presence and approach as an artistic director. While he jokes about being the default 'arm waver' who follows the choruses lead, everyone knows it is truly the reverse.

The barbershop story for Brad started in the mid Atlantic district in the 1970s. As a high school junior his first barbershop experience was with the Abington Pennsylvania Chapter, a.k.a The Chorus of Old York Road. His high school guidance counselor was a member of the chapter and needed Ushers for their upcoming show. Brad was hooked when he walked into the hall that Saturday morning and heard the Boston Common warming up on stage. The next week, he was singing in the tenor section as a guest at a Wednesday night rehearsal!

Brad moved north to St. Lawrence University but was unable to sing with the Goldenaires due to schedule conflicts. He did however help reinstate a collegiate a cappella men's group known as the Saints and is extremely proud that they are still going strong today! With the Saints he first found himself in the role of a musical director, later assisting with the Watertown Islanders; helping form a new chapter in Ontario (Catarqui Townsman) and finally helping to form our SLD Black River Valley Chapter. With marriage and kids, Brad stepped back from his hobby to be a family man but fast forward 22 years with his kids playing soccer one day, four guys (parents of other kids) stood by the sidelines and realized that each had sung barbershop, each sang a different part, each had been in a quartet, and that each had been officers in a bonafide chapter... need we say more? With this discovery, a new chapter – the Turning Point Chorus of Black River Valley was born, with the storied expertise of Brad Lundquist waving his arms in front to this day proudly as our musical director!





Looking Back...

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



Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Buffalo Chapter: 'Planning Ahead by Preparing Together'

This pandemic has certainly squelched the activity level of Seneca Land's singing community. Having said that however, let it be known that the Buffalo chapter has not hidden its head in the sand! With an extreme minimum of active sing-outs, we have still been able to maintain a weekly rehearsal schedule. Expanding the repertoire and polishing the old tunes has continued to be the mainstay of each meeting, but a huge part of the glue is the general camaraderie and the giving and receiving of mutual abuse!

A couple of years ago, the core of the group, with an existing concern about active membership, decided to put a plan together toward eliminating any possibility of the Buffalo chapter's demise. Without any pressure placed upon them, Jack Trenchard and Jerry Thompson volunteered to take over the musical reins and spearhead the effort. These two names should be very familiar with Seneca Land members, two musical talents who have been active with successful quartets and choruses for a number of years.

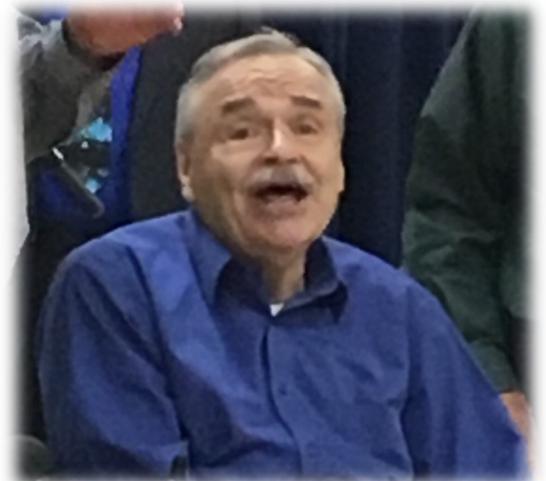
More recently, the chapter has gone to a trio of musical leadership, with the addition of Mike Nichols. Mike brings with him a history of musical success throughout a number of districts. Good to have him on board!

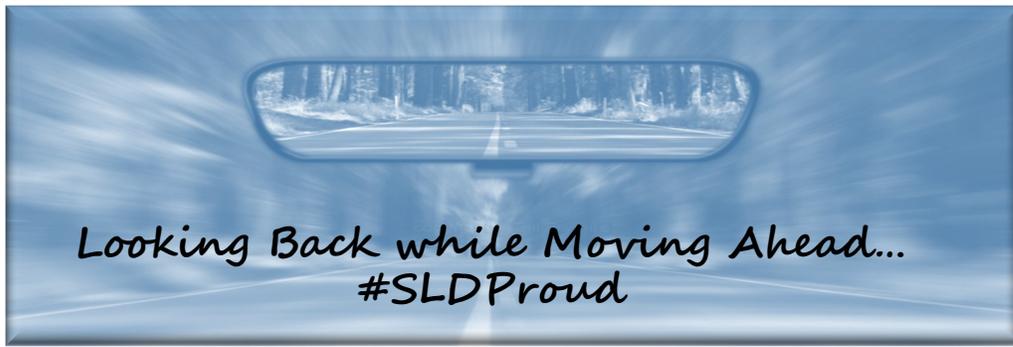
From an overview position, we the general membership, can unequivocally say that we are fortunate to have an extremely high talent level in our musical leaders. Having said that, our objectives don't stop with just expanding repertoire, but indeed, we hugely pursue "craftwork" as a part of our weekly meeting. The interest level of our guys is at a fine peak and repertoire is approaching two dozen songs. Now, if we can just get by these trying times, our craft and enjoyment level thereof, can be shared with others. By the way, we would welcome guests with open arms! Meeting night is Thursday @ 7:00 p.m. at alternating locations. To check on above, call any of the following:

Jack Trenchard 716-435-4218

Jerry Thompson 716-472-0154

Denny Johnson 716-572-4919





Looking Back...

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



Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

East Aurora Chapter—Friends of Harmony: ‘Celebrating New Direction and New Director’

The Friends of Harmony would like to welcome Brett Ransom as their new Director! Brett is not new, though, to the Friends of Harmony extended family! Brett is currently the Director of the Red Blazer Men's Chorus, with whom we have performed. Mr. Ransom has also served as a judge in one of our annual events, The Quartet Classic!



Brett has over twenty years of experience working with choral ensembles, including the Williamsville South Dynamics, the Singing Men of Ohio, the Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus, the Niagara Men's Chorus (Ontario) and the Red Blazer Men's Chorus. This experience includes many choral styles, including barbershop. Throughout his time working and performing with the “Singing Men of Ohio” (SMO) at Ohio University, Brett performed various barbershop standards which were subsequently made a part of the standard SMO repertoire. He is currently Choir Director at South Park High School in Buffalo. Additionally, Brett has performed with Harmonia Chamber Singers, Buffalo Philharmonic Chorus, Buffalo Philharmonic Chamber Choir, Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus and the Red Blazer Men's Chorus. He is a member of the Erie County Music Educators Association, the NYS School Music Association and the National Association of Music Education. Brett resides in Amherst with his wife Melissa, daughter Elin and son Drew. Please join us in welcoming Brett to our Friends of Harmony and district family!

Did you miss the HFI Town Hall online meeting? No worries—click on the screenshot to the right to view the recording of this meeting on YouTube, hosted by SLD’s friend and barbershop icon Rick Taylor!





Looking Back...

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



Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Geneva Chapter: Finger Lakes Chorus— ‘Emcee, EVP, our future In Harmony’



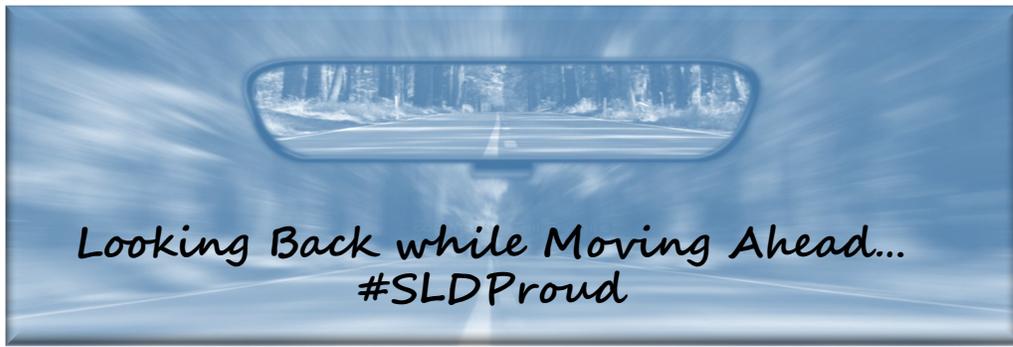
Fact or Crap, Todd Horton has been a barbershopper sense 1996? Why that is a fact! More importantly, he is also the director of the Finger Lakes Chorus and Finger Lakes Mixed Chorus of the Geneva chapter.

Todd has directed Geneva for a couple of years now and we are all the better for having his experience. Todd has built quite the resume, having been in a mixed quartet, several men’s quartets including Geneva convention which won SLD district, competed internationally as a senior quartet three times and placed as high as 8th in New Orleans with Geezer Q. Drawing from other directors in the different chapters with which he has sung including Batavia, Mark Twain, and Rochester Chorus of the Genesee, under Todd’s leadership the Geneva chapter has once again taken the stage at the SLD spring and fall contests.

Of all the hats he has worn, (not the least of which is the MC for chordatorium as ‘Fact or Crap’ master with Doug Latch), his dedication to the Geneva chapter and to Seneca Land is undeniable as he has served as district Executive Vice President and will soon step in as district President. We at the Geneva chapter thank Todd all that he has done and continues to do.

In addition to Todd taking over as Seneca Land President as of January 1st, please note the results of our recent board appointments:

- 2020 SLD Board**
- President:** Todd Horton
 - Executive Vice President:** Mark Nelson
 - Secretary:** Tom Jones
 - Treasurer:** Jim Barnett
 - Immediate Past President:** Dave Bay
 - Members At Large:** Sagan Harris, Gil Durham, Don Stothard, and Butch Talada



Looking Back...

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



Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

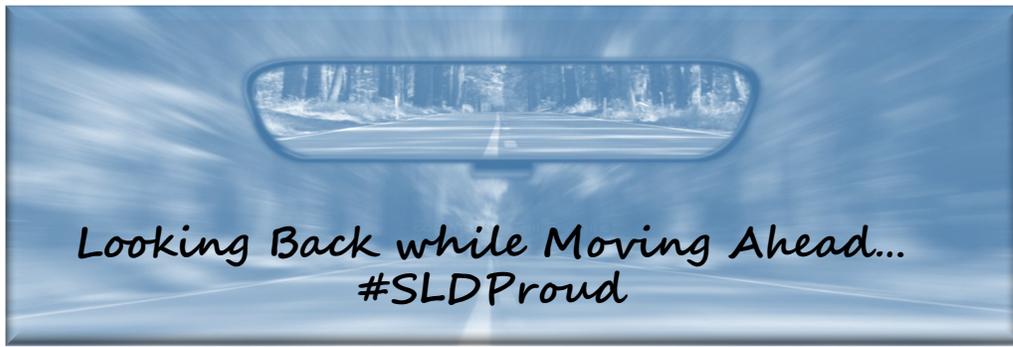
Liverpool Chapter: 'The Sky's the Limit!'

Sky Harris is the director of Harmonic Collective Chorus from the Liverpool Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society. She is a music educator and the chorus director at Liverpool High School, where not only does she teach students music fundamentals, but also highlights and exposes her students to barbershop. Sky is also a member of Sweet Adelines International, singing with The Spirit of Syracuse Chorus, where she is an Assistant Director and leads the performance team. She serves as SAI's Region 15 co-coordinator for Young Women in Harmony. She is also a member of the National Association for Music Education, American Choral Directors Association, and Onondaga County Music Educators Association.



As a "barberbrat", Sky grew up singing barbershop with her dad, mom, and brother. Since then, she has been a strong force for barbershop, sharing the art form with whoever she can. She has worked tirelessly in order to bring barbershop to Central New York in a way that is appealing to youth. Sky is a founding director of both SAYacaFest and Lakeside A Cappella Camp in Central New York. SAYacaFEST is the Syracuse Area Youth A Cappella Festival held at Liverpool High School in February. It is a one day a cappella festival where students partake in workshops with local barbershoppers, culminating in a show later in the evening. Lakeside A Cappella Camp is held for three days at Cazenovia College in July. Sky works with the Barbershop Harmony Society, Sweet Adelines International, and Harmony Incorporated to bring top 10 quartets in as clinicians to work with campers.

Overall, Sky is a true force, both in music and life. A caring friend who will do what she can to ensure that the people she loves are well taken care of. She, along with her brother, Sagan, have done an incredible job running virtual rehearsals since quarantine started. Harmonic Collective recently started meeting in person, once a month with masks, socially distant, outside, and singing only for 30 minutes. Sky has kept up to date on CDC guidelines and current research in order to keep the members, as well as her students, safe, but still be able to enjoy the gift of music. Sky is always there to lend an ear, a hand, and a shoulder whenever you need it. She is one of the most compassionate people who will do what she can to help you.



Looking Back...

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



Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Mark Twain Chapter: 'Leading, Learning, and Loving through Relationships'

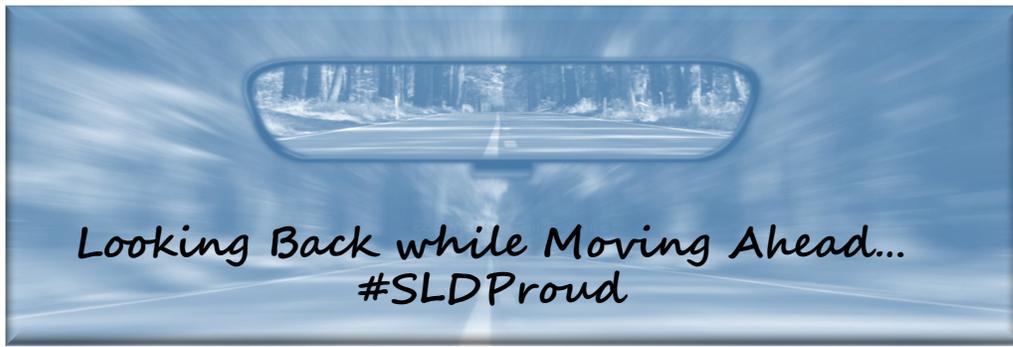
One can easily find literature to outline a Chorus Director's requisite background and skills, typical tasks, duties; and responsibilities - undoubtedly important aspects—OR one can point to a more basic factor: establishing relationships. Indeed, it was a relationship that resulted in David Cloyd's introduction to barbershop music and the Mark Twain Chorus. The late Bob Kelchner frequented a local coffee shop where David's wife Misty worked, and spoke with her about his involvement with the Chorus and she mentioned that her husband sang. When Dave came home from work one day Misty told him he was going to the Chorus meeting that night and Bob would pick him up! The rest, as they say, is history. He now sings in a quartet; with his son with Harmonic Collective, and both sings with and directs the Mark Twain Chorus.



The first year Dave was a part of the Chorus he became a member of a novice quartet to get a taste of the experience of competition— had a great time and he was hooked. Taking the reins as Director he immediately saw potential where others saw mediocrity. The Chorus had not competed in several years and when it had, it did not score well. Dave had a vision of a better Chorus and convinced the members they could achieve this if they put in the effort and would agree to work together. Attitudes changed behaviors, and culture was shifted. When the Chorus won the Class "A" competition, no one was more surprised than Dave. While he expected improvement, it came quicker than he anticipated.

Since becoming the Director, Chorus practices include formal physical, mental, and breathing warmups designed to put one in the best condition to sing well. He encourages use of learning tracks and will prompt members to perform by having "4 guys" step forward to sing, providing feedback is generally positive and encouraging. Dave is hard-working, organized, and consistent while staying flexible. He gladly seeks and accepts help from coaches while listening to members' ideas.

Music has been a part of David's life for a long time including having played in a drum and bugle corps. For him, music is a relief from the stresses of life and work and he enjoys sharing his passion for music with others. Dave loves life, his family, and friends. Building and fostering relationships are vitally important. He is loyal to the Chorus and a good motivator because he leads by example. We are proud to call David Cloyd our Chorus Director; brother in harmony; and friend!



Looking Back...

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



Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Mark Twain Chapter: 'Moving Forward While Staying at Home'

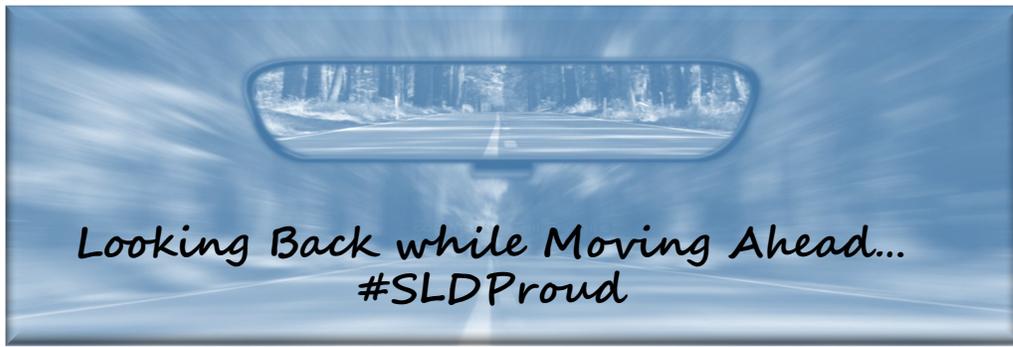
There is no question the year 2020 will be memorable for a number of reasons, several due to the coronavirus pandemic and associated restrictions, including limits on gatherings of singers. These restrictions resulted in significant changes for the Mark Twain Chapter (MTC) and caused the Chapter to pivot to the use of technology.

The last public appearance of the Chapter was March 12 when the Mark Twain Chorus sang at First Arena in Elmira prior to the start of the Elmira Enforcers hockey game. There were no fans, and it turned out, the game was the last one during the season in the Federal Prospects Hockey League. The Chorus gathered thereafter in a conference room at the nearby Steele Memorial Library for a short rehearsal. Two days later, New York State, in response to the pandemic, closed all activity, except essential work and we have not met in-person since.

Participation in the District Spring Convention; community performances; a fund-raising activity at the Watkins Glen International race track; and the Annual Show became casualties of the pandemic. The MTC decided in early spring to use technology to hold virtual meetings. This method allows all to join from their home surroundings and eliminates commuting. David Cloyd, MTC Director, arranges and hosts a modified practice, which includes time for "checking-in"; warm-up; rehearsing; business; tags; and closing. Surprise "guests" have joined including Daniel Cochran; Sean Devine, Eddie Martinez; Tony Nasto; Sky Harris and Sagan Harris. Virtual meetings help maintain and enhance fellowship among Chorus members while allowing new songs to be added to the Chorus repertoire.

Chapter officer Larry Horn found a computer program to help members learn that displays the music on-screen while playing the corresponding audio track; page(s) turn accordingly. Selections can be played in their entirety or in a part-predominate format so members can sing their part and duet with the others. The Chapter BOD has used virtual technology in its work, as well. Officers reviewed Chapter actions during 2019 along with operations and planning, to clarify roles and objectives, and to establish a solid basis for the MTC in 2021 and beyond. In 2019 Chorus members were surveyed regarding the reasons they come to Chapter meetings; the BOD has been analyzing the data while working with members to spell out the MTC identity and develop appropriate branding.

While MTC members have embraced the usefulness of current technology as noted above, they will tell you it is not the same as meeting in person to sing and ring chords. Yet, it is, without a doubt, better than no contact at all and has been able to move the Chapter in a positive direction. Nonetheless, all look forward to the time when restrictions are lifted and we can again come together in the same place to work; rehearse; and sing again.



Looking Back...

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



Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Mohawk Valley Chapter: 'Finding the Future Right in Front of us'

With the retirement of Rob Hopkins, the New Horizon's Chorus began their search for his replacement. Searching during these times was challenging, but after interviews with music educators who are not affiliated with BHS, the Chapter looked within its ranks and are pleased to announce that Don Drake is our new Director.

Don joined our chorus shortly after attending a chorus sing out performance about thirty years ago. He soon became our lead section leader and eventually became one of the Assistant Directors of our chapter. Don was also the lead section leader for the Upstate Harmonizers Chorus that represented SLD at the International Convention for five years.

Don has participated in several quartets that represented the District at International: Harmonix; Bravo! and most recently 'All In'. Don also performs with Full Circle in our local sing-outs. Don has further honed his craft by taking private voice lessons, participating in Pow-Wow, and coaching with Deborah Lynn. Don is employed as a salesman at Lowes and lives in West Winfield with his wife, Jody. They have raised eight children and are now enjoying their relationships as grandparents. The Mohawk Valley Chapter is proud to welcome Don Drake as our new director!

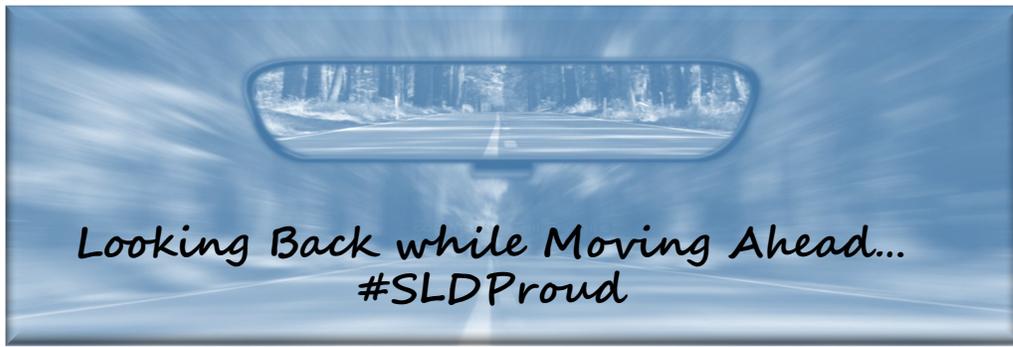


Olean Chapter: 'Bringing a Lifetime of Musical Love to Olean'

Eva Hillman is in her 7th year as Director of the Olean Men's A Cappella Chorus. A native of Belfast NY, she has been involved in some form of music for as long as she can remember. Singing in the Allegany County All-County 6th Grade Chorus, (and she can remember the songs they sang), and subsequent All-County and All-State choruses, Concert Band and Stage Band. In addition, she played Tenor Saxophone in the school band starting in 5th grade.

Although not formally trained, Eva has successfully directed church choirs, a hand chime choir, several community choruses and the OMAC. She has led a wide range of Christmas cantatas, an Easter cantata, and has performed with the Houghton College Faculty & Staff Chorus and Women's chorus for several years.





Looking Back...

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



Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Olean Chapter: 'Bringing a Lifetime of Musical Live to Olean' (cont'd)

Her interest and style of directing was influenced by two school music teachers and a simple love of music and performing. "Whenever I go to a concert, I watch the Director," she said. "I observe how the chorus interacts with directions given. The members' active participation in the evolution of the piece is what I most like to see in a performance." After directing her first cantata with an Intercommunity Chorus, she was approached about directing for Olean. The chorus 'auditioned' at a Christmas event soon after and as Eva puts it, "I was hooked. Barbershop is a difficult but very rewarding style of music. Singers must listen to each other and keep their own voice within the confines of the song without musical assist, but when that chord comes together and rings, it's like magic."

Pat Close, President of the OMAC explains that, "her strengths are interpretation and performance." She enjoys putting together the repertoire each year with the Music Team, eager for the men to get new music into their hands that piques interest and stretches them. "I love to envision what a particular song can become when members visually and emotionally connect with the audience. The guys are pretty open to new ideas and we've put a new twist on some old favorites, and it's a collaborative effort." She has written several scripts for OMAC's annual show and has even re-arranged some pieces. Several years ago at Eva's suggestion, the chorus began its annual Friends & Family Christmas Show, so families could hear the holiday music the men were performing at various venues.

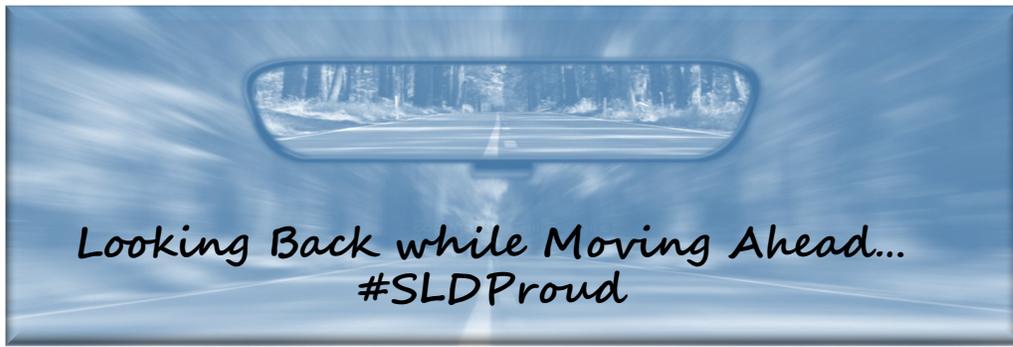
Eva earned a Bachelor of Science in Management from Houghton College, where she has held several administrative positions, most recently as Associate Registrar, and retired in September after 24 years of service! She is married to Michael Hillman, a valuable member of OMAC and its current Barbershopper of the Year! Mike willingly does whatever is needed for the chorus, including picking up different voice parts, having sung Bass, Lead and currently Bari, and he says he has no plans to attempt Tenor. They have two grown daughters and two granddaughters.

If your chapter has lost a member since the closure began in the spring, and you would like them honored and remembered in the next edition of the Sound of Seneca

Email a brief memorial message and photo to:

sldwebmaster1@gmail.com

and we will once again remember the voices we have lost.



Looking Back...

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



Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Onondaga Chapter—Harmony Katz: ‘The Katz Meow—Now More Than Ever’



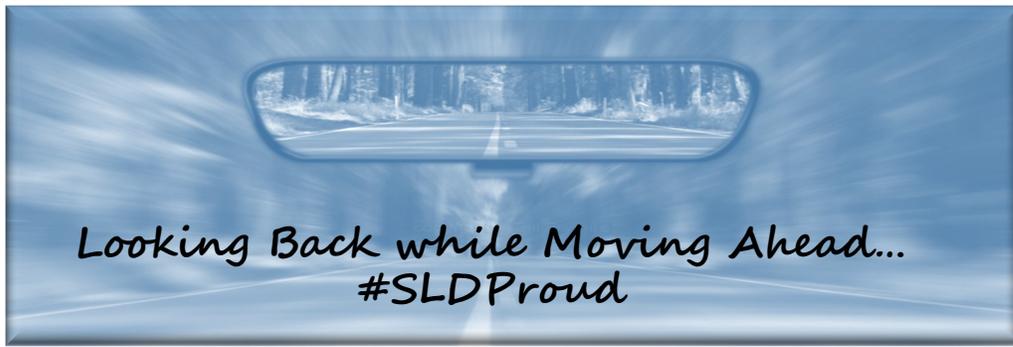
It's tough enough to inspire, motivate, and lead a diverse chorus of men every week, but to do that under the confines of the Covid-19 pandemic is especially challenging. Maintaining interest for a group which isn't allowed to meet is daunting even for the most diehard Barbershopper, yet somehow, 4 to 5 times per week our Director, Pete Carentz is in contact with all of us; men and women, whether by personal email, a weekly Zoom Conference, or an almost daily e-newsletter, "The Sound of Meowsic!" (You'll note almost everything in the Harmony Katz choruses has a cat-like name. Pete is literally herding Katz!)

The "Sound of Meowsic" features daily sing-a-longs, voice lessons from Dr. Dan; an acclaimed Internet voice instructor, good/bad jokes and cartoons,

videos of top-flight quartets and choruses, a music theory lesson, and if that isn't enough, George Azzam produces and attaches 4-part mp3 files of the "Tag of the Day". These e-newsletters are so good and entertaining, members often forward them to their family and friends to enjoy.

Pete is a man of boundless energy and enthusiasm and we all marvel at how he finds the time to devote to us as he does. It would be very easy to simply ride the pandemic out and get back together once permission is granted, but we all fear that would cause irreparable harm. Pete would not, and will not let that happen, and has selflessly given of himself, both time and talent, to keep us all united in spirit and has us chomping at the bit to get together in person once again, appropriately distanced and masked of course, and reunite in harmony and fellowship. Thanks, Pete, and special thanks to George too, for keeping us together during these challenging times!

Check out page 16 of the most recent Harmonizer magazine for a 'Q and A' interview with one of SLD's own!



Looking Back...

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



Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Oswego Chapter: 'Directing a Dozen During Challenging Days'

We are the Oswego Valley Snowbelters and we sing under the direction of Barney Johnson. Director, just the director? Not hardly. Since we have 12 members we find ourselves challenged by many arrangements of songs we would like to sing for our performances. So they have to be re-voiced. Barney's our man. He has even arranged countless songs to fit our chorus for our Christmas and spring shows.



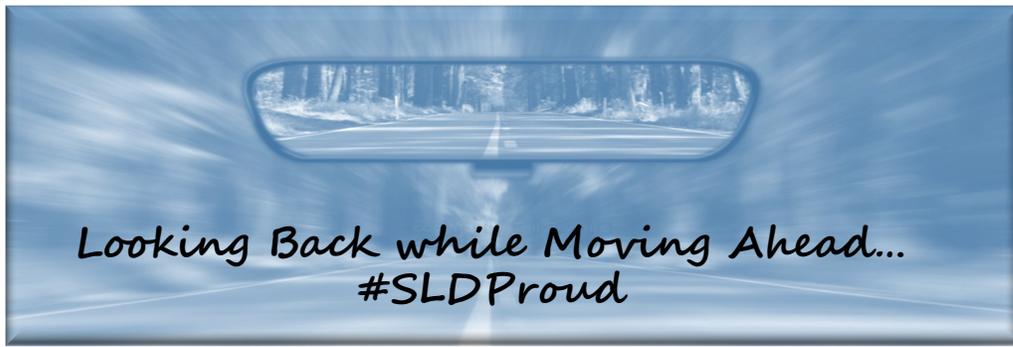
Barney is also a member of our music team who picks all music we perform and is the lead on the teaching quartet that learns all of our new songs, records them on a CD, voice dominant and presents them to the chorus. He is also the secretary of our board of directors, just another spoke in the wheel.

Maybe all this is why he was selected the Oswego Snowbelters "Barbershopper" of the year for 2019. Barney Johnson, "Director" of the Oswego Valley Snowbelters Barbershop Chorus, just director...not hardly. For all of this we the Oswego Valley Snowbelters "THANK YOU" - and to ALL of our friends in barbershop, stay healthy and "Keep the Whole World Singing"--Barbershop!

Painted Post and Hornell Chapters: 'A man of 'Many' chapters—with much to give'.

Don Many has been directing the Painted Post Chapter's Glass City Chorus since 2010, and the Hornell Chapter's Maple City Chorus since 2017. The two choruses have joined together for their annual shows and other events for many years. Don has been singing in public since the age of five or six. He has been member of the Society for 18 years, but he first sang barbershop music 48 years ago when his college advisor at SUNY Oswego, Dr. William Hanks, invited him to a rehearsal of the Oswego Snowbelters. Although schoolwork prevented him from continuing to sing with that group, he was in fact a vocal music minor and sang with three different performance groups on campus. He also took private voice instruction from Leon Carpathian.





Looking Back...

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



Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Painted Post and Hornell Chapters: 'A man of 'Many' chapters—with much to give' (cont'd).

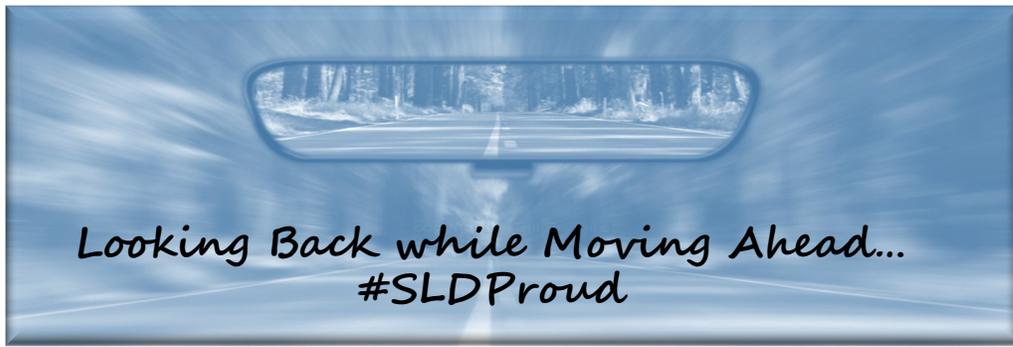
After graduating college with a major in Industrial Arts Education, Don went on to teach shop in the Corning school district for 34 years, retiring in 2007. While there he also tech-directed and directed some 40 musical and non-musical shows, and started the barbershop singing groups West Side (for guys) and Emerald (for girls).

Don was a member of the Glass City Chorus for 7 years before taking over the directorship from Bob L'Amoreaux. He primarily sings baritone, but can sing all four parts, at one time having a vocal range of 3 1/2 octaves. He learns songs primarily from the sheet music, with help from the pitch pipe and occasionally pounding out notes on the harpsichord in his basement. Don has also sung baritone in two quartets, first in Village Square Harmony and most recently in Revised Arrangement. He is in the process of putting together a third quartet to sing just for fun locally.

Don prefers more contemporary songs to the old barbershop standards, as they seem to be more appealing to today's audiences. Under his direction, the two choruses have performed several Beatles tunes, some Disney music, 50s and 60s doowop, and a variety of other genres arranged in the barbershop style. Don has long recognized the importance of bringing barbershop harmony to the younger generation. During his 13 summers serving as a shooting sports assistant director and director at Boy Scout Camp Gorton on Waneta Lake, he also brought his two barbershop quartets to camp one night a week to provide after-dinner entertainment to up to 250 scouts.

Had this year's camp not been cancelled due to COVID-19, Don had also been planning to offer a one-hour training session in barbershop singing for the scouts and their leaders.

Don lives with his wife of 46 years, Robin, and their black, curly-coated retriever Ruger on 16+ acres near the hamlet of Risingville, south of Bath. When not singing or directing barbershop, Don enjoys considerable time in his wood shop making custom furniture and cabinets. Although both his choruses are currently all-male, Don sees the future of barbershop involving more mixed voices. He feels that when everyone is singing together in harmony, there's not much more we can ask for.



Looking Back...

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



Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Rochester Chapter: 'From A to Z—Apps and Zoom Keeping Us Connected and Creative'



Chorus of the Genesee has been using technology to its advantage during this time of social distancing. Along with our weekly chapter meeting via Zoom, we've also made use of singing apps for our phones, online video makers, and most recently, drive in rehearsals.

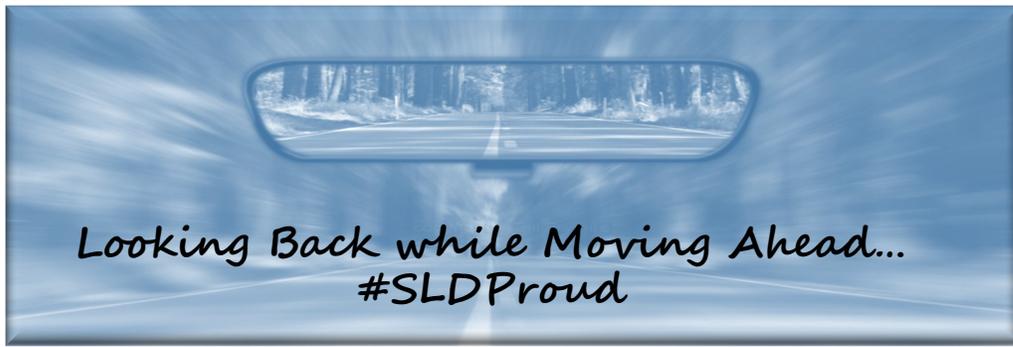
Our weekly Zoom meetings have not only allowed us to interact with each other on a regular basis, but has given us a way to educate our membership as well. On June 25, we had guest Christine Murphy Estes, MM, MA, CCC-SLP, present a clinic on Vocal Health & Mechanism. She discussed vocal production, vocal hygiene, and the aging voice. Everyone who attended walked away with new information which they can use every day. Special thanks to members Stas Hoholuk and Norm Anschuetz for sponsoring our session with Christine. If you are interested in her work, her website is <https://www.shapevoice.com>

We're sure many of you have heard of, or even used, the Acapella app. This iOS based app allows you to record and share your recording with others so that they can sing with you. The end product is, for the purposes of barbershop, a 4 part tag. Because many of our members had seen these videos online, they wanted to make one themselves. Always looking for a way to keep singing, our music team spent several weeks doing an in house clinic on how to use the app to make tag videos. In the end, the members made a few and submitted them to the weekly newsletter so that all could enjoy them. If you've not yet tried this app, we highly recommend it!

Using Zoom also allowed us to catch up with our brothers in the Binghamton chapter. On August 18 we joined with the Southerntiersmen for the evening. Sean Divine also joined to speak about the Harmony Foundation and hold a Q&A session before we ended that evening playing "Name That Quartet," hosted by Gil Durham. It was great to see so many friends for the night!

Our most recent adventure is joining those choruses who are utilizing the drive in rehearsal to allow members to sing together safely. We had our first drive in rehearsal on October 20, and many of our members showed up to ring some chords together. Everyone is looking forward to singing together in this way until winter drives us indoors.

As always, we hope all of you in SenecaLand are healthy and safe. In case we don't have a chance to say it closer to then, have a happy holiday season! We look forward to the time when we can all be together again.



Looking Back...

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



Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Rome Chapter—Knights of the Mohawk: 'Collective Leadership and Character in the Community'

The Rome New York Chapter is currently without a Chorus Director and has been for several months. We are tentative, whether or not to continue. However, for now the seven members continue to hold steady as we move forward with the uncertainty. I truly admire and honor their loyalty and friendships immensely. Our chapter is a mixed chorus with 7 members, 2 of which are inactive. Having no director, and I the only one having experience in quartet singing, I suggested to the group that we consider

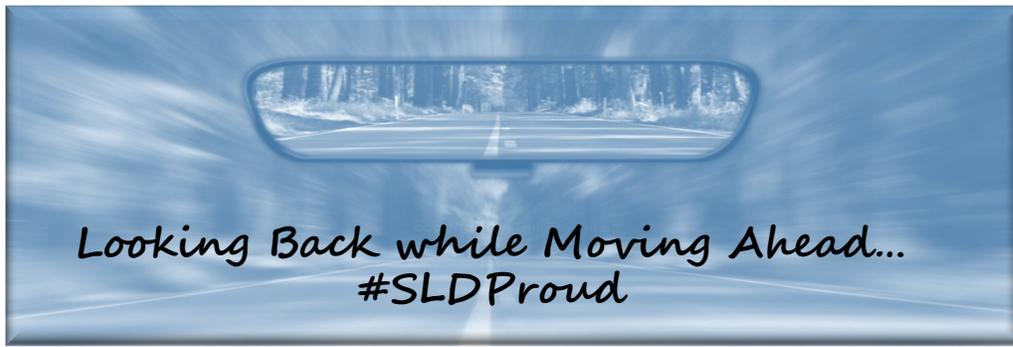


learning new music as most quartets do, by having learning CDs and sheet music in their respected parts. Each member would receive the CD in the part they sing, take it home, listen to it, and sing with the CD. They all agreed unanimously. And so we pause in time and hope for a safe environment to open and gather so we can give it a shot! Simply put, Our glass is half full!

For those who may not be familiar with the Knights of Mohawk, our history begins with our First Meeting being held on Oct 25th 2011 @ The Salvation Army Chapel, Rome, NY, it was a Tuesday night and there were 27 men present. Three district Officers were present and two registered quartets Roman Rouges and Firestorm. Three years after that first meeting the chapter moved to the Rome American Legion in Rome for 2 years and then on to our current location the First United Methodist Church.

Although we are small in numbers we are plentiful in hope, charity, heart, and community service to all who are in need. Our small membership boasts litany of accomplishments and community involvements ranging from investing in youth camps to performing for the elderly, from engaging as district leadership to being a part of over 387 singing performances in the community and on stage. From BOTY's to scholarships, or Red Kettles to Cabarets, we take pride in our history as being a profound outward sign of the character of the Knights of the Mohawk!

Chapter Eternal Members: Gregory Roberts, George Rutledge, Charles Rolland, William Coyne



Looking Back...

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Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Warsaw Chapter: 'Polecats, Pins, and Changing Parts'

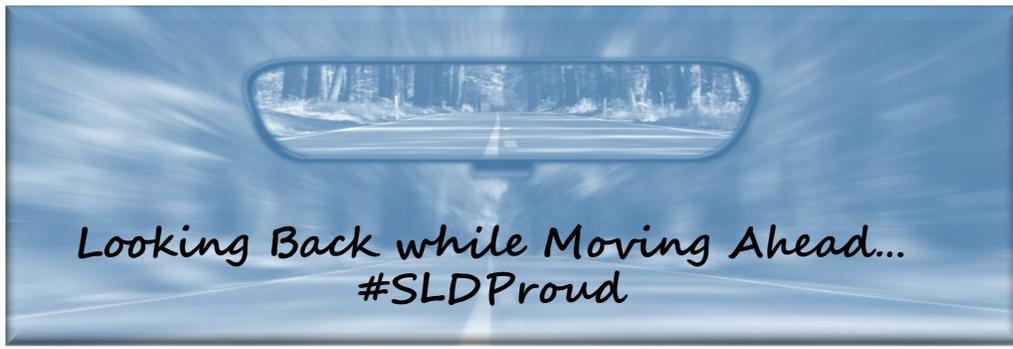
Way back in the summer of 2019 BC (Before Covid), it was decided that the Warsaw chorus should once again take advantage of the Barber Polecat program. It was evident during practices that corrections needed to be made both to notes and singing, and in case you think this is something only a novice would consider, think again! The 12 Barber Polecat songs reflect a true barbershop composition style. Each member should know at least their part. Being a participant in the program also has the added bonus of nitpicking those wrong notes we sometimes hold dear.

So in late 2019, the board sanctioned chapter Vice President David Damico to begin the program. Given Warsaw's longevity, many had already qualified for the Polecat pin including myself as lead. However, it's never too late to keep learning, take on new parts, (I was personally now up for the tenor pin) and help others qualify their first time.

A method of judging was established where each participant would stand in front of their chorus section to sing their part with a quartet. The other three parts were there for support, allowing the qualifier to be heard. There was one person designated to read the music as it was sung for any notes needing attention. One incorrect note per song was allowed. It was decided that the qualification singing would happen after mid-practice break and initially, participation was strong with as many as 10 people interested (two attempting to qualify for a part other than their own: Mike Allen—bari and David Damico—tenor. In our chapter, having ten members interested is a large majority.

By September, it looked as if we were down to four qualifiers. Pictured are the members who qualified for their Barber Polecat Pin. David Damico-tenor. Adam Surrasky-lead, Andrew Albright-lead, and Bruce Crane-tenor. Thank you guys for lifting our chapter, both in quality and cordiality!





Looking Back...

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



Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Lakeside A cappella Youth Camp: 'The Show Must Go On!'

This summer, Lakeside A cappella Camp looked a little different as participants gathered online in Zoom rooms for bonding, tagging, workshops, masterclasses, and of course, singing! With campers of all ages from eight US states, Canada, and even Indonesia, the Virtual Lakeside Experience kept barbershop going this summer in spite of it all!



Answering the call were past Lakeside clinicians and quartets, including Storm Front, GQ, The Newfangled Four, For Heaven's Sake, Kohl Kitzmiller (Instant Classic), Amy Leacock (Moxie Ladies), and the "Mighty Awesome" Joe Connelly! We also got the chance to get to know and enjoy Midtown and Bling! who were scheduled to be our clinicians this summer, but are thankfully coming in 2021!

Campers took part in a virtual "Talent and Tags" show, attended masterclasses, submitted videos and recordings for a virtual camp choir, and enjoyed our livestreamed Saturday Night Show featuring performances from past camps, messages and music from our clinicians, the premiere of our virtual camp choir, and our brand new Lakeside A cappella Camp Tag "Out at the Lake" written for us by the multi-talented, Jake Tickner (Bass – The Newfangled Four).

A HUGE thank-you to everyone who made it possible, including a generous donation from the Seneca Land District Board. Your dedication to keeping our art form alive and well in the hearts of young people made all the difference this summer. To say "thank you" we'd like to share our special Lakeside tag with you... crossing our fingers to sing it together again in July 2021!

Check out our YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RUqRkN6LgHQ> and watch our Saturday Night Show, Virtual Choir of "You've Got a Friend in Me," and much more from our young people and clinicians past!

Much love and harmony – Sky Harris,
Lakeside A cappella Camp Director

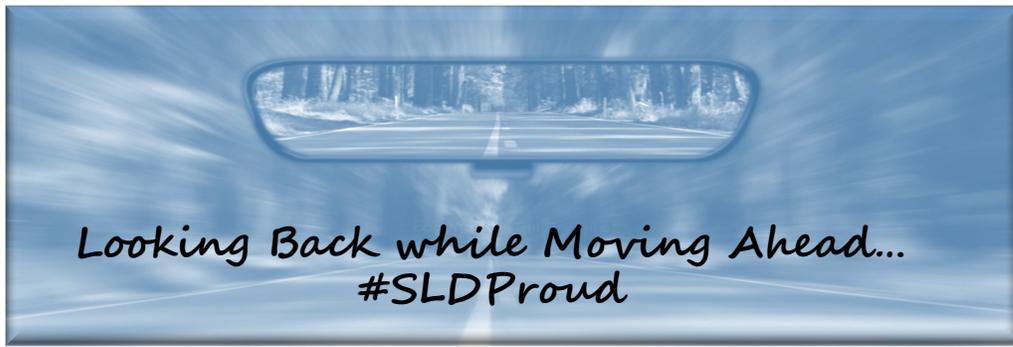
Out At The Lake

For Lakeside A cappella Camp

by JAKE TICKNER

Tenor Lead

Bari Bass



Moving Ahead...

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

Join us across the district for our first annual Seneca Land

Holidays In Harmony!

It's time to say goodbye to 2020 and hello to some holiday spirit! Jump in as a participant for our online presentation of choruses, quartets, special guests, celebrity judges and most importantly: HARMIONY during the holidays.



If you re interested in being a part of the performance—here are submission details:

- ◆ *Enter a video recording of 2 songs – one which must be a Christmas song.*
- ◆ *Entries must be submitted to Steve Caso by November 30th. For assistance and/or submission, contact Steve at (585) 734-1328 or email at StevCaso@gmail.com*

- ◆ *Submissions accepted from men's, women's, and mixed choruses, as well as men's, women's and mixed quartets.*
- ◆ *Submissions can have the group members in person, or recorded as individuals and edited together in the video.*
- ◆ *Quartets must have a minimum of 2 different singers in them, and VLQ's must have a minimum of 4 participants.*
- ◆ *Awards will be given for most entertaining, best song package, best outfit (including ugly sweaters...), and more!*
- ◆ *Only one performers in a group has to be a SLD or BHS member—we encourage you to use this as a fun way to bring other singers into our chapters, district, and society.*
- ◆ *Youth with a connection to our district, or performers with other organizations such as Sweet Adelines or Harmony Inc. are also encouraged to submit videos.*

Tell your chapter members, friends and family—or share this information online to encourage others to attend so that we can all come together in song for some holiday fun this season:

**DECEMBER 17TH FROM 7:00—10:00 VIA ZOOM
(Invitation and link to be sent out just before the date)**

Sound and Skills

This month's tip comes from the BHS resources available to support chapters during the pandemic:

With many chapters struggling to find creative ways to stay connected and keep their singing skills sharp while not being able to rehearse together in person, Harmonic Collective Director Sky Harris and Vice President of Music and Performance Sagan Harris have worked hard to keep the chapter engaged by including virtual warmups and tag singing via BHS and HU videos. Click on the links to try a few of these great ideas:

[Harmony University Warm Ups with Rob Mance](#)

[Harmony University Warm Ups with Donny Rose](#)

[HU/BHS Tag Session with K. J. McAleesjergins](#)

A [full playlist of HU warmups](#) located on in place—enjoy and keep on singing!

PLEASE HELP US HELP YOU!

Each quarter after sending out the Sound of Seneca I consistently get a handful of messages back stating that it was 'undeliverable'. Please make sure that your email address in the society database is correct—and encourage your chapter members to do the same.

Our mailing list is drawn directly from the BHS member center each quarter and can only be as accurate as the data entered in by each of you. Encourage members to keep their contact information updated and remember that each newsletter (along with previous editions) can always be viewed on the Seneca Land District web page at www.senecaland.org

Society Resources

I am sure that many of you have received and read the numerous emails from BHS headquarters sharing all of the different resources, ideas, and supports they have made available during the COVID pandemic.

If you missed a session, or saw an idea that you wanted to explore more but simply didn't have the time—I would encourage you to visit their [COVID-19 Resources for Barbershoppers](#) page. Scrolling down through the page you will notice a wide variety ranging from video tutorials to podcasts, along with activity ideas, strategies for chapter meetings and much, much, more. For those of us who have occasionally questioned what our dues provide, here is one place where you certainly get your bang for the buck!





'Step up to the mic!'

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

'Step up' steps into something new...

In this edition we turn from highlighting people within our district, to unveiling and highlighting a change to an image that represents us all.

While a logo or brand certainly does not define everything we **are**, it is a way to quickly share a visual connection to what we do and what might characterize our organization. To this end, our district has officially adopted a new logo moving forward.

Making the assumption that this change will be welcomed by some and questioned by others, I believe that sharing the context and process for this change with everyone is important.

The idea for creating a new district logo was discussed across the past two years and went through many stages prior to being officially adopted.

First, a closer look was taken at our previous logo by contacting the official historian of the Seneca Land Nation. Conversation revealed that while it was not considered overtly offensive, it was clearly inaccurate (not a Seneca Land Native American depicted) or reflective of our organization.

Next, after making the decision to pursue a change, discussion took place at our House of Delegates meeting encouraging a process whereby the district created a subcommittee, decided upon criteria for a new logo, and opened the process up for members and non-members alike to submit ideas for a new logo.

Specifically, the criteria required submissions to be connected to the Seneca Land, versus people; that there be some visual connection to what our organization does/is about, and that it lend itself to ease of reproduction in multiple forms.

Finally, submissions were reviewed by the subcommittee, presented to the district board, and edited according to feedback.

The 'winning' submission was put forth by Sagan Harris from the Liverpool Chapter, meeting all three criteria.

The representations within our new logo include the green of our mountains and hills across the district, the blue of lakes and rivers throughout Seneca Land, and the brush strokes representing a barber pole vertically placed in the center. This logo is intended to connect to the beauty of our land, the passion for our craft, with a simple and central focus on our name.

Thank you to Sagan for his hard work in developing an image we can be proud of, to others who took the time to submit their designs, to the subcommittee for facilitating this work, and to the district board for the vision and leadership to move forward with this change.

Keep an eye out for a new SLD apparel sale coming soon so that you can proudly wear your own Seneca Land clothing—and as always, stay #SLDProud!



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Secretary: Tom Jones t-bari@stny.rr.com
Treasurer: Jim Barnett jbarnone@aol.com
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Board Member: Don Stothard dstothard@aol.com
Board Member: Pat Close mrpclose@aol.com
Board Member: Gilbert Durham durhamgill@gmail.com
Board Member: Butch Talada butalco1@aol.com



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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North Syracuse, NY 13212

(315)-412-4509
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