

TOOSDAY TOONS



Nassau Mid-Island Chapter, Westbury, Long Island, New York
Home of the *Long Island Harmonizers*, Maurice Debar, Chorus Director



VOLUME X, NO. 10

www.longislandharmonizers.org

OCTOBER 2012

LET'S CREATE A COMMOTION IN OCEAN

(Headline created by BILL RUTH)*

The Long Island Harmonizers' rehearsal sessions during August and September have taken on a whole new flavor as they prepare to enter the chorus competition at the Mid-Atlantic District Convention in Ocean City, Maryland, on Saturday, October 13. The Nassau Mid-Island Chapter will be making its first appearance at this level of competition in over 30 years. Sixteen years of instruction, guidance and encouragement by Chorus Director **Maurice Debar** has finally brought the chorus to this point.



Maurice Debar

The team of Debar and Brannon



Scott Brannon

To reach this level of performance, the chorus had to qualify at the Northern Division Convention in Morristown, New Jersey this past June. Although the chorus placed 7th out of the 12 choruses in the contest, it failed to accumulate the necessary 1134 points required to qualify for the District competition by a mere **3 points**. Consequently, out of the goodness of their hearts, the Mid-Atlantic District did extend an invitation to the *Long Island Harmonizers* to compete at the District Convention. Word around the district has it that our chorus will be seeded 23rd out of the 24 chapters projected to be competing.

The Harmonizers, not to be discouraged by this ranking, have been putting extra polish into

the two songs selected for the contest — “Do You Remember When?” and “Five Foot Two.”

Scott Brannon has been called in to supplement Maurice in improving the chorus' performance. Scott brings 30-plus years of barbershop experience. He has earned international recognition both as a chorus director and quartet singer, and as a coach of many groups performing at all levels of achievement, including International Champions. Scott most recently was director of Island Hills, a Sweet Adelines International chorus on Long Island, which he led to a regional gold medal in 1990. ♪

**Denotes winner of Headline Creation Contest*

TOOSDAY TOONS

A monthly publication of the Nassau Mid-Island Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, a nonprofit, charitable and educational society.

Chapter meetings Tuesdays at 8:00 p.m. at Winthrop Hall, Church of the Advent, 555 Advent St., Westbury, New York.

All articles not accompanied by a byline have been written by the editor and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the members nor of the officers of the Nassau Mid-Island Chapter. Opposing points of view are welcomed and encouraged.

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CHAPTER CENSUS

(as of September 26, 2012)

LF	1
RG	31
SL	19
SN	6
Y2	1
TOTAL	58

FROM THE CORNER



President Jon Ayers

**READY, SET –
GO!**

OFFICE

We're about to step into the major league of barbershopping, the District contest, for what I understand is the first time in the history of our

chapter. Several thoughts come to mind. First, are we prepared? Yes, we are. We've been working steadily and diligently to improve, and significant progress is evident. Our Saturday session with Maurice and Scott Brannon was loaded with more pearls of wisdom than any I can remember, and the chorus took them to heart and mind. It's our individual responsibility to internalize these and make them habitual. We heard a lot of chords ring for the first time. Once you hear chords ring you'll never be satisfied with anything less.

Second, why are doing this? I hear people say, "We're not a competition chorus." Well, we are, but not in the sense that competition is our 'raison d'etre,' our reason for being. Competition is just one of the many things we do, and is no more important than, for instance, our annual show. The competition process gives us the impetus and platform to improve our performing by concentrating on two songs and making them the model for all our subsequent efforts, be they in hospital corridors or wherever we sing. I've often said there are two measures of our performance; one analog and one digital. The length and enthusiasm of audience applause is the analog measure; the judges scores are the digital one, and as a bonus they include specific, concrete suggestions for things we can do to improve even more. Would you be satisfied singing in a chorus that never got any better? I think not. Participating in contest is simply the mechanism we use to get better.

For me, and I hope for you, participating in contest is the

(Please continue on page 4, column 1.)

NASSAU MID-ISLAND HOME PAGE

A WELCOME SIGHT, INDEED



Look who's back! The Miracle Man

In the photo, **Gene Kammerer** smilingly accepts the "Welcome Back Cake" from Program Vice President **Wayne Lazar**. 🎵

BOB OST HOPES TO GET A SPRING BACK IN HIS STEP

A telephone call to **Bob Ost** revealed the fact that he is recuperating from knee replacement surgery in late August and is progressing in rehab at a facility in Great Neck. The latest prognosis is that he should be back to full function in a couple of weeks, at which time his doctors will determine his ability to return to his winter home in Tucson, Arizona. The climate there should work wonders with creaky, old joints. 🎵

OCTET TIME DURING INTERMISSION



RANDOM QUARTET performing during a typical rehearsal intermission. L to R: **Steve Stojowski**, **Bill Ruth**, **Vinnie Colonna**, **Dave D'Antonio**, **Bill Hardman**, **Maurice Debar**, **Bob Roth** and **Ray Shotter**

ANNUAL SHOW 2013 BEGINNING TO GEL

Show Chairman **Steve Brausa** is getting an early start in preparing Nassau Mid-Island's 63rd Annual Show, "**Barbershop — Broadway & Beyond**," which will be presented at Carle Place High School on Saturday and Sunday April 20 and 21.

Up All Night will be the top guest attraction.



(Clockwise from left: **John Ward (T)**, **Joe Hunter (Br)**, **Dan Rowland (Bs)**, **Cecil Ward (L)**)

NASSAU MID-ISLAND HOME PAGE



Monday, September 17, 2012

Winthrop Hall, Westbury

- Voted to accept performance assignment in Lynbrook on Sunday, December 2.
- Hospital performances in December:
 - Winthrop Hospital and St. Francis Hospital on Friday, December 14. Times to be announced later.
 - Mercy Medical Center and South Nassau Hospital on Sunday, December 16, at 2:00 p.m. and 4:15, respectively.
- Songs dropped from the repertoire include “Sweet Georgia Brown,” “White Christmas” and “Silver Bells.”
- The acknowledgment of monetary contributions to the chapter, which had been previously tabled, was clarified and passed.
- Michael Creaney’s application for membership was accepted.
- Chapter election of officers set for Monday, October 8, 2012. 🎵

READY, SET — GO (*from page 2*)

ultimate in the brotherhood of barbershop. We’re in this thing together as willing members of a chorus, and it’s the chorus that counts — no stars, no solos, no individual identity, each of us contributing his best for the good of the group—an opportunity to be savored.

Go, and, by all means, enjoy the ride down, back and in between, especially in between. Having a good time is important. Ocean City is an interesting place, and if you like fresh Maryland crab, this is the place. Between

warm-ups, rehearsals and the contest it’s a busy time, but it’s important to stay focused, but also to stay loose. 🎵

It’s the editor’s opinion that . . .

being a member of the Nominating Committee is one of the most thankless and difficult duties to perform. Why? Because too many of us think we come out every Tuesday night just to sing and that’s it. It takes a well-organized crew to run a ship successfully. The same applies to a barbershop chapter.

For the past few years, when the Nominating Committee has approached members to take on an additional responsibility, too often the reply has been, “If you can’t get someone else, I’ll give it a try.” That doesn’t appear to be the kind of a positive response you would want from a potential administrator. There’s an honor in being selected to help in running an organization, and it should be responded to both positively and confidently.

It’s too late to be belaboring this point this year with Election Night being less than two weeks away, but you might consider taking these words to heart and responding more assertively in the years to come. 🎵

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

3 Bill Schlageter

7 Alan Stern

13 Steve Marrin

19 Joy Peluso

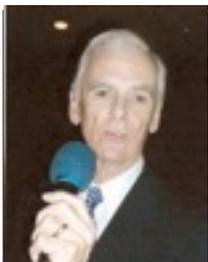
27 George Seelinger

28 Lynn Simm

29 Ray Shotter

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY

October 30, 1982 Chiz and Bess Bell



Bill Ruth presents *Days in the life of* **DAVE D'ANTONIO**

How many international barbershop conventions has **Dave D'Antonio** attended? Over 20, which puts him in a class by himself in our chapter. **Caroline**, his wife must come in a close second as she either loves the music and travel, or just being a loving wife. *(I suspect both reasons are true.)*

Dave has been a member of the Society for 41 years, initially joining the Massapequa Chapter in 1970. Subsequent to the dissolution of that chapter, he joined Nassau Mid-Island in 1980 and has been an active member ever since. Besides being a Past President, Dave received the coveted "BOTY" (Barbershopper of the Year) Award, has served on the Board of Directors in several capacities and held the highly esteemed job of Uniform Chairman through several regimes. *(Seeing him measure **Bob Roth** for pants length was hilarious.)*

Dave was born in Swedish Hospital where he was given the name, Ingemar, until they discovered his Italian heritage. Raised in the Bay Ridge section of Brooklyn, he rode the subway for four years while attending Brooklyn Tech High School, *(Slipping under the subway turnstile was no problem for our Dave.)* After high school he attended Lehigh University, receiving a B.A. in Education. *(Bob Roth, who also attended Lehigh, said there was*



a statue of Dave astride a horse on the campus grounds.) Dave also attended NYU, obtaining his "Masters" in Math Education. *(Doesn't that figure?)*

Dave and Caroline were married on 18 July 1987 with the chapter members providing the vocal background. *(Never was the song, "Gigolo," sung with such emotion.)* They both have remained very active and involved with many groups, such as the Garden City Ski Club, the Amityville Historical Society, Rotary International, the Unqua Yacht Club and other such clubs too numerous to mention.

For years the D'Antonios held outstanding Christmas parties in their Amityville home, to which all of our chapter members were invited as well as friends and neighbors. *(They stopped inviting us when they discovered we were taking "doggie bags" home.)* Subsequently they moved into another house in Amityville alongside a canal for their "yacht," and we are eagerly awaiting an invite, promising to be more circumspect in our eating and drinking habits.

Dave is quiet and unassuming with a very quick wit. He is a true pillar of our chapter. Thanks, Dave, for all your great years of service.

IT'S ALL ABOUT "REACH"

(LIFE LESSONS APPLIED TO BARBERSHOP)



Bob Heim

Associate Editor, Toosday Toons

(And Public Relations Practitioner For Close to 60 Years)

***"I find the great thing in this world
is not so much where we stand
as in what direction we are moving."
Marjorie Holmes - Author***

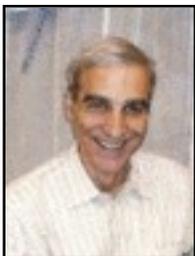
Warm-up time that takes place right off the bat at our Tuesday night rehearsals seems to sum up the philosophy quite nicely. Consider the concept of "reach." Keeping vocal apparatus relaxed and without tension, slowly ascending the scale. Several years ago those vocal limits to our higher register were very apparent. Today, they are not only easily attained, but they're being extended even more. The answer? "Reach!"

Reach, vocally, is what brought special glory to Australian pop musician Adam Lopez Costa, billed as Adam Costa, who stepped in front of television cameras several years ago to become a Guinness World Record holder for singing the highest note by a male – a half step above the C in the 8th octave, or a half-step above the highest note on a standard 88-key piano. (If you'd like to hear that feat, google "Adam Lopez - Highest Vocal Note- Guinness World Record" into your computer's browser and go to the Youtube link.)

That record was not established without effort.. and lots of it. Reaching

for new attainments takes that determination, with eyes on the prize, whether it's high notes musically, or it's other aspects of barbershop strivings, or it applies generally in life. "Go for it," and keep going for it with gusto. The result: a greater number of ticket sales, Valentine quartet recipients, and a closer degree of perfection in music sung.

Reach and keep reaching. Let it pay off in goals that are way stations to even more notable ones yet to come. As Marjorie Holmes says in her quote above. "Keep moving in the right direction in the fulfillment of promise."



Your Chapter Business -- by Steve Stojowski

Steve is a CPA specializing in accounting for exempt organizations. He is the Assistant Musical Director of the *Long Island Harmonizers*, Treasurer and former Secretary of the Nassau Mid-Island Chapter, a current member of the Board of Trustees of the Nassau Mid-Island Chapter, an instructor in the Society's Leadership Academies and Harmony College East, and is now serving a second year as Chairman of the Joint Audit Committee of the Barbershop Harmony Society and Harmony Foundation International, Inc.

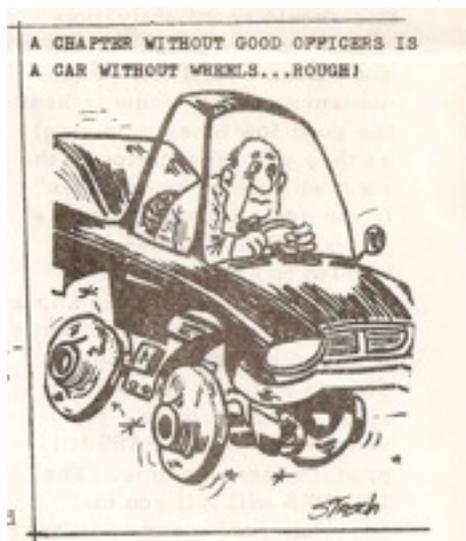
Editor's Comment: In lieu of Steve's regular contribution, the following report of the Nominating Committee, (George Seelinger, John Brolly and Charles Muscarnera), is inserted here as an important part of "Your Chapter Business."

OFFICE TO BE FILLED: 2012 OFFICE HOLDER: NOMINEES FOR 2013:

PRESIDENT	Jon Ayers	Jon Ayers
SECRETARY	Ken Wunsch	Ken Wunsch
TREASURER	Steve Stojowski	Steve Stojowski
VP MUSIC & PERFORMANCE	Harold Verity	Harold Verity
VP PROGRAM	Wayne Lazar	Wayne Lazar
VP CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT	John Brolly	George Seelinger
VP MARKETING/PUBLICITY	Vacant	Bob Heim
DISTRICT DELEGATE	Vacant	Presidential Appointment
TRUSTEES	Steve Brausa	Don Rausch
(3 Year Terms 2013 – 2015)	Bob Miraglia	Vincent Colonna

In giving up his VP for Chapter Development title, John Brolly has agreed to continue acting as chorus manager and will assume George Seelinger's Trustee position on the board to fill out that term, which ends at the end of 2013.

Bob Roth will accept appointment to fill out Bob Heim's term as trustee, which ends after 2013.



As seen in "*Harmony Life*" in the *Chorus of the Peconic* in 1973.

ONE OF MANY BHS BLOGS

Editor's Comment: Lest any of us naysayers claim that we are too small a chorus to even dare compete with the likes of some of the mega choruses, the following blog on the Society's website should help dispel some of those fears.

Small vs Large Chorus Competitions

Posted by **Kevin Keller** | Posted in [Chorus, Contests & Judging](#) | Posted on July 29, 2012, 1:58 PM

Another from John Wabel

I have repeatedly asked that the society define and split the international/district competitions into a small chorus competition and a large chorus competition. I am in a small chorus and we don't even want to go to the district competition any more. There is no way we can compete with the large choruses. They tell me we can't change the district competition rules until the International changes first.

Kirk Young Says... On August 8, 2012, 9:08 Am

Hello, John.....

Our contest allows for any ensemble of any size to flourish. This has been proven by the Toronto Northern Lights, the Louisville Times, the Kentucky Vocal Union, the Westminster chorus from FWD, the Alliance chorus from JAD, the Voices of Gotham from M-AD, the Central Standard chorus from CSD and more.

The assumption that small choruses cannot compete with large ones is flawed and simply not true.

The real question is whether or not someone will work hard enough to realize their aspirations.

Best of luck,
Kirk Young

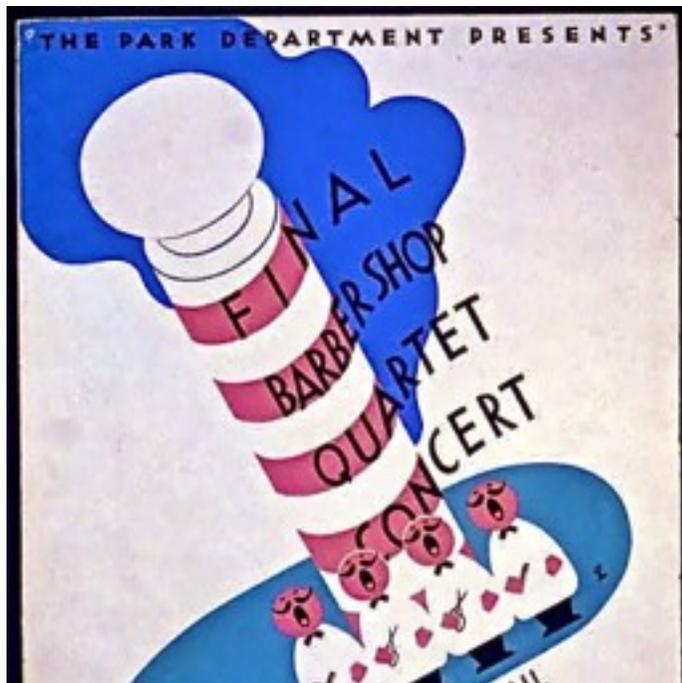
Continued editorial comment:

By clicking on the Barbershop Harmony Society's website, (www.barbershopharmonysociety.org) and then clicking on "Blogs" in the upper right corner, you can read six other comments to this long-debated issue of chorus size. 🎵

HISTORIC MILEPOSTS

Discovered on Neal Siegal's Facebook

76 years ago, Sept. 10th, 1936—before the Barbershop Society existed—the New York City parks department held their second annual barber shop quartet contests. The first contest, held in Central Park in 1935, was attended by over 10,000 spectators. The judging panel included, among others, Mayor Fiorello La Guardia, Governor Al Smith and Robert Moses. My friend [Matthew Beals](#) is doing some serious digging through the libraries of NYC, Lincoln Center, WNYC, and other sources, to give us the whole scoop—including the questionable authenticity of this poster!



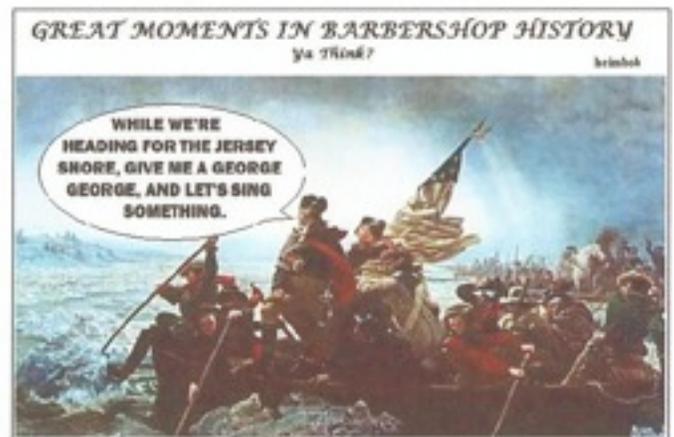
Neal Siegal, for the benefit of those who may not know him, is an avid barbershop quartet man, formerly affiliated with the *Big Apple Chorus* of the Manhattan Chapter, and principal promoter of the Atlantic Harmony Brigade. 🎵

REMEMBERING WHEN:

In the 1950s, the Pabst Brewing Company used these barbershop songsters to push beer sales via this back-of-counter display.



Researched (probably Googled) by **Bob Heim**



-- HEIM



THIS COULD BE YOUR CHAPTER'S STORY!



The **Redwood Chordsmen** of Santa Rosa, California (FWD) has witnessed their finest burst of growth in over 47 years, by doing all the basic things really well. This time last year, they had 26 members; now they have 60! They promoted an April 25, 2012 guest night on their website and Craigslist, handed out business cards and sent letters to more than 25 area churches. Forty guys showed up that night, and many of the new guys who joined are under age 25. And, they have great plans for retaining those members too!

How about yours?

CHAPTER OFFICERS: Just enroll online - it's fast and easy!

- Click [HERE](#) to open the website and read more
- Click on the link that reads "Chapter Enrollment Login"
- Enter your member number and click "enroll"

On the website are lots of recruiting ideas and videos, and once you have enrolled, a volunteer "Harold" will contact you to get you started, and then follow up monthly throughout the year.

As if chapter growth and improvement weren't enough, there are prizes to be won! YOU could win the drawing for the GRAND PRIZE: **A 6-day trip to the 2013 75th Anniversary International Convention in Toronto**, including **two VIP tickets** to the entire contest, **two free plane tickets**, and **6 days room and board** at the Society Headquarters Hotel. Check the website above for more awards!

Order an "I SING" button for every member of your chapter from Harmony Marketplace, only \$.99. (No other discounts apply during this promotion). Click [HERE](#) to order. 🎵

SHARING SOME LIGHTER MOMENTS

A WIFE NOTES

Source unknown

“He came home from work exhausted and could hardly drag his feet. He managed to get to the table, but was too far gone to eat.

He finally moved to his easy chair with the paper he planned to read. It was too heavy, as was his head, So I said, ‘Dear, sleep’s what you need.’

His eyes went closed for a moment, then opened, ‘What night is this? Good grief, I gotta get going.’ He said good bye with a kiss.

I was watching the late evening news, when I heard his key in the door. The voice that hummed a familiar tune just wasn’t the same as before.

The fatigue had somehow disappeared, the frown on his face was gone. He shared with me his experience of good fellowship in song.

The hours he spent with the chorus added fun and joy to his life. So . . . I’m not a ‘Barbershop Widow.’ I’m a Barbershopper’s Wife.”

Lead Jokes

THE BARBERSHOP LEAD CREED

- We will not flaunt in front of others the fact that we have the best voice in the group (unless the music calls for it, come to think of it, it usually does.)
- We will do our best to stay in tune, but won't worry too much about that since the other guys have to follow us anyway.
- As consummate gentleman, we will continue to let the Basses feel like they're the most important part of the group, even though without the melody they would have nothing to harmonize.

Steve Ritz e-mailed the cartoon below



Go Get 'Em in Ocean City!!

Steven

Tenor Jokes

Q: What's the musical definition of a half-step?

A: Two tenors singing in unison.

- TahongaWaka

Q: What's the difference between a lawn mower and a tenor?

A: You can tune the lawn mower.

Q: How do you put a twinkle in a tenor's eye?

A: Shine a flashlight in his ear.

MUSIC CRAFT

Bob Heim, our creative P.R. man, has discovered the *Long Island Harmonizers' (Good) Fortune Cookie*. He didn't mention the Chinese restaurant where he found it. ☺



DID YOU EVER WONDER: HOW TO SELL A SONG BETTER

by Tom Wheatley

from *Charivari*, as seen in *The Orange Spiel*
John Alexander, Editor

There have been many descriptions of this concept, but I like to use the comparison of that old spiritual, "Dry Bones." Basically it tells us "the foot bone connected to the ankle bone, the shin bone connected to the knee bone" and so forth, right on up to the head bone.

To sell any song, we need to use a similar concept. Think of it as "the body bone connected to the head bone, and the head bone connected to the voice bone. If you concentrate only on getting the voice bone to work right, the body and head bones will just stand around like corn stalks. However, if you get the body bone working, there's a good chance that the head bone will get into the act. When the body bone and the head bone are telling the story, the voice bone seems to automatically follow.

Try it. The audience will like it! 🎵

HOW DO I STOP USING MY THROAT MUSCLES WHILE SINGING?

by Ken Taylor
from askavocalcoach.com

The first step to any change is knowing where you want to go. You're already there, so you're moving in the right direction. Now, it's about discovering ways to help you get there.

In order to change, you've got to know when you're using these muscles. So, it may be beneficial to sing with your hands gently placed on your neck on top of those swallowing muscles for a bit. Then, you'll discover when you're most likely to engage them.

Then, start playing with different ways that you can sing through those areas of a song without clinching those muscles. Often times, this is going to require a little massage to remind them to relax along with a lessening of the vocal pressure you use while singing (though I would be sure to make sure you still maintain cord closure.) This can be a tricky balance to find on your own, but be tenacious about playing with it and I bet you will.

After you discover how to sing the parts of a song that you'd naturally want to engage those swallowing muscles on, your new goal is doing it consistently enough to create habit. That means doing it over and over until you no longer are thinking about it. It also means that if you're unable to create that release one day, you just skip out on practicing, as you'll only be reinforcing bad habits.

I hope this helps! Best of luck releasing your voice! 🎵



**YOU HAVE THE RIGHT
TO REMAIN SILENT.**

**When the pitchpipe sounds,
please exercise that right!**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012

OFFICERS:

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VP Chapter Development	John Brolly brollys@optonline.net	(516) 938-4272
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Treasurer	Stephen Stojowski Stephen.Stojowski@gmail.com	(516) 747-4715
Immediate Past President	Harold Verity Sanman99@optonline.net	(516) 208-3483

TRUSTEES:

Class of 2014	Charles Muscarnera and Ray Shotter
Class of 2013	Robert Heim and George Seelinger
Class of 2012	Steven Brausa and Robert Miraglia

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<u>Assistant Chorus Director</u>	Stephen Stojowski Stephen.Stojowski@gmail.com	(516) 747-4715

Section Leaders:

Tenors: William Ruth and Harold Verity
 Leads: Vincent Colonna and Eugene Kammerer
 Baritones: Robert Miraglia and Robert Roth
 Basses: Stephen Stojowski

ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL

<u>Chorus Manager</u>	John Brolly
<u>Librarian</u>	George Seelinger
<u>Uniforms</u>	Tony Leone
<u>Attendance</u>	Eugene Kammerer
<u>Show Chairman</u>	Steven Brausa
<u>Web Site</u>	Bob Heim
<u>Bulletin Editor</u>	Chiz Bell
<u>Mid-Atlantic District Delegate</u>	Hal Verity
<u>Chapter Counselor</u>	Steve Marrin
<u>MAD Northern Division VP</u>	George "Oley" Olson
<u>BHS Leadership Academy Instructor</u>	Stephen Stojowski

2011 BARBERSHOPPER OF THE YEAR

STEPHEN STOJOWSKI

TOOSDAY TOONS — 3rd Place 2011



CHAPTER QUARTETS

AfterGloWorms

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 Bob Miraglia, Lead
 Steve Stojowski, Bass
 Maurice Debar, Baritone
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All In A Chord

Bill Ruth, Tenor
 Steve Brausa, Lead
 Bernie Genzer, Bass
 George Seelinger, Baritone
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Cloud 9

Jon Ayers, Tenor
 Vinnie Colonna, Lead
 John Brolly, Bass
 George Seelinger, Baritone
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4 Gone Conclusion

Harold Verity, Tenor
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 Maurice Debar, Bass
 George Seelinger, Baritone
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Sanman991@optonline.net

Long Island Express

Bill Ruth, Tenor
 Gene Kammerer, Lead
 Joe Massaro, Bass
 Bob Roth, Baritone
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No Treble At All

Tommy Barone, Tenor
 Bill Vesely, Lead
 Ken Wunsch, Bass
 Wayne Lazar, Baritone
 Contact: wvesely1@aol.com

Quatrain

Bob Kelly, Tenor
 Steve Marrin, Lead
 Al Fennell, Bass
 Paul Santino, Baritone
 Contact: Smarrin1@aol.com

LONG ISLAND HARMONIZERS set to make a big splash in Ocean City

(Second place winner in headline contest by Howie Bailin)



DIRECTOR MAURICE'S ADVISORY

1. Quartet Contest Friday night.
2. Chorus members will leave convention hall just before the third to last quartet comes on stage for a short rehearsal in Room 215 in the convention hall.
3. Saturday morning (time to be announced) we will meet at the convention center for practice at the room and time assigned by the district.
4. HYDRATE (water recommended).
5. Get a good night's sleep.
6. HYDRATE some more.
7. Have fun and perform your best.