



WESTUNES

Magazine

WESTUNES, established in 1951, is the official publication of the Far Western District Association of Chapters in the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of BarberShop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

Volume 53

November/December 2003

Number 6



Warren Wong photo

Q 2003-4 FWD Quartet Champions

The FAR WESTERN DISTRICT includes
Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and Southern Utah



1 Q FWD Champion



2 Hi-Fidelity



3 O.C. Times



4 Broadway



5 Late Night Barber Shop



6 OK Chorale



7 Fascinatn' Rhythm



8 TROPICHORDS



9 Whirlwind



10 Fastrac



11 Pacific Coast Quartet



12 Eastsiders



13 Curtain Call FWD Sr Champion



14 KaBLaM!



15 Potluck [Sr]

Competing Quartets in the Far Western District Fall Final Contest, Bakersfield, October 3-4, 2004

Two Quartet Contests were conducted simultaneously, "Regular" and "Senior".

Any registered Quartet may enter the "Regular" contest, regardless of age.

Senior Quartet members individually must be a minimum of 55 year old and total age must add to at least 240 years.

Q is the FWD Champion.

Curtain Call is the FWD Senior Champion.

Photographs appear in order of scores combined from both contests.



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Jan/Feb	1 Dec
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Sep/Oct	1 Aug
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District President The Stage Is Set

John Krizek



Wow. Bakersfield—and the rest of the barbershop world, for that matter—may still be reverberating from the results of the FWD convention in October.

Attendance was up. The amount of singing everywhere was up—thanks to **Keith Eckhardt** and the *Can't Stop Singing* theme. There seemed to be more of everything, including happy faces. Even the

Aloha Chapter made one of its infrequent trips to the mainland to compete, and grace our stage with their unique brand of entertainment. Dedicatee **Bill Joor** was honored for his decades of devotion to keeping barbershopping alive across the Pacific.

We crowned a new chorus champion that will send a signal throughout the Society that the next generation of barbershoppers has arrived. I wish everyone who didn't make it could have been there to witness the **New Westminster** guys, average age about 21, arm in arm, accepting what seemed like several minutes of applause. The future is here. It was an emotional moment.

We crowned a new quartet champion, **Q**, who weren't even organized a year ago, but included three veterans who started as teenagers—and one who still is. We crowned a new novice champion, **O.C. Times**, who's oldest member is 27. Not to be outdone, a solid array of senior quartets showed why harmonizing and entertainment are a lifetime pleasure. Among them **Curtain Call** earned the right to represent the FWD at the Midwinter in Biloxi next January.

Outgoing District chorus champs, the **San Jose Garden City Chorus**, showed why they were such good ambassadors this past year. Convention chairman **Dave Prigge** and his crew of host volunteers from the **Pal Pac Chapter** made sure everything worked with its usual smoothness.

Yes, as Society President **Roger Lewis** says: "*Singing Is Life.*" Once again we proved that nowhere else in the universe can you find the joy and positive energy we can generate at a barbershop convention.

But all of this doesn't happen without somebody tending to all the details it takes to make our organization run. Your District Board and House of Delegates took several important steps in Bakersfield. Here are some highlights:

- The House of Delegates approved a revised District Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) document including: 1) A return to a divisional vice president structure, starting in January; 2) Realignment of the Southern California divisions, with Brea, Whittier, Santa Fe Springs and San Gabriel Valley shifting from SoCalEast to SoCalWest, thereby creating a better balance between the two; and, 3) Some changes in the qualification process for district competitions, better explained by our C&J guru, Dick Girvin.
- The HOD also voted to switch the 2005 Spring Prelims from Reno to Burbank, and awarded the 2007 event to Reno, thereby breaking up the four-year commitment to Reno with a spring convention in Southern California

Also announced at the HOD was: the re-establishment of a Chapter of the Year Award, to be presented at the spring convention, with a new annual trophy donated by **Kathie Edwards** in honor of long-time editor Owen. (See a column in this or the next issue by Lloyd Steinkamp.) ; and, a proposal for a new plateau award system, to be voted on next Spring. (See Peter Feeney's article in this issue.)

Motto:

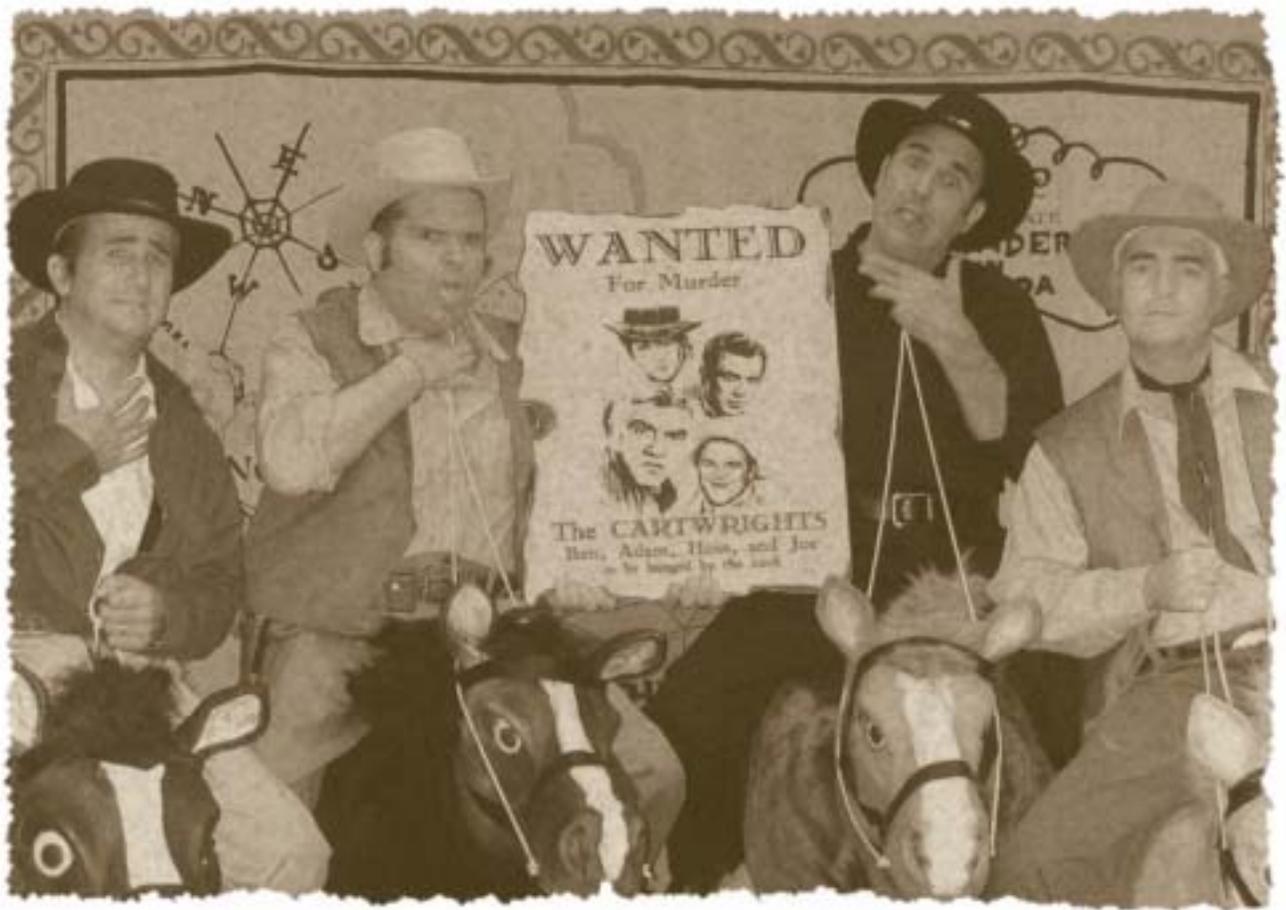
“to reach the
unreachable
star”

The HOD also elected the new slate of officers for 2004, who were promptly installed by special guest and Society Treasurer **Bob Guiggey**. They are: President, **Peter Feeney**; Executive Vice President, **Bill Cale**; NorCal East VP, **Clark Abrahamson**; NorCalWest VP, **Dick Whitten**; SoCal East VP, **Bernard Priceman**; SoCalWest VP, **Bob Lally**; Arizona/SoNV/SoUtah VP, **Ivan Jensen**; Secretary, **Dick Girvin**; Treasurer, **Jim Sherman**; and Immediate Past President, **John Krizek**. Special honors were bestowed on departing long-time board members, IPP **Deane Scoville**, and retiring Secretary **John Ford**. Past President **Bob House**, who will be leaving

his term as Society Board Member at the end of the year, also was honored for his decades of service.

Once again, the Far Western District has shown it is a “Leader in the cause” . . . ready to do whatever it takes to strengthen our organization. I believe we have set the stage for a renewed surge of growth and happiness in FWD.

It has been a great honor to serve as President these last two years, and a special privilege to serve with such an outstanding board of directors. With your enthusiasm and participation, we'll keep America—and indeed the rest of the world—singing.



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Jim Turnmire



his response to attending Directors' College on this scholarship.

CONGRATULATIONS TO **JIM BROWNE!!** He is our latest CERTIFIED director. We're slowly gaining more, but would like to have more of you attain this level! Please contact me for more details. Jtmire43@netscape.net

Our Far Western District provided a scholarship to **Kent Borrowdale**, the director of the **Folsom Harmony Express Chorus**. I am including

Reflections on Director's School at St Jo

by Kent Borrowdale

I direct the **Folsom Harmony Express Chorus**. I've been with them for 1+ years and the permanent director since April. I previously directed the **Davis** chorus and have been an assistant director at the **Davis-Vacaville** and **Sacramento** chapters.

Folsom is a city at the foot of the Sierras near Sacramento. The Folsom Chapter is small and has been in the community for twenty years. Their philosophy has always been to have fun and to encourage quarteting. For example, after working on a new song, we always have a volunteer quartet get up and sing what they've learned. We also proudly sponsor *Quartet Knights*, an occasional evening where local quartets in the area can come for coaching and fun.

You may find this boring, but I want you to understand who I am, and why I was so pleased to be awarded a scholarship from the Far Western District to Director's College at St. Joseph, Missouri. I had never been to Harmony College and never set foot in Missouri.

Getting off the plane in Kansas City in July was a shock. My first thought was: "who left the sauna door open?" Sacramento is hot during the summer, but 'hot and muggy' was a new experience. We also got rain three times which rarely happens in our summer.

Missouri Western State College was established in the 1970's. All the handsome two- and three-story buildings were built at the same time. They are brick, fully air-conditioned, and probably designed by the same architect. Every building is named, meaning it's endowed. Quite a contrast to our California State schools. MWSC is built on low rolling hills without regard to a North-south-east-west grid. Once I learned to look for the clock

tower, it was easy to get around. However, the first couple of days, my calf muscles complained bitterly!

We 700 Barbershoppers had the campus to ourselves. About 500 were enrolled in Harmony College and 200 in Director's College. The classes had a "full but not crowded" feeling. There were two sittings at lunch and dinner. After nearly 30 years of running Harmony College, the staff has it right: most class sessions were in two hour blocks with a 15 minute passing period and a short break in the middle. Remembering my college days at Oregon State, this week was an absolute joy! We were kept busy from 8:30 am to 10:30 pm, with optional ice cream and tag singing afterwards.

Director's College was set up with four classroom sessions and a general session. I took classes in directing, two classes in teaching methods and styles and a class in music theory. All were fun, well taught and interesting. I met three other directors from small choruses in Northern California. Our classes also included directors from many states, Canada, England and one gentleman from South Africa.

The general sessions for directors were outstanding. We sang through five pieces of new music while learning how to teach. On another day, **Dr. Greg Lyne** coached a small chorus from nearby while **Bill Rashleigh** described to us what Dr. Lyne was doing. We also had a lecture from **Dr. Eileen Broadie**, a vocal coach; and a lecture and videos from **Cindy Hansen**, who is well known for her visual performance coaching.

The Saturday night show, *Return of Music Man*, was a fine Society product. The setting is River City twenty-five years later. Harold Hill returns to find that the kids in the band formed a barbershop chorus. [what else?] Marian is still at the library and Winthrop (played by **Bill Rashleigh**) has grown up but still has a lisp. (The joke is he's overcome it, but has to use it because it's expected.) It's an entertaining story line and could be adapted by many chapters. **Four Voices** was the guest quartet. My, how they've matured since Portland! It was an awesome performance.

What did I come away with? Lots of specifics to be applied over the next year. (I'm not giving anything away . . . my chorus reads Westunes, too!) One theme that was pervasive throughout the week was to become more positive in the encouragement of our hobby. Believing your chorus can do better is a self-fulfilling prophesy. We, as directors, have the responsibility to provide the vision for a better result and to show our chorus members the way. That's what I'm going to do, and I thank the Far Western District for helping me do it.

COTS November 15-16 in Los Angeles

Contact Bernard Priceman

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2004

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- ÿ Nor Cal East Qt & Chorus Contest
- ÿ High School Quartet Contest
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Meetings & Events

- ÿ District Board Meeting
- ÿ House of Delegates Meeting
- ÿ AH-SOW
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<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Early	<input type="checkbox"/> District Officer	# Adult Reg. _____
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<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Late	<input type="checkbox"/> Comm Chairman	Amt. Enclosed \$ _____
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Bernard Priceman



By the time you read this article new chapter officers will be just about ready to attend C.O.T.S. There they will meet with their fellow chapter officers from all over the District and together learn everything they need to know about the running of their chapters next year. The general format of C.O.T.S. has not changed for some time because it works so

well, but the information that each instructor will pass on to his students is updated every year and attendees will hear new ideas and be enthused in many ways.

But when C.O.T.S. is all over and the new year about to begin, it's time to think about how to implement the ideas that were passed on by the instructors. And implementation means planning. Yes, there's a session at C.O.T.S. when the officers of each chapter get together to plan the new year, but it's not a long enough session to get the job properly done. It just wets the appetite. The proper way to get the job done is to arrange a planning session and it should not be part of a regular Board meeting. Board meetings are structured, with little time for the free flow of ideas. My suggestion would be to set aside a half or full day for planning, preferably away from the usual location of the Board meeting.

So why do we plan? We plan to accomplish goals. And there's the first clue as to what to do before you even begin your planning session. Draw up a set of ideas for goals for the chapter. The goals could be just the Board's, or you could sit down with the entire chapter at a Town Hall type meeting, getting ideas from all of the members. After all, they are the ultimate beneficiaries of your planning.

Of course, the list of goals may be as long as a Board room table, so the goals need to be first prioritized. It would be tough to accomplish them all if you list 25 goals. Most successful managers will tell you that you can't do everything. Prioritizing the list will enable you to come up with maybe the top half dozen goals. The shorter the list of goals, the better chance you will have to accomplish them. Even a couple of well thought out goals could be fine.

OK, so now we have our goals. Next, take a look at a couple of things before you start to plan to achieve them. First, are the goals quantified? A goal which says "to increase membership" (sure to be one of the most popular goals) is not a true goal. It's just a thought. "To increase membership by 5%" is a goal. That's something you can target and start to work towards. Similarly, "to sing better" is not a target. "To qualify for the District Contest" or "to better last year's score by 10%" would be proper goals. A plan can then be put in place to reach those targets. Next, a goal needs to be realistic. Not achieving a goal can be demoralizing, so you'll need to be realistic in order to achieve. And finally, put timelines on your strategies and define benchmarks by which your progress can be measured.

This article could have taken up the entire Westtunes. There is so much to learn about planning, goal setting and achieving. I'm always available for bouncing ideas back and forth and so are your Chapter Counselors. Indeed, how about inviting your CC to your planning session, or at least requesting some ideas from him by phone or e-mail? An extra set of eyes and ears, especially a third party set, can be invaluable. The bottom line, though, is that however you decide to make next year successful, just do it. It's a time to plan.



Sound Judgment
A Barbershop Quartet
www.soundjudgment.org

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Lead -- Tom Adkins	Tenor -- Jim Daly
Lead -- Pat Goulding	Baritone -- Pete Waeger
Coach/Baritone -- Owen Doyle	
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From the Edge

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Oddly Enough

OK Chorale

Prime Time

Q

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Somethin' Cool

Sun Coast Express

The Orphium Circuit

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Top of the Mark

UnFourGettable

Vertigo Four

GOTCHA!

**2003 FWD Harmony College West
Saturday Night Show
25 Quartets and GOTCHA!**

Ken Custer photographs

VP: M&PR

Clark Abrahamson



...by the numbers, then:

- **Nine** Quartets to International
- **One Hundred Sixty** attendees at Harmony College West
- **Ninety-five** young folks at NorCal Youth Camp (**thirteen** hours of outstanding professional video to be used in a number of positive ways).
- **2024** attendees at FWD Fall Convention in Bakersfield (due, in part to an outstanding effort by

Keith Eckhardt and the Convention Team in making the convention a “funner” experience for all).

...Positive numbers all, dimmed only by one nagging negative number – **one hundred thirty-seven** – the decrease in FWD membership from last year at this time.

Studies indicate that organizations of virtually all types – including the American Medical Association, American Bar Association, Boy Scouts, Jaycees, American Legion, PTA, and many more – are all suffering a membership decline akin to ours.

The main reasons:

- Time and money pressures
- Suburbanism – less community involvement.
- Electronic entertainment – notably expanded TV offerings.
- Generational change – decline in family orientation.

Men, young and old, have more choices in how to spend their time (and money) – and are increasingly selective in how they choose to do so. Not surprisingly, they wish to get the most “bang for their buck”.

Thus, if we’re to thrive and grow, we need to offer our members and prospective members an increased perceived value in joining our chapter. They need to be able to see barbershop membership as a top priority in their busy lives.

Well, shoot - we all know that, right? The question is, how do we do that?

I suspect that if I started a list here, it might consume the next 10 pages or so. However, as an awareness jogger, it might be good to remember to:

- Make your guests feel welcome.
- Make your members feel needed and wanted.
- Say “thank you” – frequently and publicly – to those who step up to the plate.
- Sing a lot, talk a little – have fun!

No doubt this list needs expansion – the challenge is to find ways to do exactly that – expand on each principle. In the Marketing/PR world, it’s called image building and exploitation. The Society and District is rife with ideas on both. Visit the Website. Attend COTS. Use your Chapter Counselors. Get involved.

And thus...

Build! Exploit! Grow!

...to market, to market...

COTS November 15-16 in Los Angeles

Contact Bernard Priceman

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bernard@thepricemanteam.com



FWD To Revise Plateau System

By Peter Feeney
VP Membership Development

Your board of directors formed a work group last summer to further study the plateau award system used to reward chapter choruses at competitions. The group relied heavily on the work done by **Don Gubbins** and his task force, and by **Steve Sammonds**. The board is now considering a number of alternatives to the current system and our plans are to present a proposal to the House of Delegates next spring.

Although we could leave the current system in place, the consensus of opinion is that we can do better. Currently there are three plateaus: A, chapters with membership at 40 or less as of 12/31 of the previous year; Plateau AA, chapters with membership between 41 and 75; and Plateau AAA, chapters with more than 75 members. There is a champion named in each plateau in addition to the overall winner and the most improved chorus. The contest administrators have all the information required to identify the champions already loaded in their computers and announce the results at the conclusion of the contest as soon as the scores are recorded.

What's wrong with this? Well, it is workable but it has some unintended consequences. One of these is the fact that it may tend to encourage chapters to limit their membership in order to fit into a plateau. Since these plateau levels are set arbitrarily to begin with, an effort was undertaken that would hopefully result in a system that would give small choruses an opportunity to be recognized without encouraging them to remain small.

The revised system that we currently believe is the best alternative to the current system is the Chorus Achievement Level System. We'd like to briefly explain the system and invite your comments. You can email your comments to me or to Dick Girvin.

1. Choruses would be divided into three categories (A, AA, and AAA) based on their finish at the Fall contest. AAA would be choruses finishing 1 through 10, AA would be choruses finishing 11-20 and A would be choruses finishing in place 21 or lower.
2. Within these groupings a personal contribution factor would be computed. The factor would be computed by dividing the score achieved at the Fall contest by the number of men on stage at the division contest when the chorus qualified to compete at the Fall contest.
3. The resulting number is the CAL Index. For example, if a chorus scored 65% at the Fall contest and had 33 men on stage at division when they qualified, the Index would be 1.97 ($65\%/33=1.97\%$). The number of men on stage at the Fall contest would not be a factor in the formula.
4. Within each category the choruses would be ranked according to their index, with the highest indexed chorus in each category being recognized. Each chorus's Index score would be published.

We think this system has the potential to recognize achievement based on the contribution of individual members while encourage growth in numbers on the stage. It is biased to assist small choruses, rewarding them for growth, while not penalizing large choruses. Do we think it is perfect? No, we know it isn't perfect, and that's why we welcome and encourage your input. We have listed below the results of the Fall 2003 contest, as they would have been reported if this system had been in effect:

Chapter	Score	MoS Div.	CAL Index
Plateau AAA			
1 Westminster	83%	19	4.4
2 La Jolla	80%	42	1.9
3 San Jose	79%	63	1.3
4 Phoenix	79%	49	1.6
5 Rincon Beach	77%	28	2.8
6 B.A.M.	76%	41	1.8
7 Fresno	73%	24	3.0
8 South Bay	71%	41	1.7
9 Reno	70%	27	2.6
10 Aloha	69%	37	1.9
Plateau AA			
11 San Fernando Valley	68%	47	1.4
12 Santa Rosa	67%	43	1.6
13 North Valley	66%	40	1.7
14 San Diego	66%	34	1.9
15 Palo Alto-Mountain View	64%	61	1.0
16 Fullerton	60%	59	1.0
17 St. George	60%	24	2.5
18 Sacramento	60%	36	1.7
19 Conejo Valley	57%	22	2.6
20 Palomar Pacific	55%	41	1.3
Plateau A			
21 Santa Monica	55%	20	2.7
22 Central California	55%	40	1.4
23 Placerville	49%	22	2.2

The winners of the contest are not affected, but the contest results would indicate that the following:

Plateau AAA Chorus Achievement Award winner is Westminster
Plateau AA Chorus Achievement Award winner is Conejo Valley
Plateau A Chorus Achievement Award winner is Santa Monica.

Please look this over. Any input you have would be very welcome.

VP: MemDev

Peter Feeney



South Bay Tops In Recruiting

Successful Recruiting

There are some bright spots in each division of the district when it comes to recruiting, and I thought we should spend some time taking a look at them. Through the end of August the FWD has recruited 187 new or reinstated members since January 1, 2003, and while we have lost 344 men through non-renew-

al, let's celebrate our successes and recognize those chapters that are showing us the way.

In the Southern California West Division the **South Bay** Chapter has done a great job. The chapter started the year with 75 members on the rolls, and ended the month of August with 84. That's an increase of nine members; seven are brand new to the Society, and two were reinstated. That's an increase of 12%. **South Bay** is the number one recruiting chapter in the division. **Santa Maria** and **Santa Monica** also deserve a pat on the back for bringing in four and five new members respectively. Nice going, guys!

In the Southern California East Division the **La Jolla** Chapter started the year with 30 members and added six new members who, when added to those whose transferred their membership from other chapters, brought their total to 55 through August. **Whittier** and **Irvine** also recruited six new members each. **San Diego** is working hard and has done a good job of recruiting, bringing in four new or reinstated members. The reason their total is down is transfers to other chapters. **Fullerton** has also done a good job in recruiting, bringing three men into the Society for the first time and reinstating one. That's the way to do it!

In Northern California West the leader in recruiting is **Santa Rosa** with seven recruits. That's a great job. **Aloha** and **San Jose** each recruited five new members each, and **Monterey Peninsula** brought in four new members. Keep up the good work, gentlemen!

Northern California East's leaders in recruiting are **Reno** with five new members and **Stockton** with four. Good effort, gentlemen!

In Arizona, Southern Nevada and Southern Utah, a tip of the cap to **Paradise Valley** and **White Mountains** with six brand new members each and one reinstated in **Paradise Valley**. That's a great job, guys! **Mesa**, **Tucson** and **Sun Cities** also produced very good recruiting results. **Mesa** brought in five new members and **Tucson** and **Sun Cities** each brought in four. That's the way to do it!

Retention

Keeping our members happy and satisfied with our hobby should be a labor of love. We lose many members each year due to death, financial and other such reasons. But we also lose members due to indifference and apathy, sometimes on the part of the departing member and sometimes on the part of leadership. We contacted as many members as we could who were recent non-renewals as of the end of July. We asked them to give us the reason why they did not renew. The answers we received were illuminating. While there were a variety of reasons given, the most surprising ones to us were those that could be attributed to inattention, either by the member or the leadership. How about your chapter? Do you know who is due to renew each quarter? Do you follow up with each member to see if they have, or if they haven't, do you ask them why? The tools are there for us to use. The *Members Only* site gives us all the information we need to help each other stay current. As good and smart leaders we need to help each other, and we don't have to wait until our brother barbershopper shows up on a suspended member list. Let's look around each week at chapter meeting and see who's missing, and let's find out why.

Thank you

I joined the FWD board of directors two years ago and have enjoyed my job as VP of Membership Development very much. I am very pleased to report that **Warren Willard** will be rejoining the district leadership team and will take over Membership Development effective January 1, 2004. I will be moving on to other responsibilities but before I leave I would like to thank all those who have joined with me in trying to reverse the negative trend in membership, including and most especially our fine chapter leaders. This battle can be won. We need imagination and creativity to face to our challenges, but we also need plain perseverance. Let's make a habit of asking each other how we're doing, and more importantly, let's be prepared to do something to make a difference to our brother barbershoppers so we can all continue to enjoy our brotherhood in harmony for many years to come.

I wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday season, and I hope all Christmas and Holiday Show are tremendous successes. Remember to make it easy for those men who attend your shows and get bitten by the harmony bug to join us in song. Never miss an opportunity to share the joy of our hobby!



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a barbershop quartet

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2002-3 FWD Quartet Champions Sam's Club

Ken Potter

Greetings to all Sam's Club Fans:

The quartet would like to thank all of our friends and family for giving us all the support we've had this past year. In particular we would like to thank Naomi Shepard, wife of Kelly, and Gerri Papageorge, wife of Nick and mom to Sammy, for allowing us to venture out on our evenings of singing. We would also like to thank you all, the members of the Far Western District for being so generous with your encouragement. It has been an honor and privilege to be your champions. We know our new champions "Q" will make the District proud as well. Congratulations to them on winning the top honor this year.

Being in a competitive quartet takes a lot of work and a lot of help along the way. It wouldn't have been possible for us to be successful without the help of so many wonderful friends. Thanks to Pam Pieson for your love and encouragement. We extend a big thank you to our coaches along the way, Brett Littlefield for helping us thru the International, and David Harrington for your words of wisdom. Thanks to Dawn and Gary Texiera for your time with the quartet that helped us to win last year. And to everyone else that I have forgotten and who deserves to be named here, thank you also.

Sam's Club also owes a debt of gratitude to our own lead, Nick for stepping in when he did. Thanks for helping us make it through our year.

The future looks bright for Sam's Club. We will be competing at the Prelims in Reno in the spring and then, with a lot of hard work, onto the International in Louisville. And perhaps we will see you at next year's District. Be sure to attend the Friday night Show of Champions and help support all the quartets that represent the Far Western District at International. Perhaps this year will bring a Gold and Silver to the FWD!!

And how about our new chorus champs!! Congratulations from Sam's Club to the Westminster chapter's Harmony Showcase Chorus. We know you will be the FWD proud when you sing at the next International.

To end our year on a personal note, I wish to extend my thanks to Nick, Kelly, Sam, and Sean Devine for the great singing we've shared this year. It has been an honor to sing with you and I want to thank you for helping me to achieve my goal of winning the FWD. And thanks for making this year a shining hour in my life.

LOOK WHAT WE DID !!!

by Marion Gribskov, Folsom Chapter

And we made the TV too!

I had earlier alerted KCRA, Channel 3, 10, & 13. KCRA sent a photographer. He spent nearly an hour visiting with us.

We arrived about 6:30 AM in order to set-up and be ready to open at 7. We took the Poll Watchers Oath - but DID NOT sing The Star Spangled Banner.

All went well throughout the day. We'd get busy and then have a lull, busy-lull, busy-lull. Voters would come in, sign the register and then go to punch their ballot. We'd then begin to sing something. The voters would finish their punching, stand and listen to us and then deposit their ballot. Positive responses only.

Our poll was at John Barrett Middle School. We made contact with the Band and Choir Teachers. So several times during the day, the classes would line up outside the poll room and we'd step out and sing for them. In many cases their chins would drop. They loved us!

We obtained our lunches from the school cafeteria. Jack went out for pizza for supper. We kept on singing.

Many of the afternoon voters exclaimed, "Hey, you're the Quartet we just saw on TV." We later learned that we were on at 4:30 and 6:00.

It became somewhat busier in the early evening - but we kept on singing.

Finally 8 o'clock arrived and we closed the polls with "Keep America Singing".

Our poll was allotted 800 ballots. We issued more than 700 of them. We rather quickly completed our closing tasks, locked up and delivered the ballots. I hurried home to "see me" on the 11 O'clock news but no luck.

After being together for 14 straight hours, we're still friends AND still a QUARTET !

It was brought to our attention that many organizations recruit volunteers to work the election polls with the pay going into the organization's coffers. So here is a money making project available to other chapters/quartets.

VP: Mu&P

Jim Crowley



Improve the Experience;

Opportunities Abound

As we wind up the year 2003 after a wonderful Fall convention, I hope that you increased your enjoyment of our hobby by doing more singing.

Be sure to send your incoming Chapter Board

Members to COTS this month. It is vitally important that they attend to get all the latest information!

Remember that your District provides both instructional and monetary support to improve your chorus and quartet experience: the Standing Ovation Program; Chorus Coaching Reimbursement Program; Song Writing Program and the Champs Assistance Program.

Support your Chapter and your Chapter Board of Directors by offering your assistance. Sing more in the community. Contact your area schools and assist *THEM* with *THEIR* music programs, especially during the holidays.

This is my last article as your DVP for Music and Performance. I will be turning over my duties to Stan Sharpe, a very experienced and capable administrator, coach, and friend. You can get in touch with Stan at:

<vocalteacher@earthlink.net> or (626)961-7280.

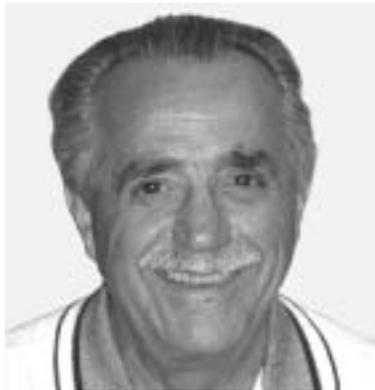
Finally, I wish you and yours joy and happiness this coming holiday season. Spend time with your families and let them know how much you appreciate their support in letting you "go out and play".

In harmony,

**How Do You Tame Wild Hogs?
Put 'em On STAGE**

VP: Events

Sam Barger



Bakersfield Was Successful!

Thanks to all who made the Fall Convention such a great "happenin". It was great to see more attendees than in prior years enjoying all the extra planned events. The attendance was 2024, which was 300 more than last year. The Friday and Saturday night buffets were well accepted. The hotel is already planning

how to set up for more people next year.

Several convention dates were changed during the HOD meeting. Next year (2004) the division contest dates for SC were switched. SCE will be May 8 and SCW will be May 15. Also the 2005 Spring Prelim Convention (March 17-20, 2005) was moved to Burbank instead of Reno. In return, the 2007 Spring Convention will be held in Reno. The Spring contest in Burbank will be combined with the SCW Division contest.

For everyone's information, in regards to next year's Fall convention in Bakersfield, registration form's (for both the hotels and the convention) will be available next March during the convention in Reno. The Bakersfield Conventin Bureau will NOT accept this year's (2003) housing forms.

**FWD Sunshine Chairman
George McCay**

**8564 Winding Way
Fair oaks, CA 95628
916-961-6112**

mccayfwdsunshine@sbcglobal.net

John
Larry
Jest for phun?
A COMEDY BARBERSHOP QUARTET
George Dallas
818-597-0820
Jim
* 1992 Senior Quartet Champs *



2002-3 FWD Chorus Champions SAN JOSE

Chuck Hunter, Sr.

Time

Looking back it's hard to realize that a year has gone by since the members of the **Garden City Chorus** began their journey to the International stage in Montreal. In addition to the regularly scheduled weekly rehearsals there were retreats, special coaching sessions, and lots of individual effort at a level that far exceeded what most members had ever put into their hobby. The net result was a sense of pride and accomplishment at doing something that had seemed far beyond their grasp.

Along with the thrill of victory there was the sobering realization that the October 2002 championship was not accomplished without some controversy. Yet even in that there was an exciting revelation; the FWD has an enormously deep talent pool, including a group of young members small in number but tremendously talented musically. The upcoming October contest will provide an arena where there will be a free-for-all in both the chorus and quartet contests. In a once-in-a-decade (or sometimes more often) appearance the **Sounds of Aloha** will put on their usual entertaining and well-polished set of contest songs, and it will be good to have **Bay Area Metro** on stage after being absent for several years. And of course the aforementioned young bucks from **Westminster** will be aiming for the top. Indeed, a total of 26 choruses will entertain and delight our audience in Bakersfield, and one will emerge as the District Champion Chorus, earning the right to represent the FWD in Louisville next July.

Now that we've had that experience it's safe to say that almost to a man San Jose is anxious to repeat as champs, if not this year then sometime in the very near future. And yet along with all of the thrill and enjoyment that they have enjoyed during the past

COTS November 15-16 in Los Angeles
Contact Bernard Priceman
818-345-4125
bernard@thepricemanteam.com

12 months there also was a rather unhappy reality check. Reading through the bulletins of several dozen FWD chapters it was disappointing to find that while the quartets who represented the District in Montreal were all mentioned by name and frequently had their pictures included in many of these bulletins a significant number, including those from several of our biggest chapters, contained nary a word about the chorus that represented them. Was that an oversight or elitism? I hate to say it, but it surely feels like the latter. My love for the Green Bay Packers does not embrace Vince Lombardi's comment about winning. . . that "it's the **ONLY** thing" . . . and it's disappointing to find that there are some in the hobby who only choose to acknowledge those who finish at a certain level.

For a number of years I taught with a guy who spent one year with the San Francisco 49ers. That he made it there at all places him in the top single digit percentage of all former collegiate players. The fact that any man sings on stage with his chorus at the International contest places him in a similar place.

The **Garden City Chorus** is extremely proud of and grateful for having had the opportunity to do something that 90% of all barbershoppers never experience. We hope to place higher the next time around, but scoring A's on the International stage is hardly something to sneeze at. We are most appreciative of the support, encouragement, and congratulations that we did receive from so many of you.

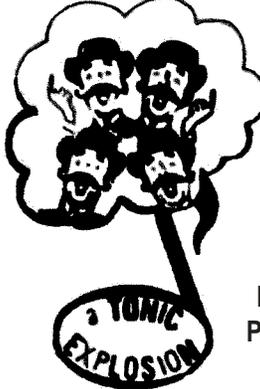
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VP: YMIH

Ed Bejarana



YMIH Milestones Achieved

My time as the District VP for Young Men In Harmony is drawing to a close, I wish I could say that everything we tried was successful, but with the economy the way it was, we've have a rough couple of years. We did reach a couple major milestones and it is worth restating what an amaz-

ing YMIH program we have here in the Far Western District.

At the beginning of this year I set a goal for our chapters and district to reach 2003 young men and women with our barbershop message. At the conclusion of this year, I am estimating that we (you) will have reached over 4000 children. **Placerville, Santa Fe Springs, Davis-Vacaville**, and dozens of others have done an amazing job this year with their YMIH programs, BRAVO!

This year the FWD also broke new ground. We all know the **Westminster** story, about a dozen or so young men borrowing a chapter so that they could compete as a chorus; now the story takes a twist. With the blessing of the original **Westminster** chapter, the FWD has the very first all youth chapter board of directors (their president is only 24 years old). By the time you read this you will have already heard them on stage in Bakersfield, but write in advance I can only say that the chorus contest will be exciting. Dare I predict **Westminster** represents the FWD next year at International?

Thanks to the **Placerville** and **Sacramento** chapters (as well as a dozen or so others), the Youth Harmony Camp program has taken a twist. With the economic down turn contributions to the Youth Education Fund dropped dramatically. Last year I determined that the Far Western District could not afford to run any more Youth Harmony Camps; so I went on the search for a collection of chapters who could team up and take over the event. Under the leadership of **Richard Lund**, the NorCAL Youth Harmony Camp is a chapter level, successful event, held on a new date in September. Next year we are hoping to get chapters in Arizona and Southern California to follow suit and run their own Youth Harmony Camps.

If the FWD is not going to run any more camps, then why contribute to the Youth Education Fund? This year we are producing a professional 10 to 15 minute video on our Youth Harmony Camp program. The Far Western District has a program like no other. Our programs use the camp setting to enhance the mentoring roles of our very talented barbershop teachers and we are

100% barbershop (unlike the Harmony Explosion program). There is no feeling like the camp setting to build a lasting love for singing that four-part harmony (love that barbershop style). When I started my term as DVP, I promised we would develop a program that would help pay for future YMIH programs and provide you with promotion materials, in a few months your chapter will be able to purchase videos which will help YOU attract boys to the program and give YOU something for your contribution to the program. I ask that every chapter spend \$100 to buy ten VHS tapes. Stay tuned for more information.

The High School Quartet Contest is being held in **Reno** again this year. Now is the time to form new high school quartets. Reach out to those schools with out a music program, offer to help four young men reach their inner self and perform on that amazing stage. Go out to your existing high schools and promote the idea of building self-confidence, intonation, tuning, and vocal presence. Offer to pay their expenses to the contest. If just half of our chapters bring one quartet, we will have 42 quartets competing for the crown of Far Western District High School Quartet Champion. The work you do now will pay off in the near future: the new **Westminster** was created by former High School Quartet Contest competitors.

For those chapters that don't want to wait 10 or 15 years to see young men join your chapters, find the high school(s) in your communities that do not have a choir and reach out to them. Offer to share your rehearsal night as an opportunity for young men to experience singing. Contact your local chamber of commerce, city council members, mayor, and city officials; tell them that you are serious about "Keeping the Whole World Singing". These boys that are NOT receiving a music education in school, in my opinion, are fair game for recruiting into YOUR chapters. I challenge you to reach 200 new high school boys not receiving a music education and help them become barbershoppers. From 2000 census data, I estimate there are 50,000 young men in California alone NOT receiving a music education because their school does not offer it. Let's provide them ALL a membership opportunity and truly *Teach the Children to SING*.

It is with a heavy heart that I announce my time as a member of the great Far Western District is coming to an end. My wife and I have a nice little retirement spot picked out in Wilsonville, Oregon (just outside Portland) and are taking advantage of the current economy to make the move. Although my body will be in Evergreen, my heart will always belong to the Far Western District. Thank you for a great nine years.

Yours in harmony,

COTS November 15-16 in Los Angeles

Contact Bernard Priceman

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Rules

Rules

Rules

We win by Rules, We lose by Rules!

We need to know them

Where would contests be without rules? There must be rules...or there is no contest. Rules are needed to level the playing field. The rules are there to give every contestant an equal chance at winning. One must agree that "rules"

are one of the most important parts of the contest equation. Hence, if one intends to compete, one must know the rules and make the best use of them. Inasmuch as it is the self-imposed obligation of the DVPC&J to keep all FWD competitors aware of new rules and to remind them of old rules—this column is dedicated to "Rules."

New rules: As reported by President John and SBM House in a number of stories in the recent issue of *WESTUNES*, the Society Board in Montreal made some changes to existing rules—some that applied even to the Fall 2003 contests. These rule changes involved:

- Non Singing Dialogue
- Minimum number of quartets in International Competition
- CBQC (College Quartets)

Non-Singing dialogue: Article XII of the Contest and Judging Rules was **replaced** by the following:

"Non-singing dialogue is generally not part of a contest performance. However, brief comments made with supporting visual communications may be permitted to more clearly establish mood/theme, assist the transition of package songs, or to add to the effect of closure of mood/theme. Spoken words deemed to be excessive or detrimental to the performance shall be penalized by the presentation judges(s) up to and including forfeiture."

Examples of dialogue that could be used **without penalty**:

- A quartet approaches the microphone with high spirits, lots of smiles and energy with one quartet member exclaiming "what a great day" and then they sing *Zip A Dee Doo Dah*,
- Curtain opens on chorus in a train stations scene. A chorus member playing the part of a train conductor says loudly "*All Aboard!*"
- A quartet approaches the microphone, looks into the judging area and says, "*Can you judge me now?*" and proceeds to sing a parody about judging and contest scores.

Examples of dialogue that if used **would be penalized**:

- A quartet approaches the microphone, looks into the judging area and says "*Can you judge me now?*" and proceeds to sing songs totally unrelated to the comment made or related to contest and judging.
- A quartet approaches the microphone with a quartet member who says: "This first song has become one our favorites, a song that

touches our hearts... we are sure you will love it also..."

- A quartet places a stuffed dog in front of the microphone and a quartet member looks to the dog and says "Sit." and then sings songs with no apparent relationship or reference to the dog or the word "sit." This would be considered a visually set-up and vocally concluded joke.

Minimum number of quartets in International Competition: Article II.C.2 of the Contest and Judging Rules was modified by adding the words in *italics*.

"If, prior to the international contest, a quartet that qualified solely by attainment of the target score as defined above become ineligible or unavailable that quartet will not be replaced, *except where the loss of that quartet brings the total of Society quartets qualifying for the contest below forty.*"

CBQC (College Quartets) A number of rules changes concerning the MBNA America Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Contest (CBQC) were approved by the Society Board.

- III Eligibility, 1 **Added** "*There are no restriction regarding membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society.*"
- III Eligibility, 10. **Eliminated** was: "...However, individual members of such quartets are not restricted from participating in the International CBQC event and singing in a Society Quartet at an International preliminary contest"
- III Eligibility, 10 **added** "*Collegiate quartets composed of four Society members who compete in any Society quartet contest (division, district or international preliminary) are not eligible to compete in future MBNA America CBQC events unless they change the quartet's name and replace at least two (2) quartet members.*"
- Scholarship awards were changed from \$1000 to \$1500.
- Wording was change to read: "*Cash awards will be reported to the Internal Revenue Service.*"

Old Rules: Every year many chapters who qualify in divisional contests find that they have members of other chapters who wish to transfer or become a dual member so they can sing in the Fall Contest. The rules are specific here. Unless the member was a member-of-record at the beginning of the contest cycle of the year (March), he is not permitted to compete with the chorus in the Fall Contest. There is one exception: if the member moves his residence, and solely as the result of that move wishes to transfer and sing with the new chapter—it is permitted, however, with the expressed approval of the DVPC&J more than 30 days prior to the contest.

Very New Rules: At Bakersfield in October the Board and the HOD approved three new Far Western District C&J changes:

1. Increased the target score for choruses from 59% to 60 %; Quartets from 64% to 65%.
2. Provided for filling to 25 the Fall Slate for both choruses and quartets (including Seniors) by inviting next highest qualifying competitors from the divisional contests.
3. Declared the Summer Board draw for Order of Appearance to be final, and the only changes to OOA will be made by the Contest Administrator on the day of the contest due to circumstances beyond the control of the contestants.

These **Very New Rules for Far Western District** will be effective starting in the contest cycle for 2004.



Quartet Corner

Allen Fossenkemper - Editor
OK Chorale Quartet, Lead
Standing Ovation Team Member

The first time I met Jimmy Kline was when his head popped over the back of the seat in front of me and he started teaching tags to a few of us on a charter flight with the Phoenicians, in route to the 1970 International in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

Kline had qualified for his first International appearance as the Bass of the then, leading edge, quartet called The Crown City Good Time Music Company.

Armed with Mike Senter arrangements and coaching by SK Grundy, Crown City was the talk of International, with their shoulder length hair, brown and yellow striped, bell bottom suits and take no prisoners stage presence.



With a respect-able 21st place finish they would go on to become FWD Champions that fall. The quartet would be the launching pad for three of our District's greatest quartet men in Kline, Pete Neushul and John Sherburn.

For Kline this life long adventure didn't begin with Crown City but back in the 7th grade when he and his brother formed a quartet and became regular visitors to their Dad's Indian Wells Chapter. In 1963 Jim joined the chapter and was singing with his Father in a quartet called the Missile Tones that roared to a 26th place finish at the 64 District and Jimmy Kline was "hooked."

"Should I become an actor or a dentist?"

About this time Kline was faced with college and his first big decision. "Should I become an actor or a dentist?" (Huh!) You see, Jimmy had won the National Thespian award in high school and could have pursued performing arts degree but the smell of Novocain was too strong.

So, instead of crying out "Stella Stella" in Streetcar, he opted for "ok, let's rinse and spit that out." Years later Jim would get a taste of the real theater when his quartet made several appearances on TV sitcoms. "I'm glad I didn't take up acting - it's 80 percent waiting and 100 percent boring," Jim concluded.

Crown City would compete in the 71, 72 and 73 Internationals reaching 11th place. In 1974 the quartet reformed with the addition of Pete Neushul and Tim McDonald. Loaded with new enthusiasm and a loan from the now Dr. Kline, the quartet headed for the LA garment district and purchased the most beautiful

burgundy velvet (Saturday Night Fever) suits, platform shoes and big collar shirts that borrowed money could buy. No sooner had they left the store than Jack McCosh announced he would be leaving the quartet. Kline used the velvet suits to re-cover his living room sofa and sold the shoes to Music Appreciation 101, Crown City was no more.

"he can hiccup on que!"

Well the year 1975 would become one of the most important to Jimmy Kline and to barbershoppers all over the world. Pete Neushul and Jimmy (sans their velvet suits) weren't content to sit idle. When they heard that the great Far Westerners quartet was hanging it up they immediately approached Doug Anderson and Jim Meehan for tenor and lead.

When I asked Neushul what role Kline played in attracting Anderson and Meehan, Pete chuckled, "Jimmy can hiccup on que!"

139th Street Quartet was born. In 1976 they qualified for their first International and placed 10th. That fall brought Kline his second District Quartet Trophy. The new combination was hot! The following year in Philly. they captured their first medal and it was Silver. They also started to earn a reputation as the most casual quartet that ever made it to the international ranks. It was a common event over the next several years, to find the quartet (in costume) eating dinner a few minutes before they were due on stage or playing cards in the warm-up room instead of preparing.

But wait, I almost skipped over an important part. With Silver on their necks, a new album in the can and "singing the best we ever sang." 139th was ready to take the gold in Cincy in 78. *Knock, Knock!!* "Who's there?" "I have a telegram from Jack Baird..."

A few weeks before the International 139th was notified that Jack Baird, an arrangement judge who would be on the panel in Cincinnati, had researched one of the quartet's songs [Don't put a tax on the beautiful girls.] and notified them that, "should 139th sing it in contest he would be forced to disqualify them." *#\$!!@!! Shazam, Bam, Kaboom! Holy Baritone Batman! Could it be that the "E" in SPEBSQSA stands for Elimination?*

What to do- What to Do? Jimmy Meehan made it simple - They would not compete! Any society that would have Jack Baird as a member would have to be punished by losing the opportunity of hearing the greatest quartet ever.... Well maybe it wasn't that simple but the net-net was that there would be no 139th in Cincy and Jimmy Meehan was so upset that he would never set foot on a contest stage again. **Bam!** Now that hurt!

But maybe it wasn't all bad cause the society really came out ahead by getting to see 139th at International for the next 17 years, instead of having to pay all those big bucks to see them at the AIC Show.

Enter stage Wright - Larry that is.

[Cont'd on page 21]



VOICES OF THE VALLEY & GIANTS

*Ernie Smith
Contest Judge Emeritus
FWD Hall of Fame member, 2001*

Voices of the Valley had the opportunity to sing the National Anthem at PacBell Park prior to the Giants / Phillies game. The reason that this opportunity came about is that I am one of those people learning to live with ALS, having been diagnosed in 1998. The ALS Association phoned me to see if we would be able to participate in the pre game program. I checked with the rest of the quartet and Rick Lostuter, our tenor had just purchased airline tickets for his family to go back east to visit grandparents. Being non refundable, Rick was out of the picture, but we were able to enlist the tenor services of Jeff Thompson from the Monterey Cypressaires Chorus to fill in for Rick. Rick had checked about flying back to San Francisco Sunday morning and flying back that evening but the price was out of the question. The day at PacBell Park was outstanding and gave us the thrill of a lifetime singing before a sold out house of 42,750 fans. Besides Jeff singing tenor, the quartet consists of Larry Head, lead Bert Robinson, bari and me singing bass. Bert and I have been singing together in quartets for about 24 years and Larry has been singing with us for about 17 years. We all used to sing in the Salinas Chorus then transferred to the Monterey Chorus when the Salinas Chapter folded its tent. I have since had to transfer to Frank Thorne when it became too taxing on my energy level to sing with the chorus.

[Press release]

The San Francisco Giants and The ALS Association Bay Area Chapter Host ALS Day With the Giants, Sunday, August 10, 2003

The San Francisco Giants and The ALS Association teamed up against the Philadelphia Phillies and Lou Gehrig's disease on Sunday August 10, 2003. There was a pre-game party at 11:05 a.m. prior to game time at 1:05 p.m. There was a silent auction and giving opportunities throughout the day. All proceeds from

this event (\$25,000) will benefit Patient and Family Services of The ALS Bay Area Chapter that serves families struggling to cope with a disease that is always fatal.

Bakersfield Survey Comments

*Keith Eckhardt
Chairman: Get Our Conventions Singing Again Task Force*

Thank you to the 149 people that have responded so far to the post-convention surveys. There is still time to take one of the two surveys. Just go to the FWD website at www.speb-sqsafwd.org and scroll down until you find how to participate.

The new events were well received, but the late night ones had low attendance. Many people were not aware of the new events and we'll make sure that future special events are hard to miss.

There were many comments about the new events conflicting with other events. We have so little time and so many people with differing interests that we have to have multiple events at the same time. We offer them so you can have a choice. If you are competing then your choice is mostly made up for you and we are providing options for the other two-thirds that attend. At Sparks there will be fewer competitors and more of you can enjoy the new things.

The buffets were far more popular than we expected and we under-planned. We already have a plan for 450 people next fall. You used the buffets as a time for eating and talking, a nice aspect to convening, but singing is also allowed and you can try it next year.

There were several requests for putting quartets together. We had a table where you could register so we could help you find others near your residence. I'm looking at setting up a meeting place to form on-the-spot quartets for Sparks.

Several of you asked for more options for your wives. I'll make it clear in the future that women are welcome in the classes. Several attended and I have received some very positive comments from them. I'm also looking at providing tours on Friday of fun places with some added features beyond the normal tours. If you haven't taken the survey yet, do so and tell us what your spouse would like.

The audience sings were very popular and we have many requests to expand this.

Overall we are hearing that this convention was more lively, that there was more singing outside of competition, and that it was one of the best in a long time.

See you in Sparks,

Youth Harmony Camp - 2003

*Richard Lund, Youth Harmony Camp Director
530-621-1904, rlund@legacychillers.com*

John Krizek said it best at Bakersfield last weekend, and I paraphrase, that our work with youth, and young men in particular, may be the most important thing we do - not only for the boys themselves and the long range future of the society, but also for our own well being. The impact of YMIH on the boys and on the long-range health of the Society is obvious; the impact on us as men and fathers and mentors is less obvious but may be even more critical. Nevertheless, the evidence is all around us: Michael Stewart and Cory Hunt of Q, James Sabina of Metropolis, the four young men of Whirlwind, and on and on...!

These examples stand out in our minds and are the easiest to emphasize and point out. These young men have showcased the entire YMIH concept and YMIH is supremely successful, in part, because of these young men. However, these examples only emphasize the few who have made it to the top.

In addition to the "success stories" from our YMIH programs there are many more "victories" experienced by those innumerable other young men who have also participated in our YMIH programs and whose participation has a life changing impact on their lives! Who among you present at YHC-2003 will soon forget the image of Christopher and Tristan coming down off the risers one after the other during the Sunday morning show to sing a tag with Q! I know I was having a hard time with tears in my eyes over that experience; and I can only imagine what their moms and dads might have been feeling! Those young men will carry that experience with them for the rest of their lives.

That gets me back to the nuts and bolts of the camp, held just the weekend before Bakersfield. By any measure Youth Harmony Camp - 2003 was a huge success. As John reiterated on stage at Bakersfield, the talent of the music staff alone makes you wish you were a few years younger and a youthful attendee. With Gary Bolles as Music Director and Conrad Keil, Mark Freedkin and Bill Weiser making up the balance of music educators, and Metropolis and Q as the resident quartets, this was a very special experience. In addition, a cadre of sixteen extremely dedicated volunteers allowed the music staff to concentrate on music and teaching.

The weekend started late Friday afternoon with registration and only after dinner did we get to the first general session with the five songs the boys would learn in less than 48 hours. Saturday was taken up by three more general sessions and innumerable teaching sessions on vocal technique, quartet coaching, tag singing and the quartet experience, among other subjects. Saturday wound up with the annual Campfire "talent show" that invariably brought out the best in the boys and the quartets... All I can say is Wow!

Sunday morning was our "show" which we intentionally offer only for parents and friends, so as not to make it the focus of the

Camp; and yet we must have had two hundred or so folks there. With John Krizek as MC and the talent-laden chorus and quartets, it was a show to remember. This leads to an acknowledgement of those who really need to be thanked for their critical contribution to Youth Harmony Camp - 2003 that truly "made it all possible". The concept of a camp like this is very simple; bring about 100 boys together with some of the best music educators and quartets in the Western United States. What could be simpler? And yet, it's obviously not that simple.

One of the most important tasks is fund raising. We started in March and received a critical early contribution from San Jose, a chapter already focused on their own task of raising money for Montreal! Their major contribution received so early in the process was a critical part of the entire fund raising effort.

Toward the end of fund raising we received a second major contribution from the Placerville Chapter. That contribution played a huge role in allowing us to fulfill nearly all of our plans for the Camp. It should also be noted that Placerville played the lead role in YHC-2003 by providing so many of the critical volunteers for all of the varied jobs that simply had to get done both before and during the camp.

The whole concept of funding the Camp was new this year with the direct involvement of chapters being asked to contribute, thereby having to discuss that line item in Board and Chapter meetings. Through this fund raising model individual Chapter members became more aware of the Camp and their involvement with "their" money. Some contributed to the Camp as a Chapter, some "passed the hat." The natural conclusion was that members themselves realized that they ought to get some boys to Camp. This may sound simplistic and hokey - but it works. One Chapter whose involvement in years past was minimal not only contributed a few hundred dollars but also went out and found a quartet of boys, who then drew in another quartet who wanted to join the fun.

We also need to recognize that there was at least one new town that "discovered" Youth Harmony Camp. The town of Winters sent three boys and their music educator, Lynn Secrist, whose father was a barbershopper. She had been unaware of YMIH and Youth Harmony Camp and got a real firsthand taste of what we can do.

Finally, a huge Thank You to every one of you for making YHC-2003 such a success. In the final analysis it is all of you, with your devotion to this incredible hobby of ours, that allows all of these little miracles to happen on such a regular basis.

We are already starting to work on Youth Harmony Camp - 2004. So if you have thoughts and ideas, don't hesitate to contact me. We will be working hard to live up to YHC-2003.

Thank You All!



93 High School Student Chorus under the direction of Bill Weiser, CD Reno Chapter



Mark Freedkin, Connie Keil and Gary Bolles [Camp Music Director] round out the teaching staff



Metropolis [Int'l Bronze Medalist], Q [FWD Champions] and Whirlwind [High School Quartet] sing



High School students "sing with the champs" - Q [Cory finally the tallest in the quartet]



Chow,

and all the staff helpers

Gary Saigh [Placerville] on KP and others serve



More chow

James Sabina also eats

Ron Murray [Placerville YH VP]

Gary Bolles instructs

Youth Harmony Camp North held in Sly Park, Pollock Pines, CA
Music staff: Gary Bolles, Mark Freedkin, Connie Keil, Bill Weiser
93 high school students, 4 high school teachers
16 volunteers to assist from Northern California Chapters

*photos by
Homer Rail &
Bruce Sellnow*



The Energizers congratulate Butzens

The Energizers, members of the San Gabriel Valley Chapter, celebrated 15 years of friendship and harmony as a quartet. They saluted Don and Lorraine Butzen's 50 years of membership in the S.P.E.R.S.Q.S.A., Inc. and Sweet Adelines International, Inc. From left are Iener Jark Johnson (23 years), lead Dirk Briel (45 years), baritone Lorraine Butzen, baritone Don Butzen and bass Gordon Welch (45 years). The Energizers won the Far Western District Super Senior Gold Medal for 1998-99. They concluded their final set with a favorite, "Biding Down the Canyon" by Gene Autrey and Stanley Burnett. Approximately 125 attended the Thursday, Aug. 28, 2003 gathering in Pasadena.



Suzanne Schultz, left, representing the Verdugo Hills Chorus, Sweet Adelines International, Inc., recognized Lorraine Butzen for her 50 years of singing barbershop harmony as a member of the Sweet Adelines International, Inc. Don and Lorraine Butzen joined their respective organizations in March, 1953. Also attending the program were four guest quartets, and members of five men's choruses and one women's chorus.

Photos by Philip Simon • psimon@journal.net • 626-206-4133

PASADENA CHAPTER • CROWN CITY CHORUS
GUEST NIGHT HONORS DON AND LORRAINE BUTZEN, AUGUST 28, 2003



Crown City Chorus salutes Don and Lorraine Butzen for 50 Years of Harmony.



BUTZENS SIMULTANEOUSLY ACHIEVE 50-YEAR MILESTONES IN BARBERSHOPIING.



Bryan Epps & Gotcha



21 Charles Whitaker & Nightlife



Don Renz & Gotcha



Joe Pintacura & Nightlife



John Gomez & GotchLife



Rick Kirn & Gotcha



Rob Sequeira & Nightlife



Roger Perkins & Gotcha



Tim Ellis & Nightlife

Harmony College West "Sing with the Champs", photos by Derick Sturke

[from page 16]

Larry Wright was in LA searching for employment in show biz and still wearing his second place Silver Medal from the Sundowners, at the time of Meehan's retirement.

He joined 139th and for the next ten years and countless chapter shows, trips, and TV shows such as Cheers and Night Court the quartet excelled. International performance, however, was a bit of a roller coaster with a 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, 10th, 9th, 7th, 6th and then in 1988, Larry Wright and 139th parted. John Sherburn stepped in as lead and helped bring 139th back into the medals with a 3rd place bronze in 89 and Silver in 1990. Jimmy Kline could see himself in that AIC jacket after all and just hanging out with his pals Harlan, Jeff, Brian, etc. But, alas it was not to be.

By 1996 139th had slid to 25th and decided the end had come. What would international be without 139th and those great Doug Anderson arrangements?



“Having sung with Jimmy since early 1975, we've both experienced the highs and lows of Barbershop and in our personal lives.

Jimmy continues to be one of my closest friends. I have vivid memories of all the contest, trips and shows and the fun we had with our families at the murder mystery parties that Neushul always managed to win.

But known only to his fellow quartet members is the fact that Jimmy has brought to the stage more gas than the Goodyear Blimp could hold,” snickered Anderson.

“ we've worn out our 139th St. tapes! ”

To the thousands of screaming fans of Four Voices and to the hundreds of young men who got their start in barbershop as part of the College Quartet competition few may know that if it weren't for Jimmy Kline's vision and Pete Neushul's drive and commitment that this great annual International event might never have happened.

John Krizek remembers it started when Jimmy was working on Lloyd Steinkamp's staff in the creation of a high school quartet competition. When the project ran into an obstacle Kline suggested changing it to a college event. The idea gained momentum when Pete Neushul was a judge at an a-cappella jazz competition. “Most of the groups were from colleges and many commented upon meeting Pete, that “We've worn out our 139th Street Tapes,” noted Krizek.

With support from International President Terry Aramian and Ray Heller in Kenosha, Neushul and Kline were able to stage the first College quartet contest in New Orleans in 1992.



Jimmy as Blues Man, Blind Melon Chitlin – Phoenix Show 1996

Following 139th Street came A Buck 39 with Dean Waters on Lead and Ken Potter as Tenor. This combination achieved a Pan Pacific Championship but couldn't make the Saturday night show at International. The end of Buck 39 came three years later.

When the word got around that Jimmy Kline would become the Bass of Gotcha a few of the veteran quartet men in the district were skeptical



Could Kline cover the bright and youthful sounds from this up and coming quartet. But Gotcha didn't share those doubts. When Jim auditioned with them they knew they had a winning combination and a barbershopper they could all like.

“Jim is one of the nicest human beings I've every met, remarked Lead Chris Vaughn. I have the utmost respect for what he has accomplished in this great hobby. It's been an honor and privilege to singing with him the past three years and I look forward to a long relationship ahead.”



Gotcha made the top ten with Kline their first time out and with the help of great coaches like Kim Hulbert, Greg Lyne, Cindy

[Cont'd on page 22]

“Change is inevitable.”

We just returned from another in a series of great District Conventions, and with a super theme “*Can’t Stop Singing!*,” what a dandy it was. There was singing galore with two terrific winners from the chorus and quartet contests—the **Westminster Chapter “Harmony Showcase Chorus”** and the northern California quartet “**Q**” from the **Reno, Palo Alto**

and **Frank Thorne** chapters. The young men from **Westminster** will be fine representatives for the Far Western District next July at the International Convention in Louisville, KY. Interestingly, “**Q**” noted, while receiving their trophies and pins, that they had just celebrated their nine-month anniversary as a quartet. Baritone **Cory Hunt** thanked the old “guys” in the **Reno Chapter** for being so accepting of him as a member when he joined at a very young age. You’ll find more about the contest in other articles.

This was my last FWD convention while serving as the Society Board Member (SBM) for the Far Western and Evergreen Districts. My duties still include a trip to Spokane, WA, where I will be the Society Representative to the Evergreen District Fall Convention in October, and a Society Board meeting to be held during the Leaders Forum in Racine, WI in early November. Beginning January 1, 2004, **Mike Lanctot**, the immediate past president of the Evergreen District will begin serving as the SBM for our two districts. You’ll have the chance to meet Mike at the Spring District Convention in Reno, NV in March. He’s a fine gentleman and an excellent administrator.

Benjamin Disraeli stated in October, 1867, that, “*Change is inevitable.*” Continuing the quote he added, “*In a progressive country change is constant.*” Our Society is progressive in many ways, so we should assume that change for us is also inevitable. Harmony Hall was recently sold, rather than have to pay for all of the many upgrades needed to bring HH into the Twenty-first Century. By the end of October, following extensive remodeling, the Sheridan Road building owned by the Society, which houses accounting, merchandising, and printing functions, will also house all other activities of the Society. The Sheridan Road building has also been sold, and the Society has a long-term lease with the new owners. Within the next few years a new Harmony Hall will come into existence.

When I became district president in 1996 we operated under what has commonly been referred to as the “old” management system with Division Vice Presidents and a number of commit-

tees. My second year as DP, 1997, was the first year under a “new” management system. We now had eight functional Vice Presidents with the role of many of the committees falling under the VPs. We no longer had Division VPs. It soon became apparent that direct communication between chapters and the district board was missing. There were now Chapter Coaches, but they reported to a Society Committee and to the VP for Chapter Support and Leadership Training. Also, every chapter did not have a Chapter Coach. This missing communication link will be revived in 2003 when the district returns to Division Vice Presidents. There will be functional committees, which match the roles of the functional VPs. I’m extremely pleased the House of Delegates approved all the changes necessary to bring these changes about. The Society Board provided the go ahead for making these changes at their July 2003 Board meeting. Changes that were made in chapter leadership positions in 1997 are currently under review by the Society Board and recommendations regarding possible changes for chapter boards of directors will be effective in 2005.

It has been a pleasure for me to have served as the Society Board Member for this great district. My thanks to those who had trust in me when nominating me for the position. I’m not going away. I will still be attending all of the conventions, as I am a devoted barbershopper, but I would be lying if I said I would miss having to attend all of the meetings and responding to the many barber-shop related e-mails I receive.

We are part of a great organization. There are many men putting in countless hours serving you and me in our chapters, our districts and our Society. My personal thanks to them for all of the time they put in to help us. Another group of fine men has been elected by the HOD to serve on the FWD Board, and I wish them well. I’m leaving things in good hands.

‘Til next time. . .

[from page 21]

Hansen and David Wright Jimmy won his third 3rd Silver medal at Montreal.

Imagine earning thirty trips to international, 3 Silver Medals [one in each decade] appearances in every Province of Canada, most of the United States, England and Russia and still having the same drive and desire and attitude as when you were in the 7th grade.

Jim Kline says that singing with Alan, Chris and Gary is an adventure. “These guys are so driven and so knowledgeable. They push me harder than any other coach I’ve ever had and when I make a mistake they’re right in my face, but I love ‘em.”

So there you have it. Jimmy Kline A Barbershopper’s Barbershopper. A friend to quarteting and one of those great society members who make this such a wonderful hobby.

NO HO HUM IN RENO!

BY: DAVE RAMER
Reno Silver Dollar Chorus, Convention Host

So You want a convention where accommodations are better than you expect? John Ascuaga's Nugget will supply it.

So you want to be able to eat at 3 in the A.M.? No problem. How about seven restaurants, room service and the best food you've ever eaten. Yep, all in one place. Free R.V. parking, valet parking, if you don't want to park it yourself. One of the best stages in the West. You'll love the sound, no bad seats. This promises to be one of the best competitions you have experienced in years. Have you ever seen the level of performance rise to such heights as the last three years? This is going to be a convention that will be remembered by many as a true, life-time experience.

Here is the catch. You have to be part of it. Don't ever let an absolute fun time like Reno 2004 slip away. Make it a vacation. We have championship golf courses and some of the most talented performers in the world come to Reno. Catch a show, see Lake Tahoe and the Ponderosa. Go to Virginia City where they still have wooden sidewalks and history tours of the old West. Yeah, they are for tourists but you only go around once, so go for it!

This contest is the International Prelims and a lot of you are coming because you've worked your hearts out to perform; show the world you are part of the best society of people that America can show case. Get your registration in early so you can relax and get ready for a grand time.

We extend this invitation to everyone. Bring the families. Take a break, take the kids to Circus Circus and show them a fun time as you enjoy yourself singing. Go swimming in the pool, relax in a hot tub, work out at the gym, let the family enjoy the arcade. Plan this one like you never have before. You and your family will never forget the Spring of 2004 in Nevada. A wow of a time for all who attend.

If you have special needs, let us know. We will do our best to let you have a great time.



A BARBERSHOP QUARTET
Especially FOUR You!



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ARE YOU SUCCESSFUL AT GETTING GRANT MONEY?

By Michael S. Frazer, MBA
FWD Grant Program Chairman

As we come close to the end of the year, we are taking a moment to take stock of our successes and assess where we can do more for you, our fellow brothers-in-harmony in the arena of funding for your chapters and the ways that you reach out to the communities around you.

If you read this and realize that you may not have been a part of our successes in funding our music and the ways that we give it to others, the answer is to come join us at the next available Grant Writing Seminar at C.O.T.S. in Los Angeles at the LAX Hilton on November 15th and 16th. We will teach you the process of developing a well thought out grant request. This additional money gained through a successful grant request can be used to help you to reach out your audience, whether it is youth or seniors or any other segment of your audience.

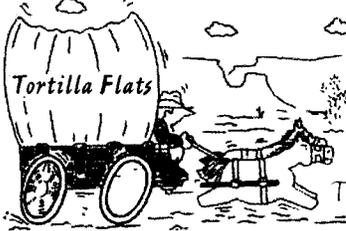
If you have been successful in writing any grant requests during the past year, I would like to hear from you about your successes. We can use your examples as tools to help others see how to be successful in writing grant requests.

If you are working on a grant request now, and would like help in writing an effective request, we are here to help make you successful in your endeavor. All you need to do is send me an e-mail at Field_Auditor@prodigy.net, and I'll help in any way that I can.

We are also launching a new assistance program in the FWD where we suggest that you send a copy of your completed grant request to me an advance of submitting it to the granting organization so that I can help make your request as efficient as possible. More detail will be forthcoming in the near future to all chapter presidents.

Please also remember that the Far Western District will assist in providing training to any interested member of any chapter whether or not you are a chapter officer, as long as you have an idea for a possible grant request for your chapter.

Comedy
Barbershop Style



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Leon Higbee, Lead
Don Shelton, Bass
Bob Patterson, Bari
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TortillaFlats@ATT.NET



16 B.O.B.

17 Somethin' Cool

18 Dry Heat



19 Time Honored



20 Top-Notch



21 Preservation



22 Older Than Dirt



23 Robinson Crusoe & the Castaways



MT Sam's Club with sub Bob Hartley



21 Santa Monica - Todd Benton, Director



22 Central California - Dain Goad, Director



23 Placerville - Ray Rhymer, Director



Performance Chorus - Riverside - Bill Harper, Director



11 San Fernando Valley - Tom Raffety, Director



12 Santa Rosa - Melany Huston, Director



13 North Valley - Jack Woodard, Director



14 San Diego - Tom Anderson, Director



15 Palo Alto-Mountain View - Steve Sammonds, Director



16 Fullerton - Craig Ewing, Director



17 St. George - John Scott, Director



18 Sacramento - Eric Brickson, Director



19 Conejo Valley - Larry Nixon, Director



20 Palomar Pacific - Lloyd Steinkamp, Director

[cont'd on page 24]

photos by Andrea Rail



2002 International Champions SANTA FE SPRINGS

Kirt Thiesmeyer

“Hey, Trumpet-Lips!” is the latest friendly greeting to echo through the peaceful Springs of Santa Fe. Committed barbershop choristers will recognize it as one of the indispensable vocalization techniques to focus the sound and bring those pesky vowels into blissful unity.

The **Masters of Harmony** knows the genesis because of another innovation that has come to our chapter – a recapitulation of the music director’s tips and techniques (and smart remarks) from each rehearsal evening, designed to further the education of the faithful and be the envy of absentees. Colloquially christened (by me) “The Mark Hale Chronicles,” the series is ably recorded by **Joel Levitz**, front row dude and avid note-taker.

It is strangely satisfying how a handful of MOHers could find each other in the midst of 10,000 energetic Sweet Adelines at their Phoenix Convention in September. Present besides your correspondent were **Scott Hansen, Dave Briner, Joe Palmquist, Glenn Hennessy, Sam Papageorge, Garry Teixeira** and someone posing as **Jeff Baker**. **Dan Jordan** and **Dawn Teixeira** were there, too, along with **Erin Howden** and **June Dale** of the **Toronto North Metro Chorus** (our riser-mates at the Montreal Convention). **Alan Gordon** drew a spirited performance from his **Verdugo Hills Showtime Chorus**, and our own **Pam Pieson** directed Anaheim’s **Harborlites Chorus** as mic-testers (our soon-to-be riser-mates at the Christmas show on December 13 – Harriet and Charles Luckman Theater, Cal State University at Los Angeles, 2:00 and 8:00 p.m. OK, that’s shameless promoting, but I feel no guilt). Even **David Wright** and **Dr. Greg Lyne** showed up to loud accolades. It was a regular parade of notables from both Societies. Several SAI Fifty-Year pins were handed out to earnest applause. I calculated that my fifty years in SPEBSQSA will be recognized when I am 114; I mean, if I keep paying my dues, how can they deny it to me?

The Masters of Harmony marshaled a stunning showcase for Cal State University at San Bernardino on October 1, performing for their First Wednesdays Series, and coincidentally celebrated the founding of the chapter exactly eighteen years ago. The concert was preceded by a one-hour Master Class on “What is Barbershop?” conducted by the spanking new quartet **O.C. Times** for about sixty music students and faculty. With an aver-

age age of 22.75 years and all products of the Barbershop Society’s Young Men in Harmony program, these formidable quartetters carried the message that our music knows no age limitations.

The 2003 Bakersfield Convention is also history. You can compare the outcome with my predictions of glory for our MOH brothers in the last issue. Didn’t I say that **Westminster, La Jolla** and **Rincon Beach** – all with MOH dual members – would bring great distinction to the Far Western District? And how about those quartets? **Hi-Fidelity** and **O.C. Times**, both representing the **Masters of Harmony**, are headed for the heights. Our hearts swell.

Recruiting moves apace as we continue the ramp-up to divisional competition next spring, our first hurdle on the way to Salt Lake City in 2005. Churches, schools, pool halls, grocery stores, bars both elegant and crummy – anywhere that good singers congregate – will feel the pull of music fellowship and receive invitations to dedicate themselves to excellence and the demands of our consuming hobby.

Barbershop oddity: Many of us have noticed how **Mark Hale’s** eyes seem to follow each singer no matter where one tries to hide on the risers. “Is he looking at me?” we wail. Well, he is. It is a talent developed when he was an unsung front row grunt with the Louisville **Thoroughbreds** and had to settle for second place to the **Masters of Harmony** (San Francisco 1990), while he plotted his revenge. (“I’m gonna get those guys.” And he did!) We understand that he is making a lively second income posing for those concave religious portraits hawked at truck stops.

COTS November 15-16 in Los Angeles

Contact Bernard Priceman

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2003-2004 FWD champion quartet

RAYMOND DAVIS tenor
ROBERT LENOIL lead
CORY HUNT baritone
MIKE STEWART bass

FIRST (AND LAST) CALL FOR FWD BULLETINS

By Dick Girvin, FWD District Bulletin Coordinator

Here is the call for bulletins for the **2004** Far Western District Bulletin Contest. All FWD Bulletin Editors who have published **six*** or more **monthly** issues (or **six*** months of **weekly** or **bi-weekly** bulletins) during 2003 are eligible to enter. (* new PROBE rule).

Two classes of bulletins will be accepted for contest: **Large Bulletins** (more than 6 pages) and **Small Bulletins** (6 or fewer pages). Editors should submit three copies of three successive month's issues (monthly) or nine consecutive issues (weekly) or six consecutive issues (bi-weekly). One of the copies of each issue should be as printed and delivered to subscribers; the balance can be photocopied. (The Layout and Reproduction judges must see the actual issue --not the paste-up-- that went to their readers.)

The bulletins will be judged by certified PROBE Bulletin judges on the following: (actual score sheets available on request)

Content: (267 points maximum per issue), judged on how well the editor:

- Informs on coming events
- Records recent events
- Reflects views of chapter members
- Recognize efforts of chapter members
- Promote barbershopping
- Recruitment
- Encourage pride and participation.

Layout and Reproduction: (200 points maximum per issue), judged on how well the editor displays:

- The "stage presence" of the bulletin
- The layout of the Nameplate, Masthead and all printed material
- Readability, headlines, illustrations and reproduction.

Grammar and Style (200 points maximum per issue), judged on:

- Punctuation
 - Grammar
 - Style.
- (Normalized by dividing by "judgeable pages")

Entries should be mailed to the below address to **arrive on or before January 1, 2004** The contest results will be announced with trophies for the top **Large** and top **Small** bulletins at the Spring Prelim Contest in Reno on March 20—at the House of Delegates meeting. The top two scoring bulletins (regardless of size) will be entered in the International Bulletin Contest.

Note: You asked for it and here it is! As approved by the membership of PROBE (PR Officers and Bulletin Editors Association), awards will be offered for a new category: **International Online Bulletin Contest** (online bulletins of 2003).

Full rules to be published in January 2004. Awards made in Louisville in July 2004.

No pre-qualification by district. Open to all editors publishing 6 or more per year.

Watch WESTUNES for the specific rules and how to enter this new category. (Or if you can't wait, contact the FWD Bulletin Coordinator at the below address for details as they become available).

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SPEBSQSA International Quartet Champions
Rob Menaker/Tenor John Sasine/Lead Jeff Baker/Baritone Brett Littlefield/Bass

Division 1 SCal West

Editor Mike Martin



CONEJO VALLEY

G.B. BRINKMAN / RED EHRENBACH

Busy time for the **Harmony Oaks** Chapter as it prepares for yet another retreat in preparation for the Bakersfield contest. The **Harmony Oaks** Chorus had a very successful Barbershop Sundaes Show on Saturday, Sept. 13th. Four Quartets, two Men's and two Women's were an integral part of the Program. The chapter is also preparing for the High School Benefit to be held in the large hall at the Thousand Oaks Civic Center. While it has not been firmed up, the chapter is planning to sing with a women's chorus and **Dick Van Dyke**. More to come on this later.

RINCON BEACH

BOB LALLY

Members of **Pacific Sound** are still coming down from the experience of our trip to Russia in August. Appearing as the headline chorus representing SPEBSQSA at the Fourth Annual Russian Barbershop Harmony Festival in St. Petersburg, **Pacific Sound** was part of three concerts presented to standing room only audiences of enthusiastic barbershop harmony fans. Also appearing on these concerts was the Pacific Sound quartet **Fastrac** consisting of **Phil Wilson, Ed Sweatt, Chris Elstner** and **Rick Davis, Curtain Call** with **Max Frickey, Don Kileen, Bob Cathaway** and **Mike Marion** subbing for bass **Jim Serdahely**. In addition, there was there was the 1998 International Quartet Champions **Revival**. All the venues were magnificent and included Philharmonia Hall, considered one of the finest concert halls in the world. In addition to the concert performances the chorus participated in Master Classes that were conducted by **Dr. Greg Lyne**, and several chorus members served as coaches for the attending Russian groups. Coaching staff included PS Director **Ken Potter, Ed Sweatt** and **Bob Lally**. The chorus also toured the famed Hermitage Museum and other historical sites of the area, including an impromptu performance for delighted onlookers in the ballroom of the Palace of Peter the Great. Following our stay in St. Petersburg many members of the group continued on to Moscow for additional sightseeing. Many thanks again to members **Brent Anderson, Bob Cathaway, Bruce Hunter** and **Ed and Valerie Sweatt** for their work in making this trip happen.

Returning from the trip, the chorus immediately entered into preparation for their appearance at the FWD Convention in Bakersfield with a very productive weekend retreat featuring the coaching skills of **Royce Ferguson**. Also on the agenda during September was the annual election of officers with most of the 2003 board continuing on for 2004. Elected were **Bob Lally** as president, **Larry Krause** as Secretary, **Bob Cathaway** as Treasurer, **Jim Serdahely** as VP Music and Performance, **Ken Day** as VP Chapter Development, **Brent Anderson** as VP PR and Marketing, **Rick Davis** as Immediate Past President and

Monty Clark, Mike Marion and **Bob McGee** as Board Members at Large.

Finally, two new members were welcomed into the chapter, and both are first timers to the Society. Lead **Jeff Ditto** and Bass **Dirk Gestaldo** are enthusiastic about joining their voices with **Pacific Sound** and will be valuable additions to the chorus.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

BRUCE MILLER

Busy times for the **Gold Coast Chorus** reported by chapter president **Rick Snody** as they prepare for numerous singouts in this last quarter of the year. Membership has also been busy with the addition of three new members. **Chris Day** joins the baritone section and brings not only choir singing experience but also play tuba and Saxophone. **Rick Ridge** brings similar experience. **Blayne Asher** who joins the lead section has also sung in vocal groups.

SANTA BARBARA

NATHAN STAPLES

The **Channel City Chorus** is rigorously preparing for our November 1 Fall Show, "Harmony Harvest" (with plenty of cookies and apple cider!), to be held at 2pm at the First Presbyterian Church on Constance & State Streets, Santa Barbara. Show chairmen **Craig Pierce** and **Michael Frazer** recently added to the show the ever-entertaining local Dixieland-jazz band, the Dixie Daddies. The show will also feature chapter quartets Vocal Maturity, the Inimitable Fabulons, and the debut of the "Four Chordsmen (of the A-puckered-lips)".....[don't ask]. The show promises great music and great fun.

Chapter members greatly enjoyed the Annual Chapter Picnic and entertaining White Elephant Auction on Sept. 20. "Funny money" for the auction (featuring the visages of our director and officers!) was earned by chapter members by punctual attendance at meetings, being "off-paper" quickly on music, quartetting new chapter songs, etc. Where else could you get a dated Macintosh computer for "\$900" and a bubble-blowing wand for "\$4100"? All had great fun!! Many thanks for president **Ed Morin, Steve Iddings**, BOM for September **Peter Drew, Garth Ratliff**, and auctioneer **Leslie Howe** (wife of chapter Secretary, Howard) for providing the great food and entertainment!

We are also proud to note and call attention to the Grant Writing Class to be taught at COTS this year by chapter **BOTY Michael Frazer**. We encourage other chapters to take advantage of his great knowledge of this important source of Society and chapter income!

This Holiday Season, the **Santa Barbara Chapter** is once-again inviting non-chapter members to join our Holiday Harmony Chorus (starting Monday Nov. 3) for our MANY singing engagements about town, including our annual three Saturdays strolling and caroling up and down State Street.

SANTA MARIA

LU HINTZ

President **Gene Kai** presented Barbershopper of the Month awards to **Ottis Scott** (July) for his continued support of the Chapter and quartet singing, and to **Bill Young** (August) for fifty

one years of continuous support to the Chapter and his new duties as librarian. The **Central City Chordsmen** are preparing for their annual show September 13.

SANTA MONICA

TOM LASKEY

Membership is a vital concern of all chapters and the **Oceanaires**, a small chapter, have recently had some longtime brothers go inactive or leave the chapter for various reasons. One of those members **John Payne**, a longtime chapter stalwart, retired to Hemet, California, and is now singing with the **Hemet Harmonizers**. Fortunately, the **Oceanaires** have signed up seven new brothers in song during the past four months and further increased the chorus membership by the return of a former member.

Joining the lead section are **Dennis Larkin**, a young legal eagle who brings along some stage experience, **Patrick Kellogg** who is active in the real estate market, **David Halperin** a longtime chapter pal that we finally signed up and finally, **Wil Vashaw** who got the harmony bug when he came to the chapter's 22nd annual Ice Cream Social and Concert which was held in August.

Joining the bass section is **David Olson**, a self employed computer programmer. The baritone section has been added to by the addition of **Bernard "Sam" Samstag**, an experienced barber-shopper and **Aaron Mood**, who was recruited by new member **Dennis Larkin** joins the tenor section. The **Oceanaires** welcome back former member **Mike Martin** to the lead section.

Barbershopper of the Month for August was **Carl Rogers**, honored for his outstanding work on the recently very successful ice cream social.

VENTURA

KEITH BOGOST

The **Channel Island Clippers** have enjoyed fifty years of barbershop harmony and plan a special Anniversary celebration October 24, 2003 at the Wedgewood Banquet Center in Ventura, California. The Chapter is pleased to announce their newest member **Ray Leach**. He heard about the chapter from his neighbor and chapter member, **Bill Butala** showing that it pays to keep talking up barbershopping to all prospective singers.

Division 2 SCal East

Editor Gene Hartzler

It is with some sadness that I announce my retirement as SCE Editor. I have been privileged and honored to have served under Ray as well as Owen Edwards before him. It is expected that a new SCE editor will be announced shortly.

[Ed. note: I regret accepting Gene's retirement, but understand when "the time has come". It is appropriate to recognize and acknowledge the many years of service Gene has given the Far Western District, not only as a Westunes Division Editor, but also as FWD Secretary and a number of other functions I will not attempt to list. Thank you Gene.]

BREA

TERRY KENNEDY

After a "dark month" of August the **Gaslight Chorus** is back in the groove. They may be small with only 18 enthusiastic voices, but they have a sweet sound and are enjoying some great arrangements by their Music Director, **Phil Ordaz**. **John Gaston** and **Bryan Forbes** have nearly completed learning tapes for their repertoire as well as the 27 songs for the first annual Christmas show, which is called "*It's Christmas, Carol*" which will be staged on December 13, 2003 at the Whittier Playhouse in Old Uptown Whittier. Two performances, a matinee and also an evening show are scheduled.

Chris Arnold, Assistant Director of the **Toronto Northern Lights** Chorus and **Ken Hatton**, lead of the **Bluegrass Student Union** quartet helped Bryan and John in their learning tape project, for which they were very grateful!

Regular Tuesday evening chorus rehearsals start at 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. with no formal break in the routine. The Evangelical Free Church in Fullerton on Brea Blvd. has donated their choir rehearsal facility and in return the chorus performs for church functions whenever asked. The EV Free Church maintains an excellent choir of more than 100 voices. The **Gaslight Chorus** likes to think that by using their facility, some of their perfection will spring from them to us.

Sean Warner, a charter member, has returned after a work-related time away from the chapter, is back in the lead section, which is now four strong!

FULLERTON

DICK COTE

Quartet Activities Chairman, **Art Clayton** is pleased to reveal that the Fullerton Chapter will perform at the Crystal Cathedral's Care and Kindness Conference next March 12th.. The **Orange Empire Chorus** will present a program of patriotic, religious as well as a variety of traditional Americana music.

Through the efforts of member **Bruce White**, a new rehearsal venue has been secured since the Parks Junior High School is undergoing a major restoration program and will not be available for our use for an extended period of time. The Eastside Christian Church in Fullerton will serve as the chapter's weekly meeting site at least for the foreseeable future.

The chapter plans to provide for some acts of reciprocation in return for their courtesy.

HEMET

BRUCE SMITH

The chapter's recent pizza party on September 4 was "just terrific" by all reports. With **4 Old Times Sake** providing the entertainment at the meeting as well as the after glow, the evening was a real winner. In fact, **Jim McKee** said "It was the best afterglow I ever attended".

The **Harmonizers** have a "full plate" this Christmas season with four performances; two in November and two more in December.

IRVINE

DANE HUTCHINS

The Irvine Chapter is pleased and proud to announce that Mr. **Terry Ghiselli** will become the front line music Director of the **California Promise Chorus** in Irvine. Terry is a young prodigy who is just beginning to make his mark in the world of music.

The chapter board, music team and the general membership is thrilled to have Terry on board since it marks the beginning of a great era of progress for the chapter, the City of Irvine and the Far Western District.

The chapter is planning a big "Welcome Terry" party soon.

ORANGE

RICHARD ACTON

The chapter board has put out a call for new members since attendance is down of late. An effort will be made to contact ex-members in the area and names on old member rosters and invite them to share in a true barbershop experience of a quartet chapter where "fun" is the keyword! **Dave Gryvna** has volunteered to contact names given to him, by 'phone or e-mail. Two members of the **O.C. Times** quartet are new to barbershop and are going to compete in Bakersfield.

With the '04 slate officers set, the installation dinner is scheduled for 22 November, the Saturday before Thanksgiving. It will be held at Rembrandt's in Placentia. All arrangements have been made by **Paul Kelley**.

PALOMAR-PACIFIC

KEITH MULFINGER

The chapter believes that they have scored a genuine "first" in the barbershop world when the chapter, in conjunction with the Performing Arts Department of California State University in San Marcos sponsored and produced a Summer Workshop over four Saturdays in July and August. Thirteen local music teachers participated in the eight classes which were taught by **Dianne Geller** who has extensive experience in teaching the Kodaly concept of music education which emphasizes musical elements and techniques such as sight reading, creating lesson planning and the use of American folk song materials.

YMIH chairman **Bill Scofield** has made great strides in the San Diego North County elementary schools by introducing elementary music teachers to Barbershop Harmony music by taking chapter quartets to assembly programs.

The **Palomar Pacific Music Men's** Chorus performed at the San Marcos civic center on 13 September as a tribute to the 9/11 disaster to a sell-out crowd that welcomed the chorus with much enthusiastic appreciation and a standing reception at the conclusion.

From all reports, the chorus will be invited again for more barbershop harmony. Directed by **Lloyd Steinkamp** and **Terry Aramian** and MC'd by **Bob Debol**, it was apparent that the men enjoyed the program as much as the audience.

Treasurer **Chuck Youde** has prepared an excellent and comprehensive "Look Ahead to Valentine Day" scheme that lays out six

major tasks from "advertising to dispatching" that will assure a successful venture.

RANCHO BERNARDO

LARRY TAYLOR

The **Troubadours** are pleased and proud to announce their fall show to be staged on 12 October 2003 in the lovely Poway Center for the Arts in the City of Poway. Under the direction of Music Director **John Hulbert** the chorus will present, *One of Those Songs*, on Sunday at 2:00 p.m. The featured quartet will be **Hi-Fidelity**, plus **Titan 4** quartet from the Poway High School.

SAN DIEGO

BOB SILVERMAN

Tom Anderson is serving as our interim director while a search for a new Musical Director is going on. He is a bright young man is getting the enthusiastic support of all the members.

The chorus presented a United We Sing show recently in the Balboa Park Pavilion in remembrance of the victims of the 9-11 attack.

A private pre-contest show was held for distaff and friends in the Little Theatre with a lobby pot luck dinner for the hungry participants and supporters.

WETMINSTER

SEAN DEVINE

The Westminster Chapter is eagerly anticipating the fall district contest! A special thanks to our coaches Dawn & Garry Texeira for all they do in preparing and encouraging our chorus, you guys are the best! We'll also be rooting on our chapter quartets in Bakersfield, O.C. Times and Q - as well as outgoing champs, Sam's Club.

Thanks to the Santa Fe Springs Chapter for allowing us to come and perform our contest set for them during their rehearsal on Sept. 24. We appreciate so much the support from the "Masters!"

The chorus had a blast as guests of the Fullerton Chapter on their annual "Concert Under the Stars" show at Pearson Park in Anaheim. It was a great experience to share the stage with the Fullerton Chapter, as well as the award winning Harborlites Sweet Adeline Chorus, and our current district silver medalist quartet, Hi-Fidelity - all while raising money to support the Young Men In Harmony program!

Chapter elections were held this month, and we're excited to announce our new slate of officers for 2004: VP Operations - Russell Squires, VP Chapter Development - Patrick Claypool, VP Music & Performance - Shawn York, Treasurer - Philip Ridout, Secretary - Jason Halliday, President - Sean Devine, Board Member at Large - Justin Miller.

The chorus has been asked to perform a program for the Society's COTS (Chapter Officers Training Seminar) at the Los Angeles Hilton November 15. We're looking forward to seeing several of you there!

Division 3 NCal West

Editor Don Kington



ANNOUNCING A GREAT OPPORTUNITY!

How would you like to be in the know, in advance, of all the Division 3 NCal West chapter news? Don the Digester is looking for his replacement. He's been occupying this space for almost 15 years (since early 1989); he has worked under four editors and he reached Social Security age 10 years ago. It's way past his retirement time! Editor Ray Rhymer says that Don the Digester must recruit his own replacement. There's no shortage of reporting and writing talent out there as is shown by the correspondents listed here and every issue. Don't be bashful or modest -- contact Editor Ray and say you want to be the next Digester!

BAY AREA METRO

TOM ENNIS

The **Pot O' Gold Chorus** has been very busy while preparing for District Contest. On August 31 the Chorus sang at Lafayette-Orinda Presbyterian Church for its two Sunday services. The church came alive with a heartfelt Sweet Hour of Prayer and the Irish Blessing as benediction.

During August the Chorus also had some special coaching sessions with **Mark Hale** and **Wayne Mendes** of the Masters of Harmony. Individual sections turned up the intensity with week-end sectional rehearsals lead by director **Rob Campbell**.

The Chorus had an all day advance (that's BAMspeak for retreat) on September 13 with **Wayne Mendes** coaching. The session was followed by an evening performance for the benefit of Habitat for Humanity.

September 20 was the date of the first BAM garage sale. Sales were brisk as the Chapter made a sizeable chunk of change. It was a little more work than people envisioned but the consensus was positive that it should be repeated next year.

EUREKA

AL STROM

The **Humboldt Harmonaires Barbershop Chorus** sang at the Humboldt County Fair in Ferndale on Saturday, August 9. Then came the famed annual "Stale Hot Dog Roast" on Saturday, September 13, a fun afternoon at the Don Setterlund Ranch.

The Chapter's annual "Beer and Peanuts Show" was on the circuit this year, performing in Fortuna on Friday, October 24, and Arcata on Saturday, November 1.

FREMONT/HAYWARD

RAY SPINOSA

The **New Dimension Chorus** was active in two local festivals this summer. First it was the Fremont Festival of the Arts, where members recruited prospective new singers and also entertained

people passing by the Chapter booth, with both recorded and live barbershop music. Later, the Chorus gave a performance at the Newark Days Festival. That same evening, members attended a surprise birthday party for Gigi Ocampo, wife of immediate past president **Ed Ocampo**. Still more songs were sung.

The Chapter helped organize the quartet show given by students of Harmony College West. It was held at Tennyson High School in Hayward and a good portion of the proceeds were given to the Tennyson High School Band.

Also the Chorus performed as a summer replacement for several local churches. At one of the services, a clever pastor actually worked "This Little Light of Mine" into his lesson to the children attending, by asking them about various kinds of light and the power needed in order for there to be light.

Finally, Chorus members enjoyed a picnic at a local park. Highlights, included a croquet match, lots of food and of course good old harmony.

MONTEREY PENINSULA

SAM KIER

As a matter of arbitrary editorial policy imposed by Don the Digester we carry few details of individual chapter quartet activities. Here is an exception: Chapter quartet, **Voices of the Valley**, sang the National Anthem at a San Francisco Giants game at PacBell Park on Sunday, August 10. The afternoon game with the Philadelphia Phillies was dedicated to the search for a cure for ALS or "Lou Gehrig's" disease. The "Voices" have a special reason for being involved in this cause. **Ernie Smith**, bass of the quartet, is in the fight of his life against ALS. The other members of the quartet are **Larry Head**, lead, **Bert Robinson**, baritone, and **Rick Lostutter**, tenor. At the Giants performance **Jeffrey Thompson** substituted for Rick who was visiting back East.

S.F. BAY CITIES QUARTET CHAPTER CASEY PARKER

The Chapter is back at Harry's Hoffbrau while the Hometown Buffet is being remodeled. Casey reports that, despite the change in venue, the members had fun-filled meetings September 3 & 24. Many members had a chance to try other voice parts.

Casey also reports that **David Kable**, tenor singer and a charter member and past president of S.F. Bay Cities Quartet Chapter recently passed away.

SAN FRANCISCO

DMK

First off, our apologies to the Chapter's webmaster, **Jerry Lester**, for clobbering the Chapter's website in the last edition when promoting this year's annual show. It should have read www.sfca-blecarchorus.org instead of what appeared. Apologies also to anyone who tried it and got an error message.

It's the time of year again when next year's leaders are elected. Leading the San Francisco Chapter in 2004 will be the following repeaters: **Fred Merrick**, President; **Tim Williams**, VP, Chapter Development; **Thomas Lubrano**, Secretary; and **Jorge**

Portugal, Director-at- Large. New officers are: **Bruce Applegate**, VP, Music and Performance; **Orv Teising**; Treasurer; and **Charles Olso**, Director-at-Large.

The Chapter's marketing whiz, **Gerry Costanzo**, has lined up four paid public performances (you'll never read that inane S.O. word here!) for the rest of 2003 with another one possible.

SAN MATEO COUNTY

DAVID JUNGROTH

The **Golden Chordsmen** elected the 2004 slate of officers at their regular meeting Tuesday, September 9. The facts of the "small chapter syndrome" came home to roost and most of those elected are serving a second or third term. The hero of the hour is **David McCann**, President, for a third term! Other repeaters are, **Dick Boyd**, Secretary; **Arnie Miller**, Treasurer; **Tom Dickerman**, VP Chapter Development; and **Tom Addison**, VP Music Development. Directors at Large are **Jack Lewellen**, **Dave Jungroth** and **Burt Press**. New to the officer's list is an enthusiastic **Mike Devitt**, VP Programs. Continuing as Music Director is **Alice Bollard** and **Gary Moulin** as Marketing director.

The summer doldrums were spent polishing and preparing the fall Cabaret Dinner Show held October 27. If you are just learning about it, afraid you missed it!

WALNUT CREEK

DICK JOHNSTON

Once again the **Devil Mountain Chorus** members manned a booth selling beer at Walnut Creek's annual Walnut Festival in September. This has become the Chapter's principal fund-raising activity. Over the four-day festival customers consumed nine and one-half kegs of beer. This translates to 1,387 14-ounce cups of beer. As he has in the past, **Ron Leiker** organized and managed the activity. He spent most of his time at the festival during the four days it ran.

Division 4 NCal East

Editor Roger Perkins



CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

MILES SUTTER

The chapter had its annual Ice Cream Social on August 3rd. They performed to a great audience. **HOWARD BARBER** did a superb job as M.C. as did director **DAIN GOAD**. **PAPA'S PRIDE** put in a performance. Quartet bass, **ROY ANDERSON**, has been taking radiation therapy for prostate cancer, which they caught in the early stages. He should be done by mid-September.

FRESNO

GORDON BERGTHOLD

The GNC had their annual retreat at the Episcopal Church Camp, near Bass Lake, on October 5, 6, and 7 with **Bobby Gray, Jr.** leading the way. On Saturday afternoon the entire chorus traveled to Fresno to attend the memorial service for **Harvey**

Mitchem, a past member of the chapter. **SIERRA CHORD EXPRESS** sang during the service. We then returned for dinner followed by an evening of coaching by **Bobby Gray**. **Eric Essayan** did an outstanding job as Assistant Director filling in for **Rich Hasty** who came down with a severe case of the flu. Rich made it Saturday evening to witness and participate in the improved **Gold Note Chorus** renditions of the contest numbers.

The chorus is undergoing a revitalization period where every performing chorus member has rededicated himself to the expectations set out by the chapter musical team.

We have gained some new singers on the risers over the past four months and they have made a difference in our sound. **T.W. SCOTT** returned to Fresno from a tour with the Vocal Majority where he earned two gold medals. **JIM WEYENBERG** has returned from a long absence and brought with him **E.J. HINO-JOSA**, a fine 14 year-old bass who qualified for the performing chorus in three weeks. **LOREN WIENS** joined the baritone section and has also qualified to sing at the FWD contest.

The **Gold Note Chorus** is on the move and is anticipating the challenge of competition in Bakersfield.

NEVADA PLACER

ROGER PERKINS

The **Sierranaders** put on two performances at the Nevada County Fair on August 10. The audience was responsive and we had a good turnout. Later that day was the annual quartet contest. New chapter quartet, **THE ARRANGEMENT (TED ROBNETT, PAT JONES, CLARK ABRAHAMSON, and ROGER PERKINS)** took first place with their rendition of **Darkness On A Delta**, lifted from **Chordiac Arrest**. In second place were the **CHORD MINERS (DEAN RICE, BILL BECK, ROGER FOX and ELMER FAIRBANKS)** who won last year. They competed with **My Old Fraternity Pin**. In third place was the **Sweet Adeline Quartet, Seniors in A-Chord, (Marty Geisie, Renee Beers, Darlene Haag and Maddy Corrington)** from Sacramento. **CLARK ABRAHAMSON** did his usual fine job as M.C.

The chapter celebrated its 20th anniversary with our annual barbecue and swim party at **Steve Evans'** house. A record of 45 people attended and there was lots of good food and singing.

NORTH VALLEY

PAT LYNCH

The end of summer season has turned into a real logjam!! Its September, and our Christmas calendar is filling up already. All our standard dates filled and some new ones requested this early...better dust off that package of Christmas songs we're doing this year - without dragging music along.

Bakersfield is dead ahead and what looks to be the most fun-filled FWD Convention in many years. It's always exciting to try and perfect a competition presentation. **Gary Bolles** is always inspirational - don't miss Gary's visit on the 24th! We await our

November 22 Harmony Explosion concert with **REVIVAL** and **A TONIC EXPLOSION**. Advance ticket orders are rolling in! Our unnamed college quartet and **Out Of Order** have been singing up a storm, from appearances at Chico's Bidwell Mansion to anniversary and dinner parties for several hundred guests. The Fall quartet promotion program begins soon with sign-ups following our guest night. Fasten your seatbelts!

PLACERVILLE

FRANK MARTIN

The chapter was privileged to have Nor Cal East champs, **Q**, spend an evening with the chorus. Besides coaching they also sang up a storm. **Q** is made up of **RAYMOND DAVIS, CORY HUNT, and MIKE STEWARD** of Reno and **ROBERT LENOIL** who lives in Placerville.

RON MURRAY keeps active as YMIH V.P. He diligently works with local high school teachers. El Dorado County schools have a lack of vocal music programs due to lack of funding. Ron is working with teachers to try to stop the high school programs in the area from fading away. Two high school quartets from Brentwood, CA, as well as the Baritone Chorus from local Oak Ridge High will be on their show Nov. 1st.

NEAL SISSON reports that his quartet, **Older Than Dirt**, kept busy by performing five times in June and four in July

REDDING

HAL MUNS

Redding Riverside Chorus is still singing in our own little way. Did a "French Gulch Days" singout with our local Sweet Adeline group (Northern Gateway Chorus), a Memorial Ceremony for a local dignitary, and our annual singout at the Redding City Hall "Entertainment at Noon" summer series. We also did our regular singouts at many of the local convalescent and retirement facilities. We are planning a joint Christmas program with the Northern Gateway Chorus.

SACRAMENTO

FRANK KINNISON

After placing third at the Far Western District bulletin contest the Capitolaire's Swipes and Tags was entered in the SPEBSQSA bulletin contest at the International Convention in Montreal placing a very respectable 10th place. **ALAN SWANSON** has done a fine job as editor.

BEN GAYTON was named Barbershop of the Month for June. He has been a big chapter supporter and is always available for help in working on shows.

PHIL CRAWFORD was BOTM for July. He has been instrumental in coordinating the **Capitolaire's** appearances at the Sacramento Jazz Jubilee for several years.

They held their annual cabaret show, Music of Your Life, on September 13th with **Q**, who represented the Far Western District at the International competition in Montreal, as headliners. It was a huge success.

VISALIA

DEE BAUGHMAN

It's been a busy summer for the **Visalia Mighty Oak Chorus** with lot's of singing going on! The Chorus was invited, once again to sing at the Kings County Fair in July followed by the annual Kingsburg Music in the Park concert, where we have performed for the last five years or so. In August we all got together for our Chorus picnic in Visalia. There was lots of food, games and singing.

On September 6th we had the chance to sing with the Tulare County Symphony Orchestra at their season opener "Pops in the Park" concert. Many of the **Bakersfield Chorus** members joined with us in singing for this special event. It was the first time in the twenty-two year history of the Chorus that we sang with any kind of a band backing us up. It was quite an experience for everyone in the Chorus.

The next Chorus event will be our annual "Big Band Cabaret", Saturday, November 1st in Hanford. This is always a fun evening with the sounds of the Big Band era from our guest band, dancing, great food & of course Barbershop singing. This also has become a major fund-raiser for our Chapter.

Our Director, **TANK WALDRUM**, has started us on getting our Christmas music in order as we intend to have a lively Holiday season. All in all, the Chapter is having a great year.

Division 5 Arizona/SNevada/SUtah

Editor Phil Smith

ARIZONA QUARTET CHAPTER

JIM MILNER

Does your quartet have a problem finding a place to practice with few distractions? Then try out our meeting venue on the first, third and fifth Thursdays of each month, Community Christian Church, 1701 S. College Ave., Tempe. Starting at 7 p.m., we have several small rooms available for quartets to practice in. Then later in the evening we all get together and give the quartets a chance to perform before an audience. We also have pick-up quartet singing, and we make sure that every man who attends gets to sing with three other guys.

GREATER PHOENIX

BILL KANE

As of Sept. 30 a year ago, the **Pride of Phoenix Chorus** was still just a gleam in the eyes of the small group of guys who had been meeting to organize the chapter. On Sept. 30 of this year, Secretary **Don Leggat** announced that chapter membership had reached 50 men, with one more just waiting final approval! This landmark was reached just a few weeks after the chorus wowed a surprisingly large audience (more than 850) at their Sept. 6 Charter Show. The audience response after our opening number almost blew us off the stage! Thanks to guest quartets **Finale** and **Broadway** for performing without a guarantee and adding to this memorable occasion.

The chapter also owes a big round of thanks to the music team - especially co-directors **Gary Steinkamp** and **Russ Young** and

assistant director **Cary Burns** -- for making improving our singing such a positive and enjoyable experience.

The chorus is learning new music and planning its first annual show for shortly after the first of the year. Stay tuned for more details.

LAS VEGAS METRO

JOHN KINDE

Congratulations to the **Las Vegas Celebrity City Chorus**, which placed 12th at the Sweet Adelines International Competition in Phoenix in September. They have great talent and enthusiasm.

Watch for our holiday show on Dec. 14, which will include a community chorus segment in the program.

Harmony University continues every week under the direction of **Jim Halvorson**, our director. It's an exciting, in-depth program to take the chorus to the next level.

Our new board members for 2004 are: President, **Greg Dreyer**; VP Music, **Jim Halvorson**; VP Chapter Development, **Dennis Johnson**; Treasurer, **Wes White**; Secretary, **Carl Truman**. Our immediate past president, **Peter Feeney**, is a nominee for Far Western District President.

PARADISE VALLEY

PHIL SMITH

Director **Dan Ryan** is back from Directors College and is trying out the techniques he learned on the chorus, much to our benefit. Our latest public performances have been patriotic, singing the national anthem at the Arizona Diamondbacks game on Labor Day and singing at a Sept. 11 remembrance service at our host church, Church of the Valley. Several Christmas performances are in the works, and we are learning songs from the Society's Disney show package for our 2004 performances.

The chorus is in the process of augmenting its uniform wardrobe. We debuted new vests and shirts in our spring show, and now are adding tuxedo pants and looking into buying shoes. Officers for 2004 are: **Len Levine**, President; **Mike Rosen**, Program VP; **Alan Korwin**, Membership VP; **Carl Eckhardt**, Music VP; **David Lyman**, Secretary; **Bob Hoge**, Treasurer; **Hank Nahass**, Past President; and **Ray LeRoy** and **Jerry DuPlessis**, board members at large. The Installation Banquet will be December 7.

PHOENIX SAGUARO

TED SAYLE

The **Phoenicians Chorus** prepared dilligently to give their best effort at FWD in Bakersfield. **Cindy Hansen**, **Janice Blake** and **Russ Young** all combined to give us their solid professional coaching. Being directed by that "Dapper, Dancing Man About Town" (**Fraser Brown**) was a treat for everyone. (Who knew Fraser could "dance"?) Flashy new costuming was fun for a change as well.

Our director search continues, while interim directors **Fraser Brown** and **Scot Cinnamon** prepare us for a very busy holiday

schedule, with patriotic & gospel music performances already scheduled at several churches and a new theater venue as well.

On Sept 26, the chorus performed two evening shows for an organization of convention planners. Hard to tell who enjoyed it more, the audience or the chorus, which was allowed to walk around the airport performance venue and examine jet airplanes, hot-air balloons and other interesting sights between performances. **Broadway** sang at both performances and knocked 'em dead. What a great quartet!

The **Phoenicians** are proud and pleased to welcome two new singers to the risers, **Randy Traylor** (lead) and **Gary Bennett** (tenor). Both men worked very hard and spent countless extra hours to learn their music. Congratulations to both men!

For our visiting snowbirds, be sure to mark Jan. 23 and 24 on your calendar, which is earlier than usual, for the **Phoenicians'** annual show. Ticket information will soon be available on our Web site at www.phoenicians.org.

PRESCOTT

SAM STIMPLE

Josh Kervin, a former chapter member and band music teacher at Chino Valley High School, took over as interim director in late August for a 60- to 90-day trial period.

New officers for 2004 are: President, **Rich Ludwigson**; VP Music & Performance, **Jerry Harbeson**; VP Chapter Development, **Dave Samuels**; Secretary, **Ed Wolfe**; Treasurer, **Bob Steele**; and board members at large **Thom Christie**, **Lloyd Ewart** and **Ron Byrne**.

When the **High Mountain Chordsmen** invited the **Sun Cities Desert Aires Chorus** to their picnic in June, they didn't expect reciprocation, but that's what has occurred. The **Desert Aires** have invited the **Chordsmen** to be their guests at a picnic in Sun City West on Nov. 1.

ST. GEORGE

KEN SUNDWALL

Color Country Chorus' Sept. 11 choral tribute "United We Sing" was a resounding success. The chorus was joined by concert choirs from four local high schools as well as the chamber singers and concert choir from the local college. Each school group presented two patriotic or Americana songs. Between each school our chorus sang one of five songs of the U.S. military services. Active or retired members of each service were asked to stand and be recognized at that time. The feature song by **Color Country Chorus** was Lee Greenwood's *God Bless the USA* as arranged by Brian Beck. For a grand finale the audience and choral groups sang *America the Beautiful* while the barber-shop chorus sang Joe Liles' stirring *America the Beautiful Overlay* during the third verse. Local firefighters, police, and public safety officers were honored guests and were recognized. It was standing room only in the 1,250-seat college auditorium.

SIERRA VISTA

ED RAYMOND

The **Cochise Chordsmen** have elected the following officers for the coming year : President, **Larry Graham**; Secretary, **Gary Anderson**; Treasurer, **Bernie Martus**; V.P. Music/Performance, **Paul Godwin**; V.P. Chapter Development, **Ed Raymond**. Membership losses and gains have balanced out, leaving our roster at a solid 16, but our upcoming guest and recruitment programs are certain to increase that number.

Director **Linda Gilbert**, who sang for ten years with the Choral-Aires in the Chicago area, recently attended (along with her present quartet Desert Song) the Sweet Adelines International Competition in Phoenix. Linda has friends in two competing choruses, the Melodeers and the Choral-Aires. After the contest, Linda brought her two friends back to Sierra Vista for a short visit; **Lorry Esposito** (who holds a first-place International medal for performances with the Melodeers), and **Carolyn Heatter** (sporting an eighth-place International medal.) were guests at our Tuesday night practice session, helping Linda voice place our members, and coaching us on two of our numbers. The immediate improvement in our presentation was amazing, and the chorus really appreciates the positive coaching experience. Thank you, ladies.

SUN CITIES

BOB McGOWAN

Since the last issue, the **Desert Aires** have lost a member due to transfer. He is **Roy Felldin**, who has moved across to the East Valley and will grace the risers of the **Cactus Chordsmen** of Paradise Valley. Roy contributed a great deal of time to our events such as the annual Afterglow and annual picnic, and was also a board member for a number of years. We know he will offer the same enthusiasm to the Paradise Valley Chapter.

With our 2004 show script in place, the chapter is now concentrating on polishing the music for the show, as well as reviewing the old show package for singout performances this fall. October kicks off these events, and several are in the schedule, with more to follow as we go to care homes and fun fairs in the coming months. October will see the return of most of our snowbird members, and we will be very happy to see them fill our vacant chairs.

This year our tenor section will be better represented than it has been for two seasons, a fact which makes us all enthusiastic about competing in the Spring District Competition. And we wish our own **Jack Deaton** well in his temporary assignment to a California church while it is rebuilding its congregation. We look forward to his return, as he is a key member of one of our recognized quartets.

TUCSON

FRED KOCH

Montreal is a long way from Tucson, but it didn't keep members of the **Tucson Sunshine Chorus** family from having a large presence at the International Convention. A highlight of the week was an impromptu dinner attended by 25 chapter and family members.

More than 80 southeastern Arizona barbershoppers and their families attended the annual Green Valley Picnic on Aug. 9. The affair is hosted by **Dick** and **Marian Shuman**. Lots of singing preceded a hot-dog feed and potluck supper, and then the group was entertained by the **Tucson Sunshine Chorus**, the **Cochise Chordsmen** from Sierra Vista, and the **Green Valley Aires**.

The **Sunshine Chorus**, along with **Tucson Goodtime Singers** (Sweet Adelines) and several top quartets entertained at the Sept. 12 fund-raiser show for the ReMix Sweet Adelines quartet from Sweden.

About 30 Sunshine Chorus members sang at a memorial service for **Jack Hill**, a former chapter member, on July 14.

WHITE MOUNTAINS CHAPTER

DOC DOCKENDORF

Our co-directors, **Doc Dockendorf** and **Steve Dygert**, attended Directors College in August. It was Steve's first time at HC/DC, so he had to wear a red beanie, which looked amusing on a music teacher with his Master's in Music degree and so many years teaching and playing in big bands. He was a great sport about it and thoroughly enjoyed the school. The chapter sang at the annual Blue Ridge High School Talent Show in September under the direction of **Steve Dygert** and assistant director **Jim Murphy**. We elected **Bob Cutlipp** as president for his second term, with **Dan Lewis** as Membership VP, **John Welker** as Treasurer, **Steve Countryman** as Secretary and **Steve Dygert** as Music VP. We plan to have the entire list of officers at COTS in November.

Our 2004 show theme will be the "Remember Radio" package. We have started learning 10 new songs for it. The show will be held Saturday, July 10, at the Blue Ridge High School Auditorium. We plan to have **The Aliens** on the show, with **Chuck Olson** reprising his original role from Harmony College as the sound effects man. We hope to see many of the members of the Arizona/SoNev/SoUtah Division attending this show. We are about the only show held in the summertime, which is our main tourist season in the White Mountains of Arizona. The **Pine Tones** quartet sang at the Navopache Electric annual meeting and at the Pine Shadows RV Park season-ending dinner. They were well received by both audiences.

YUMA

ROB BAILEY

The **Desert Sunset Chorus** is back to full activity after the summer hiatus. Several new songs have been added to the show package. Along with some old favorites, this season's show should be better than ever. There are still plenty of vacancies in all voice parts, so visitors are always welcome. Why not come down and spend a harmonious winter with us?

After attending Harmony College West, Yuma's quartet, **UnFourGettable Arizona Sun Dried Water Company**, came back with heightened enthusiasm after a great weekend in Hayward. They express their thanks to all the fine coaches and superb staff for a fine learning experience. By the way, if you

haven't heard UnFourGettable's bit about summers in Arizona, it's worth a trip to Yuma to hear it. Join the Yuma chapter at 7 p.m. Tuesday evenings in the Kofa High School choir room.

EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA!!!

SUMMER BASH: A GREAT TIME HAD BY ALL

Barbershoppers from the Arizona/Southern Nevada/Southern Utah Division had a fine weekend of golf and singing, and also raised more than \$700 for the Youth Harmony program at the annual Summer Bash. It was held once again at the Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort in Scottsdale on Aug. 22 and 23.

On Friday night, a good crowd turned out for the Parade of Quartets and contributed \$716 for the youth program. Thanks to **Bill Kane**, who lined up the quartets, and **Jerry McElfresh**, who served as emcee.

Despite the sultry monsoon weather, 16 hardy players turned out for the annual golf tournament on Saturday morning. **Steve Schneck** of the **Phoenicians** took home the green jacket and a \$25 gift certificate for first place. He also won for closest to the pin on the 18th hole. **Charlie Nardin** earned a \$20 gift certificate for second place, and **Don Salz** a \$10 certificate for third place. **Bob Szabo** won an award for the least putts.

Saturday night's dinner was again excellent, one of the big reasons why we keep returning to the Holiday Inn SunSpree each year. It was followed by a comedy quartet contest and a luck-of-the-draw impromptu quartet contest. The contests were ably judged by the **Sounds Glorious** quartet.

The **Desert Blazers** (the **Desert Knights** with **Paul Ludwig** in place of **Lloyd Steinkamp**) ran away with the comedy contest. The second-place quartet was **Sweet Harmony**, four young men from Bisbee High School. Their founder and bass is **Nick Germaine** from the Sierra Vista Chapter. They also were presented with a \$500 check for their school music program, part of the proceeds from the Mesa Chapter's show last spring that raised \$4,800 for youth harmony programs.

Ten quartets competed in the luck-of-the-draw contest. The last quartet to sing, No. 10, was judged the winner. Members were **Roger Morrow**, tenor; **Jay Ayres**, lead; **Wayne Lohmeier**, baritone; and **Dick Shuman**, bass. Morrow also was the tenor of the second-place quartet, No. 5, joined by **Jeremy Hebner**, **Sam Aramian** and **Rich Kates**.

A big round of thanks goes to **Fred Koch**, who each year organizes the Bash, and **Joe Salz**, who runs the golf tournament.

COTS November 15-16 in Los Angeles

Contact Bernard Priceman

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bernard@thepricemanteam.com

HELP WANTED

Wanted! Alive and well

The Far Western District has a need for Multi-media LCD projectors to use at COTS, Harmony College West, and at our conventions. As our society moves more and more into electronic communication, we have more needs to show videos or computer images to large groups.

If you have such a projector going unused, would you consider donating it to our district? We will provide a receipt for tax purposes.

If you can help us, please contact
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Be sure to clearly state your name, address and membership number. We're also working on a method for you to exercise this option on the FWD Website.

Just go to the FWD Webpage <http://spebsqsafwd.org>, click on the Westunes/Westags name in the left hand column, click on the issue in the new screen, and it downloads. The new issue is usually available by the 15th of the month preceding publication.



Competing Choruses in the Far Western District Fall Final Contest, Bakersfield, October 4, 2004
Listed in order of finish.

CONVENTIONS, SHOWS, EVENTS
2003

Nov 1 Placerville Show
1 Santa Barbara Show
2 Marin Show
2 Tucson Show
8 Palo Alto/Mountain View Show
8 Laguna Hills Show
9 Tucson Show
12-16 Harmony Inc Int'l
Convention, Nova Scotia
15-16 COTS, LAX Hilton
22 Monterrey Peninsula Show
30 Palamar Pacific Show

Dec 5-6 Fullerton Show
7 Palamar Pacific Show
13 Walnut Creek Show
13 Santa Rosa Show
13 Sante Fe Springs Show
19-20 Whittier Show

2004

Jan 25-Feb 1 INTERNATIONAL
MIDWINTER
Biloxi, MS

Feb 21-22 Rincon & Conejo Valley V.S.
Benefit [T]

Mar 18-21 FWD Spring Convention
& NCE Division Contest
Reno
Apr 2-3 NCW Div Contest, San Jose
10 Fullerton Show
16-17 A/SN/SU Div Contest,
Phoenix
17 Palomar Pacific Show
24 Placerville Show
24 Whittier Show
25 Rincon Beach Show[T]

May 1 Santa Fe Springs Show
2 Palo Alto Show
8 SCE Div Contest, site TBD
8 Crescenta Valley Show
8 Santa Rosa Show
15 SCW Div Contest, site TBD
22 Bay Area Metro Show

Jun 27-Jul 4 INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION
Louisville, KY

Sep 30-Oct 3
FWD Fall Convention
Bakersfield [District run]

Dec 8 Crescenta Valley Show

2005

Mar 17-20 FWD Spring Convention
& SCW Division Contest
Burbank

May 7 Santa Rosa Show

Jul 3-10 INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION Salt Lake City, UT

Oct 13-16 FWD Fall Convention
Pasadena

2006

Mar 16-19 FWD Spring Convention
& NCE Division Contest
Reno

Jul 2-9 INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION Indianapolis, IN

Oct 12-15 FWD Fall Convention
San Jose

2007

Mar 15-18 FWD Spring Convention
& NCE Division Contest
Reno

Jul 1-8 INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION Denver, CO



Warren Wong photo

WESTUNES

Magazine

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