

# THE SOUND OF SENECA

Volume 1, Issue 3

Fall 2019



*Hanging Out and Heating Up! SLD's quartet and chorus representatives give smoking hot performances in the heat of Salt Lake City!*

## What's inside this quarter...

- ◆ Notes from the President Page 2-3
- ◆ Looking Back
  - Pow Wow Page 4
  - Chapter Updates Pages 5-7
  - International Convention Pages 8-9
  - Lakeside A Capella Camp Page 10
- ◆ Moving Ahead
  - Chautauqua Page 11
  - District Updates/Announcements Page 12-14
  - SLD Fall Senecon Pages 15-16
- ◆ District Calendar Page 17
- ◆ Sound and Skills/Society Connections Page 18
- ◆ 'Step Up to the Mic' - SLD Spotlight Page 19
- ◆ Listing of our Leadership Page 20
- ◆ Message from the Editor Page 20



## **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, April, 2019



International in Salt Lake City was an absolutely exciting time for the Seneca Land District. We can all be proud of every one of our representatives. The quartet All In scored the highest they've ever done, Next Generation Varsity quartets One Eleven and Full Send from the Liverpool Chapter come in 11th and 13th respectively, and not to be outdone, the Liverpool Chapter chorus Harmonic Collective scored a stunning 82.2, boasting hitting the top 20. Gentlemen (and Sky Harris), well done from all of us!

A little trivia to start this off from a comment made at a Society board meeting in Salt Lake City; what's the number 1 leading chart sold on the Harmony Marketplace? Think about a happy little up-tune that lots of us know.

Has anyone ever noticed that we often send people to Leadership Forums, Harmony University and more, but what happens in those forums isn't shared with membership? Isn't it reasonable to suspect that information at these events might be relevant and of value to members in general? Having said that, see the material below.

**Day 1, Society Board of Directors meeting.** Probably the most striking comment made by the SBOD was that they consider their constituency to be the barbershop art form, not membership. There was significant discussion on this point in the ensuing DPC meeting.

**Day 1, District Presidents' Council meeting.** This body is composed of the District Presidents and Executive Vice Presidents from each of the 17 districts in the Society. Regarding constituency, there wasn't a single person in the room who didn't have a keen sense of responsibility, loyalty and concern for their district membership. BHS recently announced the concept of a Memorandum of Understanding which is a document that each district authors; in its turn the MOU becomes the operating agreement between that district and the society. It could be thought of as a business plan; it's probably a good way to encourage all districts to do better planning. There was also discussion about why funding for category school comes from the candidate's home district rather than BHS. Perry White, CEO of Harmony Foundation International made a presentation to the DPC. His primary point was that donations to HFI are down, primarily due to concerns about Everyone in Harmony. I can hear some of us jumping up and down and exclaiming "I told you so!" Before you go too far, be reminded that 1) HFI is not part of the Barbershop Harmony Society; 2) nobody ever said that EiH is mandatory at the chapter level; 3) EiH or not, the programs and people, typically youth benefitted by the foundation are still the same people. There was a really interesting presentation by Warren Fuson who's developed a program called "Barbershop Revival", which reintroduces Barbershop to the African-American community via historic black colleges and universities.

**Day 2, Society Board of Directors meeting.** As many of you know, BHS recently announced a proposed policy change regarding district participation for the International quartet and chorus competition. Not only were qualifying scores for both raised, but in addition, the provision that all districts can automatically send their top scoring quartet and chorus has been eliminated in this proposal. The SBOD admitted that this provision generated controversy, and also noted that of the respondents to a recent online survey, 27% were negative, with the Pioneer District and Harmonic Collective in SLD leading the charge on the negatives. The SBOD stated that they're still open to survey respondents, and are evaluating this further. The final version of this proposal will be issued September 15, 2019. Any of you who go to Mid-Winters or Internationals likely are accustomed to seeing past Society President Don Fuson working the crowd. On a personal note, somehow every time I see him, I end up getting homework! His gem this cycle was to note that FAIL stands for "First Attempt In Learning". You can think about that on your own.

**Day 3, Harmony University class.** Coaching Under Glass by Eddie Martinez, Singing Judge from SWD. Eddie noted that he usually asks early in his coaching what the quartet does for warm up. He also noted that we want lift on everything that we do, warned that up-tunes obviously move

## **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, April, 2019 (cont'd)

---

quickly, so is it's important that we also ring quickly. He asked that the harmony parts sing with more release, with their "karaoke" voice which gives everyone more presence, and suggested that we make sure that the "pillar chord" (ending chord) really rings, since it'll push ring to the beginning of the next phrase.

**Day 3, Harmony University class.** Creating a Chorus Experience by Sandi Wright from CSD, fresh out of Category School and a brand new Performance Judge as of this week (and wife of David Wright). Sandi started the session noting that "people will come for the music and stay for the experience". Some of her thoughts, which were mostly aimed at directors and leadership included: "make rehearsals interesting", "people in barbershop need to feel needed", "try to create success moments" and "involve your members in decisions".

**Day 3, Harmony University class.** Healthy Chapter Initiative by Alan Lamson from NED, Leadership Operations Project Team and Contest Administrator, Alan noted that 1960 was the high mark in the Society for membership, but communications have changed. More significantly, there's been a cultural shift of not belonging. (Editor's note: our friends in Rotary, the Lion's Club, Kiwanis, etc. have been affected in the same manner by that cultural shift). He asked that if we invest "n" units of effort to recruit members, doesn't it make sense for chapters to invest just as much effort for retention. Alan stated that through HCI, there are a number of leadership classes available online. Of particular interest to SLD, which has for a number of years been exploring how we can transform Contest into Convention (and thereby make it of interest to a wider community), Alan suggested that we abandon the concept that social activities at our Spring and Fall Conventions can't be slotted at the same time as portions of contest, and as example cited the model of International, which as many of us know can have half a dozen activities scheduled at the same time slot.

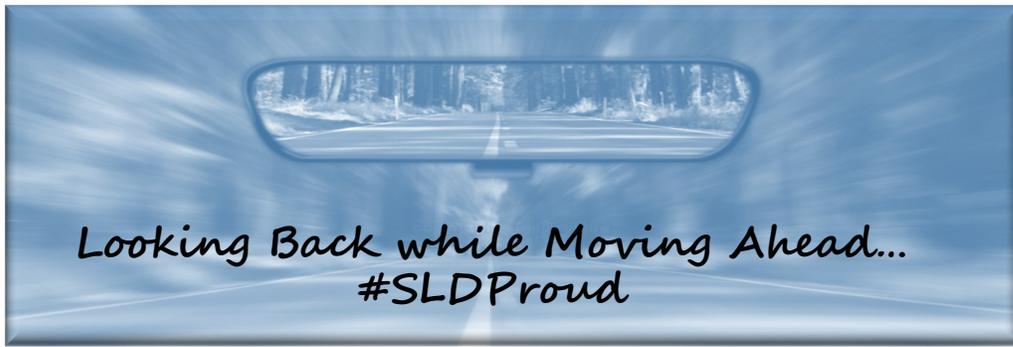
**Day 4, Harmony University class.** Duetting for Successful Quarteting by Gary Bolles from FWD, Gary defined 4 part harmony/Barbershop as 3 parts revolving around a melody. He went on to ask "How can you harmonize to a melody if you don't know it?" How many of you have heard this one: "Leads don't get to listen!" He stated that duetting has a horizontal component, and as such, it's critical that Leads be consistent, and went on to state that it's backwards to learn words and notes, and then the meaning of a song.

**Day 4, Harmony University class.** Strategic Planning by Steve Wyszomierski, Chair, Leadership Operations Project Team, Steve opened the session by observing that we as leaders need to raise the perception of individual worth; that our primary role as such is to facilitate self-discovery. He also noted that a strategic plan should be done with the end goal in mind and that it should align with the chapter mission, and furthermore requires buy in from everyone in the chapter. By comparison, he suggested that many small chapters do things simply because that's what they've always done, even if the activity doesn't support their mission any longer. He stated that the plan has to be crystal clear, and went on to point out that grants essentially require the strategic plan.

So, the observant among us will note that we still don't have the answer to the trivia question posed in the introduction! Do feel welcome to email me your guess, and if you don't have email, have one of your friends send your pick for you.

Lest we forget our 2019 motto, 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...

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

## ***Pow WOW! A great time of learning to kick off the summer...***



Like a picture from a postcard, the backdrop for Pow Wow this year was stunning right from the first night—and the weekend to follow was just as beautiful! Seneca Lands 2019 Pow Wow was held June 22nd at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. It was a beautiful weekend with 79 members attending.

Classes included “Real and Fearless”, “Performance with Emotion” and the “Circle of 5ths for Dummies”, to name a few. Forefront, 2016 BHS International Champions, held an incredible master class, as well as a few other classes, and were the featured quartets on the evening show.

Seven quartets received coaching, as well as a local Sweet Adeline’s chorus. Skip Berenguer, Dean of Pow Wow, thanks the 20 members of the faculty/staff for all of their assistance! A great time was had by all!!



***Pow Wow 2020 will be held on JUNE 20th once again at Hobart and William Smith Colleges.***



### Looking Back...

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

### Spring was in full bloom for the Chorus of the Genesee...

It was a busy spring for the Chorus of the Genesee beginning with being the host chorus for the Local Vocal a cappella concert at Bishop Kearney High School in March 2.

Then, on April 11, we celebrated National Barbershop Quartet Day with a concert at Harmony House.



The chorus performed along with our sisters in harmony, Rochester Rhapsody (HI), and Velvet Blue, a quartet from Image City Sound (SA). A reception was held after, and we are making plans for a larger concert next year.



May found us at our busiest, as we started our monthly singer's party at the house on May 3. These parties include karaoke, open mic, performances from the chorus, and musical games. Always family friendly, our attendance increases with each first Friday.





# Looking Back...

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

Rick Taylor stopped by our May 7 rehearsal to speak about the Harmony Foundation, and was kind enough to do a little coaching as well.

May 12, we braved the cold and rain to sing the National Anthem at the Rochester Red Wings game. For a video of this, visit our Facebook page - you won't be sorry!



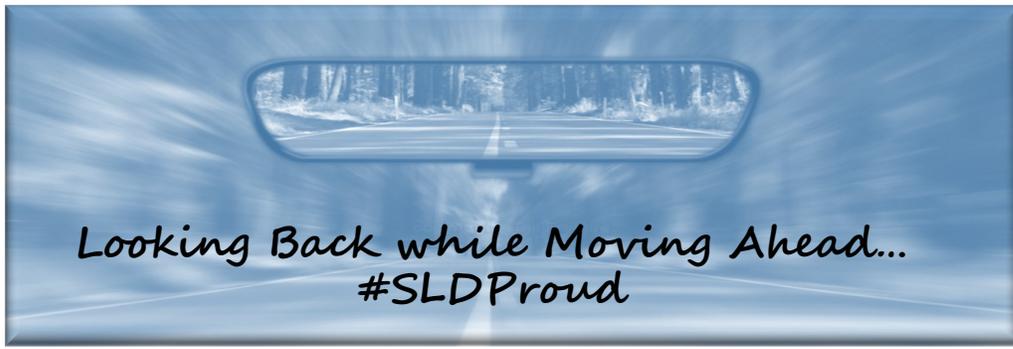
On May 17, the quartet of Dave Bay, Ben Casper, Greg Matthews, and Bob Statt were on the Bob Lonsberry Show (WHAM 1180), singing and talking about our annual show. That video can also be found on our Facebook page.



Finally, we presented our annual show, Connections, on May 18 at the Lyric Theatre. Along with the chorus, our chapter quartets Homecoming and A-Chording to Us performed, as well as our guests, Rush-Henrietta High School's Barbershop Chorus, FUSION, and headliner, 'Shoptimus Prime. It was a fantastic night of great music, followed by our usual afterglow at Harmony House. We thank everyone who attended, and look forward to seeing you next year!

This summer, we, like many of you, continue to prepare for fall convention in September. We look forward to seeing you there!





## Looking Back...

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

## Dickson Tattersall Award of Honor

At the Spring HOD meeting I gave the Allegheny Division report and during the presentation, I mentioned the New Bethlehem Chapter's upcoming 63rd Annual Show. During this report I also shared that Dickson Tattersall has retired from directing the NBC Chorus after some 60 years of faithful service. Naturally members of the HOD were amazed of this longevity from Dickson's service and it was moved that the SLD should provide a special plaque to him to be presented at their show.

Bill Young (current chorus director and chapter secretary) and myself came up with wording and this special plaque in his honor was presented. It states **"The Seneca Land District of the Barbershop Harmony Society honors Dickson Tattersall for 60 years of directing the N B C Chorus. Your dedication to the preservation of Barbershop Harmony in New Bethlehem is greatly appreciated by all who have had the pleasure of singing under your direction."**

Dickson and his wife, Francis, were very pleased and we had a nice visit after the show. The following is taken in part from the Show Program.

**"Honoring a 61 Year Member... Dickson was born in 1936 in Troy Hill, New York. He graduated from Greensburg High School, and then graduated from Indiana University of Pennsylvania with a BS in Music Education. Dickson taught music education in the Brookville Area School District for 35 years.**

**During his adult life, he has played in many different bands and continues to do so today. These various bands include swing, concert and polka.**

**Dickson is the director of his church choir and directed the NBC Chorus for 59[+] years. This long-running feat could possibly be a record for continuous directing of the same barbershop chapter.**

**Having sung in various quartets his entire life, his ability to arrange music is well-known within the NBC Chorus.**

**Dick's family members include his wife, Francis; children, Mike, Michelle, and Charlene; and grandchildren, Emily and Alicia."**

Personally, it was a great honor singing under the direction of Dickson Tattersall. I remember the first time, for me, was at DuBois HS at an Allegheny Division Show in about 1985 where he directed "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and not only directed, but also played the march with his snare drum as part of this famous song. Thank you Dickson for all of the memories and years of service to your barbershop brothers.



Jim Barickman

Allegheny Division Manager



## Looking Back...

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

### SLD has strong showing in Varsity completion

Having TWO quartets participate in the varsity competition in Salt Lake City, Seneca Land certainly made its presence known. Placing 13th with a score of 71.2, **Full Send** made their competitive debut in front of thousands and in an historic venue, filling the auditorium with energy, emotion, poise, and ring. Deriving their name from the expression meaning to give what you are doing everything you've got and not to hold back, Kyle Firoamonti (lead), Brennan Matthews (baritone), Antonio Devereaux (bass), and Jordan Peyer (tenor) sent everything they had to the audience on the international stage. High school friends and founding members of the Liverpool chapter, they said getting up on that stage and sharing those couple of minutes with best friends was a truly unforgettable and irreplaceable moment. A memory that will last a lifetime!



Forming in the fall of 2016, One Eleven is also made up of four charter members of the Liverpool chapter. With their name coming from a series of coincidences involving combinations of the number 1, the pattern continued at international, as One Eleven placed 11th in Salt Lake with a score of 71.9. Performing the up tune 'Shakin the Blues Away' and ballad 'This is All I Ask', Jon Lunden (lead), Thomas Keeping (baritone), Adam Del Rosso (bass), and Nick Peta (tenor) brought passion, engagement, emotion, and harmony to a crowd that was excited to

hear the future of barbershop. When asked about their experience singing on the international stage representing Seneca Land they immediately mentioned how cool it was, in the order of appearance, to take the stage right before Full Send and perform so close in order to their chapter brothers

Both quartets were also quick to mention their thanks and appreciation to district donors who made it possible for them to travel, compete, and represent Seneca Land.





## Looking Back...

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

In the Open division, SLD representative All In reached their highest score with a ...Thankful for ALL of the support they have received from the district over the past five years—as a quartet, and as Brian has continued his battle against cancer, it has been an honor and privilege for them to serve as International reps the last two years and as the 2017 District Champions and 2014 Novice Champs.



Unfortunately, it is with sadness that they now announce their retirement as a quartet after five years. With Brian's move to Lancaster, PA to be closer to his oncology team, it just didn't make sense to continue. But we would like to thank the members of Harmonic Collective and Parkside Harmony who helped his family make the move—he could not have done it without you. But not to worry, there are already new quartets forming which include members of All In, and Brian hopes to join SLD for Fall Convention, so still expect to see them around!

### Harmonic Collective performs for 'every man', taking all of Seneca Land on stage with them!

It was an amazing night on stage as Harmonic Collective embraced the 'Lucky 13' slot, took advantage of an amazing performance venue, and stepped away from the evening in 20th place!

Symbolically bringing all of Seneca Land onto the stage with them, Director Sky Harris led 39 members of the Liverpool chapter to a score of 82.2, with only four tenths of a point separating 20th place from 17th.

More importantly, these district representatives left everything they had on the stage to give the gift of harmony to the audience, seeking to 'change the room' more than anything else.

Thank you to everyone back at home for your support across the year, and during this amazing week!



If you missed the livestream, videos of All-In, Full Send, and Harmonic Collective's international sets will be posted on YouTube at some point in the next two months.

Additionally, make sure to check out the record breaking 97.8 scoring performance by Westminster Chorus by visiting the YouTube link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RwUkjPUqVyM>



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

## Looking Back...

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



What an amazing weekend we had in Cazenovia at Lakeside A cappella Camp! Over 100 youth campers from five states and two countries and about 20 adult chaperones from throughout the Northeast and Canada spent a very hot, humid weekend together making music, friends, and memories to last a lifetime. About half of our youth campers were new this year and ranged in age from 10-23. They included brand new barbershoppers, members of International competitor choruses and quartets, brothers and sisters, and even a handful of kids who have come every year since the camp started six years ago! Showing up nervous, excited, and ready to work, our teaching quartets claimed this group of kids was one of the most prepared they had ever worked with and the structure of the Camp was the best they've ever experienced - all right here in our own backyard!

And speaking of teaching quartets, this summer Lakeside campers were joined by **GQ (SAI 5th Place Medalists)** and The **Newfangled Four (BHS 6th Place Finalists)** with guest baritone **Kohl Kitzmiller (2015 International Champion, Instant Classic)**. These two amazing young quartets not only represent the top of the craft, which they shared selflessly with our campers for three days, but also spent their time eating meals with the kids, bonding over their shared love of crazy YouTube videos, and changing all of our lives for the better. Many long-time campers said this was the best year of Camp yet and they said it was because of the experience the clinicians created for them. As many of you have experienced, having your heroes treat you like one of them, believe in you, and share their time like that is one of the hallmarks of our barbershop family and we've learned that no one does it better than GQ, NF4, and Kohl Kitzmiller!

Campers both young and young at heart spent the weekend singing together, participating in classes run by our clinicians, bonding by the lake, and sharing in the barbershop culture of support, selfless caring, and amazing music-making. The weekend culminated in our Saturday Night Lakeside Extravaganza held at Cazenovia High School. Our two teaching quartets (GQ & NF4), three camper quartets (Children of the Chord - BHS, Generations - HI, and Perfect Fourth - SAI), Adult Mixed Chorus (made up of our chaperones from BHS, HI, SAI, and local music educators), and our Guys/Girls Youth Choruses and Mixed Chorus Finale all took the stage to a packed house! We want to thank the many, many SLD chapter members we saw out in the audience who came to support our amazing young people. Your ticket purchase this year went directly to supporting scholarships for next summer and your presence in the audience speaks volumes about your character and support of the preservation of our art form.

And while we're on scholarships, we want to give a heartfelt shout out and thank you to the Maple City Chorus (Hornell Chapter), Harmonic Collective (Liverpool Chapter), and the Seneca Land District for their scholarship donations for Camp this year. Over 70% of youth campers received some form of scholarship and without these generous donations, we simply would not have been able to make it possible for these young people to come and have this life-changing experience. We also want to thank our chaperones representing Liverpool, Mohawk Valley, along with our own District President, Dave Bay who braved not only the heat, but also took such amazing care of our youth campers all weekend. This camp simply does not run without the work of the village of barbershoppers involved and we are incredibly grateful to all of you who joined our family this year!

Want to get involved next summer? Visit the website – [www.lakesideacappella.com](http://www.lakesideacappella.com) - or email us at [lakesideacappella@gmail.com](mailto:lakesideacappella@gmail.com)!

**Sky Harris – Camp Director, Lakeside A cappella Camp and Director, Harmonic Collective**



*Moving Ahead...*

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


 The SenecaLand District of the Barbershop Harmony Society is proud to present
 

# Chautauqua Serenade

## Barbershop Harmony Parade



**Coldsnap**  
2019 BHS International Quartet Contest Semifinalists



**Group Therapy**  
2019 SLD Mixed Qtet Champions



**THE Harbor House 4**  
2018 SLD Quartet Champions

**Sunday, August 25 – 2:30 p.m.**

Chautauqua Institution Amphitheater; Chautauqua, NY  
Free Admission | Parking - \$9.00



*Moving Ahead...*

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

The Finger Lakes Chorus of is again hosting A Cappella Sunday at the Smith Opera House in Geneva. The event is 9/8 from 2 to 4 in the afternoon with 5 barbershop groups along with 3 or 4 other very talented A Cappella groups from the area. We are excited for this. Last year was our 1st annual and we are happy to announce our 2nd annual show. We are very much are looking for donations and sponsors, but most of all covet your attendance. Please help us spread the word as it looks to be a fun filled afternoon. Special note: some proceeds from this are going to the local Suicide Prevention Coalition.



Attention Chapter Officers ... Please save the date for November 9th. Location will be the Harmony House in Webster. I'm working on putting together a Chapter support and Leadership forum. It is my sincere wish to entertain a representative from every chapter in Seneca Land. More details will be announced. I hope to make this a fun, educational, and invigorating day.

Respectfully,  
Todd Horton  
SLD Executive Vice President

**Don't forget...**

Submissions for each edition for the Sound of Seneca need to be given to Pat Close by the 15th of the month before each edition is being mailed out. Send us your suggestions as well for any tips you'd like included or resources you would like shared on this page. And don't forget to send your district event dates and information to Pat at any time so that they can be added to our district's master calendar.

- Also...
- Remember to keep your information on the web page current as well! Make sure to send any of the following information to SLDwebmaster1@gmail.com if you want it shared on our site:
- ◆ *Updates to chorus or quartet information*
  - ◆ *Write ups and photo's about what your chapter is doing in the community*

**Opting out of paper Copy:** If you do not wish to receive the paper copy please send an email to the [mrpclose@aol.com](mailto:mrpclose@aol.com). If you have sent it before please resubmit your name so the list may be rebuilt and maintained.



### Moving Ahead...

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



### “The Songbird Club”:

### A recruitment program available in Seneca Land District

The Seneca Land District continues to move forward on a unique and long lasting recruitment program designed to recognize, reward and give merit to the efforts of Seneca Land District members who continuously seek new applicants to enroll into the chapter ranks. The program originates during the calendar year from beginning January 1 through December 31. The sole intention of the program is to highlight those recruiters who continuously pursue new and potential members within Seneca Land District. Once a member reaches the pinnacle of success into the Songbird Club, his induction will be permanent and lifelong. He will enter into an elite group of barbershoppers that have demonstrated tangible success in district recruitment. The program is genuine, sincere, and achievable.

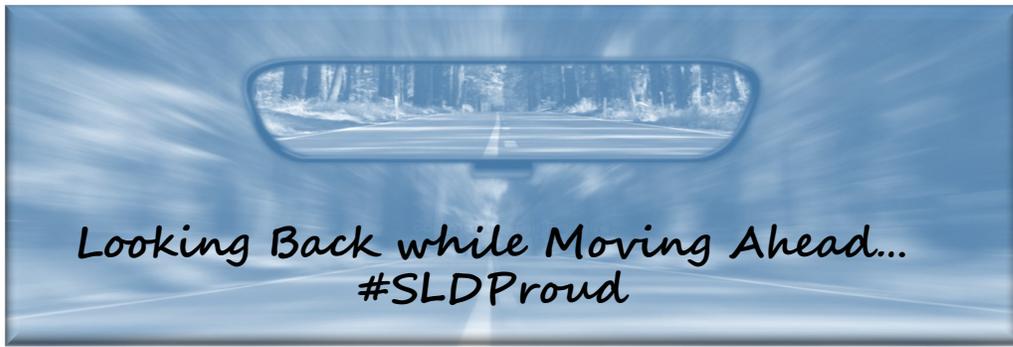
#### Awards and Recognition

For Recruiting three ((3) New or Reinstated members into the Seneca Land District within a single calendar year the recruiter receives:

- ◇ Chapter dues free for one year
- ◇ District dues free for one year
- ◇ Receives Gift Certificate from the Harmony Market place for \$15.00, good for one CD
- ◇ Receives one year free Registrations to both the Spring and Fall Seneca Land District Conventions
- ◇ The recruiter receives a watch of his choice, either a pocket or wrist style
- ◇ Receives the Songbird Induction Pin, Badge, and Membership Card
- ◇ Be personally Recognized at a District Convention
- ◇ And Life Long Induction into the Seneca Land District Songbird Club
- ◇ Estimated Value: \$240.00

Art Zelesnikar

SLD MVP



## Moving Ahead...

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

### SLD Senior Chorus

We have decided to move forward with the Senior Chorus. This chorus will be Senior (55 and older) and all male. At this point, we are still looking into which District will hold our charter. Moving forward, we are sending out an e-blast to all Seneca Land Barbershoppers to open enrollment for the Senior Chorus. If possible, we'd like to compete at Fall Contest, which means moving forward quickly. Whether you are new or an "old" member of the Senior Chorus, we are basically starting fresh. However, if we compete in the Fall, it will have to be with the 2 songs we know. The members will be responsible for learning the songs on their own and coming to rehearsal to "polish" the songs. Learning tracks will be provided for each part. Moving forward, we are setting some qualification standards, and they are:

- **Match pitch**
- **Duplicate a few intervals**
- **Sing a short harmony part**
- **Sing a simple song (e.g.. Happy Birthday) singing the song as the saddest, funniest, to express emotion**
- **Clap a simple rhythm**
- **Must be 55 by Jan 1, 2020**

Aside from your travel expenses, you should know this will cost as low as \$10 or as high as \$25 depending on clarification from BHS for the first year. There may be an additional per use charge of a good will donation to help Harmony House with heat, lights, etc. We will be rehearsing once a month on a Sunday from 1:30 to 4:30 at the Harmony House.

Your leaders at this point are: Ron Mason, director, Pat Close, Communications, Todd Horton, Tenor Section Leader, Don Stothard, Lead Section leader, Dave Bay, Baritone section leader, Tracy Robertson, Bass Section Leader.

This can be your board if you choose to elect us?

Please let us know if you will be a returning member or am interested in becoming a "new" member to the Senior Chorus. Please return all your responses to Pat Close at [sldseneiorchorus@gmail.com](mailto:sldseneiorchorus@gmail.com).

## 2019 SLD Hall of Fame Committee Requests Nominees

The 2019 Seneca Land District Hall of Fame Committee is requesting nominations for honorees for this September.

The intent of the Hall of Fame is to honor those men of the Seneca Land District who have made exceptional, long-standing, unselfish, and devoted contributions to the Seneca Land District through their participation in chapter, District, and Society activities. Any member of the District may make a nomination by sending the appropriate information to the Hall of Fame Committee Chairman by August 15. The description of achievements should include dates, places, results, etc. and must provide sufficient credible information to substantiate the qualifications offered. Collaborating sources, such as publications or individuals, may be used. Additional information can be found here by clicking on this [link](#). **Nominations may be sent to Gil Durham ([durhamgil@gmail.com](mailto:durhamgil@gmail.com))**



*Moving Ahead...*

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

*What do Math, Joe Cerutti, and Seneca Land all have in common? That's right—they are the equation the adds up to an epic fall convention—it's time for SENECON 2019!*



*It's official! This year at our fall convention Seneca Land welcomes the Alexandria Harmonizers from the Mid-Atlantic District. You won't want to miss this chance to spend time with the premier chorus!*

*Take a look at our preliminary schedule:*

*Friday:*

- ◆ Registration (2:00-4:30/5:30-8:30)
- ◆ District Quartet Contest – Semi-finals
- ◆ Novice Quartet Contest
- ◆ District Senior Quartet Contest
- ◆ International Preliminary Senior Quartet Contest
- ◆ Chorditorium—**WITH THE ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS!**
- ◆ AHSOW/Woodshedding

*Saturday:*

- ◆ Registration (9:00—12:30/6:00—8:00)
- ◆ Masters Class—**WITH THE ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS!**
- ◆ International Preliminary Chorus Contest
- ◆ District Buffet Dinner—**PERFORMANCE BY THE ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS!**
- ◆ District Quartet Contest - Finals
- ◆ The SLD Show of Shows—**FINALE PERFORMANCE: ALEXANDRIA HARMONIZERS**
- ◆ Hospitality Rooms
- ◆ And MORE!!!!

*'Just the facts ma'am...'*



*When is it taking place?*

⇒ September 27-29, 2019

*Where is all of this going to be?*

⇒ Rochester Riverside Hotel (HQ)  
 ⇒ Convention Center (RRCC) - Contest Site

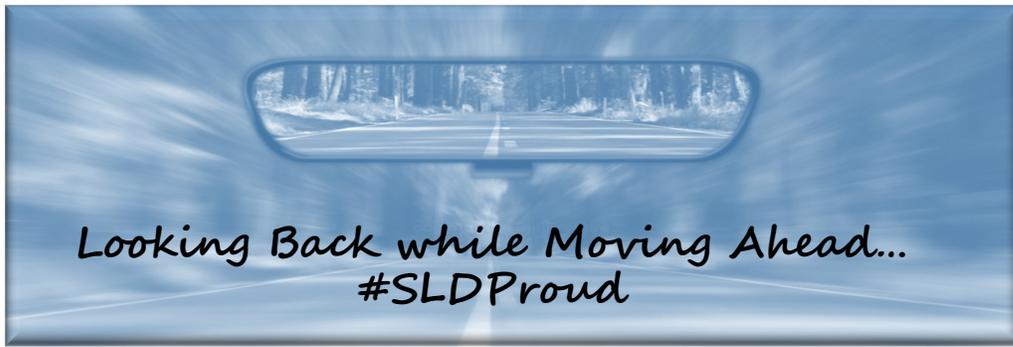
*What is the cost?*

⇒ \$35.00 for all weekend and single event passes are \$15.00 for all SLD members and non-members

*So how do I sign up?*

⇒ Click [HERE](#) to visit the registration page  
 ⇒ Visit our district website:  
[www.senecaland.org](http://www.senecaland.org) and the registration link is on the front page

*Look for more information coming out via Facebook and Constant Contact messages between now and convention.*



## Moving Ahead...

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

### ***Did Your Quartet Compete Last Fall (2018)?***

If so – and you're competing again in the upcoming Fall 2019 quartet contest in Rochester - you're eligible for the new Phil McCabe Most Improved Quartet Award.

Phil McCabe was a long time SLD barbershopper. A bass in several District quartets – regular and senior - he was a firm believer that better quartet singers make better chorus singers.

The Phil McCabe Most Improved Quartet Award is intended to continue Phil's passion for quartet improvement. It will be presented annually at the SLD Fall Contest to the competing quartet that shows the most improvement in its overall ('raw') Friday semi-final round score from the preceding year (Fall 2018) regardless of ranking. The winning quartet must have retained the same name from the previous year and must not have had more than one personnel change. In cases of a tie score, the highest change in a quartet's Singing score will determine the winner.

For eligible quartets, the Phil McCabe Most Improved Quartet Award will be one of the "check box" options available in Barberscore when it opens for contest entries in August. And...in the spirit of *Everyone in Harmony*...don't forget that the Mixed Quartet and Mixed Chorus Contests are now an official part of our Spring Convention. Guys and gals have the opportunity to compete and perform together in the same ensemble – and there's lots of time to rehearse between now and next April. Reminder, everyone on stage has to be a BHS member. More info to come as the weather gets colder.

### **AHSOW AT THIS FALL CONVENTION**

We are planning to open the AHSOW room again this fall during our Seneca Land district convention.

For those with little or no experience this is the art of singing by ear. No music needed..just

words and a decent lead part that can be barbershop harmonized. It is the way our hobby got started and a lot of fun.

For those members with experience, please contact us to let us know of your availability to help make this year's AHSOW time even more memorable than last year. It is equally important to help new people check out this kind of ringing/singing as it might be for you to get together with a great group of singers for this wonderful part of our hobby. Please contact me (607-742-7677) to indicate your interest in helping out.

Sing em and Ring em!

Larry Horn



**25**  
AUG  
**SLD Board of Directors meeting**  
📅 Sunday, August 25, 2019  
🕒 All day  
📍 Chautauqua Institution, 1 Ames Ave, Chautauqua, NY 14722, USA  
⌵ Show more

**25**  
AUG  
**Chautauqua Serenade**  
📅 Sunday, August 25, 2019  
🕒 2:30pm-3:30pm  
📍 Chautauqua Institute  
⌵ Show more

**17**  
SEP  
**Sweet Adelines International 2019 Convention**  
📅 Tue, Sep 17 - Sat, Sep 21, 2019  
🕒 All day  
📍 Smoothie King Center, 1501 Dave Dixon Drive, New Orleans, LA 70113, United States

**27**  
SEP  
**SLD Fall Convention/Contest**  
📅 Fri, Sep 27 - Sun, Sep 29, 2019  
🕒 2:00pm-12:00pm  
📍 Rochester NY

**13**  
OCT  
**SLD BOD Meeting**  
📅 Sunday, October 13, 2019  
🕒 All day  
📍 Watkins Glen

**15**  
OCT  
**Smoke Signals Deadline Winter Issue**  
📅 Tuesday, October 15, 2019  
🕒 All day

**19**  
OCT  
**Olean Chapter Show**  
📅 Saturday, October 19, 2019  
🕒 7:00pm-9:00pm  
📍 Portville Junior/Senior High School, 500 Elm St, Portville, NY 14770, USA  
⌵ Show more

**19**  
OCT  
**The Jamestown Harmony Express 33rd Annual Show**  
📅 Saturday, October 19, 2019  
🕒 7:00pm-8:00pm  
📍 Southwestern High School, 600 County Touring Rte 32 # 2, Jamestown, NY 14701, USA  
⌵ Show more

**2**  
NOV  
**COTS / Leadership Consortium**  
📅 Saturday, November 2, 2019  
🕒 All day  
📍 Harmony House Webster New York

**Visit the full SLD  
Events Calendar on  
our district webpage  
under the Events tab.  
[www.senecaland.org](http://www.senecaland.org)**



**November 2, 2019  
Chapter Growth  
Initiative  
Harmony House  
Webster NY  
(Formally COTS)**

## Sound and Skills

This month's quick tip to develop your barbershop sound and skills comes from Dr. Rob Hopkins,  
Director of the Mohawk Valley Chapter:

In addition to "bubbling" as Sky Harris suggested in the last issue, an important way to improve your singing is to eliminate tongue tension, which reduces your resonance and lessens the quality of your sound. Many of us are not even aware that we sing with tongue tension; it's just what we are used to. To check yourself, place your index finger about two inches under your chin (so it is not touching any bone). Then you will be able to monitor any tongue tension because your finger is pointing to the bottom of your tongue. When you start singing, be sure your tongue stays relaxed. If it tightens, your index finger will feel it. Train yourself to sing without tongue tension.

## Opt out of receiving the paper copy of "Sounds Of Seneca".

If you no longer wish to receive the paper copy of the District bulletin please email Pat Close at [mrpclose@aol.com](mailto:mrpclose@aol.com). For those of you that have already opted out, could you please resend your name to rebuild the list after a data loss. Thank you.

### Don't forget...

Submissions for each edition for the Sound of Seneca need to be given to Pat Close by the 15th of the month before each edition is being mailed out. Send us your suggestions as well for any tips you'd like included or resources you would like shared on this page. And don't forget to send your district event dates and information to Pat at any time so that they can be added to our district's master calendar.

### Also...

Remember to keep your information on the web page current as well! Make sure to send any of the following information to [SLDwebmaster1@gmail.com](mailto:SLDwebmaster1@gmail.com) if you want it shared on our site:

- ◆ *Updates to chorus or quartet information*
- ◆ *Write ups and photo's about what your chapter is doing in the community*

## Society Resources

Did you know that BHS has a [VOCAL HEALTH BLOG](#)? Click on the link, or visit <https://www.barbershop.org/news/blog/categories/vocal-health> to apply your vocal health knowledge to the barbershop style

Their blog features articles from members of the Music Education team at the Barbershop Harmony Society and other experts in the field, including Kim Newcomb, Steve Tramack, Jim DeBusman, and Patty Mills.

Learn about voice production and resonance, how to breathe life into your singing, taking care of your voice as you age, how singing strengthens the immune system, and more.



**'Step up to the mic!'**

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

### ***From the farthest corners...***

In our last edition we had a couple of our youngest district members step up to the mic and let us know a little about how they came into, and what they love most about barbershop. This month I thought it might be nice to visit some of the farthest reaches of Seneca Land and meet a couple of members that you may not have many chances to connect with face to face.



Beginning in the north country, meet Mark Friden from Canton chapter—a member of the Goldenaires! He began singing barbershop just two years ago after his neighbor, baritone Ted Tate offered to drive him the 50 miles to weekly rehearsals with the Canton Goldenaires. However, he has been singing since high school, in choruses and choirs (when they'll have him!).

The main thing that Mark would like to make sure the district knows about the Canton chapter is simply that they ARE there! They have a strong core of men who make it every week, including some who journey up from the Adirondack Park. The chorus is asked to perform perhaps a dozen or so times a year, every year and they rarely turn down a request to sing. They ARE the Voice of Barbershop in their region.

Mark's proudest moment? Getting his Polecat Pin for successfully testing on all of the Polecat songs - all completed during his first year as a member. He is also very proud of the scholarship money they raise for graduating high school seniors in their area through their Singing Valentines program. And of course, he was very proud of the Goldenaires when they competed at District this past fall.

Barbershop favorites? Well to paraphrase Will Rogers, Mark says; "I never met a tag I didn't like." He thinks tags are great fun and loves their harmonies. Although he is not yet in a quartet, he truly enjoys quartet singing; hearing the harmonies come through so clearly when there are only four men in close proximity is amazing! They have quartet time at the end of every rehearsal with the Canton Goldenaires, and he also likes the Polecat songs for their history of true, old-fashioned barbershop harmony.

Finally, when asked what his hope was for the future of barbershop, Mark very simply—but powerfully—states

it is that more younger singers will learn about how amazing singing barbershop can be, so that our style of singing will live on, and grow - particularly a challenge where they live.

Moving to the most southwest corner of SLD, let's take a moment to meet IPP of the New Bethlehem chapter; John Kerr. As I read through John's responses to my questions, it was difficult to edit what he said, as the information he shared was so articulate and intriguing. When asked about his history in barbershop he shared fond memories from watching Mitch Miller with his dad as a young farm boy, to wearing out a barbershop record a friend had loaned to him, to singing gospel in a quartet since 1977 and then being a part of the DuBois Diplomats and NBC Chorus, finding a home with these fine men and women.



*Special K quartet, left to right, John Kerr, bass; Jan Kerr, tenor; Cindy Kapp (pronounced cop), baritone; Jeff Kapp, lead*

One thing he would love for the district to know about the New Bethlehem chapter is how opening the door for women to be a part of the society as improved their sound (and of course looks) and been a tremendous boost to their chapter. He sings in a quartet with his wife Jan, along with Jeff and Cindy Kapp and love it! In John's opinion, the changes have made the chapter very healthy.

John's proudest and fondest memory as a barbershopper would most likely be when he and his oldest son sang in the Big O chorus on the big stage in competition in Orlando, 2018. They were both president of their respective chapters that year—a special opportunity to last a lifetime!

His hope for the future of barbershop is high. He always keeps his ears open and if he thinks someone has a voice that perks up his ears, he asks if they sing—and he encourages others to do the same. The NBC chorus has an annual show that keeps getting bigger and better, and their quartets sing out 30 to 40 times a year. New members have joined through both efforts, and his hope is not that people have the interest in barbershop, but that WE have the interest to seek THEM out and develop them in our craft, bringing them to experience the joy we know.

**Consider encouraging these brothers by sending a note to their chapters, in their name, and let them know how great it is to hear their story. #SLDProud!**

***'Step up to the mic' with us again next edition as we turn our attention to two of our most decorated and longstanding district members and hear their story: Ron Mason and Dick Kennedy.***

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

PRESRT STD

U.S. Postage

PAID

Olean, NY

Permit No.88

## Seneca Land Leadership

**President:** David Bay SLD\_District\_President@outlook.com  
**Executive Vice President:** Todd Horton thorton1@rochester.rr.com  
**Secretary:** Tom Jones t-bari@stny.rr.com  
**Treasurer:** Jim Barnett jbarnone@aol.com  
**Immediate Past President:** Nathan Bell nathanhbell@yahoo.com  
**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: **Open**  
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: Dave Nicholson  
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: Mike Holmes  
SLD Chefs: David Lewis, Butch Talada  
Sound of Seneca/Convention programs: Pat Close  
Social Media: Ben Casper  
Standing Ovation Program: Mike Lurenz  
Web Master: Bob Paul, Todd Simpson

### Message from the Editor:

**Publications:** The Sound of Seneca will publish four times each year, mailing out to membership on the 1st of February, May, August, and November.

**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.

**Electronic Newsletters:** Each newsletter will be posted on the SLD web page on the 1st of February, May, August, and November.

**Opting out of paper Copy:** If you do not wish to receive the paper copy please send an email to the below address. If you have sent it before please resubmit your name so the list may be rebuilt and maintained.

**For submissions, questions, or comments, please contact:**

Mr. Pat Close  
5 Fourth Avenue  
Franklinville, NY 14737

(716)-912-4795  
mrpclose@aol.com