

The 2009 Newyorker of the Year

The Newyorker of the Year is a member of the Poughkeepsie, NY Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society who has exhibited sustained, unselfish service to the chapter, usually but not necessarily peaking in the award year. He epitomizes the spirit of the Newyorkers by cheerfully assuming and discharging many chapter responsibilities resulting in the short and long term health and success of the chapter. The award was founded in 1972 by Chapter President Joe Alber who, at his passing, was memorialized in it.

As the charge of selecting the Newyorker of the Year for 2009 falls on its past recipients, those individuals realize that there are few members who actually place service to the chapter above self. The true Newyorker of the Year sees the need to improve the chorus and the chapter and steps up to take the responsibility of seeing that those difficult jobs are addressed and successfully accomplished. The 2009 Newyorker of the Year is clearly an individual who takes this responsibility seriously. For several years the Newyorkers have witnessed this year's recipient make his many artistic, organizational, and personal skills work for the betterment of the chorus and the chapter.

While always a member of the performing chorus, this individual found early on that quartet singing was a passion. He quickly found a quartet to sing with and over the years has strived to improve on his quartet participation, having sung with not one but no less than three active quartets. These several quartets have performed at numerous public venues, on the contest stage and in the annual show, always providing a much needed public face to the Newyorkers and thereby "preserving and encouraging barbershop quartet singing".

The 2009 Newyorker of the Year has expressed his enthusiasm and energy as a member of the Board of Directors. In his positions on the board he worked to grow chapter membership and pressed for the musical improvement and success of the chorus. As Show Chairman and member of the Show Committee for several years, he painstakingly and nearly singlehandedly, saw to the show administration, development of storylines, creation of sets and props and aided in the sound and lighting setup and production.

His desire to see the public exposed to that which the Newyorkers can provide musically set him on the path to develop a mission statement for the chapter and he initiated and saw to fruition the development of a new chorus logo.

While the 2009 Newyorker of the Year clearly displays a drive to see the chorus and the chapter be the best it can be, it is also obvious that he displays that positive and enthusiastic attitude towards others that strengthens the barbershop experience for all.

For all he has done for the chorus and the chapter and for his unceasing desire to see the Newyorkers improve and grow, we extend our profound gratitude.

At this time we present The 2009 Newyorker of the Year, Bill Florie.