



Summer 2016 Volume 66 Number 2

WESTUNES



WESTUNES, established in 1951, is the official publication of the Far Western District Association of Chapters in the Barbershop Harmony Society

2016 International Quartet Qualifiers



Artistic License 85.6



The Newfangled Four 82.7



American Pastime 78.6

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Acronyms

BOTM	Barbershopper of the Month
BOTY	Barbershopper of the Year
DP	District President
DRCJ	District Representative Contest & Judging
DVP	District Vice President
CSLT	Chapter Support & Leadership Training
CDD	Chorus Director Development
C&J	Contest & Judging
E	Events
EVP	Executive Vice President
M&PR	Marketing & Public Relations
Mem Ser	Member Services
Mu&P	Music & Performance
QA	Quartet Activities

FWD Sunshine Chairman

FWD Sunshine Chairman Les Cudworth

3227 Root Ave
Carmichael, CA 95608-3415
916-489-3910
lesimpact@netzero.net

International 2016 - Nashville

Quartets

Artistic License	85.6
The Newfangled Four	82.7
American Pastime	78.6

College Quartets Qualified by Score

Flightline	78.5
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Choruses

Santa Fe Springs*	92.1
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FWD Fall 2016 - Riverside

Quartets

Rank Name	Div	Avg
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Quartets Qualified by Score

1. Don't Tell Mom	NW	79.8
2. Suit Up!	AZ	77.2
3. Whoop 'Em Up	AZ	76.3
4. North of the Border	SW	75.8
5. Dynamix NW 74.7		
6. Some Friends Of Mine	NW	73.7
7. Hot Spot	AZ	72.8
8. The Front Line	NE	72.8
9. Batteries Not Included	AZ	71.7
10. Game On	OOD*	69.8
11. Intonation	AZ	68.8
12. Velvet Frogs	SW	68.7
13. Go Fish!	SE	68.0

Wildcard Quartets Invited

14. Miles Ahead	NW	67.8
15. H.I.C.K.S.	NE	67.6
16. Heatwave	AZ	67.5
17. West Coast Sound	NE	67.3
18. Four Fifteen	SE	67.2
19. Behind The Barn	SE	67.0
20. Fat City Four	NE	66.7
21. Spellbound**	NW	66.2
22. Just4Kix	NW	65.7
23. West Coast Ringers	SW	65.1
24. Seaside	NW	65.0
25. Quadratic Audio	AZ	64.8

Senior Quartets Qualified

1. Spellbound**	NW	66.2
2. Fremont Street Experience	SE	62.6
3. Antique Parts	AZ	62.1
4. The Artful Codgers	NE	60.7
5. Mountain Sound	AZ	58.1

Quartets Next in Line

Friday Matinee	SE	64.8
Ten O'Clock Shadow	SW	63.9
The Night Howls	AZ	62.5
Pacific Ring	SW	62.3
Bandwagon	NE	62.3
Gen Gap	SE	61.3
Artworks	NE	60.8
Classic Edition	NE	57.8
entrenous	AZ	50.7

*OOD - Out Of District

Choruses

Rank Name	Div	Avg
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Choruses Qualified by Score

1. Whittier/San Francisco	NW	81.9
2. California Delta	NE	81.6
3. Bay Area	NW	80.8
4. Salt River Valley	AZ	78.7
5. Greater Phoenix	AZ	77.8
6. La Jolla	SE	77.3
7. Las Vegas	SE	73.3
8. Rincon Beach	SW	71.8
9. Fresno	NE	68.9
10. Tucson	AZ	66.9
11. Palo Alto - Mountain View	NW	66.6
12. Inland Empire	SE	66.3
13. Santa Monica	SW	65.5
14. St George	SE	65.3
15. Reno	NE	65.0
16. San Diego	SE	63.9
17. Placerville	NE	63.2
18. Walnut Creek	NW	62.8
19. Marin	NW	62.8

Wildcard Choruses Invited

20. Fullerton	SE	61.3
21. Sun Cities	AZ	59.5
22. Santa Cruz	NW	59.4
23. Santa Rosa	NW	59.3
24. Pasadena	SW	59.0
25. Central California	NE	58.5

Choruses Next in Line

Bakersfield	SW	57.7
South Bay	SW	56.5
San Francisco	NW	52.8

The FWD Fall Preliminary Quartet results followed by Chorus results are summarized above, hopefully to provide clarity - it does get confusing.

Division Quartet & Chorus Pictures

Contest photographs appear on the following pages, identified by Division names. Quartet and Chorus pictures are presented sequentially by Division numbers: 1 - SW, 2 - SE, 3 - NW, 4 - NE, 5 - AZ



1 North of the Border 75.8



2 Velvet Frogs 68.7



3 West Coast Ringers 65.1



4 Ten O'Clock Shadow 63.9



5 Gen Gap 61.3

SouthWest Division Quartet Contest Results



1 Rincon Beach, CA 71.8



2 Santa Monica, CA 65.5



3 Pasadena, CA 59.0

4 Bakersfield, CA 57.7



5 South Bay, CA 56.5

SouthWest Division Chorus Contest Results



1 Go Fish! 68.0



2 Four Fifteen 67.2



3 Behind the Barn 67.0



4 Friday Matinee 64.6



5 Fremont Street Experience 62.6 Senior



6 Pacific Ring 62.3

SouthEast Division Quartet Contest Results



1 La Jolla, CA 77.3



2 Las Vegas, NV 73.3



3 Inland Empire, CA 66.3



4 St George, UT 65.3



5 San Diego, CA 63.9



6 Fullerton, CA 61.3

SouthEast Division Chorus Contest Results



1 Don't Tell Mom 79.8



2 Dynamix 74.7



3 Some Friends Of Mine 73.7



4 Miles Ahead 67.8



5 Spellbound 66.2



6 Just4Kix 65.7

NorthWest Division Quartet Contest Results *page 1*



1 Whittier/San Francisco, CA 81.9



2 Bay Area, CA 80.8



3 Palo Alto - Mountain View, CA 66.6

4 Walnut Creek, CA 62.8



4 Marin, CA 62.8



6 Santa Cruz, CA 59.4

NorthWest Division Chorus Contest Results page 1



7 Seaside 65.0

NorthWest Division Quartet Contest Results *page 2*



7 Santa Rosa, CA 59.3



8 San Francisco, CA 52.8

NorthWest Division Chorus Contest Results *page 2*



1 Suit Up 77.2



2 Whoop "Em Up 76.3



3 Hot Spot 72.8



4 Batteries Not Included 71.7



5 Intonation 68.8



6 Heatwave 67.5

Arizona Division Quartet Contest Results *page 1*

Photos from the Arizona Division Convention were taken by MirandaRicoPhotography.
Copies can be purchased at tucsonbarbershopharmony.org



7 Quadratic Audio 64.8



8 The Night Howls 62.5



9 Antique Parts 62.1 Senior & Super Senior Champs



10 Mountain Sound 58.1 Senior



11 entrenous 50.7 Senior & Super Senior



Game On 69.8 Out of District for Score

Arizona Division Quartet Contest Results *page 2*

Photos from the Arizona Division Convention were taken by MirandaRicoPhotography.
Copies can be purchased at tucsonbarbershopharmony.org



1 Salt River Valley 78.7



2 Greater Phoenix 77.8



3 Tucson, AZ 66.9



4 Sun Cities 59.5



Mesa [Evaluation Only]

Arizona Division Chorus Contest Results

Photos from the Arizona Division Convention were taken by MirandaRicoPhotography.
Copies can be purchased at tucsonbarbershopharmony.org

2015 FWD Champion Chorus The MOH

Santa Fe Springs Chapter

by Ron Larson

Many barbershop singers are unapologetic romantics who will break into song about love and romance at just about any opportunity. A great way to share this passion is with Singing Valentines. This involves delivering a single red rose and a personalized Valentine's Day card to a usually surprised but very delighted recipient, followed by the singing of "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" and "Heart of My Heart." In 2002, Andy Edwards pioneered a successful Singing Valentines program for the Masters of Harmony that ran for another four years with varying degrees of success. In 2013, Phil Wolf led a revival of the program. Six quartets used Uber, a new ride-hailing company, to deliver over 100 Singing Valentines. In February 2016, he coordinated the MOH program with the Fullerton Orange Empire Chorus, known for its very successful Singing Valentines program. In the three days of Valentine's Day weekend, four Masters of Harmony quartets delivered 25 Singing Valentines. Recipients included women at work, men and women at home, the Cal State Fullerton women's basketball team, a woman on the eve of her 100th birthday and several couples in retirement homes. Special thanks go to the three who skillfully coordinated the complex delivery schedules - Sheila Lowerre, Tom Nichols, and Jay Campbell.

For the past 16 years, the Masters of Harmony and the Southern California Vocal Association, a professional organization of choral music teachers, have co-sponsored an Annual Young Men's Harmony Festival that is now a model for similar events all over the country. In February, thanks to long months of preparation by festival guru Mark Freedkin, the 2016 event at Orange Coast College was again a rousing success. This year, 206 students from 32 Southern California schools attended and more than 80% were first-timers. After warm-ups led by Dr. Chris Peterson and Dave Tautkus, the young men received choral training from The Newfangled Four (Joey Buss, Jackson Niebrugge, Ryan Wisniewski, Jake Tickner), a foursome whose ages, vocal and teaching skills helped them relate well to participants not much younger than themselves. In one of the highlights of the afternoon sessions, Masterpiece (Rob Menaker, Patrick Haedtler, Alan Gordon, Brett Littlefield) held a "Sing With the Champs" session that made the day extra special for seven young men who took turns singing with them. The evening show featured the youth chorus as well as solo, quartet and small ensemble performances. The Masters of Harmony and The Newfangled Four took turns captivating the audience of family members and music teachers. For the show finale, 280 singers filled the risers to overflowing and sang "Fun In Just One Lifetime" and "America The Beautiful" to wildly enthusiastic applause. This year's event brought the 16-year attendance total to well over 3,400 students. Thank you, Mark, and your team of skilled, dedicated assistants, for showing these young men how much fun four-part a cappella harmony can be!

The Far Western District's Spring Convention was held at the Alexis Park Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada, and the MOH was well represented throughout the competition. Nearly half the choruses competing represented MOH in some way and three MOH members served on the judging panel (Rob Campbell, Justin Miller, and Dave Tautkus). The Newfangled Four and American Pastime (Graham Pence, Tom Moore, Steve Pence, Joe D'Amore) qualified for the Nashville International Convention this July. Current Far Western District Quartet Champion Flightline (Oscar Sotelo, Cody Littlefield, Daniel Huitt, Kyle Williamson) qualified as the Far Western District representative to the Youth Barbershop Quartet Contest, also in Nashville.

In recent months, the MOH's web appearance has been restructured so as to enhance the chorus's online presence. This site reworking was made possible thanks to MOH Grants Manager Rich Owen who helped secure a two-year grant from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. The Masters gratefully acknowledge this support with an attribution in their show flyers and programs: "The Masters of Harmony is supported, in part, by the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission."

If you are planning to visit a Masters Wednesday night rehearsal, please note that the rehearsal location has been moved to the Pio Pico Room of the Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center, 9255 S. Pioneer Blvd., Santa Fe Springs, from April 13 to September 28, 2016.

It is with sadness that the Masters announced the passing of two members whose work was instrumental in the early success of the chorus – Jim Holder and Marlin Niesley.

Since the last issue of *Westunes*, the MOH welcomed John Rhodes into membership.

Harmony Camp 2016

FOREFRONT is coming to Camp along with **The Newfangled Four!!!!**

This will be one of the truly epic Camps, at least in my 15 years of running Camp and having this much fun!

The last couple years with the King fire and the Butte fire threat have put a real damper on the momentum that we had generated for Camp; and this is the year that we break out!!

We have perhaps one of the best combinations of quartets along with the best clinician staff in the country, no wait, in the world for Camps like this. No other Camp in the world can match what we are doing to absolutely immerse young men in barbershop harmony and culture.

You can play a huge role in this camp by simply urging your chapter to step up and support Harmony Camp when your chapter president brings it up.

You can play an even bigger role in this camp by reaching out to that young high school age man down the street and simply tell him about Camp and let him know what a wonderful opportunity lies in his future, just by signing up for this year's Harmony Camp.

Harmony Camp 2016 dates are September 16-18 and the location is the Sly Park Educational Center, 5600 Sly Park Road, Pollock Pines, CA.

The entire Camp weekend, from Friday evening to Sunday noon is just \$95, food and lodging included.

For questions, please contact Richard Lund 530-621-1904 or rlund@innercite.com <http://yih.farwesterndistrict.org/youth-harmony-camp>

Richard Lund
Camp Director

***Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund
for FWD Harmony Camps***

FLASH ANNOUNCEMENT: DOUBLE MATCH CHALLENGE

A major donor has stepped up to “double” match contributions of \$300 or less through November, 2016. Sometimes we have a cause we believe in but feel that our small contribution will not make much of a difference. Today, you have the opportunity to change that and really make a difference with your donation. Your contribution of \$50 will be matched with \$100 so that you are “causing” \$150 to be donated to the Fund! Our major donor’s cap is \$25,000.



The purpose of the Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund is to provide, in perpetuity, supplemental financial support for weekend long Harmony Camps within the Far Western District of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Endowment Fund donations may be sent to: Sacramento Region Community Foundation; 955 University Ave, Suite A; Sacramento, CA 95825; reference Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund in the bottom line of the check. You will receive acknowledgement of your donation from the Sacramento Region Community Foundation.

Contact Richard Lund at 530-621-1904 or rwlund92@gmail.com if you have additional questions.

2016 SoCal Novice Quartet Contest
by Mark Sheldon, Orange Quartet Chapter PR VP

The 54th Annual Southern California Novice Quartet Contest, hosted by the Orange Quartet Chapter, was held February 27, 2016, in the Fullerton Union High School Little Theater.

Many individuals from Orange as well as Fullerton and other local chapters contributed their time and skill to this year's event. The Contest Chairman was Mike Werner who ensured that everything flowed smoothly at the event. The onstage operation of the contest was expertly managed by Don Derler as emcee and Dave Lowerre as Contest Administrator. Quartets were managed backstage by Ken Tillmanns, and other house operations handled by Pete Saputo, Tom Nichols. Finances were managed by Paul Sandorff, who was assisted at the box office by a team that included Joyce Thomas, Catherine Tran, and Ron Deopante, who also handled post-performance quartet photography. Many others added their efforts to make the event a success.

The contest was available to Society members of all levels of accomplishment. A handicap based on prior contest participation and achievement was applied to level the playing field for less experienced singers. Each competing quartet performed two songs and was scored according to standard Society methods. Winners were determined based on the handicapped scores.

A single panel of judges trained in the Society evaluation categories generously made themselves available: Nick Papageorge (Music), Stephen Katz (Performance), and Craig Ewing (Singing).

Seven quartets competed, representing at least six SoCal Chapters. Third place went to **The Butcher, the Baker, the Candlestick Maker, and Mark** (Temecula Chapter), and second place to **Glasses Half Full** (A quartet of La Habra High School students associated with the Fullerton Chapter). The 2015 SoCal Novice Quartet Champion was **Nothing Rhymes with Orange**, a quartet of Fullerton Union High School students associated with the Fullerton Chapter: Timothy Coleman (Tenor), Devin Ricklef (Lead), Adam Rooney (Baritone), and Alan Rodriguez (Bass). The winning song set featured performances of "Anything Goes" and "I Don't Mind Being All Alone."

Thank you also to the other competing quartets: **Walk in the Park** (Pasadena and San Fernando Valley Chapters), **Ten O'Clock Shadow** (Pasadena and Santa Fe Springs Chapters), **Orange-A-Peel** (Orange Chapter), and **Close Shave** (Orange Chapter).

Special recognition goes to the veteran Society members from multiple chapters who helped recruit and prepare the newer members for this contest. In particular, Tom Nichols and Pete Saputo helped to with the preparation and membership signup of the top two quartets in this year's contest. We are all winners because of the participation of new as well as established members in this contest.

Did you know 2015 FWD Quartet Champion Flightline has a Facebook page?
[facebook.com/FlightlineQuartet](https://www.facebook.com/FlightlineQuartet)

Leadership Articles



***District President
Gordon Berghold***

Continuing my theme that I preached as CSLT and EVP, most emphasis will be on ***communication***. It is still my belief that we can resolve most of our district and society issues with better communication amongst all involved. Most challenges we face in our chapter and district leadership are resolved through communication and transparency.

As most of you know I spent January, February and March recovering from major back surgery. I missed the Midwinter International Convention in Reno, the Spring Convention in Las Vegas and both the Board and House of Delegates meetings in March. However, you may have noticed that our leadership team moved forward under the guidance of EVP Craig Hughes and although I missed all of you, the district business was conducted in a professional manner and things moved forward with very few hitches. I do want to acknowledge and thank publically EVP Craig Hughes for the job he did in Las Vegas and representing me at the District President's Council meeting in Reno in January. We have a strong, experienced Board of Directors and Management Team who can carry out the business of the FWD through all kinds of challenges.

I'm now back at the desk handling my role as President and will be attending the future meetings of our district including many of the divisional events that occur during the year. I appreciate all of the good wishes during my recovery period and can assure you that my surgery was successful, although it will be six months up to a year before I'm fully recovered and able to enjoy the benefits of the new back.

We have many important issues before us including inventorying each chapter in the district to determine the mission and direction that has been determined by the chapter leadership. By learning the specific personalities of the FWD chapters the district

leadership can concentrate on important issues of each chapter and assist where requested instead of unloading unwanted programs from afar that don't relate to the needs of that particular organization. Our District Vice Presidents are in the process of handling the inventories of the chapters within their divisions and will report those findings to the Board during our summer board meeting in June.

I can reassure you that we are listening and will do everything possible to respond to questions pertaining to the chapters of our district. Start with your District VP within your division and let him carry your concerns to the Board. Or, contact any of the board members or district management team members and we will respond. I can't emphasize enough that listening is the most fundamental component of interpersonal communication skills and WE ARE LISTENING!



***Executive Vice President
Craig Hughes***

It has been a busy spring with lots of opportunities to meet and harmonize with each other. I met and enjoyed listening to many of you at the SE/SW Division/Spring Convention in Las Vegas and the NE/NW Division Contest in Castro Valley. Our Society Board liaison, John Donehower, was a very welcome representative at our Spring Convention and spent much of the weekend chatting with as many Barbershoppers as possible. One member shared that his Chapter was a refuge from his day- to-day concerns and that he knew that he only had to go a few more days till his next Barbershop chorus rehearsal... till his next song.... till he "had friends again". That is the power of our fellowship and a sentiment we can all share.

One wonderful aspect of our hobby is the unique identity of each of our chapters. If a man loves to harmonize and enjoys getting together with other singers there is a home for him in our District. We offer a range of opportunities from "ultra-competitive" to "laid-back" with a broad spectrum in between. We

should strive to help our members find their niche. Let's adopt a "*no man left behind*" attitude.

I would suggest the first step is to develop and publish your Chapter Identity Statement. Your Division Vice-President can help with the process. When the chapter agrees on its goals and identity the members can work together to provide a harmonious fellowship and determine their place in the overall fabric of the chapter. This shouldn't be revolutionary and should help with your chapter's evolution and the retention of your members.

Step two is to know the identity of your neighboring chapters. If one of your singers is unhappy, perhaps you can help find him a compatible home nearby. We don't want to have our members drop out. It is much better for all that they continue to sing and "*promote and encourage Barbershop quartet singing*" in your area. Some folks may join more than one chapter and enjoy a variety of experiences. You might consider holding a join event with neighboring chapters. It's a great way to get creative and it might increase your community's awareness of our singing.

The Spring and Fall Conventions host our two House of Delegates Meetings. These meetings provide an open forum for chapter delegates to discuss and vote on any changes to the way the District functions. The District and its officers work for the chapters and we need your input. We need to know what you are thinking and what you need.

While attendance at these meetings is critical, day to day communication is just as important. Don't hesitate contacting a Board Member <<http://farwesterndistrict.org/about/district-officers/board-of-directors>> or a member of the District Management Team <<http://farwesterndistrict.org/about/district-officers/district-management-team>> with your questions, concerns and recommendations. Your Division Vice-President is your direct liaison so that's a good place to start but don't consider that limiting. Just talk to us so we can represent you. The District Board and Management Team are here to serve and support the Chapters. Please keep the lines of

communication open and use them often. We have resources to share and stand by to help in any way possible. One example is the support our Marketing and Public Relations Team (*Jerry McElfresh, David Melville, and Ray Rhymer*) provides by publishing and maintaining a timely source of information and entertainment via the internet.

- FWD Website:
 - o Farwesterndistrict.org/
- FWD Facebook:
 - o Facebook.com/farwesterndistrict/
- Westunes (Official eMagazine):
 - o westunes.farwesterndistrict.org/
- Westags (Monthly Email update):
 - o Delivered directly to your email inbox monthly *if* you have your latest email in your Society eBiz profile.

Thank you for everything you do for your Chapter and the District.



**District Vice President 1 SW
Brent Anderson**

Since our last report, we had the Divisional convention and contest in Las Vegas, and although the distance and following so close on the heels of the holidays kept most of our choruses away, we were represented by four choruses who represented us well. The SW Division Chorus Champion as well as Most Improved Chorus, was **Rincon Beach**, under the direction of **Kelly Shepard**. They were followed by **Santa Monica**, and both qualified for Riverside in the Fall. **Santa Monica** is a chapter that is doing a lot of good things... They celebrated their 40th Anniversary in May and are growing, singing and quartetting a lot and just generally having fun.

Pasadena finished third and they've received a wild-card bid for Riverside. And right now, **Bakersfield** is the next chorus to be invited to Riverside, assuming one of the other qualifiers has to back out.

Rejuvenation comes from the Latin...to be young again...and that's what's happening at **Bakersfield**. Almost on life support this time last year, they have

revived their **Golden Empire Chorus** under the able leadership of president, **Rich Owen**, and the capable direction of **Adam Calvilli** and competed well in Las Vegas with only 12 men. They now have 20 singing every Thursday and put on their first show in many years, on May 15th.

Although **Santa Maria** chapter was unable to send their chorus to Las Vegas, they sent a high school quartet, the **Soundsations**, who took first place in the HS quartet contest. These four young men are from Orcutt Academy High School and the **Santa Maria** chapter is very involved with youth at several schools in the Central Coast area. They sent a youth chorus to the Midwinter convention in Reno in January and staged another **Youth Harmony Festival** in Santa Maria in February. **Robert Maurer** is the chief architect of that youth effort.

After a one-year plus hiatus, effective May 1, **Bob McGee** again took over the directorship of the Santa Maria **Central City Chordsmen**. **Gene Kai** and **Bob Carlson** had ably shared the directing duties and finished their tenure with a very successful show in April.

Rincon Beach (Pacific Sound Chorus) staged their second annual **A Cappella Showcase** in April. They invited other a cappella groups from the area to sing in a fun atmosphere of sharing and enjoyment of the art form. The show was free and all lovers of a cappella music were invited to attend and groups invited to perform. **Carpe Diem**, a relatively new and excellent-quality Santa Barbara-based Sweet Adeline chapter performed as did several groups from UC Santa Barbara. After the performances, the entertainers mixed and tagged together until late in the evening.

Pacific Sound had a free show to benefit a charity in Camarillo in late May and is planning a huge show on **Sept. 17 in Santa Barbara** and the featured guest quartet, all the way from Sweden, is the 2012 Quartet Champs, **Ringmasters**. *Mark your calendars now* and don't let anything interfere with your plans to travel to Santa Barbara that weekend.

The zany **South Bay Coastliners** presented "*The Great Train Robbery*" in February... The always entertaining **Pasadena** chapter had a show in May called "The Mild Mild West," and **Santa Fe Springs** presented "*Planes Trains and Automobiles*" in late May. The **Masters of Harmony** will be headed to Nashville in July seeking their ninth Gold Medal, and we wish them luck. They will also host the **Go For the Gold Show on June 12 in Fullerton**, where you'll get to hear their final tune-up for Nashville along with our qualified quartets. Please come to this great show and afterglow (details elsewhere in this issue).

Sound of Aloha Chorus presented an original musical comedy in May followed by a membership drive. We are all very excited that they will be coming to Riverside to compete and perform this Fall. Be sure you are making your plans to attend the FWD convention, whether you are singing in a chorus or not. The theater is the spectacular, historic Fox Theater and the hotel is the Marriott, right across the street.

Santa Barbara chapter is going to start fresh this summer when **Mike McGee** returns to FWD from 13 years in Sunshine District. Mike has agreed to direct and the first organizational meetings will begin in July. Chapter founder, **Bob Wilke**, now 86, is still active and looking forward to the rebirth of his baby.

Justin McQueen is a newer member of the **Rincon Beach Chapter**. He's volunteered to be the SW Division news digester and I appreciate him. He takes over for **Ken Day** who has recently retired from active Barbershop.

How many of you will be coming to Nashville this summer? It's a wonderful place for a convention and contest, and this one should be especially good. Representing our SW Division in Nashville will be the **New Fangled Four** and **American Pastime**. **Flightline** also qualified for the "grown up contest" but decided instead to enter the Collegiate Contest and they have an excellent chance to win that gold.

This great "hobby" of ours offers us a richness of activities and experiences as evidenced by this report.

But you can't just sit back and expect it to come to you. Put forth a little effort and you'll be rewarded. Please take advantage of what's available. Go see another chapter show, have 100% attendance at your rehearsals, volunteer to be on a chapter committee, invite three other guys from your chapter over one night just to sing chorus music and ring chords.

I look forward to seeing you all soon...in Fullerton, Nashville, and Riverside. If you have any concerns, suggestions, kudos or would just like to talk, my cell phone is 805-452-1393.



***District Vice President 2 SE
Nick Papageorge***

Congratulations and a big thank-you goes out to the **LAS VEGAS CHAPTER** for their great effort in hosting the Spring District Contest and Convention. I would like to especially thank **GREG DRYER** for his dedicated work as Convention Chairman. Convention Chairman for a District Convention is a huge and almost thankless job, and the District appreciated your efforts. *Way to go Greg!*

Speaking of the Spring Convention, I was elated that our Great Division had 10 of our 17 chapters represented at the House of Delegates Meeting! **BREA, EL CAJON, FULLERTON, INLAND EMPIRE, LA JOLLA, LAS VEGAS, ORANGE QUARTET, SAN DIEGO, ST. GEORGE,** and **WESTMINSTER** Choruses all sat proudly together at a full Southeast Division Table! We all received a lot of information, as well as a fun face-time phone call with Jim. I am confident and hopeful that at the Fall Convention in **RIVERSIDE**, we will have all of our Chapters represented!

One of the most important things we heard at the HOD Meeting was that all Chapters must remember to file their IRS forms every year to remain in good standing! If your Chapter is unsure of any part of the process, please contact District Treasurer, **Max Bates**. Max sent a letter to all of your Chapter Presidents to remind each chapter to file! He will lead you in the correct direction!

Of course we know that our division contest is over, but so are the contests in the rest of the District. That means that the invitations have gone out to those quartets and choruses that have qualified for the District Contest in Riverside this fall. **La Jolla, Las Vegas, Inland Empire, St. George,** and **San Diego** all qualified by score. Also, **Fullerton** is a wild card! I want to encourage all chapters and members to attend the Fall Division Convention and Contest. It is being held within our own division, in beautiful downtown **Riverside**, on October 13-16, 2016. The venue is the beautiful **FOX Theater/Performance Arts Center**. Registration is available online now! Be there to support all of our quartets and choruses and celebrate Barbershop Harmony at its finest.

Lastly, as I continue to visit our great Southeast Division Chapters, I am reminded of the great work that is being done. Music is ringing each week from California, through Nevada, all the way to Southern Utah! Our division has an amazing, storied history, and I am proud that we are continuing that history with great successes! Let's keep it up!



***District Vice President 3 NW
Charles Feltman***

No submittal.



***District Vice President 4 NE
Richard Lund***

Our new District President has asked all of us District VPs to visit the chapters in our Divisions, and see who they are and what kind of chapter they aspire to be, and also what help they believe that the District might be able to provide in the upcoming year(s).

In thinking about this project (which I applaud completely), it appears to me that the first order of business is defining the role of the District and communicating this on a continuing basis to our membership.

What I'm getting at is that when it's all boiled down, the District has just a couple of really important things to do and to focus on 1) serve the members; and 2) put on contests/conventions.

Serving the members means Leadership Academy, Harmony College West, and all the small event projects that are available and put on by DVPs and District committee chairmen. But this can be a lot more than just these things. Individual DVPs can work within their Divisions to create event projects that provide service for the chapters in their Divisions. It doesn't always have to be institutionalized up to becoming a District wide policy or project event. As we get smaller in membership numbers, this kind of inner Divisional work actually becomes more important, and more relevant. Guys are increasingly unwilling to travel; so it is becoming more and more valuable to provide service to the members locally. It is also my sense that many guys who attend these smaller Divisional/Regional events "discover networking" and realize the incredible value of networking with guys from other chapters who are often dealing with exactly the same kinds of problems that they are having. They then realize that the networking that they have participated in is almost more valuable than the classes and other parts of the event.

The second item that I mentioned is that the District puts on contests/conventions. I believe we need to take a look at how well we currently perform this task. It appears that our Events guy, Bryan Forbes, is doing a great job working toward an overall plan for future conventions thereby enabling planning by our chapters and members. At the present time it appears that members from only those chapters/quartets competing are attending our conventions. I firmly believe in all chapters participating at some level in our conventions however I also ask what can we as a District do to encourage chapter participation?

The big issue that came up time and again in my visitations is membership. Membership recruitment and membership retention are the two most common issues that chapters mentioned as needing help with from the District.

However, a few of the chapters talked of a youth recruitment program as a way to increase their membership. I believe that although reaching out to young men is a laudable goal, a youth program will not impact chapter membership at the present time. What is needed now is to bring in new members and retain those members. A realistic approach as to the age of members a chapter recruits is important. Seventy-somethings are not going to recruit 20-year-olds. However they can recruit 60-somethings. Develop a simple "membership program" with the goal of each member bringing in one new member during 2016. It is so simple and so effective I believe it will impact each chapter in a huge way. Chapters, ask your respective DVPs to assist you in reaching this goal.

Retention of members and providing a real welcoming of those who "come through the door" is critical. One of the activities I have initiated is preparing a list of Northern California Chapters with contact information, the focus of the chorus, and meeting information. This was initially to be a source of information I would email to Harmony Camp boys who attended Harmony Camp more than four years ago. The idea is that these ex-Harmony Campers who have by this time completed school and become somewhat established with their careers and families would be starting to look for "more" in their lives. It is at this point that Barbershop singing could become a real part of their lives. So I want to simply "remind" these men that Barbershop chapters are available in the area; and they could find a real outlet for their old love of "ringing chords" that they discovered at Harmony Camp all those many years ago...

This "note" will be sent twice a year. I am also going to forward this information to each chapter with the thought that if a potential member comes to your individual practice but just doesn't fit your chapter for whatever reason, the chapter can steer the potential member to a different chorus that might meet their interests. Quite frankly I have been surprised at the lack of information one chapter has about other chapters. We are not competitors, we are all looking

to provide a positive experience for our current members and to attract new members.

Directors and coaching is another critical issue (including how to develop a “music team”). Each chapter has a diverse set of needs in this area and it is my belief that these needs are primarily handled on a chapter/local level. I have talked with chapters about bringing in a music student from a local college as an assistant director/intern. I learned of this idea from Joe Cerutti when he was out here for Harmony Camp in 2014. That is exactly how Joe was brought into Barbershop.

As these individuals are identified, the District might assist by providing a stipend for them in return for a commitment to stay a certain length of time. By and large these would be younger individuals who in turn would also tend to bring in additional younger members.

In the Northeast Division, I have initiated (the first one went out the end of March 2016) the practice of sending a brief monthly newsletter to all members of our Division. I am including upcoming District activities, and in the next newsletter will invite chapters to let me know of their upcoming shows so that I can mention them. The District does provide this information but the reality is members don’t see it – for whatever reason. To continue to say it is there – just look – is not productive. The real value in “another newsletter” is that we all get our “news” (in this case, Barbershop news) from various different sources, and the more sources the better. That is the real point of doing “another newsletter”; but one whose focus is entirely local within the NE Division.

I am a strong believer in networking among our members and believe that Division and regional activities encourage networking. The sense I encountered during my visits is that our members are feeling more and more alienated from the District and BHS. It is my opinion that this phenomenon is not the direct fault of the District, but is the result of guys not participating in District events, contests, Leadership Academy, and Harmony College West. The more a guy pulls back within his shell, the more alienated he tends to become. The more we (the District) can provide valuable and worthwhile District events, the better our ability to break down that kind of growing

provincialism. At our recent Mini-Leadership Academy we provided lunch for the guys in our one large room. The guys discovered each other and “accidentally” began to network. It was Wonderful!!

Thus, an important goal is to determine what we as a District and Society can do to implement this kind of opportunity for networking/communication to occur. Those who feel connected will stay and encourage others to become involved. However, we on the District level, ask that you communicate with us and let us know what you are thinking. Communicate with your voice, not with your feet.



***District Vice President 5 AZ
John Bloomquist***

The Arizona Division does it again!! Now that the Division Contest and Quartet Prelims cycles have finished, it’s time to recognize the remarkable job that the men of the Arizona Division have done.

The AZ Div convention was very successful and thanks to the leadership of Convention Chairman, Dave Tompkins working side by side with the Division Events Chair, Randy Bingel, the men of the Tucson Chapter hosted a wonderful convention. Great Work gentlemen all!

This quartet contest provided five quartets qualifying for the District Contest in Riverside. Congrats **Suit Up! Whoop ‘Em Up, Hot Spot, Batteries Not Included,** and **Intonation** for qualifying. In addition, **Antique Parts** won the Div Senior championship and **Quadratic Audio** the Novice championship. Well done.

On the Chorus contest side of things, recently chartered Salt River Chapter took the stage as **A Capella Syndicate** to take the Chorus contest. Also qualifying for the District Contest were **The Spirit Of Phoenix**, and **Tucson Barbershop Experience** who were also honored with The Most Improved. I also wanted to commend the **East Valley Barbershop Harmonizers** representing the **Mesa Chapter**, for singing for evaluation only. Great Job!

I have sent an email to the AZ Div. Chapter Presidents looking for input regarding your Chapter and its goals. Please take a moment to review the request and provide your input as soon as you can so we can take your information to our June BOD meeting. As of this writing, I have only received one response. I must admit, this can only mean that you really don't need the District's help or have any goals, but I can't believe that. Let's go guys and get me your responses.

I would like to add one personal note. While ramping up to the AZ Div convention, the conversation about an afterglow came up. As Div VP, I decided that I would host the event and asked to see if the hotel could accommodate us. When they could, the plan was in place. While I appreciated the many offers to "help pay" for the event, this was my treat. If, they still felt compelled to participate, I put out a bucket and said that anyone could donate to the AZ Div youth fund honorably known as the Fred Koch Memorial Fund. Well, you could have knocked me out when at the end of the night there was over \$450 in the pot! You people amaze me and I am honored by your generosity. We will do it again next year!

Speaking of Fred Koch, the **AZ Fred Koch Memorial BASH** is coming Aug 19-20 to be held at a new location. See the info in this Westunes edition. It is time to make this event the kickoff to Fall and we invite everyone to come to AZ and enjoy the brotherhood of Barbershop!

As always, membership is consistently on the front burner. How many **Man Of Note** awards will YOU get for the year? Do it because you love singing and really just want to share the joy with as many men as possible! Simply ask, "where do you do your singing"? You will be surprised.

As I said before, it is GREAT to be part of this awesome Division!!!



**District Vice President C&J
Ron Black**

The Conventions in Las Vegas, Castro Valley, and Phoenix complete the contest season for the Spring of 2016.

The results are found elsewhere in this issue, on the FWD website, and were included in Westags earlier this month.

<http://farwesterndistrict.org/news-events/district-news/321-2016-spring-summary>

The list includes:

- All quartets who have qualified for the Fall District contest (scored higher than 68%)
- All choruses who have qualified for the Fall District contest (scored higher than 62%)
- Any quartets and choruses added as wildcards
- Any quartets or choruses that are next in line if any current qualifier chooses not to attend
- The top five Senior Quartets who can enter the Fall contest
- The FWD 2016 Super Senior Quartet Champion, who will receive their traveling trophy this Fall
- Collegiate quartets who have qualified for the International College Quartet Contest in Nashville
- All quartets who will be performing at the International Contest in Nashville
- All choruses who will be performing at the International Contest in Nashville.

If your quartet or chorus has qualified for the Fall contest, I will be contacting you by e-mail to remind you to enter your CJ-20 Contest Entry Form on <http://ebiz.barbershop.org>. **If you have qualified but have not entered the contest yet, please do prior to June 5.** Please enter the form even if you don't have your songs selected yet, so that we know you plan to participate!

Write if you have questions. I receive LOTS of e-mail this time of year with questions, and some are forwarded to me by others. Please utilize my help with anything relating to contests. And go to the convention, whether you are in the contest or not! It's fun!

rlblack1@gmail.com

Will I see you in Nashville this summer? ☺



District Vice President Mu&Perf Craig Ewing

Summer is on the way. Congratulations to all the groups that competed in the spring contests. If not, why not? It's a great opportunity to perform, to get coaching, see what other groups are doing, and do conventions stuff (tags, making new friends, etc).

You can help promote music and performance by supporting other chapters and other musical groups with your attendance. This also helps your musical growth. Be sure to wear your chapter's logo. Let the performers know what a great job they did. For local schools be sure to thank the teachers for their dedication to the life-long joy of music. (wearing your logo will also help your youth outreach)

We were honored to have Deke Sharon (an a cappella icon) at our January convention. BHS has his presentation on line where he explains how Barbershop (and all of a cappella music) can grow. He gave great suggestions on using social media, including how your group can go "viral". Does your chorus have a social media person on the team? Does your quartet have a member who focuses on the next Facebook photo or YouTube video? Deke said the key is volume and luck. Who knew that a senior quartet singing on a plane would get a million "likes". If you don't post it, others won't see it. And if you see a post from another Barbershop group, please "like" and "share" it!

Going back to personal growth, your FWD board has decided to host a Harmony College West in three areas this year. Still combining with the Leadership Academy, we will have one in NorCal, one in SoCal and one in AZ. These will be one-day events, hoping that not paying for a hotel will encourage participation. They will be held in the optimal time for incoming chapter officers. Also if the date does not work for you (or your quartet) you have other options if you are willing to travel. Stay tuned for dates and more information.

As always, feel free to contact me at CEsing10r@gmail.com or at 714-356-8501 if you have questions about the FWD and BHS programs waiting to assist you. Get out and perform – share our music.



Chapter Support & Leadership Training Steve Salmon

To the Great Far Western District! I hope everything finds you well this Summer Time of the year. I hope your chapter is healthy and growing. Chapter nominating committees are beginning to look around to see who will carry the torch into the next year(s). What will your chapter do to prepare for the coming year? Chapter Surveys, Round Table Discussions, SWOT Exercises are a few things chapters do to keep in alignment with their membership.

My question for this writing is this. Does your Chapter/Chorus have the proper balance and focus between the "Science of making music" and the "Art of Fulfillment"?

Chapter members need both.

Science is just that. A systematic way of achieving your desired result. Science can be modeled, success leaves clues. The science side of music is teachable, measurable, and duplicable.

Finding fulfillment on the other hand is quite an art form. No two people are fulfilled the same way. There is no model to follow or duplicate. Fulfillment is a choice. We decide if we will be happy. Here's one thing to consider; if you are upset or unhappy about something that means you have a frame of reference, or some way it could be different. You already have one idea of how to fix it, or you wouldn't think it was a problem in the first place. Isn't that great you are already on your way.

Decisions are way more powerful than conditions. If you don't like something, then you are already on your way to changing it. Just decide what you will do first.

Above all Choose to be happy. Trade in some of your expectations that are keeping you down and pick up some appreciation. Live your Barbershop life, and your everyday life in Abundance, with Joy, and Appreciation. Then create a culture in your chapter where everyone commits to this higher standard.



Chorus Director Development
Royce Ferguson

No article submitted



Events
Bryan Forbes

As of this writing, we have just completed all of the Spring Conventions across the NE, NW, SE, SW and AZ Divisions. Our International Quartet Prelims was part of the combined SE/SW Division Contest, which was held at the Alexis Park Resort in Las Vegas on March 18 & 19, 2016. The Silver Statesmen from the Las Vegas Chapter hosted the Convention under the leadership of Greg Dryer. I'm grateful to Greg and his team for all of the hard work involved in turning the Alexis Park Resort into a contest stage for the SE and SW Divisions. It was quite a sight walking into the main ballroom and seeing this big empty room transformed into a performing arts center! Congratulations for a job well done.

On April 2, 2016, the Devil Mountain Chorus hosted the combined NE/NW Division Contest in Castro Valley, CA at the Castro Valley Center for the Performing Arts. Hats off to Host Chairman, Todd Plantenga, and his team for locating a new venue for the NE/NW Division. This was the Devil Mountain Chorus' first time in hosting a division contest so please drop them a note and pass on some accolades for taking on this task and doing such a fine job the first time out of the gate.

Finally, on April 15 & 16, 2016, the Tucson Sunshine Chapter hosted the AZ Division contest in Mesa, AZ

at Skyline High School under the leadership of David Tompkins. Arizona's well-oiled machine produced another successful convention and I would like to thank David, his team and Randy Bingel for all of their efforts and continuing the success of Arizona's contest cycle.

With our division contests now in the rear-view mirror we're set for the Fall Convention and the mass Barbershop migration to Riverside, CA and the Fox Performing Arts Center! Did you know that we are celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Far Western District this year? Who knew? Well, your host chapter, The Brea Gaslight Chorus, does and they are planning some exciting events for this convention. What a coincidence that our Hawaii chapter will be in attendance as well. This is a must attend convention! Many thanks to Brea's John Gaston for accepting the role of host chapter Convention Chairman.

The link for hotel reservations for the headquarters hotel (Marriott at the Riverside Convention Center) is now live on the FWD website. You may find all of the details at <http://events.farwesterndistrict.org/conventions>, including information on overflow hotels and the nearest RV Park. Please note that the deadline for obtaining the discounted hotel rate at the Marriott is September 12, 2016. After this date we cannot guarantee that rooms will be available or at the discounted rate after this date. Contest registration has been on hold pending an upgrade to the FWD website but we are expecting to go live in May. Be on the lookout for a message to that effect so you can be sure and get registered for the Fall Convention.

Turning our attention to 2017, I am now accepting bids for all of the 2017 Conventions. We will return to the normal pattern so our convention dates are as follows:

NE/NW Div & Int' Prelims	March 16-19, 2017
AZ Division Contests	April 21-22, 2017
SE/SW Division Contests	May 12-13, 2017
Fall Convention	October 19-22, 2017

For the long-term planning horizon, your Fall Convention will be at the following locations over the next three years:

2017 Bakersfield
2018 Fresno
2019 Sacramento

At the request of the FWD Board, we are now working on a similar schedule for the Spring Conventions (combined division with international prelims) so that venues are contracted by the FWD and known in advance, which we believe will provide for improved chapter planning and a more streamlined process for host chapters. Stay tuned for announcements on this subject.

Division Event Planners are

[use <https://ebiz.barbershop.org/ebusiness/> to find their contact information]:

Northeast = Sam Barger

Northwest = Larry Weiss

Southeast = Paul Sandorf

Southwest = Jim Serhahely

Arizona = Randy Bingle



Marketing & Public Relations **Jerry McElfresh**

There is a lot of useful information and great ideas available so take a look at those before you struggle with a plan of your own to market and publicize your chapter, chorus and quartets.

Start by going to the BHS website (<http://www.barbershop.org/>). At the top, click on Resources, then Document Center and scroll down to Marketing. There you'll find categories for Audio PSAs, Marketing and Public Relations and Marketing Matters, each with a number of articles or recordings to help your marketing and public relations.

The Audio folder, for instance, contains 27 short public service announcement recordings that you can use to publicize an upcoming show, patriotic holiday performance and other events. The recordings are generic so you'll need to add specific information for the program that you want to publicize. Radio

stations, particularly in smaller communities, may be willing to help you with localizing the recordings and will play them on their station as PSAs.

The Marketing and PR link contains some very helpful information such as a Chapter Marketing Ideas Manual, how to Get Free Publicity, Marketing Barbershop Performances, News Release Basics and Social Media for Barbershop Quartets and Choruses, among other useful topics.

Marketing Matters includes quarterly reports discussing specific marketing ideas, some of which are included in the Marketing and PR link listed above. They were sent out in 2011 and 2012 so they may be a little outdated but still worth taking a look at to see if they get marketing/PR ideas flowing for you and your team.

If you want to delve further into chapter M&PR and social media you can find the PowerPoint presentations on the FWD website under the "New and Improved" tab near the top right of the home page, then clicking on "Documents and Forms." Next click on "Leadership Academy Presentations" and you'll find the presentations listed under VP Marketing and Webmaster tabs. Take a look.

That last one is probably the easiest to do and can have big results for less effort on your part. People who know more about marketing and PR than most of us do have developed these tools and they can be very useful in selling your shows, singing Valentines and other money-making chapter programs.

They're easy to find. Just go on the BHS website (<http://www.barbershop.org>) and click on the Resources tab at the top of the page. Next click on the second item, Documents Center, where you'll find a wealth of materials including a section on Marketing. That category will lead you to three files. The first contains recordings of 27 Public Service Announcements for radio on topics ranging from holidays to show promotion to singing Valentines.

The next file has 22 free and downloadable marketing and public relations materials such as show flyers, membership flyers and informational trifolds that you can adapt to your own use. It also has suggestions on how to approach the media, a marketing ideas manual, marketing strategies and how to market Barbershop performances.

You'll also find membership posters, a sample press release, information on social media for Barbershop quartets and choruses and a wealth of other material that can help get you up to speed on ways to make your chorus or quartet famous.

BHS has gone to a lot of effort to make these materials available to us. Rather than reinventing the wheel or paying a professional to market your chorus or quartet, start with these helpful tools.

The **outline for the class**, "Demystifying Marketing," and a PowerPoint **slide show** on the topic have been posted on the FWD website where anyone can download and read them both. The outline is available in either PDF or Word format and the slide show is in PDF or PowerPoint format. You'll find them on the website under the Media tab. Click on Leadership Academy Presentations, where you'll find the Marketing category.

A slide presentation on **Marketing with Social Media** also is on the site. It's a good overview of the social media outlets available to you that webmaster David Melville presented during the class.



Membership
Bill Rosica

It seems time for writing articles comes around more often as I get older. Retirement is great, but I'm busier now than I ever was while working. Since we last communicated, the Bakersfield Chapter went to Las Vegas to compete at Divisionals and came away with a Plateau award. Not bad for a chorus who hadn't competed in 15 years and sometimes didn't have enough parts to rehearse.

This all began with a Free Show to recruit new members starring Pacific Sound Chorus from Rincon Beach. Bakersfield did manage to snag a few new members, but also brought back some former members who had drifted away. Remember half of the membership push is retention. The chapter held its first show in 15 years in May, with The New Fangled 4 as headliners.

I have been in contact with the Fresno Chapter with regard to re-building the membership, using the same method we used in Bakersfield. David Melville was kind enough to set me up with emails to all chapter Presidents and Chapter Development VPs, so I can begin the process of the "Each One Bring One....We Won" program. Unfortunately, my personal life, MOH life and Membership Manager life all needed attention at the same time, so look for some Membership news very soon.

If you have any burning issues, please feel free to contact me via email (brosica@sbcglobal.net) or call me (661-703-9000). Hope to see you at Go For The Gold show in June or the fall contest in October.



Quartet Activities
Bill Kane

2016: What a great year for quartet activity in FWD!

Why? Well take a look.

January – What a start to the year, with the Reno Midwinter, where our guys High Priority were crowned International Senior Champs and we had some wonderful singing by youth in FWD. Lots of quartets got some excellent coaching at Harmony College West.

February – Boy did we have a lot of quartets out delivering Singing Valentines. Did anyone total that up? Hope you took that opportunity to perform with three other guys. Did you? If not, promise yourself to not miss that chance next time. Spring chapter shows get started, with lots of quartets performing. Hope you caught some of them.

March – The Vegas convention gave us 44 guys competing in quartets from the SE/SW Divisions, which qualified three quartets to compete in Riverside next October at the FWD fall convention. In addition, three excellent quartets qualified in the International Prelims to represent us in Nashville this July. Congratulations to American Pastime, The Newfangled Four and Artistic License. Of course Flightline will also be representing us well in the newly named Youth Quartet Contest (used to be College Quartet Contest).

We also crowned some new Platoon champs in Vegas.



Tenor Shel Givens (Frank Thorne); Lead Tim Bixler (South Bay); Bass Jim Gallagher (Salt Lake City); Bari Scott Suwabe (South Bay)

It was my great pleasure to serve on the judging panel for this Platoon, which gave me a chance to sing with the very talented judges. Notice how I cleverly picked a tenor, a lead and a bari to join me judging (Division Champ, Division Senior Champ, and INTERNATIONAL SENIOR CHAMP). (Pick another Bass to judge and miss my chance to sing with these guys? Am I as dumb as I look? I don't *think* so.)



(L to R) Ray Estes, Steve Salmon, Bill Kane and Stu Wilcox

April – NE/NW Division featured 60 guys participating in quartets and four more quartets qualifying to sing in Riverside. There were 48 guys in AZ Division singing in quartets, and six of them qualified for the fall FWD contest. Of course there will be a number of Wild Cards selected for this contest as well, so we look forward to hearing a number of these quartets who were maybe getting their feet wet for the first time, now moving on to sing for us some more. Time to start finding your quartet combination for next spring's division quartet contest?

May – June – July – And beyond ?????

As I am writing this in April, I'm wondering what super quartet singing you have to look forward to the rest of the year. Do you ever sing a tag with three other guys at the break of chapter meeting? You will want to hear the Go For The Gold Show in June that supports our quartets going to Nashville; and in July you'll either want to be in Nashville or on the webcast to experience the highest level of Barbershop singing in the world. And/or take advantage of a Barbershopper's "summer camp" at Harmony University.

Some areas of FWD have summer activity, like the AZ Bash in August (in spite of 100+ degree temps we have lots of fun, with a luck-of-the-draw contest, Novice Quartet Contest, VLQ Contest, and a bunch of informal quartet singing). This event also raises money for Youth In Harmony. Anything going on in your area? Check it out.

The Riverside convention in October will be **YOUR** chance to compete in a quartet too, as we celebrate the 17th Platoon held in FWD since we started them in 2012. **You** will sing in several fun contests the four great songs that have been selected for **you**: Red Rose Rag, Alexander's Ragtime Band, Hey Good Lookin' and I Told Them All About You. High quality learning tracks will be sent to **you** when you register.

You can find the registration form for the Platoon on the Far Western District website or on the website for Platoon: <http://www.harmonyplatoon.org/>.

Even if you've never sung in a quartet contest before, this is the chance you should grab. Since you will want to have the maximum time for learning the songs, don't put off deciding a day longer. Start getting into the fun of Platoon quartetting right away.

However you choose to quartet in 2016, treat yourself to that opportunity. **You** deserve it.

Youth In Harmony [Open]



***District Historian
Joe Samora***

Seventy Years and Counting!

In the early 1940s, when Bing Crosby was singing Barbershop tunes with the Hollywood Chapter, the chapters consisted of numerous quartets. The first FWD Quartet Champion was **The Bonanza Four** in 1947. It wasn't long before choruses joined the quartets on stage to entertain and compete. The first FWD Chorus Champion was **Eden-Hayward** in 1952. Barbershop performances and competitions have steadily evolved into exciting entertainment events that not only produce incredible sounds, but encourage singers to 'move' with the sounds they produce. Hence, the audiences enjoy the performances even more. If we look like we are having fun and sound great, don't you think others will want to join us?

October 22, 2016 the Far Western District will celebrate its seventy-year anniversary. Take a peek at where we have been by reading *Fifty Years of Harmony* published in 1996 (<http://farwesterndistrict.org/about/fwd-history/fifty-years-of-harmony>). Each of us shares a hobby, singing Barbershop, which continues today.

My job as your District Historian is to record the thoughts and memories of past Barbershop leaders e.g. Hall of Fame inductees, other men in past and present leadership positions, and those who made

major contributions to the FWD. Hopefully, I can create a noteworthy trail leading to our Seventy-Fifth Year in 2021, building upon the past seventy years of success to inspire men in the future to ring chords in four-part harmony.



Division 1 SW Chapters

Justin McQueen, Editor

Bakersfield Chapter

By Rich Owen

The Mouse That Roared!

Phoenix Rising is the name of the first show being produced by the Bakersfield Chapter in 15 years! It is scheduled for May 15 and will feature the chorus with chorus quartets. The show's headliner will be *Newfangled Four!* On its deathbed in early 2015 with an attendance at 6-8 members per meeting and lacking all four parts, the **Golden Empire Chorus** took the bold step of reorganization and recommitment. SW Division VP **Brent Anderson** stepped up and offered some assistance and guidance and suggested a benefit show by *Pacific Sound*. The "Revival Show" occurred in August 2015 and included *The Front Line* from Fresno and the 2014 FWD District Champs *American Pastime*, who graciously reduced their show fee for the event. The show was a rousing success and put new-found energy into the **Golden Empire Chorus** as they joined *Pacific Sound* on stage for several songs. Since that time, the Chapter has attracted new members, seen former members return to active participation, recruited a former member to be the new Director in 2016, elected a new and expanded Board of Directors, and participated in several singouts during the Christmas season. The Chapter ended 2015 with a burst of new energy and commitment to move forward.

In January of 2016, the Board relocated the chapter's meeting location to Brookdale-Riverwalk, a seniors living center, as they were offering free rehearsal and riser storage space in exchange for four singouts a year to their residents. Also in January, five of the seven new Board members attended the FWD Leadership Academy in Las Vegas. With new Director **Adam Calvillo** at the helm, the chorus elected to go to Divisional contest in March, the first time in 15 years the chorus had participated in contest. Preparation for contest included a mini-retreat with vocal coaching by **Tom Moore** and a special "presentation" rehearsal with coaching by **Steve Katz**.

Thirteen members made the trip to Las Vegas, and Bakersfield was awarded the **Plateau A Championship**. More importantly, the chorus didn't finish last, and the members received great evaluation sessions from **Justin Miller** (Music), **Dave Tautkus** (Singing) and **Gene "Doc" Spilker** (Presentation). Our official roster with BHS has risen to 23 plus one Associate who regularly sings tenor with the chorus. Moreover, regular attendance at chapter meetings has been consistently at 16-18 attendees. The chorus has performed three 30-minute singouts so far this year, two of which were paid and one was "for our rent." In addition to our show in May, we are also planning singouts relative to Memorial Day and 4th of July holidays. Long range planning includes a Christmas/seasonal show in November or December.

The Golden Empire Chorus has roared back to life! It hopes to grow to 30 members by the end of the year and to continue growing into 2017.

Rincon Beach Chapter

By Justin McQueen

The **Pacific Sound Rincon Beach** chapter saw the Valentine's Day delivery of two songs and a rose to all that purchased for spouses, family, and friends. The **FourTune Seekers** handled the Santa Barbara Area and several quartets handled the Ventura County area. Having been in one of the quartets for a day, it was a fantastic experience to bring joy, laughter, and tears to the recipients. It was then on to preparing for division in March with two new contest songs.

Hard work and diligence prevailed at rehearsals led by director **Kelly Shepard** and choreo rehearsals under the expert tutelage of **Steve Katz (MOH)**. The hard work paid off as Pacific Sound went to Las Vegas and performed two songs by **Hoagie Carmichael**: *In the cool of the evening* and *I get along without you very well (except sometimes)*. The chorus received valuable insight from **Justin Miler**, **Doc Spilker**, and **Dave Tautkus** from the judging panel. **Rincon Beach Chapter** received two awards: the **AAA SWD Chorus Champion** and the **SWD Most Improved Chorus**, and qualified for District in October in Riverside. At the

showcase of champions Rincon Beach performed *Caroline* with audience participation!

Pacific Sound hosted and attended the **2nd Annual A Cappella Showcase** in Montecito on April 16th. We were joined by the **Carpe Diem Chorus**, the **SB Soundwaves**, and the **Intervals** which was comprised of UCSB students. After the performance many remained behind to Tag the night away. It was a great opportunity to perform and network with other harmony groups. Many thanks to **Brent Anderson** and **Bobby Georges** for all their hard work on the event.

We welcomed back Tenor/Lead **Phil Allen** after a prolonged absence from the society.

San Luis Obispo Chapter

By Pete Bennett

The Gold Coast Chorus presented our spring show on two nights in early April under the direction of **Logan Patrick-Miernicki**. Show Chairman **Chuck Mills** and Show Director **Scot Shelton** organized a great show that was well received in both our Paso Robles and our Arroyo Grande venues.

New member **Phil Norton** has already recruited a friend to join the chapter, and he's a tenor! Next move; invite more basses!

The chapter's current focus is on planning a summer barbecue and promoting joint events with our brothers in the Santa Maria Chapter. Make plans to come and sing with us when you vacation on the Central Coast. Better yet, retire here and join us!

Santa Maria Chapter

By Gene Kai

The Chordsmen conducted their 44th annual show in April with the **Velvet Frogs** as guest performers. The show theme was "America Coast to Coast".

The Chordsmen sponsored the "Soundsations" high school quartet at the spring convention in Vegas. We are proud to say they did a terrific performance and

won! We will be auditioning a potential replacement director in the coming weeks to the joy of the current co-directors.

We welcome new bass **Vance Matzke** into membership with the Chordsmen.

Santa Monica Chapter

By Marty Mitnick

Singing Valentines Day greetings over a three day period this year was a special treat for our quartets that spent the days and evenings bringing love and joy to so many sweethearts.

A special thank you to **Frank DaVanzo**, named *BOTM* of February, for managing the entire schedule of times and places for 38 valentine presentations, and to **Caroline Heron**, wife of **Vance Heron**, in sharing their home and providing food and drink to our Valentine singers.

Quartets especially busy this season were **Sound Stage** [**Jerry Walker, Tom Laskey, Bob Curran, Alan Hanson**]; **Can't Count** [**Bill Boeck, Brian Hatfield, Patrick Kellogg, Pierre Debautd, John White**]; **Saturday Special** [**Jim Leedom, Jack Walton, Pat Kellogg, John White**], and **Overland Avenue** [**Frank Giffen, Adam Marangakis, Jack Walton, John White**].

A special performance at the National Academy of Radio Arts and Sciences – The Grammy's, was presented by **Generation Gap** [**Ben Lowe, Bob Heron, Vance Heron, Bruce Schroffell**].

We welcome new members **Howard Behnken, Nate Golon, Jim McElwain** and **Andrew Lehto**.

A special thank you to **Vance Heron** and **Jim Leedom**, two of our long term members, who stepped in to direct two rehearsals while director **Ben Lowe** was absent.

For the second time, the **Oceanaires** won the AA Plateau at the Division competition in Las Vegas and

qualified for District competition in Riverside in October. **Marty Mitnick** was named *BOTM* of March as Polo Shirt Haberdasher-in-Chief.



Division 2 SE Chapters
Greg Price, Editor

Inland Empire Chapter
By Gaylord Spence

The Inland Empire Chapter is very excited about its summer show schedule for two shows in August.

We congratulate one of our relatively new members, **David Strough, Jr.**, for stepping up to accept the position of Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations. The position became available when our former VP for those duties, **Thomas Scali** (and last year's Barbershopper of the Year award winner), had to step down due to personal commitments.

La Jolla Chapter
By Craig Monsell

Exciting times at **Pacific Coast Harmony** with new Musical Director **Royce Ferguson**, a new venue and renewed focus on membership!

Royce Ferguson and his Music Team are working to enable every singer to achieve a vocal tone that really rings, and the results are exciting. With the Vocal Success Program, Royce is providing personalized and group coaching of vocal technique. **Mike Lawton** is teaching and demonstrating the "physicality" of great singing and meaningful presentation. **Jason James** is showing us best warm-up techniques and **Ben Smurthwaite**, Music VP, is providing enthusiastic encouragement and motivation. Every week is like a vocal master class, like the ones Royce leads at Harmony College. It is amazing how much we are learning and improving!

We have also moved our primary rehearsal and performance venue to Mount Soledad Presbyterian

Church in La Jolla. The church has welcomed us with open arms. It has excellent spaces for rehearsal, performance and receptions. We're looking forward to having our first show there in June.

With all this excitement, we're putting a new emphasis on inviting new members to the thrill of Barbershop Harmony - planning more outreach into the community. We hope any San Diego readers who are not active in their chapters will check us out and see if PCH is for you.

Orange (Quartet) Chapter
By Mark Sheldon

The Chapter welcomes Society Associate **Sheila Lowerre**.

The Orange Chapter participated in the Singing Valentines program coordinated by the Fullerton Chapter. Thank you to **Gerald Fleischmann** who coordinated Orange's promotion and participation, and all the singers who sang on behalf of Orange.

The Chapter hosted the 54th Annual SoCal Novice Quartet Contest. Congratulations to competing quartets with Orange Chapter members: **Close Shave** and **Orange-A-Peel**.

San Diego Chapter
By Greg Price

In February, the chapter held an open house. We distributed 500 flyers, displayed them in shopping centers, individual stores, college student unions, libraries, restaurants etc. and posted an invite on Facebook and our website. We also sent several hundred invitations to those on our e-mail list. A poll of our visitors, however, showed that most of them learned of the event from postings on various members' Nextdoor.com communities. Every chapter member participated in promoting the occasion, but special thanks are due to **Bill Beacom**, **Larry Good**, **Craig Hughes**, **Milos Koutsky**, President **Louis Regas** and our director, **Kathleen Hansen** whose organizing efforts contributed materially to its success.

A number of men have since been visiting our meetings, learning the music and expressing interest in becoming members. We welcomed back **Tom Hale** and **Bernardo Bicas** to the chorus after several years' absence. We are delighted to welcome three new members – **Guillermo Alvarez**, **Gerry Kowalski** and **Rainier Sabangan**.

The **Sun Harbor Chorus** competed at the SE Division contest held during the FWD Spring Convention. We improved our score and once again qualified to compete at the fall district convention. Also competing and making the quartet finals was **Behind the Barn**, two of whose members, **David Garstang** and **Neal Palmer**, are San Diego chapter officers. The quartet has received a wild-card invitation to compete at the District Convention.



Division 3 NW Chapters
Charles Feltman, Editor

No submittal.



Division 4 NE Chapters
Roger Perkins, Editor

California Delta Chapter
By Jim DeChaine

Largely as a result of 3 guest nights in January, **VoCal** now has nine new members:

- Lead **Larry Halvorson**, who relocated from Las Vegas where he was a Charter Member. He sang with **Prime Time**, the 1994 LOL District Champs and 2012 FWD District Champs **95 North**.
- Lead **Chris Burlando**, a student at Sacramento City College (a product of Harmony Camp).
- Lead **Jeff Camp**, a good musician who works for Beckman Coulter.
- Lead **Ansel Lundberg** (another Harmony Camp graduate), an Executive Fellow for the Delta Stewardship Council.

- Bari **Kevin Palmer**, who sang with the NorCal Youth Barbershop Chorus at the Reno Midwinter Convention.
- Lead **Maurice Shayani**, who works as a Senior ISA for California Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Tenor **Austin Whitted** (yet another Harmony Camp graduate from 2008) is an Acoustics/Audio Engineering student at Los Rios Community College.
- Lead **Brent Freitas**, formerly with **Voices In Harmony**, Pacific Standard Youth Chorus and quartet **First Strike**.
- Lead **Richard Francis**, with prior choir and band experience and is retired.

We are thrilled for **Artistic License** who scored an 85.6 at the International Prelims in Las Vegas and qualified for International this year. They were also nominated for the very prestigious Contemporary a Cappella Recording Awards for their performance of *Painting Outside the Lines*.

California Delta once again became the **NorthEast Division Chorus Champion** at the NW/NE Division Quartet and Chorus Convention with a qualifying score of 81.6. VoCal also had 20 members singing in 6 competing quartets from the NorthEast Division.

VoCal had eight members performing in 5 quartets who competed in the NorCal Novice Quartet contest: **Rich Hartmann**, **Phil DeBar**, **Paul Goldsmith**, **John Eilers**, **Raphael Pazo, Jr.**, **Jim DeChaine**, **Tim Jackson** and **Richard Kaiser**. **Raphael Pazo, Jr.** and **John Eilers** won the Mixed Voice Division with their **All in A-Chord** quartet.

At the Mid-Winter Convention in Reno, **Raphael** sang bari in the winning Harmony Platoon contest quartet. He was selected to sit in “the best seat in the house” at the Spring FWD Convention in Las Vegas, where he was able to “judge” both the Chorus and Quartet preliminaries. **VoCal** also had 32 young singers at the Youth Chorus Festival at Mid-Winter.

VoCal was tutored by **Joe Cerrutti**, Musical Director of the Alexandria Harmonizers, at a three-day retreat. Visit us at www.Voicesofcalifornia.org.

Central California Chapter

By Miles Sutter

The GVC held its annual Installation and Awards Banquet with **Ron Black** as the installing officer. The usual awards ceremony followed immediately after dinner, and they were as follows: President's Award went to **Grady Williams**. Director's Award went to **Stratt Riggs**. Rookie of the Year for 2015 went to **T. J. Hardy**. BOTY for 2015 is **Pete Sust**. We now have our 2016 GVC board to head our chapter.

The GVC performed at a benefit for the Turlock Community Theater Benefit in front of 500 people at the Stanislaus County Fairgrounds. Assisting us with our performance was **Sarah Snyder** of the *Turlock Youth Performing Arts*. Director **Bruce Sellnow** and **Chuck Roots** were the MCs.

Singing Valentines Day were delivered during three full days. The most fulfilling emotion of the day had to be when **T. J. Hardy** sang bari as a surprise to his 100 year old great-grandmother, **Gladys Hersey**.

The GVC hosted the FWD Novice Quartet Contest for the eighth year, which included two mixed voice quartets and six men's quartets. The MC for this event was our own **Chuck Roots**. Thanks to members **Terrell Chambers**, **Marc Jantzen**, **Howard Barber**, **Mike Viss** and **Bruce Sellnow** for making it happen. The mixed voices quartet winner was **ALL IN A-CHORD**, Stockton Chapter. The third place men's quartet was **SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT**, Davis-Vacaville; second place was **SEASIDE**, Santa Cruz Chapter; and the Quartet Champion was **JUST4KIX**. The winner's plaques were presented to them by last year's winners, **"BELLE VOCI"**.

Nevada Placer Chapter

By Roger Perkins

The **Sierranaders** lost a charter member, **Norm Kendall**, who died on April 11 at the age of 57. Norm was a good tenor and sang in several quartets throughout his active years. He lost a leg in a

motorcycle accident when he was 22 years old, but didn't let that stop him. He became a highly successful realtor in Placer County and was in the Million Dollar Club. He kept physically active in spite of his disability and became a Black Belt in Karate. He finally had to retire a few years ago due to additional health problems.

We welcome **Don Schramm** to our chapter. Don was a music teacher in the Sacramento School district for many years. Now retired, he still teaches instruments at a music store in Rocklin. He sang with the Sacramento **Capitolaires** for about 15 years. He sang bari in the quartet the **Credibility Gap** (a FWD top 10 quartet) that performed in **The Music Man** in the Sacramento Music Circus in August 1977 with **Van Johnson** playing the Music Man. Welcome back, Don.

Reno Chapter

By Steve Shurtliff

It was fun being back at Divisional Contest, fun to sing, fun to afterglow and we will see everyone in Riverside later this year. Many of us stayed for the quartet competition to cheer on our two quartets **Artworks** and **West Coast Sound**.

There was an Ecumenical Choir Festival at the Trinity Episcopal Church in Reno, in the downtown area right by the Truckee River. There were three United Methodist choirs, the Trinity Church choir, a Tongan choir from here in Sparks, and us, the **Silver Dollar Chorus**. Here's what was really interesting. The Tongan choir sang Tongan music in Tongan, and they were excellent. Their songs were beautiful and they all sang them very well. The audience was pleased and respectful for all of them. If you had had an applause meter there, they all would have registered somewhere between 6 and 7. We did two songs, starting with David Wright's arrangement of *When I Lift Up My Head*. The audience went crazy! The applause meter was off the scale! Our second number *Gospel Medley* (Ed Waesche arr.) was received just as enthusiastically. Why was there such a difference for us? Well, we do have one advantage. We were the one group not holding on to music binders. That left

us free to perform and communicate with our audience. And here was living proof of the difference that can make.

We heartily welcome **Sam Hardt, Paul Urban, Patrick McDonnell, Michael Barakat** and **Michael Cowles** to our Chorus!

Division 5 AZ Chapters **Bob Shaffer, Editor**



Mesa Chapter By Bob Shaffer

The East Valley Harmonizers are pleased to announce that they recently hired **Russ Young** as our director.

Russ was singing with us on the risers for a few years now, and during that time acted as an in-house coach. He was filling the director's vacancy created at the end of last year when our former director resigned. Russ has directed many fine choruses, and participated in quite a few top notch International quartets over the past few years. We are excited and fortunate to have him on board as we strive for a higher level of performance.

We're bustin' our buttons around here for our very own **Quadratic Audio** [**Greg Grace, Duncan Scott, Bob Pennell, Thom Olmstead**], who won the Novice Quartet award at the AZ Division contest. **Roy Murray** competed in his first ever quartet contest with **The Night Howls** (an inter-chapter quartet). The **Harmonizers** made their return to the contest stage after a 5-year absence.

Serving the chapter for the year 2016 are **Bill Johnson** (President), **Jim Beutel** (Secretary), **Bernie Esberner** (Treasurer), **John Johnson** (Chorus Manager), **Greg Grace** (VP-Music), **Vic Bowen** (VP-Marketing), **Thom Olmstead** (VP-Membership), **Bob Shaffer** (VP-Program), **Collin McKinney** and **Roy Murray** (Members-at-large).

The **Harmonizers** recently adopted a charity with local connections as 10 of our chorus members

participated in a food-packing event with Feed My Starving Children last fall. FMSC is a non-profit agency that has been around for almost 30 years, and they provide food for starving and malnourished children in over 70 countries around the world. The chorus volunteered again to help pack food in March, and is scheduled to join them at packing events once a quarter for the foreseeable future. We are striving to be a part of the community around us and around the world.

The chapter welcomes new members **Keith McDonald, Ray Kahler** (transfer from Frank Thorne) and **Josh Reed, John Bloomquist, and Randy Bingel** (dual members). Last month, VP Membership **Thom Olmstead** coordinated a very fun and guest-centric evening, and thru the evening's activities the chapter met many new singers.

If you happen to be traveling to or thru Arizona, and find yourself in the Phoenix area on a Thursday night, please drop in and sing with us. We're meeting in a new hall: **St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 322 N Horne, in Mesa.**

Notices

Calendar

The FWD Website now contains the official FWD calendar - go to <http://farwesterndistrict.org>

Conventions / Contests

HEAR YE - HEAR YE - HEAR YE

ALL MEMBERS

NOW REGISTER ELECTRONICALLY

IN ADVANCE FOR

ALL FWD CONTESTS and CONVENTIONS

You can pay at the door, but there is a steep price increase - not suggested.

Go to the FWD website <http://farwesterndistrict.org> for event notifications and registration forms, which will be added as they become available to Webmaster David Melville.

For your planning purposes, major 2016 dates are:

July 3 - 10, 2016 International Convention

Location: Nashville, TN

October 13 - 16 FWD Fall Convention

Location: Riverside, CA

Educational Opportunities

November 19, 2016 NE-NW Leadership Academy / Harmony College West

Northern California Leadership Academy / Harmony College West will take place November 19th at St. Marks United Methodist Church, 2391 St. Marks Way, Sacramento, CA. This is a one day event starting at 9:00 am and ending at 4:30 pm. The program is in the process of being finalized and additional information will be forthcoming. Should you have questions please contact Richard Lund at rwlund92@gmail.com.

FWD major 2017 dates are [Locations TBD]:

NE/NW Div & Int' Prelims	March 16-19, 2017
AZ Division Contests	April 21-22, 2017
SE/SW Division Contests	May 12-13, 2017
Fall Convention	October 19-22, 2017

To Email Your District Officers & Chairmen

president@farwesterndistrict.org

pastpresident@farwesterndistrict.org

evp@farwesterndistrict.org

secretary@farwesterndistrict.org

treasurer@farwesterndistrict.org

vpdiv1@farwesterndistrict.org

vpdiv2@farwesterndistrict.org

vpdiv3@farwesterndistrict.org

vpdiv4@farwesterndistrict.org

vpdiv5@farwesterndistrict.org

candj@farwesterndistrict.org

cdd@farwesterndistrict.org

cslt@farwesterndistrict.org

events@farwesterndistrict.org

historian@farwesterndistrict.org

marketing@farwesterndistrict.org

membership@farwesterndistrict.org

musicanperf@farwesterndistrict.org

quartetactivities@farwesterndistrict.org

yih@farwesterndistrict.org

webmaster@farwesterndistrict.org

westuneseditor@farwesterndistrict.org

SoCal Comedy Quartet Contest 8/20/16

The Orange Quartet Chapter is hosting the Southern California Comedy Quartet Contest on Saturday, August 20, 2016 at 7:00 pm, at Fullerton Union High School Theater in Fullerton, CA.

All BHS members are eligible to participate. Your quartet does not need to be Society-registered... and it also does not need to be a quartet that specializes in

Comedy. If you are performing gigs (or aspire to), you owe it to your audience to have a couple of humorous numbers in your repertoire - and that's all you need for this contest!

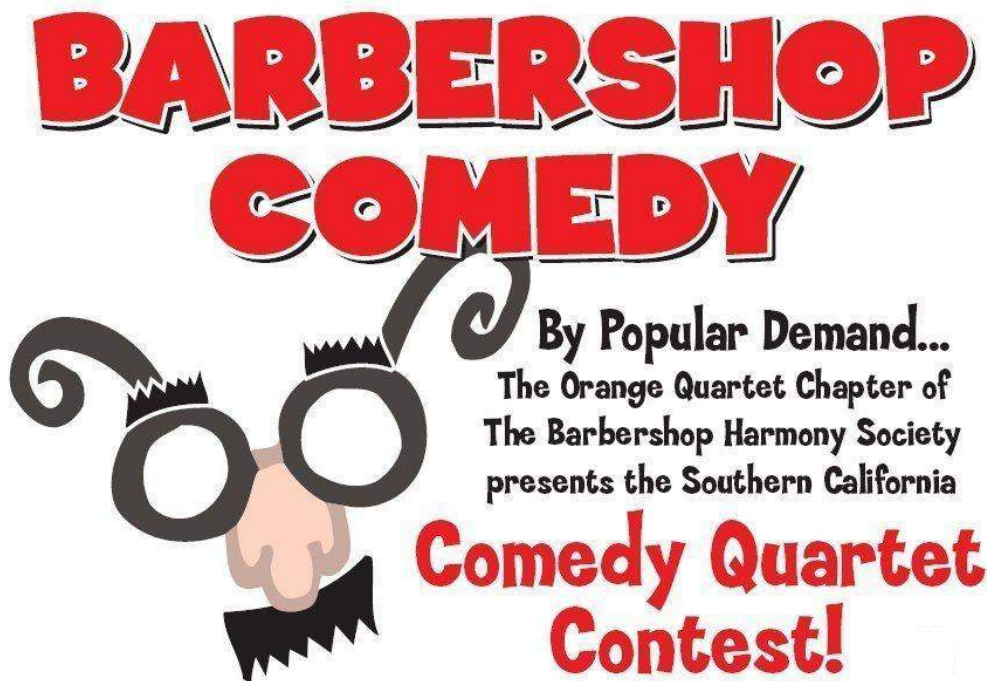
We encourage Southern California Chapters to demonstrate this commitment to good comedy performance by recruiting one or more quartets from their chapter to participate in this year's contest.

"Early Bird"

Registration allows quartets to register for just \$15 through June 30, which includes audience seating for all four quartet members. General seating for guests and other audience members is \$15 (half price for children under 12 years).

Whether you chose to compete, or watch and cheer on your chapter's competitors, plan now to join us on August 20!

For entry forms and more information, see our website: orange.harmonize.com.



Saturday, August 20, 2016 at 7:00 pm

Fullerton Union High School Theatre

201 East Chapman Avenue, Fullerton, CA 92832

Tickets: Adults \$15, Kids 11 & under half price

Quartet Entry Fee ~~\$25~~ \$15 through June 30 !!!

For more info: Orange.harmonize.com

or call (714) 442-8500 (message line)