

THE SOUND OF SENECA

Volume 3, Issue 2

Summer 2021



'Zoom Bombing SLD Style' - Coming soon...if your chapter isn't currently active virtually, the district will be compiling a list of chapter meetings for those that want to visit online across the district to stay connected!

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Haven't checked out the new BHS Member Center? Click on the image above to go to the tutorial video online, or look over other links to resources on page 14!

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 its community for making a difference through singing.

President's Address, May, 2021

To all my friends in Seneca Land,

I want to see you all very soon in person! It is springtime and as I write this letter it is snowing out. Pretty much it resembles where we are in our lives right now. Some chapters are starting back up again cautiously. Some are not and are still meeting on Zoom. Whatever your circumstances make sure you're at least singing!

I want to encourage you who have responsibilities in your chapters or operation team at district level to get out of the doldrums and get ready for a charged restart. Without your efforts we will surely wither up and die. Remember what fun you've had in the past? Let's stop talking about the old days and create some new fun!!

The message is simple. Tell anyone you are in contact with that you have fun singing.

While it's a lot of fun and singing with younger people, our target audience that's most available and able to afford the hobby is the people from 40-65 years old. How many of your chapters have an active membership person? Please consider getting involved at chapter and/or district level.

It's my hope that when the Covid fog clears there may be many overly board people looking for some good clean fun! Let's be ready.

I want to take a minute to personally express my condolences to Pat Close's family and many barbershop friends. He was always willing to help and with a great attitude. I will miss his quirky humor. I will miss him. God speed my friend.

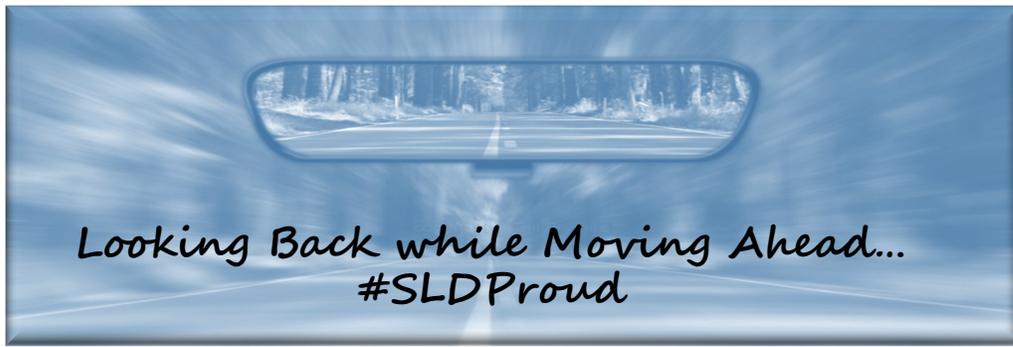
Sing-cerely,

Todd Horton

SLD President Thorton1@rochester.rr.com

Let's Keep it Fun—Let's Make it Fun Together!





Looking Back...

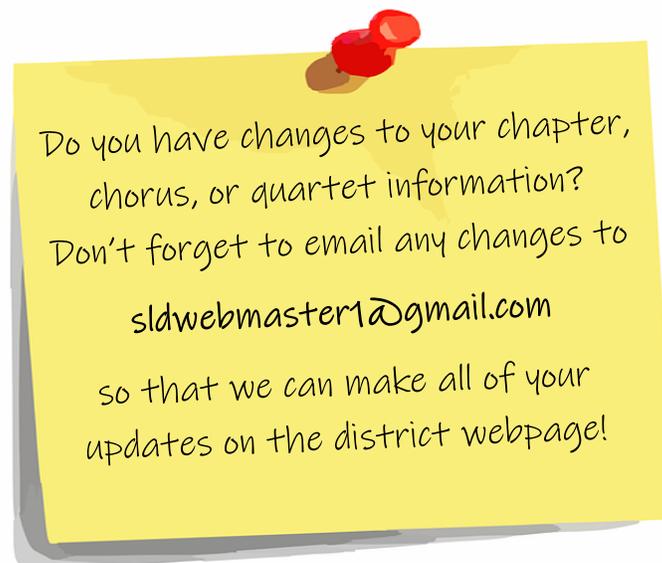
Take a look at the many events that have taken place across the district over the past few months.

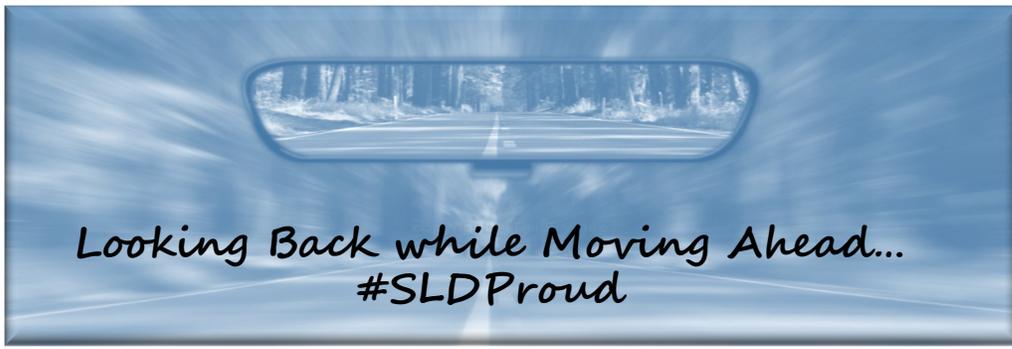
Notes from the Editor regarding this Summer 2021 Sound of Seneca edition:

At this time we will continue to email the newsletter and post it on our web page only.

Please note the following thoughts as we use our newsletter to keep us connected during the pandemic:

- Please remember that ANY submission or update—no matter how big or small—is valuable to all. Our goal is to stay connected, and while some news may seem simple or mundane, it may be the words that keep our members connected and engaged across the miles during this challenging time.
 - *I always hope to honor those voices we have lost. If your chapter loses a member and you want to honor them through the newsletter, please email a photo and brief write up to sldwebmaster1@gmail.com*
 - *We are still working to create a new and accurate member email database which relies on the accuracy of member center information. **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.***
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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: Long overdue lessons learned.

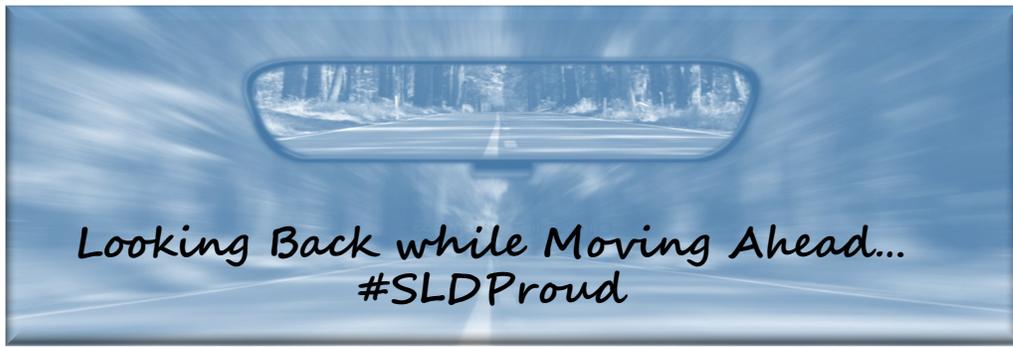
The Southerntiersmen Chorus got together for an in-person, outdoor, masked, socially distant chapter meeting on April 20th! Seventeen members plus a therapy dog = a great night! We were a little chilly but the singing and fellowship kept us warm. In addition to a couple of polecats, some established repertoire and some newbies, we found that Singing *An American Hymn* in real life is more challenging than on Zoom (errors don't go unnoticed), but we're all big boys and if we love a song, we learn it!

Our two lessons learned:

1. Taking temperatures outdoors on a chilly evening yields results you'd expect from a reptilian bipod.
2. Despite our forced abstinence of 407 days from singing together, we learned that with individual effort we will not only regain the excellence we had but exceed it.

Hoping that all chapters may get together safely!





Looking Back...

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Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Binghamton Chapter:: Poppy's Return



In the winter of 2018, my dog Poppy and I were accepted into the Bassett Healthcare Network's eight week training class for therapy dog certification. Poppy rescued me in early 2017 and was the first dog I ever had with qualities perfect for therapy dog work. She is obedient, perky, loves all types of people, and is oh so cute! I was very proud when Poppy received her certification from Therapy Dogs International in May 2018. Our great adventure was about to begin.

Our weekly visits to Bassett Medical Center, A.O. Fox Hospital, Fox Nursing Home, FoxCare Center, and The Plains at Parish Homestead were addictive. Each facility was unique in its staff, patients, and physical layout, and we very much looked forward to each adventure. What's not to like when everyone you meet greets you with a smile and wants to pet your cute little dog? Seems that everyone has one or more loveable pets at home and they want to share stories about them. Each encounter with staff or patients generated smiles and happiness, a sharing of stories, and sometimes a brief, loving remembrance of a departed family member or pet. Poppy and I were privileged to share each encounter with love and respect.

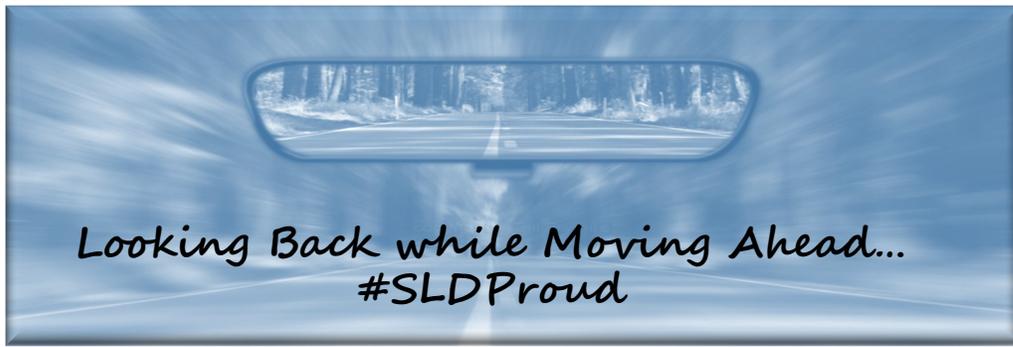
The love fest stopped abruptly the second week of March 2020 with the declaration of the COVID-19 pandemic. Our lives were transformed in ways we couldn't even imagine. We have all lived it and experienced the impacts it had on our lives and those we love. All those smiles and happiness of our therapy dog visits ceased immediately as we all struggled with fear, loss of loved ones, and not knowing what the next day would bring.

The long-awaited vaccines became available in late 2020 and by mid February I had both rounds of Moderna shots. I received a call in mid-March from Gerald Paciello, Volunteer Coordinator, and he said it was time for Poppy and I to make our return. Oh, Happy Day! Poppy got a bath for the occasion, and I donned my tux for our first visit in over a year on March 22, 2021. The smiles and joy returned as we made our way up and down the hallways, greeting our staff friends and introducing ourselves to new acquaintances. Oh, it was so good to be back on the job!

Poppy and I have a unique opportunity to witness the dedication, compassion, and expertise of our local doctors, nurses, administrative staff, and other healthcare workers. I am thankful for their service to all of us who depend on them to keep us well. Thank you, we appreciate you!



Tom Landon, Oneonta



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!

Crawford County Chapter: A Servant's Heart

Yesterday's Sound is saddened to share with the district the passing of our brother Glenn C. Rodgers, 93 on November 11th, 2020. Glenn was born on Aug. 8, 1927 in Oil City, PA to the late Charles W. and Cora Seigworth Rodgers. He was a graduate of Oil City High School, class of 1945 and a graduate of Temple University School of Pharmacy, class of 1951. Glenn also served in the U.S. Navy from 1945 until the end of the war in 1947, served in the Korean War from 1951 to 1952 and was stationed at both St. Albans Naval Hospital, Long Island, NY from 1946 to 1947 and the Philadelphia Naval Hospital from 1951 to 1952.

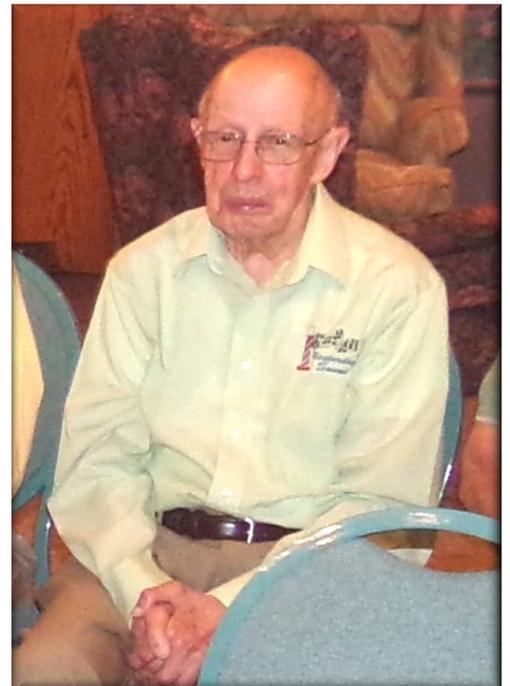
Glenn married to Phoebe Kay Bailey on June 26, 1954. She preceded him in death on May 5, 2005 after 50 years of marriage. In addition to working at McCandrew Drug Co. #1 store as an apprentice and registered pharmacist as well as Eckerd Drug Store in Oil City between 1947 to 1972, he became director of Pharmacy at Titusville Area Hospital from August of 1972 until December of 1994. After retirement he worked as a relief pharmacist for E.K. Thompson & Son from 1995 to 2002.

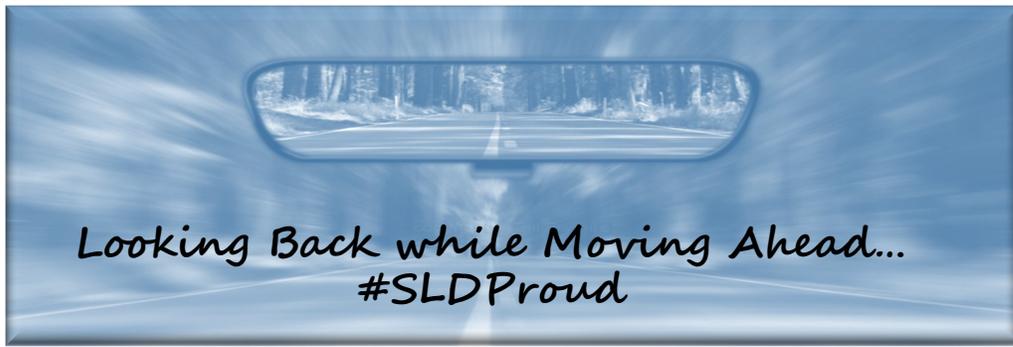
Glenn tutored at Main Street School in Titusville from 1997 to 2002 and was inducted into the Titusville Area Hospital Hall of Fame in 2006. Additionally he was a member and past president of Titusville Lions Club, Retail Bureau of the Titusville Chamber of Commerce, Titusville Area United Way, Titusville Board of Health, and United Methodist House, Chautauqua, NY, and a member of the Roundtable in Meadville.

He was active in the First United Methodist Church in Titusville, a part of numerous Lodge, Chapter, and Council affiliations, the Red Cross, Knights Templar and Keystone Knights.

Glenn enjoyed playing golf and was a member of the Titusville Summer Theater, acting and singing in several productions. In addition to being an integral part of "Yesterday's Sound" chapter chorus of the Barbershop Harmony Society in Meadville, Glenn was a part of numerous choirs, and sang in Centennial Chorus in 1959 for the Oil Centennial and sang in Titusville in the 50's and 60's. He was a member of the Chautauqua Institution Sunday Choir for many years and the Titusville Choraliers in the 50's and 60's.

Glenn is deeply loved, and will be sorely missed by his barbershop brothers—now able to sing his eternal song.





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: The Essence of Who We Are

The past year has been so difficult for all of us. While we have kept connected virtually, we have also found ways to reach out to our chorus members and their loved ones to help them cope and encourage them when they are down. A phone call.....a card.....a text message.....a way to say from a distance that we care. Although we have been apart, the thoughtfulness of those in our Friends of Harmony family has in many ways been the shining star that has helped us through the pandemic. As we plan to soon gather again as a group, I feel we will be closer to each other than ever before.

On a personal note, a family tragedy in 2018 inspired me to write this note to our Friends of Harmony members which resonates now with many of us after what we have experienced over the past year:

“Friends of Harmony.....Friends with Harmony.....Friends and Harmony..... With recent family health challenges, it got me to reflecting on what my association with our group means to me, and what we mean to each other.

Our focus has been and must continue to be the beautiful music we create and share with others. But the “friends” part takes on new meaning when tragedy or personal difficulties face us. Sometimes we take for granted the importance of the relationships we have beyond our Tuesday rehearsals and community performances. So many of our fellow chorus members reached out to me and my family with my grandson’s health challenges that it brought to light the true meaning of who we are as a group. We truly care for each other and express that in many ways.

It can be something as tragic as the loss of a loved one or personal or family illness. It can also be any one of the many ways we reach out to say “I care”..... a ride to rehearsal.....a call to reach out to someone we haven’t seen in a while..... a smile and a welcome on Tuesday.....so many ways that we can express our friendships! Let’s not forget the “friend” part of who we are. It helps us get through hard times and reminds us of the essence of who we are. We are there for each other in good times and in bad. In closing, it seems appropriate to use the words of vocal performer Bill Withers:

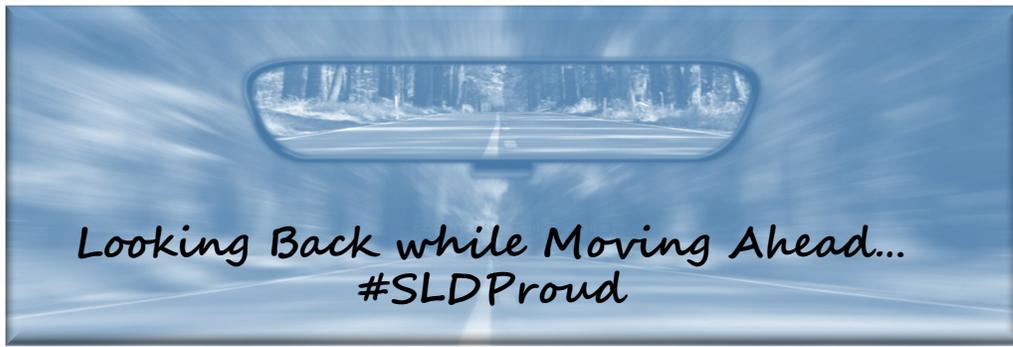
Lean on me, when you’re not strong, and I’ll be your friend, I’ll help you carry on.

For it won’t be long ‘Til I’m gonna need somebody to lean on

You just call on me brother, when you need a hand, we all need somebody to lean on

I just might have a problem that you’ll understand, we all need somebody to lean on

Thank you friends!!!!!!.....Al”



Looking Back...

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Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

East Aurora Chapter—Friends of Harmony: Chapter Glue

I'm sure we all have in some way reached out to others in our chapters to keep connected over the past year and to help us get through the very isolating pandemic. It's the human "glue", the adhesive that helps us stick together in good times and in bad, showing that you care for the welfare of others in your chapter. With that in mind, I would like to take this opportunity to put a feather in the caps of a couple of Friends of Harmony members who have gone far beyond..... super glue if you will!

First, a shout out to Assistant Director and Librarian Pete Hart! He so generously gives of his time to reach out to members who have personal challenges or losses and encourages other members to do the same. He also helps others who are not technologically savvy to give them the tools necessary to participate in our weekly zoom session. As a result, thanks to Pete's efforts, many in our chorus have received numerous communications that lifted their spirits and helped them through these difficult times. You rock Pete!!!

The second member who was instrumental in keeping us together over the past year was Quartet Performance and Development Coordinator Andy Notaro. Andy orchestrated and hosted the weekly chapter zoom sessions, always looking for ways to keep it lively and interesting. As a result, we not only saw each other each week, we also got closer to members as we learned more about them. Andy also would send to all of our members information on where they could make a connection to get vaccinated. We now have more of us fully vaccinated and ready to start our first rehearsal on May 4th! We are so thankful for all that you have done since our last rehearsal, March 10, 2020!



As we begin to see vestiges of normalcy, don't forget to thank those members who provided the "glue" to help your chapter make it through the past year!



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Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

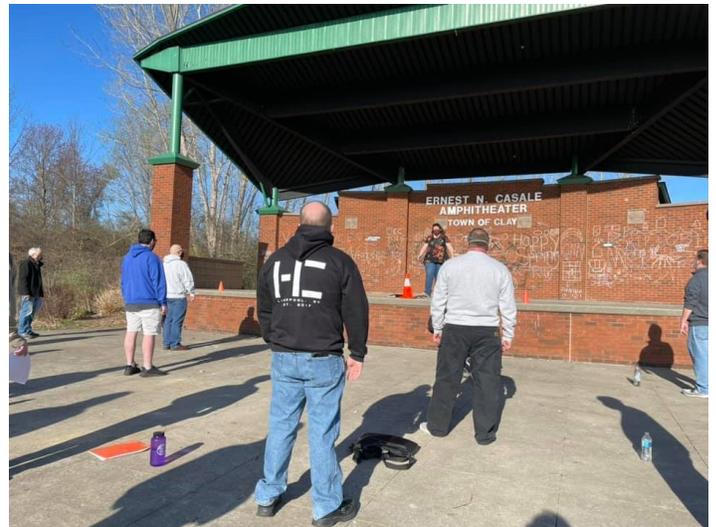
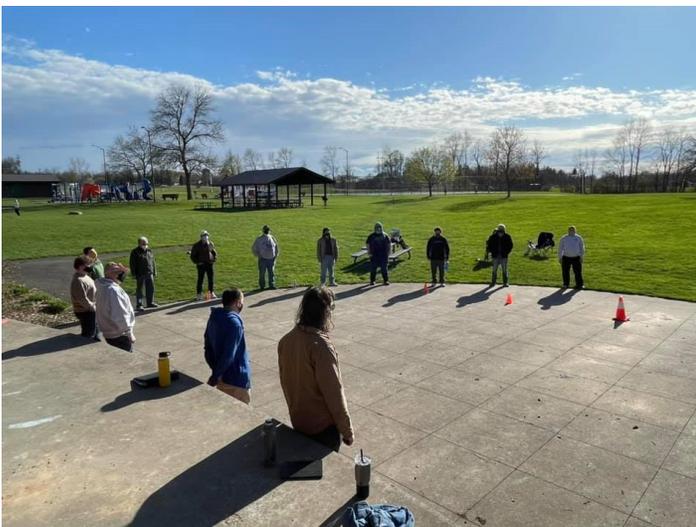
Liverpool Chapter: Old friends and NEW MEMBERS!!

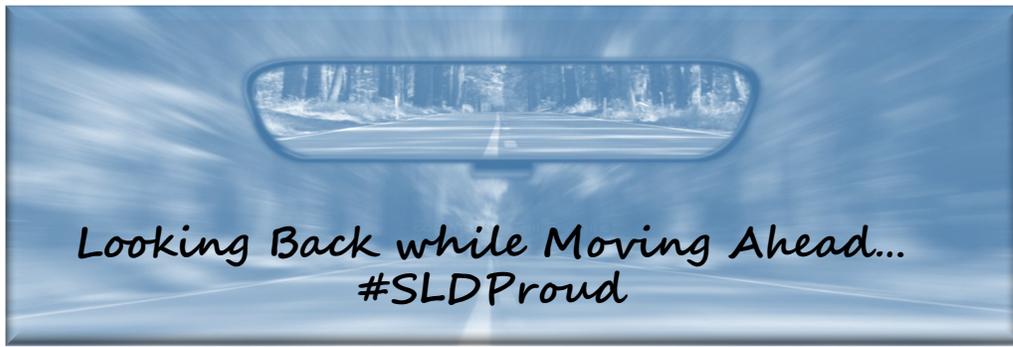
The Liverpool Chapter has had some success with our virtual rehearsals. Combining vocal and physical warm ups with watching old contest videos, learning new contest sets, as well as working on some virtual projects for the near future, we have managed to keep ourselves busy.



We have had a few special guests come and say hello, including Rick Taylor and Sean Devine. Despite the struggles of the current state of the world due to COVID-19, we have managed to maintain a steady group of members, as well as welcome new ones: Will Ferguson, John Rice, and Dan and Collin Meyer.

As the weather continues to improve, we will start introducing a hybrid model to meet in person again, following appropriate safety protocols. This includes staying 6 feet apart, with masks on, facing flat, rather than curved. We had our first in person rehearsal on March 21st and, despite not singing in person for quite some time, we still managed to stay on key! We hope soon that we will be able to come together and sing like old times."





Looking Back...

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Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Mark Twain Chapter: Our 'Three R's' - Remote, Recharged, and Ready to Move Forward!

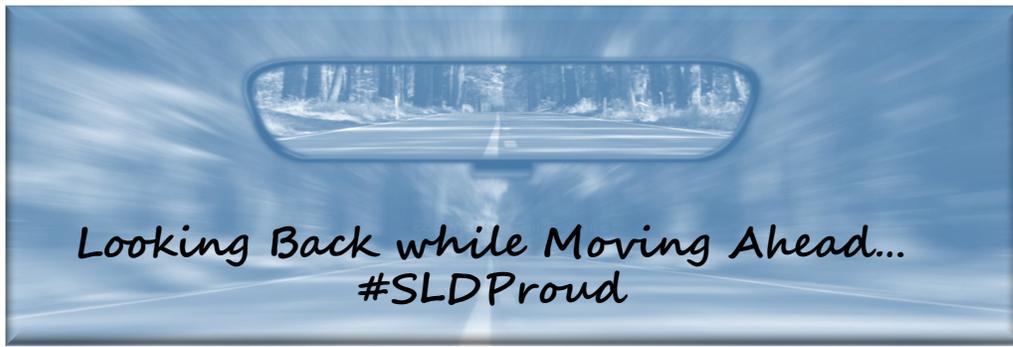
Members of the Mark Twain Chorus have been fairly consistent in attending weekly virtual meetings. A core group of 12-14 remains constant, and Chorus Director David Cloyd has utilized a schedule of varied activities that keeps all engaged. Indeed, they look forward to and enjoy these gatherings. Guests from other Chapters have attended our virtual events, including Tom Jones and Pete Hart and joint meetings with the Southerntiersmen and the Mohawk Valley Chapter have also taken place. These were welcome changes from the routine, provided for the exchange of best practices, and allowed our members to connect with brothers in harmony whom they had not seen in more than a year due to the pandemic.

The Chorus completed learning "Hymn to Freedom" and returned to the *Barberpole Cat Songbook, Vol. II*. At the time this article is being written, nearly one-half of the songs in the *Songbook* are now part of the repertoire of the Chorus. In prior years the Chorus held a year-end social gathering to "break bread" together, toast the year's accomplishments, congratulate and install officers, and present the Barbershopper of the Year (BOTY), but sadly, such an affair was not possible in 2020.

Additionally, chorus members have been involved in their community. A noteworthy example is financial support of the Food Bank of the Southern Tier which distributes food to local food pantries in several Counties in the region. Two quartets from the Chorus, 'Pasture Prime' and 'Sweetie's Best', made donations to the organization to aid in its mission.

The Chapter BOD holds regular virtual meetings each month to continue goal-setting; planning; and developing a budget for operations. While many factors influence when in-person Chorus activities may resume, officers and members are assessing what is necessary for that to occur, so a reopening plan can occur. Officers brought their "wish list" with estimated costs of the items on the list to BOD budget workshops. They pared these estimates by a significant amount when it became apparent the Chorus would not be able to resume activities as quickly as some predicted thus limiting opportunities for fund-raising.

The committee to select the BOTY for 2020 did meet and chose Tom Tedone, VP, Marketing and Public Relations. They cited his work in developing a marketing and public relations plan for the Chapter; submitting items to local media; coordinating the selection of a Chorus motto; and writing articles for *The Sound of Seneca* on behalf of the Chapter. Upon receiving the award, Tom expressed his surprise. He stated it is an honor to be selected by one's peers and, noting how difficult the past year has been for many, thanked all for their support and encouragement. The men of the Mark Twain Chapter continue to move forward in 2021 – building fellowship; supporting each other; and learning new songs - while staying close to home and looking toward the day they will be together again.



Looking Back...

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Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Mark Twain Chapter: In case you don't know about being—(wait for it) - “Pasture Prime”...

Pasture Prime is an up and coming SLD registered Senior quartet who early in last spring 2020 lost 5 important singing jobs and even worse, their Lead to Covid. They love acapella music and the bonds formed singing together equally. Our lead Gregg relocated to Maryland when he accepted a good paying job but with way too much overtime. He is aging quickly while his wife Pattie is madly trying to get a house and gorgeous fifth wheel camper sold in Watkins Glen. Meanwhile whenever Gregg comes up north as his work schedule and Covid travel allow, Pasture Prime gets together (Covid responsibly) for singing and visiting.

We have tried meeting outdoors, with social distancing. A favorite spot is the gazebo at Havana Glen near Montour Falls. Last time we met in a large church with spectacular acoustics that had just been fumigated for Covid purposes. It was so pleasing, surprising and fun to hear that sound and feeling again ... just unimaginably hard to put into words. The fumes did eventually get all our voices, but not too badly after almost two hours singing.

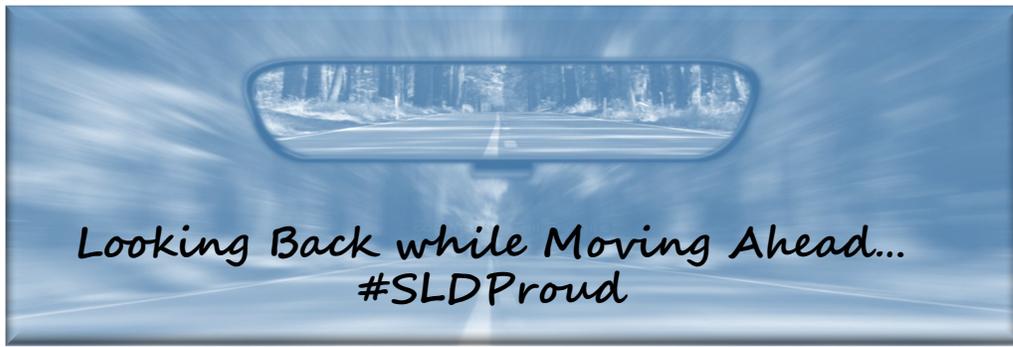
Larry, the Bari is finding his voice, having good and bad days through cancer treatments (and aging) but singing almost every day. He is looking forward to when we get together again for a few hours. Ev on Tenor has recently moved to a great place in the country and also just retired in December. He is our specialist at helping us stabilize. Dan the Bass Man is ‘what a BASS’ kind of singer and guy. He still lives in Spencer and is just as spontaneous and crazy as always. Finding a serious bone in his make-up is difficult until it comes to singing, then he is right on.

If we are going to keep Pasture Prime rolling we will need to find a stand-in for Gregg who can resonate well with Dan. We audition occasionally, accepting singing resumes and audition recordings, and hope for a miracle that finds Gregg closer to us. For now, we are brainstorming options to sing and visit by traveling to meet somewhere between Baltimore and Corning.

Remember: Always keep a song in your heart and Keep the Whole World Singing.



Pasture Prime senior quartet are members of the Mark Twain Chorus, Elmira, NY.



Looking Back...

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Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Rochester Chapter: Big Change with a Familiar Face.

2021 has finally arrived, and with it, brings change.

In January, we started the search for a new director. Anyone who has ever been on a director search team knows this is no easy task, but certainly comes with its pros and cons. Yes, it's certainly difficult at times to have different directors each week, but the pros far outweigh this. We were able to use the talents and experience that many of our members have as they stepped in to make sure we had a program each week. Our sincere thanks to Joe Bradbury, who served as interim director. And, lest anyone think otherwise, we also offer our sincere thanks to Steve Link for his service to the chorus during his tenure.

We also had the good fortune of having a guest director, Dr. Yunn-Shan Ma. Dr. Ma is an Eastman School of Music grad, a member of the music faculty at Rochester Institute of Technology, and director of the Taiwanese Choral Society. She really made the guys work hard, and as a result, got some great sound from them, and they learned a song to add to the repertoire. We look forward to having her back again!

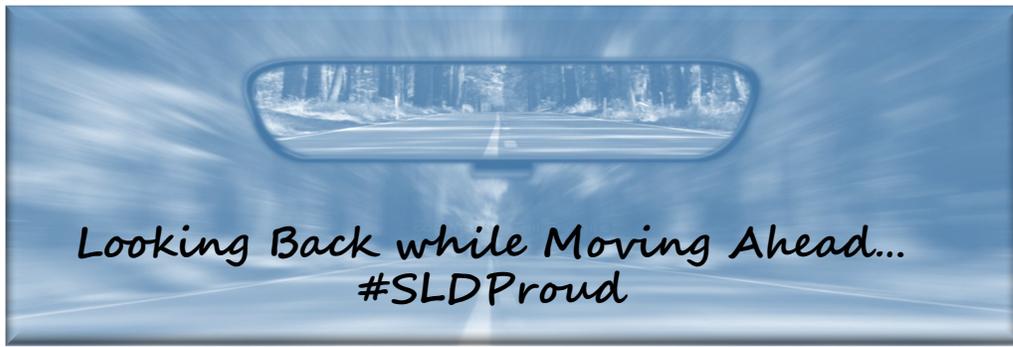


Our other guest director was a familiar face to everyone in the district - Todd Horton. Not only was he kind enough to come in and direct, but also put together a great Zoom meeting for us, which included a visit from Sean Devine. (We're including a photo from that meeting because our social media team tells us that a picture including Sean automatically increases engagement.)



Todd then returned to us for multiple rehearsals, and in the end, we asked him to stay as our director. So, we are very happy to share with you that Todd Horton is the new director of the Chorus of the Genesee! We are looking forward to growing with Todd, and can't wait to share our new adventures with the district.

As always, we hope that you are all well, and we anxiously await being able to join with you in song again.



Looking Back...

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Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Warsaw Chapter: Getting Back in the Swing of Things.

The Warsaw chapter is up and running again with bimonthly practices in their usual location in Warsaw. Practices look somewhat familiar but spread out for social distancing. Masks are encouraged when not singing. Everyone has been vaccinated and ready to begin summer singouts. Several events are already on the calendar! Bob Fuest, our director, and Adam Surasky, our Music Vice President, have a music schedule laid out so the members can re-acclimate to singing and honing their blending skills.

The chapter quartet, "Whatever Four," have also regrouped and are practicing weekly and are hoping to join in on the summer singouts as well as other events.



Chordually yours,

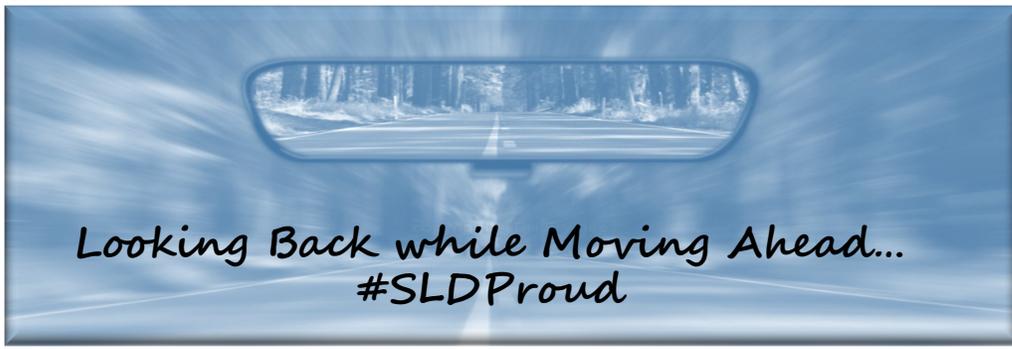
David Damico, Chapter President



"Whatever Four."

L-R, Gerry Freeman-Lead, David Damico-Tenor, Harry Long-Bass, Brian Cox-Baritone

Photos by David Damico



Looking Back...

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Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

Webster Chapter: Seneca Statesmen are alive, well, and back in business!

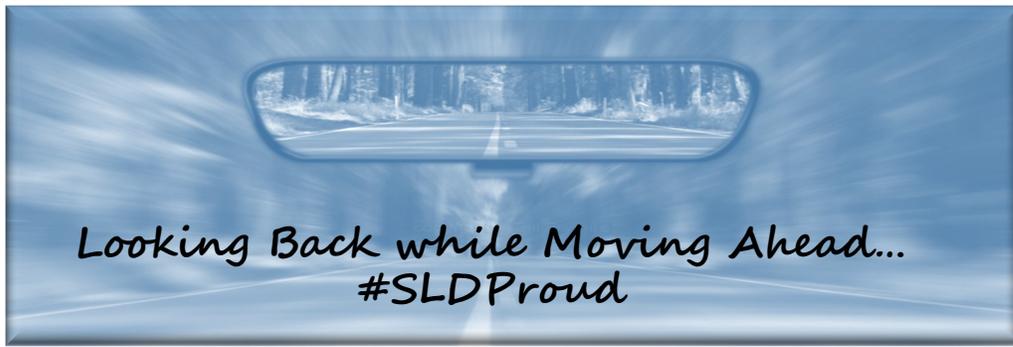
After more than a year off (like everybody else), Seneca Land's Senior Chorus, Seneca Statesmen, is resuming our singing activities with a "live" rehearsal on Sunday, May 2, at Harmony House in Webster. Minimizing health concerns and ensuring safety are top priorities for us so, following CDC guidelines, we will be wearing masks and maintaining social distancing, along with a strong request that every singer (who so desires) be vaccinated.

The rehearsal starts at 1:00 PM. If you're at least 55 and you'd like to join us, we'd love to see you on May 2.



Have a photo that you would like shared on the district web page photo carousel? Send it to sldwebmaster1@gmail.com

At this point in time, there is no official decision on an SLD Fall Convention. Look for a formal announcement this summer.



Looking Back...

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Chapter Updates from across the (Seneca)Land!

If your chapter was not included in this edition of the Sound of Seneca, but you have updates you would like the district to know about, please reach out to your chapter President or Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations and they can pass the information along for our next edition.

Don't forget—what you consider small news, is welcome news to your fellow SLD members stretching across the district that might be encouraged and uplifted just to stay connected across the miles.

Our next edition will be published on August 1st—we hope to hear from all of you!

If your chapter has lost a member since the closure began last 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.



Sound and Skills—the Seneca Land VP of Music News and Notes...

How to Keep the Music Going! In spite of everything we’ve been through this past year, barbershoppers around the world are finding new ways to keep the music going, keep their chorus families connected, and continue to learn and grow their Barbershop IQ. Nothing will replace what we’re all so desperately missing from pre-COVID days, but here are a few resources to check out to learn more:

Safe Ways to Start Singing Together Again (<https://files.barbershop.org/PDFs/BHS/COVID-19-Interim-Guidance-for-BHS-Ensembles-and-Singing-Communities-v1.3.pdf>) – this guide from BHS includes the most up-to-date research to help guide your conversations as an ensemble as you might be looking to find some safe ways to sing together in-person again. With nicer weather on the way, working outdoors can be a great way to ease back into things and still keep your members safe. It all comes down to three factors – TIME, MASKING, and DISTANCE. Did you know that the current music-specific research backed by BHS, NAFME, ACDA, NATS, and other American singing organizations says that an hour outdoors at 6ft. distance in masks is safe for your singers, regardless of vaccination? And as more singers in your group become vaccinated, indoor singing at distance in masks for longer than the 30 minutes you can do safely now starts to become possible as well! With the right steps and a well-thought out plan, supported by the research, we may be able to start hearing those overtones again in-person! Obviously, every group is different and making sure your chorus family and their families feel safe has to be priority one. But if you need help making a plan, check out this guide and don’t hesitate to reach out to us – we’ll help walk you through it!

And there are lots of great things to look forward to this summer... **Virtual Harmony University 2021**, **BHS Virtual International Convention 2021**, and our own **Virtual Senecademy!** The one great thing about learning to use all of this technology is that it gives us the chance to connect with the wider world of barbershop that we might not be able to otherwise... and it gives the world a chance to see all of the great things we have to offer here in Senecaland!

If you’re looking for more resources or ideas, don’t hesitate to reach out – we’d love to help!



If a choir is only about singing and performing - there will be no choir for a while. If choir is about teaching and learning, growing, connecting, community, cultural exploration and transmission, and innovating - we will find a way to have choir.

KELLIE WALSH, PRESIDENT OF CHORAL CANADA

Society Resources

BHS Online Education (<https://education.barbershop.org/catalog>) – this page on the BHS website puts over 100 searchable recordings of classes both pre- and post-COVID from some of the top educators in the Society right at your fingertips! Most are available for free to all members and new ones are coming online all the time. Musically, they include everything from warmups, vocal technique, and understanding the judging categories to building performance strategies to deal with stage fright, how to choose music, riser placement, exercises for the aging voice, and structuring your quartet rehearsals (and much more!). But beyond that, there are also classes on putting shows together, connecting to your community, building a stronger chorus leadership team, inclusion in your chapter, youth programming, social media platforms, and more. This resource is a treasure trove of education for all members and you could even watch them together in your chapter’s Zoom meeting!





'Step up to the mic!'

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

After retiring from the Navy, Pat gave his time unselfishly to the world of barbershop where he was a past recipient of the Seneca Land District Barbershopper of the Year award for his more than a decade of service as editor of the District newsletter and member of the Board of Directors. Additionally, he was recognized with the same honor for both the Olean and Salamanca Chapters for whom he held several leadership positions over the years.

Pat was a two-time District Chorus champion with the Seneca Junction/Ellicottville Sound Chorus. He also aided in organizing the Webster Chapter which led him to achieving his dream of performing on the International stage with the Seneca Statesmen. As lead of the Olean-based quartet Chorduroy, Pat reveled in singing on chapter shows and for his hometown Maple Festival among many other bookings.

However, most of all, we will remember Pat's quiet but quick-witted demeanor, his countless hours spent volunteering at conventions, academies, and youth events, and his desire to be wherever singing and fellowship was taking place. Pat never wanted the spotlight; he merely wanted to be the best "barback" that he could be in order to allow others to shine and for our organizations to succeed.

'Step up' - Close to all of our hearts.

While the loss of any voice within a chapter, across a district, or as a part of the society is a loss for everyone, some simply hit closer to home or land harder on our hearts.

The loss of Pat Close is one that weighs heavier on our hearts for so many reasons. Pat played so many roles for so many years in Seneca Land, but possibly none more prominent than the work he did to maintain our district newsletter thanklessly for so many years.

It is for this reason that I would ask permission to honor him within this newsletter by reprinting the announcement we made of his passing on this editions 'Step up to the mic' page. Appropriate, as no one stepped up like Pat.

Thank you for your messages and prayers on our district Facebook page, as well as a HUGE thank you to the more than 50 barbershop brothers and sisters that attended his services.



For those wishing to remember Pat, friends are invited to gather with the family on Monday evening from 4-7pm at the Babbitt & Easton Funeral Home at 7 North Main Street, Franklinville, New York. A graveside service with Navy honors will be held at 1pm Tuesday, April 6 at the Mt. Prospect Cemetery in Franklinville.

The family would like to invite barbershoppers to remember Pat in song on Monday evening. Details are still pending as arrangements are being made with the funeral home which will respect masks and social distancing. Those wishing to sing should email Nathan Bell at NathanHBell@yahoo.com. He will share details as they become available.

For those who may not have read our initial message:

It is with great sadness that we announce the sudden and unexpected passing of our friend Pat Close. While we have lost many members, friends, and family across the district over the past year, Pat was so deeply involved in Seneca Land in so many ways, we believed it appropriate to send out a district wide communication both sharing this information and honoring this great man.

Thank you for joining with us in sharing our sympathies and condolences on the loss of a great friend.

-Respectfully submitted by Nathan H. Bell

It was a privilege to know Pat myself for even a few years and I am a better barbershopper for it. I would like to dedicate this edition of the Sound of Seneca to him—for all that he gave to our district over the years. Rest in peace my friend.

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

DISTRICT OPERATIONS TEAM

VP Contest and Judging: Don Stothard
VP Events: Todd Horton
VP Marketing/Public Relations: David Lunden
VP Membership: Open
VP Youth: Open
VP Music: Sky Harris and Dave Cloyd

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: Open
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: Kathleen Horton
Hall of Fame (HOF): Pete Hart
Historian: Dorothy Zandt
Laws & Regulations: Nathan Bell
Nominations: Nathan Bell
Services Chairman: Butch Talada
SLAQC: Pete Frank
Sound of Seneca/Convention programs: Pat Close
Social Media: Open
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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