



# Penn Notes



BARBERS OF  
HARMONY  
SOCIETY



2010 Atlantic Division  
Large Chorus Champions

Volume 46, No 2

“Dedicated to Musical Excellence”

February 2011

## 2010 Barbershopper of The Year



## Don Detweiler



## President's Corner – Ig Jakovac

Hi Gang – congratulations to Don Detweiler who was named Barbershopper of the Year – Don has been a strong motivating force behind the Golden Pennsmen in addition

to being a valued member of our awesome bass section. During the same evening that we presented Don his award, we also installed the officers for 2011, held a fantastic novice quartet contest and were presented with a check for \$1000.00 from the Pennettes. Wow, what a night!!!!

We have been busily preparing for our annual Spring Show – this is a big one for us, our 50<sup>th</sup> annual show – **yes, I said 50<sup>th</sup>**. The script has been written (thanks to Anne) and is currently being fine tuned (thanks to Dave Harbove). Our music in the process of being learned and Showtime will be upon us before we can bat an eyelash.

The weather has been doing us no favors – we have had to cancel rehearsals and performances as a result in inclement weather – this has put us a bit behind schedule so learning our music as quickly as possible will be critical.

Our show is scheduled for April 8 at 7:30pm and April 9 at 2pm at the Branch Creek Community Church. Following our performance on Saturday afternoon, we will have our annual afterglow at Hidden Springs (thanks to Ken and Louise Ehrlich). The party will be catered by The Liberty Belles and I'm told that they are in the process of testing some new recipes to temp us with....

Finally, we have had to postpone our purchase of new uniforms. We asked the membership to choose form a set of pre determined uniforms – we did not “allow” them to choose or vote for anything other than those pre chosen outfits – we had a dialog with the entire membership and as the dialog proceeded, it became very clear that there was a SIGIFICANT MAJORITY that simply did not like the “stripped shirts” look that we had chosen –

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## From the Director

Hello everyone -  
January sure was a challenge to meet and sing as an ensemble.

With our spring show early this year compared to other years, we now have only 7 more weeks to go till show time! YIKES! Thank you to those who have put in that extra time to learn your notes and words – it's so much easier to work the musicality “under the gun” when everyone knows their stuff!

I was once again ‘elected’ to build our script for the annual show and as it stands, with a few more lines from Dave Harbove's twisted sense of humor, we're just about ready to send our first copy to you all. What a great show it will be – it is of course our 50<sup>th</sup> Annual show so we will be celebrating in a total party atmosphere with a cake, streamers and noise makers! At key moments during the show, we will be showing our audience pictures on a screen at the back of the stage. These will be chapter pictures through the years, chapter quartets, directors and many friends. It should bring back a lot of memories. We'll even have a special guest come sing with us on our show – more to come on this!

I've also been working with Steve Montgomery on the visual plan for our Spring Contest package. Steve is in the throws of scouting out the perfect “barbershop quartet”, small hometown crowd and perfect father and son act within our ranks. Please see Steve if you are aspiring to be one of the ‘chosen’ few. We'll be creating more theatrics on stage this year than we ever have in the past. A few weeks following our spring show, Gary Plaag will be back with us to tweak our presentation package for contest. I can't wait. To ensure that we “pull it off” on stage, we need everyone to find the passion within each song and sing with their utmost best ensemble voice – are you up for the challenge??

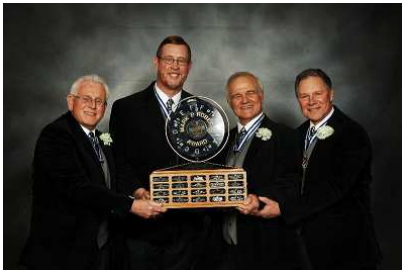
Anne

**President's Corner**

continue .....

while it is true that the majority liked on of the uniforms, it was equally true that when given a choice between a solid color shirt and a striped shirt, the majority preferred solid color.....the membership felt that a solid shirt would allow us to put our emblem on it and that it would not look as "busy" as a striped shirt with the entire chorus clad in stripes...

A small committee, headed by Frank Leather has agreed to look at alternate choices. Hopefully, we will be in a position to make some uniform decisions soon.



**2011 Senior Quartet Champions  
Over Easy**

Even though the venue was Las Vegas, **Over Easy**, an Ohio quartet from the Johnny Appleseed District, said they were taking no chances when they decided on their contest repertoire. Serving up a set of good old Irish songs, they captured the gold at the end of the rainbow! Left to right: Alan Reese (T) from Middlesburg Heights, Mark Hannum (Bs) from Groveport, Carl Ondrus (L) from Avon, and Glenn Siebert (Br) from Strongsville (all in the Cleveland/Columbus area). **Over Easy** formed in 2007, and placed 6th in 2009 and 12th in 2010.

2nd Place Silver was won by **Hit Parade** (MAD) with Mark Sanders, Hal Kraft, Brad Brooks and Tom Felgen.

Coming in with 3rd Place Bronze was **Legacy**, (MAD) with Gary Rogness, Dane Marble, Rick King and Steve Peterson.

The 4th Place Bronze winner was **BLackJACK** (NSC) with Larry Reinhart, Kirk Binning, Duane Henry and Bryson Ley.

Winning 5th Place Bronze was **Great Western Timbre Company** (SUN) with Ron Black, Roger Smeds, Dwight Holmquist, and Jack Liddell.



**Ig's Singing Corner**

Hi Gang – in the November/December 2010 Harmonizer

there was a nice article written by Debra Lynn (an operatic tenor who has become a barbershop vocal coach). She talked about **Bel Canto** (Italian for "beautiful singing") methods for teaching singing and pointed out that Bel Canto methods are widely taught thru ought the world as **the** classical vocal foundation.

She talked about the importance of breath support with strong focus on "engaging the ribs" – sounds like "the gold medal breath" that we have spoken about. She also talks about the benefit that native Italian speakers have in that they naturally speak with very pure vowels and produce the tones with a forward, resonant production – sounds like the "Singlish" concept that we have introduced.

We sing word sounds, not words, we support our tones which are always produced with consistent height in order to maximize our resonance chamber and we keep the tones forward to make sure that have brilliance in the sound, Debra gives some nice mental imagery (like the "inner smile") and even talks about taking a breath through the vowel target.

While none of what Debra said in her article should be new to any of us, I think that we would all agree that "doing it" is not as easy as each of us might like it to be. Good singing is a journey where the destination always changes....it does start with the very sound principles that are discussed in Debra's article.





## Meet Ernie Ziegler

by Jerry Heebner

Ernie has been a barbershop singer for a quarter century, but his singing goes back further than that. He first began singing in Lansdale High School before graduating and continued to sing in church choirs and quartets.

He attended a Grand View Hospital Lawn Fete one year and heard the Bucks County Country Gentlemen. The music and his neighbor, Dick Feindler, inspired him to attend one of their rehearsals and as they say, the rest is history.

Travel distance became a challenge and so he made the change to the North Pennsmen chorus in 2002. Time and other activities have kept him from joining an organized quartet. He has done some solo work that he was happy to perform. How could anyone not be pleased to be asked to sing at all three of their daughter's weddings and three of his grandchildren?

Ernie was born on a 44-acre farm near Kulpsville, PA and has fond memories of skating on the frozen Skippack Creek or sledding on nearby hills. Even the daily farm chores that he performed do not seem too bad now as he remembers them, particularly those that allowed him to drive the tractor.

At age 21, he enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and was sent to a base near Spokane, Washington where he spent a good deal of his service time. However, at one point he was sent on a mission to Okinawa. While attending chapel services he realized that there was a base choir so he joined it. He was the only white face in the group!

It was singing that introduced him to his wife Nellie. In December 1952, they met while caroling on Christmas Eve that year. They married three years later and raised two wonderful daughters from birth.

Daughter Cyndi and her husband Ed Spencer have a "hi-tech" television business located in Colmar and have given the Zieglers three grandchildren all of whom are married.

Jenni, their other daughter is married to Jim Schneider, a builder with Berks-Ridge Associates. They have provided two more grandchildren, one in college and another working as a nanny.

They added a foster daughter to their family who lives in Harrisonburg, VA. Her husband is a high school principal and they also have three children – two girls in high school and a son in the U.S. Marines who was deployed to Afghanistan in November 2010.

The Zieglers are proud of the accomplishments of all their children and grandchildren.

But the story doesn't stop there. Ernie and Nellie had the misfortune to lose three babies through miscarriage. They felt that God was challenging them to consider foster care. They helped support *fourteen* needy children over 25 years! Among the children were two Vietnamese boys (ages 10 & 13) who spoke no English.

Cyndi and Jenni joined their parents in extending love to all the boys and girls the family was able to help over the years. Their goodness and generosity was recognized when they were chosen "Foster Parents of the Year" and flown to Hawaii to join other parents being honored at a yearly conference.

Ernie worked for 36 years with the same company which is a rarity these days. He began with U.S. Gauge which later became Ametek. His primary function was to silver solder the basic components for gauges that were installed in war and commercial ships. After retiring in 1992, he and Nellie decided to start a craft business of their own! Marketing primarily on the East Coast from Maine to Florida they went to home shows, farm shows, pet shows and of course *Rice's Market* in New Hope, PA.

The Zieglers owned a speedboat at one point and he would risk his life avoiding rocks, islands, and other boats while water skiing as Nellie drove the boat. After high school, Ernie liked to play softball, first in the service and later in church leagues. He says that since "Arthur-itis" moved in, he's been reduced to miniature golf for sports activity. He still likes to follow the exploits of the local professional sports teams, the Phillies and the Eagles.

He loves to create stained glass lamps and naturally enjoys making the decorative wooden items that supported their business. He also lists landscaping as a hobby that interests him. Do you have a yard that needs work?

Ernie's favorite restaurant is Outback Steakhouse but he claims that turkey is the dinner that he enjoys most. Note: turkey is NOT served at Outback, so if you want to treat Ernie to dinner, you may have to make a second reservation. Continue next page-->

**Meet Ernie Ziegler continues.....**

He looks forward to harmonizing on Tuesdays and bringing joy to our audience as we perform for them, regardless of the venue.

Ernie and Nellie are a truly caring family. As time permits, they visit the elderly and help the needy. He says that their motto is: God first, others second, and self third.



**February 26      Novice quartet contest  
Rahway, New Jersey**

**March 11-12**

**Mid Atlantic Spring District Convention  
and International Prelims  
Harrisburg, Pa.**

**April 8            Annual Spring Show  
Creek Branch Church  
Harleysville, Pa.**

**May 20-21        Atlantic Division  
Convention  
Dover, Del.**

**It Pays to Advertise**

by Jerry Heebner

The saying “It pays to advertise” took an unusual twist when the Chapter Board decided to offer payment of 15% for any new ad brought in for the Christmas program. Some members took up the challenge and began canvassing the area for businesses that would support our program. I’m sure that the ads by and large are meant to help us more than to generate business, but I always try to tell advertisers that we appreciate their support when I stop by their place of business. I hope you do, too.

Anne Bureau, Phil Calabria, Harold Crider, Larry Derstine, Don Detweiler, Dave Gale, Jerry Heebner, and Bob Phifer brought in 24 new advertisements among them representing an additional \$1,440 for the chapter and four more pages to our program. Interestingly, each salesperson declined the 15% they were entitled to and turned the money back to the chapter, a savings of over \$200 in the budget.

Also significant was the fact that we retained 39 other advertisers, making a grand total of 63 paid ads in the Christmas program that represents well over \$4,000 before subtracting out printing costs. Another item that should be noted is the chapter members who place an ad for their business or some family member. In this group we find Bruce Aldinger, Phil Calabria, Vince Czepukaitis, Ray Landes, and Denny Vogel. We also have business card ads from three of our chapter quartets – Bon Voyage, Chordial Agreement, and Four TRAK Sound. The Liberty Belles Chorus has advertised with us on a regular basis, as well. In the printed program I give acknowledgement to all those guys who secure at least one ad for us. In addition to the people mentioned above, we also got ads through the efforts of Tom Hurd, Jack Kratz, Doug Martinez, Rich Maurer, Don Pearce, Walt Rittenhouse, and John Weber. Please give thanks to those guys who go out and promote our hobby and consider trying to secure an advertisement in our spring program.



**Oldies**

# Happy Birthday

For those who are feeling a little older and missing those great old tunes, there is good news! Some of our favorite artists have re-released their great hits with new lyrics to accommodate their aging audience. These were re-written for those of us who admit to being over 39 years old. Enjoy.

**FEBRUARY**

- Herman's Hermits - "Mrs. Brown, You've Got A Lovely Walker"
- The Bee Gees - "How Can You Mend A Broken Hip"
- Nancy Sinatra - "These Boots Aren't Made For Bunions"
- The Beatles - "I Get By With A Little Help From My Depends"
- Marvin Gaye - "I Heard It Through The Grape Nuts"
- Procol Haren - "A Whiter Shade Of Hair"
- Johnny Nash - "I Can't See Clearly Now"
- Leo Sayer - "You Make Me Feel Like Napping"
- ABBA - "Denture Queen"
- Paul Simon - "Fifty Ways To Lose Your Liver"
- Roberta Flack - "The First Time I Ever Forgot Your Face"
- Commodores - "Once, Twice, Three Times To The Bathroom"
- Bobby Darin - "Splish, Splash, I Was Havin' A Flash"

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|---------------|----------------------------|
| <b>1 Feb</b>  | <b>Bonnie Hurd</b>         |
| <b>7 Feb</b>  | <b>Bill Gleason</b>        |
| <b>8 Feb</b>  | <b>Vince Czepukaitis</b>   |
| <b>8 Feb</b>  | <b>Betty Stuart</b>        |
| <b>10 Feb</b> | <b>Louise Ehrlich</b>      |
| <b>14 Feb</b> | <b>Jack Fitzgerald Jr.</b> |
| <b>15 Feb</b> | <b>Bob Phifer</b>          |
| <b>16 Feb</b> | <b>Tom Hurd</b>            |
| <b>20 Feb</b> | <b>Larry Derstine</b>      |
| <b>21 Feb</b> | <b>Mary Green</b>          |
| <b>22 Feb</b> | <b>Cherie Leather</b>      |
| <b>25 Feb</b> | <b>Frank Leather</b>       |
| <b>25 Feb</b> | <b>Tom Telford</b>         |

**MARCH**

- March 6** .....Mary Telford
- March 6** .....Scott Ward
- March 15** ..... Ig Jackovac
- March 28** ..... Margie Colon



# Penn Notes

A lot of exciting things are happening at the North Pennsmen Chapter. Bring your friends on any Tuesday night. They will have an enjoyable evening because..

**“It’s great to be a Barbershopper!  
Especially at Lansdale!”**



Contributors to this News Letter are wanted. So if you have anything of interest to Barbershoppers send it to me. The deadline is the 15th of the month.



**Got any ideas to make Penn Notes better?**

Let me know.

How about an article about your experiences in Barbershopping? Get it to me before the 15th of the month..

Editor



Thanks to this month’s contributors: Anne Bureau, Ig Jakovac, Rich Maurer, Jerry

Heebner,

## North Pennsmen Officers

- President..... Ig Jakovac
- Past President..... Rich Maurer
- VP Music & Perf.....Al Anderton
- VP Chapter Dev..... Vince Czepukaitis
- VP Programs.....Ig Jakovac
- Treasurer.....Ken Gingrich
- Secretary..... Pat Shelly
- Historian ..... Ken Ehrlich
- Board Members.....Dave Baraff, Al Pasquale, Tom Telford

Musical Director..... Anne Bureau

Golden Pennsmen Director... Don Detweiler  
Meetings

Tuesday Nights, 7:30 p.m.  
Central Schwenkfelder Church  
Valley Forge Road, Worcester, PA.

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