

The 2013 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 in 1972 by Chapter President Joe Alber who, at his passing, was memorialized in it.

The charge of selecting the Newyorker of the Year for 2013 falls on its past recipients of the award. This is a responsibility that is not taken lightly. This year the past awardees have chosen an individual who clearly stands out among the Newyorkers for his continued service to the chapter.

We often find it difficult to list the accomplishments without revealing the individual before his name is announced. It is especially difficult when that person has made obvious outstanding efforts for the benefit of the chapter, as is the case of this awardee. We can only apologize if we are unable to disguise the individual until the end of this presentation.

This year's award recipient has been an active member of the chorus and the chapter for many years. He initially joined the chapter in the early 1980's and returned to it in 2010.

During 2011, he was a member of the 50th Anniversary Committee. It was during this time that he took the responsibility for seeing to the creation of the chapter logo pin, which was given to chapter members past and present.

In the fall of 2011 he was instrumental in the Cabaret with Absolute a Capella in New Paltz, the proceeds of which were donated to Family of New Paltz for its use in responding to the needs of the community after Hurricane Irene.

He has for the past several years shared one of the more important positions on the Board of Directors. The honoree has painstakingly shared the responsibilities of the office of Vice President for Membership and Chapter Development. In this capacity, he has prepared many promotional ads for the recruitment of new members to the chapter. In 2012 and 2013 he initiated the chorus's participation in

the Taste of New Paltz by securing and manning a booth and distributing information encouraging barbershop singing and membership in the chorus.

In his desire to have the Newyorkers stand out in public, he alone initiated having the chapter logo memorialized in thread and he coordinated with an online source to make available shirts with the logo to chapter members. He has also volunteered to be co-chairman of the chorus uniform committee.

In 2013 he initiated a dialog with Dutchess Outreach to have it become a public service project for the Newyorkers.

Also in 2013, he acknowledged the need to have a unique chapter phone number that would allow the public to more easily contact the chapter leadership, for ordering Singing Valentines and annual show tickets and for inquiries for hiring the chorus and quartets. He alone investigated the many options available and through his efforts saw to the establishment of a toll free phone number for the chapter and the setting up of individual voice mail boxes.

He has added his voice to the baritone section, providing an important addition to the musical quality of the chorus. He has sung in several chapter pick-up quartets for both Singing Valentines and other public performances.

His desire to experience singing in a contest quartet led him to the formation of CHIEF., a quartet named in honor of Bob Chieffo. This quartet secured both the Yankee Division and Northeastern District Novice Quartet Awards in 2013.

His pleasant manner and approachability has made him a much-appreciated member of the chorus. His thoughtful consideration of the pressing issues facing the chapter is a testament to his ongoing desire to see the Newyorkers grow, improve and establish itself as the preeminent a cappella group in the Hudson Valley.

At this time, we present to you The 2013 Newyorker of the Year, Frank Ruggiero.