



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 54

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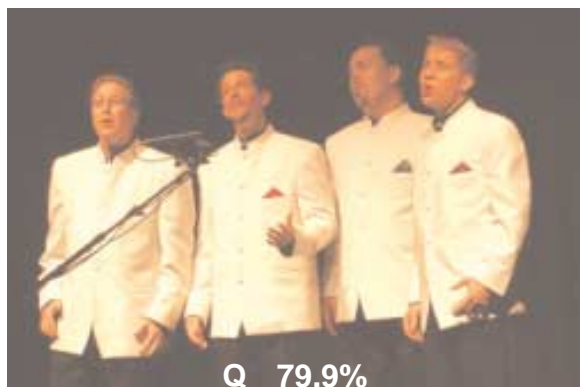
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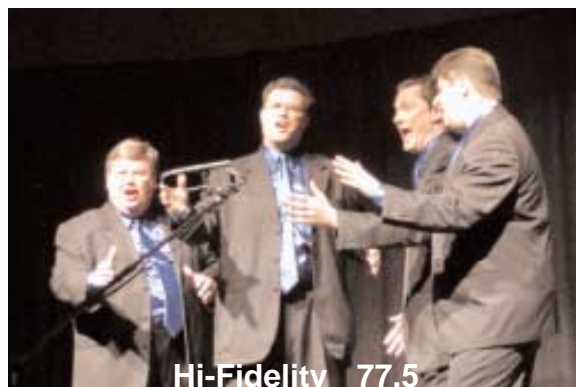
GOTCHA! 89.1%



Metropolis 86.9%



Q 79.9%



Hi-Fidelity 77.5

GOTCHA!, Metropolis, Q and Hi-Fidelity Qualify for Louisville



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Beautiful Weekend in Reno

What a wonderful convention we had in Reno! The FWD International Prelims, combined with the Northern California East and Northern Nevada Division over the weekend of March 19 and 20 was a great success. Congratulations to all the wonderful performers who were on stage and especially to those who move on to the next level of competition.

Representing the FWD in Louisville will be **Gotcha!**, **Metropolis**, **Q** and **High Fidelity**. **Finale** and **Broadway** were granted permission to sing in other districts. Our other representatives from 2003, **Late Night Barbershop**, **Sam's Club**, and **Freestyle** did not compete. Moving on to competition in the fall in Bakersfield were **WhirlWind**, the **Reno Silver Dollar Chorus**, the **Fresno Gold Note Chorus**, **North Valley Sound of the Foothills**, the **Sacramento Capitolaire**s and the **Central California Golden Valley Chorus**. Congratulation to them all!

Convention

The FWD has many people to thank for making our conventions more than just competitions. **Sam Barger** and his team did a remarkable job in running the convention from registration to the convention's close. Thanks also to **Keith Eckhardt** for the wonderful work he is doing in bringing singing back to our gatherings.

Representing the Society at the convention was our *Society President*, **Rob Hopkins**. Rob was very active during the convention, hosting a Q&A on Saturday morning, singing in the Joe Barbershopper Chorus, judging the High School Quartet Contest with **Gotcha!** and **Metropolis** and doing the MC work on the quartet finals. He and **Mike Lanctot**, our shared district *Society Board Member* from the *Evergreen District*, help make the convention the rousing affair it was.

High School Contest

Although the High School Contest did not have as many competitors as it has seen in years past, it was nevertheless a humdinger. Four quartets were entered. Winning the contest was a group of fellows from **Green Valley High School** sponsored by the **Las Vegas Metro** chapter. If your chapter hasn't sponsored a high school quartet contest yet, you don't know what you are missing.

Awards

Congratulations to **Deane and Ellie Scoville**. Dean was awarded the *President's Award* by Immediate Past President **John Krizek** and was also inducted into the *Far Western District Hall of Fame*. His wonderful wife Ellie was honored on stage as well. It was a wonderful moment. Congratulations also to the **Placerville Chapter**, named *Chapter of the Year* by Immediate Past President Krizek. Chapter President, spark plug and district leader **Keith Eckhardt** accepted the award on behalf of his chapter.

Convention honoree **Stan French** was also honored during the Show of Champions. Stan and his family were honored during the weekend for Stan's many years of dedication to our wonderful hobby. A more deserving barbershopper would be hard to find. Congratulations and best wishes, Stan!

Meetings

At each of our conventions we have meetings and this convention was no exception. Your board of directors took a couple of actions that you can read about elsewhere in *Westunes*, but I wanted to call a study we received to your attention. The district is studying a proposal to revamp the plateau system. **Steve Sammonds**, chairman of the *Long Range Planning Committee* presented a report. You may recall that in the past we have written about a number of alternatives to the present system. We expect a recommendation will be made to the House of Delegates in the fall to change this system entirely. Change, when it represents growth, is a welcome thing. We are not in

favor of change for the sake of change, but growth is what we are all about. If you have any ideas how the district leadership can help our members get more fun out of our hobby, we would like to hear from you.

Louisville

Are you going to Louisville? If you are not planning on it yet, please consider going. International Conventions are a blast! Not only will we have at least four quartets (and probably six) representing

us, the chorus from the **Westminster Chapter** will be competing in the chorus contest.

That's not all. The fun starts on Tuesday when the Harmony Foundation presents the **Swingle Singers**, **Four Voices** and the **Voices of Lee**. On Wednesday the Quartet Contest begins with the quarterfinals. On Thursday there are the World Harmony Jamboree and the AIC Show. The MBNA college quartet contest is held on Friday afternoon and the International Quartet Contest semi finals are held on Friday night. Saturday is devoted to the Chorus contest and the Quartet finals. It is truly a wonderful week and you should be a part of it. Southwest flies to Louisville from Los Angeles, among other airports in the FWD, and if you book early you can get one of their promotional fares. Think about it. It promises to be a great convention and I'd like you to be there!

Motto:
**"Keep a
Melody
Ringin in
Your Heart."**



SCOVILLE INDUCTED TO FWD HALL OF FAME

Saturday, March 20, 2004 is a day that Deane Scoville will never forget. On that date he was inducted into the Far Western District Hall Of Fame. It is an understatement to say that he was shocked. Actually, he was almost speechless.

To reach the pinnacle of becoming a member of the HOF, you must be voted in by the current members, which is no easy task. Each of the past Hall Of Famers that are present at the FWD spring convention reads a segment of a prepared biography of the “new” guy coming in. Sooner or later the new honoree figures it out that he has been chosen to be a member of the HOF and he immediately goes into some sort of an emotional shock. What follows is the wording that was shared by the Hall Of Fame members when Deane was installed as a new member in Reno, Nevada.

“The objective of the Far Western District Hall Of Fame Award is to honor the all-time ‘greats’ of the District, the individuals who have unselfishly, and with dedication and devotion, performed through the years the highest degree of service to the District. (At this point, Joe Salz introduced past Hall Of Famers who were in attendance at the convention, followed by each man reading a portion of Deane’s biography)

Our Hall Of Fame winner grew up in a family that gathered around the piano every Sunday afternoon and sang together. His Father seemed to know the words to an endless number of songs.

During his junior and senior years in high school, the glee club director encouraged him to sing in a barbershop octet. They earned an ‘A’ rating in the state contest both years.

World War II saw our honoree serving as a U. S. Marine...Still harmonizing whenever he had the chance and could find three ‘good men’.

After the war, he was busy earning a living and supporting his family. His singing was limited to his church choir and Sundays ‘round the piano’.

In 1976, he joined the South Bay Chapter and almost immediately, he was in his first registered quartet, ‘The Editorial Staff’.

That was the first of seven quartets that our Hall Of Famer enjoyed. A later foursome, ‘The Rusty Roosters’ were the first Far Western District Super-Senior Quartet Champions in 1996. When the ‘Roosters’ retired to the barn, our honoree decided to switch from baritone to lead (More fitting for a President). He’s still bending the chords with ‘ALL THE PRESIDENTS MEN’.

He has held membership in three chapters: South Bay, Santa Fe Springs and Fullerton, serving as President in South Bay and Fullerton.

He has received the Barbershopper Of The Year Award as well as being named the Barbershopper of the Eighties...But we don’t know if that was for activities in that decade or his age.

He has received the FWD President’s Award twice, the second this weekend which included his wife for their combined contributions.

On the District level, he has served an Area Counselor, Youth Activities Committee Member, Events Committee Member, District Vice-President, District Music Educator, District President and Immediate Past President.

Our Hall Of Famer continues to give of his time and talents and is currently serving the Far Western District as Chairman of the Nominating Committee. Our Hall Of Fame winner has done much to foster, improve and maintain the membership’s enjoyment of our District’s Events and Musical weekends. Today, our conventions and educational seminars are still the best attended in the Society. His successes over these many years, aided by his attention to detail and devotion to the basic principles of harmony, have made him the obvious selection for the Far Western District Hall Of Fame. Ladies and gentlemen... Our Hall Of Fame winner for 2003 – Mr. Deane Scoville!

FWD Honors Stan French



For the past twelve years the Far Western District has dedicated its spring and fall conventions to deserving members for past accomplishments. The FWD Awards Committee, currently chaired by Lloyd Steinkamp and ably assisted by Lynn Brittan and Don McAvoy, bestows this honor upon members who fit this category. These three gentlemen solicit assistance from many other long-time barbershoppers to make their selection of the honoree. The individual recipients of this honor range from men who have been International Society Presidents to some that you might describe as “Joe Barbershopper”.

The 2004 spring convention was dedicated to long-time Fullerton Chapter member, Stan French. He certainly fits the category of “Joe Barbershopper” for the many things he has accomplished as an ordinary guy that goes the extra mile to help his fellow barbershoppers along the way. One of his treasured trophies is inscribed: “*Stan (The Man) French – Mister Harmony For Lunch Bunch Of The Millennium.*”

The Far Western District is fortunate to have Stan French among its members as a true “giver” in all ways, and recognized his considerable contributions during the 2004 Spring Convention.

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Wow, what a convention Nevada Sam and his team put together in Reno. And kudos to Keith Eckhardt for his organizing all those participatory activities involving *SINGING*. Special thanks go to all of you who attended. Without you there would have been no convention.

Before the convention, I was certain we would be selecting more than four FWD quartet representatives in Louisville at this venue. It reminds me of 28 years ago when the number of competitors from each District was based on the number of members in each District and the FWD got to send only four. I was in number five. But there was some glory in that. In those days the alternate quartet from the District hosting International got to be the mic-testers, and, since the Convention was held in San Francisco, we had the pleasure of mic-testing the AIC show and the opening session of the contest. Today, with the point system, we still have the definite possibility of sending two more when Finale and Broadway compete in other Districts.

The first meeting of your new BOD under the new governance set up went smoothly. It's an honor for me to serve with these fine men. Our new organization is being watched by the entire Society, as we are a year ahead of Most Districts with this structure we've championed. The number of e-mails and conference phone calls involving FWD input has been staggering.

As mentioned last month, our FWD CSLT cadre has expanded so that we now average only three chapters per Counselor. While in Reno, two more men agreed to come on board. This has allowed me to shift some of the assignments to spread the responsibilities more evenly. So you may soon discover a different Counselor on your team. We need another dozen guys to get down to two chapters per Counselor. Come on in, the water's fine.

As Chapter Counselors, we've adopted our own mission statement. It's not original but it fits. We "borrowed" it from recent OSH Division of Sears TV commercials. *"The answers are out there. We'll help you find them."*

Please, get us involved.

**FWD Fall Convention in Bakersfield
September 30-October 3, 2004
Let's Get Our Conventions Singing Again
Come Join in the FUN!**

Fun at Bakersfield?

Yes, definitely! Our Fall District Convention activity plans are not fully in place, but in addition to our exciting contests we expect to have the following:

- Jumpstart Barbershop Thursday evening (impromptu quartet contest. The source of our silly hats at Reno.)
- Community Sing (group woodshed)
- Audience sing (barbershop songs we all know)
- Woodshed Quartet Contest with audience doing the judging
- Recording Studio (\$25 YMIH benefit) Sign your quartet up to record two songs on a CD for remote coaching or quartet promotion
- Classes (How to be a better T/L/Br/Bs, Voice Clinic, Tag singing, Woodshed)
- Sing with the Champs (YMIH benefit)
- Comedy show (YMIH benefit)
- Something for youth??? We're looking for ideas.
- Harmony For Lunch Bunch, Friday noon
- Joe Barbershopper Mic Tester Chorus

We'll start the convention fun on Thursday night again. We had 45+ people present for this "relaxed rules" quartet contest. All the contestants received Cat In The Hat hats, which many wore all weekend. (Casey Parker says he TREASURES his hat.) In Bakersfield while the pickup quartets practice their songs we'll add a community sing for the audience.

The classes at Reno were very well received and we'll continue to provide useful training and fun group singing. See your next Westunes for the details. We'll probably have even more activities to consider.

If you think that FWD conventions are just contests, you haven't been for a while. If you don't remember much "hallway singing" at our conventions, you haven't been for a while. The Far Western District is getting national attention for having really fun conventions. It's the place to be. Get your reservations in now for a weekend of fun!

Get Our Conventions Singing Again Task Force

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Int'l Prelims and NCalENorNevada Division contests were combined. Some Quartets competed in IP, some competed in NCENN, and some both, hence the unusual identification of finish, e.g., Whirlwind was 8th in IP and 1st in NCENN. If you didn't/don't like a combined contest, then get your chapter to host your Division contest. Contact Events Chair "Nevada" Sam Barger for details.



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Director of the Future

This may be what you've been waiting for! For all of you who've wondered what it would be like to be in front of a chorus and create beautiful music, but didn't know how to get started.....this is for YOU. This program is designed for all aspiring directors. Here is a preview of what to expect if you attend this class that will be offered at Harmony College West. HCW will be held at the University of Redlands July 16 – 18. The class will be limited to the 1st 20 students who enroll.

1) WHAT THEY SEE IS WHAT YOU GET

- a. Basic directing patterns
- b. Posture
- c. Directing pick-ups and cutoffs

2) ON BEING A LEADER

- a. Search for opportunities
- b. Experiment and take risks
- c. Envision the future
- d. Enlist others
- e. Foster collaboration
- f. Strengthen others
- g. Set the example
- h. Plan small wins
- i. Recognize individual contributions
- j. Celebrate accomplishments

3) ON BEING A VOCAL COACH

- a. Sound Management Program
- b. Develop and Use a system-the goal of the system
- c. Body alignment
- d. Acquiring air and breath support
- e. Resonance
- f. Vowels
- g. Intonation
- h. Legato flow
- i. Volume relationships
- j. Written excerpts from the Greg Lyne video

4) ELEMENTS OF THE WARM-UP

- a. mental/physical readiness
- b. sound management program
- c. on to the rehearsal

5) DIRECTING OPPORTUNITIES



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A few thoughts from the DACJC “Not with a bang, but a whimper”

When T.S. Eliot wrote the poem “*The Hollow Men*” in 1925 he didn't intend that the closing line reflect the 2004 FWD International Prelims, but that is precisely what did occur. The usual bang of our Prelims historically resulted in 6 to 8 quartets qualifying for the International Contest. In the same manner a Division contest generally produces 3 to 5 quartets that qualify for the fall District competition. This year there were whimpers galore in Reno, with 4 quartets qualifying for Louisville and 1 for Bakersfield.

To be certain there were a number of past qualifiers that have opted out of competition this year, and Freestyle, Sams' Club, and Late Night Barbershop were noticeable by their absence. Two potential qualifiers will be competing in other districts, so it is possible the FWD might wind up qualifying 6 by score.

But what about the Division qualifiers? The total number of quartets entered was much lower than usual in the Division bracket, perhaps because of the intimidation factor, since obviously the Prelims attracts many of the heavy-hitters in the district, including past champions. Irrespective of the small number of entries, was there something amiss with the scores themselves?

In the days following the contest there was a major flurry of e-mails and private conversations that basically looked at two different factors regarding the contest. One was whether the scoring was consistent between judges, and if not why a single judge could apparently consistently score below the others on the panel and as a result prevent an apparently well-qualified group from qualifying. The second thread of conversation had to do with whether quartets that missed qualifying for the District contest should be provided with the opportunity to compete in subsequent Division contests during the same cycle in an effort to reach the magic number.

A third thread that didn't really develop very far related to the rationale for combining a Division and Prelim contest. Those opposed to the idea felt that the disparity between the caliber of the two competing groups is so great that there was possibly a negative impact on the scoring range utilized by the judges for both of them.

This does place clear focus on a conundrum that is going to be discussed at length and in great depth by the District Board when they next meet in June. The financial reality of declining attendance, hence revenues, at both Division and the Prelims and Fall contests might possibly be somewhat alleviated by eliminating

the rather considerable costs of an entire judging panel. Whether that proved to be the case this year is unknown at this time, but it will certainly be looked at carefully by the Board. More important, however, is whether a proposal to allow quartets more than one chance to qualify for the District competition is logical, fair and appropriate.

Quartets compete to represent their District at the International contest, and they are provided with one opportunity to score the requisite points. In like manner, quartets compete to represent their Division at the fall contest. Is this a fair comparison? What should we do in the future? That will be debated and argued between now and June, and hopefully at that time a decision governing future contests will be reached.



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Barbershop Goes Retail

Whiles attending a training meeting in Racine I was exposed to a very exciting Barbershop marketing idea. Dixie District M&PR VP Frank Cristina shared this success story and I had to pass it on. [Excerpts Taken from the Dixie Rebel Rouser Story, August- September 2003 by Frank Cristina] "How many times have barbershoppers heard from a guest: I wish I had known about this 20 years ago."

Unfortunately our 'secret society' does suffer from a huge lack of public knowledge and exposure. "We usually meet in church basements, back rooms, and other out of the way locations," Cristina pointed out. The public only sees us when we come out of our hiding places for a sing outs or annual shows. Seldom do chapters have simple tools like invitation cards for their members to give to interested prospects or do chapters place ads in papers or phone directories.

"There is a change in the wind." Frank continued. He explained how several Dixie District Chapters have found a very exciting way to rehearse and gain fantastic exposure to the public at the same time. The change, he said, is: "Going Retail."

His chapter, the Music City Chorus, took a bold step last year and moved into a vacant retail store in a local mall. They share the cost of the rehearsal hall with a Sweet Ad chapter who meets on another night. This unique idea is a win, win, win for everyone involved.

"In most malls there are lots of vacant stores that could be your next rehearsal hall," Frank noted. "Many mall operators would be happy to have a barbershop group when they consider the benefits of increased traffic, new attraction for regular patrons, removing the blight of a vacant store and the potential for media attention. They are usually willing to work out an attractive rental price for a non-profit group and the mall operator gets the benefit of a tax right-off too," Frank smiled.

When you examine the Dixie idea you see some other great marketing side benefits.

- Direct exposure to public with no added costs.
- Great Recruitment tool for walk in guests.
- Store Front windows Marketing Shows
- Quartet Marketing Display Site.
- YMIH – Malls are a Mecca for teenagers.

Frank named five chapters in the district that have found this a great approach. He knows of several more who are currently shopping the malls (no pun intended)

Frank is very excited about this concept and is tracking it closely. He invites you to contact him by e-mail at FMCBICS@aol.com with any questions you may have or success stories you can share.



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Membership Matters Assimilation Assists Retention

I've heard it said that there is no such thing as a new idea. As I was preparing to write this column for *Westunes* I received an email that gave me cause to rethink the thoughts that I was about to commit to words.

With your indulgence I am going to borrow generously from the document I received. It stresses the fact that success in new hires depends heavily on the ability to provide the highest possible level of assimilation to new members of your team or chorus or chapter.

Here's the way it too frequently happens when a new member joins one of our chapters. The *Membership Development V. P.* warmly greets you. He then takes your check. The music librarian gives you a stack of music and maybe a learning tape or two. You are voice tested for placement. Better hope the Chapter isn't short of baritones, for you're likely to end up there. In most cases you are assigned to the lead section because it's "easier to sing melody". Several weeks go by and you are given a membership card and a certificate "*suitable for framing*", not framed.

What happened to the warmth you felt that first night when it seemed that everyone in the room wanted to shake your hand and a few actually acted like they wanted to be your buddy. One of them mentioned something about a "*Man of Note*".

Now you come to the meeting and before the singing starts, and during the break, everyone is busy talking to their real buddies and the director doesn't seem to have the time to listen to your questions and concerns. You've decided that you would really rather be singing Bass but no one seems to care.

You see, **assimilation** is really a two-way street. Try as you may to become part of the inner circle, the "team", if those around you don't do their part you are likely to feel left out and become discouraged.

Before you know it you get a membership renewal notice in the mail. You ask yourself a very important question, "Do I really feel like I'm an important part of this group. Am I having fun?" If **assimilation** never took place, the answer is likely to be **NO** on both counts. Your feelings are confirmed when after missing three or four meetings no one calls to see what's wrong.

Your renewal dues never get paid and you have a kind of empty feeling about the whole experience. But, you'll get over it. After all, there are those other hobbies that you've always wanted to take up.

When you think of retention, consider assimilation.



Chair: Music & Performance

Jerry Fairchild

671 W Cypress Ave
Redlands, CA 92373-5817
909-792-8618
mjfair@empirenet.com

What a pleasure it is to be able to offer help to any Barbershopper in the Far Western district in the areas of Music and Performance. [I guess that's why they call it the Music and Performance Committee!]

Coming soon!! **HARMONY COLLEGE WEST!** July 16-18, at the University of Redlands. If you sing in a quartet and you really want to sing better, look better, and entertain better, then make sure your quartet registers for one of the limited number of quartet coaching spots available. Every quartet will receive individual coaching on just those things your quartet needs to work on. You decide what the coaches help you with. By the way, **Four Voices** and **Hi-Fidelity** will be among the coaches. For those of you who want to expand beyond or in addition to quarteting, there will be classes in "*Director of the Future*" with Jim Turnmire, "*Emcee Seminar*" conducted by our own star emcee Terry Aramian, and "*Barbershop Arranging*" taught by Society arranger Dave Briner!

There is something for everyone - "*Music Reading Seminar*", "*Woodshedding/Tag Singing*" [we need more of that!], "*Vocal Production*" with Dr. Rene Torres and Craig Ewing of Hi-Fidelity, "*Grant Writing Seminar*" with Michael Frazer, "*Young Men In Harmony Seminar*" with Mark Freedkin [Masters of Harmony], and "*Chapter/Quartet Web Site Construction and Administration*". After all this, some lucky students at HCW will get to "*SING WITH THE CHAMPS!*" during one of the Saturday afternoon sessions.

The Saturday Night Show will feature the 2002 International Champions **Four Voices** and our own FWD 2002/2003 Silver Medalists "**Hi-Fidelity**", and all our HCW Quartets. Tickets will be available to the general public for \$10. What a great show it will be!

Another area where the Music and Performance Committee can help YOUR chapter improve is the program I have called *S.I.N.G.* That is the acronym for Singing Improvement Now Guaranteed. We have assembled a group of highly qualified barbershoppers who have "been there and done that" and now have volunteered to help your chapter chorus improve. Just write or email and let me know you want to *S.I.N.G.* I'll send a list of those veteran barbershoppers who live in your Division. Contact whomever you choose. Arrange a suitable date and get ready to *S.I.N.G.* The Mu&P Committee has a budget to help defray some of the costs - maybe all of them. The district will reimburse your chapter 50% [correction - I said 100% last issue of Westunes] of the verified expenses [not fees] incurred by your coach, up to a maximum of \$150 per year. What a great opportunity to have a knowledgeable Barbershopper come to you to help improve just those things your chapter needs!

FOR QUARTET MEN - FREE! Your quartet can have a member of one of the marvelous FWD Champion Quartets coach your quartet for **FREE!** The name of this wonderful program, as you already know, is *Champs Assistance Program*, or *CAP*. The man who is in charge again this year is Stan Sharpe. He has a new email address - VocalTeacher@msn.com - and a new phone number - 714-970-7306. Call him for Championship help!

What do you get at the end of your chapter show or quartet program? NO, not a beer. That comes later. Of course you want a *Standing Ovation*. Lloyd Steinkamp, one whom no one has had more, has written and is chairman of the *Standing Ovation Program*. You can request a certified reviewer for a Chapter show or other performance. His review will be shared with the chapter and will remain with the chapter. And it's **FREE** from the FWD. More details later.

With all these great services and educational programs offered by the FWD, there is no excuse for you, your quartet, and/or your chapter to miss out on all the ways you can get better and get more fun out of Barbershopping.



4 Old Times Sake



**Senior Quartet Champs
Far Western District 2001**

**Jerry Fairchild
Jim McKee
Bruce Maxey
Ron Criswell**

909-792-8818
email: mjfair@empirenet.com



Chair : Young Men In Harmony
John Krizek
 13615 Debby Street
 Van Nuys, CA 91401
 818-785-0498
 E: jkrizek@aol.com

Youth Harmony Camp Video – A Great New YMIH Tool

The District's new Youth Harmony Camp video was greeted with a "Standing O" following its premier at the House of Delegates meeting in Reno in March. Professionally filmed at the NorCal camp last September, the 16-minute video has been getting rave reviews. It includes interviews with several campers, faculty quartets Metropolis and Q, and performances by the 95-voice student chorus.

Sue Peppers, head of the television production firm who led the creative effort, is the mother of a former teenage member of the Placerville chapter—which may have contributed to the enthusiasm that went into two cameras shooting 13 hours of tape! Special thanks are due also to Lawrence Stern of the Santa Cruz chapter, who stimulated the idea in the first place, and has doggedly handled all the details of permission forms, music licenses, etc.

Chapters are encouraged to acquire as many copies of the video as they have schools and teachers they may be working with in their areas. The charge to barbershoppers is \$10 per copy, to help replenish the FWD Youth Education Fund, which advanced the money to make the video. They are to be given free to teachers and schools. Individual orders can be sent to me, with checks made out to the Fund, and should include \$3 for shipping. Check the District YMIH web page for additional details.

Youth Camp chairman Richard Lund of the Placerville Chapter is already at work planning the 2004 camp, which will be held at the same location in Pollack Pines, CA. The dates will be September 17-19. Make plans now!

Las Vegas Quartets Sweep HSQ

The Burninators, representing Green Valley High School in Las Vegas, won the first place trophy in the 14th annual FWD High School Quartet Contest in Reno. Finishing second was Let It Ride, from Las Vegas Academy. Third was Namesake, representing Koinonia Christian School in Fresno; in fourth place was B Sharp, representing Temecula Valley High School in Temecula. The students received \$1,400 in total cash awards for their school music programs.

Festivals, Anyone?

Youth Harmony festivals hosted by the Aloha, Conejo Valley, Rincon Beach, and Santa Fe Springs chapters—and by the time you read this, the Mesa, AZ chapter—are providing hundreds of young men with their first taste of barbershop. Hopefully they are reported elsewhere. Any chapters interested in hosting such

an event now have a deep well of experience to draw upon!

The Tucson chapter conducted another kind of festival for middle-school students, using the Society-sponsored "Get America Singing . . . Again" program and the songbooks obtained from the Society. Area YMIH coordinator Ron Hayes reported 152 students, six teachers and assorted barbershoppers had such a grand time the program will undoubtedly be repeated. The Marin chapter conducted a similar program last year. Visiting schools, donating the songbooks, and demonstrating the fun of group singing is something many more chapters could be doing.

It's Working

Rick Spencer, Society Music Specialist and staff YMIH coordinator, sent me the following note:

"I just returned from the ACDA (American Choral Directors Association) Western Division conference in Las Vegas . . . I must tell you of the many, many music educators I met that have nothing but positive things to say about what the California barbershoppers are doing for them and their students. I met teachers who were at the SoCal festival last week-end, teachers who had students at the harmony camp, etc. ALL of them were so impressed by the efforts being made by barbershoppers in their area.

"I am writing this to you so you can share with your fellow district YMIH guys, that the program IS working in California. There is no better proof than those words from the music educators involved. Thank you John, and the rest of the FWD team, for your efforts."

I'm smiling. I hope you are too.

Support the FWD Youth Education Fund



1998 International Champions
Revival
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 www.revivalqt.com

FWD Fall Convention in Bakersfield
September 30-October 3, 2004
Let's Get Our Conventions Singing Again
Come Join in the FUN!



VP - Financial Development
Harmony Foundation
Robb Ollett
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 707-769-8528 E: ollettjr@aol.com

Not only "preserve and encourage" but also "perpetuate"

Of course, we all know the name of this organization! Right there in the middle is "preservation and encouragement." And even after months of Tuesday night chapter meetings, so many performances, annual shows, you still ask yourself "how can I make sure others will have this...forever?" It's easier than you think.

You're probably aware that *Harmony Foundation* has a special Endowment program named the *Founders Club*. You'll see several people with yellow ribbons on their name badges, demonstrating their long-term financial commitment to the Foundation. (And we appreciate it!)

The Endowment is filled with bequests, life insurance, trust accounts...all long-term investments to ensure the Society programs live on when these investments mature. Much of what *Harmony Foundation* uses is "interest only" from the Endowment investments.

But what about today? As witnessed through the many youth music camps, we already know that our music spreads joy and hope among our next generation. How can we make sure those programs can live today?

Well, the Board of Trustees of Harmony Foundation created the "*President's Council*" to involve and deepen the passion and support by encouraging annual gifts of \$1,000 or more. Council membership is freely extended to individuals or couples who contribute each year.

Through this Council, not only will we provide funds needed to promote and carry out the Society's youth camps and similar events, but we will also have the opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to Barbershop Harmony in a way that encourages others to join us.

Every member of the President Council plays a vital role in improving the quality of experience and impact of the Society...TODAY! The Presidents Council program is already spreading throughout our Society and District leadership – and will soon spread as an opportunity for all.

So, join Jerri and me (and hundreds of others across the country!) in the President's Council. Go to www.harmonyfoundation.org and check out the benefits of President's Council membership.

SPECIAL POSTSCRIPT: Join **Michael Frazer at Harmony College West in Redlands, CA, on July 16-18** to learn about grant writing for your chapter!

Dick Cote Wins FWD DBC (Again!) Fullerton's Barbershop Clippin's Top FWD Bulletin.

For the seventh time in as many years, Fullerton's **Dick Cote**, Editor of the chapter bulletin *Barbershop Clippin's* has been named the top bulletin editor in the Far Western District Bulletin Contest (DBC).



His continuing prowess in 1998 and 2002 netted him the opportunity to be entered in the International Bulletin Contest---where he handily won the highest acclaim offered by PROBE (PR Officers and Bulletin Editors Organization), **The International Bulletin Editor Of The Year**. And, as a result of the PROBE rules, he has had to "lay out" for two successive years before he is permitted to enter that arena again. So, even though he has repeatedly won District Bulletin Contests---the next highest scoring FWD bulletin has had its chance at the gold!

In addition to Cote's award winning bulletin (1846.4 points), FWD was well represented in this DBC with the following being forwarded to the International judges for review:

Alan Swanson's *Swipes & Tags* (Sacramento Chapter) and **Mike Murphy's** *The Wave* (Rincon Beach Chapter) were entered in the "Large" bulletin (more than 6 pages). **Tom Ennis' Gold Standard** (Bay Area Metro Chapter) and **Frank Martin's Gold Rush Gazette** (Placerville) were entered in the "Small" (fewer than 6 pages)

The "**George Raymond Award**" for "large" bulletins donated by the **Ventura Chapter**, was returned to **Dick Cote** of the **Fullerton Chapter** for the seventh successive time.

The "**Gerald Bennet Award**" for "small" bulletins donated by the **San Luis Obispo Chapter**, went to Small Bulletin First Place winner, **Tom Ennis** of the **Bay Area Metro Chapter**.

The two top scoring bulletins (regardless of classification Large or Small) to be entered in the International Contest are:

Alan Swanson (Sacramento) *Swipes & Tags*
Tom Ennis (Bay Area Metro) *Gold Standard*

"Hard copy" bulletins in the District and the International Bulletin Contest [IBC] are judged by certified Bulletin Judges in *Content, Grammar & Style and Layout & Reproduction*. An International "On-Line" bulletin contest is being conducted this year for the first time with specialized scoring criteria.

The results of the IBC are made public during the PROBE meeting at the International Convention, this year at Louisville.



2003-4 FWD Quartet Champions

Q

Raymond Davis, Tenor

Q: As promised, this month we're shining the spotlight onto our lead singer, Robert Lenoil. Hello Robert.

Robert: Hey, can you turn down that light—it's blinding me! Okay, that's better. Hello.

Q: Sorry. First, your bio on the Q website mentions that you sang and acted as a child. Can you elaborate on that?

Robert: Well, before puberty I was overweight. The elementary school kids called me "Pignoil." When I was about eight my parents sent me to a summer camp which was mostly about athletics; after all, my six foot tall lanky cousin Jonathan liked it there. I quickly found the one way to get excused from all those activities—being in the camp play! Thus began my foray into musical theater. When I returned home my parents saw my proclivity for singing ("Jeez—get a look at the proclivity on that kid!") and started me on voice lessons. Even at that early age, my future talents (procrastination and failure to prepare) were in evidence. I started attending a performing arts summer camp, where I had lots of musical roles, as well as studying other performing arts like mime, magic, and clowning (I'll never forget the weekend when we performed as clowns at a local festival and I scared the daylights out of a young child—clowning around is harder than it looks, folks). When I was twelve, the camp's drama director opened the Manhattan Theater Workshop, where I went on Saturdays for classes in acting, mime & movement, and voice. My parents also got me a manager, and I went out on auditions for commercials, TV movies, and the like.

Q: Did you get any parts?

Robert: Not many. I shot a television commercial for the "Whataburger" chain, sang in an Alpha Bits voiceover, and modeled my knee for a Band-Aid photo shoot (really). I also apprenticed at a summer stock company in Dorset, Vermont, where I was in two musical productions.

I fared better non-professionally. Many New York City high schools had an annual competition called "Sing", where each grade would mount a full production with original script and

lyrics, costumes, dancing, and band accompaniment, and the performances would be judged and a winner chosen. Not unlike a chorus contest, now that I think about it. Anyway, I was script chairman twice, and won best actor every time.

Q: Were you a theater major in college?

Robert: As a level-headed young man, I decided that if I hadn't made it as an actor before college I was going to major in computer science, my other strength that had a much better likelihood of getting me a job besides being a waiter. I moved to Boston and attended MIT. Having by this time realized that I was a far better singer than actor, and also that singing rehearsals took dramatically less time than acting (yeah, pun intended), I auditioned for and joined the Logarithms, MIT's all-male a cappella group. I was a "Log" for four years and got to travel around the country doing shows at high schools and other universities, and once on television. It was without question the best time I had in college, and it also happened to be my first exposure to barbershop.

Q: When did you join the Barbershop Harmony Society?

Robert: After college I moved to northern California to work for Apple Computer. In my first year I found a poster for a local chapter of a singing organization I had never heard of, "spe-bzqwasuh." Despite the dumb name, I called the number on the poster and a few days later, Phil Debar returned my call and invited me to a chapter meeting. I was quickly hooked and joined the Peninsula chapter, now known as the Palo Alto-Mountain View chapter.

Q: And you've been a barbershopper ever since?

Robert: Actually, I took about nine years off, during which time I got an MBA, started a CD manufacturing company, performed for five years with ComedySportz (an improv show very much like the TV show *Whose Line Is It Anyway?*), performed the role of Tony in a local production of *West Side Story* (a dream come true), and got married (and divorced). I rejoined the Peninsulaires in 2000, and became their assistant director before moving to Placerville last year.

Q: Why the move?

Robert: Outstanding warrants. Just kidding! Actually, my company was caught up in the implosion of the Silicon Valley economy. I closed it and took the opportunity to make a fresh start with my girlfriend Ann in the rural area outside of Placerville, which is a very far cry from the Brooklyn row house of my youth.

Q: It also made Q possible, didn't it?

Robert: You bet! Knowing that Reno would be within driving distance of where we wanted to move (sort of) and that the rest of Q was looking for a lead, I hooked up with them. I don't know that I wouldn't have moved without having an international-caliber quartet lined up, but it certainly made it much easier for me to leave the Bay Area.

Q: Are you singing with the Placerville chorus?

Robert: I'm not—although I do drop in on them from time to time and are very happy they just won chapter of the year. They're a great bunch of guys, and I'm not just saying that because their director is the Westunes editor (and handsome and smart). Officially I'm still a Peninsulaire; they've been my chapter my entire barbershop career and unless I start singing with another chorus I'll maintain my affiliation with them.

Q: Any final remarks?

Robert: I'd just like to say how great it is to be in this hobby; to have found something I love, am good at, and am appreciated for. Now that I've found these three very talented guys to sing with, it feels like the sky's the limit. And one last thing...BUY Q's NEW CD! You can order it online at www.Qtet.net. It's also available through the Society's Harmony Marketplace.

Q: Thanks, Robert! Next issue, we'll interview our wily teenager, Cory Hunt. See you then! Q (Raymond, Robert, Cory, Mike)



• c/o 2206 Rockefeller Lane #3 • Redondo Beach, CA90278
Metropolis@harmonize.com <http://www.harmonize.com/metropolis>



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[BC continued from page 16]

and were sporting straw hats and fancy blazers. The audience went wild with anticipation but before they sang even a note they doffed the skimmers and flung them into the audience and then settled into their usual rooted stance. Later the C&J Chairman brought me one of the hats that had landed in the pit and written inside was the message 'Take this hat to Lloyd Steinkamp in the judges pit and collect a \$10 reward' - I still have the hat," giggled Lloyd.

Well the cream of the Far Western District turned out at the beautiful Orpheum Theater for the Pride of Phoenix evening show and I left the quartet dressing room and headed for my super, (thank you Bill Kane) third row center seats, and anxiously awaited the BC. I loved every minute of their performance and even though those incredible sustained phrases that always gave me goose bumps, were slightly tempered by a quarter century, their charisma and rapport with the audience was not. They got and deserved their standing ovation and they are still every bit my heroes.

CHAPTER COUNSELOR OF THE YEAR AWARD – GENE CLEMENTS

by Bernard Pricemand

Last year, for the first time in several years, the decision was made to revive the Chapter Counselor of the Year Award. Typically, the award is presented to the CC who has demonstrated that he has fulfilled the job of Counselor better than any of his colleagues. In one of my last jobs as FWD DVP for Chapter Support and Leadership Training, I had no hesitation in awarding the 2003 Chapter Counselor of the Year Award to Gene Clements.

Gene is currently assigned to four chapters – Fullerton, Irvine, Palomar Pacific and Westminster. For different reasons, each of the chapters required his assistance during the year and I know from the e-mails back and forth that Gene was there for each of them all the time. And in addition, without requests from the chapters, he guided them in many other ways and even provided artistic coaching to some of the chapters. Gene very clearly deserves his award and I was delighted to have been able to present it to him at a recent chapter meeting.

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



2003-4 FWD Chorus Champions Westminster

Sean Devine, President

What an amazing time we had on February 21 as the guest performers on the 4th annual *Masters of Harmony Youth Festival!* The event consisted of a day long clinic for over 250 young men from high schools throughout Southern California, culminating in a joint evening performance with the Masters. Our chapter quartet **O.C. Times** also appeared as the guest quartet, as well as clinicians for the day long workshop. Thanks to **Mark Freedkin** and the Masters for allowing us to be part of such an important and exciting event!

We were so proud to host the *43rd Annual Novice Quartet Contest* on March 13. As always the special handicap scoring system led to some fun results - and in the end it was Westminster's own **Mediochords** that seized 1st place. Our young new champs are made up of 3 high school seniors and a college freshman! Congrats to all of our fine quartet competitors - **Tenacious Q**, **Fuzzy Logic**, and the **Coastal Aires**. We also need to thank **Dick Girvin** for serving as contest administrator - **Royce Ferguson**, **Nick Papageorge**, and **Russ Adkisson** for judging - **Bernard Priceman** for being our emcee - **Lisle Leete** for sound - and our own **Phil Ridout** for making sure everything ran smoothly! It was a great night of music, and we're already looking forward to number 44!

Congratulations to our own **Cory Hunt** and his quartet **Q** - they recently qualified to compete at this year's International Quartet Contest. We'll be there cheering you on as you represent us and the FWD in Louisville!

We'll be sending our chapter quartet **O.C. Times** to be the featured performers at the *5th Annual Youth Benefit Barbershop Show* on April 16 in Phoenix, AZ. This great event goes along with the *AZ/SoUT/SoNV Division Contest* - and proceeds will benefit several Youth Harmony projects! For more information go to www.spebsqsfwd.org/Div5/convention.htm.

UPCOMING SHOWS! We'll be the guests of the **Fullerton Chapter** on their April 10 annual show-call (714) 680-3656, or check out <http://www.oechoorus.org/> for more info! Later that

month on April 25 we'll be appearing on the **Rincon Beach** spring show-for more details contact them at (800) 353-1632, RinconBeach@peachgrove.com, or <http://www.rinconbeach.org>. Thanks to the **San Diego Chapter** for staging a special fund raiser performance for us on Sunday, June 13. Along with Westminster, guest groups will include current FWD quartet champs **Q**, and FWD college champs **Four Score!** Please check out their website at www.sunharbor.org for more show information!

Our trip to the International Chorus Contest this July is fast approaching, and we can't wait! The Chapter would like to thank those of you who have helped us with donations and arranging fundraisers in your area. We are still looking for more opportunities to help offset the cost of getting 30 young performers to Louisville - please feel free to contact us with opportunities you see fit - WestminsterFWD@aol.com or (714) 290-6015.

Stay up to date with the Westminster Chorus online at www.harmonize.com/westminster.



FWD Fall Convention in Bakersfield
September 30-October 3, 2004
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2004 FAR WESTERN



DISTRICT SPEBSQSA

SOCAL EAST DIVISION CONVENTION

QUARTET AND CHORUS CONTESTS

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2004

Servite High School Auditorium

1952 West La Palma Avenue, Anaheim, California

Hosted by the Riverside Chapter



Headquarters Hotel: Anaheim Park Hotel (formerly Radisson Fullerton) 714-992-1700
222-West Houston Avenue, Fullerton, CA 92832 (only 2 miles from venue)

To register, complete the form below (or copy of it), attach your check made out to NewGang SCE-04, and send them to
Fritz Grunenwald, 26151 Kitt Ansett Drive, Sun City, CA 92586
Questions? Call (909) 679-7254 - Email: NewGangSCE@aol.com

FWD SPEBSQSA SOCAL EAST DIVISION CONVENTION/CONTESTS MAY 8, 2004

REGISTRATION FORM

Please type or print clearly.

NO RESERVED SEATING AVAILABLE

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Phone Res. (____) _____ Bus. (____) _____

- * Check here if you have a disability and may require accommodation in order to fully participate in the convention. You will be contacted to discuss your needs.

Competition Status (check one)

☐ Chorus Contestant ☐ Quartet Contestant
☐ Non-Competitive Member ☐ Guest

Quartet Name _____

Chapter / Chorus _____

Singing Part: ☐ Lead ☐ Tenor ☐ Bari ☐ Bass

Full Early Bird Registration Type (Check One)	Full Late/On Site Registration Type (Check One)	Single Events Registration Type (Check One)	Official Use Only
<input type="checkbox"/> Full\$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Child/Student\$10.00 EARLY BIRD CUT OFF April 8, 2004	<input type="checkbox"/> Full\$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Child/Student\$12.50 All Competitors Must have FULL Reg.	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat Chorus Contests\$15.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Sat. Quartet Finals/Show\$15.00 (SOLD ON SITE ONLY)	Date _____ Recd. # _____ Check # _____ Badge Code _____ Cash \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____ Please make check payable to: NewGang SCE-04 (Fees are non-refundable)
Return form with payment to: Fritz Grunenwald, 26151 Kitt Ansett Dr. Sun City, CA 92586, (909) 679-7254, Email: NewGangSCE@aol.com

(Optional) Your Email Address: _____ Confirmation only my Email



SOCAL WEST

2004 FAR WESTERN DISTRICT SPEBSQSA
DIVISION CONVENTION REGISTRATION
QUARTET AND CHORUS CONTESTS



Saturday, May 15, 2004
Ventura High School - 2155 E. Main Street Ventura. CA

Hosted by Rincon Beach Chapter

Convention Headquarters Hotel

Marriott Ventura Beach – 2055 Harbor Boulevard – Ventura 93001 - (805) 643-6000
Ask for Josh Hinks and mention the Barbershop Group for a \$99 double room rate
1.4 miles from the convention auditorium

To register, complete the form below (or a copy of it), to include credit card information
or attach your check made out to: Rincon Beach – SOCALWEST.

Mail the completed form to Dirk Gastaldo, 1541 Old Ranch Rd., Camarillo, CA 93012
Call (800) 353-1632 or eMail Bassor2002@yahoo.com for assistance

Use a separate form for each name. Badges will be available for pickup at the contest.

Cut here -----

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT SPEBSQSA SOCALWEST DIVISION CONVENTION/CONTESTS

Ventura High School, Ventura, CA – May 15, 2004

Mail completed form to Dirk Gastaldo, 1541 Old Ranch Rd., Camarillo, CA 93012

Call (800) 353-1632 or eMail Bassor2002@yahoo.com - for assistance.

Name _____ Chorus _____ Quartet _____ FWD Officer _____
Address _____ Non-competing _____ Wife _____ Guest _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Chapter/Chorus _____
Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Quartet Name _____
eMail _____ FAX _____ Singing Part: Lead Tenor Bari Bass
Credit Card: Visa Master Card # _____ Expires: _____

Check here if you have a disability and may require accommodation in order to fully participate
in the convention. You will be contracted by phone or email to clarify your needs.

Full Early Bird Registration Type (Check One) **	Full Late/On Site Registration Type (Check One)	Single Events Registration Type (Check One)	Official Use
Full/Competitor \$20.00 Child/Student\$10.00	Full/Competitor.....\$30.00 Child/Student.....\$20.00	Quartet Contest...\$20.00 Chorus Contest...\$20.00	Date Rcvd: _____ Check # _____ Badge Code _____

**** EARLY BIRD CUTOFF - Postmark before May 1, 2003**



Quartet Corner

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

“Music is the Master”

The Boston Common in Phoenix

I have always been reluctant to meet my heroes face to face for fear that they might not be what I had imagined them to be. When I heard that the legendary **Boston Common** (BC) would be singing in Phoenix I knew I had to face that fear and ask for an interview for Quartet Corner.

Like many of you, I had stood for hours in front of my stereo, legs firmly planted like Terry Clarke, singing along with every song on their albums. Now here I was thirty years later, in a small dressing room with the real thing. My short stay with them did not disappoint or tarnish my hero worship. The BC seemed to be all that they should be: kind, courteous, candid, funny, dramatic, proud, polished, philosophical, sophisticated and still possessing that air of Champions.



The meeting was preceded by several e-mails so I was able to cut to the chase and try to get a hint of whom they really are. I discovered that the stage personalities I had always loved seemed to be a projection of their musical and personal philosophies. I found that Kent is forceful, opinionated and seems to be teaching as he talks. Rich was subdued, calm, very confident and



looking very young. Terry is funny, self-effacing, irreverent, and very clever. Larry is as smooth as he is handsome and clearly younger than the rest, and he still has that wonderful baritone voice. Collectively they expressed their love for one another and for what they feel about their music and performance goals and it came across on stage that night of the Pride of Phoenix show.

“We were in agreement from the start,” reflects Terry. “We wanted to improve musically, individually and as a group.” “One of our driving forces was Lou Perry and the sign above his piano,” noted Rich. “It said *‘Music is the Master’*. It took us a while to understand what it meant but Lou taught us that we must be true to the song,” Rich added.

The subject of many barbershop rumors over the years, the BC fueled the controversy with their often-expressed belief that a conflict of interest existed in the judging program. “We disagreed with the policy that allowed judges to also coach the same quartets that they would be judging,” said Terry. “How can a judge maintain objectivity when he has given the quartets all his biases and creativity in coaching sessions prior to the contest,” emphasized Larry. “As a result of our views we were considered contumacious,” expressed Terry. *[For our baritone readers “contumacious” means obstinate, or disobedient]*

Was it true, I asked, that they had planned to retire from competition after Salt Lake in 1980, win lose or draw? “Yes we agreed prior to Salt Lake that it was to be our last effort. We were in it for the joy we experienced when we sing together. We used the competitions as a measure of our progress as well as a stimulant for rehearsing, which we did about once every two weeks, from the beginning,” Kent responded.



I was surprised to learn from them that the early BC had trouble with tuning and rhythm. Lou Perry developed exercises that helped them overcome these problems and become the musical icons of the 1970's. I remember standing in an overcrowded registration area in Cincinnati [1978] and the BC were in line too. They began singing a rhythm song and the entire room of barbershoppers began irresistibly swaying to their sounds. Now that's rhythm. “Each song is like a conveyor belt – you get on at one end and get off at the other without any stops along the way,” noted Terry. “That approach helped influence what some people associate with our sound.”



One of the biggest BC fans, and the target for a lot of their practical jokes over the years was Lloyd Steinkamp who told me a great story about the “Boys.”

“One year the Common were told they would never win the Gold until they added some stage presence to their contest presentations. The next year I was judging when they returned to the international stage. They had shed their trademark black tuxes

[cont'd on page 12]

Harmony College West 2004

University of Redlands, July 16-18

Note: All classes are tentative until eight or more are signed up and paid on or before Friday, June 18th

Quartet Coaching (quartets only)

Along with our 2002 International Quartet Champion "Four Voices" and our 2002/2003 District Silver Medallist "Hi-Fidelity", you will be coached by International and District quartet members, Chorus Directors, certified Judges and Music Coaches to get you "tuned up" to a level you never thought you could achieve, all in one weekend! You will sing better, look better, and come away all charged up with new ideas, new skills and renewed vigor! So get your quartet together and come to HCW for the singing time of your life! **Remember, we had to turn quartets away in 2002 and 2003, so act now!**

Vocal Production

Craig Ewing is an accomplished vocalist and the tenor of **Hi-Fidelity**. He will help you with proper voice production techniques, warm-up exercises, physical and mental preparation, and lots of useful singing techniques. You will sing with improved quality, better tuning and you'll have more fun in rehearsal and on stage. Individual voice coaching of this quality would cost you a ton on the outside...get it here for a bargain and have a ball besides!

Chapter/Quartet Web Site Construction and Administration

(Instructor TBD). How would you like to learn how to create and administer your Chapter or Quartet web site? We will help you unlock the mysteries of web page design. You'll learn about typography, page layout, image handling, HTML, linking and how to get attention by the most popular internet search engines! You will also learn about web creation tools, and (hopefully) you will get a CD with free web editing tools and a template from which to build a Chapter web site. This is a very popular class, so sign up early!! **Prerequisite:** You must be fairly proficient with a computer and comfortable with using the internet.

Barbershop Arranging

Mr. Dave Briner, an accomplished musician, arranger and vocal coach will teach this course at the beginning and intermediate level. This promises to be a great class with lots of techniques being shared on how to craft our barbershop harmony. Space is limited, so sign up right away!! **Prerequisite:** You must have some background in music theory, including knowledge of chord construction and harmonic progressions using the circle of fifths.

Young Men in Harmony (YMIH) Seminar

Mr. Mark Freedkin is a YMIH Master! We all have seen the value of exposing young men to the barbershop style of singing. Here is your chance to work with a seasoned pro; you will share

experiences, techniques and success stories with class members. There will be plenty of discussion time to lay out a plan, develop strategy and support it with Society materials and arrangements for younger voices. Plan on attending this comprehensive and motivating seminar by the best in the business!

Grant Writing Seminar

Michael Frazer will be teaching this excellent class again in 2004. You will gain all the knowledge and skills you need to write effective, successful grant applications. Michael has an impressive background on the subject, and you will take home hard-hitting class materials necessary to be sure that you have all the tools to do a bang-up job on your first grant application!

Music Reading Seminar

Instructor TBD. You will be able to read and rehearse your voice part using the piano keyboard and you will learn how to perform on stage in a quartet setting. Lots of quartet singing, vocal drills and tuning demonstrations will keep you ready for more. All class materials are included, along with some great exercises and techniques from the Quartet Coaching Manual.

Director of the Future

Mr. Jim Turnmire (2004 Far Western District CDWI Chairman) will work with aspiring and newer front line directors to develop your music and directing talents! There are only eighteen slots left as of April 1, so get your registration form in right away.

Woodshedding / Tag Singing

Instructor TBD. This class will help you develop your tuning and improvisation skills; **Jim Crowley** will teach the tag segment on Sunday; have lots of fun all weekend!



Jest for phun?
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* 1992 Senior Quartet Champs *



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(775) 853-5007
www.Qtet.net
bookings@Qtet.net
2003-2004 FWD champions
RAYMOND DAVIS tenor
ROBERT LENOIL lead
CORY HUNT baritone
MIKE STEWART bass

Quartet Registration - Harmony College West 2004

July 16-18, 2004

Tuition: \$600* includes five meals, on-campus lodging Friday and Saturday night (double occupancy), the Saturday night Show and the Saturday Pizza Party!
 (*no commuters, since you will be coached in your rooms)

Quartet Name:					
Quartet Type	Novice	Adult	Senior	Super Senior	College/High School
Quartet Level	Novice	Intermediate	Advanced	Placed _____ at district	Placed _____ at International

Tenor		
Name		
Chapter		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip
Telephone	Email address	
Special dietary needs: please describe		
Special physical needs: please describe		

Lead		
Name		
Chapter		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip
Telephone	Email address	
Special dietary needs: please describe		
Special physical needs: please describe		

Far Western District - Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America

Quartet Registration - Harmony College West 2004

July 16-18, 2004

Baritone				
Name				
Chapter				
Mailing Address				
City	State	Zip		
Telephone	Email address			
Special dietary needs: please describe				
Special physical needs: please describe				

Bass				
Name				
Chapter				
Mailing Address				
City	State	Zip		
Telephone	Email address			
Special dietary needs: please describe				
Special physical needs: please describe				

Send one check for \$600 payable to "Far Western District HCW" and this form to:

Jim Crowley
3586 Mission Mesa Way
San Diego CA 92120-1559

Note: All forms and fees must be received by Friday, June 25, 2004.

Individual Registration - Harmony College West 2004

July 16-18, 2004

Fees: \$150 tuition includes five meals, on-campus lodging Fri/Sat night (double occupancy), class materials, the Saturday night Show and the Saturday night Pizza Party!

\$ 95 tuition includes five meals, class materials, Saturday Show and Saturday Pizza Party!

Lodging		
<input type="checkbox"/> I will stay in the Dorms (\$150) <input type="checkbox"/> I will commute each day (\$95)		
Name		
Voice Part		
Tenor	Lead	Baritone
Bass		
Chapter		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip
Telephone	Email address	

Special dietary needs: please describe

Special physical needs: please describe

In the spaces below, check your class selection—if you have a second choice, show “1” for first choice and “2” for second choice:

- _____ Vocal Production (Craig Ewing)
- _____ Chapter/Quartet Website Construction and Administration
- _____ Barbershop Arranging (Dave Briner)
- _____ Young Men in Harmony Program (Mark Freedkin)
- _____ Grant Writing Seminar (Michael Frazer)
- _____ Music Reading Seminar
- _____ Director of the Future (Jim Turnmire)
- _____ Emcee Seminar (Terry Aramian)
- _____ Woodshedding / Tag Singing (TBD / Jim Crowley)

Send this form and a check for \$150 or \$95 payable to “Far Western District HCW” to:

Jim Crowley
3586 Mission Mesa Way
San Diego CA 92120-1559



Society P Rob Hopkins

Singing, singing and more singing all over in Sparks. Quartet sang in the lobby, outside the auditorium, Jumpstart Barbershop Class, and Harmony For Lunch. In between the singing, there was time for the Barbershoppers Shop, FWD Board of Directors and House of Delegates meeting, Society President Rob Hopkins participating. Even had classes for reading music and vocal technique.

District Immediate Past President



Also Chair:
Young Men In Harmony
John Krizek
13615 Debby Street
Van Nuys, CA 91401
818-785-0498
E: jkrizek@aol.com

Chapter of the Year, President's Awards

One of the nice things about being District President is the opportunity to say "thank you" to those who contribute above and beyond the call of duty. It was my honor to bestow a couple of well-deserved honors at the Reno convention.

There were two recipients of the 2003 *President's Award*—but only one plaque. That's because the recipients were **Ellie and Deane Scoville**, for their many contributions and support as IPP and "First Lady" during my administration. Even though I had been on or around the District Board for many years before I became president, I had no idea how valuable a past president could be. Whether it was information or advice or just reminders of something I was forgetting, Deane was always there to help. Unable to sit back in retirement, he was instrumental in the detail work setting up the transition to the new division organization. And when it came to the social aspects of the job, from operating hospitality suites to contacting the right people to making cookies for hungry board members, there couldn't be a more devoted partner than Ellie. This award was from my "First Lady" Kay, as well as from me.

The *Chapter of the Year Award*, which was revived after a four-year hiatus, was presented to the **Placerville Chapter**. Awards



Placerville President Keith Eckhardt Accepting Award

chairman Lloyd Steinkamp and I, finding no official rules for this award, decided it should be presented by the previous year's president at his discretion, based on three criteria: 1) membership; 2) youth outreach; and 3) participation in barbershop activities. It was a

slam-dunk. The **Placerville** chapter not only held its own membership-wise, with perhaps a small net gain, they sponsored the **Sutter Creek** chapter in a neighboring town. They not only conduct an exemplary youth outreach program, with school groups on all their shows, they hosted the very successful *NorCal Youth Harmony Camp* in September. And they not only competed in chorus competition (where they finished a respectful last in the District finals), they have been super-active in the "*Get Our Conventions Singing Again*" program.

Our re-institution of this award was stimulated by **Kathie Edwards**, who wanted to donate a trophy in honor of our departed friend and long-time *Westunes* editor **Owen**. So while the chapter will have to return the big traveling trophy (perhaps) when next year's award rolls around, they, and future winners, will get to keep a beautiful crystal permanent trophy, courtesy of Kathie and Owen. Thank you, Kathie!

Placerville is a chapter that looks like a lot of our chapters, yet provides a shining example of how things can work, that many of us can learn from.

Kathie's award reads:

The Far Western District Chapter of the Year 2003

Placerville, CA In Memory of Owen Edwards

*For outstanding efforts in membership development,
active participation in Division and District events,
total involvement in music education for youth outreach
and musical service to its community.*

Presented by the Family of Owen Edwards
RENO, NEVADA - MARCH 2004

Whittier Requests Quartets to Come Sing

NOTICE to all the quartets in the Southern California area.

Every quartet wishes to have a few places to perform where they can practice singing in front of a crowd, try out new material, and just have a good time. Well, here is your opportunity.

The Whittier Chapter invites you to stop by and perform for us during our chapter meeting program time. We will promise you a warm welcome and refreshments, and you will have an opportunity to improve your performance skills.

We meet on Wednesday nights 7:30-10:30 PM at the La Habra United Methodist Church at 631 N. Euclid Ave, just south of Whittier Blvd in La Habra. Our program time is 15-minutes long and occurs between 8:45 and 9:15. We normally take a break either before or after the program time. We also have rooms available for warm-up if needed.

We would like to schedule one quartet every other week. If your quartet is interested, please reply to this message with some dates when you can be available. You will be notified which date is preferred to us and any last minute instructions or assistance you may need. First come, first served on all Wednesday dates throughout 2004.

Dave Gunther Bass2Tenor@verizon.net
Program V.P. Whittier Chapter <http://www.choralaires.org>

2004
FWD FALL CONVENTION/CONTESTS
BAKERSFIELD SEPT. 30-OCT 3

HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT SPEBSQSA 2004 FALL CONVENTION/CONTESTS

September 30-October 3, Bakersfield, California

HOTEL	SINGLE	DOUBLE	DBL/DBL
Holiday Inn Select (Hdqs. Hotel)	\$78.00	\$78.00	\$78.00
Best Western Crystal Palace	\$89.00	\$89.00	\$89.00
Best Western Hill House	\$87.00	\$87.00	\$87.00
Four Points Sheraton	\$94.00	\$94.00	\$94.00
Red Lion Hotel	\$85.00	\$85.00	\$85.00
Doubletree	\$92.00	\$92.00	\$92.00
Hampton Inn	\$88.00	\$88.00	\$88.00
Ramada	\$64.00	\$64.00	\$64.00
Garden Suites Inn	\$55.00	\$55.00	\$55.00
Quality Inn	\$54.95	\$54.95	\$54.95

CUT OFF DATE IS AUGUST 31, 2004

RATES DO NOT INCLUDE 12% SALES TAX

Please complete form and return to:
THE GREATER BAKERSFIELD CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU
P.O. BOX 192 BAKERSFIELD, CALIFORNIA 93302-0192
Fax: 661-325-7074

ONLY MAILED OR FAXED REGISTRATIONS ACCEPTED

Name: _____ Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: (____) ____ - _____ Fax: (____) ____ - _____ Email: _____

ARRIVAL DATE: _____ DEPARTURE DATE: _____

CHOICE OF HOTEL: Please select 3

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

Type of Room: Single _____ Double _____ Db1/Db1 _____
 Single: 1 bed 1 person Double: 1 bed 2 persons Db1/Db1: 2 beds 2 persons

CREDIT CARD (ONE NIGHTS DEPOSIT)

Type: _____ # _____ Exp. Date _____

Cancellations will not be accepted unless a 48 hour notice is received.

Society Board Member EVG/FWD



Mike Lanctot

5400 Harbour Pointe Blvd K-106
Mukilteo, WA 98275-5155
425-349-1749
E: mjlanctot@msn.com

OOPS! Mike's computer broke, so no article this issue. He had a great time at our Spring Convention and wishes us well.



Orange and Sun Cities Chapters Present Westminster Checks



We all recognize our current FWD Chorus Champions are young and vigorous. The **Orange Chapter** and **Sun Cities Chapter** also recognized a lack of financial independence and did something about it. **Orange** presented a check for \$3500 to assist our champions with their travel expenses to represent us in Louisville. And **Sun Cities** presented a check for \$1000. There is still time for you and/or your chapter to help out financially, if you choose to do so. [See contact information, page 13]

**FWD Fall Convention in Bakersfield
September 30-October 3, 2004
Let's Get Our Conventions Singing Again
Come Join in the FUN!**

WHAT BARBERSHOP IS ALL ABOUT

By Roger Perkins, Nevada-Placer Chapter

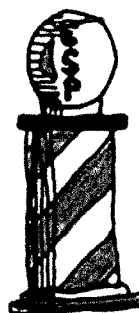
In 1967 a new quartet called the **Carpetchaggers** was formed with **Neal Sisson**-tenor, **Buck Hay**-lead, **Roger Perkins**-bari, **Dick Robbins**-bass. We worked hard and entered the second annual Northern California Novice Contest in Monterey sponsored by the **Monterey Peninsula Chapter**. On January 27, 1968 we became the Novice Champs. It was during that contest that I first met **Jim Sherman** and **Wayne Mansfield**, who were in the second place quartet, **The San Franciscans**.

We sang on the Monterey chapter annual show two months later and then had to regroup when our bass moved to Salt Lake City. **Bill Stenzel** had sung with Buck for several years in **The Mystics**, so he took over the bari slot and I switched to bass. We liked the new sound and enjoyed each other's company, so after performing in a production of the *Music Man* at the Sacramento Music Circus that summer we decided to stay together. We competed at the FWD convention in October in Las Vegas with high hopes and were in fifth place after the Friday night eliminations. Not knowing our placing at the time we celebrated a little too much that night (thanks, Jim) and dropped like a rock to 10th place.

The following Spring we competed in the International Prelim in San Diego and were eliminated after the first round placing 13th. We did not attend the finals on Saturday night and instead chose to stay at the hotel and sing all evening. It was a lot more fun than watching other quartets singing. On the way home we wrote a tongue-in-cheek list of what was wrong with the judging system and how to fix it. Some things never change.

The Carpetbaggers sang on shows and in competition for about five years. Since that time the four of us (ages now ranging from 69 to 82) have remained good friends, and at our last reunion two years ago we took first place in the *Somewhat Serious Quartet Contest* held by the **Nevada Placer Chapter** in Auburn. This is not the most prestigious contest in the world, but possibly the most fun.

I have learned that singing and friendship is what barbershopping is all about. I would rather have friendships that last 40 years than all the gold medals in the world.



A BARBERSHOP QUARTET

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1 Reno



2 Fresno



3 North Valley



4 Sacramento



5 Central Valley



6 Stockton



7 Nevada-Placer



8 Placerville



HS Quartet 1 The Burninators



HS Quartet 2 Let It Ride!



HS Quartet 3 Namesake



HS Quartet 4 B Sharp



HS Quartet MT Whirlwind



All High School Quartets with Lloyd Steinkamp Directing

**FWD DVP for Division 1 SCW****Bob Lally**

1357 School House Road
 Santa Barbara, CA 93108
 (805) 969-9701
 E: boblally@cox.net

Well, the International Preliminaries are now behind us as well as our Spring District Convention. While you can read more detailed reports elsewhere in this edition, I want to especially congratulate **Gotcha**, **Metropolis** and **High Fidelity** on their outstanding performances. These great quartets make their home in the *SoCalWest Division*, and we're mighty proud of them as they head for Louisville.

The real focus of my message this time is the upcoming Division Convention and Contest in Ventura on May 15. I hope you've made your registration arrangements already, but it's not too late if you haven't. It would be a dream come true if each attendee made it a point to sing on stage during the weekend. If your chorus would prefer not to compete, you may still perform an entertainment package without being judged during the course of the contest. If that doesn't work for you, consider singing with the *SoCalWest All-Star Chorus* which will be the mike testers for the Chorus Contest. Membership in this outstanding group will be limited to any member of *SoCalWest* who is not a member of a competing chorus. Even if you don't sing on stage, there will be ample opportunities to ring a few in lobbies, hallways, etc., throughout the weekend. And between your own vocalizations you will be able to hear samples of the finest barbershop singing anywhere in the world emanating from the contest stage.

Also, during this weekend, all *SoCalWest Chapter Presidents* will gather at a meeting to exchange ideas and concerns with each other as well as District Specialists in many important areas. This will be a great opportunity to not only share your success stories, but to pick up new ideas and techniques that have worked for others.

So, join in the fun! Come and sing, greet old friends and get chills listening to the best of the best! I'll see you there!

**Division 1 SCW Editor****Mike Martin**

2262 Bagley Ave
 Los Angeles, CA 90034-1109
 310-558-4949
 E: martinmt@aol.com

CONEJO VALLEY**G.B. BRINKMAN**

Ralph Muriella reports that the annual "Anything You Can Do" fundraiser was a great success assisted by the considerable prestige of **Dick Van Dyke** and 250 on-stage singers. Included on the program were the **Harmony Oaks Barbershop Chorus** and the **Agoura Hills Harmony Sweet Adelines**. **Dick Van Dyke** also served as show emcee. While a little late with the announcement,

BOTY (2003) was **Dan Cardin** and **ROTY** was **Ray Eden**. Speaking of Ray, he is now singing lead with **The Pacific Coast Harmony Quartet** which also includes **Gary Wetzel**, **Dick Chatterton** and **Bob Josephson**.

RINCON BEACH**MICHAEL MURPHY**

The Rincon Beach Chapter has moved into its new home. We are now part of the Ventura Unified School Adult Education program meeting in room #104 at 5200 Valentine Rd. Ventura, CA. The chorus is busy learning new music for show and contest, the 4th new song of the year was just received by the membership. Our new home has complete sound and video recording studios and we have already used the sound studio to put down 3 tracks for our next CD. The Chapter welcomes new member **Barry Liker** to the family.

SAN LUIS OBISPO**BRUCE MILLER**

Chapter president **Rick Snody** took time to review some of the great achievements accomplished over the past year, which included being the number one growth chapter in the FWD with accolades to **BOTY George Loose**. **Rick Kirn** was credited with leading the Singing Valentines program to great success. The Chorus's performance at the Pacific Horizon was a marked success. **Bill Long** has stepped up to the plate to fill the position of the 2004 Show Chairman while **Rick Kirn** has taken on the task of Show Director.

SANTA BARBARA**NATHAN STAPLES**

At the end of March, the **Santa Barbara Chapter** bid a fond farewell to our wonderful director for the last 5+ years, Mrs. **Juleine Schmitt**. Juleine has led and stuck with the chorus during many highs and lows over the last several years, and we will truly miss our dearest Sister-in-Harmony. We are very pleased and excited as Mr. **Jim Browne** of the **Rincon Beach** and **Conejo Valley Chapters** now takes the reins as our new chorus director. Many changes are afoot in our chapter as we reorganize and rebuild, move back to Tuesday rehearsal nights after 6 years on Mondays, and adopt a brand new name for our chorus! After 46 years as the **Channel City Chorus**, membership has voted on a new title in honor of a certain distinctive Santa Barbara landmark. Look for our *new Chorus name* in upcoming announcements. Active members have committed to returning to the competition stage in May, renewing our dedication to continual musical improvement and chapter growth.

SANTA FE SPRINGS**KIRT THIESMEYER**

The Masters of Harmony has been much benefited as the new contest cycle commences by the addition of strong new singers, most of them maintaining dual memberships with the **Valleyaires** (San Fernando), the **California Promise Chorus** (Irvine), the **Oceanaires** (Santa Monica), the **Harmony Showcase Chorus** (Westminster) and **Pacific Sound** (Rincon Beach). We recently welcomed **Bob Cossentine**, **Dan Barling**, **Sam Wang**, **Drew Harrah** and **Dane Hutchins**, basses; **Dick Squier** and **Max Rockwell**, baritones; **Jack Peters**, **Nick Gaspar**, **Don Kileen**, **Jeremy Loper**, **Jon-Michael Miller**,

Xerxez Calilung, Angelo Rizzo, and Mike Martin, leads; and **Lance Ashkenasy, Jussi Ratsula and Stuart Krever**, tenors. In addition, we welcomed back **Shawn York** in the tenor section and **Rich Hasty** as an Emeritus lead. All the new men are diligently involved in *Masters University* classes, our training ground for learning new techniques and improved vocal production.

Our *Barberpole Cat* program with **Greg Cherney** at the helm continues apace after the stimulus from Singing Valentines, with new and old members racing to be the first to qualify on six songs for a recognition certificate and all twelve for a commemorative tie tack. There are even one or two who imagine learning all four voice parts to all twelve songs and when the question is asked at a chapter visitation in some far-flung venue, "What part do you sing?" the answer will reverberate proudly through the halls, "What part do you need?"

"Great news: Thirty-seven year barbershop veteran and quintuple MOH chorus champion **Gene Clements** has been named the **Far Western District Chapter Counselor of the Year!** We're proud of him."

Visitor Caution: Don't forget. Rehearsals have returned to Town Center Hall, 11740 East Telegraph Road in Santa Fe Springs, 7:30 p.m. To check the current status, call (888) MOH-TUNE (664-8863) or go to our website, www.mastersofharmony.org.

SANTA MONICA

JERRY WALKER

The **Oceanaires** are enjoying their expanding popularity in the west side of Los Angeles; we delivered more than sixty Singing Valentines to the community, including serenades for a 3-day old baby and her proud parents and a 100-year-old mother and her daughters. We even received a standing ovation from 100 employees of a telemarketing center. It was a great opportunity to put **Oceanairs Alums Mike Martin, Hank Marting, Art Purcell, and Jim Leedum** back to work, as well as launching new singers **Pat Kellogg** (Lead), **Bill Dimpfl** (Bass), **David Zasloff** (Baritone), and **Aaron Mood** (Tenor).

Steve Demmer was selected as *BOTM* in February for his outstanding organization of our Valentine's Day program. **Bruce Schroffel, Tom Laskey, Carl Rogers** and **Jerry Walker** promoted Singing Valentines with a color picture in *The Argonaut*, and **Tom Benton, Alan Hanson, Ken Scholtz, and Tom Laskey** were featured in a pre-Valentines Day picture and article in *Palisades* 90272. Special thanks go out to **Vance and Caroline Heron** for hosting Valentines Central in their home.

Two weeks later in Marina del Rey, the Oceanaires sang love longs to **Wil Vashow's** new bride, **Marcia Fulsom Vashaw**, immediately after they exchanged their wedding vows. **Carl Rogers, Tom Laskey, Dick Keagy** and **Aaron Mood**, a quartet of overly large *Leprechauns*, performed at a St. Patrick's Day Luncheon at Santa Monica's First Methodist Church. The Santa Monica Daily Press published an article about the Leprechauns.

We are pleased to report that **Patrick Kellogg** is healing rapidly from a broken tibia.

VENTURA

KEITH BOGOST

The **Channel Islands Clippers** had a successful Singing Valentines program, with close to 70 singouts all over West Ventura County. **Dan Love** traveled here from Bridgeport to sing with **Ventura Boulevard** and his old pals **Bob Haines, Don Hansen** and **Bill Minea**. Also participating in the program were **Harmony Channel** (**Duane Ashby, Bruce Hunter, Doug Van Bogelen** and **Brent Burningham**), **The Ancient Mariners** (**Wayne Rear, Ron Derrico, Chuck Killen** and **Keith Bogost**), **The Pier** (**Monty Clark, Bart Bleuel, Tom Leese** and **Jack Theys**) and **Take Four** (**Jim Sumstine, Bill Butala, Tom Leese, and Gary Rice**).

A St. Patrick's Day sociable was held on March 13 and the **Ventura Boulevard, Ancient Mariners** and **Take Four** performed.

Alas, our director, **Duane Ashby**, has submitted his resignation and due to other commitments in his life. A director search is underway and all interested parties should send info to **Keith Bogost**, kbogost@aol.com or call (805) 654 0072.

The chapter was saddened when, at the end of February, **Art Jassen**, a charter member of the Clippers, died. Art was a member of SPEBSQSA for over 60 years and a Clipper for 50 of those years. He was a Clipper for over 50 years. A few weeks prior to his death, **The Ancient Mariners** went to see Art at the nursing home where he was being cared for and, even though he was ill, on oxygen and unable to say much, he said, "*Sing another one*" after each song was sung for him.

SANTA MARIA

LU HINTZ

The **Central City Chordsmen** and the **Lompoc Choruses** shared their annual installation dinner at the Rancho Bowl. **Bob Lally** of the **Rincon Beach** chapter was on hand to handle the installation chores. **Larry Long** will be chapter president for 2004. **Dick Manning** received *BOTY* honors. **Lu Hintz** reported that the Singing Valentines was a great success this year and **Larry Long** received the president's award for his work in public relations in setting up the advertising for that program. **Rod Pope** reports that the chapter now has a web sit.



**FWD DVP for Division 2 SCE
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Well, the new FWD governance system is now under way and we five Divisional VPs are beginning to make contact with our chapters. I met with SoCal East Presidents on February 21st at a cold and wet Orange Coast College. It was a very productive meeting in which we covered a wide range of topics. High up on the list

was recruitment, chapter visitations, joint social events, convention attendance and promotion of High School quartets and youth camps. Attaining goals may be a slow process, but at least the process has begun, along with awareness and camaraderie.

This month saw two excellent barbershop events – the Spring Convention in Reno and the Southern California Road Show. Ruth and I had the honor of hosting *Society President Rob Hopkins* for the weekend in Reno and I spent a lot of time chatting to him and watching him as he went about his business. He takes his job very seriously but yet is lots of fun to be with. And he was very impressed with we Far Westerners. He loved how we ran our convention and our Board meeting, loved the convention venue and thought our contests were probably the best in the Society. And although he's based in New York State, he seemed to know just about everyone out here! I saw his report back to the Society Board. It was glowing.

A couple of days later, the first of our two California Road Shows took place a few miles West of Los Angeles at El Rancho High School in Pico Rivera. (The second will be in Pleasanton on April 27th). 150+ guys, plus a few guests and wives were there, some of whom had driven more than one hundred miles. They all enjoyed a wonderfully entertaining evening. The presenter was the hilarious **Bill Rashleigh**, one of three *SPEBSQSA Music Specialists*. He went through warm up exercises, craft sessions, tags and a song, all interspersed with useful info and hysterical stories. Each attendee was given an excellent package designed to help recruit new members and each guest was given a barbershop CD. The evaluation forms I collected proved that the evening was a huge success. "Loved seeing old friends", "excellent presenter", "learned a lot and it was fun", "hope we do this every year" were just some of the comments. If we do run it again next year, be sure you don't miss it.

So, now we're ready for our Division Conventions. **SoCal East** will be **May 8th** at **Servite High School** in **Anaheim**. I hope your chorus is planning to be there. Remember, if you don't want the pressure of competition, you can take the stage for a performance only. Give us a taste of your show material, make us laugh, practice for next year, whatever! We just want to see every chorus take part in the fun. And if you really are not planning to be on stage, then really plan to be there to support those who are. It's our brotherhood and our support for one another that keeps us going. **Fritz Grunenwald** and his convention team are working hard to make the event a success. Don't let them down. And BTW, Mr. SoCal East Chapter President, don't forget that we have the second of our meetings there that day. I'll let you know where and when later.

And finally, SoCal East guys, are you thinking about a local High School quartet that you could sponsor? If you'd have been at Reno and seen the H.S. quartets there, you'd have been out next day to see who you could encourage to do the same. The winning quartet was a sight to see. The confidence, the quality of their performance, the obvious enjoyment they got from compet-

ing. It was a pleasure to behold. It behooves us to go out and let these kids know what they can do. They'll thank you for it.



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APPLE VALLEY

MAX MAXWELL

The Hi-Country Harmonaires joined with Riverside's **New Gang On The Corner** to provide the Hi-Desert Center for the Arts in Victorville with a concert in "Barbershop Style." The multiple directors of the event included **Bill Harper**, **Mike Smith** and **Kevin Price**. Quartets from Riverside included **Bling** (nee **Rx 4 Harmony**) and **Tour De Fource**. Apple Valley's **Desert Sun Tones**, **Happy Max** and the **Cleff Hangers**, laced the performance with their brand of good singing humor. The theater goers of the High Desert Area of Victorville, Apple Valley, Hesperia and surrounding cities were treated to good old fashioned Barbershop style Chorus and Quartet A Cappella.

Citing a successful Valentine project, their two quartets were able to deliver 36 Singing Valentines.

Kristen Taylor is now the designated chorus director, stepping in for **Mike Smith** who resigned as Musical Director.

COACHELLA VALLEY TERRY MANN

Coachella Valley Sand Blasters growth, particularly in the ranks of the year round members (as opposed to the 'snow bird' members) has finally given them a "pool" of members from which they can now summon an ad hoc quartet to sing out on demand. Prior to this they could only respond to requests with three registered quartets including 'snow bird' members and members with difficult day time schedules. Now they advertise the availability of a 5 to 15 minute barbershop performance for any occasion. One group recently sang at Sun City's annual musical production. "Having a pool of men all trained with the same song list," added Editor Terry, "allows us to be independent of a members' personal schedule conflicts

EL CAJON

MIKE DORMAN

The Music Masters had a rewarding Valentine Singing Card event with 27 Valentine-with-rose presentations delivered by **Harmony Correct**, **The Rollin' Tones** and **The Red Coats Are Coming** Quartets

Most touching was a letter to the chapter from a service man heading back to Iraq relating how much the Valentine meant to him.

When Chapter President **Jim Reid** recently announced his retirement, all members expressed their heartfelt gratitude for the solid hard work he had performed for the chapter. **Ed Herron** volunteered to pick up the reins until the Fall board election.

FULLERTON

DICK COTE

Fullerton Romps at Reno: Members of the Fullerton Chapter walked away with many of the honors at the FWD Spring Convention in Reno: the ever active **Deane Scoville**, a past FWD President, was inducted into the *FWD Hall of Fame*, a much deserved honor, and he and his wife, **Ellie**, were selected for the *President's Award* by outgoing President **John Krizek**. Fullerton's famous *Harmony for Lunch Bunch Chairman Stan French* was the convention honoree, and he accepted the honor with his beaming wife, **Anita**. For the seventh consecutive year **Dick Cote** walked away with the *FWD Bulletin Editor of the Year Award* for his work on the Fullerton *Barbershop Clippin's*. His wife, **Kay**, Dick's right hand lady, was also there to share in the joy. Finally, Musical Director **Craig Ewing** and his quartet, **High Fidelity**, qualified to appear in Louisville.

Sad news to report: Their beloved "Santa Claus," **Jerry Tharp**, was stricken with a massive heart attack and passed away on Friday, March 26. Also, **Lucy Reimann**, wife of long time member, **Don**, passed away Tuesday, March 23.

Long time Fullerton quartet, **Jubilee**, captured first place in the annual St. Patrick's Day competition sponsored by the **South Bay Chapter**. Jubilee members include tenor, **Bobby Faris**; lead **Art Clayton**; baritone, **Stanley Tinkle**; and bass, **Fred Robirds**. These gentlemen have a large repertoire of Irish songs, including a rollicking version of "*Galway Bay*" that's bound to cause tears of laughter in adult Irish eyes.

HEMET

BRUCE SMITH

Hemet reports a visitation by a Temecula High School quartet, **B-Sharp**, which was preparing to attend the FWD High School Contest in Reno. The chapter chipped in to their travel fund and they were able to go and compete—finishing fourth and bringing home memories of a great experience with **Gotcha!**, **Metropolis** and the rest of the contestants.

Director, **Howard Mesecher**, looking forward to their Spring Show, asked the chapter if they "were ready to be showmen?" Pointing out that there were only eight rehearsals left before "show-time," Clay Panlaqui, MVP, has the rehearsals blocked out and ready.

IRVINE

BOB COSSENTINE

The California Promise Chorus is proud to have **Terry Ghiselli** as their new director, who is also the director of the **Westminster Chorus** that recently won the district contest in Bakersfield and will represent FWD in Louisville. Terry is 27 years old, brings a great deal of excitement and inspires dreams of being a better chorus to Irvine.

The installation banquet was held on February 8 and the chapter officers were tried by, "*Judge*," **Dick Girvin** who subsequently sentenced the new officers to another year of service including **John Wilson** who was charged and "convicted" as the new chapter president.

The chapter reports several singing engagements over the past few months including a very successful Singing Valentine's quartet campaign.

LA JOLLA

MICHAEL BAUER

Chapter members conducted a very successful Singing Valentines program, with new and old members alike "mixing it up" in quartets. Thanks to **Frank Borik** and all the folks that made it all happen.

The chorus's **Pacific Pride Quartet** performed at a La Jolla Town Council function on St. Patrick's Day.

The chorus said "farewell" to its longtime choreographer **Wayne Mendes** and wished him well in his new endeavor: he and his partner are buying a pub in England.

ORANGE QUARTET CHAPTER STANLEY TINKLE

The Orange Quartet Chapter delivered 108 Singing Valentines in February, and celebrated by hosting a visitation by the **Fullerton Chapter**, with whom they managed 34 quartet combinations in one evening! The very next night, they visited Fullerton and actually sang in chorus with them on the risers; a rare activity for a quartet chapter.

Program VP **Rich Lewis**, at the Reno Convention, presented a check for \$3500 to **Sean Devine** for the **Westminster Chapter** travel fund. \$1000 of this contribution came from a special fund in honor of the late Bulletin editor, **Dick Acton**. His wife, **Dorothy**, is now editing the bulletin "*Squeezin's*" and has it online. See it at the website at <http://www.harmonize.com/orange/>, complete with background music and photos of chapter quartets, past and present.

Young quartets are among the chapter's frequent visitors; **O C Times** dropped in to present their competition songs just before the Reno contest. The **Orange Quartet Chapter** does its share of visiting too: On March 17, three chapter quartets, **Balderdash**, **Indigo** and **Fermata The Blue**, took part in **South Bay Chapter's Irish Quartet Night**.

POMONA VALLEY

CHUCK MASON

The Pomona Valley Carousel Chorus is on the run to drastically improve itself, according to scribe **Chuck Mason**. The new Board is working hard to make things happen and aiming to get the Competition Chorus ready to perform in the 2005 district challenges. Under the guidance of Vice-President, Chapter Development, **George Lee**, they look forward to some expected positive growth for the chapter this year.

Dennis Shearer is doing an outstanding job with the upcoming Annual show, entitled *True Love*, which features five chapter quartets, as well as **The Fanatix**, an international Sweet Adeline quartet. **Don Miller** was the *BOTM* for February.

RANCHO BERNARDO

JIM LARKIN

A new logo is in the making for the **Troubadours** with two new designs being presented to the board by **Bob Johnson** (whose bio was featured in the March *Troub-A-Doer*). The selected logo will be embroidered on uniforms.

Bruce Cannon provided the board with the new *Troubadour Show Manual* and a detailed initial planning document for the upcoming summer show. The planning included basic assumptions for attendance, ticket price and profit—important elements for a successful, well planned/well executed show.

A review process is planned for new members, including a director audition for voice placement and singing ability and a one-on-one meeting of the new member with the board. The process will become part of the new *Troubadours Operations Manual*.



FWD DVP for Division 3 NCWH

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In March we were treated to a great convention and contest. I separate those two items because we had an old fashioned District Convention. There were lots of activities for the men and women in attendance, and there was singing in every corner of every room. I would be remiss if I didn't mention the fact that it was well attended. I saw and sang with people I haven't seen at conventions in quite a while. It was a fun-packed weekend. The contest was also well done and our FWD Quartets were once again outstanding. The convention was a combined affair in that it had the *NorCal East/Northern Nevada Division Contest* as well as the *District Prelims* all rolled into one.

I can only hope you all attended the *NorCal West/Hawaii Division Contest* because it could be the most fun you have had in your hobby in a long time. We sometimes lose sight of the overall mix of chapters and our old friends that we sing with at these events because something else preoccupies our priorities and time. When I was a new member I quickly realized for everything you give to this hobby you receive more back. If you attend events you will become more involved in your chapter as well as your Division and District. Some of us even enjoy International awareness.

Do yourself a favor and if you didn't attend the *NorCal West/Hawaii Prelims in San Jose*, make plans to attend the *Fall District Convention in Bakersfield Sept. 30th through October 2nd* of this year. Make your hotel reservations and register for the convention now. I will guarantee you will have a lot of fun and enjoyment. You will see old friends and meet new ones. Come and sing with me!



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FREMONT/HAYWARD

RAY SPINOSA

Singing Valentines were once again a big part of February for the **New Dimension Chorus**, as chapter members formed quartets to serenade unsuspecting recipients.

Also, the chorus was privileged to perform as a guest on the **Harmony Bay Chorus** (Sweet Adelines) show. Director **James Hall** led the chorus in two performances which benefited the Alameda Midway Shelter.

Finally, a quartet made up of members **Ed Ocampo**, **Lance Mangano**, **Jan Roston** and **Ray Spinosa** competed in the *Novice Quartet Competition* in Walnut Creek.

As March began, the chorus focused more heavily on the upcoming Norcal West division contest. **Jim Turnmire** spent a whole day helping the chorus refine the performance of its contest songs. Many thanks to him and also to **Jeanne Jeffrey** who attended three chapter meetings and gave guidance on presentation.

ALOHA

JACK Y HASHIMOTO

February got off to a great start with our Second Annual Quartet Contest on February 5. Judges **Wanda Gereben**, **Susan Duprey**, and our own **Thurlow (De) Decrow** heard quartets with names like **The Generation Jumpers**, **The Uncalled Four**, **The Honolulu Four**, **2 Par-a Guys**, **The Write Ins**, and registered quartets **Tropichords** and **Pacific Trades**. Winners in the Open category were the **Tropichords** (**Noel Mau**, **John Higgins**, **Rob Hartley**, and **Mark Conching**) and in the Novice, the **Write Ins** (**Noel Mau**, **Bobby Reyes**, **Rod Schultz** and **Dr. Bob Gison**). Also appearing were the Sweet Adelines quartet from the **Na Leo Lani** chorus "**Confetti**".

Singing Valentines is becoming a great fund raiser for our chapter. This past Valentines Day, and the Friday before, our quartets appeared almost 100 times before happy recipients of Valentine wishes from spouses and admirers. There are stories galore from the happy quartet performers who gave of their time to work, if you would call singing with three guys who are having a great time with you "work". The look on the faces of the lucky ones who received the Singing Valentines was reward enough. Thanks to **Hank** and **Gloria Drayton**, **Dan Tom**, and all the wives of Barbershoppers who helped with the phone lines. We look forward to doing it again next year.

On March 6 we appeared at the Honolulu Choral Concert, held at Harris United Methodist Church, here in Honolulu. There were other choruses, of which one sang in Chinese, and one in Filipino.

MARIN COUNTY

RALPH KLING

The Marin Chapter has a full dance card for the month of May. On May 8th, the chapter will once again participate in 'The Human Race', Marin's largest fundraising event for non-profit organizations operating in the County. One of our quartets will entertain runners and walkers along the race course while other members man our booth looking for new recruits.

On May 11th our chorus and quartets will perform our annual show for the residents of The Redwoods retirement facility in Mill Valley.

Then on May 15th, the chapter plans to give a free community wide concert in celebration of our 50th year in operation!!!! These activities will also be accompanied by a number of in-school programs conducted for grade school kids in the community.

NAPA VALLEY

THEODORE LASSAGN

Napa Valley is busy with many quartet and chorus performances in the community both pro bono and for pay.

We had a less than usual Valentine's Day schedule and have found that we must search for new avenues as we can't go back to the same well year after year.

The chorus decided not to participate in the NorCal West chorus contest this year. Instead the Board felt that many of our new members had never seen really good quartets and choruses, so we agreed to pay the registration fees for any of the chorus members who wished to attend the NorCal East and International Quartet Contest in Sparks this year. Seven of the chorus members and their wives responded to this encouragement and were astounded and pleased at the performances of the great quartets and choruses. Everyone learned from the experience.

PALO ALTO/MOUNTAIN VIEW

JOHN HEATHER

Thanks to the **Peninsulaires'** Singing Valentine Program, we not only shared the joy, but also sold 72 Valentines over the Friday-Saturday Valentine weekend. We sold one more than last year, which is great news considering other chapters reported their sales down. Our thanks go to the 5 chapter quartets who took time away from their work and weekend to sing to others:

El Camino Hospital was the stop for several Valentines. **Jack Metz** received the following from **Reta Phillips**, our contact at El Camino: "You brought beauty and joy to many hearts - especially those that did not have a 'valentine' in their lives. Thank you again for your endeavors to 'spread the joy'."

S.F. BAY CITY QUARTET

CASEY PARKER

President Gummersall advises our meetings will be at Harry's Hofbrau in 2004. He has booked Dining Room through November 2004. Try their Turkey Wing Special

We had fun-filled meetings February 11 & 25. Many guests attended, **Roman Avila** led practice of *This Little Light of*

Mine/Do Lord Medley. We sang Happy Birthday to **El Wirt** who picked a quartet to sing. Casey led a nursery rhyme song for little one year old Daniel. **Dennis Baker** selected a woodshed song "I Like Mountain Music". PVP **Al Stoddard** as Program leader started a tag-in session.

SAN FRANCISCO

DON KINGTON

Singing Valentines General **Aki Inouye** planned and conducted a two-day triumph in the Chapter's 2004 SV project. On Friday and Saturday, February 13-14, 17 Chorus members (plus **Shel Rosenthal's** wife, **Rosie**) in various configurations delivered 37 paid orders. There also were several spontaneous, free performances. Aki enjoyed the campaign so much he has re-upped for 2005!

On Saturday, March 6, **Cable Car Chorus** members attended an all-day crafts session conducted by **Chris Hebert**, director of the **San Jose Garden City Chorus**. **Cable Car Chorus** Director **Angela Suraci** and attending Chorus members all agreed that the six-plus hours working with Chris would surely pay off at their up-coming appearance in San Jose. Member **Thomas Lubrano** arranged the venue.

The Chapter's Board has made two significant changes in plans for the 2004 annual show; a change of venue and a change of season. After several years of scheduling the show for the fall, this year it will be in the spring at the San Francisco State University's Knuth Hall.

SAN JOSE

DEAN JAMES

Neal Cavanaugh has retired after seven years as editor of The PITCH, our chapter newsletter that now has gone to cyberspace. The March/April issue is on the Chapter web site. Check it out at <http://www.sjchorus.org>. Neal is now the Executive Show Producer for the **Garden City Chorus** and is hard at work on the Chapter's annual show.

Eight Garden City quartets presented Singing Valentines this year. We appreciated the efforts of the **Four Tune Cookies**, **Good Times**, **Pickup Quartet #1**, **Sound Investors**, **Stage Crew**, **Town Square Harmonizers**, **Uncalled Four**, and **The Villages Quartet**.

On Friday, the **Uncalled Four** sang for a lady in an aerobics gym and then to teachers at four different schools with young students present as well. On Saturday, one of the many places they serenaded was a large Valentine's Day home party with guests who piled into the living room to see and hear the singing. **Joe Pigg** commented, "We look forward to this every year because people who have never heard four-part harmony are touched by what we do and the sincerity that comes across in our singing."

SANTA CRUZ

LAURANCE STERN

In preparation for contest **Jim Stroupe** brought in guest coaches **Charles Feltman**, **Rich Postal** and **Paul Engel**. **Gold Standard** enjoyed working with them.

Jim Stroupe must step down as musical director as of April 3; reluctantly the chorus must look for a replacement.

Four VHS copies of the *YOUTH HARMONY CAMP* film were purchased in Reno for distribution to local high schools. Our annual show this year will again be a youth outreach event with local schools invited to participate.

SANTA ROSA

SCOTT DOUGLAS

The Redwood Chordsmen have been working hard getting ready for the NorCal West contest in San Jose. Right after that it's time to polish our swords and adjust our eye patches as we prepare for our annual show, *"There Be Pirates Among Us!"*. We'll be featuring our special guest quartet, **Late Night Barbershop**. If you're attending the Harmony Sweepstakes a Cappella Festival that evening in San Rafael, why not first come up to see our afternoon show? Details on our website, RedwoodChordsmen.org. The month of May also begins a new season of weekly Santa Rosa Downtown Markets, where the Chordsmen have an information booth complete with a chapter quartet. The booth and the singing, has attracted a lot of positive feedback for us, advertised our activities and brought in several new members.

WALNUT CREEK

DICK JOHNSTON

The merger of the **East Bay Chapter** into the **Walnut Creek Chapter** has now been accomplished, and it completes a circle that started when the **Walnut Creek Chapter** was formed in 1973. The chapter was organized by a group of men from the East Bay Chapter, then known as the Berkeley Chapter. Prominent among them were **Steve Carrick** and **Tom McGowan**. Steve died some years ago, but we are still in touch with Tom, who lives in Idaho. The merger has benefited both groups and there is a new spirit evident at Tuesday meetings.

Once again the chapter delivered singing Valentines, to the mutual enjoyment of recipients and singers. A total of 52 valentines were delivered. Quartets sang at a block party, a party of some 60 Methodist women, two Moose Clubs, a beauty salon, six restaurants, a post office, three service clubs, the local newspaper, three assisted living homes, the home of a 96-year-old, a birthday for a 90-year-old, a country club, and numerous other businesses and homes.



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FUN? Did somebody say **FUN?**

We had a successful *NorCal East/West President's Council* meeting February 22nd. Thanksto all you guys who attended. We got acquainted, exchanged some greatideas, and are looking forward to moving forward with plans to make ourChapter and Division

events and programs more interesting, more productive– and more importantly – **MORE FUN!**

Reno hosted the wildly successful *NCENN Spring Convention/International Prelims March 19 – 21*. Was it fun, or what? - thanks to the efforts of **Keith Eckhardt** and friends, there was more singing and – dare I say it – **FUN** – than any convention in recent memory. Don't miss the *Fall Convention in Bakersfield* – Keith and Co. will again bring their particular blend of mirth and mayhem to the mix. Looks like conventions are getting back to what they really should be – **FUN!**

The **Placerville Chapter** was honored as the *FWDChapter of the Year* – a trophy that has been dormant for the pastseveral years. They do a lot of things right up there in 'ol"Hangtown" (Placerville's former name during the gold rush). Included are an outstanding Youth Outreach program and an overall "can do" attitude. I've been there many times. Know what I like the most? They know how to have **FUN!**

I'll be out and around in the coming months– visiting chapters, talking to guys – lookin' for **FUN**.

...see 'ya around...



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CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

MILES SUTTER

Another successful Valentines Day in which we performed a total of 84 Valengrams, thanks to **His Story IV** – **Bob Greenhalgh, Perry Sedoo, Mark Swass, Phil Lustri, Common Bond** – **Howard Barber, Greg Kramp, Roy Anderson, George Cooper** and **Collaboration** – **Leo Van Vliet, Austin Spurlock, Mike Boyd, and Mike Barkley**. Singing with me were **Ray Baker, Greg DeMers** and **Steve McGuffey**. **Dick Compton** was coordinator.

The NCENN contest in Reno is now history and we were pleased to pick up the award for "Most Improved Chorus". Thanks to our director, **Dain Goad** and M & P VP **Greg Kramp**.

CHICO

LEE ATKINS

Bill Stenzel who sings bari with **Vintage Sound Quartet** received his 50 year membership card. He joined the Sacramento Capitolaire in 1954 and sang with the **Mystics**, a quartet of renown in the FWD. They competed on the District and International stages as well as many chapter shows throughout the Society. Bill was chorus director of the **Feather River Chapter**, the **Capitolaire** and the **Bidwell Generals** for several years. He is also a dual member with the **Nevada Placer Chapter**.

FRESNO

GORDON BERGTHOLD

Now that we've qualified for the Far Western District Contest we can get back to the business of singing for fun and doing what chapters normally do week in and week out. Fresno took on a challenge this year of operating a food and beverage booth at the new Save Mart Center. The idea was to earn extra money to help cover the annual operating expenses. **Richard Wayne**, Past President, took on the challenge at the same time he started a new career in real estate sales. We, the chapter members, owe Richard a load of thanks. Because of his efforts the bank account has ample funds in which to operate and we have received more public notice than ever before.

NEVADA PLACER

ROGER PERKINS

We had another successful Valentines Day as did most other chapters. It is a bright spot in the year for all of us.

The Sierranaders entered the NCENN chorus contest in Reno and had an enjoyable time. We are not a competition chorus and prefer to spend our time learning music for shows and performances. We went to have a good time and were quite successful. It was also a chance to hear some excellent quartet singing.

NORTH VALLEY

PHIL BARTEK

The Sound of The Foothills hosted another successful 'Singing Valentines' this year singing nearly 90 Valentines! We donated 25% of the proceeds to the local "Big Brothers-Big Sisters" program serving youth in Butte County. Thanks to **Jeff Layne** for doing a super job handling all the details. As usual, this highly anticipated event brought out the quartet spirit in everyone.

The chorus enjoyed a fabulous weekend at the Reno/Sparks Convention and was joined by "first timers" **Don Franklin**, **Rich Saum**, and **Al Raitt** who recently joined us along with returning veteran **Jim Haase**. The new guys had a great time and were welcomed by a well-hosted convention and a fantastic line up of high caliber entertainment. Thanks **Silver Dollar Chorus!** We are especially proud of winning Plateau A championship.

PLACERVILLE

FRANK MARTIN

Three Placerville quartets did Singing Valentines at some 43 requested stops plus 20 freebies. One quartet, named **The Music Committee**, gave two new members, **John Herrman** and **Bob Stuckey** – both with less than six months experience, the opportunity to get the Valentine feeling when they sang with **Keith Eckhardt** and **Richard Lund**.

Speaking of YMIH, when it was disclosed that the Harmony Camp for the YMIH was about to be discontinued, the Placerville chapter reaction was "no way"! Through the untiring efforts of **Ron Murray** and **Richard Lund**, the camp materialized and it drew 93 youths to Sly Park. The three-day event finished with the boys performing a show for their parents whose reactions ran from "I didn't know you could sing like that!" to "Did you get enough to eat?"

The Gold Rush Chorus placed 21 singers on the stage in Sparks, Nevada at the FWD Spring convention and NCENN division contest. The chapter was recognized by **John Krizek** as being a "go and do it" group and was awarded *FWD Chapter of the Year* based on increased membership, a model YMIH program, rescuing the YMIH Youth Camp, second place in the District Small Bulletin Contest, District Webmaster, District Convention Activities and Long Range Planning committees.

STOCKTON

KEP KEPLINGER

The 2004 Singing Valentine program grossed about \$2700. 52 valentines were delivered with as many as four quartets on the road. **Barbara Besser**, wife of our new member **Brian Besser**, coordinated the Valentine program and did a great job. Thanks to **Don Wilson** who arranged for the mementos (See's Candy) and Valentine cards. Thanks also to **Lu Parrish** for coaching and **Nora Keating** for promoting the program.

Director **Bill Litz** whipped the chorus into shape in a month and a half and the **Portsmen** placed 6th in the NCE/NN contest.

WhirlWind with Stockton's **Jordan Litz** did a terrific job to place first in the NorCal East Division quartet contest, qualifying them to compete at the FWD Fall finals, and also placed 8th in the International Prelims. At the awards ceremony, Jordan's solo wowed the audience to a standing ovation.

Tune Struck with **Al Wolter**, **Bill Litz**, **Steve Taylor**, and **Bob Yater**, placed 7th in the NorCal East Novice Quartet Contest and 9th in the NorCal East Division finals. **Collaboration** from Central Valley Chorus with Stockton bass **Mike Barkley** placed 1st in the novice contest.

Potluck was the mike-testing quartet for the quartet semi-finals with Stockton's **Bill Cale** singing tenor. **Lauren House** of the **Reno Chapter** substituted on lead.

Bill Cale, FWD Executive Vice President, emceed the novice contest in Walnut Creek, February 22nd and noted that all the quartets in the first half of the competition were graced with at least one Stockton chapter member.

VISALIA

DEE BAUGHMAN

The Mighty Oak Chorus recently had a community St. Patrick's Day presentation at a mobile home park, which was well received. This was followed by the chorus singing at the dedication of the new Visalia Transit Center.

The chorus held a joint practice on a Saturday with all four of the local Visalia high schools men's chorus's and their directors, as they prepare to blend into one chorus to appear on our show.

Our very active member, former **BOTY Don Ditmanson**, will be moving to Sioux Falls, SD. Don has been the chorus's Pay-As-You-Go Chairman for several years as well as After Glow Chairman.

**FWD DVP for Division 5 ASNSU****Ivan Jensen**

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Greetings Division 5 Barbershoppers.

By the time you read this article, we will have completed our 5th Annual Youth Barbershop Event in Phoenix as well as our Presidents Forum and Divisional Contest. Wow, things are busy. As many or all of you should know, the District Spring Convention was held in Reno March 18-21 and I might say it was a very fun and interesting time. Not only was the contest fun and exciting but the District Board Meeting and the House of Delegates meetings were very refreshing. Things are being done to make this hobby more fun and enjoyable for you and I. Many people are working very hard to improve this wonderful hobby we so enjoy. Having seen first hand the actions being taken and now telling you it is happening, I would like to share a story from a fellow barbershopper friend in Albuquerque. My friend had been given a book of humor and one Sunday he finally opened it up to find the first story was one that had meaning to his chorus as it does to each of the choruses in our Division. The story goes like this "A young woman was sound asleep when she started having a rather disturbing dream. A very sinister looking man was approaching her bed. She sat up and asked "What are you going to do?" The man flashed her a smile and said "Heck lady, that's up to you. It's your dream."

Gentlemen, everything we want starts with a dream, our dream. It's up to us to fulfill that dream. I firmly believe if we can dream it, we can achieve it. Remember, all of the great achievements of mankind started with dreams. What is your dream for your chapter, for your Division and for your District. It's not a rhetorical question. I'd like to hear from you, we may all be having the same dreams and could work together to satisfy those dreams.

Keep the Whole World Singing and Keep a Melody Ringing In Your Heart while we Teach The Children To Sing.

**Division 5 ASNSU Editor****Phil Smith**

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GREATER PHOENIX**PHIL SMITH**

Success continues to be the byword for the **Pride of Phoenix Chorus**. The show featuring the **Boston Common** was a huge success both artistically and financially, with a nearly full house at the evening performance, including numerous barbershoppers who came in from out of state. Many of them stayed for the afterglow, which drew a crowd of about 600 in the Hyatt Regency Ballroom.

The success has translated into membership growth, with the chorus now at approximately 60 strong. Six men recently joined in time to sing with the chorus at Division Contest: **Jeff Dolan, Harry Whilden, Allen Baum, Kris Kaehn, Ted Bradshaw** and **Jim Zeigler**.

Dawn Teixeira, visual coach for the **Masters of Harmony**, has been working with the chorus. She's making a big difference in our approach to our music.

Several changes have taken place on the Board of Directors. **Wes Stahler** is now membership VP, **Bill Williams** is secretary, **Gary Ciba** is treasurer and **Don Leggat** is now board member at large.

LAS VEGAS**RICH COON**

The Gamble-Aires are alive and well! The results of our chapter elections: President, **Rich Coon**, fourth term; VP Program, **Keith Pratt**; VP Music, **Stan Ackers**, second term; VP PR & Marketing, **John Thompson**; VP Chapter Development, **Rick Ives**; Secretary, **Jerry Alvarez**; Treasurer, **David Kennedy**; Members at Large: **Howard May, Wes White** and **John Waugh**. We are working our spring show, "*The Melody Lingers On*," which will be presented May 15 at the Summerlin Theater Arts Center. We are looking forward to a great spring and summer!

LAS VEGAS METRO**JOHN KINDE**

The City of Lights Chorus had three quartets represent the Las Vegas Metro Chapter at the Division Convention/Contest in Phoenix in April: **STARDUST**: **Larry Halverson** (lead), **John Mininger** (tenor), **Jim Halverson** (bari) and **Buzz Bossard** (bass); **SHENANIGANS**: **Dale Roberson** (lead), **Kenny Rios** (tenor), **Scott Fewell** (bari) and **Greg Dreyer** (bass); **RUMBLE SEAT DAZE**: **Roger Andersen** (lead), **Carl Truman** (tenor), **Ed Cotton** (bari) and **Dick Morrison** (bass).

The City of Lights Chorus and the **Gamble-Aires** sponsored two high school quartets at the International Prelims in Reno in March. The B from Green Valley High School won first place: **Jordan Rakita** (lead), **Jonathon Litster** (tenor), **Rob Smith** (bari) and **Spencer Mayer** (bass). **Let it Ride** from the Las Vegas Academy won second place: **James Eaton** (lead), **Carson Knuth** (tenor), **Nick Pizzo** (bari) and B (bass).

MESA**GARY EFRON**

We now have six registered quartets: **Strictly Vintage**, **Love@Home**, **Best Regards**, **Desert Song**, **2 Under Par** and **the Funtastics**. **Desert Song** and **Strictly Vintage** are preparing for the Division Contest.

The Lamplighter Chorus hosted the Chorus Directors Workshop Intensive again this year and **Jerry Fox** attended. We had fun singing under the three director/students. We also enjoyed the afterglow at Big Benny's Pizza.

After each rehearsal we go to an afterglow at the Village Inn, except the second Thursday of the month, when we go to Big

Benny's, and the fifth Thursday of the month, when we adjourn at 8:30 p.m. and finish off the evening in a restaurant.

The chorus is actively seeking a new (or used) director. **Jerry Fox** opted not to renew his director contract in May so that he can spend more time with his family and with YMIH. Jerry has spearheaded the YMIH Benefit shows every year, including this year when it is being hosted by the division. Jerry will remain active in our chorus, and the other basses welcome him back with open arms.

Bob Shaffer stepped down as president due to health reasons. He did a great job as president, and we thank him for that. He helped locate our present rehearsal hall, and we grew very large, very quickly under his command. He will keep singing with the chorus and **Love@Home** and **Desert Song**.

Rod Cardon, and his wife, **Joan**, are stepping down after several years of publishing our bulletin *The Lighter Side*. **Gary Efron** will take on the duties of bulletin editor. Rod and Joan, thank you for all your efforts.

PARADISE VALLEY

LEN LEVINE

The **Cactus Chordsmen** had an extremely successful Singing Valentines program, delivering a total of 131! This included singing for three weddings and one proposal. The chorus also received three new contracts for performances from satisfied Singing Valentines customers. All of this would not have been possible without the efforts of **Hank** and **Joan Nahass**, who put in lots of hours organizing this project.

Recently the chorus provided entertainment to the congregation of Palm West Baptist Church in Sun City West which included a quartet presentation from the newly formed **Cool Breeze**.

The chorus is attempting to upgrade our visual image by sporting white dinner jackets along with our traditional checked vests and bow ties.

PRESCOTT

SAM STIMPLE

The *BOTY* award for 2003 was presented to **Lloyd Ewart**, who has been doing an outstanding job handling public information and media contacts.

Three quartets from the **High Mountain Chordsmen** delivered a total of 44 Singing Valentines, netting the chapter approximately \$1,000. Kudos to SV Coordinator **John Baker**, his helper **Bob Ables**, and the quartets: **Whatever Four** – **Lloyd Ewart, Thom Christie, Gene Vandervoort, Ed Wolfe**; **Senior Moments** – **Bob Bassett, Keith Kelly, Dave Samuels, Jerry Harbeson**; and **High Country Four** – **Bob Steele, Rich Ludwigson, Sam Stimple, Ed Massa**.

The chapter, which is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year, now has 33 members. The two most recent additions are **Dave Brainard**, a lead, and **Ed Massa**, a dual member with the **San Jose Chapter** and the new bass of the **High Country Four**.

ST. GEORGE

KEN SUNDWALL

Valentine's Day has become a favorite event for the **Color Country Chorus**, and this year was no exception. Two chapter quartets performed 48 Singing Valentines during the day. The **Mellow Men** consisted of **Al Bridgewater, Bruce Decker, Mel Owen** and **Ken Sundwall**, while **Merrill Hardy, Brent Judd, Fred Wahlgren** and **Jim Duncan** sang as **Three Dads And A Dude**.

The chapter's 21st annual Spring Show was presented on March 6 with afternoon and evening performances at the local college auditorium. Our guest quartet, **Gotcha!**, was superb. One week before the show the chapter was informed that **Chris Vaughn**, their lead, would be unable to perform because of illness. **Gotcha!** recruited **Dan Jordan** of **The Perfect Gentlemen** and **The New Tradition** [1985 International Champions] to fill in for Chris, and he did a wonderful job. The quartet didn't miss a note or a beat through two performances and an afterglow. The audiences were amazed when they learned that the lead was a last-minute substitution. Thanks to them for helping to make our spring show a success!

SUN CITIES

BOB MCGOWAN

January saw the installation of our new and re-elected officers. **Ralph Brooks**, President; **Don Rubertus**, Music VP; **Don Buntenbach**, Membership VP, **John Vincent**, Treasurer; **Bob McGowan**, Secretary; and **Otto Mielenz**, who will serve out the un-expired term of Program VP. New Board Member at Large is **Bob Apple**. **Joe Salz** was selected to serve as our District Representative, a post he has held for several years.

February was a very busy month for the Desert Aires Chorus, with a very successful Singing Valentines program in which we fielded six quartets and sold more than 80 Valentines.

Our 2004 Annual Show, "*Girls, Girls, Girls*," held on Feb. 22, was well received by about 1,200 who attended the two performances, and many of our faithful followers said it was the best show in several years. Our guest quartets were **Stardust** of Las Vegas and **Late Night Barbershop** of Fresno, CA. The show raised enough money that we will again be able to contribute to eight charities in the West Valley surrounding the Sun Cities. We thank our members and our patrons.

Our annual Awards Dinner honored six of our own. The Director's Award went to **Campbell Titchener**, our script writer extraordinaire, the President's Award to **Don Buntenbach**, our Membership VP, the Board Award to **Richard Fleming**, who was our advertising sales specialist, the Rookie of the Year to tenor **Jack Gomez**, a special award, dubbed "Think – Men – Think" to our outstanding director, **Rich Thompson**, and the most important one, *BOTY*, to **Bob Apple**, a tireless worker in the chorus.

TUCSON

FRED KOCH

Four pickup quartets were formed to raise money for the chapter by singing about 40 Singing Valentines throughout the Tucson area. Each Valentine was delivered with a rose and an original card. The barbershop smile was thrown in at no extra charge. In

addition, the **Eastsiders** quartet delivered several Singing Valentines, working around the schedule of bass **Rich Kates**, a Tucson police officer who in addition to having to go to work at 4 p.m. had two court cases he had to be present for.

In January, **Connie Keil**, with the help of the **Sonoran Sound** quartet, conducted a 90-minute workshop for eight very talented and enthusiastic young men at Flowing Wells High School. By the end of the workshop, the boys had memorized the song *Bye Bye Love* and sang it without assistance. And even after the teacher closed the music room they moved to the hall and continued singing. They are still singing together and recently performed at a combined chapter dress-rehearsal show.

WHITE MOUNTAINS ARIZONA CHAPTER

DOC DOCKENDORF

The **High Country Chorus** is busily preparing for the Divisional Convention. We held an all-day chorus retreat on March 13 and received visual coaching from **Marcia Cheesman**, a local dancer and former thespian. Also, **John Erickson**, tenor of **The OK Chorale**, came up to coach us, and we had an enjoyable experience with him. Many thanks to both of these people for sharing their talent with us.

We have several new members. Welcome to **John Graham** (bass), **Buddy Haugh** and **Whit Bridgers** (leads), and **Alan Beste** (bari). Our membership is at an all-time high.

Our new Bulletin Editor of *From The Edge* is **Jerry Schrunk**, and he has published his first three issues, each one better than the last. He is still working on improving the formatting, and recently completed a course at Northland Pioneer College on publishing, which he is using for new ideas. KUDOS to Jerry.

The chorus performed on the Blue Ridge High School talent show on March 1 and was well received by a nearly packed auditorium.

Dan Lewis, Membership VP, received the January *BOTM* award for his outstanding work on the Installation Dinner, and **Keith Gore**, Music VP, bass section leader, and a new assistant director, received the February *BOTM* award.

YUMA

ROB BAILEY

The chorus has had a busy winter season, performing no less than three times in front of sell-out crowds. Director **Bill Ellenberger**, along with assistant directors **Frank Durham** and **Rob Bailey**, has prepared the chorus' repertoire of barbershop standards and some updated arrangements that are real audience pleasers. The chapter's popular quartet, **UnFourGettable**, provided the closing half of each show, earning standing ovations each time. The quartet has also performed 22 (paid!) sing-outs since the first of January and is now busily preparing for the Division 5 contest.

When visiting in the Yuma area, keep your Tuesday night open to visit the Desert Sunset Chorus -- give us a call at (928) 344-5930.

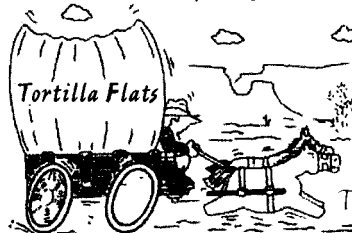
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Youth Harmony Camp 2004

What?..... talking about Youth Harmony Camp already. It's only April. Spring conventions are still fresh in our minds; and we're really into the spring Show season. My goodness, there are a Lot of great shows going on!

Well yes, it really is time to start work on Youth Harmony Camp – 2004.

In fact, fund raising is already well underway. A number of wonderful people have contributed to Camp at this early date and we will talk more about them in a minute.

In addition, the 2003 Camp video was debuted at the House of Delegates meeting at the FWD Spring Convention and was greeted with an almost instantaneous standing ovation. Tremendous thanks go to John Krizek, Lawrence Stern and Sue Peppers for making this video happen. It really is well done, and you need to order your copy today from John Krizek. Give him a call or email him at jkrizek@aol.com. This is a professionally prepared, jam packed production lasting 16 minutes and stars the 95 boys who were at the camp along with **Metropolis** and **Q**. Buy several of the videos and *GIVE* them to your local school music educators. This video has the impact and power to move even the most stoic Barbershopper on the risers into action.

As already mentioned, fund raising for 2004 has already begun; it was kicked off with a most generous contribution from the family of **Alvin Ramirez**, deceased brother of **Alice Bollard**, the director of **The Golden Chordsmen** of San Mateo County. This donation was a total surprise and will surely contribute to the ultimate success of this year's Camp. *Thank You So Much, Golden Chordsmen and Mary Ramirez!*

This year we plan to keep you posted on our fund raising progress with continuing articles in Westunes. You raised \$8,700 for last year's Camp, and we need at least that amount again this year. **San Jose** and **Placerville** were co-champions in terms of the size of their gifts with more than \$3,500 between the Chapters. Such sizable gifts are truly amazing!

Those big gifts are So wonderful; and they really get us over the top in terms of covering expenses and allowing us to really bring some truly special people to Camp for the boys. However, it is the many small contributions that are the engine that drive the Camp's success. Think of it this way: we Truly love the large contributions; but the real success or failure of the Camp depends entirely on the development of a "base" of people and Chapters who believe in the Camp and support the Camp at any level. *It is the support of barbershoppers everywhere who determine the success of Youth Harmony Camp.* The more guys, people, who support the Camp with their money and by talking it up, the more success will be achieved with the boys!

The really important concept in any kind of fund raising is that the success of the project is dramatically raised as more contributors become involved; the size of the contribution is not nearly as important as the fact of contributing. What we are asking is

for each president or YMIH guy to go to his Chapter, talk about Youth Harmony Camp and ask for the Chapter to donate whatever they feel comfortable with. This "involves" barbershoppers in the process; and gets them thinking about their money that they just sent off to Youth Harmony Camp. Then more guys start to think that since that was their money, they maybe could do a little more to help get some boys to Camp.

Thus, the process of fund raising actually helps to raise awareness, and become an integral part of the success of the Camp, not just a distasteful effort that we all simply have to get through.

Furthermore, fund raising can be Fun! Have you ever tried it? Give me a call, or email me if you are of a mind to give it a try. I have been involved with many campaigns with the Palo Alto YMCA and will be more than willing to help you to be successful. Together we can Really get something going with Youth Harmony Camp.

Summary of 2003 and 2004 as an ongoing progress report.

As reported last year, all that is needed for Camp to be a success is about \$300 from each Chapter in order to meet our goal of \$8,000. The Chapters that contributed to the 2003 Camp are listed below in alphabetical order. This is an impressive list of some sixteen Chapters from (generally) the two Northern California divisions. Remember, this is the only Camp in the FWD, so every chapter in the District is certainly encouraged to participate in whatever way you feel comfortable. Youth Harmony Camp benefits the High School boys in our entire Far Western District.

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2004 Chapter San Mateo

2003 Chapter
Bay Area Metro
Davis – Vacaville
Napa
Nevada Placer
Placerville
Oakland East Bay
Reno
Sacramento
San Jose
San Mateo
Santa Cruz
Santa Maria
Santa Rosa
Truckee
Ukiah
Walnut Creek

CONVENTIONS, SHOWS, EVENTS

2004 _____

May

- 1 Aloha Show
- 1 Crescent City Show
- 1 Santa Fe Springs Show
- 2 Palo Alto-Mt. View Show
- 8 *SCE Div Contest*
Anaheim
- 8 Santa Rosa Show
- 15 *SCW Div Contest*
Ventura
- 15 Placerville Show
- 22 San Jose Show
- 22 Bay Area Metro Show

June

- 4-6 FWD Summer BoD
Pasadena
- 4-6 South Bay Show
- 12-13 San Diego Show
- 26 San Francisco Show
- 27-Jul 4 **INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION**
Louisville, KY

July

- 10 White Mountain Show
- 16-18 *Harmony College West*
Univ of Redlands

August

- 1-8 *HCDC MWSC St. Joseph, MO*

September

- 11 Rincon Beach Show
- 25 Prescott Show
- September 30-October 3
FWD Fall Convention
Bakersfield [District run]

October

- 9 Stockton Show
- 23 San Mateo County Show
- 24 Marin Show

December

- 18 Santa Rosa Show

2005 _____

March

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

April

- 8-9 *NCWH Div Contest*
San Jose
- 22-23 *A/SN/SU Div Contest*

May

- 7 Santa Rosa Show
- 14 *SCE Div Contest*
- 15 San Jose Show
- 21 *NCENN Div Contest*

July

- 3-10 **INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION** Salt Lake City, UT

- 17-24 *HCDC MWSC St. Joseph, MO*
[dates are a one-time change]

October

- 13-16 *FWD Fall Convention*
Pasadena [host: Santa Fe Springs]

2006 _____

March

- 16-19 *FWD Spring Convention*
& NCENN Division Contest
Reno

July

- 2-9 **INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION** Indianapolis, IN

October

- 12-15 *FWD Fall Convention*
San Jose

2007 _____

March

- 15-18 *FWD Spring Convention*
& NCENN Division Contest
Reno

July

- 1-8 **INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION** Denver, CO

October

- 11-14 *FWD Fall Convention*
Tentative location

2008 _____

- Jun 29 - Jul 6 **INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION** Nashville, TN

2009 _____

- Jun 28 - Jul 5 **INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION** Anaheim, CA

2010 _____

- Jun 27 - Jul 4 **INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION** Philadelphia, PA

WESTUNES

Magazine

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