

2026 Fall Brochure

Far Western District

House of Delegates

October 25, 2026 at 1:00 pm

ZOOM Online Meeting

Far Western District

Board of Directors Meeting

October 7, 2026 at 3 pm

Honolulu, Hawaii



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President's Message

Adam Kaufman

Far Western District President

president@farwesterndistrict.org



STATE OF THE DISTRICT

As I conclude my term as District President, I want to express my sincere appreciation to our District Board, chapter leaders, and members for your support throughout my presidency. The state of the Far Western District is exceptionally strong, and things are looking really amazing right now. Across our district, participation remains vibrant, our events continue to demonstrate outstanding musical quality, and our chapters are finding effective ways to connect with their local communities.

Celebrating 80 Years of Harmony

"For eight decades, the Far Western District has maintained a proud tradition of musical excellence and fellowship within the Barbershop Harmony Society."

OUR 80TH ANNIVERSARY & LOOKING AHEAD

This year marks a major milestone: our 80th Anniversary. Seeing the momentum, energy, and commitment across our district today, I don't see why we can't make it 80 more. The foundation is solid, and the future of the FWD is exceptionally bright.

Thank you all for your dedicated service to our district and for keeping four-part harmony thriving.



**Far Western District
Board of Directors Meeting
Agenda
October 7, 2026 3 pm
Honolulu, Hawaii**

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 Summer BOD Meeting.....Greg Dreyer
August 29, 2026 Zoom
9. Treasurers Report.....Wally Smulson
 - a. Financial Status/Update
 - b. 2027 Budget
 - c. 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 Burleson
 - f. Music and PerformanceChris Hebert

- g. Contest and JudgingAlan Gordon
- 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 Developmentna
 - 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. Travel & Expense Reimbursement Proposal – attached.....Adam Kaufman
 - c. Next Meeting HOD October 25, 2026 1 pm ZOOM
 - d. Next BOD Meeting Spring Convention 2027
- 14. Sing – Keep the Whole World Singing
- 15. AdjournmentAdam Kaufman

Far Western District
House of Delegates Meeting
AGENDA
October 25, 2026, 1:00 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. Spring HOD Meeting April 12, 2026 Zoom
 - b. Chapter Eternal
8. Treasurers Report Wally Smulson
 - a. Financial Status/Update
 - c. Receive Report
9. Vice Presidents Reports (included in this brochure):
 - a. Division 1 Southwest.....Kenny Rios
 - 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.....Alan Gordon
 - h. Immediate Past President.....Kenny Rios
 - h. Executive Vice President.....Cody Littlefield

10. 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 Developmentna
 - g. Historian/Museum Curator Report.....Kenny Rios
 - h. Nominating Committee Report.....Kenny Rios
11. Old Business:
- a. None
12. New Business:
- a. Changes in the SOP (attachment) require approval.....Craig Huyghes
 - b. Travel & Expense Reimbursement Proposal – attached.....Adam Kaufman
 - c. Next Meeting Spring 2027 – date tbd ZOOMCody Littlefield
13. “Keep the Whole World Singing” (please MUTE your Microphone)
14. 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
Summer Zoom meeting
August 29, 2026**

1. Call to order by President at 1:00 pm Adam Kaufman

2. Roll call and establishment of a quorum by Secretary Greg Dreyer

Present:

Kenny Rios

Adam Kaufman

Greg Dreyer

Wally Smulson

Alan Gordon

Jeremy Loper

Rich Postal

Sue Atkins

Aaron Burleson

Cody Littlefield

David Melville

Absent:

Antwun Puckett

Chris Hebert

Cary Burns

Guests:

Don Laursen – Grant request for Youth Harmony Explosion

3. Opening remarks Adam Kaufman

Welcome guests: Don Laursen from Visalia

4. Accepting the Agenda

Motion made by Cody Littlefield and seconded by Kenny Rios. Carried

5. Approval of Minutes from FWD Spring Convention March 19, 2026 Greg Dreyer

Motion made by Kenny Rios and seconded by Cody Littlefield – carried

6. Treasurer's Report by Treasurer as submitted Wally Smulson

Discussion - BOD reviewed budget line-by-line. Motion to receive was delayed.

An updated copy listed as "Official" will be on Google Drive. The annual expected deficit is approximately \$29,000.

Wally reported that FWD has a current balance of \$41,000 in account

7. VP Reports:	Adam Kaufman
a. Division 1 Southwest – Conejo Valley Chapter requesting assistance	Kenny Rios
b. Division 2 Southeast – Inland Empire Chapter requesting assistance	Jeremy Loper
c. Division 3 Northwest as submitted	Rich Postal
d. Division 4 Northeast as submitted	Sue Atkins
e. Division 5 Arizona as submitted working with some remote chapters	Aaron Burleson
f. Contest and Judging as submitted	Alan Gordon
g. Music and Performance as submitted (absent)	Chris Hebert
h. Executive VP – as submitted	Cody Littlefield
i. IPP - as submitted	Kenny Rios

8. District Management Team	Cody Littlefield
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a. Member Recruitment/Education Manager as submitted	Alex Baskin
b. Chorus Director Development (position vacant)	na
c. Events/Venues as submitted	Adam Kaufman
Fall Convention 2026 - Hawaii	
Spring Convention – (Southern California) March, 2027 tbd	
Looking to use Visalia for future convention Venue	
d. Marketing and Public Relations as submitted - updates to system are in process. Using a consultant for the upgrade. Question from Jeremy Loper regarding expenses for consultant and upgrade.	David Melville
e. Youth in Harmony as submitted – (absent)	Antwun Puckett
f. Community Outreach as submitted (absent)	Cary Burns
g. Historian/Museum Curator as submitted	Kenny Rios
h. Nominating Committee Kenny Rios	

New format will be introduced for dividing the C & J positions to be regional and divided by North, South and Arizona - Don Lively, Alan Gordon and John Burri.

President – Cody Littlefield
 Exec VP - Ryan Collins
 IPP - Adam Kaufman
 Secretary- Greg Dreyer
 Treasurer – Wally Smulson
 VP SW - Kenny Rios/Kurtis Harold (tent)
 VP SE - Jeremy Loper
 VP NW - open
 VP NE - Sue Atkins
 VP Arizona- Aaron Burleson
 VP C & J - John Burri
 VP Music/Perf- Chris Hebert

9. Old Business:	
a. 55+ chorus update - 2028 chorus is in planning stages. Director is onboard.	Rich Postal
b. Update of Chapter of the Year	Adam Kaufman
This will be selected at the Fall Convention. DVP's still need to solicit applications.	
Contributing factors will be community involvement, shows, membership, # of guests, etc.	

10. New Business: Adam Kaufman

a. BOD discussed request for the Youth Harmony Explosion and voted to give \$1500.00 for event.

Motion made by Kenny Rios and seconded by Sue Atkins. Carried

b. Lift and Learn Pods

Alex Baskin

Alex showed promo video from pilot program in Las Vegas. Session 2 to start soon. Everyone supportive.

c. Nomination of Alan Gordon as VP of C & J for remainder of 2026

Motion by Kenny Rios and seconded by Cody Littlefield. Carried

d. Standard Operating Procedures are in need of major updates

Kenny Rios

Kenny is rewriting and updating many pages from this document with plan

to have it ready for viewing at Fall Convention. Requesting input from BOD and DMT.

David Melville has also volunteered to work on updating Convention Manual.

e. Next meeting will be at Fall Convention in Hawaii October 7, 2026 time tbd

13. Motion to adjourn David Melville and seconded by Rich Postal.

Adjournment at 2:30 pm

Respectfully submitted:

Greg Dreyer FWD Secretary



**Far Western District
House of Delegates Meeting
Spring Convention
Minutes
April 12, 2026
ZOOM**

1. Call to Order at 3:02 pm Adam Kaufman

2. Sing “The Old Songs” unavailable to share

3. Sing “The Star Spangled Banner” unavailable to share

4. Roll Call to establish quorum Greg Dreyer

Chapters present:

Bakersfield, Brea, Central California, Coachella Valley, Fresno, Fullerton, Golden Gate, Greater Los Angeles, Greater Phoenix, LA South Towns, Las Vegas, Mesa, Palo Alto-MT View, Placerville (Gold Rush), San Diego, San Fernando Valley, San Mateo, Santa Monica, Santa Rosa, Stockton, Sun Cities, AZ, Temecula, Walnut Creek

Chapters absent:

Apple Valley, Arcata, Barbary Coast, Bay Area, California Delta, Central AZ QT, Central Coast, Conejo Valley, Crescenta Valley, Davis-Vacaville, El Cajon, Eureka, Folsom, Hemet, Inland Empire, La Jolla, Lake Forest, Maricopa Co., Marin, Monterey Peninsula, Napa, Nevada-Placer, Orange QT, Palomar Pacific, Pasadena, Prescott, Redwood Chordsmen, Reno, Rincon Beach, Sacramento, Saddle Brooke, Salt River, Santa Clarita, Santa Cruz, Sounds of Aloha,, San Francisco Bay Cities, San Francisco, Santa Maria, Sedona, South Bay, South Orange County, St George, Tucson, Visalia, Westminster, White Mountains, Yuma.

Quorum was present

5. Opening Remarks Adam Kaufman

Great things happening in the Far Western District!!

Introduction of Past FWD Presidents: Kenny Rios, Bill Rosica Bob Lally, Bernard Priceman, John Krizek and Craig Hughes

Introduction of Guests –Bob Cox from Barbershop Harmony Society

Comments from Bob Cox (BHS) Ambassador – New CEO at BHS- info is in Harmonizer. There are many staffing changes at BHS. There are also new programs being developed. The average chapter membership is 37.

Congratulations to new chapters; Golden Coast and Long Beach. Harmony Hall has sold; details forthcoming.

International Convention in 2027 will be in Minneapolis.

6. Accepting of Agenda	Adam Kaufman
Motion Jeremy Loper and seconded by Bob Carlin – Carried	
7. Secretary’s Report –	Greg Dreyer
a. Approval of Minutes from Fall Convention October 26, 2025	
Correction (Central California was present at last meeting)	
Motion Terrell Chambers and seconded by Bob Carlin – Carried	
8. Treasurer Report (absent)	Wally Smulson
a. Financial Status/Update – as written	
Motion to receive report Rich Owen and seconded by Craig Hughes Carried	
9. Vice Presidents Reports (Reports are in HOD Brochure)	Kenny Rios
(Reports stand as written unless modified)	
a. Division 1 SW	Kenny Rios
b. Division 2 SE	Jeremy Roper
Correction in report: Director for Las Vegas is Kyler Wilcock, not Gordon Lankenau	
c. Division 3 NW	Rich Postal
d. Division 4 NE	Sue Atkins
e. Division 5 AZ	Aaron Burleson
f. Executive Vice President	Cody Littlefield
g. Contests and Judging vacant	
h. Music and Performance	Chris Hebert
i. Immediate Past President	Kenny Rios
1. District Management Team (Reports are in HOD Brochure)	Cody Littlefield
(Reports stand as written unless modified)	
Marketing and Public Relations	David Melville
Member Retention & Education Manager	Alex Baskin
a. Cudo’s to Bob Cox for class at convention	
b. Lift and Learn Program in Las Vegas is underway and doing great	
c. Several chapter representatives asked assistance from Alex for retention/recruitment and Alex will respond separately.	
Chorus Directors Development vacant	
Events/Venues	Adam Kaufman
a. 2026 conventions are set and advertised on FWD Website	
b. SE/SW Convention for May 1-2 is being updated.	
c. The Pan Pacific Convention along with the FWD Fall Convention are set for October 2026	
Youth in Harmony (absent)	Antwun Puckett
Community Outreach (absent)	Cary Burns
Historian/Museum Curator	Kenny Rios
Graphic Arts and Design Manager	James Halvorson
Nominating Committee Report	Kenny Rios
a. Kenny Rios, Craig Hughes and Bill Rosica are on committee	

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| 2. Old Business | Adam Kaufman |
| a. Senior Chorus competition in Fresno went very well with chorus placing third. There were 51 singers on stage. The next Mid-Winter will be in Virginia so participation is doubtful. | |
| 3. New Business | Adam Kaufman |
| a. SOP Changes: Attached SOP Changes regarding the Hall of Fame Craig Hughes
Motion made by Kenny Rios and seconded by Jeremy Loper, Carried | |
| b. Next Meeting: HOD tbd - early November/BOD Mtg in Hawaii Oct 2026 | Adam Kaufman |
| 4. Sing "Keep the Whole World Singing" unavailable to share | |
| 5. Adjourn at 3:55 pm | Adam Kaufman |

Respectfully submitted
Greg Dreyer
Far Western District Secretary



Chapter Eternal

Howard Barber

James Gajniak

George Friend

James Camp

Susan Tom

Scott Hutchinson

Elmer Fairbanks

Larry Paterson

Carl Dockendorf

Lewis Law

Donald Fish

John Lenox



Board Member Reports

Wally Smulson

District Treasurer

treasurer@farwesterndistrict.org

Far Western District Assoc of Chapters	SPEBSQSA						
01/01/2025 to 12/31/2025 INCOME		2026 Budget	01/01/2026 to 08/22/2026 INCOME		2027 Projection		
Income			Income				
500.00 - DUES- Members	\$65,557.25	\$64,000.00	500.00 - DUES- Members	56,175.00	\$64,000.00		
500.10 Dues Allocations- Events			500.10 Dues Allocations- Events				
Total for 500.00 - DUES-Members	\$65,557.25	\$64,000.00	Total for 500.00 - DUES-Members	\$56,175.00	\$64,000.00		
501.00 - SPRING PRELIMS REV	\$5,451.22		501.00 - SPRING PRELIMS REV	26,557.75	\$33,000.00		
501.05 Program Ad Revenue Spring		\$200.00	501.05 Program Ad Revenue Spring				
501.11 Competitor Videos	\$1,175.21	\$600.00	501.11 Competitor Videos				
501.00 - SRING PRELIMS REV- Registration, etc.		\$25,000.00	501.00 - SRING PRELIMS REV- Registration, etc.				
Total for 501.00 - SPRING PRELIMS REV	\$6,626.43	\$25,800.00	Total 501.00 - SPRING PRELIMS REV	\$26,557.75	\$33,000.00		
502.00 - FALL CONVENTION REV	\$43,873.78	\$48,000.00	502.00 - FALL CONVENTION REV		\$65,000.00		
502.06 Photos			502.06 Photos				

502.05 Program Ad Revenue Fall		\$300.00	502.05 Program Ad Revenue Fall				
502.09-FALL CONV MISC			502.09-FALL CONV MISC				
502.11-Contest Videos	\$1,527.53	\$1,000.00	502.11-Contest Videos		\$1,500.00		
502.00-FALL CONVENTION-Registration, etc.			502.00-FALL CONVENTION-Registration, etc.				
Total 502.00 - FALL CONVENTION REV	\$45,401.31	\$49,300.00	Total 502.00 - FALL CONVENTION REV	\$0.00	\$66,500.00		
503.00 - DIVISIONAL CONV	-\$39.86		503.00 - DIVISIONAL CONV	325.00			
503.10 - AZ	\$11,802.50	\$13,500.00	503.10 - AZ	13,598.50	\$15,000.00		
		\$50.00					
		\$30,000.00					
503.20 - SO CAL EAST	\$26,730.00	\$50.00	503.20 - SO CAL EAST	29,237.93	\$33,000.00		
503.40 - NOR CAL WEST	\$14,812.50	\$8,500.00	503.40 - NOR CAL WEST				
		\$50.00					
Total for 503.00 - DIVISIONAL CONV	\$53,305.14	\$52,150.00	Total for 503.00 - DIVISIONAL CONV	\$43,161.43	\$48,000.00		
504.00 - WESTUNES	\$1,079.72	\$1,100.00	504.00 - WESTUNES				
504.01 - ADS	\$1,628.50	\$400.00	504.01 - ADS	50.00	\$200.00		
Total for 504.00 - WESTUNES	\$2,708.22	\$1,500.00	Total for 504.00 - WESTUNES	\$50.00	\$200.00		
Total 505-Educational Events	\$0.00	\$0.00	Total 505-Educational Events	\$0.00	\$0.00		
506.00 - OTHER	\$0.00	\$300.00	506.00 - OTHER	0.01	\$300.00		
506.02 - WEBCAST	\$1,743.00	\$1,000.00			\$1,000.00		
506.07 - Gold Rush Income	\$749.88	\$500.00			\$800.00		

Total for 506.00 - OTHER	\$2,492.88	\$1,800.00	Total for 506.00 - OTHER	\$0.01	\$2,100.00		
510 - Donations	\$0.00		510 - Donations				
510.01 - Donations Awards							
510.02 - Donations Youth Educa	\$1,980.00	\$500.00					
			510.03 - Donations NorCal Camp	9,150.00	\$9,100.00		
510.04 - Donors Choice HF	\$2,118.38	\$13,000.00	510.04 - Donors Choice HF	1,545.92			
510.05-BHS DONORS CHOICE		\$3,000.00	510.05 - BHS Donors Choice	392.09	\$1,900.00		
01/01/2025 to 12/31/2025 INCOME		2026 Budget	01/01/2026 to 08/22/2026 INCOME		2027 Projection		
		\$100.00					
510.07 - Donations-Misc.	\$1,040.00	\$250.00					
		\$300.00					
Total for 510 - Donations	\$5,138.38	\$17,150.00	Total for 510 - Donations	\$11,088.01	\$11,000.00		
520.00 - Fees			520.00 - Fees				
			520.01 - NE/NWI Youth Camp		\$1,500.00		
520.02 - HCW / LA Fees		\$0.00	520.02 - HCW / LA Fees		\$0.00		
520.04 - Leadership Academy			520.04 - Leadership Academy		\$0.00		
520.06 - Senior Chorus Registration	\$2,171.25	\$1,500.00	520.06 Senior Chorus Registration	946.00	\$1,250.00	Rich Postal	
Total 520.04 - Leadership Academy							
Total 520.00 - Fees	\$2,171.25	\$1,500.00	Total for 520.00 - Fees	\$946.00	\$2,750.00		
Uncategorized Income	\$295.00						
Total for Income	\$183,695.86	\$213,200.00	Total for Revenue	\$137,978.20	\$227,550.00		
Cost of Goods Sold							

Gross Profit	\$183,695.86	\$213,200.00	Gross Profit	\$137,978.20	\$227,550.00		
EXPENSES	EXPENSES	EXPENSES	EXPENSES				
01/01/2025 to 12/31/2025 EXPENSES		2026 Budget	01/01/2026 to 08/22/2026 EXPENSES		2027 Projection		
Expenses			Expenses				
601.00 - HCW/LA Expense	\$0.00		601.00 - HCW/LA Expense				
601.001 - Harmony University Registration	\$104.99	\$110.00	601.001 - Harmony University Registration				
601.002 - Harmony University Travel	\$352.96	\$400.00	601.002 - Harmony University Travel				
607.117 - Harmony College West		\$0.00	607.117 - Harmony College West				
Total 601.00 - HCW/LA Expense	\$457.95	\$510.00	Total for 601.00 - HCW/LA Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00		
709.10 - Leadership Academy			709.10 - Leadership Academy				
709.11 - LA - AZ		\$500.00	709.11 - LA - AZ				
709.12 - LA - SE/SW Exp		\$500.00	709.12 - LA - SE/SW Exp				
709.13 - LA NE/NW		\$500.00	709.13 - LA - NorCal	312.00			
Total 709.10 - Leadership Academy		\$1,500.00	Total for 709.10 - Leadership Academy	\$312.00	\$0.00		
601.10 - DS15 - District Spring	\$33,578.86		601.10 - DS15 - District Spring	\$11,732.87	\$24,000.00		
			601.10.23 Supplies		\$250.00		
			601.10.24 Awards	\$711.95	\$650.00		
			601.10.25 Travel	\$102.60			
			601.10.26 Lodging	\$12,240.89			
			601.10.27 Video	\$3,600.00			
			Judges-Meals	\$1,492.82	\$2,000.00		
			Judges-Misc		\$6,000.00		
Judges Travel	-\$427.88		Judges Travel	\$4,400.00	\$7,500.00		
			601.10 - DS15 - District Spring - Other				
		\$25,000.00					

Total for 601.10 - DS15 - District Spring	\$33,150.98	\$25,000.00	Total for 601.10 - DS15 - District Spring	\$34,281.13	\$40,400.00		
601.20 - AZ15 - AZ Div Exp	\$11,890.73	\$7,500.00	601.20 - AZ15 - AZ Div Exp	8,557.39	\$9,000.00		
601.20.24 Awards		\$440.00	601.20.24 Awards				
Judges-Meals	\$1,163.60	\$400.00	Judges-Meals	1,151.65	\$1,500.00		
Judges-Misc		\$400.00	Judges-Misc				
Judges Travel	\$3,850.00	\$4,000.00	Judges Travel	4,400.00	\$4,400.00		
		\$8,000.00					
Total for 601.20 - AZ15 - AZ Div Exp	\$16,904.33	\$20,740.00	Total for 601.20 - AZ15 - AZ Div Exp	\$14,109.04	\$14,900.00		
01/01/2025 to 12/31/2025 EXPENSES		2026 Budget	01/01/2026 to 08/22/2026 EXPENSES		2027 Projection		
601.30 - SC15 - SoCal Div Exp	\$13,528.63	\$13,500.00	601.30 - SC15 - SoCal Div Exp	25,184.80	\$25,000.00		
601.30.24 Awards		\$440.00	601.30.24 Awards	652.00	\$650.00		
601.30.01Judges-Travel		\$10,000.00	601.30.01Judges-Travel	4,400.00	\$4,400.00		
601.30.02 Judges-Meals	\$1,656.08	\$1,000.00	601.30.02 Judges-Meals	1,498.45	\$1,500.00		
601.30.03 Judges-Misc.		\$800.00	601.30.03 Judges-Misc.	200.00	\$800.00		
601.30 - SC15 - SE/SW Div Exp - Other		\$18,000.00	601.30 - SC15 - SE/SW Div Exp - Other				
Total for 601.30 - SC15 - SoCal Div Exp	\$15,184.71	\$43,740.00	Total for 601.30 - SC15 - SoCal Div Exp	\$31,935.25	\$32,350.00		
601.50 - NC15 - NoCal Div Exp	\$14,819.45		601.50 - NC15 - NoCal Div Exp		\$15,000.00		
601.50.24 Awards		\$440.00	601.50.24 Awards				
601.50.01Judges-Travel	\$6,050.00	\$7,000.00	601.50.01Judges-Travel		\$6,050.00		
601.50.02Judges-Meals	\$1,304.22	\$900.00	601.50.02Judges-Meals		\$1,500.00		
601.50.03 JUDGES - MISC		\$800.00	601.50.03 JUDGES - MISC				
601.50 - NC15 - NE/NW DIV EXP - OTHER		\$5,000.00	601.50.24				

Total for 601.50 - NC15 - NoCal Div Exp	\$22,173.67	\$14,140.00	Total for 601.50 - NC15 - NoCal Div Exp	\$0.00	\$22,550.00		
602.00 - Fall Convention Exp	\$2,127.49		602.00 - Fall Convention Exp	\$6,625.00	\$2,300.00		
602.01 - DF15 - District Fall	\$31,220.32	\$200.00	602.01 - DF15 - District Fall		\$32,000.00		
602.01.01Judges-Travel	\$10,376.42	\$13,000.00	602.01.01Judges-Travel		\$12,000.00		
602.01.02Judges-Meals	\$2,162.46	\$1,200.00	602.01.02Judges-Meals		\$2,300.00		
602.01.03Judges-Misc	\$100.00	\$400.00	602.01.03Judges-Misc		\$200.00		
602.01 - DF15 - District Fall - Other		\$14,000.00	602.01 - DF15 - District Fall - Other				
Total 602.01 - DF15 - District Fall	\$45,986.69	\$28,800.00	Total 602.01 - DF15 - District Fall	\$6,625.00	\$48,800.00		
602.23 Supplies	\$47.00	\$100.00	602.23 Supplies		\$50.00		
602.24 Awards	\$753.95	\$440.00	602.24 Awards		\$800.00		
602.00 - OTHER		\$100.00	602.00 - OTHER				
Total for 602.00 - Fall Convention Exp	\$46,787.64	\$29,440.00	Total 602.00 - Fall Convention Exp	\$6,625.00	\$49,650.00		
604.00 - BD MEETING	\$0.00		604.00 - BD MEETING				
604.01 - TRAVEL	\$3,444.67	\$4,000.00	604.01 - TRAVEL	3,849.79	\$4,000.00		
604.02 - MEALS	\$1,550.78	\$1,500.00	604.02 - MEALS	1,116.08	\$1,500.00		
604.03 - LODGING	\$12,007.53	\$14,000.00	604.03 - LODGING	2,812.68	\$14,000.00		
604.04 - BD Meeting - Supplies		\$600.00	604.04 - BD Meeting - Supplies	474.09	\$600.00		
604.05 - Meeting Rooms & refreshments		\$750.00	604.05 - Meeting Rooms & refreshments		\$750.00		
Total for 604.00 - BD MEETING	\$17,002.98	\$20,850.00	Total for 604.00 - BD MEETING	\$8,252.64	\$20,850.00		
605.00 - INSURANCE		\$190.00	605.00 - INSURANCE	\$0.00	\$190.00		
			607.01 - DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT				
		\$200.00	607.011 - SUPPLIES		\$200.00		

		\$200.00	Total 607.01 - DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT	0.00	\$200.00		
606.00 Senior Chorus Expense			606.00 Senior Chorus Expense		\$0.00		
606.10 Senior Chorus Music/Tracks		\$1,500.00	606.10 Senior Chorus Music/Tracks		\$300.00		
606.20 Senior Chorus Director Expenses			606.20 Senior Chorus Director Expenses	1,050.76	\$950.00		
606.00 SENIOR CHORUS EXPENSE		\$1,500.00	606.00 SENIOR CHORUS EXPENSE	1,050.76	\$1,250.00		
01/01/2025 to 12/31/2025 EXPENSES		2026 Budget	01/01/2026 to 08/22/2026 EXPENSES		2027 Projection		
607.08 - C&J	\$0.00		607.08 - C&J				
		\$200.00	607.081 - SUPPLIES				
		\$0.00	607.082 - Telephone				
607.084 - TRAVEL	\$379.83	\$0.00	607.084 - Travel				
		\$4,500.00	607.085 - C&J CATEGORY SCHOOL	8,400.00	\$8,400.00		
Total for 607.08 - C&J	\$379.83	\$4,700.00	Total 607.08 - C&J	8,400.00	\$8,400.00		
607.09 - YIH	\$44.73	\$50.00	607.09 - YIH		\$2,000.00		
			607.094 - Postage	169.44		Antwun Puckett	
607.095 - AWARDS	\$1,000.00	\$200.00	607.095 - AWARDS	958.62			
			607.096 - NoCal Youth Camp	14,045.75	\$10,000.00		
			607.098 - LSEF - FWD YIH Camps	\$96.00			
607.097 Youth Festival Grants	\$1,917.37	\$2,000.00	607.097 Youth Festival Grants				
Total for 607.09 - YIH	\$2,962.10	\$2,250.00	Total for 607.09 - YIH	\$15,269.81	\$12,000.00		
607.10 - EVENTS			607.10 - EVENTS		\$0.00		
607.101 - SUPPLIES	\$208.46	\$3,000.00	607.101 - SUPPLIES		\$0.00		
607.102 - Travel	\$632.33	\$1,000.00	607.102 - TRAVEL	99.90	\$1,000.00		
Total 607.10 - EVENTS	\$840.79	\$4,000.00	Total for 607.10 - EVENTS	\$99.90	\$1,000.00		

607.11 - MUSIC & PERFORMANCE	\$0.00		607.11 - MUSIC & PERF				
607.110 - CHAPT COACHING	\$150.00	\$200.00	607.110 - CHAPT COACHING		\$3,000.00	Alex Baskin	Lift & Learn
607.115 - GOLD RUSH (FORMERLY TOP GUN)	\$5,380.53	\$4,500.00	607.115 - Gold Rush (Formerly Top Gun)	5,077.55	\$6,000.00	Cody Littlefield	
Total 607.11 - MUSIC & PERFORMANCE	\$5,530.53	\$4,700.00	Total for 607.11 - MUSIC & PERF	\$5,077.55	\$9,000.00		
607.12 - MKTG & PR			607.12 - MKTG & PR			David Mellvile	
607.12 - MKTG & PR - OTHER		\$275.00	607.12 - MKTG & PR - OTHER			David Mellvile	
607.122 - POSTAGE		\$50.00	607.122 - POSTAGE			David Mellvile	
607.123 - PROMO MATERIALS		\$300.00	607.123 - PROMO MATERIALS			David Mellvile	
607.124 - WEB EXPENSES	\$349.00	\$6,500.00	607.124 - WEB EXPENSES		\$500.00	David Mellvile	
607.125 - Ads purchased/placed			607.125 - Ads purchased/placed			David Mellvile	
607.127 - TRAVEL		\$2,000.00	607.127 - TRAVEL			David Mellvile	
Total 607.12 - MKTG & PR	\$349.00	\$9,125.00	Total 607.12 - MKTG & PR	\$0.00	\$500.00	David Mellvile	
708.00 - WESTUNES			708.00 - WESTUNES			Max Coxon	
708.00 - WESTUNES - OTHER		\$575.00	708.00 - WESTUNES - OTHER			Max Coxon	
708.03 - WESTUNES TRAVEL		\$1,000.00	708.03 - WESTUNES TRAVEL			Max Coxon	
708.06 - WESTTUNES - PRINTING		\$420.00	708.06 - WESTTUNES - PRINTING		\$500.00	Max Coxon	
Total 708.00 - WESTUNES	\$0.00	\$1,995.00	Total 708.00 - WESTUNES			Max Coxon	
Total 607.12 - MKTG & PR & WESTUNES	\$349.00	\$11,120.00	Total 607.12 - MKTG & PR & WESTUNES	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	Max Coxon	
608.00 - DONATIONS			608.00 - DONATIONS				
608.11 YOUTH SUPORT			608.11 YOUTH SUPORT				
609.00 - MISC EXP			609.00 - MISC EXP				

609.01 - Dues Collection Fees	\$1,390.99	\$1,800.00	609.01 - Dues Collection Fees	\$1,947.00	\$2,000.00		
609.02 - Merchant Acct Fees		\$5,000.00	609.02 - Merchant Acct Fees	\$1.00	\$10.00		
610.00 - INTERN. QT TRAVEL	\$1,489.81	\$2,000.00	610.00 - INTERN. QT TRAVEL	\$1,317.18	\$1,500.00	VP C&J	
611.00 - INTERN CH TRAVEL		\$5,000.00	611.00 - INTERN CH TRAVEL	\$3,283.50	\$5,000.00	VP C&J	
612.00 - COLLEGE (612.00 COLLEGE TRAVEL)		\$0.00	612.00 - COLLEGE (612.00 COLLEGE TRAVEL)				
622.00 - GOV'T FEES	\$50.00	\$200.00	622.00 - GOV'T FEES	\$304.80	\$400.00	Wally Smulson	
01/01/2025 to 12/31/2025 EXPENSES		2026 Budget	01/01/2026 to 08/22/2026 EXPENSES		2027 Projection		
700.00 - PRESIDENT	\$0.00		700.00 - PRESIDENT			Cody Littlefield	
600.00 - AWARDS	\$59.95	Moved to each event	600.00 - AWARDS			Kenny Rios	
607.13 - HISTORIAN		\$2,000.00	607.13 - HISTORIAN		\$2,500.00	Kenny Rios	
607.16 - HALL OF FAME	\$239.23	\$220.00	607.16 - HALL OF FAME	89.66	\$250.00	Alan Gordon	
607.17 - President Exp Other	\$365.04	\$550.00	607.17 - President Exp Other		\$550.00	Cody Littlefield	
700.03 - TRAVEL	\$1,399.93	\$200.00	700.03 - TRAVEL	99.90	\$200.00	Cody Littlefield	
700.04 - International Exp	\$2,362.48	\$2,750.00	700.04 - International Exp		\$2,750.00	Cody Littlefield	
700.05 - Pres Mid-Winter Exp	\$3,200.00	\$2,365.00	700.05 - Pres Mid-Winter Exp	-452.46	\$2,365.00	Cody Littlefield	
Total for 700.00 - PRESIDENT	\$7,626.63	\$8,085.00	Total for 700.00 - PRESIDENT	-\$262.90	\$8,615.00		
701.00 - IMMEDIATE PAST PRES.	\$0.00		701.00 - IMMEDIATE PAST PRES.			Adam Kaufman	
701.01 Travel & Meals	\$959.01	\$2,000.00	701.01 Travel & Meals	\$1,748.08	\$2,000.00	Adam Kaufman	
701.02 Lodging	\$940.42		701.02 Lodging	\$1,656.69	\$1,750.00	Adam Kaufman	

Total for 701.00 - IMMEDIATE PAST PRES.	\$1,899.43	\$2,000.00	Total for 701.00 - IMMEDIATE PAST PRES.	\$3,404.77	\$3,750.00		
703.00 - EVP			703.00 - EVP				
703.03 - TRVL & MEALS		\$0.00	703.03 - TRVL & MEALS		\$0.00		
703.04 - EVP Supplies		\$0.00	703.04 - EVP Supplies		\$0.00		
703.06 - EVP Mid Winter Exp		\$0.00	703.06 - EVP Mid Winter Exp		\$0.00		
703.07 - EVP LODGING		\$0.00	703.07 - EVP LODGING		\$0.00		
703.08 - EVP Business Expenses		\$0.00	703.08 - EVP Business Expenses				
Total 703.00 - EVP		\$0.00	Total 703.00 - EVP	\$0.00	\$365.00		
704.00 - DVP			704.00 - DVP				
704.10 - DVP AZ			704.10 - DVP AZ				
704.13-TRAVEL		\$350.00	704.13-TRAVEL				
Total 704.10 - DVP AZ		\$350.00	Total 704.10 - DVP AZ		\$365.00		
704.20 - DVP - SOUTH EAST			704.20 - DVP - SOUTH EAST				
704.23-TRAVEL		\$350.00	704.23-TRAVEL				
Total 704.20 - DVP SOUTH EAST		\$350.00	Total 704.20 - DVP SOUTH EAST		\$365.00		
404.30 - DVP SOUTH WEST			404.30 - DVP SOUTH WEST				
404.33 - TRAVEL		\$350.00	404.33 - TRAVEL				
Total 704.30 - DVP SOUTH WEST		\$350.00	Total 704.30 - DVP SOUTH WEST		\$365.00		
404.40 - DVP NORTH WEST			404.40 - DVP NORTH WEST				
404.43 - TRAVEL		\$350.00	404.43 - TRAVEL				
Total 704.40 - DVP NORTH WEST		\$350.00	Total 704.40 - DVP NORTH WEST		\$365.00		
404.50 - DVP NORTH EAST			404.50 - DVP NORTH EAST				
404.53 - TRAVEL		\$350.00	404.53 - TRAVEL				
Total 704.40 - DVP NORTH WEST		\$350.00	Total 704.40 - DVP NORTH WEST		\$365.00		
Total 704.00 - DVP		\$1,750.00	Total 704.00 - DVP	\$0.00	\$1,825.00		

705.00 - SECRETARY	\$0.00		705.00 - SECRETARY			Greg Dreyer	
705.02-POSTAGE	\$32.85	\$100.00	705.02-POSTAGE		\$80.00	Greg Dreyer	
705.03-SUPPLIES	\$168.83	\$200.00	705.03 - SUPPLIES	140.90	\$200.00	Greg Dreyer	
705.04-EQUIP REPAIR		\$100.00	705.04-EQUIP REPAIR		\$100.00	Greg Dreyer	
705.05-Training		\$100.00	705.05-Training		\$100.00	Greg Dreyer	
705.06-Travel		\$100.00	705.06-Travel		\$100.00	Greg Dreyer	
Total 705.00 - SECRETARY	\$201.68	\$600.00	Total for 705.00 - SECRETARY	\$140.90	\$580.00		
01/01/2025 to 12/31/2025 EXPENSES		2026 Budget	01/01/2026 to 08/22/2026 EXPENSES				
706.00 - TREASURER			706.00 - TREASURER				
706.02 - POSTAGE	\$78.00	\$150.00	706.02 - POSTAGE	80.56	\$80.00	Wally Smulson	
706.03 - SUPPLIES		\$200.00	706.03 - SUPPLIES	176.21	\$100.00	Wally Smulson	
706.04-Subscriptions	\$80.00	\$300.00	706.04-Subscriptions		\$200.00	Wally Smulson	
706.05-Training		\$200.00	706.05-Training		\$200.00	Wally Smulson	
706.06-Travel		\$100.00	706.06-Travel		\$0.00	Wally Smulson	
Total 706.00 - TREASURER	\$158.00	\$950.00	Total for 706.00 - TREASURER	\$256.77	\$580.00	Wally Smulson	
Total for Expenditures	\$174,541.05	\$210,265.00	Total for Expenditures	\$135,806.10	\$238,365.00		
Net Operating Income	\$9,154.81	\$2,935.00	Net Operating Revenue	\$2,172.10	-\$10,815.00		
			NE/NW CAMP	2026 to date	2027	Richard Lund	
			INCOME				
			FUNDS LEFT FROM PREVIOUS YEAR	\$10,359.29	\$8,760.23		

			510.03 - Donations NorCal Camp	9,150.00	\$9,100.00		
			520.01 - NE/NWI Youth Camp		\$1,500.00		
			TOTAL INCOME NE/NW CAMP	19,509.29	\$19,360.23		
			EXPENSE				
			607.096 - NoCal Youth Camp	14,045.75	\$10,000.00		
			607.098 - LSEF - FWD YIH Camps	\$96.00			
			TOTAL EXPENSE NE/NW CAMP	\$14,141.75	\$10,000.00		
			NET	\$5,367.54	\$9,360.23		



Board Member Report

Aaron Burleson

Arizona Division Vice President

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The Arizona Division chapters show little change in overall numbers since last report.

Summertime is always a huge challenge for most of our groups. Summer heat drives our “snowbirds” to cooler climates. Our “high desert” chapters are experiencing different problems. As members are aging, doctors are advising several to move away from the higher altitudes and relocate close to medical facilities.

Several groups are still rebounding from the COVID days. To survive they have opened up their rehearsals to include non-BHS singers. This is a concern that the various chapter boards are trying to address. Very few chapters will travel any distance for events.

At the AZ Division convention we had 5 AZ choruses competing and ALL FIVE qualified for the 2026 FWD Fall Contest in Hawaii. The Phoenixians were the champions and qualified for the 2027 International in Minneapolis,

The Phoenixians Chorus is hosting our Arizona Division Summer Bash at Embassy Suites by Hilton Phoenix Tempe, Tempe, AZ Saturday, August 15.

Tucson Barbershop Experience

They have a 27 member count, down from 29 in the last report. They have two official shows lined up: Summer Chorus show, Fri, Aug 7 and Voyager Holiday Show, Wed, Dec 9. They have periodic open houses to help recruit. They met their 2 goals for Arizona Division contest this season. 1) put twice as many performers on stage, and 2) walk away with the most improved chorus score.

Greater Phoenix - “Phoenixians”

The chapter member total is 44, down from the 52 in the last report. They are working on recruiting with open houses periodically. They qualified for the 2027 International in Minneapolis. Location and time of rehearsals: Tuesdays at 7:00 PM, University Presbyterian Church, 139 E Alameda Dr., Tempe, AZ 85282.

Salt River Valley - A Cappella Syndicate

They are doing well and had a show in March. At least 2 more shows are lined up for the year plus they are preparing for the Far West Convention in Hawaii.

Their member count is down 1 from the last report to 20.

Desert Aires Barbershop Chorus The chapter grew in membership from 35 to 38. They recently had their annual Spring show and are looking for a busy holiday season with 8 shows on the books. They qualified for Senior competition at mid-winter but couldn't get enough members willing to travel. Also, they qualified for Hawaii. Again, not enough members were willing to travel there. The average age of this chorus is 80.

Southwest Vocal Alliance Their membership dropped from the last report of 48 to 44.

This chorus represented FWD and AZ quite well in St. Louis. They placed 26th internationally. The outgoing champions, Vocal Majority, presented them with a peer-to-peer traditional "Gift of Music" - a physically framed, signed copy of a custom musical arrangement as a powerful symbol of community, camaraderie, and the passing of the baton to the next generation of barbershoppers. It serves as a symbol of deep respect and sharing of musical legacy within the global barbershop family.

They sing and perform a wide variety of songs and styles in addition to barbershop: pop, rock, country, and doo-wop.

Mesa - East Valley Barbershop Harmonizers

Membership has decreased from 25 to 23. Rehearsals have moved to a new day and time: Wednesdays from 6:30pm-9:00pm at the St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 322 N Horne, Mesa, Arizona 85203.

They have recently hired Cary Burns as their director. Cary is no stranger to FWD. A 37-year barbershopper and BHS Musicality Judge, Cary is a sought-after coach, arranger, presenter, and clinician. He directs five diverse ensembles: three barbershop choruses, a women's contemporary a cappella chorus, and a 187-member community chorus.

They are taking orders to deliver Singing Valentines.

Prescott - The High Mountain Chordsmen

Their BHS member count increased from 13 to 14. They have about 22 total singing with them.

This is one of their busiest years in quite some time. They are singing patriotic songs at quite a few places for this year's 250th anniversary and, during the holiday period, will sing at 20+ venues.

This chorus used to compete but can't see their way at present. They are going to at least try to get a competing quartet.

Accapella Sedona (formerly Harmony On The Rocks)

Accapella Sedona has experienced steady growth, expanding from 14 singers to its current size of 23-24 regular performers.

They sing-out 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 BHS member total is at 3, down from 8 since the last report. Their actual number of regulars is 23-24. We are trying to get their permanent "visitors" to join the Society and FWD. They are a mixed chorus.

The chorus hosted their themed "Psych-appella" Spring Concert May 17 and on July 1, 2026, they kicked off Independence Day weekend as featured performers on the Star-Spangled Sing Along at the Southwest Wine Center (Verde Campus Vineyard) alongside the Village Ukulele People.

December 10 they will perform a Holiday Concert at the Library hosted by the Community Library Sedona.

December 12 the group is slated to open the annual Merry Music at the Museum 2026 concert at the Sedona Heritage Museum, sharing the stage with the Verde Valley Voices.

Central Arizona This quartet chapter meets monthly and they put together quartets continually throughout the year for various functions throughout the area. Their membership is 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 3 members (up 1 since last report) 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 11 listed BHS members, down from 13 in the last report. Around 16 additional singers are associated with them that are not BHS. The chapter is working on solutions to get more members to join BHS and FWD. The problem is affordability. They have lost as many as 5 older singers because of health issues. Their doctors have advised them to get out of the higher altitude and be closer to medical care.

The chorus typically hosts two major annual events:

Their Summer Show will be held August 29 at the Blue Ridge High School Thomas Kean Auditorium with the award-winning quartet “Verse” as their guest quartet.

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.

During the late fall and winter months, the chorus usually transitions away from the auditorium to perform smaller, community-focused mobile events, including caroling at senior living centers and holiday giving events across Show Low and Snowflake.



Board Member Reports

Sue Atkins

Northeast Division Vice President

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Executive Summary

The Northeast Division continues to demonstrate strong musical activity, community engagement and inter-chapter collaboration. Membership recruitment and retention remain the division's primary long-term challenges, although several chapters are demonstrating encouraging growth and improved musical performance.

During the first half of 2026, particular emphasis was placed on accessible coaching, sharing recruitment resources, encouraging collaboration and monitoring chapter sustainability. I also conducted a review of chapter corporate status and filing information to identify potential administrative issues before they become problems.

The overall condition of our chapters varies considerably. Several are stable and growing, while others would benefit from continued DVP and District support, particularly in membership, director recruitment and long-term sustainability.

Three Priorities

- GROW - Membership recruitment and retention remain the division's greatest long-term challenge.
- SUPPORT - Sacramento, Davis-Vacaville, Folsom and Reno warrant varying levels of continued DVP/District attention.
- STRENGTHEN - Continue building sustainable chapters through coaching, leadership development, quartet activity, collaboration, youth outreach and sound governance.

Division Highlights

- Successful completion of the 2026 Northern Divisions Convention.
- Stockton Portsmen earned Northeast Division Chorus Champion, Plateau AA Champion and Most Improved Chorus, scoring 69.3%.
- Placerville reported five new members in 2026, three additional prospects, and its best chorus and quartet contest scores in years.
- Fresno has experienced significant membership improvement.
- Six Northeast choruses received complimentary coaching through the Chris Hebert coaching initiative.
- Mighty Oak Chorus recently received complimentary coaching from Chris Hebert on August 10.
- Visalia continues its commitment to youth outreach, with Youth Harmony Explosion scheduled for September 12.
- Stockton launched its 26 Weeks of Harmony recruitment campaign, which was shared with every Northeast Division chapter.
- Five Northeast Division singers will perform as guest singers with the Peninsulaires at Pan Pacific 2026, including three Stockton Chapter members.

DVP Activities Since February 2026

- Coordinated complimentary coaching opportunities with Chris Hebert; six Northeast choruses have now participated.
- Shared Stockton's 26 Weeks of Harmony recruitment campaign with every Northeast Division chapter as an adaptable membership resource.
- On May 22, shared the Pan Pacific 2026 Peninsulaires Guest Singer Opportunity with all Northeast chapters; five Northeast singers will participate, including three Stockton Chapter members.
- Continued monitoring membership, leadership and sustainability throughout the division.
- Conducted a review of California chapter corporate status, standing and filing deadlines.
- Continued outreach to smaller chapters and chapters experiencing leadership or membership challenges.
- Encouraged inter-chapter collaboration and sharing of successful recruitment, marketing and organizational practices.

Membership Snapshot

Chapter Membership / Participation

California Delta 68 (Voices of California 45; Stay Tuned 23)

Central California 16 active

Davis-Vacaville 22

Folsom 7

Fresno 26

Placerville 37 total / 27 active

Reno 13

Sacramento 8 registered / approx. 3-5 participating

Stockton 28

Visalia 24 active as of 8/13/2026

Membership figures represent chapter memberships and may include individuals maintaining membership in more than one chapter. Where available, registered membership and regular participation are shown separately because registered membership alone does not always provide an accurate picture of chapter health.

Chapter Health Snapshot

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Primary Consideration</u>
<u>California Delta</u>	Stable	Strong membership base; two choruses
<u>Central California</u>	Monitor	16 active members; membership growth
<u>Davis-Vacaville</u>	Monitor/Support	Director vacancy; rehearsals resume in September
<u>Folsom</u>	Monitor	Membership sustainability
<u>Fresno</u>	Stable / Improving	Membership growth

<u>Placerville</u>	Positive Growth	Recruitment, quartets and musical improvement
<u>Reno</u>	Monitor	Membership and administrative verification
Sacramento	Assistance Recommended	3-5 participating; activity paused
Stockton	Stable / Active	Recruitment and leadership transition
Visalia	Stable / Active	Youth outreach and musical development

These classifications are intended only to identify where DVP/District attention may be useful. They are not rankings of chapters.

Membership Recruitment & Retention

Recruitment and retention continue to be the most common long-term challenges across the Northeast Division. Rather than simply encouraging chapters to recruit more members, we should identify and share specific approaches that produce results.

- Personal invitations and former-member outreach
- Structured membership campaigns
- Singing Valentines and community performances
- Youth outreach
- Guest-friendly rehearsals
- Social media and website marketing
- Follow-up with visitors
- Collaboration with other musical organizations

26 Weeks of Harmony

Stockton launched 26 Weeks of Harmony in late May. The program provides members with a short weekly recruitment or outreach activity, generally requiring only 5-15 minutes, designed to make recruitment an ongoing habit rather than a short-term membership drive. Early activities have brought former members and prospective singers to rehearsals.

I shared the complete program with every Northeast Division chapter so chapters could use, modify or adapt the ideas to their own needs. This is the type of resource sharing I believe should be encouraged throughout the District.

Division Coaching Initiative

Complimentary coaching with Chris Hebert has now been provided to six Northeast choruses: Placerville, Fresno, DavisVacaville, Stockton, Central California and Visalia (August 10).

The response has been positive and demonstrates the value of making quality coaching accessible regardless of chapter size or financial resources. Placerville reported that its January session helped prepare its Spring Convention songs; the chorus and two quartets subsequently achieved their best contest scores in years.

Recommendation: Continue encouraging accessible coaching opportunities throughout the District.

Chapter Corporate Compliance Review

For the first time in my DVP reporting, I conducted a review of Northeast Division chapter corporate status and filing information. California Secretary of State records were reviewed for California chapters, including entity status and standing. The purpose is supportive rather than punitive: identifying administrative issues early gives the Division and District an opportunity to assist.

Chapter	Initial Filing	Status	Standing	Statement Due	Follow-Up
<u>California Delta</u>	12/07/2009	Active	Good	12/31/2027	None
<u>Central California</u>	08/13/2009	Active	Good	08/31/2027	None
<u>Davis-Vacaville</u>	02/03/1969	Active	Good	02/28/2023	Verify due date
<u>Folsom</u>	05/11/2009	Active	Good	05/31/2027	None
<u>Fresno</u>	08/22/1962	Active	Good	08/31/2028	None
<u>Placerville</u>	02/15/1982	Active	Good	12/31/2026	Upcoming filing
<u>Reno</u>	Not located	Not verified			Request from chapter
<u>Sacramento</u>	02/14/1950	Active	Good	02/28/2028	None
<u>Stockton</u>	04/20/1955	Active	Good	04/30/2027	None
<u>Visalia</u>	07/02/1984	Active	Good	07/31/2028	None

All California entities reviewed currently show Active status and Good standing. Davis-Vacaville's reported February 28, 2023. Statement of Information due date should be clarified. Placerville's next Statement of Information is due December 31, 2026. Reno's Nevada corporate information could not be independently verified and will be requested from chapter leadership.

Leadership, Financial Sustainability & Quartet Development

Leadership & Director Succession

Chapters should be encouraged to develop assistant and backup directors, future board leaders, officer succession plans, mentoring for incoming leaders, and continuity of institutional knowledge. The most immediate musical leadership concern is Davis-Vacaville, which has not yet found a director to replace Bill Nichols.

Financial Sustainability

Increasing facility, production and performance costs remain a concern. Chapters should continue sharing successful fundraising programs, sponsorship opportunities, grant resources, cost-sharing arrangements and collaborative events.

Quartet Development

Quartet singing remains fundamental to the barbershop experience. Programs such as the NorCal Novice Quartet Contest and Folsom's Bean Feed/Some-What Serious Quartet Contest provide valuable opportunities for new and developing quartets. Placerville's Claim Jumpers earned Northeast Senior Quartet Champion honors, and ten Placerville members registered for Harmony University, with Claim Jumpers participating in quartet coaching.

Youth Outreach & Inter-Chapter Collaboration

Youth Outreach

Visalia's Youth Harmony Explosion demonstrates the potential of partnerships among chapters, schools, educators and the District. The next Youth Harmony Explosion is scheduled for September 12, 2026. I recommend continued District support for Youth Harmony Explosion and encouragement of similar relationships with music educators.

Inter-Chapter Collaboration

Examples include chapters supporting one another's shows, Folsom Bean Feed participation, shared coaching resources, quartet participation across chapter events, youth programs, dual chapter memberships, convention support, Sacramento members participating with Voices of California, and Pan Pacific guest-singer opportunities. Smaller chapters in particular may benefit from collaboration that allows members to continue singing and performing when their own chapter has limited numbers.

Chapter Updates

California Delta Chapter - Voices of California / Stay Tuned

Membership: 68 combined (Voices of California 45; Stay Tuned 23). The chapter continues to maintain a strong membership base through its two choruses. Current focus: recruitment, retention, community visibility, musical development and continued District participation.

Central California Chapter - Golden Valley Chorus

Active membership: 16. The chorus participated in the complimentary Chris Hebert coaching initiative. Current focus: membership growth, musical development, community visibility and long-term sustainability.

Davis-Vacaville Chapter - West Valley Chorus

Membership: 22. The chorus had one performance in June and sang at a Celebration of Life for Donald J. Fish on July 11. Don was a 24-year member who had been active in two quartets, and his name will be included in an upcoming Harmonizer Chapter Eternal listing. The chapter has not yet found a director to replace Bill Nichols. Regular rehearsals were suspended for July and August and are expected to resume in September for Christmas preparation. Assessment: Monitor / Support.

Folsom Chapter - Folsom Harmony Express

Active membership: 7. Folsom remains one of the smaller chapters in the division but continues contributing through events including the Bean Feed and Some-What Serious Quartet Contest. Assessment: Monitor. Current focus: membership sustainability, musical leadership, maintaining activity and continued division support.

Fresno Chapter - Sierra Gateway Chorus

Active membership: 26. Fresno has demonstrated significant membership improvement and participated in the complimentary coaching initiative. Assessment: Stable / Improving. Current focus: retaining membership gains, continued musical improvement, community visibility and collaboration.

Placerville Chapter - Gold Rush Chorus

Membership: 37 total / 27 active; five new members in 2026 and three prospective members. The chorus and two quartets achieved their best scores in years at the Spring NorCal Convention. Claim Jumpers became Northeast Senior Quartet Champions, and Gold Rush Chorus placed second in Plateau A. The chorus and quartets have remained active through Memorial Day, Singing Valentines, the Folsom Bean Feed and other community events. Ten members registered for Harmony University. Chris Hebert provided complimentary coaching in January, and Robert Lenoil visited in May to provide additional coaching and receive his first Person of Note award for recommending one of the chapter's new members. Assessment: Positive Growth.

Reno Chapter - Silver Dollar Chorus

Active membership: 13. The chorus continues maintaining barbershop activity in Northern Nevada. Nevada corporate information could not be independently verified and will be requested from chapter leadership. Assessment: Monitor.

Sacramento Chapter - Capitolaires

Registered membership: 8; current weekly participation approximately 3-5 singers. The chapter reports a standstill, with little membership growth, and regular activity has been temporarily paused while members consider future options. Several members are attending Voices of California rehearsals and plan to participate in an upcoming VoCal show. Sacramento's corporate status remains Active and in Good standing; the concern is operational sustainability rather than corporate compliance. Assessment: Assistance Recommended.

Stockton Chapter - Stockton Portsmen

Active membership: 28. Stockton has had an active and successful first half of 2026 and recently experienced a leadership transition, with Sue Atkins appointed President for the remainder of 2026. Highlights include hosting the NorCal Novice Quartet Contest and FWD Northern Divisions Convention; earning Northeast Division Chorus Champion, Plateau AA Champion and Most Improved Chorus with a 69.3% score; presenting the spring show Santa's Escape Plan; Memorial Day and Celebrate America performances; National Anthem and quartet/VLQ appearances; participating in complimentary coaching; and launching 26 Weeks of Harmony. The chapter is preparing for its 72nd Charter Anniversary and holiday season.

Assessment: Stable / Active.

Visalia Chapter - Mighty Oak Chorus

Active membership: 24 as of August 13. Visalia continues demonstrating a strong commitment to youth outreach and community engagement. Chris Hebert provided a complimentary coaching session on August 10. The next Youth Harmony Explosion is scheduled for September 12. Assessment: Stable / Active.

Pan Pacific 2026

On May 22, I shared with all Northeast chapters the opportunity for members to perform as guest singers with the Peninsulaires at the 2026 Pan Pacific Convention in Honolulu. The outreach resulted in five Northeast Division singers participating, including three members of the Stockton Chapter. This is a positive example of division-wide communication connecting individual members with opportunities beyond their own chapters.

2027 Northern Divisions Convention

Planning for the 2027 Northern Divisions Convention should remain a forward-looking priority. Potential host and partnership arrangements should be identified early enough to allow chapters and the District adequate planning time and may provide another opportunity for collaboration between Northeast Division chapters.

Next Steps Before Year-End

1. Follow up with Sacramento after the chapter reconvenes and determines its direction.
2. Follow up on Davis-Vacaville's director search when rehearsals resume.
3. Request Reno's legal/corporate information directly from chapter leadership.
4. Clarify Davis-Vacaville's reported February 2023 Statement of Information date.
5. Remind Placerville of its December 31, 2026 filing deadline.
6. Continue monitoring results from 26 Weeks of Harmony.

7. Encourage chapters to share recruitment approaches producing actual visitors and new members.
8. Follow up after Visalia's September 12 Youth Harmony Explosion.
9. Continue 2027 Northern Divisions Convention planning.
10. Continue encouraging leadership succession and quartet development.

District Assistance Requested

- Accessible Coaching - Continue providing or facilitating affordable coaching, particularly for smaller chapters.
- Sacramento - Offer assistance as the chapter evaluates its future, including recruitment resources, leadership assistance and opportunities for collaboration.
- Davis-Vacaville - Assist with director-search resources and connections with potential musical leaders where possible.
- Membership - Continue developing and sharing practical recruitment and retention resources.
- Youth Outreach - Continue support for Youth Harmony Explosion and similar programs.
- Leadership Development - Encourage succession planning for both chapter officers and musical leadership.
- Quartet Development - Continue supporting events and programs that encourage singers to form and develop quartets.
- Chapter Compliance - Consider a regular process for DVPs to review chapter corporate and organizational status so administrative concerns can be identified early.
- Standardized Reporting - Consider a simple chapter reporting format covering membership, participation, leadership, performances, recruitment, financial concerns and areas where District assistance is needed.

Closing

I continue to be impressed by the dedication of chapter leaders, directors and members throughout the Northeast Division. Our chapters vary considerably in size, resources and current circumstances, but they share a commitment to preserving and growing barbershop harmony in their communities. Our focus should remain on three priorities: GROW our membership and develop new singers; SUPPORT chapters and leaders when they encounter challenges; and STRENGTHEN our chapters through coaching, leadership development, quartet activity, collaboration, youth outreach and sound governance. By identifying both successes and challenges early, we can provide chapters with the resources and support necessary for long-term sustainability.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Atkins

Northeast Division Vice President



Board Member Reports

Rich Postal

Northwest Division Vice President

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This quarter I visited 6 Chapters and all were performing with a great deal of energy. Attendance at the meetings has been encouraging in that there have been more new faces than I have seen at previous visits. Most of the groups have been doing public performances thus spreading four part harmony. At the Norcal East/ Norcal West spring Convention in Stockton, three Norcal choruses qualified for the upcoming District Competition this coming October to be held in Honolulu. This should be one to remember as it is also combined with the Pan Pacific Convention and includes Australia, New Zealand, and Japan as well as any groups touching the Pacific rim. Of the Chapters I visited, either they didn't attend the spring Convention or if they did and qualified, they elected not to go because of the cost. The Peninsulaires have also offered the opportunity to sing at this event for both men and women if their home chapter is not performing in Hawaii.. Naturally, this is a contest and the tools for learning would be made available for this opportunity and participants wanting to perform would be expected to sing at a high level. For more information, contact Eliot Rubinov at: rubinov@sbcglobal.net In the email subject line write "Sing in Hawaii" From Farmer's Markets, to street fairs, to shopping centers, and ice cream socials, spread our hobby with song. A disappointing saying from some of our newer members is "I wish I found out about this hobby 20 years ago". Spread the word and Sing Well!



Board Member Reports

Jeremy Loper

Southeast Division Vice President

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SOUTHEAST DIVISION BOARD REPORT

I. DIVISION OVERVIEW

The Southeast Division currently comprises 14 active chapters. Following a seasonal transition in the spring that resulted in a loss of four members, our division numbers successfully leveled out over the summer months. The roster currently stands at 364 chapter members and 350 active chorus members. Our primary dedication remains focused on providing thoughtful guidance to our smaller chapters to help them rebuild, while continuing to cheer on and support the operations of our larger singing communities.

II. DIVISION ROSTER AND DETAILED CHAPTER STATUS NOTES

The current membership numbers, directorial leadership, and status notes for each of the 14 active chapters are as follows:

● Brea, CA (Vocal Mixology)

○ Chapter Members: 18 / Chorus Members: 17

○ Director: Phillip H. Ordaz

○ Notes: Rehearsals are held at Heights Christian Elementary School (12200

Oxford Dr, La Mirada, CA 90638) every Tuesday at 7:30 PM. The chapter is focusing on an inclusive, all-gender recruitment approach, opening doors to singers from all voice parts and musical backgrounds.

● Coachella Valley, CA (Coachella Valley Barbershop Chorus)

○ Chapter Members: 26 / Chorus Members: 26

○ Director: Stephen D. Pence

○ Notes: The chapter meets on Wednesdays at 6:30 PM at the Ivey Ranch Clubhouse in Thousand Palms (74580 Varner Road). Their current efforts focus on steady community visibility to maintain a welcoming and sustainable mid-sized group.

● Fullerton, CA (Orange Empire Chorus)

○ Chapter Members: 31 / Chorus Members: 30

○ Director: Craig A. Ewing

○ Notes: Rehearsals run on Tuesday nights from 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM at the First

Presbyterian Church of Fullerton (838 N. Euclid St.). The group sustains excellent member retention through a structured, supportive weekly program that runs year-round, pausing only for the last week of December.

● Hemet, CA (Hemet Harmonizers)

○ Chapter Members: 5 / Chorus Members: 5

○ Director: Carl Thomas Buntin

○ Notes: Meets Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM at the LDS Church located at 1151 Park Ave. in Hemet. To help answer recruitment pressures, the chapter is using its community presence, Singing Valentines, and local singouts to build up community ties and bolster enrollment.

● Inland Empire, CA (Inland Sound)

○ Chapter Members: 5 / Chorus Members: 5

○ Director: Michael H. Smith

○ Notes: Meetings are held every Tuesday evening from 7:00 PM until 9:30 PM at the Grand Terrace Senior Center (22627 Grand Terrace Rd.). To help meet current local enrollment needs, it has been recommended that the chapter collaborate with neighboring groups for shared recruitment efforts.

● La Jolla, CA (Pacific Coast Harmony)

○ Chapter Members: 51 / Chorus Members: 50

○ Director: Janet Hammer

○ Notes: Weekly rehearsals occur most Mondays from 7:00 PM until 9:30 PM in Pappas Hall, located immediately below the Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church (3459 Manchester Ave., Cardiff-by-the-Sea). Roster metrics show strong long-term member commitment and consistent weekly attendance.

● Lake Forest, CA (SoCal Mix)

○ Chapter Members: 26 / Chorus Members: 28

○ Director: Yasumichi Ichikawa

○ Notes: Rehearsals are running on a focused track as the leadership explores structural updates. Their current goals prioritize growth and the upcoming international contest.

● Las Vegas, NV (Silver Statesmen)

○ Chapter Members: 52 / Chorus Members: 44

○ Director: Kyler Wilcock

○ Notes: Rehearsals are anchored out of 1911 Pueblo Vista Dr. To help keep members connected and reduce administrative strain, public updates and event calendars are kept up to date via their website.

● Orange, CA (Unnamed Chorus)

○ Chapter Members: 10 / Chorus Members: 9

○ Notes: Chapter meetings and singing sessions are held at the First Christian Church of Orange (1130 E. Walnut St.). Leadership is keeping a close, supportive eye on operations as the group strives to secure a double-digit active enrollment.

● Palomar Pacific, CA (The Music Men)

○ Chapter Members: 17 / Chorus Members: 18

○ Director: David M. Garstang

○ Notes: Rehearses most Tuesday evenings from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM in Luther Hall at the San Marcos Lutheran Church (3419 Grand Ave., San Marcos). The chapter maintains info on their site, but the calendar isn't online.

● San Diego, CA (Sun Harbor)

○ Chapter Members: 16 / Chorus Members: 16

○ Director: F. David Foti

○ Notes: Rehearsals are hosted every Tuesday from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM in Room 207 of the Casa del Prado, located at 1650 El Prado inside Balboa Park, San Diego. The chapter maintains a steady community presence and reliable member participation. They have a large show coming up in Sept.

● South Orange County, CA (South County Sound)

○ Chapter Members: 11 / Chorus Members: 11

○ Director: Lucas Edward Purcell

○ Notes: Meets on Tuesday evenings at 6:15 PM at Freedom Village (23442 El Toro Rd., Lake Forest, near Muirlands Blvd.). Leadership is dedicated to nurturing the current chorus line to help transition the chapter into a comfortable mid-sized unit.

● Temecula, CA (Temecula Wine Valley Harmonizers)

○ Chapter Members: 21 / Chorus Members: 21

○ Director: Samuel R. Irvin

○ Notes: Regular meetings run from 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM on Wednesday evenings at 41780 Butterfield Stage Rd. The advanced performance unit (Reserve Group) holds an additional, supportive evaluation session an hour earlier at 6:00 PM.

● Westminster, CA (The Westminster Chorus)

○ Chapter Members: 75 / Chorus Members: 70

○ Director: Dan P. Wessler

○ Notes: Rehearses every Monday evening from 7:30 PM to 10:30 PM in Anaheim, California. The division's largest chapter utilizes an online digital registration process to process incoming candidates and keep rehearsals organized and rewarding.

Total Active Division Chapters: 14

Total Division Chapter Members: 364

Total Active Chorus Members: 350

III. CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS AND COMPREHENSIVE DEVELOPMENTS

Our ensembles continue to focus on musical performance and organizational health:

- The La Jolla chapter (Pacific Coast Harmony) recently appointed Janet Hammer as their new Artistic Director. Janet replaces long-time director Bonnie McKibben, bringing four decades of music education, choir leadership, and vocal production experience to the role.
- SoCal Mix scored 972 (81.0%) at the FWD Spring Chorus Finals in Riverside. This achievement officially qualifies them for the international contest, marking a historic moment as the chapter advances to the international level for the first time since its founding.
- Our larger chapters—Westminster (75 members), Las Vegas (52 members), La Jolla (51 members), Fullerton (31 members), Coachella Valley (26 members), and Lake Forest (26 members)—maintain steady weekly attendance sizes of 25 or more members.
- I continue to reach out to smaller chapters to discuss recruitment and working with other local chapters to host events.



Board Member Reports

Kenny Rios

Southwest Division Vice President

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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	60
Bakersfield, CA	Golden Empire Chorus	D005A	Southwest	A / 1947	7
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	110
L.A. South Towns	L.A. South Towns Chorus	D129A	Southwest	A / 2023	42
Pasadena, CA	Pasadena Crown City Chorus	D018A	Southwest	A / 1946	1
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	13
Santa Maria, CA	Central Coast Chordsmen	D028A	Southwest	A / 1972	24
Santa Monica, CA	The Oceanaires	D058A	Southwest	AA / 1976	30
South Bay, CA	Coastliners	D012A	Southwest	AA / 1947	35
				Total FWD Members	357

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. Checking their website is the best way to see when and where they are meeting. They have 60 members on the books (a drop from 66 in the Spring) with an attendance of about 30-40 at rehearsals. Information in the Member Center is correct and is updated yearly. For the remainder of 2026, they are planning to host the PanPac/FWD Convention in October and host an Ice Cream Social on August 08. Fundraising still continues to be 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 7 (one less than in Spring of this year). 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 still 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). The District needs to continue to 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.

Conejo Valley, CA D014A

(**Channel Island Harmony Chorus**) They presently show 10 members on the books with no active website. Alex and I met with two of their members in mid-July, Jay Shapiro and Jim Browne, to discuss revitalizing their Chapter. The meeting was productive with us giving them a "laundry list" of tasks to accomplish before we meet again on August 09, 2026. We are hoping this will bring their chapter back to life.

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 haven't been able 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 110 members on their books (down from 121 last report) with an average attendance of 35-40 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.” The Chorus competed at International Competition in St. Louis, MO, this summer receiving 10th place and continues to do other activities with the La Mirada Chamber of Commerce. The Chapter had a recent joint show with the Westminster Chorus and featured the Quartet “Michigan Jake.” 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 use this app. The Chapter is considering allowing other Choruses to join the Greater Los Angeles Chapter making room for a mixed chorus, a women’s chorus or both. The Chapter was polled at their Aug 05 meeting with the decision to move forward with this venture involving the Lake Forest Chapter, SoCal Mix Chorus. Meeting of the two BODs from each chapter are to meet to “iron out” details. The chapter will not be going to Fall Convention in Hawaii but will, instead, focus on their upcoming Christmas show in December.

L.A. South Towns, CA D129A

The L.A. South Towns Chapter (**L.A. South Towns Chorus**) presently has 42 members (up 3 members since last report in Spring) with average attendance 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. The Chapter has a very successful Family and Friends night in April. They also competed in the FWD Divisional Contest in Riverside, CA, in May 2026 taking 1st in their Division with 21 on stage and qualifying for Hawaii. They are the present AA Champions and are the highest scoring women’s chorus in the SW Division. I visited them shortly after their victory to present them with the SW Divisional trophy which was unavailable at the Spring Convention. 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 1 member on the books (down from 2 last spring). 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. The chapter was originally chartered in 1946. 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 shows 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. Their President sounded hopeful of revitalizing the Chapter/Chorus. A search for a director is under way and once a new Director Development Coordinator is selected by the District, plans to revitalize the chapter can begin with the help of finding a new director.

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. The Chorus recently competed in the Divisional Contest in May in Riverside with 16 on the stage and taking 3rd in their Division and 10th place overall between SE and SW Divisions. They had a successful event in

May entitled, "Spring Fling and Apple Pie Social" celebrating Mother's Day and our nation's 250th Birthday. They also participated in the annual Memorial Day Choir at Valley Oaks Memorial Park in late May. They are preparing for a planned show on November 14th entitled, "The Barbershop School Bus" featuring Valkyries Quartet.

Santa Clarita, CA D043A

The Santa Clarita Chapter (**The Harmony Hills Chorus**) meets weekly on Tuesday night.

They presently have 13 members on the books (down 4 members since last reported in the spring) with an average attendance of 10 members at rehearsal. 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 later in August. 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 24 on the books (2 up since last reported in the spring) 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. They competed in their Divisional Contest in May taking 2nd place in the SW Division, winning Plateau A honors and placing 8th overall in the SE/SW Divisional Contest. Current plans are for a show in December, 2026.

Santa Monica, CA D058A

The Santa Monica Chapter (**The Oceanaires**) meets weekly on Monday nights. With 30 on the books (6 down since last report in the spring), 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. The Chapter is presently in the midst of a summer program entitled, "Summer Sing" from August 03 to September 19, 2026, a "7 Week Sing Experience" culminating with a show and Ice Cream Social on Saturday, September 19th featuring special guest, "99", Region 11 Quartet Medalist. This is a unique approach to weekly rehearsals offering free coaching and vocal instruction, among other things. See their flyer for this event here: <https://www.oceanaires.org/events/summer-sing>

This is a very innovative way to approach weekly rehearsal.

Southbay, CA D012A

The Southbay Chapter (**Coastliners**) chartered in 1947 and meets on Wednesday nights in Redondo Beach, CA. They show 35 members on the books (one down since last report in the spring) 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. The Chapter competed in the SW Divisional Contest in May, 2026 taking the honors of "Most Improved Chorus" in the SW Division and placing 9th overall in the SE/SW Divisional Contest.

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. The SW Div is down 28 members. This could be attributed to when members dues expire and are renewed. 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 be 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).

Although I have visited a few Chapters, visitations for the remainder of the Chapters is in the works.



Board Member Reports

Chris Hébert

Vice President Music & Performance

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1. Chorus coaching in NorCal East wrapped up in July when I visited the Visalia Chorus on Aug. 10.
2. The FWD Audio Digitization
 - a. Done with what audio I have been able to obtain
 - b. Years needed: <1962, 1963-64, 1968-71, 1987-89, 1990< (not even sure albums were made in these years)
3. Society Wide District Music/Performance Leaders Monthly Meetings
 - a. Bill Stauffer, the new BHS Director of Music and Education, initiated a Zoom call inviting all District Music & Performance leaders to attend
 - b. Focus is to explore challenges and opportunities in their districts
 - c. First meeting was on June 7. Recap of the first meeting is below:
 - Role & Challenges: Music and performance directors from various barbershop districts met to discuss common challenges, specifically noting communication difficulties with local chapter leaders.
 - CDWI Revival: The group discussed reviving the Course Director Workshop Intensive (CDWI) program.
 - Big Leap Program: Bill and Brian Lynch are looking to expand this program, which helps chapters transition into local nonprofits to secure community grants. A successful run in the Northeastern District drew 125 participants, and a Sunshine District beta chapter recently secured \$30,000 in grants.
 - District Events: Participants shared updates on regional events, including Doug's upcoming Apple Corps event featuring the Brujaha quartet and Jack's update on the Sunshine District's Joe Breeden Festival. (These are similar to the FWD's Harmony College.)
 - Director Support: They explored supporting new music directors by standardizing job descriptions, creating mentorship programs, and launching a Basecamp platform to share resources.
 - Communication & Engagement: Leaders noted significant difficulties reaching chapter MVPs due to outdated contact information in the BHS database. There is also ongoing member resistance to district-level events due to an "old school" mindset.
 - Leadership: Bill highlighted his expanded role at BHS headquarters—which now covers music publishing, Harmony University, and chapter development. He also noted a long-term, philanthropic plan to eventually eliminate dues at the BHS level. and proposed holding regular follow-up meetings to address these goals.
 - Next Steps: Bill will set up a Basecamp group for resource sharing and material development. The team scheduled their next follow-up meeting for Sunday, July 12th at 8:00 PM Eastern.

Board Member Reports

Alan Gordon

Vice President Contests & Judging

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FWD was well-represented in St. Louis with both choruses and quartets.

We had THREE quartets in the top 10 for the first time since 2002! The Newfangled Four in 6th, newcomer and Dealer's Choice Award recipient Purple Rebar in 8th, and also newcomer Double Date in 9th.

Current district champ The Seventh Variety also made the Semis for the first time, finishing in 15th. Yes, Dear (31) and Blue Skies (36) also did the district proud with outstanding performances!

In the chorus contest, Masters of Harmony finished 10th in a tight grouping, while Southwest Vocal Alliance continued to show the world they're an up-and-coming chorus with a 26th place finish.

Four a Limited Time represented well with an 8th place finish in the NextGen Varsity contest, while Never Too Late participated in the first-ever "Sing In" contest on Tuesday.

The Spring contest season was very busy, seeing 58 quartets compete. 33 of them reached the automatic qualifying score of 71 (which is likely a record) and a full 52 achieved scores of a B-level or above. On the chorus front, we saw 26 participants (including Westminster qualifying in the BING contest), with 22 of them qualifying for the fall and 23 achieving B-level or above.

We also had 5 choruses qualify for Minneapolis, already, with the spring competitions being a chorus qualifier due to the unique travel situation for the upcoming convention. Those are Westminster, Fog City, Harmonia, Phoenixians, and SoCal Mix.

Speaking of the unique situation of the fall convention, that did poke a bit of a hole in chorus participation along with some quartets. We will have seven choruses competing for the FWD awards, with 13 or 14 choruses overall participating in the combined event.

We will have 23 quartets in the regular FWD contest, 2 competing for the Senior championship, and likely 40 overall for the combined contests. These will be conducted in 2 sessions of roughly 20 each on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

I am not quite up-to-speed enough to report on the Spring conventions, and see that they are a topic on the agenda, so will hold off.

As for the DRCJ position, the proposal to be discussed, reviewed, and approved is that of a working trio with technical assistance. That is to have a representative in each combined division (Arizona, South, North) to run their local contest annually, and then rotate the fall every 3 years along with the VP position on the BOD. Ben Porter has volunteered to remain assisting in the background with things like Barberscore, contest flow matrices, and rules expertise.

The team that has accepted the potential roles, pending approval, includes John Burri in Arizona and Don Shively in the North. While active SCJC members are preferred for the positions, exceptions have been made and approved, with 4 districts currently represented by SCJC-adjacent folks, for which Don would qualify with his recent

Candidacy and previous hosting duties. Chair of SCJC, Steve Tramack, has already given his nod. As a district, we would need to include this exception allowance in the SOP, which I would recommend.



Board Member Reports

Kenny Rios

Immediate Past President

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Greetings Brothers and Sisters!

What a GREAT time to be part of the Far Western District! With summer upon us we are now focused on our upcoming Fall Convention in Hawaii. What a grand time that'll be! I see that the upcoming Convention is gaining interest amongst our membership.

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 in the Fall to the BOD and 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 what remains of 2026 with you!!



Board Member Reports

Cody Littlefield

Executive Vice President

evp@farwesterndistrict.org

Members of the Far Western District Board and District Management Team, thank you for the opportunity to bring you up to speed on the work happening across the Executive Vice President portfolio.

Most of what follows is groundwork for 2027 and beyond. It is the kind of work that does not always show up on a contest stage, but it's what our chapters and quartets lean on when they need help, what our youth programs need in order to reach the next generation of singers, and what keeps our partner organizations pulling in the same direction we are. We are building the blocks necessary to continue forward with strength and reverence.

We want the Far Western District to be the district that other districts continue to study!

1. Youth in Harmony: Fog City Singers Inaugural YIH Day

I have been working alongside our Youth in Harmony Chairman, Antwun Puckett, to help the Fog City Singers set up their first ever Youth in Harmony Weekend, targeted for fall of 2027.

Fog City is an ideal partner for this. They are our current District chorus champion, they placed fourth at the 2025 International Chorus Contest in Denver, and they sit in one of the most visible arts markets in our District, the Bay Area. A youth event carrying their name reaches educators and students who may never have heard the word barbershop before, and it does so at a level of musical quality that makes the invitation easy to accept. In addition, Fog City Singers is a strong chorus medalist candidate for the foreseeable future, and I want to ensure they have the necessary tools to ensure they represent this District very well.

Where things stand

- Fog City is standing by on approval from the AIC Outreach Team. Upon approval, the AIC will work with FCS to help supply funding and a few International Champion quartets to help support their YIH initiative.
- The fall 2027 target gives us a full planning runway, which is deliberate. A first-year event only gets one first impression.
- Next steps are locking the host site, building the educator invitation list across the Bay Area, and identifying clinicians and a teaching quartet.

2. District Membership Protocol to Be Rolled Out

Sue Atkins, Alex Baskin, James Halvorson and I have been building and contributing to a membership protocol that any FWD chapter can pick up and run when they hit trouble with membership.

The idea came out of a pattern we kept seeing. When a chapter starts losing members, the leadership team usually knows something is wrong long before they know what to do about it, and by the time they ask for help they are already several months into a slide. What they need is not a lecture. They need a blueprint, written in plain language, that tells them what to do on any given rehearsal night.

What the protocol contains

- A campaign framework built on a simple arc: Invite, Welcome, Grow.
- A clear definition of what success looks like, so a chapter is not measuring itself only by new member counts.
- A guest experience section, because the single highest leverage thing a chapter can do is create a night a visitor wants to come back to.
- A marketing and visibility section pointing chapters to District support through our Marketing and PR office.
- An editable growth tracker covering invitations made, guests visiting, returning guests, returning members, new members, members present, and outreach activity.

Test run

The Las Vegas Chapter has been following a loose version of this initiative, however, a test run of the NEWEST protocol will be released and applied soon. The goal of the pilot is to find out what chapters use and what they skip, so version two is shaped by evidence instead of assumption.

3. Partnership with the AFWDC

As a Board-Member-At-Large for the Association of Far Western District Quartet Champions (AFWDC), I have continued to work closely with the Association of Far Western District Champions to strengthen the relationship between our two organizations.

The AFWDC does something for this District that I'm always proud of: They raise the money that helps send our qualifying quartets to International, and they do it year after year through their shows without asking the District for much of anything in return. Every quartet we send to the international stage carries that support with them.

My goal here is to make sure the District and the AFWDC are not simply coexisting on the same calendar. We should be planning together, promoting each other, and treating the champions community as an active resource for coaching, for shows, and for chapter visits rather than as a group we only see twice a year.

4. FWD Gold Rush Update

After discussion, we have cancelled Summer Gold Rush and we will pick back up with our regularly scheduled Winter Gold Rush programming.

Why we made this call

With the District Convention in Hawaii, that changes the math for every chapter and quartet that participates in this program. Travel, lodging and time off are a heavier lift than a mainland convention and asking our groups to fund and participate in a summer event on top of that would have forced choices we do not want them making. Cancelling the summer weekend gives our quartets and choruses the runway to be financially prepared for Hawaii without giving up the coaching and performance opportunity Gold Rush provides.

Winter Gold Rush 2027

- January 15 to 17, 2027, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Fullerton.
- The show will feature the Valkyries, 2026 Region 21 champions, and Nightlife, our 1996 International Champions.
- Winter Gold Rush Coaching invitations continue to go to quartets based on recent scores.
- Well-known and educated FWD and AFWDC members not being coached are invited to serve as implementation specialists across the weekend.

6. Coaching Program by Division

Chris Herbert, our Vice President of Music and Performance will be developing a coaching program organized by division, so that every chapter in this District has a clear path to qualified coaching no matter where they sit on the map.

The premise is straightforward. We have certified judges and highly capable coaches living across our District, and we have chapters who would use them if they simply knew who was available and how to reach them. Right now, that connection depends on who a chapter director or members happen to know. We can do better than that!

How it works

- Chris is building the coaching list following 2026 Category School, organized by division across NE and NW, SE and SW, and AZ.
- Participation is opt in. No coach lands on the list without giving permission first.
- Chris is coordinating with Alex and our DVPs so the division rosters reflect who is genuinely active and available.
- A District budget line to be proposed and approved at a future date gives every chapter access to coaching once per year.
- Target implementation is January 2027.
- Chris is aware of his action items and will follow up with us in 2027.

7. FWD Seniors Chorus

Brett Littlefield has been requested to direct the Far Western District Seniors Chorus, with the charge of assembling and preparing a group for Midwinter 2028.

A District seniors chorus does something no other program in our structure does. It gives our longest tenured members a reason to keep singing at a high level, it puts them on a national stage, and it sends a message to every chapter in this District that there is no expiration date on a spot in a barbershop chorus.

Where things stand

- Repertoire selection and a learning track timeline built backward from Midwinter 2028.
- We will market requests to join the chorus via mass email and over social media.
- Recruitment across FWD chapters and a rehearsal plan that respects the travel realities of our membership.

Lots of wonderful things on this District's agenda! Let's get after it, legends!

Please reach out to me if you have any questions or need support.



Management Team Reports

David Melville

Marketing & Public Relations Manager

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Webmaster

webmaster@farwesterndistrict.org

Registrar

registrar@farwesterndistrict.org

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

Since my last report, the work of Education and Retention has continued to broaden, with an increasing focus on member experience, recruitment, chapter health, and sustainable support for chapters. Much of that work has centered on identifying programs and resources that provide meaningful value at the chapter level without creating systems that are overly complicated or burdensome for volunteers to maintain. That balance continues to be an important consideration as several initiatives move from development into their next phases.

The Las Vegas pilot of Lift & Learn Pods has now been completed, and the focus has shifted from testing the basic concept to determining how it can be successfully replicated in other chapters. The pilot reinforced the value of small-group environments where members can sing more frequently, receive individualized musical feedback, strengthen skills such as sight-singing and tonal awareness, and build confidence and relationships outside of the normal chorus rehearsal setting. Just as importantly, the pilot helped clarify that the success of the program depends not only on the format itself, but also on facilitators who can maintain a supportive environment while recognizing and responding to the musical needs of the group. Work is currently underway on a Lift & Learn promotional video, using footage from a recently filmed demonstration session along with material from the original pilot. A separate compilation of participant testimonials is also being edited for use with chapters selected for the next phase of the program. The promotional video will help introduce the concept and gauge chapter interest, while the testimonial material will give participating chapters a clearer picture of the Lift & Learn experience and what the program is intended to accomplish. The current working plan is to begin with a limited number of chapters rather than immediately opening the program district-wide. This will provide an opportunity to test the model with local facilitators, offer guidance and support, collect feedback from both facilitators and participants, and make adjustments before considering broader expansion. Practical facilitator resources will also be an important part of that next phase.

Recruitment and chapter health remain closely connected to this work. Discussions have continued around adapting existing recruitment resources, including the 26 Weeks of Harmony concept developed by Northeast Division Vice President Susan Atkins and Bill Litz, into an approach that chapters can use consistently without creating a level of workload that makes sustained participation difficult. The goal is not simply to generate recruiting activity, but to encourage habits that help chapters build stronger relationships with prospective members and provide an experience that gives those members a reason to stay. I have also remained involved in conversations with chapters facing more immediate growth and membership challenges, where district support needs to be practical and tailored to each chapter's circumstances rather than assuming that a single recruitment program will be the right solution in every situation.

Other Education and Retention work has continued alongside these initiatives, including support for educational programming at district events and for the District's Youth In Harmony efforts. In that area, I have offered support to Youth In Harmony Manager Antwun Puckett and helped connect educators with information about high-school quartet opportunities. I have also continued to serve as a resource in conversations involving coaching, chapter support, member development, and other areas where Education and Retention can complement work already underway elsewhere within the District.

Over the next several months, Education and Retention will focus primarily on strengthening and testing the initiatives already underway. For Lift & Learn in particular, the next step is to determine whether the experience that worked successfully in Las Vegas can be reproduced by local facilitators in different chapter environments while preserving the musical growth, accessibility, and sense of community that made the pilot successful. More broadly, the goal remains to help chapters create experiences that encourage members to improve, participate, build relationships, and ultimately remain engaged in barbershop for the long term.



Management Team Reports

Antwun Puckett

Youth in Harmony Manager

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Hey everyone!

Here is a summary of things going on in regards to youth in harmony in our district:

- In late May, High Stakes took part in a youth festival at Green Valley High School in Henderson, NV. Jim Halvorson (2012 District Champ) created this event and Jordan Rakita (former Westminster member) also brought his youth choir from Tucson to this event. The goal of this festival was to expose these young singers to barbershop and they did a great job at that. They plan on having this event for years to come.
- The “Harmony Camp” held in Pollock Pines, CA has officially come to an end. However, Richard Lund is working alongside a few other barbershoppers and some choir teachers in the Northern CA and Reno area to have multiple youth festivals in those areas in an effort to replace the Harmony Camp. The first festival is scheduled to be on September 19th, 2026 in the Sacramento area.
- The Fog City Singers have submitted an application to the AIC/HFI for their youth outreach program. If accepted, Fog City will be hosting their very first youth festival in the Bay Area with an AIC quartet as their guest quartet. The plan is to host about 100 students for that festival and potentially host more of these events for years to come.
- At international in St Louis, we had one quartet (Four A Limited Time) compete in the NextGen Varsity, in which they placed 8th with a 77.4%. Another ‘youth’ (The Seventh Variety) quartet competed in the Open Contest, in which they placed 15th in the world with an 84.1%.
- In Hawaii, we will be having a Youth Dream Chorus, sponsored by the AIC/HFI. The chorus will be competing in the PanPac contest. The guest quartet/headliner quartet for the entire weekend will be Vocal Spectrum. The director of the chorus will be none other than Jonny Moroni - The current International Champion Director for the Ambassadors of Harmony. If you, or anyone else that you know, will be bringing anyone under the age of 26, feel free to reach out to me about details on how to sign up. There is no fee to participate, but you do receive a free registration only if you’re only singing with the YDC. We are looking to have up to 50-60 singers on stage.
- Registrations for the High School Quartet Contest will be opening up on August 1st, 2026. I’m calling on everyone to help spread the word about the contest and I’m hoping to have 10 HS quartets compete in the spring of next year. That’s about it for now. I’ll keep you all posted.



Management Team Reports

Adam Kaufman

Events Manager

events@farwesterndistrict.org

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION

I am pleased to report that we are seeing a steady and encouraging uptick in attendance across our district events. The enthusiasm, high energy, and active participation from our quartets, choruses, and attendees demonstrate the strong musical vitality across the Far Western District.

FINANCIAL REALITY & REGISTRATION ADJUSTMENTS

While our growing attendance is a fantastic indicator of district health, we are simultaneously facing the broader reality of rising operational expenses. Across all our host facilities and suppliers, costs for venue rentals, technical production, security, and event materials have increased significantly.

To keep pace with these inflated operational expenses and maintain the financial health of our district events, we will be adjusting registration fees across all upcoming district events. This necessary adjustment will allow us to cover our fixed costs while continuing to deliver the high-quality convention and event experiences our members expect.

LOOKING AHEAD

We remain committed to transparency and responsible fiscal management as we plan our future event lineup. Thank you to all the event staff, volunteers, and participants whose continued support makes these gatherings possible.





Management Team Reports

Cary Burns

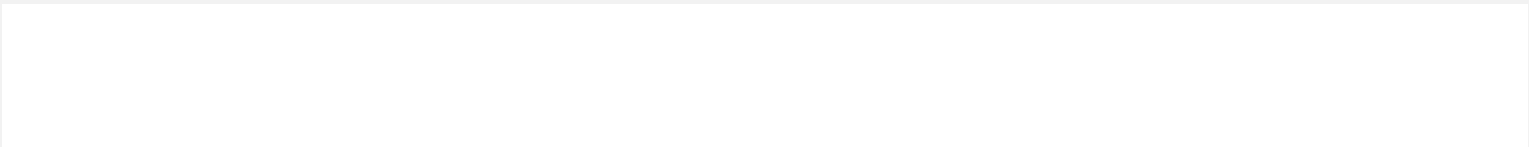
Community Outreach

cary.burns@farwesterndistrict.org

The Music VP of the Visalia chapter contacted me, and we had a lengthy call discussing some of their challenges. I know they have also been in contact with Susan Atkins, whom they stated is a wonderful support to them. Some time ago I spoke with Steve Wyszomierski, who facilitates the Think! Program for BHS. The program guides chapters to find their identity and align their operations. Visalia would be open to this program. We might have enough chapters in the District who would benefit from this type of programming to bring a facilitator to the FWD.

Management Team Reports

Chorus Director Development





Management Team Reports

Kenny Rios

Historian/Museum Curator

Brothers and Sisters!

I'm still looking for a 6 x 12 trailer to move items to our conventions starting next year. If you know of anyone that has a used trailer in good condition, I'd be interested. Please keep your eyes peeled!

I continue to store our "artifacts" and items of interest in my house to guarantee a climate controlled environment. I will move these items into a climate controlled storage facility once one is located that would make it convenient to service at a reasonable rate. Most likely it will be located in Orange County, CA.

As a review, most items are District property with some 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, miscellaneous music albums (and cassettes –thanks to Chris Hebert!) from FWD competitions and some from quartets, 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 ½ ' round, stained glass piece featuring a quartet, a vintage shoebox and other miscellaneous barbershop related items such as tables, razors, a phonograph and several recordings.

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

New format will be introduced for dividing the C & J positions to be regional and divided by North, South and Arizona - Don Lively, Alan Gordon and John Burri.

President – Cody Littlefield

Exec VP - Ryan Collins

IPP - Adam Kaufman

Secretary- Greg Dreyer

Treasurer – Wally Smulson

VP SW - Kenny Rios/Kurtis Harold (tent)

VP SE - Jeremy Loper

VP NW - open

VP NE - Sue Atkins

VP Arizona- Aaron Burleson

VP C & J - John Burri

VP Music/Perf- Chris Hebert

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.

Attachment: **Travel & Expense Reimbursement Policy Proposal**

Organization: **Far Western District of the Barbershop Harmony Society**

Submitted By: Adam Kaufman

Presentation Date: District Board Meeting – October 7, 2026 (Honolulu, HI)

1. Purpose & Scope

This proposed Policy establishes rules and procedures governing official travel and expense reimbursements for board members, committee leaders, officers, and volunteers of the Far Western District of the Barbershop Harmony Society. It ensures compliance with IRS guidelines for an Accountable Plan under IRC § 62(a)(2)(A).

2. IRS Accountable Plan Rules

To remain tax-free to the traveler, all reimbursements under this proposed policy will meet the following criteria:

- **Business Connection:** Expenses must be directly related to District operations, conventions, contests, or authorized mission activities.
- **Timely Substantiation:** Expense reports and receipts must be submitted within 60 days of travel completion.
- **Return of Excess Funds:** Any unspent travel advances must be returned within 120 days.

3. Ground Transportation, Rental Cars & Gas

Option Reimbursement Standard Required Documentation

Personal Vehicle Usage Actual Fuel Expenses + Parking & Tolls

Itemized gas station, parking, and toll receipts

Option Reimbursement Standard Required Documentation

Rental Cars 100% of Rental Fee (Compact/Mid-size/Standard) + Actual Fuel

Itemized rental agreement receipt and fuel receipts

Board Note Regarding IRS Volunteer Regulations:

- **IRS Volunteer Mileage Cap:** Under IRC § 170(i), the IRS strictly limits tax-free volunteer mileage reimbursements to 14¢/mile. Reimbursing flat mileage above 14¢ creates taxable income and 1099 reporting burdens for the District.
- **Actual Gas & Rental Vehicles:** By reimbursing actual out-of-pocket fuel costs or providing rental cars (plus gas), 100% of the expenditure is tax-free under IRS Accountable Plan rules. Furthermore, rental cars eliminate personal vehicle wear-and-tear for volunteers entirely.
- **Personal Tax Deduction:** Volunteers using personal vehicles may claim uncompensated miles or expenses at the statutory 14¢/mile rate as a charitable deduction on Schedule A of their personal tax return.

4. Meals & Incidental Expenses (Actual Expenses with Daily Cap)

The District will reimburse actual, out-of-pocket meal and incidental expenses incurred while on authorized overnight travel, up to a maximum daily allowance (cap) based on the location-specific rates published on the official GSA Per Diem Rates website.

- **Receipt Requirement:** Volunteers must submit itemized receipts for all meals. Reimbursement is strictly for the actual amount spent each day, up to the maximum daily cap for that travel location.
- **Daily Reimbursement Cap Lookup:** Maximum daily meal and incidental limits for any travel destination are determined using the rate schedule at [gsa.gov/per diem](https://www.gsa.gov/per-diem).
- **Standard CONUS Maximum Cap:** Up to \$68 / day maximum for standard travel locations.
- **High-Cost Localities Maximum Cap:** Up to \$92 / day maximum depending on city/county classifications listed on the GSA website.
- **Travel Days Coverage:** Volunteers are eligible for reimbursement up to the full location-specific daily GSA cap for every authorized day of travel, including departure and return travel days.
- **Alcohol Allowance:** Reasonable alcoholic beverages consumed with a meal are eligible for reimbursement, provided the total daily meal claim remains under the location's maximum daily GSA cap.

5. Lodging & Approval Process

- Lodging must be booked at standard, non-luxury room rates aligned with GSA recommended rates or official District convention block rates.
- Expenses over \$25 require itemized receipts (all meal expenses require itemized receipts regardless of amount).
- Approval Workflow (per District SOP):
 - All general volunteer, officer, and committee expense reimbursements must be approved by the District President.
 - Travel expenses incurred by the District President must be reviewed and approved by the District Treasurer.