



AVMA Friends and Alumni Monthly Digest

March 2022

Hi everybody!

It's Fat Tuesday, it's the first day of meteorological spring, and it's time for another edition of the Friends and Alumni Monthly Digest! Since last week was February break at the high school, we have one fewer week to review, but we have plenty to preview to make up for it. So let's get to it!

Tantasqua Show Choir Spectacular Recap. On February 12th the show choirs headed out to Tantasqua and kept their streak of success alive (despite the curtain breaking early on in the day):

- NBT's Audrey Fiore and BTB's Anthony Morgante swept the unisex Best Solo awards for Andover!
- FSTF earned another Gold from the judges!

If you want to catch any or all of the performances, there's a recording of the livestream on YouTube. Here are the direct links to [NBT](#) (Part 1, starting at 1:34:44), [BTB](#) (Part 1, starting at 2:00:46), and [FSTF](#) (Part 2, starting at 5:30:36).

Now the choirs get a break from performing so we can all focus on NESCS. The next and final competition for the year is Saturday April 2 at the Eastern Show Choir Festival in Waltham. We'll have more about that event in next month's digest – stay tuned!

Bertucci's Tasty Tuesday Recap. Quick little note here – we heard back from Bertucci's and found out that our Tasty Tuesday fundraiser on February 8th raised **another \$328.96 for AVMA!** That's more than double what we typically get from a Bertucci's Tasty Tuesday, and it puts us at **just over \$1600 for the year.** We're approaching our Tasty Tuesday fundraising goal for the year – maybe the next one will put us over the top?

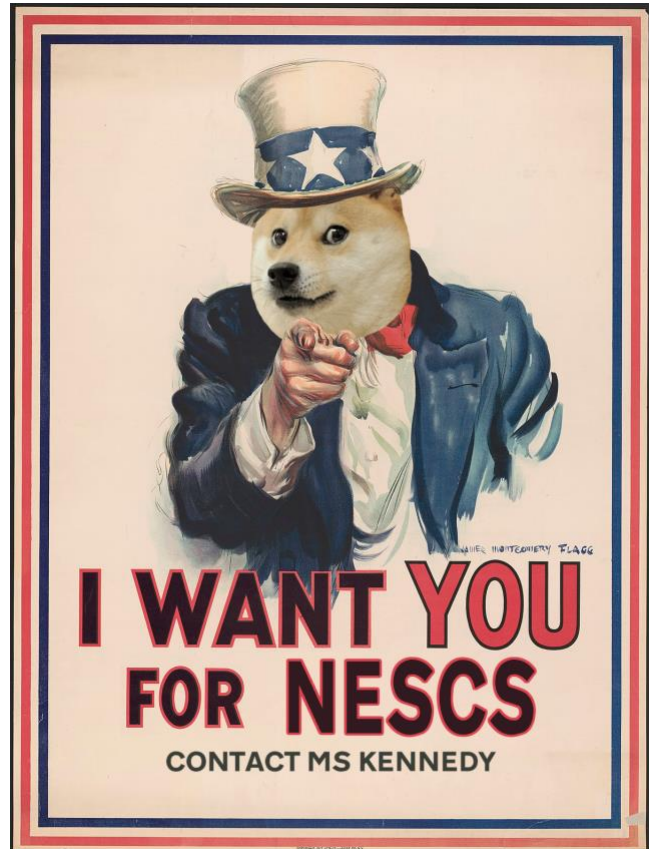
Speaking of which, we're aiming for **the next Tasty Tuesday to be at the new Bartlet Street restaurant (where King's Subs used to be) on Tuesday April 5.** Pencil it in now, and we'll let you know for sure once all the details are confirmed. And thanks as always for participating in these fundraisers! Not only have you helped AVMA raise much needed funds, but **you've also pumped over \$10,000 in revenue into local businesses** in the process!

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NESCS! Now we move from the month in review to the month in preview(?). And let's face it: March is NESCS Month! After being Covid-sidelined for two years, NESCS is not only back, but in mostly its full form: at last check, we were expecting six middle-school show choirs on Friday and 18 high school groups on Saturday.

However, to be honest, we need your help. Among the zillion other gut punches that Covid threw at us are two that directly tie to NESCS:

1. Membership in the show choirs is lower this year than in past years. (For what it's worth, the same holds true across pretty much all of the programs in New England, so it's not just us.) And since there are fewer kids in show choir this year, there are fewer families available to volunteer NESCS weekend.
2. Since Covid hit right before NESCS 2020, only this year's seniors have even experienced NESCS first-hand. That means the majority of the AVM families who will be helping out at NESCS have never helped out at NESCS before.



Add those two items together, and it results in us putting out this call for help to any and every NESCS veteran who will be in town for the weekend. If you're willing and able to spend a couple of hours making sure kids don't walk down the wrong hallway or cars park in the wrong lot or any of the jobs that make NESCS go, we would be extremely grateful. Ms. Kennedy has published a signup sheet on Google Forms – [here's the link](#) – that shows all the different areas where you can make a difference. If you're going to be at the Collins Center anyway, why not lend a hand while you're there?

If you're not able to volunteer but still would like to help out, we have another option: donating concessions. We sell a lot of drinks and snacks during NESCS, so if you're able to donate a case of water or gummy bears (or the money to pay for them), we'd be more than happy to accept! [Here's the link](#) to the concessions donation SignUp Genius.

Thank you for whatever help you can offer!



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AVMA Spring Car Wash Sat May 14. One final item of note before we wrap up this month's digest and return our focus to NESCS preparation. The AVMA Spring Car Wash will be held on Saturday May 14. Hopefully that weekend works for you because it's literally the only weekend without a conflict before the seniors fly the coop. We're looking at the same setup as the fall: in the parking lot by West Middle School, morning through early afternoon. The roads are gross enough with all the salt and grime that your car will definitely need a spring cleaning, so why not let AVM take care of it for you!

As usual, we'll close with a reminder of all the other ways you can easily support AVMA:

- **Scrip/RaiseRight.** Scrip/RaiseRight is a fundraising program in which you purchase gift cards from any of hundreds of stores and businesses through them, and a percentage of the value of the gift cards get donated back to AVMA. The stores we're talking about are all the ones you've heard of: Starbucks, Apple, Best Buy, the Gap, Stop & Shop, Chili's, Panera, you name it. And **we're talking some pretty significant cash back percentages – 10%+ in many cases, with occasional promotions taking things as high as 20%.** Scrip/RaiseRight offers up a really easy way to support AVMA without really costing you any more than you were going to spend on purchases in the first place. And it's open to everybody!

To sign up for Scrip and RaiseRight, follow these instructions:

1. Go to <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Login/Enroll> and use enrollment code **DLEE76C872773.**
 2. Download the RaiseRight app on your smartphone.
 3. Visit <https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Shop/Product/Browse> to see all the different vendors and the rebate percentages for each.
- **AmazonSmile.** AVMA also participates in AmazonSmile. Similar to Scrip/RaiseRight, AmazonSmile is a super easy way to donate back to AVMA each time you make a purchase on Amazon. To set up AmazonSmile to benefit AVMA, [follow these instructions](#), and be sure to select Andover Vocal Music Association as the organization you want to support. Then, each time you buy anything on Amazon, .5% of the purchase price will be donated back to AVMA. It doesn't seem like a lot, but over time, with enough people participating, it adds up!



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- **Links.** We rely primarily on social media to get the word out on happenings and events and to otherwise communicate with the rest of the community. So if you haven't done so already, please give a subscribe or a like or a follow to the:
 - **AVMA YouTube Channel:**
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCGreFvbQIEKB_OrD7RLNY0g
 - **Andover Vocal Music Association public Facebook page:**
<https://www.facebook.com/AHSVocalMusic>
 - **AVMA Twitter Account:** https://twitter.com/andovervma_org

Please feel free to share this digest with any folks not on Facebook who you think would be interested in it. And if you (or they) would like to receive future Monthly Digests directly via email, please use this [Google Form](#) to share your name and addresses with us.

NESCS 2022 starts two weeks from this Friday! Make sure you tell your friends and we sure hope we see you there! And if we don't see you at NESCS, we'll see you again here next month. Thanks for reading!

The AVMA Board