

Joe Alber Memorial
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 or she 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 by 1972 Chapter President Joe Alber who, at his passing, was memorialized in it.



You're familiar with the Wizard of Oz and those loveable farmhands, Hunk, Hickory and Zeke, (aka Scarecrow, Tin Man and Cowardly Lion). You remember Auntie Em and Uncle Henry, before the storm hits, too busy counting chicks to talk to Dorothy.

Yep, farms **are** busy places. They don't run themselves. Just ask Uncle Henry or the farmer-in-the dell (whatever his name is). They need many hands doing many chores to succeed. And so does a barbershop Chapter.

Each year at this Officer Installation Picnic we recognize our Chapter "farmhands" for "pitching in" and "making hay while the sun shines."

Yes siree, Bob. This is when we announce our **Awards of Merit** and **Farmhand Of The Year**.



AWARDS OF MERIT

The "**Applause To You**" Award goes to **George Trigg**
...for sustained service editing/publishing *The Newyorker Times*, and supporting the Chapter musically, administratively and financially.

The "**Getting Big Green From Big Blue**" Award goes to **Antony Takahashi**
...for again obtaining a \$1,000 IBM grant for the Chapter.

The "**Off and Running**" Award goes to **Bill Florie**
...for sponsoring two members in 2007 and being the 2008 Chapter Development VP, all within his first 3 years.

The "**Great Juggling Job**" Award goes to **John Hadigan**
...for being the President, Show Chair, Ass't Director, Coach, Barbershop Pick Chair and getting married!

The "**So Long and Thanks!**" Award goes to **Joe O'Neill**
...for service to the Chapter as our Marketing and Public Relations VP, Show ad seller and all-around Good Guy.

We said, the barbershop Chapter is like a farm. So let's get back to our "farm" and those chores to be done. Once a year there is Annual Confab of Farmhand Elders. The Elders meet to choose someone for a special **Farmhand Of The Year** recognition.

So what kind of a person is our **Farmhand Of The Year** ?

He is certainly one who...



- loves to sing and will do it " 'til the cows come home."
- especially loves animals, perhaps with a bent toward birds.



- like the barnyard rooster , is punctual; is early for appointments and always on the job... ready to go.
- is organized; knows how to schedule and direct activities around the barn.
- likes the view from the hayloft door or even higher when he can get there.
- likes "manly" tools like chainsaws; has a special love for tractors and big trucks.
- is "manly", yes, but is compassionate and generous with his time, talent, equipment and money.
- has been working this Poughkeepsie "farm" for more than 25 years.



- may have an aided ear it's certainly not "tin"; our **Farmhand Of The Year** has an musician's ear for barbershop harmony and accuracy.



- can play a piano and a computer, but not at the same time... yet
- can sight-read music and has tried his hand at "arrangement farming" (i.e. he's a budding arranger).
- is harmonious with nature and other guys too... having sung in two registered quartets.
- and last but not least, whenever we have a Harmony Hootenanny, he is on the job early and stays late, handling all the technical arrangements to make the performers sound and appear their best. He writes the Tech Plan integrating the script with stage and lighting cues, then manages the Staging at rehearsal and performance.

Our **2007 Farmhand Of The Year**... I mean our...

2007 JOE ALBER MEMORIAL NEWYORKER OF THE YEAR

Ron Pierson



Awarded January 12, 2008 by the Poughkeepsie, NY Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society