



2026 Spring Brochure

House of Delegates, April 12, 2026 at 3:00 pm

ZOOM Online Meeting



Table of Contents

President’s Message3

Board of Directors Meeting Agenda 4

House of Delegates Meeting Agenda 6

Board Member Reports

 District Secretary.....8

 Fall 2025 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes9

 Fall 2025 House of Delegates Meeting Minutes12

 District Treasurer.....16

 2025 Statement of Activity with comparison to 2024.....17

 Arizona Division Vice President.....22

 Northeast Division Vice President.....24

 Northwest Division Vice President.....30

 Southeast Division Vice President.....31

 Southwest Division Vice President.....32

 Vice President Music & Performance36

 Vice President Contests & Judging.....38

 Immediate Past President40

 Executive Vice President.....41

Management Team Reports

 Marketing & Public Relations Manager..... 43

 Membership Recruitment & Education Manager45

 Youth in Harmony Manager..... 47

 Events Manager.....48

 Community Outreach.....49

 Chorus Director Development.....50

 Historian/Museum Curator.....51

 Nominating Committee.....52

 Attachment:14.5.1 FWD HALL OF FAME AWARD GUIDELINES53

President's Message

Adam Kaufman

Far Western District President

president@farwesterndistrict.org



It is a pleasure to report that the Far Western District continues to thrive and grow. Over the past year, we have seen encouraging momentum across our chapters, ensembles, and leadership teams. The energy, dedication, and commitment of our members remain the driving force behind the district's success.

During my tenure as president, it has been deeply rewarding to witness the district moving in such a positive direction. Membership engagement is strong, participation in events is increasing, and our shared focus on musical excellence and fellowship continues to define who we are.

One particularly exciting development has been the continued success of the **Go for the Gold** program, which recently completed its second cycle. This initiative has already demonstrated meaningful impact by supporting musical growth throughout the district. Programs like this show what is possible when we invest intentionally in our singers and our future.

The Far Western District is not only maintaining its proud traditions — it is building on them. We are strengthening our musical culture, expanding opportunities for education and performance, and creating welcoming spaces for new singers to discover barbershop harmony.

Thank you to every volunteer, chapter leader, director, quartet singer, and member who contributes time, talent, and passion to this organization. Because of you, the Far Western District stays strong, optimistic, and positioned for continued success.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and excited about what lies ahead for our district.

Barbershop
is **FUN** 
#BarbershopsIsFun

**Far Western District
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda
March 19, 2026
6:00 pm
Stockton, California**

1. Call to Order Adam Kaufman
2. Pledge of Allegiance.....Adam Kaufman
3. Sing – The Old Songs.....
4. Roll call.....Greg Dreyer
5. Opening remarks..... Adam Kaufman
6. Introduction of guests incl. Past Presidents Adam Kaufman
7. Accepting the Agenda Adam Kaufman
8. Approval of Minutes from Fall BOD Meeting.....Greg Dreyer
October 9, 2025 Fresno, CA
9. Treasurers Report.....Wally Smulson
 - a. Financial Status/Update
 - b. Receive report
10. Vice Presidents' Reports:.....Adam Kaufman
 - a. Division 1 SouthwestKenny Rios
 - b. Division 2 Southeast.....Jeremy Loper
 - c. Division 3 NorthwestRich Postal
 - d. Division 4 Northeast..... Sue Atkins
 - e. Division 5 Arizona Aaron Burluson

- f. Music and PerformanceChris Hebert
- g. Contest and JudgingBen Porter
- h. Immediate Past President.....Kenny Rios
- h. Executive Vice PresidentCody Littlefield
- 11. District Management TeamCody Littlefield
 - a. Marketing and Public RelationsDavid Melville
 - b. Membership Recruitment and EducationAlex Baskin.
 - c. Youth in HarmonyAntwun Puckett
 - d. Events/VenuesAdam Kaufman
 - e. Community Outreach..... Cary Burns
 - f. Chorus Director DevelopmentLaura Pallas Singer
 - g. Historian/Museum Curator Report.....Kenny Rios
 - h. Nominating Committee Report.....Kenny Rios
- 12. Old Business:Adam Kaufman
 - a. 55+ Chorus CompetitionRich Postal
- 13. New Business:.....Adam Kaufman
 - a. Changes in SOP – attachedCraig Hughes
 - b. Next Meeting HOD April 12, 2026 3 pm ZOOM
- 14. Sing – Keep the Whole World Singing
- 15. Adjournment Adam Kaufman

Far Western District
House of Delegates Meeting

AGENDA

April 12, 2026, 3:00 pm

ZOOM Online Meeting

1. Call to order..... Adam Kaufman
2. “The Old Songs” (please MUTE your Microphone)
3. “The National Anthem” (please MUTE your Microphone)
4. Roll callGreg Dreyer
5. Opening remarks and introduction of guests and Past Presidents ... Adam Kaufman
6. Accepting the Agenda.....Adam Kaufman
7. Approval of Minutes.....Greg Dreyer
 - a. Fall HOD Meeting October 26, 2025
9. Treasurers Report Wally Smulson
 - a. Financial Status/Update
 - c. Receive Report
10. Vice Presidents Reports (included in this brochure):
 - a. Division 1 Southwest.....Kathy Kileen
 - b. Division 2 Southeast..... Jeremy Loper
 - c. Division 3 Northwest..... Rich Postal
 - d. Division 4 Northeast.....Sue Atkins
 - e. Division 5 Arizona.....Aaron Burleson
 - f. Music and Performance.....Chris Hébert
 - g. Contests and Judging.....Ben Porter
 - h. Immediate Past President.....Kenny Rios
 - h. Executive Vice President..... Cody Littlefield

- 11. District Management TeamCody Littlefield
 - a. Marketing and Public RelationsDavid Melville
 - b. Membership Recruitment and EducationAlex Baskin.
 - c. Youth in HarmonyAntwun Puckett
 - d. Events/VenuesAdam Kaufman
 - e. Community Outreach.....Cary Burns
 - f. Chorus Director DevelopmentLaura Pallas Singer
 - g. Historian/Museum Curator Report.....Kenny Rios
 - h. Nominating Committee Report.....Kenny Rios
- 12. Old Business:
 - a. None
- 13. New Business:
 - a. Next Meeting Fall 2026 - ZOOM..... Adam Kaufman
- 14. “Keep the Whole World Singing” (please MUTE your Microphone)
- 15. Adjournment..... Adam Kaufman



Board Member Reports

Greg Dreyer

District Secretary

secretary@farwesterndistrict.org

A reminder to all chapter secretaries on the procedure for filing for show clearance.

BMI/SESAC LICENSE and Show Clearance File these for **EACH** performance:

1. Go to the FWD Website (farwesterndistrict.org).
2. Navigate to Media > Show Clearance Forms.
3. Download the file “*** IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS for PREPARATION & MAILING***”. [BMI-SESAC Show Report Form fillable .pdf](#)
4. READ the detailed instructions in that file.
5. Download the latest Application for Show Clearance BMI & SESAC LICENSE Form (New Form).
6. Complete the form per the instructions (you can fill out and the print the form using your computer).
7. Have your Treasurer issue a check, payable to either “BHS” or “SPEBSQSA” for the amount due (usually \$60.00 per performance).
8. IMPORTANT: DO NOT MAIL THE FORM AND CHECK TO BHS! This will only slow down the process. Instead, mail the check and form to your District Secretary, whose address you will find in the instructions downloaded in Step 3.
9. **Please include your email address**

Following these procedures will get your show cleared and added to the district calendar in short order.

ASCAP Reporting Forms File Annually in December

1. Go to the FWD Website (farwesterndistrict.org).
2. Navigate to Media > Show Clearance Forms.
3. Download the file “*** IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS for PREPARATION & MAILING***”.
4. READ the detailed instructions in that file.
5. Download the latest ASCAP Reporting Form.
6. Have your treasurer cut a check payable to “Barbershop Harmony Society”.
7. Mail the form and check to BHS per the instructions.

**Far Western District
Board of Directors Meeting
Minutes
Fall Convention
October 9, 2025 6 pm
Fresno, CA**

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 1. Call to order by the President at 6:01 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance | Adam Kaufman |
| 2. Singing of “The Old Songs” | Cary Burns |
| 3. Roll call and establishment of a quorum by Secretary | Greg Dreyer |

Present:

- Kenny Rios
- Adam Kaufman
- Greg Dreyer
- Wally Smulson
- Kathy Kileen absent but represented by Kenny Rios
- Jeremy Loper
- Rich Postal
- Sue Atkins
- Aaron Burleson
- Chris Hebert
- Cody Littlefield (remote)
- Laura Pallus Singer
- David Melville
- Antwun Puckett
- Cary Burns
- James Halvorson
- Ethan Frahm

Absent:

- Ben Porter

Guests:

- Don Laursen
- Bob Cox
- Perry White

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| 4. Opening remarks | Adam Kaufman |
|--------------------|--------------|

Things are going well in Fresno with 731 paid attendees,
Welcomed guests and Past Presidents: Kenny Rios, Bill Rosica and Craig Hughes

5. Accepting the Agenda

Moved Wally Smulson and seconded Kenny Rios. Carried

6. Approval of Minutes from Summer BOD Meeting August 9, 2025	Greg Dreyer
Motion made by Greg Dreyer and seconded by Chris Hebert – carried	
7. Treasurer’s Report by Treasurer as submitted in Google Drive	Wally Smulson
Discussion - An updated copy listed as “Official” has been listed on Google Drive	
Motion to receive report by Greg Dreyer and Seconded by Kenny Rios. Carried	
8. VP Reports:	Kenny Rios
a. Division 1 Southwest – absent but represented by Kenny Rios	Kenny Rios
b. Division 2 Southeast as submitted in Google Drive	Jeremy Loper
c. Division 3 Northwest as submitted in Google Drive	Rich Postal
d. Division 4 Northeast as submitted in Google Drive	Sue Atkins
Sue voiced concerns regarding Sacramento Chapter. Kenny will work with Sue.	
e. Division 5 Arizona as submitted in Google Drive	Aaron Burleson
f. Contest and Judging submitted in Google Drive-absent	Ben Porter
g. Music and Performance as submitted in Google Drive	Chris Hebert
h. Immediate Past President – Adhoc for YIH Grants and Program. Historian – Looking for curators to assist	Kenny Rios
i. Executive Vice President	Cody Littlefield
9. District Management Team	Adam Kaufman
a. Member Recruitment/Education Manager as submitted in Google Drive	Cody Littlefield
b. Chorus Director Development as submitted in Google Drive -	Laura Pallas Singer
c. Events/Venues as submitted in Google Drive	Adam Kaufman
Mid-Winter Convention - Pasadena, CA Jan 13-18, 2026	
Spring Convention – (Northern California) March 12-15, 2026 tbd	
Fall Convention October 2026 - Hawaii	
Registration \$100-150, Lodging around \$200 a night.	
Prices are going up!	
Package deals are being formulated.	
d. Marketing and Public Relations as submitted in Google Drive	David Melville
e. Youth in Harmony as submitted in Google Drive -	Antwun Puckett
f. Community Outreach as submitted in Google Drive	Cary Burns
g. Historian as submitted in Google Drive	Kenny Rios
h. Youth in Harmony Grants and Programs	Kenny Rios

10. Old Business:

a. 55+ chorus

Rich Postal

Fall convention in Fresno to qualify for the Mid-Winter in Pasadena CA.
72 people have shown interest – 49 have signed up to be on stage
2 songs directed by Cary Burns.
Goal is to encourage more involvement from attendees at the conventions.

b. Update of Chapter of the Year

Adam Kaufman

Fall Convention selection is **California Delta**
Contributing factors were community involvement, shows, membership, number of guests, etc.

c. Announcement of Fall Convention Dedicatee **Paul Engel**

Adam Kaufman

d. Action Item: Ethan Frahm has volunteered to create 25-and-under chorus

Comments: from attendees:

Perry White - Harmony Foundation – Encouraging chapters to take advantage of “Donor’s Choice” program where chapters can receive 30 to 50% back to their chapters. Funds are now being planned for 2027 Youth outreach.

Bob Cox – representing Robert Rund, the new CEO of BHS with vision of increasing worldwide involvement of barbershopping. Talked about the success of various groups throughout the world. BHS now financially stable and membership is increasing. Encouraged chapters to use BHS resources.

Don Laursen – Visalia Chapter. Spoke of success of Youth Harmony Explosion. He also mentioned the benefit of working with the local community college.

Chris Hebert – has collected audio files of many recordings from previous FWD conventions. Looking to do more and is asking for contributions. He also shared KUDO’s to Cody Littlefield for his work on the Gold Rush event.

Greg Dreyer as FWD Secretary is asking for better communication among BOD and Management Team. Encouraging members to respond to texts and emails.

11. New Business:

Adam Kaufman

a. David Melville is suggesting that West-tunes be done on an annual basis. The SOP would need to be changed. Minimal discussion was held. David was late to the meeting so this item was tabled .

b. DVP’s are to submit job descriptions to Adam.

c. Next meeting March 12, 2026 at FWD Spring Convention

d. Motion to adjourn by Kenny Rios and seconded by Sue Atkins.

12. Sing “Keep the Whole World Singing”

13. Adjournment at 7:29 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Greg Dreyer FWD Secretary

**Far Western District
House of Delegates Meeting
Minutes
October 26, 2025
ZOOM**

1. Call to Order at 10:00 am Adam Kaufman

2. **Sing** “The Old Songs” (muted)

3. Roll Call to establish quorum David Melville
Chapters present: **20**
Barbary Coast, Brea, California Delta, Greater Phoenix, LA South Towns, Las Vegas, Marin, Maricopa Co.,
Mesa, Placerville (Gold Rush), Salt River, San Diego, San Fernando Valley, Santa Cruz, Santa Monica, South
Bay, Sun Cities, AZ, Temecula, Walnut Creek, Westminster

Chapters absent:
Apple Valley, Bakersfield, Central AZ QT, Central California, Coachella Valley, Davis-Vacaville, Fullerton,
Conejo Valley, Crescenta Valley, El Cajon, Eureka, Folsom, Greater Los Angeles, Hemet, Inland Empire, La
Jolla, Lake Forest, Monterey Peninsula, Napa, Orange QT, Palomar Pacific, Palo Alto-MT View, Pasadena,
Prescott, Redwood Chordsmen, Reno, Rincon Beach, Sacramento, Saddle Brooke, San Mateo, Santa Rosa,
Sedona, Sounds of Aloha, San Francisco Bay Cities, San Francisco, Santa Clarita, Santa Maria, Stockton,
Tucson Sunshine, Visalia, White Mountains, Yuma.

Quorum was present

4. Opening Remarks Adam Kaufman
Introduction of Past Presidents: Craig Hughes, Bill Rosica, Bernard Priceman,
Kenny Rios, Bob Lally, Gordon Monghold and guest Roe Darnell
Comments: Fall Convention was Great!

5. Accepting of Agenda Adam Kaufman
– Motion Art Miller and seconded by Mark Torrance – carried

6. Secretary’s Report – David Melville
 - a. Approval of Minutes from Spring Convention 2025
-Motion Roe Darnell and seconded by Kenny Rios– carried
 - b. Reading of Chapter Eternal with online singing of *The Irish Blessing* David Melville

Leslie Ray Crowder
Norman Wolfe
Miles Sutter
Richard Gardiner
Milos Koutsky
David Vorobyov
Edward Johnson

Charles Bevitt
 Kurt Boutin
 Jean Bernard
 Robert Griffiths
 Vicki Scrimger
 William Cohen
 Timothy Giroux
 Robert Schiegel
 Al Mau
 Ronald Hansen
 Ross Brown
 Henry Haubert
 James Graham
 Daniel Reidy
 Wesley Krause
 Bert Fehlman
 Charles Hudson
 John Irey
 John Dennis
 Thomas Darby
 Gil Berggren
 Thomas McCullough
 James Merker
 Ronald Thorpe
 Shane Scott
 Edward Comingore
 Joe Palmquist
 Ivan Jensen

(Chapter Secretaries are encouraged to verify listings from BHS to update member status.)

<https://www.barbershop.org/member-death-reporting>

7. Treasurer Report Adam Kaufman
- a. Financial Status/Update –
 - b. Presentation of 2026 Budget
 - c. Approval of budget for 2026:
 - d. Receive report **Motion made by Craig Hughes and seconded by Art Miller– carried**
8. Vice Presidents Reports **(Reports are in HOD Brochure)**
- a. Division 1 SW as submitted Kenny Rios for Kathy Kileen
 - b. Division 2 SE as submitted Jeremy Roper
 adding a comment regarding the success of the Gold Rush 2025 giving Cody Littlefield, who headed the event, Kudos for his efforts leading to the success of the program.
 - c. Division 3 NW as submitted Rich Postal
 Absent, however report stands as confirmed by Kenny Rios
 - d. Division 4 NE as submitted Sue Atkins
 Absent, however report stands as confirmed by Adam Kaufman

- e. Division 5 AZ as submitted Aaron Burleson
Absent, however report stands as confirmed by Adam Kaufman adding an announcement that Mark Hale is their new director
- f. Contest and Judging Vice President as submitted Ben Porter
Absent, however report stands as confirmed by Kenny Rios
- g. Music and Performance Vice President as submitted Chris Hebert
Absent, however report stands as confirmed by Adam Kaufman
- h. Immediate Past President as submitted Kenny Rios
9. District Management Team (Reports are in HOD Brochure) Kenny Rios
- a. Member Retention & Education Manager as submitted Cody Littlefield
Cody added to his report that we are having another Gold Ruch program January 23 – 24, 2026 in Fullerton, Calif. Nine quartets to receive coaching from nine coaches from the FWD along with an evening show. Cody invited anyone who may be near Fullerton, Ca to attend to see the nine quartets, who had been coached that day, to perform along with So Cal Mix Chorus. David Melville asked if the coaching was going to remain “So Cal-centric” to which Cody responded that it will be for now due to a deal struck with the hotel in that area with future intentions of going to No Cal as well as Arizona.
- b. Chorus Directors Development as submitted Laura Pallus Singer
Absent, however report stands as confirmed by Kenny Rios
- c. Events/Venues as submitted Adam Kaufman
added that 2026 conventions are set and advertised on FWD Website
The Pan Pacific Convention will allow us to join with them with a **FWD Fall Convention in Hawaii in October 2026**
- d. Marketing and Public Relations as submitted David Melville
David added that the company who crates the “look and feel” of our website has gone out of business and therefore he is actively looking for a replacement.
- e. Youth in Harmony as submitted Antwun Puckett
Absent, however report stands as confirmed by Kenny Rios
High School Quartet Competition will be held at Divisionals
- f. Community Outreach as submitted Cary Burns
Absent, however report stands as confirmed by Kenny Rios
- g. Nominating Committee Report Slate of officers for 2026:
- | POSITION | NAME |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| President | Adam Kaufman |
| Executive Vice President | Cody Littlefield |
| Secretary | Greg Dreyer |
| Treasurer | Wally Smulson |
| Northwest Division Vice President | Rich Postal |
| Northeast Division Vice President | Sue Atkins |
| Southeast Division Vice President | Jeremy Loper |
| Southwest Division Vice President | Kathy Kileen |
| Arizona Division Vice President | Aaron Burleson |

Vice President of Contest and Judging
Vice President of Music and Performance
Immediate Past President

Ben Porter
Chris Hebert
Kenny Rios

No other nominations from the floor.

Vote by HOD: motion by David Melville, seconded by Bill Kane. Motion carried unanimously.

Comment by Mark Torrance expressing that “there may be other new people interested in being part of this Board and that we should make it a bit easier for them to understand how they would do that.”

Mark gave examples such as writing a post or HOD delegates to take that back to their chapters for next year. Adam Kaufman openly agreed and told delegates to contact him or anyone else on the BOD for suggestions. Kenny then clarified the process of being elected to the BOD pointing out that it would greatly help if someone I is interested in being on the BOD to serve on a Management Team so that the BOD gets to know that person and that person gets to know the BOD. Kenny also pointed out that it would be great to have 4-5 people from which the Nominating Committee would need to select.

10. Old Business

none

11. New Business

a. Next Meeting: **Spring 2026 ZOOM**

Adam Kaufman

b. Comments from Attendees:

*Congratulations to California Delta – Chapter of the Year

* Mark Torrance commented on a thorough budget report. He also is asking for trends in the FWD as far as membership and income. Adam responded in saying both membership and income are much improved. Cody will be sure to follow up with this topic in his Membership report.

*David suggests that we get back to some “long-range“ planning

*Suggestion for Convention in Hawaii, that fund-raising in chapters gets going. Bill Rosica stated that more information on this convention is forthcoming. David states that there are sales on Southwest Airlines. Cody is offering assistance with fundraising.

*Kelly Sopher is requesting updates on the actual dates of conventions. Adam will respond.

*Kudo’s to current BOD for a successful year

12. **Sing** “Keep the Whole World Singing” (muted)

13. **Motion to adjourn made by Blair Reynolds and seconded by Lucas Purcell**

14. Adjourn at 10:43 am

Adam Kaufman

Respectfully submitted

Greg Dreyer
FWD Secretary





Board Member Reports

Wally Smulson

District Treasurer

treasurer@farwesterndistrict.org

See attached

2025 Statement of Activity with comparison to 2024

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL	
	JAN 1 - DEC 31 2025	JAN 1 - DEC 31 2024 (PY)
Income		
500.00 - DUES-Members	\$65,557.25	\$61,546.91
500.10 Dues Allocations-Events		0.00
Total for 500.00 - DUES-Members	\$65,557.25	\$61,546.91
501.00 - SPRING PRELIMS REV	\$5,451.22	\$23,258.63
501.11 Competitor Videos	1,175.21	630.00
Total for 501.00 - SPRING PRELIMS REV	\$6,626.43	\$23,888.63
502.00 - FALL CONVENTION REV	\$43,873.78	\$47,259.84
502.11 - Contest Videos	1,527.53	213.63
502.08-Fall Conv Hotel		465.00
Total for 502.00 - FALL CONVENTION REV	\$45,401.31	\$47,938.47
503.00 - DIVISIONAL CONV	-\$39.86	
503.10 - AZ	11,802.50	12,066.96
503.20 - SO CAL EAST	26,730.00	
503.40 - NOR CAL WEST	14,812.50	
503.30 - SO CAL WEST		24,352.86
Total for 503.00 - DIVISIONAL CONV	\$53,305.14	\$36,419.82
504.00 - WESTUNES	\$1,079.72	
504.01 - ADS	1,628.50	
Total for 504.00 - WESTUNES	\$2,708.22	
506.00 - OTHER		\$300.00
506.02 - WEBCAST	1,743.00	
506.07 - Gold Rush Income	749.88	
506.06 Miscellaneous Revenue		1,069.52
Total for 506.00 - OTHER	\$2,492.88	\$1,369.52
510 - Donations		
510.02 - Donations Youth Educa	1,980.00	
510.03 - Donations NorCal Camp	10,552.00	300.00
510.04 - Donors Choice HF	2,118.38	3,709.12
510.07 - Donations-Misc.	1,040.00	250.00
510.06 - Donations-Spring Conv.		123.00
510.08 - Donations-Fall Conv.		300.00
Total for 510 - Donations	\$15,690.38	\$4,682.12
520.00 - Fees		
520.01 - NorCal Youth Camp	1,975.00	725.00
520.06 Senior Chorus Registration	2,171.25	
Total for 520.00 - Fees	\$4,146.25	\$725.00
Uncategorized Income	295.00	

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL	
	JAN 1 - DEC 31 2025	JAN 1 - DEC 31 2024 (PY)
520.02 - HCW / LA		7,662.43
Total for Income	\$196,222.86	\$184,232.90
Gross Profit	\$196,222.86	\$184,232.90
Expenses		
601.00 - HCW/LA Expense		
601.001 - Harmony University Registration	104.99	
601.002 - Harmony University Travel	352.96	
607.117 - HARMONY COLLEGE WEST		3,782.80
709.10 - Leadership Academy		
709.13 - LA - NorCal		335.35
Total for 709.10 - Leadership Academy		\$335.35
Total for 601.00 - HCW/LA Expense	\$457.95	\$4,118.15
601.10 - DS15 - District Spring	\$33,578.86	\$22,260.27
Judges Travel	-427.88	4,413.50
601.10.23 Supplies		212.93
Judges-Meals		1,479.42
Judges-Misc		5,383.78
Total for 601.10 - DS15 - District Spring	\$33,150.98	\$33,749.90
601.20 - AZ15 - AZ Div Exp	\$11,890.73	\$6,412.09
Judges-Meals	1,163.60	293.08
Judges Travel	3,850.00	3,358.72
Judges-Misc		100.00
Total for 601.20 - AZ15 - AZ Div Exp	\$16,904.33	\$10,163.89
601.30 - SC15 - SoCal Div Exp	\$13,528.63	\$13,363.82
601.30.02 Judges-Meals	1,656.08	852.84
601.30.01Judges-Travel		9,690.76
601.30.03 Judges-Misc.		798.87
Total for 601.30 - SC15 - SoCal Div Exp	\$15,184.71	\$24,706.29
601.50 - NC15 - NoCal Div Exp	\$14,819.45	
601.50.01Judges-Travel	6,050.00	
601.50.02Judges-Meals	1,304.22	
Total for 601.50 - NC15 - NoCal Div Exp	\$22,173.67	
602.00 - Fall Convention Exp	\$2,127.49	
602.01 - DF15 - District Fall	\$31,220.32	\$67,519.50
602.01.01Judges-Travel	10,376.42	6,050.00
602.01.02Judges-Meals	2,162.46	2,380.36
602.01.03Judges-Misc	100.00	661.36
Total for 602.01 - DF15 - District Fall	\$43,859.20	\$76,611.22

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL	
	JAN 1 - DEC 31 2025	JAN 1 - DEC 31 2024 (PY)
602.23 Supplies	47.00	46.95
602.24 Fall Convention Awards	753.95	
Total for 602.00 - Fall Convention Exp	\$46,787.64	\$76,658.17
604.00 - BD MEETING 604.01 - TRAVEL	3,444.67	3,412.78
604.02 - MEALS	1,550.78	1,813.29
604.03 - LODGING	12,007.53	7,099.02
604.05 Meeting Rooms		1,400.18
Total for 604.00 - BD MEETING	\$17,002.98	\$13,725.27
607.08 - C&J		
607.084 - TRAVEL	379.83	473.19
607.081 - SUPPLIES		200.00
607.082 - TELEPHONE		16.97
607.085 - C&J CAT SCH		1,140.00
Total for 607.08 - C&J	\$379.83	\$1,830.16
607.09 - YIH	\$44.73	
607.093 - TRAVEL	417.37	
607.095 - AWARDS	1,000.00	
607.096 - NoCal Youth Camp	4,523.67	11,264.65
607.097 Youth Festival Grants	1,500.00	2,000.00
Total for 607.09 - YIH	\$7,485.77	\$13,264.65
607.10 - EVENTS		
607.101 - SUPPLIES	208.46	4,129.75
607.102 - TRAVEL	632.33	847.20
Total for 607.10 - EVENTS	\$840.79	\$4,976.95
607.11 - MUSIC & PERF		
607.110 - CHAPT COACHING	150.00	150.00
607.115 - Gold Rush (Formerly Top Gun)	4,919.41	
607.115 - TOP GUN	461.12	
Total for 607.11 - MUSIC & PERF	\$5,530.53	\$150.00
607.12 - MKTG & PR		
607.124 - WEB EXPENSES	349.00	
Total for 607.12 - MKTG & PR	\$349.00	
609.01 - Dues Collection Fees	1,390.99	2,467.06
610.00 - INTERN. QT TRAVEL	1,489.81	1,401.56
	TOTAL	

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT

	JAN 1 - DEC 31 2025	JAN 1 - DEC 31 2024 (PY)
622.00 - GOV'T FEES	50.00	183.25
700.00 - PRESIDENT 600.00 - AWARDS	59.95	1,260.34
607.16 - HALL OF FAME	239.23	126.23
607.17 - President Exp Other	365.04	855.05
700.03 - TRAVEL	1,399.93	
700.04 - INTERNATIONAL EXP	2,362.48	3,309.18
700.05 - Pres Mid-Winter Exp	3,200.00	2,709.31
Total for 700.00 - PRESIDENT	\$7,626.63	\$8,260.11
701.00 - IMMED PAST PRES. 701.01 Travel & Meals	959.01	
701.02 Lodging	940.42	
Total for 701.00 - IMMED PAST PRES.	\$1,899.43	
705.00 - SECRETARY 705.02 - POSTAGE	32.85	
705.03 - SUPPLIES	168.83	
Total for 705.00 - SECRETARY	\$201.68	
706.00 - TREASURER		\$100.30
706.02 - POSTAGE	78.00	113.80
706.04-Subscriptions	80.00	368.98
706.03 - SUPPLIES		26.22
706.05-Training		148.00
Total for 706.00 - TREASURER	\$158.00	\$757.30
605.00 - Insurance		190.00
607.01 - DIR DEVELOP 607.011 - SUPPLIES		526.31
Total for 607.01 - DIR DEVELOP		\$526.31
609.00 - MISC EXP		302.49
609.02 - Merchant Acct Fees		5,518.81
611.00 - INTERN CH TRAVEL		6,646.50
612.00 - COLLEGE		6,568.38
703.00 - EVP		
703.03 - TRVL & MEALS		1,136.70
703.06 - EVP Mid Winter Exp		2,139.46
703.07 - EVP LODGING		973.49
Total for 703.00 - EVP		\$4,249.65

DISTRIBUTION ACCOUNT	TOTAL	
	JAN 1 - DEC 31 2025	JAN 1 - DEC 31 2024 (PY)
704.00 - DVP		
704.10 - DVP AZ		
704.13-TRAVEL		534.26
Total for 704.10 - DVP AZ		\$534.26
704.30-DVP SO CAL W 704.33-TRAVEL		406.50
Total for 704.30-DVP SO CAL W		\$406.50
704.30-DVP SO CAL W 704.34 Lodging		356.82
Total for 704.00 - DVP		\$1,297.58
Total for Expenses	\$179,064.72	\$221,712.43
Net Operating Income	\$17,158.14	-\$37,479.53
Net Other Income		
Net Income	\$17,158.14	-\$37,479.53



Board Member Reports

Aaron Burleson

Arizona Division Vice President

dvp-arizona@farwesterndistrict.org

The membership numbers for the Arizona division are holding steady overall. Many Arizona chapters are enjoying having their “snowbirds” with them for another couple of months. This helps those that plan to compete in the Arizona Division competition but the downside is that many “snowbirds” will not be back in time for District. The Arizona Division continues to show strong commitment to community service. Chapters are actively involved in sharing our craft wherever and whenever they can.

Tucson Barbershop Experience

They have a 29 member count, up from 26 in the last report. They are proactive in their quest to get new members and it seems to be showing. They have a couple of community events coming up plus Arizona Division. Their November show highlighted that the Tucson Sunshine Chorus is BACK in a big way! Eighteen singers on stage and three chapter quartets.

Greater Phoenix “Phoenicians”

The chapter member total is 52, up from the 51 in the last report. Mark Hale is their new artistic director as they embark on this new chapter in their history. They have a new, centrally located rehearsal space in Tempe, meeting every Tuesday 7:00 pm – 10:00 pm. They are working towards Arizona Division in April. They recently had a fundraiser for “Los Bordorshop”, a long distance quartet with members in Mexico and Arizona, to raise funds to support them in their ability to compete at district this year.

A Cappella Syndicate

They are doing well and have 2 shows scheduled in March in addition to the Spring AZ Division competition. They were quite busy during the holiday season Their member count is 21, up from 20 in the last report.

Desert Aires Barbershop Chorus

The chapter continues to maintain a stable membership of 35. They had a busy holiday season and have 2 paid shows in February and March. They are planning for their annual Spring show as well as Spring AZ Division competition. They qualified for Senior competition at mid-winter but couldn’t get enough members willing to travel.

Southwest Vocal Alliance This chorus is doing quite well. Their membership dropped from the last report of 50 to 48. They sing and perform a wide variety of songs and styles in addition to barbershop: pop, rock, country, and doo-wop. They had a holiday show in December and are gearing up for Spring AZ Division competition.

East Valley Barbershop Harmonizers

Membership decreased from 28 to 25. They have recently lost their director and are actively looking for a replacement. They are taking orders to deliver Singing Valentines.

The High Mountain Chordsmen (Prescott)

Their member count increased from 12 to 13. They are quite active for their size. During the holiday period they had 20+ events. They find many opportunities for sing-outs throughout the year.

Accapella Sedona (formerly Harmony On The Rocks)

Harmony on the Rocks rebranded itself as Acappella Sedona to reflect their wider song selection. This took place in 2024 but many have not been aware of the change. They are holding their own and planning sing-outs in the community as available. Performances in Community Library Sedona, the Sedona Heritage Museum, the Sedona Performing Arts Center, Sedona Community Luncheon, as well as retirement communities and wineries around the Verde Valley.”

Their annual show is now in the Spring and has no admission charges. Their BHS member total is at 8, up 1 since the last report. Their actual number of regulars is 18 -19. We are trying to get their permanent “visitors” to join the Society. They are a mixed chorus.

Platoon Chorus This quartet chapter meets monthly and their quartets continually have sing-outs throughout the area. Their membership is down from 24 to 22.

Saddlebrook There are only 3 members in this chapter. They sometimes have as many as 8 come to rehearsals. They do have sing-outs throughout their community and have annual shows.

Yuma This chapter has 2 members and typically has 5 - 8 for rehearsals. John Barczynski is their director. This chapter is in an area that is very transitory and struggles to find singers.

White Mountain High Country Barbershop Chorus – Sholow This chapter has 13 listed members, down from 16 in the last report. Several regular additional singers are associated with them that are not BHS.

The chorus typically hosts two major annual events:

Summer Show: Held in late July at the Blue Ridge High School Auditorium.

Christmas in the Pines: A December concert featuring local school choirs and holiday favorites.

Proceeds from their gala shows often fund local school music programs and scholarships for seniors in Pinetop-Lakeside, Show Low, and Snowflake high schools.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Burlison

AZ DVP

February 2026



Board Member Reports

Sue Atkins

Northeast Division Vice President

dvp-northeast@farwesterndistrict.org

Executive Summary

The Northeast Division currently represents approximately 256 total members across its chapters. The division continues steady progress in musical development, leadership engagement, and community outreach. Expanded access to coaching has improved musical quality and chapter morale while reducing financial barriers. Membership recruitment and retention remain key priorities across the division. While most chapters maintain stability or forward momentum, continued monitoring and supportive engagement are recommended for the Folsom, Reno and Sacramento Chapters due to smaller membership size and leadership continuity considerations. Overall, chapters continue demonstrating commitment through consistent rehearsals, outreach efforts, and collaborative support initiatives.

Progress Since Last Report

Since the September 2025 board report:

- Coaching accessibility has expanded across several chapters
 - Leadership stability has improved with updated boards in multiple chapters
 - Community engagement remains strong through performances and outreach
 - Membership stability continues in several chapters with ongoing recruitment focus
- Financial sustainability remains an area of awareness as chapters balance performance revenue, outreach costs, and membership size.

Division Leadership Engagement

- I was honored to participate in installing officers for the Visalia, Placerville, and California Delta Chapters.
- Attended the Stockton Chapter installation, where Josh Landin (Director, Voices of California) served as installation officer, reinforcing collaboration across chapters.

Division Coaching Initiative

To support chapter development, I personally offered complimentary coaching with Chris Hébert to Northeast Division chapters.

Completed Coaching Sessions

- Placerville
- Fresno
- Davis–Vacaville

Feedback has been very positive and demonstrates how accessible coaching improves musical quality and morale.

Scheduled Coaching

- Stockton — February 17
- Central California — March 10

Chapter Updates

California Delta Chapter

Voices of California

- President: Blair Reynolds
- Director: Josh Landin
- Membership: 49
- Board updated for 2026

Highlights

- Holiday outreach performances
- Installation dinner and leadership recognition

Current Focus

- Singing Valentines outreach and fundraising
- Continued musical development and membership stability
- Preparing for Division Competition

Stay Tuned Chorus

- President: Dwayne Smith
- Director: Terrie Carrozzella
- Membership: 24
- Board updated for 2026

Highlights

- Holiday outreach performances
- Installation dinner and leadership recognition

Current Focus

- Singing Valentines outreach and community visibility

Not competing this spring; planning return to Division competition in 2027

Central California Chapter – Golden Valley Chorus

- President: Terrell Chambers
- Director: Zach Stillman
- Membership: 16
- Board updated for 2026

Highlights

- Holiday outreach performances
- Installation dinner and leadership recognition

Development

- Singing Valentines February 13–14
- Coaching session scheduled March 10
- Preparing for Division Competition

Davis–Vacaville Chapter – West Valley Chorus

- President: Jeff Mech
- Director: Bill Nichols
- Membership: 26
- Board updated for 2026

Highlights

- Nine senior residential performances including fundraisers
- Two new members added
- Improved marketing visibility
- Participated in division coaching initiative – Coaching Session on 2/2/26

Needs

- Additional baritones and leads for vocal balance

Current Focus

- Singing Valentines February 13–14

Not competing this spring; planning return to Division competition in 2027

Folsom Chapter – Folsom Harmony Express

- President: Leslie Lorenzen
- Director: TBD – Searching for Director
- Membership: 10
- Board updated for 2026

Primary Focus

- Director recruitment
- Membership sustainability and musical continuity

Not competing this spring

Fresno Chapter – Sierra Gateway Chorus

- President: Michael Alfaro
- Director: Dave Douglass
- Membership: 28
- Board updated for 2026

Highlights

- Participated in division coaching initiative – Coaching Session on 1/22/26
- Continued emphasis on musical growth and membership stability
- Preparing for Division Competition

Placerville Chapter – Gold Rush Chorus

- President: Howard Wolf
- Director: Kent Miller
- Membership: 32
- Board updated for 2026

Highlights

- Added 10 new members during 2025
- Participated in division coaching initiative – Coaching Session on 1/13/26
- Preparing for Division Competition

Reno Chapter – Silver Dollar Chorus

- President: Jeffrey Menicucci
- Director: David Gaunt
- Membership: 12
- Board terms previously expired; Needs to be updated and chapter monitored

Focus

- Leadership continuity
- Membership growth support

Not competing this spring

Sacramento Chapter – Capitolaires

- Membership: 8 (approximately 6 regular weekly attendees)
- Board terms previously expired; Needs to be updated and chapter monitored

Current Status

The chapter maintains consistent weekly Tuesday rehearsals, preserving organizational continuity.

Strengths

- Good musical focus and generally strong tuning despite smaller size

Needs

- Continued membership recruitment
- Ongoing division support as appropriate

Not competing this spring

Stockton Chapter – Stockton Portsmen

- President: Al Wolter
- Director: Bill Litz
- Membership: 27
- Board updated for 2026

Highlights

- Contest participation and strong holiday performance activity
- Produced annual holiday show Unwrap the Harmony

Development

- Coaching session scheduled February 17

Upcoming

- Singing Valentines campaign February 13–14
- Hosting NorCal Novice Quartet Contest (third year)
- Hosting Spring District/Northern Division Convention at McNair High School
- 72nd Annual Spring Show scheduled April 25
- Planning to compete at Division

Strategic Considerations

- Continued membership recruitment focus
- Clarification of support following HFI/BHS changes
- Continued outreach to music educators

Visalia Chapter – Mighty Oak Chorus

- President: Bob Peden
- Director: Kevin Odell
- Membership: 24
- Board updated for 2026

Highlights

- Participated in division coaching initiative – Coaching Session on 1/22/26

Focus

- Strengthening social media outreach and guest retention
- Restructured meetings beginning to show positive results

Upcoming

- Four quartets participating in Singing Valentines weekend
- Annual chapter show April 25

Not competing this Spring

Division Themes

Strengths

- Expanded coaching accessibility
- Strong community engagement
- Improving leadership stability across several chapters

Challenges

- Continued focus on membership recruitment and retention
- Director recruitment in select chapters
- Sustainability of smaller chapters, particularly Sacramento and Reno

Opportunities

- Increased collaboration between chapters
- Continued coaching initiatives
- Expanded community visibility through performances

Recommendations / Next Steps

Continue Expanding Accessible Coaching Opportunities

Coaching initiatives have demonstrated measurable benefits in musical quality, morale, and engagement.

Maintain Focus on Membership Recruitment

Supporting chapters with outreach strategies, marketing ideas, and visibility opportunities remains essential.

Support Leadership Development

Mentorship, leadership resources, and collaboration opportunities will help ensure continuity.

Encourage Inter-Chapter Collaboration

Shared performances and cooperative events strengthen visibility, morale, and sustainability.

Reinforce Community Engagement

Public performances remain one of the most effective awareness and recruitment tools.

Continue Monitoring Smaller Chapter Sustainability

Ongoing support will help maintain viability while growth efforts continue.

Closing

I want to recognize the dedication of chapter leaders, directors, and volunteers across the Northeast Division who continue sustaining rehearsals, performances, outreach, and community engagement. Their commitment plays a vital role in maintaining the strength and vitality of our division.

I appreciate the continued collaboration across the Northeast Division and remain committed to supporting our chapters as they grow musically, organizationally, and within their communities.



Board Member Reports

Rich Postal

Northwest Division Vice President

dvp-northwest@farwesterndistrict.org

Since the beginning of the year I have visited 5 Chapters in my Division. All the groups are singing better than the previous year. A few had less members attending from when I attended last, mainly due to illness, but membership is steady and new faces were in attendance.

At each of the visitations, I talked about opportunities to sing such as Novice quartet contest in Lodi on February 21, 2026, Norcal East/West Prelims in Stockton on March 20 and FWD District Contest and Convention combined with the Pan Pacific Convention in Honolulu in October.

As the Chorus Manager for the FWD Senior Chorus, I am happy to report that we qualified in Fresno to compete in the BHS Midwinter competition in Pasadena and had 51 participants in attendance. With 1 hour of on-site rehearsal the day before the competition and 1 hour warmup/ rehearsal the day of our performance, we scored a respectable third place and improved our score from our competition in Fresno.

We will need to discuss the future of the FWD Senior Singers for this year as the qualifying competition will be in Honolulu and the BHS mid-winter convention will be held in the South Eastern part of the US. The main item for discussion is the funding for expenses of the chorus' musical director. For the BHS Midwinter in Pasadena, it was an event that was driveable for most participants and the musical director's expenses (mileage, hotel, food) were covered by the fees paid by the singers.

It is exciting to be part of an organization whose musical product is improving and to see our local Chapters planning to attend contests and conventions as well as putting on shows this year.



Board Member Reports

Jeremy Loper

Southeast Division Vice President

dvp-southeast@farwesterndistrict.org

No report submitted

Board Member Reports



Kenny Rios

Southwest Division Vice President

dvp-southwest@farwesterndistrict.org

South West Division Report – Spring, 2026

Kenny Rios SW Div VP (temp)

South West Division Report – Spring, 2026 Kenny Rios SW Div VP (temp)

Chapters at a Glance:

Chapter Name	Chorus Name	Chapter Number	FWD Division	Plateau/ Year of Chartering	Number of Members (10 or less in yellow)
Aloha, HI	Sounds of Aloha Barbershop Chorus	D031A	Southwest	A / 1947	66
Bakersfield, CA	Golden Empire Chorus	D005A	Southwest	A / 1947	8
Conejo Valley, CA	Channel Islands Harmony Chorus	D014A	Southwest	A / 1967	10
Cresenta Valley, CA	Highlanders	D050	Southwest	A / 1956	2
Greater Los Angeles, CA	Masters of Harmony	D046A	Southwest	AAA / 1985	121
L.A. South Towns	L.A. South Towns Chorus	D129A	Southwest	A / 2023	42
Pasadena, CA	Pasadena Crown City Chorus	D018A	Southwest	A / 1946	2
Rincon Beach, CA	Pacific Sound	D103A	Southwest	A / 1997	4
San Fernando Valley, CA	Valley Harmony Singers	D066A	Southwest	A / 1959	19
Santa Clarita, CA	The Harmony Hills Chorus	D043A	Southwest	A / 1973	17
Santa Maria, CA	Central Coast Chordsmen	D028A	Southwest	A / 1972	22
Santa Monica, CA	The Oceanaires	D058A	Southwest	AA / 1976	36
South Bay, CA	Coastliners	D012A	Southwest	AA / 1947	36
				Total FWD Members	385

Aloha, HI D031A

The Aloha, HI Chapter (Sounds of Aloha Barbershop Chorus) meets weekly on Monday with an occasional shift to Thursday based on facility availability. They have 66 members on the books with an attendance of about 30-40 at rehearsals. Information in the Member Center is correct and is updated yearly. Since last November, they have had a few local shows around Oahu for the Holidays. For 2026, they are planning to host the PanPac/FWD convention in October, 2026 along with a few other cabaret shows and local performances. The District can assist with marketing their events to help produce a profit at shows. Fundraising is a focal point.

Bakersfield, CA D005A

The Bakersfield Chapter (Golden Empire Chorus) hasn't met on a regular basis for at least a year. Their current roster is down to 8. They recently had a Chapter in February, 2026, with 4 members showing up: Bill Rosica (VP Chapter Development), Jim Mahoney (Secretary/Treasurer), Kathy Kileen (Member) and Rich Owen (President) despite inviting all current members and many former members who still live in the area. Information in Member Center is up to date. They are presently developing a "Community Chorus" encompassing all people who simply like to sing with a name focused around a play on the United States 250th Anniversary (such as 250 All American Chorus). This endeavor may lead to the development of a new Bakersfield mixed Chorus. There seems some concern that if the project isn't successful. The Chapter may close. The District should monitor and directly offer assistance in bringing their plan to life although they presently have well seasoned members (noted above) who have the ability to pull this off. I'll be watching their progress and will offer any assistance the District can be to them. Visiting the chapter on a convenient night for those involved in this project is to determined after the Spring Convention in March, 2026.

Conejo Valley, CA D014A

(Channel Island Harmony Chorus) I recently sent an email to their listed President with no response. They presently show 10 members on the books with no active website. Their FaceBook page has been turned off. I will be making phone calls to get in touch with the Chapter Officers and establish communications as well as a visit.

Cresenta Valley, CA D050

(Highlanders) Cresenta Valley Chapter presently show 2 members on the book, neither of which are Officers. I received a response from one of those members indicating that the chapter no longer exists. They show being a Chartered Chapter since 1956. I need to locate their Charter. Attempting to assist and revive this Chapter may be of historical value at the least!

Greater Los Angeles Chapter, CA D046A

The Greater Los Angeles Chapter (Masters of Harmony) meets weekly on Wednesday night in La Mirada, CA from 7:00 to 10:30 pm. They have 121 members on their books with an average attendance of 40-45 members. The reason for the discrepancy between members on the books and actual members attending rehearsal is due to allowing members to stay on the roster even if inactive. The Chapter has 2 "Seasons" per year allowing for members to decide if they will be active through a particular "Season." Since last fall of 2026, the Chapter has put on a Christmas Show, competed in the FWD Fall Convention, has qualified to compete in International Competition in St. Louis, MO, this summer and has done other activities with the La Mirada Chamber of Commerce. Information in the Member Center is current along with an active website. The Chapter utilizes the app "Slack" to directly communicate to the Chapter and between Chapter members on a weekly, if not daily, basis. Communication with Section Leaders and members uses this app. Chapter members record themselves

weekly and turn the recording over to Section Leaders (via “Slack”) for evaluation and critique. As a learning tool, members are expected to critique themselves before turning in the recordings. Upcoming events include a joint Spring Show in conjunction with nearby Westminster Chapter, a Casting Call night in April and competing at the International Convention in St. Louis.

L.A. South Towns, CA D129A

The L.A. South Towns Chapter (L.A. South Towns Chorus) presently has 39 members with attendance at rehearsals from 25-30 with an average of 28 per week. They meet on Monday Nights (except for Holidays landing on Monday and the last two Mondays in December). Information in BHS Member Center is up to date as well as their website. A Chapter Quartet, “Ready, Willing and Mable,” participated in the Mid Winter International Quartet Contest. One of their members and her husband from the Coastliner’s Chorus in Redondo Beach, performed on stage with the FWD Senior’s Chorus in Pasadena at Mid Winter and were proud to have placed third in the competition. Seeing how much fun they had, the Chorus is encouraging other members who qualify to take advantage of singing with the group of seniors at the next convention. Upcoming events include a Friends and Family Performance on April 18, 2026 from 1-3 pm, participation in the FWD Divisional Contest in Riverside, CA, in May 2026 and the 2026 Fall FWD Convention in Hawaii. The Chapter continues to thrive and is proud to be a FWD Chapter of BHS since their transition from Sweet Adeline’s Inc as they continue to be active in their community as well as in the FWD.

Pasadena, CA. D018A

The Pasadena Chapter (Pasadena Crown City Chorus) presently has 2 members on the books. Recent contact with one of the members indicates that they may be folding. I sent an email to the person who is facilitating the potential shut down but have yet to get a response. I will be making a phone call within the next week to him. The chapter was originally chartered in 1946 and was the sponsor chapter of the Masters of Harmony. Due to its history in the FWD, it would be in the FWD interest to pursue the idea of revitalizing or reorganizing this chapter.

Rincon Beach, CA D013A

The Rincon Beach Chapter (Pacific Sound Chorus) is not presently meeting and show 4 on the books. A response from their current President indicates that they are in dire need of a director if they are to restart the Chapter and Chorus. I sent Laura Pallus Singer (FWD Director’s Roundtable Manager) their request for a director and am awaiting to see what is needed next. Their President sounded hopeful of revitalizing the Chapter/Chorus

San Fernando Valley, CA D066A

The San Fernando Valley Chapter (Valley Harmony Singers) meets weekly on Monday nights with an average of 16 members attending rehearsals. The Chapter shows 19 on the books so 16 out of 19 seems to presently be a healthy number in attendance. They are an all inclusive, male, female chapter with an age range of 20’s to 90’s. Information in Member Center is up to date. No website is listed in Member Center. Recent activity was listed as Installation Dinner of chapter Officers. Upcoming events in 2026 include South West Divisional Contest in May and two Chapter Shows in May and November, 2026

Santa Clarita, CA D043A

The Santa Clarita Chapter (The Harmony Hills Chorus) meets weekly on Tuesday night. They presently have 17 members on the books with an average attendance of 10 members at rehearsal. They recently put on a Christmas show in November and have scheduled their 2026 Annual Show for August, 2026. Information in Member Center is up to date as well as their website. They have

requested assistance in membership building from our District. I will follow up on this request when I visit them in the near future. The President describes their Chorus as a “small but loyal mixed chorus singers adjusting to new voicing.”

Santa Maria, CA D028A

The Santa Maria Chapter (Central Coast Chordsmen) shows 22 on the books and meet on Tuesday night with an average of 13 -20 attending rehearsals. Information in Member Center is up to date and they have an active website.

Since November of 2025, they appeared with the Alan Hancock Choir and the Coastal Voice Community Choir for Holiday programs and most recently delivered Singing Valentines in their community.

Upcoming events for 2026 include a Spring Show on April 18th, Divisional Competition in May, a show entitled “Sweet and Old Songs in Summer” and a Christmas Show in December.

Santa Monica, CA D058A

The Santa Monica Chapter (The Oceanaires) meets weekly on Monday nights. With 36 on the books, the chapter reports 20-25 average at weekly rehearsals. Information in the Member Center is up to date and the Chapter has an active website. Since November, the Chapter put on a Holiday Show and Sing Valentine’s Deliveries. 2026 scheduled events include a performance on Memorial Day, South West Divisional Contest and an anniversary show celebrating 50 years of existence.

Southbay, CA D012A

The Southbay Chapter (Coastliners) chartered in 1947 and meets on Wednesday nights in Redondo Beach, CA. They show 36 members on the books with an average of about 20 members at weekly rehearsals. Information in Member Center is up to date and they also have an active website. Most recent activities include about 15 performances (Singouts), monthly BOD Meetings via Zoom and Chapter BOD Installation. Their President also noted that 7 of them attended the Orange Chapter Installation. For 2026, the chapter has several performances (Singouts) scheduled, Tuesday Lunch For Bunch, preparing for South West Divisional Contest and the Chapter’s Annual Show in late May, 2026.

Summary:

In general, the Chapters in the SW Division seem to be divided between being healthy to barely existing. 5 chapters are 10 members or below with several of those Chapters on the brink of extinction. Unless the District is able to step in and offer assistance, in some way, to these almost non-existent Chapters, we are looking at a definite closing of at least two Chapters (Cresenta Valley and Pasadena). If these Chapters do fold, the FWD needs to assist them in the proper way to close (funds, if any, need to shifted to the FWD and the Charter should be retained by the FWD rather than being returned to BHS for easier chartering on a potentially new Chapter even if in a different area).

I will be visiting the SW Division Chapters this year to personally meet with the Chorus and Chapter Leadership.

In Harmony,

Kenny Rios

South West Division Vice President



Board Member Reports

Chris Hébert

Vice President Music & Performance

music@farwesterndistrict.org

1. I have been visiting and coaching choruses in NorCal East at the request of Susan Atkins. To date I have visited the Gold Rush Chorus in Placerville, the Sierra Gateway chorus in Fresno, and the West Valley Chorus in Vacaville.

- a. All choruses are under 20 people with SG being ten persons.
- b. Many are still recovering from declines during COVID
- c. All directors are wanting to get their choruses back to competing in contest
- d. Lots of good fellowship and comradery, these members seem happy to be there and love singing.

Last session will be with the Golden Valley Chorus in Modesto on March 10.

2. The FWD Audio Digitization work goes very well.

- a. I have digitized 22 LPs and cassettes to date
- b. I have reached out to other long-term FWD members to see if they have the years I am missing, and currently have nine more in the queue I received from Phil Debar last week. I hope to have these done by the Stockton convention.
- c. Years needed: before 1962, 1963-64, 1968-71, 1987-89, 1990; (not even sure albums were made in these years)
- d. If anyone is interested in obtaining this audio please reach out to me directly

3. Learning tracks – people still struggle with finding tracks or having tracks generated for a reasonable price

- a. I point them to a number of sites that have lists of tracks
- b. Contact me for details

4. Song assessment (kept here for reference)

- a. “Can I do this song in contest?”

1. Is My/This Arrangement Contestable?

The BHS Contest & Judging program has a committee of Music & Performance category judges that are happy to address any questions you may have concerning the contestability of an arrangement. All questions should be directed to the Committee Chairman, Joe Cerutti at: jcerutti@barbershop.org

Please note the following information in your email to Joe:

- a. All submissions must be in machine-readable form—e.g., an e-mail message requesting a review, and any supporting attachments.
- b. The requesting message should cover performer skills, time frame needed for reply, etc.
- c. Required attachment can be either a .mus FINALE file (greatly preferred) or a .pdf file.
- d. Optional supporting attachments might include: a copy of the original sheet music; a .mid or MP3 file of a rendition by the proposed performer; a .mid or .MP3 file of a rendition by another performer (Barbershop only)

2. You should expect a response to your inquiry within two weeks.

- b. “Will it score well?” – If you sing it well, then sure!

Board Member Reports



Ben Porter

Vice President Contests & Judging

drcj@farwesterndistrict.org

Our three conventions this spring will be:

- March 20-21 in Stockton for the Northeast and Northwest Divisions.
 - This is the primary opportunity for quartets who wish to qualify for the International Quartet contest this summer in St Louis.
- April 18 in Phoenix for the Arizona Division
- May 1-2 in Riverside for the Southeast and Southwest Divisions

While the NE/NW Division convention in Stockton in March is the primary place for quartets to qualify for the International Quartet Contest in St Louis this summer, we have the ability to have quartets qualify at any of the three. If your quartet would like to qualify for the 2026 BHS International Quartet contest in either Phoenix or Riverside, please reach out to me to discuss.

Please make careful note of the date that each of these event will close for contest entry:

- Northeast/Northwest Divisions in Stockton will close on February 20
- Arizona Division in Phoenix will close on March 20
- Southeast/Southwest Divisions in Riverside will close on April 3

Please have your group entered by that date as no late entries will be accepted. If you run into issues with getting a group entered, **please let me know before the deadline.**

When I close any one of the events for entry, the system will likely send all groups in the District an email saying that entry is closed. This has caused some confusion in past years. On February 20, the only contest that will close is Northeast/Northwest, while Arizona and Southeast/Southwest remain open. Similarly, Southeast/Southwest will remain open for entries after Arizona closes on March 20.

As you no doubt know, our Far Western District contests will be in Hawaii this fall. It's going to be a great time and I hope everyone is able to join us there! That said, I understand that it may be asking a lot for some groups to make that trip. To that end, we are offering groups the opportunity to qualify for the 2027 BHS International Chorus, Senior Quartet, and Senior Chorus contests at any of the three Divisional contests this spring. Those are the International Preliminary contests that we generally hold in the fall,

and we will have them this fall as well. Groups are also permitted to compete in a qualifier twice (with the higher score being the one that counts), so you could also use this opportunity to qualify this spring and then again in the fall. If you would like to qualify as a chorus, senior chorus, or senior quartet this spring, please reach out to let me know.

Additionally, this fall we will be holding the FWD contest in conjunction with PanPac, which will have its own slate of awards open to any group that would like to enter them. So, even if your group is not eligible for a FWD championship, you can still come to Hawaii, sing, and compete in PanPac!

Finally, the window to apply to join the Contest and Judging program will open in August. Being a judge is quite a lot of work and time, but is one of the most rewarding experiences of giving back to the barbershop community. If you would like to join any of the four judging categories: Musicality, Performance, Singing, or Administration, please reach out so we can get you started.



Board Member Reports

Kenny Rios

Immediate Past President

pastpresident@farwesterndistrict.org

Greetings Brothers and Sisters!

This is a great year for the Far Western District. We have made IMMENSE accomplishments over the past couple of years...but we have no time to sit on our laurels and pat ourselves on the back. Instead we must look forward to the progress that lies ahead. As Immediate Past President, I am extremely confident in the leadership abilities of our President, Adam Kaufman, and the rest of our Leadership Team. You drive the backbone of our District and will and are in a position to guarantee a successful future.

As Immediate Past President I am continuing to provide direction and assistance to our President and the rest of our Leadership Team. I am available to assist any of you on any manner that may come to hand...just ask!!

I am presently acting as the Southwest Divisional Vice President for the remainder of the year and will be visiting the chapters in the SW Division (see SW Div Report).

I presently serve as Chairman of the Nominating Committee (see Nominating Committee report) and am presently working with the committee putting together the slate of officers to be presented later this year to the HOD for approval.

I am also the current Historian and Museum Curator for our District (see Historian/Curator Report) in charge of storing and eventually displaying the history of our District.

It is a humbled honor to continue to serve the District in the capacity of IPP and I am looking forward to a very prosperous 2026 with you!!



Board Member Reports

Cody Littlefield

Executive Vice President

evp@farwesterndistrict.org

Gold Rush – Winter 2026: A District Milestone

Gold Rush – Winter 2026 was more than successful; it was a defining moment for the Far Western District. After establishing the Gold Rush program in August of 2025, this was our second event of its kind. The weekend delivered measurable growth for quartets and chapters, strengthened relationships between coaches and participants, and reinforced the culture of excellence we're building together. The level of preparation, punctuality, and professionalism raised the standard across the board. Coaching sessions were focused and productive, feedback was overwhelmingly positive, and the shared Saturday show experience created a sense of unity that carried well beyond the event itself.

Most importantly, Gold Rush proved that when the FWD commits to intentional development, we get results. Eight (8) groups from the FWD are prepared to enter spring contests locked and loaded and guess what? The next Gold Rush is already scheduled for August 14–15, 2026 at the Doubletree by Hilton Fullerton. We are committed to building on this foundation. Each event will continue to improve in structure, value, and impact as we refine the model and expand participation.

Membership Growth Initiative: Recruiting, Retaining, and Re-Energizing Chapters

We are actively strengthening our Membership Team to better support chapters across the district. Alex, Sue, and I are preparing to launch a district-wide membership initiative designed to equip chapters with practical, actionable tools for recruiting new members and retaining current ones.

This program will provide clear frameworks, engaging strategies, and leadership resources that help chapters evaluate where they are and determine how they want to grow. Whether a chapter seeks steady expansion or focused stabilization, the goal is the same: to give leaders structure, clarity, and momentum. We want chapters evolving at the pace they choose while remaining healthy, engaged, and forward-thinking.

Youth In Harmony Expansion: Building the Future of FWD

Youth In Harmony is a long-term investment in the vitality of our district. Antwun is working tirelessly to expand YIH efforts throughout the FWD, and we are developing a structured outreach model that empowers local chapters to host Youth In Harmony events with support from the AIC.

Our plan is to coordinate district-wide YIH outreach rollouts beginning in 2027. By partnering with chapters across the FWD, we will create meaningful touchpoints for young singers, provide mentorship opportunities, and strengthen the pipeline into our organization. Stay tuned and stay aware as a Youth In Harmony may soon be coming to a location near you.

FWD Leadership Accountability and Support: Strength Through Alignment

Strong districts are built on supported leaders. As part of our commitment to alignment and accountability, I will continue personal check-ins with district-level leaders. If you are on the BOD, you have likely already heard from me. If you are on the DMT, you will be hearing from me soon.

These conversations are not about micromanagement. They are about clarity, encouragement, and ensuring you have the tools necessary to fulfill your responsibilities effectively. Our objective is simple: to provide a listening ear, remove obstacles where possible, and help every leader succeed for the selfless sake of our district. When our leaders are equipped and aligned, the Far Western District shines in the strongest light possible.

In Harmony,

Cody

Executive Vice President, Far Western District
Board Member At-Large, AFWDC



Management Team Reports

David Melville

Marketing & Public Relations Manager

marketing@farwesterndistrict.org

Webmaster

webmaster@farwesterndistrict.org

Registrar

registrar@farwesterndistrict.org

Marketing & Public Relations Report

Website

- Joomla 5 upgrades are in progress. This is a major upgrade, and it will be necessary to change templates and framework, resulting in a new look and feel.
- Development has been progressing steadily, dealing with obstacles as they arise.

Email accounts

- Google will be enforcing 2-Step Validation (2SV) for our email in the coming months. Stand by for more information.

Email List

- Our mailing list is going through a refresh and validation.
- Westags will resume after the refresh is completed.

Convention Registration

- The Spring events are in place, and I am currently working with Aloha Chapter to get the Pan-Pac/Fall event set up.

Marketing

- Aloha Chapter is responsible for the marketing materials for the Fall event.

Westunes

- Max Coxon is working on a new issue with some great features. I'm so pleased!

Social Media

- Ethan continues to do a marvelous job of promotion and getting people engaged.

Graphics/Logo

- Logos for our 2026 Spring events are completed. Aloha Chapter will be handling the fall event.

- James has created a beautiful logo for Fresno which we will be rolling out next time we are there.

Merch

- I've asked James Halvorson to take over this project, and to compare our current vendor vs. an Amazon solution.



Management Team Reports

Alex Baskin

Membership Retention & Education Manager

Email: abaskin@farwesterndistrict.org

Why this role exists

Retention isn't a "membership problem" as much as it's an experience problem: people stay when rehearsals feel productive, musical growth is obvious, and singing feels rewarding week after week. My job is to help chapters and members get more wins per rehearsal through practical, scalable music education, because education is retention.

Major initiative: Lift & Learn Pods

Lift & Learn Pods are small-group, coach-led learning sessions designed to boost member satisfaction and retention by giving singers consistent, achievable growth.

What they are:

- Most importantly, a social experience (like tag parties or afterglows), not classes
- An informal, repeatable format (small group, high reps, lots of feedback)
- Integration of real-world skills that immediately improve rehearsals and performance
- Built to be welcoming for every singer, rather than just contest-focused groups

What they target:

- Vocal production and resonance
- Blend/balance and vowel matching
- Musical leadership habits (listening, unity, confidence, consistency)
- Performance clarity (the message)
- Members coming away every night with an individual win

Education + retention strategy

My focus is to make coaching and education feel normal, accessible, and worth the effort. Over time, this will strengthen our barbershop community by making growth a normal, second-nature part of the culture, so it seamlessly becomes part of each chapter's identity, rather than something we only aspire to.

Key priorities:

1. Make education easy to say “yes” to:

Shorter formats, clear outcomes, and “this will help you next rehearsal” content.

2. Help chapters build consistency

The goal isn’t one great night; it’s a repeatable pathway that strengthens weekly rehearsals.

3. Create a coaching-forward district identity

When members trust outside ears and embrace learning, we improve faster and struggle less.

What I’m working on next

- Pod rollout plan (how to launch and sustain Pods in multiple areas without burning out volunteers)
- Simple tracking (attendance + feedback + “did this improve your rehearsal experience?” indicators)
- Event integration (short, high-value education sessions that complement conventions/divisionals)
- Resource tools (templates/director-friendly outlines so chapters can host Pods without reinventing the wheel)

I’m excited about what this will do for our District: fewer singers quietly fading out, more members feeling proud of their progress, and stronger chapters because rehearsal time gets more efficient and more joyful.

In Harmony,

Alexander Baskin

Manager of Education and Retention



Management Team Reports

Antwun Puckett

Youth in Harmony Manager

yih@farwesterndistrict.org

Hello, everyone!

Sorry I can't make it out to Stockton (I'll be in Europe with Westminster). Here is an update on what's going on in regards to youth in our district:

1. Westminster will be having their Youth Harmony Festival on February 21st with the help of HFI and the AIC. Their guest clinician quartet will be **After Hours** (with guest baritone being Tim Waurick). All information to this can be found here:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1loUIRECMZAAKaodtUulD7D1Op4Gu-jcoS3zyKaKhtXs/viewform?edit_requested=true

2. The High School Quartet Contest is still on for this year and we currently have two quartets signed up to compete with a full young men's choir going to Riverside for a score/evaluation. Like I've said in the past, these kids are the future, so when you see any kid of any age, please go up to them and congratulate them on their performance and ask to sing a tag with them!

3. I am working alongside Lars Isaacson to help build a Youth Dream Chorus for PanPac in Hawaii. Anyone between the ages of 14-25 years old are welcomed to join and if they join, they will receive a free registration. If they are singing with another chorus or quartet, they will have to pay for their full registration. The guest quartet for that event will be Vocal Spectrum and the director of that chorus will be Jonny Moroni. This is a great opportunity for young people to get to sing together and to learn from some of the best to ever do it. So if you or anyone you know will be bringing someone between the ages of 14-25 years old to PanPac, let them know about this great opportunity!!

4. Midwinter was a great success. We had 2 quartets medal in the Seniors Contest and also a 5th place finisher (The Sopranotes) in the Junior Contest.

That's all I have for now. I hope you all have a great time in Stockton. Ring a tag for me!!

Antwun Puckett



Management Team Reports

Adam Kaufman

Events Manager

events@farwesterndistrict.org

This year's convention planning cycle has presented some unique challenges. It has taken a great deal of effort to secure locations for our spring conventions, as many traditional venues are either booked far in advance or have increased their pricing significantly. The events landscape continues to change, and finding facilities that meet our needs while remaining financially responsible requires persistence, flexibility, and creativity.

Despite these challenges, my goal remains the same: to make our conventions as valuable, engaging, and worthwhile as possible for every attendee. This means not only securing performance and meeting spaces, but also looking for opportunities to enhance the overall convention experience with additional activities, educational opportunities, and social events that strengthen our district community.

On the positive side, we are making meaningful progress in long-term planning. I have made strides toward securing a consistent venue for the Arizona Division through 2030, which would provide valuable stability for future event planning. With continued effort — and a bit of luck — we hope to identify similar long-term solutions for the SE/SW and NE/NW Divisions.

We have enjoyed success working with Riverside for SE/SW events, though we are seeing price increases there as well. Even so, maintaining strong relationships with reliable venues remains an important part of ensuring quality conventions moving forward.

Convention planning is truly a team effort, and I appreciate the flexibility, support, and collaboration of our district leadership and division teams as we navigate these changes together. I remain optimistic that, by planning ahead and continuing to explore new options, we will keep delivering conventions that serve our members well and support the continued growth of the Far Western District.





Management Team Reports

Cary Burns

Community Outreach

cary.burns@farwesterndistrict.org

Spring 2026

The class included a case study involving the local community chorus I direct, which has now blossomed to 187 singers. Other subjects included chapter identity, mission and vision statements, why identity is important to community engagement, how public-facing assets align with your identity, and concrete ways to connect with your community. Participation was high and we had many in-depth discussions about the struggles some chapters are experiencing.

I have been in contact with Steve Wyszomierski, Society representative, who heads the “THINK” program for BHS, a participation-based program centered around helping chapters discover their authentic identity. It is a robust program that might help some of our struggling chapters. We will speak further about the possibility of offering the THINK program at a FWD spring or fall convention.

Cary Burns

Community Outreach



Management Team Reports

Laura Pallas Singer

Chorus Director Development

laura.pallus@farwesterndistrict.org

On Friday at the district contest in Fresno, we hosted our Directors Roundtable. This time, we were joined by several potential directors, which created a nurturing and mentoring opportunity for all involved. These meetings continue to foster connection, shared learning, and a strong sense of community among our directors.

As a recommendation that emerged from the roundtable discussion, I plan to invite a guest speaker to our next meeting who can offer insight and/or training specific to the role and responsibilities of being a director.

On a personal note, I greatly enjoyed participating in the Far Western District Senior Chorus under the direction of Cary Burns, both at the district contest in Fresno and at the International Contest in January. It was meaningful to support a fellow FWD director while also having the opportunity to learn from my peers in a performance setting.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Pallas Singer
Directors Education Manager



Management Team Reports

Kenny Rios

Historian/Museum Curator

Brothers and Sisters!

Good news! I have several items ready to be displayed once I can get the logistics figures out. Some items are bulky as well as heavy so trying to find the best way to load and mode of transportation to our conventions has been a challenge. I've been looking for a 6x12 used trailer but the price for one continues to be expensive. So if anyone knows of someone selling a used trailer in good condition, I'd be interested.

Most items I have need to be stored in a climate controlled environment so for now these items are stored in my house until I can procure a climate controlled storage facility in Southern California. At that time, I will move everything into the storage unit (which will make my wife EXTREMELY happy, I'm sure).

Most items are District property and some is on loan from private sources. District property include a 1890 barber chair, an almost complete set of Westunes, several old Harmonizers, several pieces antique (1920's) sheet music, lots of modern day sheets of music, uniforms from the Phoenicians and Masters of Harmony worn on International stages, a few embroidered jackets from various choruses just to name a few. On loan from other people's private collections are a 2' lit, rotating barber pole, a 1913 Koch barber chair, a large 3 1/2' round, stained glass piece featuring a quartet, a vintage shoebox and other miscellaneous barbershop related items such as tables, razors, a mirror, a phonograph and recordings.

I am anticipating that the first display of these items will be very soon. As the time approaches I will be asking for volunteers to assist me with safeguarding the property.

If you know of anyone who may have items of interest and wish to donate those items to our museum, please let me know!



Management Team Reports

Kenny Rios

Nominating Committee

It is an honor to once again serve the District as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. We are in the process of putting together the Slate of Officers for the year 2027. We are looking for the best possible people to fill upcoming vacancies. Two of those vacancies will be Northwest Divisional VP (presently occupied by Rich Postal) and Southwest Divisional VP (presently occupied by me, Kenny Rios). If you know of anyone interested in serving the District on the BOD in these positions or any other position, please contact me.

Attachment

14.5.1 FWD HALL OF FAME AWARD GUIDELINES

The objective of the FWD Hall of Fame Award is to honor the all-time FWD "greats;" the individuals who have unselfishly, with dedication and devotion, performed through the years in the highest degree of service to the Far Western District. Exemplary Service to the Barbershop Harmony Society at the International level, or to other Districts of the BHS, which brings notable recognition to the FWD may be considered in the selection process.

- a) The selection committee is comprised of the past winners of the Hall of Fame Award who are active members of the Society and the Far Western District. The Chairman is the most recent recipient.
- b) At the call of the Chairman, members of the Far Western District Hall of Fame will attend the annual meeting held in conjunction with the Fall District Contest and Convention.
- c) Each member attending the annual meeting may nominate one or more candidates for election into the Hall of Fame. Nominees must receive a minimum of two seconds to the nomination to become a viable candidate.

Once nominations have been accepted, the list will be submitted to the members present to vote for their choice by secret ballot. The two nominees receiving the most votes will be the FWD Hall Of Fame candidates.

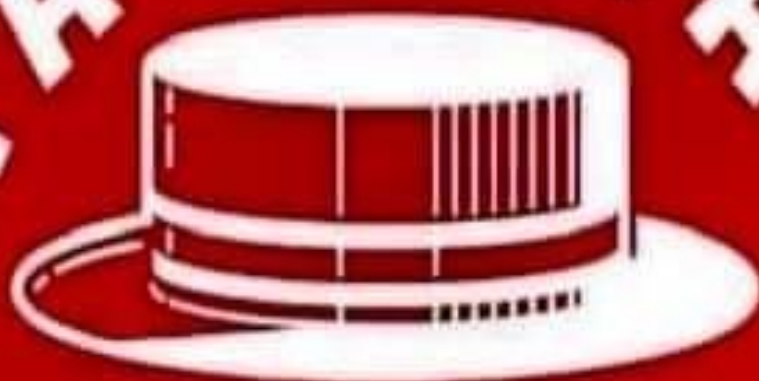
- d) Prior to December 1, the Chairman will provide a written or electronic ballot to all current members of the FWD Hall of Fame. Each member may vote for one person only. The election must be completed on or before January 1 of the following year. To be elected into the FWD Hall Of Fame, the candidate must receive 60% of the total number of votes received from eligible voters. It is not mandatory that a new member be elected each year. If neither candidate receives 60% of the votes of the committee, a second written ballot may be requested at which time additional written supporting information may be provided by the member nominating the candidate. After the second ballot has been tabulated and neither candidate has received the 60% mandated approval, no member will be inducted into the HOF that year.

- e) A posthumous award, in addition to the regular award, may be made at the discretion of the committee. It shall be made in the same manner as described above.

- f) Candidates elected to the FWD Hall Of Fame, as indicated above, are voted upon by the committee prior to January 1. Thus, their identifying year of induction is the year of the actual vote.

- g) The new member(s) will be announced on the evening show of the Spring Contest and Convention and presented on the evening show of the following Fall Contest and Convention.

NATIONAL



BARBERSHOP



QUARTET DAY

APRIL



11th