



2017 Newyorker of the Year Presentation

The Newyorker of the Year is a Member of the Poughkeepsie, New York 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 term and long term health and success of the Chapter. The award was founded by 1972 Chapter President Joe Alber, who, at his passing, was immortalized in it.

JOHN:

The scene; a construction site at the beginning of the work day. Union construction workers are waiting to enter the site to begin the day. The local union shop steward is checking union cards before letting men enter.

STEVE:

Remember when we could just walk into the site. Now everyone has to prove they belong to the local before they can start work. Times are a changing, I guess.

ERIC:

Yea. It wasn't long ago that the president of the local would stop by the site to glad hand the men. Now it's all very formal.

FRANK:

I remember one guy who was always here before everyone else. No matter what else was going on. No matter what time you got there he was always there first waiting to get started.

BILL:

I think I recall him. He was from out of town wasn't he, from a long way away as I

remember. But once he got here he signed into the hall and took his place alongside the rest of us.

STEVE:

I can remember he would bring that old guy with him all the time and he always did the driving. He hardly ever missed a day's work or a union meeting. He was tough and even though a he was sick a few times he was back before you knew it. Always working, always involved.

ERIC:

He was a great ground man. You could always rely on him to supply the needed foundation material the rest of the guys needed. Oh, and remember the times he'd get three other guys together and they'd go around the valley promoting the local. You could always rely on him to lend his voice in a pinch.

FRANK:

And he was the first one to sign up for the conventions no matter where they were, regardless of who else was or wasn't going. He was the quintessential union man.

BILL:

I believe he was also president of the local for a while. I remember it being a rough period but he managed to get us through it.

STEVE:

Yea, he could always be relied on to give his full share, never slacked off, and always with a smile.

JOHN:

Hey you guys, what you are jabbering about. Move along, get to work.

ERIC:

I know he also took on the job of librarian of the local's records. A pretty thankless job if you ask me.

FRANK:

Hey have you seen him lately. I know he's getting up there. I'm wondering if he's planning to retire. I hope not, we've been finding the old guys are some of the most reliable brothers. He's the product of a different age I guess.

BILL:

I'm sure he's retired by now.

ERIC:

No, no, he's still around, I saw him just this past Wednesday at the union hall. Smile and everything. As a matter of fact here he comes now. It looks like he's

been here for hours. What's his name again?

FRANK:

Why it's the 2017 New Yorker of the Year.

ALL:

DUKE NACHBAR!