

News Release

May 23, 2018

Barbershop Chorus and Quartet Win Championships

Lansdale, Pennsylvania – The North Pennsmen Barbershop Chorus took 1st place in their Central Division Contest on Saturday, May 19th before a packed auditorium at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center in Alexandria, VA. Of special note, the North Pennsmen scored highest among any chorus in the jointly held contest with the Southern Division. It was the first round for the Barbershop Harmony Society's Mid-Atlantic District, and hopes are high for a strong showing at the second round in October.

The locally-based men's a cappella ensemble performed the up-tune "You Took Advantage of Me" and the ballad "If I Had My Way" for their contest package. These actor-singers come from all walks of life, meet weekly and sing at a high level to share the message in the music with their audiences.

Formed in 1962, the North Pennsmen represent the Lansdale Chapter of the Barbershop Society, which is dedicated to promoting and perpetuating the uniquely American artform of barbershop harmony. The style is characterized by four voice parts, ringing chords and both beautiful and energetic sound.

Anne Bureau directs the North Pennsmen. "I'm absolutely thrilled for the members of this Chorus. What a feeling it is to hear and see the excitement these guys delivered onstage," Bureau remarked. "It takes excellent preparation, dedication and focus from each of our members to perform at this level," she continued. Ig Jakovac, the group's vocal coach, agreed.

Chapter quartet Distinction also made the champ's list. The foursome took 1st place among senior quartets on Friday evening. Singing were Dave Harbove (tenor), Dino Colon (lead/melody), Dave Gale (bass) and Walt Barnes (baritone).

Two other Chapter quartets competed for the first time at Division. One was Slate Blue with members Chris Hennessy (tenor), Sean Martin (lead/melody), David Gale (bass) and Jim Friel (baritone). The other was Plaiditudes with members Darrel Rocke (tenor), Kelly Green (lead/melody), Bill DeHaven (bass) and Tom Newmyer (baritone).

Chorus president Ed Schnell offered, "No question about it, it takes dedication and commitment to bring such a high level of singing to the stage. We're judged in three categories: Singing, Music, and Performance. What a treat it was for Anne and me to accept the 1st place trophy. We're extremely proud to bring it back to our community!"

The North Pennsmen rehearse Tuesday nights at 7:00 PM at Central Schwenkfelder Church. "We're always looking for singers. If you like to sing and enjoy a "best night out," come on over and visit us," Bureau said. For more information please call 215-393-1940 or visit www.NorthPennsmen.org.

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