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WESTUNES

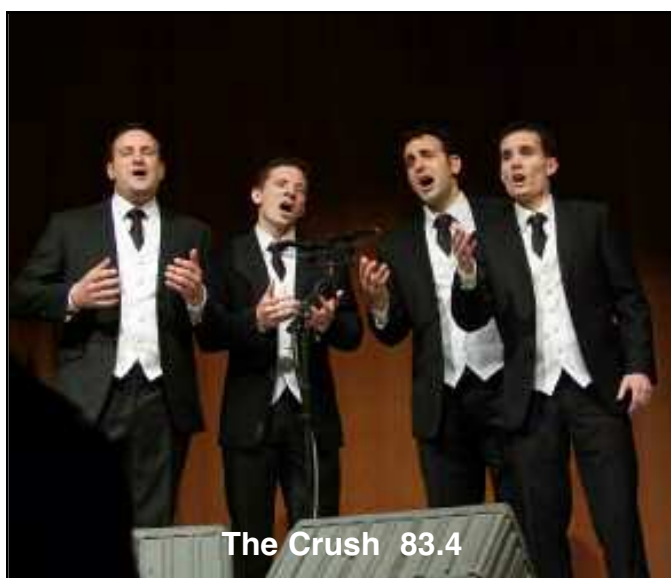


WESTUNES, established in 1951, is the official publication of the Far Western District Association of Chapters in the Barbershop Harmony Society, Inc.

2011 International Qualifying Quartets Representing the Far Western District in Kansas City



Masterpiece 86.1



The Crush 83.4



The Edge 80.8

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Issue	Deadline	Submittal	Chapter News Submittal
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Who's Running the Show?

Barbershoppers all over the Society enjoy their hobby - singing, socializing, competing, performing and generally having fun. But who runs the show? Who's responsible for making sure that you enjoy your hobby? Is it the Society Board? The District Board? The President and Board of the individual chapters? The truth is it's all of the above, plus the members themselves. We're all part of a team and we work together for the benefit of all. I wonder, though, how many barbershoppers know much about their District Board, or how the Society is run.

Let's look at District Boards first. In the same way as every chapter has a President, Immediate Past President, Secretary and Treasurer, so does each District, plus an Executive Vice President - usually the President elect. But each District's Board is made up differently beyond those primary five Board members. For many years the Far Western District Board comprised of the five primary Board members plus eight functional VPs, who covered such things as Contest & Judging, Events, Marketing, Membership, etc. Then some years ago, the decision was made to switch from functional VPs to regional VPs, with one VP for each of our five Divisions, at which time the Board reduced from thirteen to ten members. Many Districts still have within their Board their functional VPs (sometimes called Chairman or Directors). Regional VPs are pretty rare.

In the Far Western District, the functions (there are now nine of them) are nowadays managed by the District Management Team or Operations Team. The District's Executive VP heads up the DMT and they meet every June on the same weekend as the Board. The two entities also get together that same weekend for very fruitful planning and budget sessions. DMT members are guided by their counterparts on the Society's Operations Team, made up of men chairing those same nine functions.

The Society Board (formerly called the "International Board") is something different again. The "Board of Directors" consists of the President, Immediate Past President, Executive Vice President, Treasurer and CEO/Secretary. In addition, there are six "Board Members". Just recently, the Society Board and the District Presidents have begun long overdue meetings on a regular basis for the good of all. I see great things coming from these meetings of the men who run the show.

How often do the Boards meet? Well, District Boards are required to meet three times a year, typically at the Spring and Fall Conventions, plus at one other time. Some Districts have all of their Board meetings outside of convention time, though, to avoid distractions. In the Far Western District, we also conduct a Skype conference call once a month. The Society Board meets at the Midwinter and Summer Conventions and at several other times during the year, normally at BHS headquarters in Nashville.

I hope you know that ALL Board meetings are open to anyone who wishes to sit in and observe, from the chapter level all the way to the Society level. This is your hobby and you are encouraged to observe the men who are running the show. There is much to be learned by seeing how your hobby is run and it's impressive and comforting to know that your well being is taken seriously by men who work hard to help you enjoy every minute of your hobby.

So that's how the show is run from top to bottom. All the way through the system there are opportunities for Joe Barbershopper to be a leader, whether it be in his own chapter, or of the District or even of the Society. Don't be shy. Make it known that you are willing to be of service. We need all the talent we can get.

Now that I have described all of the positions of the men who run the show, take a moment to look up their names on the District and Society web sites or Westunes or the Harmonizer. These men are here to help you in any way they can. Some are right in your back yard and would be happy to pay you a visit. Call on them. They can each be of great help to chapters in need.





Induction of Ron Black to the FWD Hall of Fame

by Doug Maddox

This year's inductee is in the auditorium this evening but he doesn't yet know that he'll be joining this group.

As I list our inductee's numerous contributions, I will be obfuscating as much as possible until I can't any longer, revealing the facts in an unusual sequence. Along the way, if you think I might start to repeat myself, you can continue to think that, although I'm certainly not planning it that way.

This year's inductee joined the Society in 1976

Started directing choruses in 1976

Certified judge

Directed a chorus to a FWD Championship

He's a Music judge

Over the years, has been Music Director of 4 chapters

He twice directed one of those 4 chapters to the District Championship

He twice directed one of those chapters to an International top 10 finish. Both were the same chapter.

Served as a member of the FWD Chorus Director's Guild Board of Directors (which is kinda like saying the Dept. of redundancy dept.)

Served on the Society's Music and Performance Committee

Directed one chapter three different times

He sang in two FWD Champion quartets, both International Top 20

He sang in one Medalist Senior quartet

He sang two different parts in one quartet

He has served on the Harmony College Faculty

Director or Assistant Director of 5 different FWD chapters and 1 chapter in another district.

Served on the World Harmony Council

Served as FWD C&J Chairman

Before he was a Music Judge, he was certified in the old Sound category, then in the current Singing category.

Category Board of Review in Sound, then Singing. Then Category Specialist in Singing.

Served as FWD C&J Chairman a second time

Once International C&J Chairman

Served on the Society's Chorus Director Development Committee

Current FWD Director of C&J

Those 5 chapters were: Whittier, Fresno, Bay Area Metro, Phoenix, San Diego, and Central Texas Corridor

Those quartets were Rhythm and Rhyme and Great Western Timbre Co.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please help me welcome to the stage to receive his recognition as the newest inductee into the FWD Hall Of Fame, my good friend, Ron Black.

District Executive Vice President



Russ Young

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Singing's Popping Up All Over! As of this writing, we are in the midst of exciting spring events and activities in our district. In addition to our division and prelim contests, chapters have been polishing their shows and opening the doors to audiences everywhere. All of us will most certainly attend at least one chapter show, but have you considered what an impact it would make if you were to add just one more show to your social calendar this year? Let's face it - during these challenging economic times, we need to support each other as we continue to promote our great hobby to the world. By making such a commitment, you would help others who, in turn would "pay it forward". Speaking for myself, I am making every effort to attend as many shows and contests as possible. Let me invite you to do the same...and bring a friend or two!

As for other activities, we are not at a loss for barbershop "things to do" in the next several months. In addition to the aforementioned shows and contests, some of the upcoming highlights include the "John Gurule Memorial Somewhat Serious Quartet Contest and Bean Feed", a "Barbershop, Woodshedding, and Quartet Weekend" campout, and the ever popular AFWDC Go For The Gold Show in Fullerton on June 25th. These are just some of the events on slate in the next couple of months....and I know many more are scheduled. So, why not get out and get involved in the fun?

You will also want to keep an eye open for other special events coming soon. These are less "social" in nature (but we always find a way to have fun). I'm talking about Harmony College West at CSU East Bay on August 19-21, CDWI Workshops, and the

Leadership Academies that will be scheduled this fall. The District Management Team, with the help of many other volunteers, are working hard to bring quality training programs to our members.

You can always count on the FWD to lead the way when it comes to serving its members. The Board is constantly looking for ways to provide the best barbershop experience for everyone. All you have to do is enjoy.

From the Eyes and Ears of a New Member

*by Alan Morier, "rookie"
Member, Hi Country Harmonaires*

It has been my great pleasure and honor to have been accepted to join the "Hi Country Harmonaires" in Apple Valley, California. After having retired in 2008, and in search of a hobby, I realized that I don't like gardening; I'm no good at fixing things; I'm bored watching TV; but I CAN SING!! So a quick search of Google brought me to the website of the Harmonaires with a group of smiling men, and some women, who looked like the type of folks who may like to have a new member.

Talk about getting hooked!! The first night I got to the rehearsal, I entered a room where there was a board meeting taking place. I knew right from the get go that I was going to be welcomed into this group, but at the time I didn't know just how much fun was in store for me.

By break time of the first meeting I attended, I had been kidded, cajoled, and made feel so welcome by the wonderful members of this organization, and I knew it would be a long time before I could be "up to snuff" regarding the level of expertise they had. Imagine my astonishment when a gentleman received his 60 year award of being a barbershopper, at the same time I had spent about as many minutes learning the bass part of Roses of Morn! I was 3 years old when this veteran songster had begun his career in singing...and he was still enjoying it and doing very well! Amazing.

Continues on page 10



50th Anniversary of the Humboldt Harmonaires

by Bernard Arney

Barbershop Chorus celebrates 50 years of Harmonizing, the joy of singing and entertaining the community they live in. The Humboldt Harmonaires had their first chapter show November 9, 1961. Bob Johnson presented the official chapter certification to them. The chapter was in the Evergreen District but due to geographic changes they were put into the Far Western District. There were 25 members in the chorus and the director was Conrad Walla from 1961 to 1963.

One of the early quartets was the Foamy Four. Conrad Walla - tenor, Lee Smith - lead, Bob Bauer - baritone and Fred Nelson - bass.

The chorus grew to 38 members, directed by the outstanding Jackie Edmonson from 1971 to 1987. The Humboldt Harmonaires put on a Spring Show each year in April. They present a local high school senior a music scholarship to help further their musical education.

The Humboldt Harmonaires very capable director Bill Edmonson from 1996 to 2011, inspires our chorus to accomplish their harmonious participation in the community.

The Humboldt Harmonaires have a beer & peanuts show in October of each year. They always enjoy singing Valengrams on Valentines Day. They also sing at the Crabs baseball opening, Veterans Day and Memorial day services and Christmas performances.

The Humboldt Harmonaires have quartets that perform on many occasions: the Bills - John Tomacheski, Owen Peck, Bill Edmonson, and Jon Majors; Mirth First - Ron Goble, Eric Hollenbeck, Paul Litza and Don Setterlund; and the newest quartet Four Chords of Redwood - Doy Antognazzi, Harvey Raider, Don Atterbury and Joe MacDonald. Mac Gardner heads up a quartet called the Banana Bunch, music with a peal. This quartet has a changing personnel, but they have a great deal of fun.

Anytime someone wants a song sung, the Humboldt Harmonaires and their quartets are ready to do so. They have enjoyed entertaining for the past 50 years and look forward to 50 more.

50th Anniversary of the Napa Barbershop Harmony Chorus

by Dwayne DeLong [63 year member]

Joe Greco, then Mayor of Napa, placed an advertisement in the Napa Register for "male singers interested in singing in a Barbershop Chorus" in December 1960. Joe was a member of the Greco Quartet [4 brothers]. 25 men showed up at the Plaza Hotel at Second and Brown Streets.

The SPEBSQSA issued a charter to the new Napa Valley Barbershop Harmony Chorus on February 2, 1961.

The Napa Chapter has had up to 60 members from ages 10 to 93. Of the original charter members, Dwayne DeLong and Roger Sward continue to be active.

**Chair: Chapter Support & Leadership****Gordon "Mongo" Bergthold**

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If I were to examine the past several Westunes articles written by the CSLT Chair I would find the following:

- The CSLT position requires much participation from division and district leaders and to date I've received many good ideas and suggestions for improving the communication pertaining to aiding the chapters who want help.
- The Chapter Service Representatives have been called on but not as much as they'd like because the chapters simply don't request their help. Ted Sayle, Arizona DVP and the other DVP's continue to work to help strengthen their organizations supporting their respective chapters by offering help from the CSR's in their areas. However, we are long on expertise and short on requests.
- Assisting in leadership training is an ongoing challenge for the Chapter Support and Leadership Training team and we want to do what's best for the FWD chapters. Again, we need to hear from you so that we can design and create meaningful seminars and provide qualified, experienced CSR's as requested by the FWD chapters.

The theme is so repetitive that I've run out of things to write about. Our district leadership is in a quandary what to do next in assisting the chapters. Leadership is a team sport and having Chapter Service Reps available is for the chapter's benefit...we want to help but you have to ask before we can react. Each chapter will be surveyed shortly with a series of questions pertaining to your specific chapter and this would be a good time to tell the person doing the survey about the needs of your organization.

Again, I implore you to take advantage of this service offered by the district. We don't have all the answers, but together we can improve what is already a great past time. No, it's not baseball, but the benefits of singing have been explained by medical, religious and others as extending life...why not take advantage of the help available to you and your chapters.

Find someone in your life who demonstrates passion in their field of endeavor. Interview them; learn from them;

find out why they are so excited about what they are doing. Studying the passion in others will likely spark more passion in YOU!

Apply this to your barbershopping challenges and you just may find something worthwhile in the learning experience.

**Chair: Chorus Director Development****John Minsker**

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As promised in the last issue, we have revived the Chorus Directors' Guild. We have a nucleus of dedicated Charter members and are now accepting applications from all directors and assistant directors from within the district.

Our initial goal is to build a membership roster from which to draw the talent to:

- 1) Have a supply of capable chorus directors that can be assigned on an interim basis to chapters that lose their director and need a temporary replacement to get them through the crisis until a new director can be found:
- 2) Assist the Far Western District in providing education opportunities for current and potential directors within our District; and,
- 3) Recognize the accomplishments of chorus directors in our District with an annual awards program.

The qualifications are simple. You must be a frontline director for two years, or have directed a chorus in contest (Divisional, District or International).

We want to get these programs off the ground as fast as possible. If this concept excites you as much as it does us, please contact me (jminsker@pacbell.net) and I'll send you an application.

Still yours for a song,

**Chair: Contest & Judging****Ron Black**

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Spring contest season in FWD is in full swing. Elsewhere in this issue you can see the results of the International Preliminary Quartet Contest in Santa Clara March 19, plus the results of the Northwest and Arizona Divisions. Please check out the FWD “eNews” to get results for the other three divisions in May (Southwest May 7, Southeast May 14, Northeast May 21). Go here: <http://www.spebsqsafwd.org/Bulletins/eNews.html>

Watch the above site after May 21. Posted there will be:

- All quartets who have qualified for the Fall District contest (scored higher than 66%)
- All choruses who have qualified for the Fall District contest (scored higher than 58%)
- Any quartets and choruses added as wildcards.
- The top five Senior Quartets who can enter the Fall contest
- The FWD 2011 Super Senior Quartet Champion, who can sing on the Fall Show.
- Collegiate quartets who have qualified for the College Quartet International

Write if you have contest 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!



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At our Spring Prelims Convention we qualified Masterpiece, Crush and The Edge for the 2011 International Convention and Contest in Kansas City. How's the song go.."Kansas City, Kansas City here I come....". I understand the city has undergone substantial change since last we were there. Hope to see many of you in attendance.

On behalf of all of us in the District, I want to thank co-chairmen, Jay and Susan Breen, along with David Haedtler, VIH President, and all the folks who worked to make this Convention happen. Attendance was slim but the fun was full. Congratulations to all the Northwest Division participants and champs.

Thanks also to the Phoenix chapter for once again hosting the friendliest convention in the District. As I said last year, it reminds one of “old home week” plus lots of good performances.

While in Arizona, I was able to visit the site for our 2012 Fall Convention in Mesa along with Ted Sayle, Ivan Jensen, Jack Mauney, and Chairman, Bob Sampson. These guys are cranked about hosting this convention. We need to visit this part of our District on a regular basis. The weather in October is great, the area pretty, and Mesa has nice walkable shopping and eating establishments available. The Ikeda Theater has a marvelous professional stage and the Marriott Hotel has multiple rooms for classes, meetings and afterglows. More information will be available in Fresno this Fall, giving us plenty of time to plan ahead and make the arrangements for chapter/chorus group attendance and adventure.

As I write this, we have chapters across the District busy preparing the rest of the 2011 conventions. I do hope you took the opportunity to join your fellow barbershoppers in these annual gatherings. Look for results at <http://www.fwdconventions.org/>

I am now going to repeat myself from the last issue of Westunes....namely, and I quote...

“Oct 13/16, 2011 – Fall District – Fresno Chapter
Jim Turnmire, Terry Starr and a host of Fresno chapter members are well beyond the early planning stage and well into the implementation stage of our 2011 Fall District Convention. The proximity of the headquarter Radisson Hotel to the Fresno Convention and Entertainment Center along with multiple spaces for staging choruses and quartets will create an environment where performances will peak on stage to the satisfaction of performer and audience alike. Get excited now about your Divisional Contest and be sure your chorus will be represented on stage in Fresno.” BE THERE!!!!

Going forward we have 2012 underway with....

April 13/14, 2012 – Northwest Division bid from
Palo Alto Mountain View Chapter

April 20/21, 2012 - Arizona Division bid from
Tucson Chapter

May 18/19, 2012 - Northeast Division bid from
Sacramento Chapter

We arranged to combine the Southeast/Southwest/Prelims Convention into a single event on March 8-11, 2012. This will provide a better registration level and better support the Spring Convention activities, including the House of Delegate meeting and a larger judging panel. The location should be available at <http://www.fwdconventions.org/>

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Wow! What a great convention in Santa Clara. We certainly missed those familiar faces that were unable to attend - and we hope to see you in the fall. Conventions are so much fun - and a great way to rekindle friendships, make new friends, hear great performances by and cheer on our choruses and quartets -- and sing tags until the wee hours of the morning! I could go on and on listing all the benefits, but I'm sure you get the picture and I'd run out of room. Fresno is just around the corner - don't miss it!

There are plans to have a Barbershop Store (a.k.a. Barbershopper's Shop) in Fresno - and I have the privilege of selecting the items that will be sold. I'd like to hear ideas from chapters - which products you would like to see available in the store. Obviously we won't be able to accommodate every request, but it will give me an idea of most requested items.

Have an idea to make our marketing efforts better - or how to get each district member to bring in a new member in the new year and double our size? Please share!



Chair : Member Services

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I trust you have been successful over the past few months bringing new brothers into our fold of singers/performers.

Keith Eckhardt, our FWD webmaster and multiple other things he does, keeps me posted as new members join in. I'm happy to report over March and April we had 48 new singers starting a lifetime of joy in our district. Thanks fellas; recruiting is our life's blood that keeps our "sport" alive and well.

Ah – Why I call what we do, a sport?

Answer: We work as a team whether as a quartet, chorus or administrative duties and most sports are team oriented.

A Merriam-Webster says; *Sport* – “To amuse oneself – Recreation – Physical activity engaged in for pleasure – A person living up to the ideals of sportsmanship – A companionable person – An individual exhibiting a sudden deviation from type beyond the normal limits of individual variation” A *Sportsman* is: “a person who is fair, generous, a good loser, and a gracious winner.”

“Hobby” might best describe what we do in our “off time” and is a good description of what we’ve found even though there is a lot more to it.

Webster says: *Hobby* – “A pursuit outside one’s regular occupation engaged in /for relaxation.”

We’re more than hobbyists and our physical activity is less than a soccer players (except the front row of the MOH) so we fall somewhere in between. That’s no different than where we fit in the musical scheme of the world, which is somewhere between classical and jazz!

Let me share a summary of what Dennis Johnson, GySgt, USMC retired, sent me regarding his membership activities over 40 years in this great organization. Notice – over 40 years and he’s more active now than when he started!!

- 1) He always has a chapter business card with him that ID's him, his chapter, and location/meeting information.
- 2) He's always singing/talking/calling to others about singing with us. (Always try to get a call back #, important for follow up.) When all members do that, we'll be bursting at the seams.

Back to sports for a minute: We are all on the same team – The Barbershop Harmony Society Team.

One chapter isn't The Team when it comes to building our brotherhood/membership. Chapters should affectionately welcome other chapters, share useful information, and be willing to refer prospective members to other chapters that could be more suited to his desires, should that need occur.

So "Take Down That Wall" Mr. Barbershopper, and get to really know other chapters around you. Refer singers back and forth as we grow together – not islands apart!

- 3) Currently, Dennis has 3 prospective members in the pipeline who were invited through use of the chapter's business cards and some follow up. That works – try it! As a dual member, Dennis is able to refer prospective singers to more than one chapter to better serve their desires.
- 4) Currently, The Las Vegas Gamble-Aires (D-75) has a membership contest your chapter might also look into. The member who gets the most Chapter Men Of Notes in this calendar year, gets a paid registration to a Div/District convention of their choice. Naturally, your chapter can be creative with the prizes offered. (Usually a BHS MON counts even when a new member is referred to a different chapter, but not sure if the LVGA honor that for this particular chapter contest.)

So ----

- o Initiate a conversation with someone
- o Leave a chapter business card and get a follow up #
- o Follow-up with them/ offer to pick them up for a meeting.
- o Treat them like family from the git go!
- o We are a singing organization, but we don't do solo's, nor do we need soloists. (with some show exceptions, of course)
- o We do need 4 parts to make the chord.
- o Singing a song together is fun – ringing a chord is a climax!
- o Getting a new prospect recruit into a tag will "ring his bell".
- o Membership will follow!

Next issue: "Dispelling old Pre Conceived Images" and "Communications"

Stay in Touch and see you in KC.



Chair: Music & Performance
Nick Papageorge
 1661 Brookdale Ave
 La Habra CA 90631
 562-691-4072
 E: n.papageorge@verizon.net

***** **HARK, HARK,** *****

ALL FAR WESTERN DISTRICT CHAPTERS!

Once Again, this year's Harmony College West is scheduled for Cal State East Bay in Hayward, CA. during the weekend of August 19-21, 2011. I encourage as many of your chapter members to attend as possible because the classes and coaching at this event are invaluable to the entire chapter's musical health. Ask your chapter to give scholarships to section leaders, chapter members, or directors. Or talk to me about having your entire chapter attend: your chapter can attend classes half of the time and be coached the other half.

Our district is once again in need of exciting and vibrant new directors, so Harmony College West is also offering 3 levels of directing classes. One level is for any member of your chapter who leads polecat songs, or sing-a-longs, or who just thinks they may be interested in directing. It is called "So You Think You Want To Direct." It will cover all of the basics for those who have never waved their arms. Who knows, the next Jim Clancy may come straight out of this class!

The second level will be for assistant directors and section leaders. This will cover more advanced directing techniques and how to provide a solid performance as a director.

For the third level, we will again be offering a class called "Making It Happen," taught by Dr. Greg Lyne. This class is for all current and past front line directors of our FWD chapters. He will teach our directors how to "make it happen" through their directing skills. He will also cover areas of the musical experience and what to listen for in your ensemble. Remember, much of having a Compelling Chapter Meeting is determined by having a knowledgeable and well-equipped Director. Here's a great tool for all of our chapter directors.

John Minsker (our new District Chorus Director Development Chairman) and I have been discussing an expanded chorus directors' track and HCWest. (for those of you who don't remember our FWD Chorus Director's Guild and its annual seminar, it was a tremendous program with an annual seminar that was the precursor to the Society's Director's College). Look for these exciting new classes and...SEND YOUR DIRECTOR!

As always, the school will offer classes in arranging, vocal techniques, sight-reading, and more. Also, don't forget the Pod Style Quartet Coaching that will be going on as well. Your quartet will benefit greatly from the outstanding array of coaches. (See the HCWest Flyer in this issue of Westunes) Of course, there will be a show on Saturday Evening featuring the quartets being coached, and our guest quartets, as well as an afterglow.

Please go to our District Web Site for the Course Descriptions as well as the individual and quartet registration forms.

Have a musically rewarding Summer,

PS Don't miss the Go For The Gold Show which will be featuring our qualifying quartets as well as the New Zealand Chorus and Musical Island Boys heading for International!



**Chair : Young Men In Harmony
John Krizek**

1190 Tanglewood Rd.
Prescott, AZ 86303
928- 277- 4347
El: jkrizek@aol.com



**Chair: Financial Development
John A. McDougald**

210 White Tail Drive
Sedona, AZ 86351
(928) 284-3628 (cell) (928) 300-7271
cpamcd@aol.com

I have initiated some work with the Harmony Foundation in response to a suggestion from one of the FWD's Frank Thorne members. He is a retiree from a large corporation, and his former employer is one of many around the country that provide matching gifts for charitable contributions to eligible 501(c)(3) corporations. He has used this technique to double his own personal contributions to the Harmony Foundation and other charities that he supports.

I have asked HF to help get this process into high gear, and among other activities, received in response a list of corporations that already have a matching gift program with HF. Here they are: AIG, Aetna, American Brands, Aspect Communications, AT&T, Boeing, BP North American, Bridgestone/Firestone, Caterpillar, CIGNA, CSX, Exxon, Federated Department Stores, Gannett Corp., GE, General Mills, Genesco, Google, HCA Healthcare, Home Depot, IBM, JC Penney, Kraft, Liberty Mutual, MicroSoft, QualComm, Regions, Bank, Reuters, Sprint, Tyco, US Bank Corp., UPS and Wachovia/Wells Fargo.

If you are currently working for or are a retiree from one of these corporations, please consider taking advantage of this way to double your contribution to HF.

If you have a relationship with a business that is not on this list, take the time to find out if they have a matching gift program, and if so, let's get HF on their list of qualified non-profit corporations.

If you have success, please let me know so that we can once again highlight the work that the FWD is doing to support HF, the real outreach program of the BHS.

From page 4

I have felt so welcome, so included and so honored at being amongst these wonderful members, and I just can't wait until Thursday nights at 7, when I get to continue to develop in my new hobby. I haven't been able to perform in public yet as of this writing, but I know I have enough "ham" in me to join in with the other great guys (and gals) pretty soon and am so looking forward to it.

Having borrowed the Polecat CD, I sing regularly every day to learn these songs. In fact, my wife now is getting almost as proficient as I am in singing the bass part... since I use earphones and sing along with the CD!

If people knew just how much fun and interest one can have by joining such a great group of fine individuals, the Barbershop Harmony Society would have hundreds of thousands of applications begging to get in! This is an honor and a treat, and I so look forward to participating fully and making my Harmonaires happy they made me feel such a part of their lives.



2010 FWD Quartet Champions The Crush

by Paul Tabone

Good day to all our fellow Barbershop enthusiasts! WOW, has it already been over half a year since our last fall district convention? It's incredible how fast the time flies when you're immersed in this amazing art form. Well, before we begin with our latest happenings, I'll give you a moment to gather yourself, refresh that old cup a joe (see previous subscription), and settle into the nearest Lay-Z-Boy. All set? Great! Onto the news.

Let us first start off by saying (once again) how grateful, thankful, and simply proud we are to be your current FWD Quartet Champions. And although this term is used quite often, there just isn't a word that better describes how honored we are to be representing this amazing District!

Well, for us individually, the past few months have been nothing short of hectic! Paul and his fiancée, Ruthie, are just about to put the finishing touches on their wedding in August, and John has just returned from judging the JAD preliminary contest and is already filling up his schedule for the many District contests this Fall. Josh's semester is finally over; he'll be looking forward to some summer courses before next term starts up, and Matt...well we STILL have no idea what he does, though our sources tell us he is a very diligent worker.

As you all are well aware, this crazy "hobby" keeps us off our behinds and with our toes to the front off the risers (I'm suddenly struck with the oh too familiar vision of Patrick Claypool yelling "Hang ten, boys, hang ten!"). And speaking of our choruses, we would like to take this opportunity to invite you and all of your friends to the Masters of Harmony spring show at the beautiful San Gabriel Mission Playhouse on May 21st! The Westminster Chorus (with whom the four of us also sing) will be performing several new charts as the featured guest. We only mention it because The Crush will be performing along with the other International qualifying quartets--Masterpiece, 95 North and Quadraphonics. So, as you can see, it's really going to be a blow out show and we would absolutely LOVE to see you there! For tickets and more info, visit www.mastersofharmony.org.

All that talk about chorus shows brings us to our next and final topic....Chapter shows! Who's chapter? Well yours, of course! We've had an absolute blast thus far, but we aren't nearly as busy as we'd like to be...(hint hint, nudge nudge). So, just in case you've misplaced our information, not to worry, you can always find us online at www.TheCrushQuartet.com.

Want to just say "hey"? Then visit us on Facebook or follow our every move on Twitter.

Again, thank you all so, so much for your continued support. As musicians, we are constantly reminded that, without you - our friends, fans, and family - none of this would be worth it.

Most sincerely,
Matt, Josh, Paul, and John
The Crush

After the 2012 International Convention in Portland, Oregon
ALASKA BARBERSHOP MIXED CHORUS CRUISE

JULY 8 - 15, 2012

ON HOLLAND AMERICA'S OOSTERDAM

A Signature of Excellence



Ron & Jo Black

Looking for a relaxing and fun time on an up-scale cruise ship? Join Ron & Jo Black, Hi-Fidelity Quartet and fellow Barbershoppers on an Alaska Inside Passage cruise following the 2012 International Convention in Portland. Ron directs the mixed chorus.



Hi-Fidelity

Hi-Fidelity is the featured quartet--Craig Ewing, tenor; Dan Jordan, lead; Gregg Bernhard, baritone; Martin Fredstrom, bass. Hi-Fidelity is the 2002 Buckeye Invitational Grand Champions, 2005 Far Western District Quartet Champions, 2006 Harmony Sweepstakes National A Cappella Champions and 2008 Pan Pacific Champions. They distinguish themselves with painstaking craftsmanship, sophisticated song stylings, a strange sense of humor... and.... they sing 'good' too!

For a brochure with all of the cruise information, please call or email Edward Pio at 831-206-0450/edwardpio@gmail.com or Jo Black at 916-253-9293/jomamabass@gmail.com Don't forget the Early Bird Discount.

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831-633-4847 Email: worldmusic tours@aol.com CST 2084694

Early Bird Discount
 Call or email for a brochure today!

Cruise From \$1,295
 per person, dbl/oco
 This price includes all Gov't. taxes & fees and Barbershop Activities.



1 The Rolling Tones

2 Surround Soound

3 Four Score and Seven Measures Ago



4 Sharply Flat

5 JAG

6 No Personal Boundaries

March 19, 2011 High School Quartet Contest in Santa Clara - Competing Quartets



2010 FWD Chorus Champions The Masters of Harmony

by Ron Larson

Over the years, the Masters of Harmony have appeared many times at the Richard and Karen Carpenter Performing Arts Center on the campus of California State University, Long Beach. Most of those performances were Christmas and spring shows. Early on, dating back to 1994, the quality of the entertainment caught the attention of the Long Beach Community Concert Association and its leaders decided to invite the Masters to be part of its concert series. In January, the Masters made their sixth appearance on the series and, once again, the audience responded enthusiastically to the program of rousing, high-energy music and precision choreography. A unique feature of this concert was the use of a see-through scrim instead of the usual heavy curtain separating the backstage area from the audience. This allowed the waiting-to-perform Masters to see without being seen each of the featured quartets, Tenacious Q and The Crush, outlined in the spotlight, as they entertained the highly appreciative audience.

Two weeks later, the Masters of Harmony and the Southern California Vocal Association co-sponsored the 11th Annual Young Men's Harmony Festival at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa. Once again, the tireless months and the long-organizing efforts of Mark Freedkin helped make the event a huge success. Nearly 200 young men from 30 high schools and one middle school attended the all-day event, and feedback from the participants indicates that it was the best festival ever. OC Times, Dave Tautkus, Rob Campbell and the Society's Adam Scott helped coach the young men throughout the day. The evening show featured the young men's chorus, OC Times, Tenacious Q and Masterpiece quartets, the Masters of Harmony, and a finale that put 275 singers on stage for stirring renditions of "Fun In Just One Lifetime" and

"America The Beautiful." Proceeds from the show help support choral music education programs in Southern California schools. Over the 11 years of this festival, over 2,500 students have participated in one or more of these festivals. Undoubtedly, some of these young men will one day add their youthful energy to choruses around the country. Whether they do or not, these thousands have gained greater understanding and appreciation of the vocal potential they have carried around since birth and of their ability to use it to produce four-part harmony.

The Far Western District Spring Convention held in Santa Clara in mid-March featured a combined International Preliminary and Northwest Division Contest for quartets. Twelve foursomes competed and MOH quartets took the first four spots. Masterpiece, The Crush, and The Edge all qualified for Kansas City and On Tap was a close fourth-place finisher. During the convention, Harmony Foundation's Sean Devine announced to the House of Delegates meeting that the Masters of Harmony was the No. 1 District contributor with the highest per man giving to Foundation activities.

Since the last chapter report, Amnon Avidor (lead), Matt Bohy (tenor), Ross Bronzan (bari), Eric Emmons (bass), Keith Jones (bass), Brad Kelso (lead), Alexander Kulesa (bass), Trey McEachin (lead), Jackson Niebrugge (lead), Satoshi Suga (bari), Jude Thomas (bass) and Kyle Williamson (bass) became members of the Masters of Harmony.

IT IS OK TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FWD YOUTH EDUCATION FUND.

Editor note: Our FWD membership supports Youth In Harmony financially and that helps create the ability to conduct the HSQC. Our youth are the ones who benefit in the short term, and our Society in the long.

*Come spend a weekend of work, harmony and fellowship
on the beautiful Cal State EastBay campus.*

Harmony College West

Quartets *Receive a weekend full of coaching from our Society's top coaches*
Choruses *Up to 4 Choruses may receive coaching from our Society's top coaches for 4 hours, and individual chorus members will be able to enroll in classes as well**

Individual students *Follow a course of study designed to make for better singers and better chapter members. Or pursue a new area of our hobby (such as chorus directing.*

All students *Participate in activities to build and grow our singing fraternity. Woodshed, tag-sing, and have a great time with other great barbershoppers in our District.*

Faculty and Coaches

Bill Tieberg, Russ Young, Brett Littlefield, Martin Fredstrom, Craig Ewing, Sam Papageorge, Paul Engel, Doug Maddox, Connie Keil, Gary Bolles, Phil Debar, Ron Black, Greg Lyne and more.

Classes include (but not limited to):

Vocal Techniques classes (generic or geared to individual parts), Show Production, Theory of Barbershop Harmony. Arranging, MC classes, Care and Feeding of your Small Chorus, So You Want To Be A Judge, Front Line & Beginning Directing, Tag-Singing, Sight-reading and any other subject you would be interested in learning

Saturday Night Show

**Featuring our Great Student Quartets,
And guest quartets to be named.**

**August 19 - 21, 2011
Cal State East Bay
Hayward, California**

**Quartet Registration \$800.00 (early bird: \$785 prior to July 17th)
Individual Registration \$175.00 (early bird: \$165 prior to July 17th)
Please go to hew@bhsfwd.org for more information and class descriptions**

**Chorus members will register as Individuals for Harmony College West, but will enroll in "chorus coaching" with their chorus for one 4-hour class period-leaving 4 hours for individual class time*



Individual Registration - Harmony College West



August 19-21, 2011 Cal State East Bay, CA

Lodging: <input type="checkbox"/> I will stay in the Dorms (\$175) Society Members/Associates-Includes instruction, lodging and five meals <input type="checkbox"/> I will commute each day (\$130) Society Members - Includes instruction and four meal <input type="checkbox"/> I will stay in the Dorms (\$200) Non Members - Includes instruction and five meals		
Full Name		
Voice Part	Tenor	Lead
	Baritone	Bass
Chapter Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip
Telephone	Email (optional)	
Special dietary needs: please describe		
Special physical needs: please describe (stairways - need 1 st floor, etc.)		

In the spaces below, write the number **1** next to your first choice classes, making sure that you have selected 8 hours of instruction. Then write a **2** next to 8 hours of classes that would be your second choice(s). We will do our best to place you in your first choice class(es). Please choose classes so that you have one class period in each session A-D. **Lastly, if you don't find a class you'd like to take, please call Nick Papageorge at (562) 691-4072 to discuss other options.**

Choices	Class Title	Session	Hours	Instructor
	Barbershop Theory / Arranging 101	ABCD	8	Paul Engle
	Chorus Directing (assistant directors/section leaders)	ABCD	8	Gary Bolles
	Backstage MAGIC	ABCD	8	Doug Maddox
	MAKING IT HAPPEN:Chorus Director's Seminar	ABCD	8	Dr. Greg Lyne
	Vocal Techniques/Becoming a great Lead or Tenor	ABCD	8	Craig Ewing
	Vocal Techniques/Becoming a great Bass or Bari	ABCD	8	Russ Young
	So You Want To Be a Director?	AB or CD	4	Ray Rhymer
	Sight Reading	AB or CD	4	TBD as per schedule
	The Comedic Approach - Barbershop and Humor	AB or CD	4	Brian Philbin
	SINGIN' RINGIN' CHORDS	AB or CD	4	Ron Black
	Woodshedding	AB, or CD	4	TBD as per schedule
	Care and Feeding of Your Small Chorus	AB or CD	4	John Minsker
	So You Want To Be (or understand) a Judge	A or C	2	TBD as per schedule
	Quartet/Chorus Emcee	A or C	2	TBD as per schedule
	Warm-ups for Chorus or Quartet	B or D	2	TBD as per schedule
	Tag Singing	B or D	2	TBD as per schedule
	Marketing and Public Relations Workshop	AB or CD	4	TBD as per schedule

Send **\$175** (members, associate members-includes lodging),** **\$130** (commuting), or **\$200** (non-members/lodging) payable to

"Far Western District HCW", and this form to:

Nick Papageorge, HCW Dean
1661 Brookdale Ave.
La Habra, CA 90631

Full class descriptions are on the District website.

There is a **\$25 LATE FEE** for **WALK-ON** registrations, and any forms and fees received after **Wednesday, Aug 3, 2011.**

** Early Bird price: \$165 if *money and forms are received prior to June 17th, 2011.*



Quartet Registration - Harmony College West

August 19-21, 2011

Cal State East Bay, CA



Please write legibly below.

Quartet Name:									
Quartet Type	Novice	Adult	Senior	Super Senior	Teen/College				
Quartet Level	Estimated percentage score in competition: 45 50 55 60 65 70 75+								
Quartet Objective at HCW									

Tenor

Lodging

☒ I will stay in the Dorms (\$200)

Full Name

Chapter Name

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Email (optional)

Special dietary needs: please describe

Special physical needs: please describe

Lead

Lodging

☒ I will stay in the Dorms (\$200)

Full Name

Chapter Name

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Email (optional)

Special dietary needs: please describe

Special physical needs: please describe

(Continued on back.)

Far Western District of The Barbershop Harmony Society

Quartet Registration - Harmony College West

August 19-21, 2011 Cal State East Bay, CA

Baritone

Lodging

☒ I will stay in the Dorms (\$200)

Full Name

Chapter Name

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Email (optional)

Special dietary needs: please describe

Special physical needs: please describe

Bass

Lodging

☒ I will stay in the Dorms (\$200)

Full Name

Chapter Name

Mailing Address

City

State

Zip

Telephone

Email (optional)

Special dietary needs: please describe

Special physical needs: please describe

Coaching will be in the dorm rooms (no commuting available)

Total \$800

Quartet Pods will be utilized for coaching.

Send \$800 (includes tuition, five meals, and lodging) and this form to:

Nick Papageorge, HCW Dean
1661 Brookdale Ave.,
La Habra, CA 90631

Make checks payable to "Far Western District HCW".

There is a **\$25 LATE FEE** for WALK-ON Registrations, and any forms and fees received after
Wednesday, August 3, 2011.

**** Early Bird price: \$785 per quartet if money and forms are received prior to June 17th, 2011.**

Far Western District of The Barbershop Harmony Society



California's year-round playground

Far Western Division Barbershop Harmony Society Contests and Convention October 13-16, 2011

Fresno is honored to have the opportunity to host the Far Western Division Barbershop Harmony Society Contests and Convention October 14-15, 2011. We are pleased to have an opportunity to showcase our area and provide you with an affordable convention hotel rate and a one-of-a-kind experience!

If you have any questions about the hotel or need assistance making a group reservation, please contact Laura Calderon with the Fresno CVB at 559-445-8305 or at laura.calderon@fresnocvb.org

****Please call hotels directly to make reservations. All discounted rates will only be valid until September 14th or while rooms are still available.**

Barbershop Preferred Hotels	Distance to William Saroyan Theatre	Rooms Blocked for group	Rate	Amenities	Contact for reservations
Radisson Hotel & Conference Center *Headquarter hotel	Across the Street	250	\$105.00 *must reserve with the Barbershop group for rate	Free Parking Free Wi-Fi In house restaurant, Java Stop Café, Salon and Florist	559-268-1000
Holiday Inn Downtown	Located 4 blocks from the theatre	100	\$92.00 *must reserve with the Barbershop group for rate	Free weekend parking Free Wi-Fi in guest rooms In house restaurant and lounge	559-233-6650
Super 8 Downtown	Located 1 block from the theatre	40	\$82.00 1 or 2 beds *must reserve with the Barbershop group for rate	Free parking Newly renovated Free Continental breakfast	559-268-0621
La Quinta Inn	Located 4 blocks from the theatre (next to Amtrak)	25	\$62.10-\$72.10 *must reserve with the Barbershop group for rate	Free parking Free Bright Side Breakfast Pets Welcome	559-442-1110
America's Best Value Inn Downtown	Located 4 blocks from the theatre		\$59.00-\$69.00 *must reserve with the Barbershop group for rate	Free parking Newly renovated Free Continental breakfast	559-233-4896
Courtyard by Marriott Airport	Located 7 miles (10 minutes) (across from the airport)	20	\$109.00 *must reserve with the Barbershop group for rate	Free parking In house restaurant	559-251-5200

*All hotels (except Courtyard by Marriott) are located in Downtown Fresno near the William Saroyan theatre. The downtown hotels are within walking distance of Amtrak train station. The Courtyard by Marriott Airport is located near Fresno Yosemite International Airport.
For additional information visit our website at www.PlayFresno.org or call our office at 800-788-0836.
Fresno has it all! The location, the venue, the rates and the experience! See you soon!

Toll Free: 800-788-0836
Main: 559-445-8300
Fax: 559-445-0122

Fresno
Convention and
Visitors Bureau

848 M Street, 3rd Floor
Fresno, CA 93721
www.playfresno.org

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT 2011 FALL CONTEST AND CONVENTION

Contests and Show

District Quartet Contest
District Chorus Contest
District Senior Quartet Contest
Show of Champions
Past Quartet Champs Show

HOSTED BY THE

FRESNO CHAPTER

OCTOBER 13-16, 2011

Fresno Convention Center

Wm. Saroyan Theater

Meetings and Events

District Board Meeting
House of Delegates Meeting
Past District Presidents Meeting
AH-SOW
Classes and Workshops


REGISTRATION PRICES		HOTEL INFORMATION
ALL CONTESTANTS MUST BUY AN ALL EVENTS REGISTRATION FOR THE APPLICABLE AGE GROUP		
ALL EVENTS EARLY BIRD (Postmarked by September 8 th)	ALL EVENTS LATE / ON SITE (Postmarked after September 8 th)	
ALL EVENTS: Adult\$40.00 Young Adult (under 26).....\$20.00 Non-member under 13Free	ALL EVENTS: Adult.....\$50.00 Young Adult (under 26).....\$25.00 Non-member under 13..... Free SINGLE EVENT . \$25.00/12.50 each	

Headquarters hotel is the Radisson Hotel, 2233 Ventura St. Fresno, CA 93721 (559)268-1000 (877)441-5640 The hotel is just across the street to the west from the Convention Center – an easy walk.

2011 FAR WESTERN DISTRICT FALL CONTEST AND CONVENTION REGISTRATION

Name(s)

Chapter or City:

	Member	Wife / S.O. / Guest	Child / Young Adult	District Officer	Chapter Delegate	AFWDC / VTP	Amount Due
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*Address							
City _____ State _____ Zip _____							
Email _____ Phone _____							
Competing with:							

Mail one form for your party (up to eight names per sheet), and a check covering all registrations to: Jim Warner, 38265 Pepperweed Rd. Squaw Valley, CA 93675-9707

Make checks payable to: Fresno Chapter, SPEBSQSA

An article to the Britonet

Great British Barbershop Boys - The TIMES - Review section,
page 5, Sat 20 Nov 2010

With a rebel yell, they sang ... Mr Sandman

Will Hodgkinson

November 20 2010 12:01AM

It's the first night of the Natural History Museum's skating rink and, as a team of workers deal with a puddle forming on the ice with an armada of large mops, four fresh-faced young men warm the night with close harmonies. The Great British Barbershop Boys, a quartet of friends from northern England who sing evocative, unaccompanied versions of old favourites such as Mr Sandman and Santa Claus is Coming To Town, are a good booking for an event such as this. With matching suits, lightly choreographed hand gestures and between-song bonhomie, they go well with the mulled wine and roasted chestnuts.

They're on early, too, which means that they have time to get a good night's sleep and clock in the next day for their jobs as teacher (Alan Hughes, tenor), signwriter (Zac Booles, lead), policeman (Joe Knight, baritone) and IT manager (Duncan Blackeby, bass). There is only one problem, if that's the right word. Sony has just signed The Great British Barbershop Boys for £1 million.

"I was at school the other day," says Hughes, who looks so young that you would assume he was sitting double maths rather than teaching it, "and the kids were saying, 'Sir, I saw you singing on telly last night. You must be famous. Lend us a tenor'."

Barbershop singing has become an unlikely phenomenon: a tradition with its origins in late 19th-century gospel that has enjoyed a huge revival in 2010. This has been particularly striking in the US where, until recently, barbershop was associated with outfits such as the Dapper Dans, who, with their boaters and candy-stripe waistcoats, are as reassuringly uncool as the venue for their resident gig, Disneyland.

Now the barbershop scene features rebel outfits such as OC Times, a Californian quartet that Mark Hale, the veteran barbershop voice coach, describes as "the boys you screw around with when your parents aren't looking". After becoming the No 1 quartet in the world at the 2008 international barbershop convention in Nashville, OC Times have become stars — albeit reluctant ones. "I don't tell everyone I know about the quartet," says Cory Hunt, a research associate by day. "Explaining barbershop is more trouble than it's worth."

That may all be about to change. The Great British Barbershop Boys got their big break after representing the UK at the 2008 international barbershop convention in Philadelphia, where Simon King, now their manager, spotted them. Seeing the commercial potential in a quartet of polite, likeable young men singing harmonies infused with nostalgia, warmth and innocence, King convinced them to audition live in the London offices of leading record companies. It was a gamble that paid off, though the Barbershop Boys themselves haven't been given much time to get used to it.

"We only got into this as a way of learning songs and having fun," claims Knight, who appears to have a natural authority that places him as the quartet's leader. "The Sony deal happened only a few weeks ago, and then they tell us that they want to release our album of Christmas songs for [this] Christmas. It's a bit scary. I've already been on holiday once this year. I haven't got much time left to take off."

Such are the pressures of showbusiness. Nobody could have expected that a barbershop quartet, in which a lead sings a melody while three others harmonise, could have become the surprise hit of the season. And the boys are resolute that they didn't get into this for fame, riches or, if such a thing exists, barbershop groupies.

"It's a social thing," says Knight, whose father was in a barbershop quartet and who has been singing close harmony for much of his life. "We met four years ago at the National Barbershop Youth Chorus, became good friends and decided to have a crack at being a quartet. You can't quite put your finger on it, but hearing voices working together in harmony is an amazing experience."

Booles adds: "Barbershop is on the up. It has something to do with people wanting to get involved instead of sitting in front of the TV. Most importantly, it is inclusive. Everyone can do it."

Not quite everyone. Ever since not making the choir at school, and being told to amuse myself in a back room while the rest of the class were paid to be in the chorus line for the West End production of *Evita*, I've had an atrocious singing voice. I tell the Barbershop Boys that I'm tone deaf. "There's no such thing," Hughes counters. "We'll teach you how to do a 'tag'. That's the barbershop equivalent of a coda."

That's something to look forward to, but in the meantime, a little bit of history. "In African-American communities in the 1890s, the barbershop would be like the pub is today — a meeting place," explains Hughes, the quartet's resident expert. "Because they didn't have disposable razors back then, you literally had to go there every day, otherwise you would start to look a bit scruffy. So you would make friends in the barbershop. Singing together was a natural outcome of that."

The birth of recorded music killed off the original barbershop boom as listening to the radio or phonogram took the place of community singing, but in 1938 an Oklahoma tax lawyer, the appropriately named O. C. Cash, organised a four-part harmony singing session on the roof of a hotel. "It created a phenomenon," Hughes says. "Police were called, traffic stopped and there were all these people on the street wondering where these amazing harmonies were coming from."

Cash duly formed the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartet Singing in America, a name later shortened to the Barbershop Harmony Society. As the popularity of barbershop quartets grew, rules on what counted as barbershop singing and what made for an acceptable repertoire developed. The British Association of Barbershop Singers (Babs) now lays down rules for this country's quartets. There are rumours of a rebel splinter group, the British Order of Barbershop Singers (Boobs), though nobody will confirm its existence.

Today such rules are at the heart of a controversy driving a wedge through the once tightly knit American barbershop community. On the one hand, "Barberpop" upstarts such as OC Times are including shockingly new material — an Elvis Presley song, for example — in their repertoire. On the other, the traditionalist pressure group the Kibbers (the name derives from their motto, "keep it barbershop") argue that only songs from the early 1900s have a place in this world.

Caught in the barbershop crossfire is the Westminster Chorus, winners of the 2010 Barbershop Harmony Society chorus competition, an annual event held in Philadelphia — the Oscars of Barbershop. The Westminster Chorus, of which the four members of OC Times are a part, formed in 2003 with the goal of getting young people interested in harmony singing again. As such, it faces the unenviable task of keeping the original spirit of barbershop alive while appealing to a younger audience. "The image of barbershop is changing," says Paul Tabone, baritone for the chorus. "If you want to be cutting edge you need to keep moving forward. In Philadelphia this year I saw a lot of college-age girls in the audience for the first time. I think that's cool."

Does this mean that the Westminster Chorus includes Kibber-baiting modern pop in its repertoire? "It depends on what you mean by modern," Tabone says. "We have been doing some rock'n'roll songs from the Fifties. But the quartet that is really pushing the envelope is a Swedish group called the Ringmasters. They have been performing Beatles songs in competitions."

I ask the Great British Barbershop Boys for their opinion. "These days, you get bands that sing barbershop versions of Michael Jackson and Stevie Wonder songs," says Hughes, eye

brows lifting. "That's been ruffling a few feathers. Modern songs are fine for a show, but in singing competitions you have to stick to the rules because the melodies for four-chord rock'n'roll don't really work with barbershop."

The time has come for the Great British Barbershop Boys to prove that this is a form of singing that we can all enjoy — and more importantly, do. "Barbershop is full of older chaps who were told in their youth that they couldn't sing," says Knight, as the quartet prepare to let me join their ranks. "So for 50 years they didn't sing at all. Then they stumbled upon barbershop, gave it a go and discovered that they could always sing but were never given the tools to do so."

On that note, we start our exercise in singing a tag. Knight shows me how to sing the word "behind" in D-flat, allowing for an elongated note by taking a deep, lung-filling inhalation before singing with a smile (this helps to control your breath). It doesn't sound as bad as I imagined. And then something incredible happens. As the quartet harmonise above and below D-flat by singing in the same vowel shape, a mysterious note, which they tell me is a major ninth, is created on top of what we are singing. This is what is talked of reverently in barbershop circles as "the hidden note". It sounds glorious, celestial even.

"That's nirvana as far as barbershop is concerned," Knight says, as we marvel at the wonder of the dominant ninth. "When you sing in a bar with your mates, or with three guys you've never met before, and you get the hidden note, it all makes sense."

Christmas Time by The Great British Barbershop Boys is released on Arista/Sony on December 6

regards

Al

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Results from the International Preliminary Quartet Contest

Quartet	%
1 Master[oece	86.1
2 The Crush	83.4
3 The Edge	80.8
4 On Tap	72.7
5 spam	66.3
6 Sunrise	57.6

Results from the NW Division Quartet Contest

Quartet	%
1 spam	66.8
2 Opus IV	61.3
3 CONSTELLATION	60.6
4 Never Too Old 4	55.8
5 Metro Gnomes	52.3
6 Time Be Four	47.2

Results from the NW Division Senior Quartet Contest

Quartet	%
1 Never Too Old 4	55.8
2 Serendipity	54.5
3 Time Be Four	47.2

Results from the NW Division Chorus Contest

Chapter	%
1 Bay Area	84.2
2 Palo Alto - Mountain View	65
3 Fremont - Hayward	61.2
4 Santa Rosa	59.5
5 Marin	53.3



Bay Area



Palo Alto - Mountain View



Fremont - Hayward



Santa Rosa



Marin



John Krizek, FWD Youth In Harmony Chairman, presents Sue Stuart the FWD Award of Excellence for her long term work with high school students getting them involved in music and particularly with the Barbershop style of singing.

Barbershop quartets and a chorus have been a part of the Liberty High School for over 30 years. JAG, acronym for "Just Add Girls" competed regularly in the FWD high school contests over the years.

Her Barbershop Quartets and Chorus sang at the 1997 International MidWinter Convention in Sacramento and received "Standing O's" from appreciative Barbershoppers from around the world.

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Gentlemen, in an attempt to understand each of your chapters, the Society has developed a survey which will be presented to the chapter by a member of the Society staff or the Far Western District. Hopefully, these surveys will be useful in trying to stem the tide of declining membership. I plan to visit as many chapters as I can after the International Convention in July. Not only will it give me an idea of how you run your business, but it will allow me to get to know some of you a little better. The last time some of us got together was with our visit from the Society Music Educator. We had quite an evening.

The year is now half way done and you should be thinking of who is going to run your chapter next year. Or maybe who should continue to run your chapter. Either way, plan on sending your guys to Leadership Academy. To allow us to plan better and not cancel classes at the last minute, we will have a deadline for registration. Your District Board has been wrestling with just how to run this program so that it gives you the best bang for your buck. If you have any ideas, please let me know. These classes are for you and your chapters, so let's make them the best we can.

By now all the Divisional Contests are complete and we all know who is going to Fresno in October. If your Chorus didn't make the cut this year, consider heading north to support those who did. There are quartets to cheer on and lots of tag singing in the hallways as well. Remember, only 20% of your Barbershop experience is at rehearsal. The other 80% is at shows and conventions/contests. Presidents! Make sure either you or a representative from your chapter attends the House of Delegates this year. As I've mentioned before, I believe this should be a chapter expense so that your chapter has a voice in the business of the Far Western District.

Last, but certainly not least, is the subject of the Harmony Foundation. If your chapter does not have a Harmony Foundation Chairman, consider appointing one. Think of it. If you had 40 guys giving just \$10.00/month with your chapter designated to get 30% back, at the end of the year your treasury would be \$1,440 richer. The Harmony Foundation is doing great things with youth and by supporting their efforts we are all making sure the Society will be around long after we're gone.

ALOHA

JACK HASHIMOTO
 Singing Valentines were first this year. Kudos to **Hank Drayton, Dan Tom** and **Rick Klemm** for their leadership.

We had a Bucks Auction at the home of **Hank and Gloria Drayton**. **Ed Reid** coordinated and **Pauline Mitchell** handled the potluck. We participated in the Hawaii Choral Festival in March at the Hawaii Convention Center.

Our special rehearsal featured famed choreographer **Cindy Hansen** and hubby **Dave Ellis**, the original Tenor of **Storm Front**. They coached us in stage presence and vocal techniques, leading to the Spring Show.

The chorus sang the Star Spangled Banner and Hawaii Pono! at the University of Hawaii Volleyball game. We sang at the dedication of the performance garden of the Mission Houses Museum in Honolulu. Our member **Charles Black's** great, great grandmother, **Sybil Bingham**, was born in the old Mission House, where now stands the oldest standing frame building West of the Rocky Mountains.

BOTMs for the quarter were: January - **Dan Tom**, February - **Hank Drayton**, and March - **Bob Sypowicz**.

CONEJO VALLEY**NEIL PENNYWITT**

The chapter is in the final stages of preparing for our 2011 High School Benefit show, scheduled for Mother's Day at the Kavli Theater in the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza. Five high schools will participate. The theme *Songs of the Silver Screen* should make for some great performances.

PASADENA**BILL CAULEY**

We joined with the **San Fernando Valleyaires, Rincon Beach, Santa Monica**, and others to be coached and encouraged by **Adam Scott** from the Barbershop Harmony Society Headquarters.

We brought joy and love to many surprised recipients for Valentine's Day. **Braided Chords** sang for the ladies and guests at the lovely home of **Bob Oberlander**. Two encores plus a magic trick for the kids by **Pierre**, singing Lead. Bass **Stan Busby**, Bari **Bill Niemand** and Tenor **Phil Stray** completed the quartet. At the Mudd

Laboratories, the quartet was told that they looked like seismologists. Thanks to **Phil Wolf** for joining with **John Minsker**, **Sean Chasworth**, and **Phil Aydon** as the **Crown City Sound**.

From **John Minsker**: Singing gives us a chance to connect with others, many of whom we may not even know, through a medium that insists we all come together as one. Singing gives us a chance to truly become part of something whose sum is much greater than its parts. Singing also takes us to a place where beauty, excellence, and community are valued much more than the "it's all about me" mentality that, unfortunately, seems more pervasive with each passing year. Singing encourages us to make ourselves, and our neighbors, better people in a very profound way.

RINCON BEACH

KEN DAY

The Rincon Beach Chapter co-hosted our *Third Annual Central Coast Youth In Harmony Festival* in February. Our co-host was the **Channelaire SAI Chorus**, who assisted in the letter writing and on-site duties, and were instrumental in writing the grant request that the Ventura County Community Foundation secured from the James Irvine Foundation.

We had a total of 49 girls and 18 boys for the festival with clinicians **Bobbette Gantz** and **Sam Papageorge** leading the training and the re-united quartet **Hypnotic** for the girls and **The Edge** quartet for the boys.

The day started at 9:30a.m. with signups and warmups followed by all day instruction. An evening concert featuring the students choruses, the two teaching quartets, and the two chapters concluded the day.

Kudos to MC **Bernie Sentianin** who pushed this event, **Jim Serdahely**, **Ellen Allen**, **Melinda Norberg**, **Shannon Klemann**, **Tammy Ragsdale**, and **Petra Chini**.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY **BRUCE POEHLMAN**

Kudos to **Bob Czubiak** who ran our most successful Valentines program, and kudos to **Michael Van Schoonhoven** who ran our Spring Concert at the Hall of Liberty. In addition to directing our chorus, **Laura Pallas** also directs the **Santa Monica Sweet Adeline** chorus, who just won 1st place in Region 11. Laura was voted Director of the Year!

In preparation for the SW Division Contest in a few weeks, we had a great coaching session with **Royce Ferguson**.

We welcome our newest bass, **Jeremiah Beard**.

CALLING ALL QUARTETS! We are also preparing for our annual Ice Cream Social on July 23rd, which is primarily a quartet show in which we like to feature quartets from around the area. If you have a quartet that would like to perform (maybe you're getting ready for the District Contest?), we'd love to have you on the show. See our website (www.valleyaires.info) or email **Bob Karlin** (bobkarlin@karlinscorner.com) for more information.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

RUDY XAVIER

The Gold Coast Chorus welcomes our new director **Thomas Bourne**. Thomas will lead us into our June 18th Annual Show at the Clark Center for the Performing Arts. Thomas also sings tenor in our high-powered local quartet **Fascinatin' Rhythm**.

We mourn the loss in one quarter of three of our beloved brothers, **Ron Kyker** (former Section Leader), **Bill Weightman** (Bass), a dual member with the **Orange Empire Chorus**, and long-time member and former Treasurer, **Donald Eugene Stokes**, (Lead). We hold these esteemed colleagues in our hearts and prayers, and offer our condolences to their families.

SANTA BARBARA

MICHAEL FRAZER

At our annual awards dinner on May 28th, we will induct our most treasured quartet **Santa Barbara Sound** into our Chapter Hall of Fame. Thanks to **Gene Garcia** for handling the Hall of Fame. We will be welcoming all of the members of that quartet from near and far as they come together for the first time in a number of years to share their sound with us once again. The dinner will be at the Moby Dick Restaurant on the Santa Barbara Wharf.

Thank you **Bob Wilke** for your unending work with the chapter. Bob just had a surgical procedure done, and it was amazing to see Bob in front of the chorus to direct us a mere 10 days after his procedure. He shows us that even in his 82nd year that he can get up and lead us with an energy level that most of us would love to have.

SANTA MARIA

RICHARD BURCH

We are getting high school students involved with barber-shopping thanks to the efforts of **Bob Maurer** and **Chuck Fredrickson**. The local high schools participated in our Christmas show with madrigals and a barbershop quartet. We hosted a Youthfest in conjunction with the local Sweet Adelines where we had about forty participants of male and female voices. **Gene Kai**, **Larry Los**, **Bob Wilson** and **Richard Burch** accepted an invitation to visit a school and work with the chorus on barbershop techniques.

Our Singing Valentines went well. Our Assistant Director **Richard Burch** was awarded a scholarship for Director's College. We thank our director **Bob McGee** who gives an extra measure of patience each week.

SANTA MONICA

MARTY MITNICK

Our Annual Holiday Show [Santa Monica Bay Women's Club auditorium] was a complete sell-out. We also performed at the Cedars-Sinai Hospital Neo-Natal ICU department for patients and families.

The Oceanaires added 12 new members and had a return of 2 members in 2010. New members, not mentioned previously, are **Peter Mellencamp**, and **Eli Rubel**. Three barbershoppers transferred in: **Bob Curran**, **Tim Boeck** and **Bill Finlan**. And welcome back **Sam Lai**.

2011 officers are: President **Dr. Jerome Walder**, Secretary **Wally Mees**, Treasurer **Sam Lai**, Chorus Manager **Ken Scholz**, IPP **Vance Heron**, VP Music & Performance **Ben Lowe**, VP Development **Jack Fry**, VP Marketing & PR **Bruce Schroffel**, Members at Large **Jack Walton**, **Bill Boeck**, **David Erickson**, Director **Todd Kolberg**, Asst. Directors **Bob Heron**, and **Ben Lowe**. Installing Officer was FWD President **Bernard Priceman**. *BOTY* was **Ben Lowe**.

The Barbershopper of the Century special award was given to **John Smurda**, Treasurer of the **OCEANAIREs** for 25 years.

Congratulations to **Oceanaires** quartet **Soundstage** for placing first at the South Bay chapter's quartet contest.

SOUTH BAY

JOE NAGLE

2011 Chapter Officers are: President **Joe Nagle**, VP Music & Performance **Stan Hill**, VP Program **Michael Borrett**, VP Chapter Development **Don Duperon**, VP PR & Marketing **Don Barton**, Secretary **Jack Newman**, Treasurer **Steve Bunker**, Chapter Manager **Joe Corter**, Show Chairman **Denny Lawrence**, Member At Large **Barden Smith** and IPP **John Upp**.

Our Annual Show *The Zounds of Muzak* was a tremendous success, thanks to the efforts of the Show Committee headed by **Denny Lawrence**, special guest quartet **Masterpiece**, and the promotional expertise of PR & Marketing VP **Don Barton**. The Coastliners Chorus performed for several thousand people lining the streets for the Hermosa Beach St. Patrick's Day Parade. Announcements allowed us to advertise the annual

Harmony Sweepstakes Los Angeles Regional, which we sponsored, held at the Hermosa Auditorium. There was a dramatic increase in attendance at the event chaired by **William Hamblet** and **Peter Neushul**. Congratulations to the newly crowned regional champs **Vybration**, who will represent Los Angeles in the National Finals, and to **Evolution** for being voted Audience Favorites.

VENTURA

JAN TAVARES

A newly named quartet **A LITTLE MIX UP** with **Gary Rice** substituting on bass was on Radio station KVTa (1520 AM) at 7 a.m. with 20 minutes of talk time about us, the society & to sing and sell our Singing Valentines. This quartet also did 12 Valentines with 3rd, 4th, and 5th being covered by the Ventura County Star Newspaper. We were on the front page of the newspaper on Tuesday.

At our officer installation and awards ceremony **Verne Arnold** was the *Rookie of the Year* and our peerless director **Jim Browne** was *BOTY*. Several quartets performed including **Riptides** who has evolved into a very funny comedy quartet [**Lu Hintz**, **Fred Engle**, **Joe Smith**, **Ron Lindsay**]. **Harmony Channel** was our guest quartet.

Thanks to **Rincon Beach** president **Bernard Sentionin**, who served as installing officer. Officers are: President **Jan Tavares**, VP of Music and Performance **Jim Sumstine**, Treasurer **Jay Shapiro**, Secretary **Lu Hintz**, and Co-VPs of Marketing and Publicity **Fred Engle** and **Ron Lindsay**.

WHITTIER

NORM BERNIER

Whittier Choralaires continue to bring enjoyment to many retirement and convalescent homes in the area. Songs of long ago open their hearts every time. Thanks to our newest Tenor, **Robert Sowell** for arranging our meeting place, the Calvary Baptist Church in Whittier,

The Whittier Choralaires are joining **Brea** and **Fullerton** Chapter soon for a fun night of musical pleasure. Also, we've been selected to sing at the annual Antique Fair in Whittier to the thousands who come each year.



FWD DVP for Division 2 SE

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By the time you read this, we will have already gathered in Primm, NV, for the Southeast Division Contest. As of

this writing, we have 10 chorus and 12 quartet participants, which is a very encouraging number. I hope that participation at the Division level will continue to trend upward. I remember when I joined the Society in the late 80s, it wasn't uncommon to have 15+ chapters represented in the Southeast Division chorus contest, and I would love to see that level of participation again.

Since this is the Summer issue of the Westunes, the International Convention in Kansas City is right around the corner. If you haven't been to an International (either ever or recently), I highly recommend you go. It is non-stop barbershop (both "contest" and "show" varieties) for almost a whole week, with many opportunities to both sing and hear great singing (including an excellent contemporary acappella headliner on the Harmony Foundation show).

The International Convention is just one event where members have an opportunity to engage in their barbershop hobby beyond the confines of their own chapter walls. Others include the Division and Spring/Fall District Conventions, Harmony College West, Harmony University/Directors College, the High Sierra Harmony Brigade, and local events such as other nearby chapter shows or multi-chapter visitations. I would encourage all of you to take advantage of as many of these events as possible, to whatever extent you are able, as it really is an enriching experience to make friends of barbershoppers from all over the country/world.



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BREA MARK STOKES

The Brea Chapter has increased its membership by 25% and we're looking forward to the Division contest in May.

Our very successful guest night brought over 100 friends, family, and new singers. We had two college choruses to perform for us, one male and one female from the University of Rochester in New York. We held a chapter visitation with Whittier and Fullerton - over 100 barbershoppers enjoyed fellowship, food, and singing.

COACHELLA VALLEY TERRY MANN

Our 33rd annual show *Sing Out* featured **Masterpiece**. We were also pleased to host the Palm Desert High School

Chorale and their large group of family and supporters. Their performances brought standing O's. We recognize new members **Dennis Foti** and **Mike Ostrom**.

We are exploring ways and means, as it were, to either increase the revenue or reduce the cost of holding our annual show, or both. Please tell us how you do it? (I am: thepcmann@gmail.com)

FULLERTON

DICK COTE

The Orange Empire Chorus Annual Awards & Installation Banquet recognized: *BOTY* **Fred Robirds**, *Quartet of the Year* **Sound Choice (Don Levering, CJ Bowes, Bob Calderwood, Mike Werner)**, *President's Award* **Pete Saputo**, *Shooting Star Award* **Gary Maxwell**, *Princess Lea Award* **Don Levering**, *Director's Award* **Bob Clark**, and *Rupert Hall Award* **Hugh Collins**.

More than 20 quartets began flying around Orange County (and parts of LA County) daily, beginning a full week before "V Day," until they'd completed 222 valentine deliveries. It "takes a village" to pull off an operation of this magnitude, so kudos to the following: **Art Clayton; Dave & Sheila Lowerre; Jay & Mary Campbell; Mac McDougall; Bob Calderwood; Gary Maxwell; Ray & Mary Ruth Ashcroft; Leonard Schlatter; Vi & Fred Robirds; Joan Golding; Barbara Tinkle; Don Derler; Marianne Roberts; Tom & Jessica Lowerre; Don Levering; Ken Klein**.

Barbershop Clippin's Publisher/Editor **Dick Cote** was on a leave of absence for several weeks because of a progressively more painful and debilitating back condition.

We are saddened to report the passing of **Bill Weightman**. He was an active barbershopper for twenty-one years with the Orange Empire Chorus. He sang Bass in the **Highlight Quartet** and the **Tuesday Night Quartet** and participated each year in the Singing Valentine program.

HEMET

DAVE KELLEY

The Harmonizers successfully performed our Spring Show *Barbershop Harmony Jubilee*. Director **Jack Morrisseau** was ably assisted by assistant directors **Bob Doty** and **Larry Hull**. Two chapter quartets, **The Chapter 4** and the **Diamond Valley Songsters**, performed. Guest quartet was **In A-Chord**. **Jack Morrisseau** then retired as our director, but remains an active member of the chapter. **Bob Doty** and **Larry Hull** are now dual directors.

The chorus sang at the Heritage Ranch Appreciation Day program and for a Retired Military R. V. organization. We also had a booth at the Ramona Bowl "1st People's Day" Fair in Hemet - **Chapter 4** was a roving quartet.

INLAND EMPIRE

DON SEVESIND

The Harmony Carousel Chorus welcomes new members **Israel Chavez, Jeff and Jared Hathaway, Joshua Kemmling** and **Christaan VonMartin**.

We presented our own production of *The Return of the Music Man*. The cast included not only the chorus and chapter quartets, but the **Solid Ground Drama Team, Double Treble** (high school and college girl singers) **No Personal Boundaries** (a high school barbershop quartet) **Brenda Lucia**, and of course our chapter director **Dennis Shearer**. The show ended with most of the audience up on their feet and the cast and singers flanking the audience with a roaring singing of 76 trombones. Thank you **Brian Hoerning** (Associate Director).

We made improvements to our website, so visitors can purchase tickets on-line. We benefited from a recent front page newspaper article on the chapter and our upcoming show. Two men came to the very next rehearsal to see what all the excitement is about.

LA JOLLA

DALE VAUGHN

The Pacific Coast Harmony Chorus enjoyed another successful Singing Valentines program with **Mark Whelan** at the helm. The weekend started with our fourth year of *Operation Homefront* deliveries. These singing valentines were provided at no cost for families of service personnel currently stationed on the USS Ronald Reagan. PCH sends thanks to the **San Diego Sun Harbor** and **Pal Pac Music Men** choruses who each provided a quartet. We were even able to get a VLQ singing spot on the morning show of KUSI television in San Diego.

We held a *Ready, Set, Sing!* program over four weeks. Our VP Marketing & PR **Dale Vaughn** borrowed from the success of his former chorus **Sound of the Rockies** in Denver, CO. We hosted free voice lessons from our very own Director **Kim Vaughn** over four Tuesday nights.

Kim's quartet **Unlimited** won the Region 21 Championship. They will now compete in Houston this October.

LAS VEGAS METRO

KEITH PRATT

The City of Lights Chorus had 4 new members performing on our most recent shows!

Our past director of several years, **Scott Fewell**, transferred to St. George, Utah. We are very pleased to have **Steve Salmon** taking the position.

PALOMAR PACIFIC

DON NAEGELE

The Music Men presented our annual Spring Show *Look Out World!* with five chapter quartets and **The Edge. John Hulbert**, our director and show chairman, along with **Joe Pascucci**, Music and Performance VP, produced the show. In addition to directing two numbers and choreographing, **Lucy Cartano** danced to the Chorus' performance of *If They Could See Me Now*. **Paul Bloom** hosted the afterglow.

Membership VP **Al Leuthe** is planning our second guest night of the year as we continue our efforts to attract new members to The Music Men.

RIVERSIDE

GAYLORD SPENCE

The Riverside Chapter Chorus is very excited about our progress under the direction of **John Brockman**, and about the opportunity to showcase our new sound and synchronization at the SE Division contest in Primm, Nevada on May 14th.

We added two members: **Chuck Mason** (returning) and **Cole Dawson**, both Lead singers. We hope to have at least 25 men on the risers at contest.

SOUTH ORANGE COUNTY

RANDY WATSON

A new chapter is born! FWD chapters San Clemente and Irvine recently agreed to combine talents, forming the new **South Orange County** chapter... **South County Sound**. Now with 35 active members, the new chorus is under the direction of **Justin Martin**, assisted by **John McCallum**.

The chapter donated \$2000 to the Youth in Harmony program. Late last year, the 2 chapters performed in a Parkinson's disease awareness concert. **The Tremble Clefs**, a Parkinson's vocal therapy group also performed along with chapter quartets **WYSIWYG** and **Harmony Partners**. Kudos to show Chairman **Bob Barry** for bringing together Barbershop and the Tremble Clefs for this worthwhile cause!

TEMECULA

JONATHAN FRIEDMAN

The Temecula Wine Valley Harmonizers performed at the Birthday Party of Chapter Chaplain and Charter Officiate, Rabbi **Yitzi Hurwitz**. There are still two registered quartets in the **Wine Valley Harmonizers**.

**FWD DVP for Division 3 NW****Steve Sammonds**

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Thank you for reading this part of Westunes. If you are a member of the Northwest Division, please be sure to read the columns from the other four division vice presidents and read the new digests from all the other chapters in the district. There is a wealth of knowledge and information provided in every issue. As I mentioned in the last issue, we need to constantly think of new things. But let's not forget to look for ideas from others that we can use.

One such idea appeared in The Harmonizer last year: the Sound of the Rockies' successful implementation of a free singing lesson program. The idea is not original, of course. Our sisters in Sweet Adelines International published a wonderful guideline for a similar program over a decade ago. Good ideas and programs come back for a reason: they work! As you hopefully have heard by now, our new district membership chairman, Jack Peters, is putting together materials to provide chapters to launch similar programs in their community.

My own chapter already launched a program shortly after the division convention in March. We have been averaging over 30 guests per week attending the free voice clinic. While we cannot tell yet how many of those men might become members, we are building good will in the community and helping to improve singing skills of men in our area regardless of whether or not they join.

But getting men in the door is just the first step. And while you might think "closing the sale" is the last step, you've only just begun. Did you know that more than a third of all new members who join the Society do not renew after the first year? It's even worse after the second year: less than half the men who joined the Society will renew for a third year of membership.

Some say that is a retention problem, but I disagree. It is still a recruitment problem because if we were completely open during the recruitment phase and made sure the potential members were 100% informed of the kind of chapter they were joining and expectations of members, then I truly believe that far more would renew their membership in the second and third year.

I hope most chapters consider participating in the Learn

To Sing program. Just remember that however you choose to attract men to your chapter meeting, be sure you provide those men an accurate and honest picture of your chapter. A statement of purpose, mission, or vision is a great place to start. It is difficult to promote or market a nebulous entity. The more detail you can provide to potential members, the more likely you will be to attract men who "fit" your culture.

Have a wonderful summer full of song and harmony! Take every opportunity you can to share the joy of barbershop harmony with others in your community.

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BAY AREA**GREG TITUS**

Two weeks after hosting the FWD Quartet Prelims and Northwest Division Contest, we had our spring concerts - Harmony Celebration! in the same venue - with 'mighty awesome' performances by our guest quartets, **Old School** and **The Crush**. Then we had our spring weekend Advance in Occidental, CA with the legendary **Dr. Lyne** and the incomparable **Cindy Hansen**. It was a busy, yet extremely productive schedule.

FREMONT-HAYWARD**RAY SPINOSA**

The New Dimension Chorus competed at the Northwest Division Contest and finished first in plateau A and also qualified for the Far Western District contest in October. Thanks are due to director **Demaster Survine** for preparing the chorus. Thanks to **Dr. Greg Lyne** who spent an evening coaching the chorus.

The chorus spring show featured **The Great Western Timbre Company** quartet, the **Peninsulaires** and the outstanding Mt. Eden High School choral group.

The chorus performed for a group of patients at the John George mental health facility. It was extremely gratifying to see the reaction of these appreciative people and to think that in a small way we were aiding in their recovery.

MARIN COUNTY**KEN PETRON**

Our chorus competed in the FWD NW Division Contest in Santa Clara and we placed - but not in the top three! But, our hats off to those who did. We have arranged for new rehearsal space in our church practice location and now

have several upstairs rooms that provide a lot of flexibility - one room for general practice and section rehearsals, and another room where we can set up risers and simulate performances.

We began our annual membership drive. 2010 **BOTY E. Bond Francisco**, volunteered to chair the show committee assisted by **Dave Ware**. He has also agreed to be V.P. Membership and is spearheading our membership drive.

MONTEREY PENINSULA **SAM KIER**
The Monterey Peninsula Cypressaires reprised their chapter show *2010:Barbershop Odyssey* for the Lovejoy Music Series at the Unitarian Church in Monterey. They also performed at the Pacific Grove Good Old Days. Barbershop singing and *America's Last Hometown's* celebration of its 19th century birth are a good fit.

The chorus is now dusting off the more patriotic tunes in its repertoire to prepare for a Memorial Day outing at the Naval Postgraduate School. The Cypressaires will share the program with the Monterey Bay Symphony Orchestra.

PALO ALTO/MOUNTAIN VIEW **JOHN HINKLE**
Marketing VP **John Heather** and Chapter Development VP **John Hinkle** on the strong suggestion of our President, **Dave Koharhook** instituted our own version of *Ready, Set, Sing*. We got a great set of information from **Sound of the Rockies** [SOR] which allowed us to develop our own program which we call *The Singer's Voice Clinic*.

Marketing for *The Singer's Voice Clinic* was done at no advertising cost whatsoever by **John Heather** whose team contacted local church choir directors and sent a public relations notice to smaller local newspapers promoting the six week singing lessons program. We followed the basic guidelines of SOR. The program was promoted as free singing lessons and the Chapter kept a commitment to not promote membership in our chorus until after the program was completed. We found that promotion to the church directors and certain of the newspapers was very successful. Our own membership stepped up to the plate with something to offer their friends which was not a sales job, but a well organized class taught by **Paul Eastman**, our singing coach who is well known to the Barbershop world. Our attendance at Singing Lessons was better than most of us could have dreamed. We had an average of 33 people at Singing Lessons each week.

Every person who checks in weekly with Chapter Development receives a nice logo name tag and lavalier,

and a book containing information about Barbershop, the lesson plan for the entire six weeks and a copy of *You're a Grand Old Flag* which the class members will perform for our chorus. Each week the participants receive more information about Barbershop and progressively more information about the Peninsulaires. As a bonus to those in the singing lessons, they are invited to sing in our benefit performance supporting the USO in June. They will have the opportunity to learn three of the songs that we will sing with the Sweet Adeline's and the Stanford Ballroom Dance Team.

Already, at least four to five guys asked about membership in the Peninsulaires.

SAN FRANCISCO **DON KINGTON**
President **Newt Harband** recently sent a letter to each of the principals of the public high schools in San Francisco asking them to set up a date so that barbershop harmony could be demonstrated to their students.

This is part of the Youth in Harmony effort of the Barbershop Harmony Society. With some favorable response the chorus should be able to visit many San Francisco high schools over the next few months to stimulate interest in four-part, unaccompanied harmony. The Youth in Harmony Camp in Pollock Pines (scholarship to be provided) and the San Francisco Free Folk Festival taking place in late June were mentioned in the letter.

SAN MATEO **THOMAS ADDISON**
The San Mateo County Golden Chordsmen welcome new director **Cort Bender**. He comes with an extensive music background including teaching music at all levels. He is a voice coach as well as choral director, but last regularly experienced barbershop while in High School.

The chapter put on spring show *A Salute to the Greats* at Burlingame intermediate school. Our guest groups included the Men's Chorus and the Chamber Singers from Hillsdale High School in San Mateo, under the direction of **Mark Fish**. **The Chordsmen** were pleased to reciprocate and perform on the Hillsdale High School's spring show. We were delighted to see so many young people participating in music education, and were happy that they wanted to learn about and seemed to enjoy our hobby.

SANTA ROSA **RAY CROWDER**
The Redwood Chordsmen were a big hit at the annual Barclay Concert held at Santa Rosa High School. More than 400 choral singers from four local high schools gave

a “standing O” after the Chordsmen performed *Under The Boardwalk* complete with cool shades.

We were pleased to qualify for the fall FWD convention at the NorthWest Division and International Prelims in Santa Clara.

Sharon Carlson, director of the new Santa Rosa Sweet Adelines chorus **Song Of Sonoma**, stepped up to direct the **Chordsmen** for their performance at the annual volunteer luncheon for nurses and staff of Memorial Hospital, hosted by **Kathy Exelby**. Husband **Dan Exelby** MC'd the concert. Director **Phil Debar** was judging in the Pioneer District.

President **Doug Schrift** is leaving us to start a new job in the Phoenix area. Former President **Dan Exelby** agreed to finish out the year as President.

SF BAY CITIES QUARTET JORDAN MAKOWER

The **SFBCQ Chapter** hosted the Spring Convention meeting of the Harmony For Lunch Bunch at Harry's Hofbrau, 390 Saratoga Avenue in San Jose. **Roman Avila** was the Master of Ceremonies. A new group, **Surround Sound**, sang several songs and went on to place 2nd in the Youth Quartet competition at the Convention. Our chapter is a great place to practice with your quartet, while enjoying a tasty lunch. The HFLB meets in the back room at Harry's, the first Wednesday of the month, and our chapter meets there, as well, on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 11:30 – 1 PM. Stop by and join us, to 'sing with your mouth full' (or empty, as you choose). You'll always get a warm reception.

Longtime member **Orv Hanel** was granted 'dues-free' status by SFBCQ, VIH, FWD, and The Barbershop Harmony Society. Orv is 102 years young, and has been a barber-shopper for over 49 years. He is a resident of The Cedars, in Los Gatos. **Steve Gummersall**, **Dave Laubscher**, and **Roman Avila**, members of the SFBCQ Chapter, travel to The Cedars every Monday to quartet with Orv.

WALNUT CREEK DICK JOHNSTON

The **Devil Mountain Chorus** turned to thoughts of love and delivered singing valentines to 65 objects of someone's affection. Over a six-day period, quartets involving fourteen members sang at five grade schools and five nursing homes. Four of our customers have been with us for 17 years. As he has for many years, **Al Eames** organized and directed the entire operation. The activity produced a welcome transfusion for our treasury.



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CALIFORNIA DELTA

RICH BRUNNER

The **American River Chorus** was pleased to participate with the **Sacramento Capitolaire**s in the 2011 Singing Valentines program.

The FWD named the **American River Chorus** the 2010 *Chapter of the Year* at the Spring Convention in Santa Clara. ARC President **Rich Brunner** was pleased and gratified to accept the plaque and Owen Edwards Memorial Trophy from District President **Bernard Priceman**.

Our Associate Director **Ron Black** was inducted into the FWD *Hall of Fame* during the FWD Spring Convention in Santa Clara. Ron is recognized throughout the FWD and the BHS for his many contributions [see page 3].

The ARC participated in a weekend coaching session under the watchful eye of **Cindy Hansen**. We were also fortunate to have her help for an afternoon several weeks later when she was in the area.

CARSON CITY

COLIN SOONG

Carl Truman installed our new chapter president **David Smith**. **Phil Malinas** was recognized for his outstanding service as Christmas show chairman. **Fred Harlow** was awarded *BOTY*.

We announce our new website, Comstockchorus.com, which we feel will be useful for our chorus development. We look forward especially to its potential benefits for communications by our director **BJ Hill** in member education as well as a tool for publicity and news.

Through the efforts of **Rook Wetzel**, the **Ron Black** “*Choral Vocal Tutorial*”, which was partially funded by grants from the Nevada Arts Council and National Endowment for the Arts, was a huge success. In addition to our chapter, there was participation and attendance by members of five other local choral groups in our area

including the **Silver Dollar Chorus**, **Harvest Bible Chapel**, **United Methodist Church**, **Capital Christian Center** and **Capital Chamber Singers**.

The chapter provided a quartet (**Jim Crowley**, **David Ramer**, **Wayne Crandall**, and **Harold Swafford**) for another successful "Singing Valentines" event. It was possible through the efforts of **David** and **Jackie Ramer**.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA MILES SUTTER

Sixty-six scheduled "*Valengrams*" were delivered along with the impromptu requests that this event always inspires. Our most successful years were '07, '06, and '02 with 161, 138, and 137 respectively. **Members of Collaboration**, **Fortune Hunters** and **Ron Russell's** quartet performed throughout the day. **Ron Russell** and **Howard Barber** handled the phone calls for Stanislaus and Merced Counties and surrounding areas. Advertising was provided by **Grady Williams**. **Derick Sturke** and **Ron** were responsible for the Modesto Bee and outlying cities coverage.

The GVC again sponsored the FWD Novice Quartet Contest for the fourth consecutive year at the Ripon Calvary Reformed Church! Thirteen quartets participated. Among them were two mixed voices quartets, two high school quartets (one male and one female). **Leo Van Vliet** provided the sound backdrop and **Grady Williams** was in charge of popcorn. The provision and sale of food and refreshments was handled by **Ron Russell**, **Scott Hutchison**, **Juan Quijano**, **Gale Boyd**, **Dr. Bob** and **Howard Barber**. MC for this event was our own **Herb Andrew**. **Sherman Verver** handled the ticket sales admission desk. **Steve Taylor** assisted with the sound equipment. The mixed voices quartet winner was **Mixed Vegetables**; the high school quartet was **The Riveters** from Lincoln High School, Delta College. This year's Novice Contest Quartet Champion was **First Strike**, **Bay Area Chapter**. The winner's plaques were presented to them by last year's winners, **Constellation**. Our main man for this day was **Bruce Sellnow**, Contest Chairman. Quartet Host was **Terrell Chambers**; **Dick Compton** was Contest Flow; program printing was by **Derick Sturke**; Certificates and Plaques were printed and provided by **Grady Williams** and **Howard Barber**.

Charter member **Bob Stanley** [80 years old] passed away. Bob follows his wife, Lu, who passed away earlier. Many wonderful things were told about his life by members of his family including his years in ROTC, Boy Scouts, Military (retired Lt. Colonel), community service, etc.

FOLSOM STAN TRUMBULL

Folsom Harmony Express board officers were installed by **Roger Perkins**. The 2011 Chapter officers are: President **Doug Vestal**, Secretary and Membership VP **Dennis Stohl**, Treasurer **Burt Weichenthal**, Music Committee Chair **Charlie Clark**, Sunshine Chair **Les Cudworth**, and BMAL **Marion Gribskov**, and **Russ Duane**. **Kent Borrowdale** is the 2010 *BOTY*. **Les Cudworth** was appointed the Sunshine Chair for the Far Western District.

Because of some great groundwork by **President Doug Vestal**, our Valentine's Day singing events brought fantastic results. **TBDL**, **42ITUS & Sitten in the Dark** participated in the Valentines weekend event.

Folsom Harmony Express hosted an "*Open Mic Quartet Night*", as a Special Fifth Thursday Rehearsal event. Chapters from the greater Sacramento area were invited to send organized or unorganized quartets. Members from the **Nevada Placer**, **Folsom**, **Placerville**, **West Valley Choruses** and a few **Sweet Adelines** joined the fun. Attendees were encouraged to form impromptu quartets on site and pick a quartet name before singing. A total of 17 different quartets performed, including an impromptu comedy quartet. **Doug Vestal** was the MC.

NEVADA PLACER ROGER PERKINS

There were enough Singing Valentines to keep three quartets busy.

Our annual spring show was entitled "*On the Road Again*". Guess what our first song was! (Good guess.) Our featured quartet was Far Western District Silver Medalists **95 North**. A few days before the show we were worried about their availability due to the stormy weather, and I-80 was closed two days before the show. Bass **Mike Stewart** lives in Reno, but the other three, **Jim** and **Larry Halvorson** and **Nick Pizzo** are in Las Vegas. They had planned to fly to Reno and drive over the hill to Auburn for the show. With a last minute change they flew into Sacramento and Mike picked them up and brought them to Auburn in time for the show. They did an excellent job as show headliners and singing on the afterglow.

PLACERVILLE BILL PECK

The Gold Rush Chorus recently lost some valuable people. **Ray Rhymer** (FWD Hall of Fame) retired after 14 years as Placerville CD and we miss him greatly. We also lost several of our "young" members who have graduated or moved on to other jobs or locations. Fortunately, we

have a new director, **Dr. Jeff Nelson**, who, with his great musical experience in directing choral groups and playing instruments, has enthusiastically started us on the road to new goals. He is leading us to a higher level of singing with his great enthusiasm. We are broadening our music mix to the delight of our members and audiences. Our chapter has set out to increase our community involvement with more performances and youth outreach. This also helps us to attract new members who are good singers and can harmonize well.

RENO

STEVE SHURTLIFF

Spring is here and our chorus is growing! We welcome **Rook Wetzel** and **Colin Soong**, both doing double duty with us and the **Carson City** chapter. Having their voices and experience among us gives us a real boost!

The youth movement is well represented by **Justin Hubbard**, **Garret Ferris**, **Dennis Miller**, **Donnie Miller** (not related) and **Rudy Moreno**. We heartily welcome all of these fine folks, and look forward to more to come!

SACRAMENTO

JOE SAMORA

Congratulations to our Musical Director **Ron Black** who was inducted into the FWD *Hall of Fame*. Ron has been directing the **Capitolaires** since 2009 and is an Associate Director of the **American River Chorus** since 2010. He sings in the award winning quartet **The Great Western Timbre Co.** Ron has been active in Barbershop singing since 1976 and been involved in several chapters.

Frank Kinnison and **Wally McClain** passed away. The chorus sang at their memorial services.

The American River Chorus combined their talents with the **Capitolaires** to form quartets, to sell and deliver Singing Valentines. Two songs, See's candy and a rose were in the package. **Ian Gayton** was the chair with **Chris Miller** and **Norm Smith** serving on the committee.

"Come to the Cabaret" was the title of the Capitolaires annual spring show. **Winston Char** was the show chair. Quartets included the **Ambassadors**, **Heavenly** (Sweet Adelines), **TBDL** and featured performers **The Great Western Timbre Co.** The chorus was directed by **Ron Black**, **Bill Borah**, **Mark Coldiron** and **Randy Finger**.

The Sacramento Capitolaires will be celebrating their 65th Anniversary. The chapter was sponsored by the **Reno Chapter** and chartered on June 14, 1946. **Joe Trousdale** was the founder.

VISALIA

BUD CASE

At the Installation of the 2011 officers, the installing quartet was **Silver and Gold** from **Fresno**. **Pat Harrison** prepared the beautiful table center pieces and settings. **Ted Petersdorf** presented **Dee Baughman** with the *Past President's plaque* in recognition of his third year in a row. The *Helping Hands Awards* were given to **Gary Smith**, **Lee Smith** and **Bob Browne**. **Some Assembly Required** entertained. **Lee Smith** read a recap of 2010 MOC history followed by the chapter singing a couple of songs. The *President's Awards* went to: **Tank Waldrum**, **Fred Speckman**, **Jeff Hanson**, and **Bud Case**. **Paul Simon** was the 2010 *BOTY*. He also is an outstanding community leader/volunteer as demonstrated in his work at the Tulare County Ag/Farm Show. The program was topped off with a rousing performance by **Silver & Gold**. **Dee Baughman** gave one additional *President's Award* to **Ted Petersdorf** at the Feb. 1st meeting.

Our Singing Valentines program netted 14 paying customers. We appreciate **Rich Crain**, **Pat Harrison**, **Lance Jepson** and **Lee Smith** for their dedication to linking love and barbershop quartet music. Each young lady received a red rose and box of candy along with flushed cheeks as they listened to the love songs of yore.



FWD DVP for Division 5 Arizona

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Phoenix is proud and excited to have received the news, that our bid to host the October FWD convention in 2012 has been approved. We have toured the facilities with District Events Chair John Jones, and all agree they are first rate. The auditorium, the AV tools, the hotels, the restaurants are all superior. Get ready FWD. Guaranteed no rain, no snow, nor any inclement weather.

The AZ division convention and contest was quite exciting, and AZ will send 4 choruses and 3 quartets to Fresno.

The leadership academies will be revitalized and improved this year. Chuck Hunter has given much to this enterprise, and we are indebted for his service. Chuck is now in the process of turning the reins over to Lou Benedict who will do a great job.

All eyes are now focused on Kansas City where the FWD will be well represented once again.

The chapter surveys are well underway, with high hopes for positive direction, as a result of candid responses....We MUST discover paths to stabilizing, then growing this art form of ours.....



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ARIZONA QUARTET

JIM MILNER

The Arizona Quartet Chapter hosted the kick-off meeting of the Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association (BQPA) in April. About 40 people enjoyed the all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner and an evening parade of quartets made up of a blind draw. Our chapter quartet **Two Under Par** sang a set to everyone's enjoyment. The BQPA visitors had a great time. President **Rex Touslee** served as master of ceremonies and VP **Scott Bratcher** drew the quartets. Our meetings, which exclusively involve quartet singing on an informal basis, provide opportunities for those singers who love the quartet experience.

CASA GRANDE

LOREN ENGLUND

The Desert Sounds board and members of the **Casa Grande Chapter** are pleased to have Rev. **James Staggs** as our chorus director and also his assistant Rev. **Davetta McBride**. Rev. Staggs's congregation has been very charitable in allowing us to use church facilities for our weekly rehearsals.

A few factors influenced the board to cancel the Spring Concert, "Girls-Girls-Girls." We apologize to those who anticipated being at the concert. Show Chairman Carl Schultz was understandably disappointed.

Long-time lead singer **Jan Pendergraft** passed away which saddened members of the **Desert Sounds**. He helped us be a solid singing chorus during our building years in Casa Grande.

The board wishes to express thanks to the numerous winter visitors helping our chorus. These great fellow singers are **Ross Welsh, Louis Welch, Don Fick, Carl Schultz, Clyde Johnson, and Jim Scheridan**.

GREATER PHOENIX

JERRY MCELFRESH

The Spirit of Phoenix chorus came away with "wins" in its annual show and chorus competition within a busy two-week period. The show, *A Funny Thing Happened on*

the Way to the Orpheum, lived up to its title with fast-paced humor played to laughing, applauding patrons who were delighted by the performances of the chorus, our quartets and VLQ, headliner quartet **Storm Front**, and the many "characters" who portrayed their zany roles like stage veterans.

Two weeks later, SOP took first place in the Arizona Division Contest. Besides hosting the convention, the chorus wrapped up the competition with acceptance songs, including a spoof on *Phantom of the Opera* that brought the audience to its feet after non-stop laughter.

The Division Quartet Contest had 14 competing quartets, including 10 from the **Spirit of Phoenix**. The three quartets qualifying for District — **Vocal Edition, Go for Broke** and **PHX!** — have SOP members.

Chorus Manager **Jack Mauney** announced that the Greater Phoenix Chapter will host next year's Far Western District Fall Contest and Convention to be held on October 11-14, 2012 at the Mesa Center for the Arts.

The chapter resumed its *BOTM* Award, with the first one going to **Steve Schneck**.

Several singers joined the chapter: **Peter Lourie; Mike Pippinger; Mike Dunn**, dual member with the **Pages of Harmony** in Spokane, WA; **Chuck Renschler**, dual member with the **Midnight Sons** in Anchorage, AK; **Lenny Miller; Jason Bullock** and **Ray Kahler**.

Longtime Phoenix Chapter member **Bob McDonald** celebrated his birthday surrounded by family, friends and many barbershoppers. Bob has 61 years of Society membership and an incredible 38 Man of Note awards.

MESA

BOB SHAFFER

Since new Director Dick Naas joined us over the Christmas holiday, he and the chorus have been working hard to get to know each other better. Dick was especially anxious to show us the beauty of simple, good old-fashioned barbershop chords. In preparing for our annual show, we learned a few "new" twists to some "old" repertoire and polished off the learning of some new songs.

During our Singing Valentines program, we delivered 50 messages of love throughout the East Valley area. Six different quartets went out with **2 Under Par** and **Backspin** leading the way. **Bob Shaffer** organized the event, assisted by **Roy Murray, Jerry Fox, Dave Boussetot, M/M**

Randy Bingel, and **John VanWestrienen**. Even Mrs. **Jenifer Shaffer** got in on the fun, covering the phone for a couple of hours.

We presented *Barbershop – Pure and Simple!* to an enthusiastic audience. The most often repeated comment after the show was “The chorus has never sounded or looked better!” In keeping with the Mesa Chapter’s commitment to Youth in Harmony, the guest performer on our show was **Arizona Spirit**, an under-30 men’s chorus sponsored by the **Greater Phoenix Chapter**. Thanks to Director **Dan Ryan** and to the **PHX Quartet** for guiding these young men in their first adventures into barbershopping!

PRESCOTT

SAM STIMPLE

The newly re-elected Prescott Chapter board of directors held its annual retreat to set the budget and establish realistic goals for the New Year. One aim kept rising to the top — more performances throughout the area we serve.

Weather cooperated so that several Singing Valentines could be delivered to surprised recipients. One shocked young lady was told, “There are four men in white coats that want to see you!” More than 30 members and guests enjoyed the chapter’s Installation of Officers & Awards Dinner. Director **Joan Piechocki** conducted the installation by singing a song title representing each officer’s job.

The High Mountain Chordsmen returned to the division contest stage after a four-year absence. Two excellent coaches helped the chorus bring its competition package to life. Thank you **Russ Young** and **Terry Colucci**.

Our chapter provided a quartet [**Jack Deaton**, **Ed Massa**, **Joe La Barge**, **Sam Stimple**] for pre-program and intermission entertainment. Yavapai College Community Events hosted the New York City-based Windwood Theatrical’s production of Meredith Willson’s *The Music Man* at Prescott’s state-of-the-art performance hall.

Prescott lost a pioneer barbershopper with the passing of **Jerry Harbeson**, a 32-year chapter and Society member. Jerry served as music vice president, president, and chorus director during his time with us.

SUN CITIES

CAMPBELL TITCHENER

The Desert Aires VLQ performed at an open house at the Daily News-Sun. **Hank** and **Joan Nahass** headed our annual Singing Valentines program with four quartets offering 39 messages of love in the West Valley.

President **Bill Shaw** and VP-Program **Larry Callagher** challenged the members to bring guests to the chapter meeting immediately following our annual show. As a result of this recruitment call, we had 17 guests at the next meeting. Nine have already joined.

Our show *Erin Go Broadway* featuring **The Perfect Gentlemen** and **The Mix**, an award-winning Sweet Adelines quartet, set records for attendance and revenue.

On a sad note, we lost **John Sherman**, a long-time member of our baritone section.

The Arizona Division Contest was highlighted by a “deja-vue-all-over-again” moment when a quartet called **Desert Daze** took the stage. It was led by **Joseph Salz** and **Charles Rastatter** who have been singing together for 75 years, dating back to elementary school days. They and barbershop icons, **Lloyd Steinkamp** and **Sam Aramian**, formed the **Desert Knights** in 1955 and became the longest-serving registered quartet with the same personnel in Society history. Their last performance was in 2006 as highlighters for a Desert Aires annual show. Since then, Lloyd and Sam have passed on, but two familiar faces replaced them for the contest. One was Don Salz, Joe’s son and a member of three Sacramento area choruses, who flew in for the weekend. The other was Gary Steinkamp, now director of the Spirit of Phoenix chorus. The two newcomers didn’t need much rehearsal, since they had been little kids playing on the floor while their dads worked on comedy routines. Now both Don and Gary qualify as senior quarteters. Talk about longevity.

TUCSON SUNSHINE

JACK STATLER

Several chapter members attended the 2011 Midwinter Convention in Las Vegas to get a heads-up on the Midwinter 2012 to be held in Tucson with the Tucson Sunshine Chapter as host. **John Devitt**, **Jim Hart**, **Frank Hartline**, **Ron Hayes**, **Ed Johnson**, **Ken Sylvia** and **David Updegraff** gathered materials from the Tucson Convention & Visitors Bureau for display to promote next year’s convention location, gain insight into what is expected of a host, and assess ways to make the 2012 event even more successful.

Our Singing Valentines program planning for this year’s endeavor started early. Headed by Music VP **Wes Krause** with **Sue Krause** holding down Valentine Central, the campaign covered three days with posters, flyers, cards, order forms, radio talk show appearances, media ‘hits,’ and eight quartets formed and vetted for duty. Although

the Singing Valentines numbers were somewhat disappointing, the participating quartets reported quite a few rewarding experiences, proving that this can be one of the most valuable activities to promote barbershopping.

One of our Valentine's Day quartets was tapped to sing for a local church group luncheon at a nearby restaurant. The group responded enthusiastically to the quartet and provided such comments as "That's so entertaining" and "It makes us feel special."

TBX's Annual Show, *Gospel: A Good News Journey in American Music*, under the direction of **Jeff Dolan**, hit the stage for two performances in the recently refurbished Flowing Wells High School Auditorium. A well-researched and crafted script by Frank Hartline, video and voiceover by Hawkeye Richardson, aided by Wes Krause, told the story of gospel music's influence on barbershopping through the ages. Five chapter foursomes — **Daybreak, Touch of Grey, Good News Four, Sonoran Sound** and **Joint Venture** — were inserted in the lineup to provide quartet variety, thus permitting the chorus to make four costume changes during the show. All agreed that the showstopper was the moving performance of "Ol' Man River" featuring TBX Director **Jeff Dolan**. Guest performers were **The Gospel Music Workshop of America** — Tucson Chapter, an authentic mixed gospel choir from within our ranks who were accompanied by an amplified piano and drum. Some of our patrons commented that they have never heard TBX sound any better.

WHITE MOUNTAINS

JOHN WELKER

The retirement of **Carl (Doc) Dockendorf**, founder and chorus director for 10 years, was highlighted by the awarding of his 50-year pin by District Executive Vice President **Russ Young**. Russ also installed the 2011 officers. We are pleased to announce new director **Denny Shankland**.

February saw a successful Singing Valentines weekend, and we welcomed a new quartet, **Four Wheel Drive**.

The chorus presented a concert called *Big Band and Barbershop* which featured **White Mountain Belles**, (a ladies barbershop chorus), **Crooks Trail Quartet**, and the **Northern Pioneer College Big Band** as guest talent. Northern Pioneer College is a sponsor of the High Country Chorus.

At the division contest we took the Class A championship. The *Most Improved Chorus* trophy was ours for the second year in a row. We qualified for the Fall Contest.

YUMA

ROB BAILEY

The Territorial Prisonaires Chorus had a full weekend singing Valentines all over town. Revenue was down a little, as one might expect right now, but the recipients were universally enthusiastic and the guys enjoyed every performance. This year, instead of taking one Polaroid picture, we used digital cameras, took several shots, and delivered the photos via e-mail. That seemed to please the recipients, and it reduced our expenses a little.

We had a fun-filled installation banquet at a local Chinese buffet. Our guests, the **Hi Jolly Sweet Adelines Chorus**, sang and then joined us for dinner. After dinner and the necessary festivities, the **Prisonaires** put on a short show, followed by **Chuck Rogers and the Ray Bans**. When it was over, those in attendance had enjoyed several mixed quartet tags, some gang singing, and the comedy of Director **Frank Durham**, our 2010 *BOTY*. Frank's the guy who adds fun to our already enjoyable singing experience!

We were pleased to host **David Christmas**, bass of **Trounce Alley**, from Victoria, B.C. David brought some new songs and took a few of our favorites home with him.

FWD Fall Convention in Fresno

October 13-16, 2011

**Quartets and Choruses Will Compete
for the FWD Championship.**

HOD meeting is Friday, October 14, 2PM.

**Chapter Officer or not, you can attend
to witness how the HOD functions.**

**If you approve [or disapprove], contact
your DVP to let him know.**

"IT'S YOUR DISTRICT"

IT IS OK TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE FWD YOUTH EDUCATION FUND.

Editor note: Our FWD membership supports Youth In Harmony financially and that helps create the ability to conduct the HSQC. Our youth are the ones who benefit in the short term, and our Society in the long.

The Association of Far Western District
Champions presents....

GO FOR THE GOLD

8PM - Saturday, June 25, 2011

Plummer Auditorium, 201 E. Chapman Ave., Fullerton, CA

featuring...

MASTERPIECE, THE CRUSH,
THE EDGE, 95 NORTH, OC TIMES
and from New Zealand,
THE MUSICAL ISLAND BOYS &
VOCAL FX.

Tickets available on line at AFWDC.org or from any member
of the AFWDC. Online tickets will be held at will call.

Proceeds from the Afterglow (site to be announced) will go to
our friends from New Zeland.



WEST TUNES



Non-Profit Org.
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FAR WESTERN DISTRICT
Association of Chapters
Barbershop Harmony Society, Inc.
Ray Rhymer, Editor
4339 Whispering Oaks Circle
Granite Bay, CA 95746

CONVENTIONS, SHOWS, EVENTS

2011

June

4 Santa Cruz Show
11 La Holla Show
11 Santa Rosa Show
17 Brea Show
18 Brea Show
18 Pasadena Show
25 *Go For The Gold Show in Fullerton*
25 Palo Alto Mountain View Show

July

7/3-10 INT'L CONV Kansas City, MO

30 Orange Show

7/31-8/7 Harmony University, MWSU
St. Joseph, MO

August

7 Santa Monica Show
13 Fullerton Show
14 Santa Monica Show
19-21 *Harmony College West*
CSU East Bay
26-28 Harmony Brigade Reno, NV

September

18 San Francisco Show

October

1 California Delta Show
13-16 **FWD Fall Convention,**
Fresno Host: Fresno
18-22 SAI Int'l Conv, Houston, TX
29 San Mateo Show

November

5 Santa Monica Show
5 Walnut Creek Show
6 Santa Cruz Show
12 *Leadership Academy* NCal
19 *Leadership Academy* SCal

December

3 Fremont-Hayward Show
9 Brea Show
10 Brea Show
10 Santa Rosa

2012

January

17-22 INT'L MIDWINTER CONV
Tucson, AZ

March

3 Tucson Show
8-11 **FWD Spring Convention, TBA**
15-18 SAI Region 11 Convention

April

13-14 *NW Division -*
20-21 *AZ Division - Phoenix*
26-29 SAI Region 12 & 21 Conventions

May

5 *SW Division*
12 *SE Division*
18-19 *NE Division*

July

7/1-8 INT'L CONV Portland, OR

October

11-14 **FWD Fall Convention**
Mesa Host: Greater Phoenix
10/30-11/3 SAI Int'l Conv, Denver, CO

2013

March

14-17 SAI Region 11 Convention
21-24 **FWD Spring Convention, TBA**

June

6/30-7/7 INT'L CONV Toronto, ON

October

10-13 **FWD Fall Convention**
11/5-9 SAI Int'l Conv, Honolulu, HI

2014

March

20-23 **FWD Spring Convention**

June

6/29-7/6 NT'L CONV Las Vegas, NV

October

9-12 **FWD Fall Convention**

11/4-8 SAI Int'l Conv, Baltimore, MD

2015

June

6/28-7/5 INT'L CONV Pittsburgh, PA

10/6-10 SAI Int'l Conv, Las Vegas, NV

2016

July

7/3-10 INT'L CONV Nashville, TN

10/18-22 SAI Int'l Conv, Las Vegas, NV

2017

July

7/2-9 INT'L CONV Minneapolis, MI

2018

July

7/1-8 INT'L CONV Orlando, FL

2019

June

6/30-7/7 INT'L CONV
Salt Lake City, UT

*Clear all show dates with
FWD Secretary, Peter Feeney*