



WESTUNES

Magazine

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

Volume 58

Summer 2008

Number 2



OC Times



Late Show



Stardust



The Crush

2008 FWD Quartets Appearing in Nashville, TN

OC Times, Metropolis, Late Show, VocalEase,
Stardust, The Crush, Audacity

2008 FWD Choruses Appearing in Nashville, TN

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Far Western District Association of Chapters in the Barbershop Harmony Society, Inc.

WESTUNES Staff

Editor

Ray S. Rhymur

4339 Whispering Oaks Circle Granite Bay, CA 95746
916-791-2134 E: WestunesEditor@surewest.net

Division 1 SCW Editor

Mike Martin

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

Division 2 SCE Editor

Dick Girvin

34888 Lyn Ave Hemet, CA 92545
951-926-8644 E: dickgirvin@juno.com

Division 3 NCWH Editor

John Heather

1058 Celilo Dr Sunnyvale CA, 94087-4004
408-732-3276 E: jtheather@yahoo.com

Division 4 NCENN Editor

Roger Perkins

11493 Sherwood Way Auburn, CA 95602
530-823-0339 E: perks@wizwire.com

Division 5 ASNSU Editor

Frank Ortega

120 E Canyon Creek Dr Gilbert, AZ 85295-1516
480-306-4222 E: wordslinger1@cox.net

WebMaster

Keith Eckhardt

5449 Robert Rd Pollock Pines, CA 95726
530-644-4151 E: webmaster@spebsqsafwd.org
FWD Webpage: <http://www.spebsqsafwd.org/>
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2008 Far Western District VIPs

President **Bob Lally**

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

Executive Vice President **Ivan Jensen**

9172 N. Brave Drive Tucson, AZ. 85743
520-572-2347 E: ivanbbs@thejensens.com

Immediate Past President **Bill Cale**

9951 River View Cir Stockton, CA 95209-4165
209-473-2326 E: wkcale@aol.com

Secretary **Dick Girvin**

34888 Lyn Ave Hemet, CA 92545
951-926-8644 E: dickgirvin@juno.com

Treasurer **Jim Sherman**

2853 Leford Ave San Jose, CA 95124
408-265-9034 E: jassherman@msn.com

Society Board Member: **FWD/EVG**

Lou Benedict

121 N. Upas Escondido, CA 92025
760-747-3736 C: 760-271-6777 E: lbenedict@cox.net

Division Vice Presidents

Division 1 SCW **Bernard Priceman**

5150 Avenida Hacienda Tarzana, CA 91356
818-345-4125 E: bernard@thepricemanteam.com

Division 2 SCE **Gene Clements**

21725 Esmalte Mission Viejo, CA 92692-1029
949-581-5544 E: GRClements@aol.com

Division 3 NCWH **Steve Sammonds**

1128 Beaumont Drive San Jose, CA 95129
408-252-4093 E: sammonds@comcast.net

Division 4 NCENN **Jim Turnmire**

1349 East El Paso Fresno, CA 93720-2638
559-432-8778 E: jtmire@comcast.net

Division 5 ASNSU **Gordon Bergthold**

1577 Prescott View Place Prescott, AZ 86301-1551
928-445-8256 glbergie@cableone.net

FWD District Management Team

[See articles for complete contact information]

Chair: **Chapter Support/Leadership Training**

David Updegraff E: drupdegraff@msn.com

Chair: **Chorus Director Development**

Jim Crowley E: jimcrowley1@sbcglobal.net

Chair: **Contest & Judging**

Russ Young E: russ.young@cox.net

Chair: **Convention Activities**

Keith Eckhardt E: webmaster@spebsqsafwd.org

Chair: **Events**

Bob Cathaway E: rwcathaway@bak.rr.com

Chair: **Marketing & Public Relations**

Kevin Smith E: kpsmith2007-fwdmktgpr@yahoo.com

Chair: **Member Services**

Clark Abrahamson E: c.abrahamson@comcast.net

Chair: **Music & Performance**

Jerry Fairchild E: jerryfairchild@verizon.net

Chair: **Young Men In Harmony**

John Krizek E: jkrizek@aol.com

VP - Financial Development Harmony Foundation

David Haedtler E: davidhaedtler@hotmail.com

FWD Official Address

34888 Lyn Ave Hemet, CA 92545
951-926-8644 E: dickgirvin@juno.com

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Spring	1 Feb		25 Jan
Summer	1 May		25 Apr
Fall	1 Aug		25 Jul

These are new dates for the new
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Barbershop Harmony Society, Inc
110 - 7th Ave. N, Nashville
TN 37203-3704

or use the secure Society website login
<https://ebiz.barbershop.org/ebusiness/>

District President



Bob Lally

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

I hate to hit you with a commercial right away, but we're just finishing the season of Divisional Conventions and contests, and this year I attended all but one so I'm still pretty stoked up by the whole experience. There was just a whole bunch of great singing both on and off the stage, and everyone in sight seemed to be having a great time. If you couldn't make your Division event this time, know that you were sorely missed. If you were there, you know how enjoyable it was, and if you were one of the audience members hooting for the great performances, I want to ask you a favor. Try to think of one barbershop buddy of yours who didn't attend this year, and make it a point to let him know what a great time you had. Make sure he comes along next time so you can have all that fun together. Twice as many people... what a blast!

Motto:
Together
in
Harmony!

Okay, end of commercial. Right now, I'm looking forward to Nashville in July for what should be one of the most exciting International Conventions in a long time. And, as usual, the Far Western District will be a prominent part of the action with three choruses (including a returning champion) competing, a current Chorus Champion performing their swan song, and (as of this writing) six quartets entered with a possible two more to be added! I know you're as proud to be a member of this District as I am. Incidentally, the city of Nashville has welcomed the Barbershop Harmony Society to its new home with open arms, and the new headquarters building is stunning, so make your plans now to attend this historic event.

I've been very excited to learn during the first few months of this year about several chapters with new, youth-oriented events in the wind. There's also news of the continuation and expansion of a number of established programs designed to encourage singing and music for our young people. I'm sure you'll be hearing about these opportunities soon, and I urge you to get your chapter involved with one or more of your local schools. It will not only help insure the future of our Society, but will offer young people the chance to enrich their lives with music.

By the way, I want to remind you that next January in Pasadena at the Society's Midwinter we will be holding the Second Annual Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival. As you've no doubt heard by now the premiere edition of this Festival in San Antonio was a huge success with six choruses of young men from all around the country plus New Zealand taking part, and we look forward to expanding it next January right here in the Far Western District. With all the talent we have in our District we could probably field six choruses of our own. If you would like to be involved or think there might be a good group of young men in your area, check the Society web site for all the details, or contact staff member James Estes in Nashville. It's an inspiring thing to see, and the kids have a great experience all weekend mingling and singing with veteran barbershoppers.

Finally, I hope you're continuing to have a great time singing and ringing chords with your friends, and that your quartet or chorus is still providing a wonderful weekly experience for you and the others. If it's not, is there something you can contribute to make it better and more rewarding? If you need some help, I hope you'll call on your Chapter Counselor, your Division Vice President or any District Officer for advice. We're all having a terrific time and want you to have the same.

Remember, we're all in this together...
together in Harmony!



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560 W. Groverdale St
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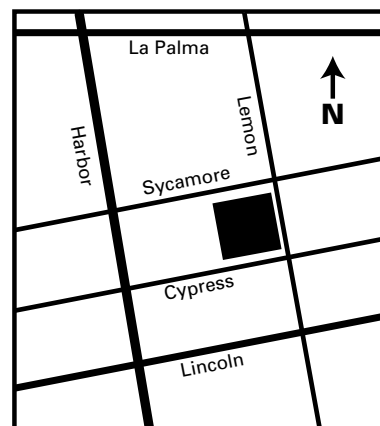
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District Executive Vice President



Also
OPS Team Co-ordinator
Ivan Jensen
9172 N. Brave Drive
Tucson, AZ. 85743
520-572-2347
E: ivanbbs@thejensens.com

Ivan was not available; out of state on urgent business.

Las Vegas Youth Festival

by John Thompson

Led by two young barbershoppers from Las Vegas, the Clark County School District held a Barbershop Harmony Youth Festival on May 6, 2008 at Del Sol High School in Las Vegas NV. Jay Dougherty and Jim Halvorson, both teachers in Las Vegas, organized the event. Jay and Jim are also very active barbershoppers.



Jim Halvorson

Jay Dougherty

Jim Halvorson is a music teacher in the school district and has been a major influence on Barbershop Harmony in the Las Vegas area since arriving there from Minnesota in 1998. Jim, the founding director of the City of Lights Chorus, left the chorus a few years ago and now directs the Celebrity City Chorus in Las Vegas (SAI). Jim and his brother Larry are members of the quartet "Stardust" and will compete this July in Nashville.



Jay is one of two associate directors for Las Vegas Metro City of Lights and is the Choral Music Director of Del Sol High School, where he has very successfully introduced Barbershop Harmony to his students who have formed the all female "Desert Harmony Chorus", as well as two female quartets "EuFOURia" and "FOURever More". A new men's quartet "Gil and the Guys" was formed just for this event. They all performed and were a very big hit! Jay also sings with the quartet "Ready or Not" who also sang at the festival and have qualified to compete this fall in Bakersfield.



EuFOURia with Jay Dougherty



Gil and the Guys with Jay Dougherty

In addition to the choruses and quartets from Del Sol H.S., the City of Lights Chorus was invited to perform as was the Celebrity City Chorus. Ring! and Wildfire, both Celebrity City chapter quartets, and Jay's quartet each sang to the delight of the audience of students, teachers and administrators from the school district. Also appearing was the college quartet "Sin City Four", who were recently featured on the Westminster Chorus Fantasy Quartet Show and who are the current SoCal Novice Contest Champs.

[Continued from page 4]

"Currently the Clark County School District does not have any outlets for barbershop, and barbershop style singing is not permitted at the annual CCSD Choral festival", observed Jay. In order to attract as many of the students, administrators, officials, and music educators from the CCSD as possible, Jay and Jim made sure invitations were sent to all, and encouraged other choruses and quartets from around the district to participate and perform in the festival. Although they knew it was unlikely that other schools would have time to prepare performing groups for this year's event, this year's show was free, with free barbershop music provided to all student attendees. Hopes are high that after experiencing this festival there will be more choruses and quartets formed to participate next year. As this festival develops into an annual event, Celebrity City and Las Vegas Metro will help by providing scholarships and sponsorships to the youth conventions and competitions held annually by BHS and SAI.

City of Lights and Celebrity City have been very active in supporting Youth in Harmony for a number of years. High School choral groups and quartets have appeared on a number of the chapter's shows and concerts. "The experience has been a truly rewarding one for both the students and our chapter members", said John Thompson, V.P. of PR & Mktg. for the chapter. "It not only made the shows more vibrant, but also brought our attendance up, and allowed us to donate a part of our show proceeds to the music departments of those participating schools. We are very pleased to have been invited to perform here tonight. Jim and Jay have produced a wonderful event!"

"I think we are making progress in accomplishing our mission of promoting and encouraging singing and music education in our schools," said Peter Feeney - Las Vegas Metro Chapter President. "We are very proud of Jim, his hard working chorus and Jay for producing this event this evening. It has been so much fun to be here with the young people of our community--seeing them enjoy themselves singing their hearts out and just having a grand old time. At times like this, I very fondly remember the great Uncle Lloyd Steinkamp and all he did for youth in harmony. I think he would be proud of what happened here tonight."

FWD Bulletin Editor of the Year

Mark Sheldon, of the Orange Chapter was named the FWD 2007 Bulletin Editor of the Year (Large Bulletins). Mark, a first time contest editor, competed in the three disciplines of Layout and Presentation (600 points) Grammar and Style (400 points) and Content (600) points. attaining a total score of 1488 (three issues) which qualified him to be entered in the International Bulliten Contest.

2007 FWD Presidents Award

The recipient of the 2007 FWD President's Award has made a significant and outstanding contribution to our Youth in Harmony program during the last ten years.

Because of him, over 15,000 middle school and high school students have been introduced to Barbershop.

Because of him, schools are appearing on chapter shows, a student was able to attend national honors choir in New York City, music educators were sponsored to Harmony College West and Harmony University, and a local school was provided with the funds needed to continue a music program.

As results of his efforts, over \$12,000 has been donated to school music programs, boys have been attending our youth camp, boys quartets have formed and flourished, and one quarteter in particular proudly wears both International quartet and chorus medals because Ron helped him get started in Barbershop.

I am proud to present Ron Murray of the Placerville Chapter with the 2007 FWD Presidents Award.



2007 FWD Chapter of the Year

The Santa Cruz Chapter was awarded the FWD Chapter of the Year for 2007. The Youth In Harmony activities, outstanding in recent years, culminated with 9 schools being featured in their shows in 2007. Jerry Orloff, FWD Hall of Fame member, accepted the award for the chapter.



**Chair: Chapter Support & Leadership****David Updegraff**

4555 S Mission Rd #127A

Tucson, AZ 85746

520-573-3266

E: drupdegraff@msn.com

Your CSLT team is in the throes of planning for the 2008-2009 Chapter Operations Training Seminars (COTS...soon to have a name change...). Last year's training sessions appeared to be well received by the participants, and we are continuing the basic structure of those, while adding some features this year. Many chapters sent several officers and board members this past year and I am confident that they benefited significantly from the experience.

I know I have mentioned this before, but we are nearing the conclusion of our revision of the Chapter Counselor role. You should hear more about this in the next few months.

Keep on barbershopping...it's life affirming!

**Chair: Chorus Director Development****Jim Crowley**

15 Shady Tree Lane

Carson City, NV 89706

775-691-6670

E: jimcrowley1@sbcglobal.net

The SoCal East and SoCal West guys enjoyed a staff visit from Mr. Mike O'Neill (BHS Chorus Director Development Specialist) from March 27th to March 29th. Mike visited the Pasadena Chapter on March 27th and worked with the chorus to help them prepare for their annual show held on April 26th. On Friday, Mike visited the Brea Chapter and did a superb coaching session. On Saturday, Mike held an all-day "Outstanding in Front" Class hosted by the Santa Monica Oceanaires (thank you to Aaron Mood, VP Music and Performance). Ms. Wendy Kornbek (Venice High School Choral Director) donated her school facilities for this event. Attending the OSIF class were Directors, Assistant Directors, Music and Performance VPs and Section Leaders from Chapters of BHS and Sweet Adelines, Inc. Special thanks to Mike O'Neill for coming out to FWD to improve the musical skills of our Chapters and Directors!

If you are an assistant director, section leader or you think you might want to be a chorus director, be sure to sign up for the "Outstanding in Front" class at Harmony College West coming up in July. See Jerry Fairchild's article in this issue or go to <http://www.spebsqsafwd.org> for all the information.

In September, I will be setting up a CDWI (Chorus Director Workshop Intensive) in Northern California for five front line directors. The CDWI is an intensive, hands-on learning experience with immense benefits for your Chapter's

musical growth! Note that if the host Chapter Director participates as a student, his/her tuition charge (\$100) is **WAIVED**. Please contact me ASAP if your Chapter would like to host this CDWI.

**Chair: Contest & Judging**
Russ Young

7235 E Laguna Azul Ave

Mesa, AZ 85209-4925

480-654-0215

E: russ.young@cox.net

[Ed. note:]

Contest preparation activities precluded a report. Seems registration with the new BHS computer system requires much extra care to assure all are registered properly. Thanks to Russ for his unusual expenditure of time.

**Chair: Convention Activities**
Keith Eckhardt

5449 Robert Road

Pollock Pines, CA 95726

530-644-4151

E: webmaster@spebsqsafwd.org

[Ed. note:]

Harmony College West registration and coordination are in progress. Thanks to Keith for all his effort. By the way, why don't you sign up for HCW now?

**Chair: Events**
Bob Cathaway

6504 Audene Way

Bakersfield, CA 93308

Phone: 661-399-6292

E: rwcathaway@bak.rr.com

Well, the Spring Prelims have passed, and the Far Western District is sending at least four quartets to the International competition. And of course, the prelims were combined with the So-Cal West division contest. SCW will send 3 quartets, 2 senior quartets and 3 choruses to the district contest in October. You can now pre-register for the Fall Convention and make your hotel reservations. Both forms are included in this issue of Westunes, and they are available on the FWD website as well. Mark the dates now, if you haven't already. October 9-12.

Let's talk about the Fall Convention a little bit. Those of you who attended the Spring Prelims heard President Bob Lally talk about the days not too many years ago when the Fall Convention had lots more singing by the attendees - more woodshedding and more afterglow rooms - than we've had for quite awhile. He expressed his desire to

bring those days back and give everyone more opportunity to sing or listen. So, here's what we're going to do. The convention team is holding most of the suites on the top floor of the Holiday Inn Select (headquarters) for afterglow rooms. These suites will be available to book by chapters or groups who desire to host an afterglow room. To reserve your suite, contact BILL ROSICA at brosica@sbcglobal.net. These suites may go fast, so don't procrastinate.

More news about the Fall Convention. Please note that the Holiday Inn Select, our headquarters hotel, has been purchased by Marriott. It will become a Marriott Hotel sometime in June. But of course that will not affect your reservations. Additionally, one of the new hotels near the DoubleTree will be a new Holiday Inn, which may be able to reserve some rooms for us. Just be aware of all this and don't panic when you receive your hotel confirmation.

One last thing. We're still looking for chapters to host their respective Division contests for next spring and beyond. It's a whole lot easier to do when you have nearly a year to plan. So think about it. It's a good moneymaker for the chapter, and if you are small, think about co-hosting with another small chapter.



Chair : Marketing & Public Relations
Kevin Smith
 546 Blue Jay Dr
 Hayward, CA 94544
 510-329-7815
 E: kpsmith2007-fwdmktgpr@yahoo.com

[Ed. note:]

The May 10 Blood Drive preparations consume all available time. Thanks to Kevin for his extra effort.



Chair : Member Services
Clark Abrahamson
 186 Big Valley Rd
 Folsom, CA 95630-4648
 Phone: 916-983-1141
 E: c.abrahamson@comcast.net

The latest data I have from Society Headquarters indicates that the decline in membership continues. One of the biggest factors seems to be that the non-renewal rate is rising. Why would that be? Well - some possible reasons:

- Age - just not up to it anymore - physically and/or mentally.
- Death - difficult to renew after you've departed this earth.
- Disenchantment - no longer getting the "fix" you used to get.

- Time - lotsa choices for activities - some perceived as more compelling than barbershop.

Whatever the reasons, I'm betting we can fix some of them. To that end, we've developed a Membership Workshop scenario that I hope can be delivered to each and every chapter. It's truly a workshop - no lectures, no interminable PowerPoint slides - just an opportunity to get together with your friends and peers to explore ways to recruit and retain members. There are definitely ideas out there that bear food for thought.

Witness, for instance, the Sacramento Chapter. Membership VP Joe Samora set out at the beginning of the year with a goal - a simple goal - to add 2 members per month. As I write this column (at the end of April) he's right on target - 4 months, 8 new members. Better yet, to my knowledge, no members have departed the chapter thus far this year!

What's Joe's secret? No secret - he simply does what he set out to do:

- He developed a plan and sticks to it.
- He's always on the lookout for potential members, and asks people to visit.
- He sees to it that guests are welcomed warmly, and that members participate in the welcoming experience.
- He assigns a "buddy" to guests and new members, and follows up to make sure they're doing their job.
- He makes sure that new members are properly oriented, mentored, and encouraged to get involved.
- He has an active committee that meets at least once per month to discuss plans and progress.
- He schedules guest nights regularly, and ensures that the experience is a positive one for guests and members alike.
- He maintains a constant, contagious positive attitude - no matter what.

I could go on, but I suspect you get the point of the italics in the foregoing. Joe doesn't do anything that any one of us couldn't do. The difference, I think, is that he just - well - does it! Common sense stuff - know what I mean - stuff that Joe would be happy to share with other chapters. I'm certain you have similar ideas within your chapter to likewise share with others.

You don't have to be a Membership VP, or President, or Board Member, or any of those high-falutin' things to participate in a workshop - just someone who's interested and involved in membership issues. Let me know if you would like to schedule a Membership Workshop for your chapter. I'm sure it can be arranged. Email me (c.abrahamson@comcast.net), or call me (916-983-1141).

See 'ya around...

**Chair: Music & Performance****Jerry Fairchild**

671 W Cypress Ave
Redlands, CA 92373-5817
909-792-8618

E: jerryfairchild@verizon.net

Harmony College West

Those two things certainly do go together. **MUSIC:** That is what our whole society is about. **PERFORMANCE:** That is how we present to our audiences the music we have learned. The better we know our music and the better we perform it determines how large or small our audiences will be.

Harmony College West has ONE purpose! To bring together instructors and coaches who will help you increase your knowledge and abilities in a multitude of skills, so that when you leave HCW you will be smarter, better, more skillful and more excited about our great hobby!

And speaking about our instructors and coaches, **BOY** do we have a super staff this year! As we did last year, registration will begin at 12:00 noon. We will offer four one-hour classes for which you don't have to register. Two of them will be given from 3:00 - 4:00 and the other two will be from 4:00 to 5:00. These classes are for those who are able to get to Redlands by 3:00 or by 4:00. (Literally early bird specials.) Take one or two or none or spend your time woodshedding or driving in the afternoon rush traffic. These classes are in addition to the normal 8 hours of instruction given at HCW.

You can find all the class descriptions on the FWD website under Harmony College West 2008. Two of the 3:00 and 4:00 classes will be taught by one of our favorite people, Dawn Castiglione. Check out her class descriptions at <http://www.bhsfwd.org/HCW-uor/HCWClasses.cfm>

One of the very best things you can do for yourself is to improve your ability to sight-read music. Phil Ordaz will have two classes: Beginning and Intermediate Sight-reading. Don't put it off! Learn to sight-read music.

And a brand new class you won't want to miss! Brian Philbin, the coo-coo bass of Metropolis, will be teaching "The Comedic Approach - Barbershop and Humor 2. Need I say more?

Since Barbershop is all about singing, it is only logical that we should learn to take care of what we sing with - our voice. Craig Ewing will help you learn to use, not abuse your voice. Better to take care of it than to have to repair it. (From the voice of experience).

There are nine other classes which will be offered. Check their class descriptions on the FWD website under "Harmony College West 2008".

Don't forget the "Early Bird" prices are good only until June 15th. That is the same price it has been for the last 7 years! That is \$150 per man. And we have to have your money by then. If we get your money after that date it will be \$175,

Now for you quartets! We have the finest coaching staff in the history of Harmony College West. We have 8 International Gold Medal winners, 7 District winners, 9 Judges, 2 directors of International Chorus winners among our coaching staff.

We will be using the POD system again. If your quartet hasn't been coached using this method, then this the place you need to be July 18 - 20, 2008! We received literally pages and pages of comments from members of the quartets who had experienced the POD system last year. And 96 % said they were "Very Satisfied" with the "Overall value of your time at HCW."

Don't forget that the "Early Bird" quartet prices are only good until June 15th. That is \$200 per man. That means we have to have your money by then. If we get your money after that date it will be \$225.

I saved the best for last. That is the Saturday night show and pizza party. Each quartet will sing one song on the first half of the show and then our own Silver Medalist College quartet Crush and our headliners, Realtime, our 2005 International Champions will take over. If you haven't heard Realtime, this is what our own Nick Papageorge, who judged the contest, said about them. "Everybody heard them sing flawlessly, so the entire attention could move to how artistically they sang those songs. They created a marvelous musical experience."

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[Ed. note:]

John says the 2,000 Youth In Harmony brochures are being published and he expects to get them out in the very near future. The brochure will help bring the YIH up to date and should be a very attractive vehicle to inform music educators and people in your local community.



VP - Financial Development
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David Haedtler
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 650-965-3305 E: davidhaedtler@hotmail.com

If you want information, contact David.

“Mr. Barbershop”

by John Heather

Neil Keefer has had a truly illustrious musical career in music. By the third grade in Paso Robles, California he was playing the violin. Soon he was in the elementary school orchestra, followed by membership in the high school orchestra. Next, he sang in operettas and the church choir. After graduating from San Jose State University, he eventually moved to Pacific Grove, California. There he sang in the Monterey Presbyterian Church choir.

About 1956 a neighbor asked if Neil would be interested in singing with a barbershop chorus, and the rest is history. Neil joined the Paisano Barbershop Chorus of approximately forty men, and began singing baritone after beginning in bass. The first of many quartets Neil was to sing in was called the “Monterey Jacks,” no doubt a reference to the cheese Monterey is famous for. This group sang at California’s First Theater, a historic building which featured olio and vaudeville along with such melodramas as *The Drunkard*.

Neil’s next quartet was the “Three-Alarm Four.” This hilarious group wore firemen’s helmets, red suspenders and custom-made shirts, and carried a ladder onto the stage. They often sang in Carmel’s Sunset Auditorium. Neil recalls one occasion when the fire department siren went off unexpectedly in Carmel just as the quartet was beginning to sing, and the audience began laughing uproariously, thinking it had been done on purpose. In 1961 Neil joined a quartet called “Sons of the Beach,” but he remembers it was very hard to get the group to rehearse, so he dropped out. (Perhaps the quartet’s name didn’t help either!)

It was Neil who suggested the name “Cypresses” for the new name of the Paisano Barbershop Chorus in the early 1960s. He thought “aire” would be a good ending for a name and realized that the cypress tree was strongly identified with the Monterey Peninsula, hence the new name.

At about this time Neil joined a quartet called the “Plus Four.” The members specialized in comedy and became so popular that they sang together for several years. The

quartet chartered a plane and sang in barbershop shows from San Diego to Seattle, visiting seventeen cities on consecutive weekends. On another occasion the Plus Four was invited to sing in Hawaii for a week and sang at various service clubs, the Hawaiian Stock Exchange, and several other venues, even getting on television in the Islands. Meanwhile, the quartet was entering various competitions in the Far Western District, such as in Pasadena, San Francisco, Fresno, Sacramento, etc. They always scored in the top ten.

Other quartets Neil joined were the “Tonsorial Parlor Harmony Association” and the “Main Streeters.” The latter name came from the group singing at the Farmers’ Market in Salinas on Main Street. Another quartet he sang in was the “Fat City Four,” named for a King City, California cattle feed lot. In this group Neil sang lead for six to eight years. In the 1980s Neil sang with the “Happy Kondriacs.” The Plus Four was then reconstituted, and Neil sang with this group until about 2003.

From 1968-1974 Neil directed the Cypresses. He is now retired but remembers his rich musical career with wonderful memories. In 2007 Neil was awarded for 50 years of membership. He is truly “Mr. Barbershop” of the Monterey Peninsula.

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2008 Nashville International Competition: Chorus Draw

OOA	Chorus	Area
1	Saltaires	(Wasatch Front, UT)
2	Texas Millionaires	(Ft. Worth, TX)
3	Sound of the Rockies	(Denver Mile High, CO)
4	The Entertainmen	(Ronninge, Sweden)
5	Alliance	(Greater Central Ohio)
6	Heart of America	(Kansas City, MO)
7	Heralds of Harmony	(Tampa, FL)
8	Heart of Texas	(Central Texas Corridor)
9	Granite Statesmen	(Nashua, NH)
10	New Tradition Chorus	(Northbrook, IL)
11	Sound of Illinois	(Bloomington, IL)
12	Atlanta Vocal Project	(Atlanta Metro GA)
13	Kentucky Vocal Union	(Elizabethtown, KY)
14	The Big Apple Chorus	(Manhattan, NY)
15	Capital City Chorus	(Ottawa, ON)
16	Mountaintown Singers	(Mt. Pleasant, MI)
17	Spirit of Phoenix	(Greater Phoenix, AZ)
18	Voices in Harmony	(Bay Area, CA)
19	Midwest Vocal Express	(Greendale, WI)

20	Alexandria Harmonizers	(Alexandria, VA)
21	Chorus of the Chesapeake	(Dundalk, MD)
22	Houston Tidelanders	(Houston, TX)
23	The West Towns Chorus	(ChicagolandWestSuburban, IL)
24	Salem Senate-Aires	(Salem, OR)
25	Masters of Harmony	(Santa Fe Springs, CA)
26	Ambassadors of Harmony	(St. Charles, MO)
27	The Vocal Agenda	(Batavia, NY)
28	Brothers In Harmony	(Easton, PA)



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**2007-2008 Far Western District Quartet
Champions
2007-2008 Lloyd B. Steinkamp
Standing "O" Award Recipients**

Getting to Know You

Hello, Far Western District!

As we enter the second half of our championship year, we figured it was about time that we shared a little bit biographical information about us with you. Even though we've all been around the FWD for a long, long, long, LONG time (sheeze!), there may be some new folks out there that don't know who we are and from whence we came. So, for what it's worth, here's some trivia about VocalEase.

VocalEase decided to buy matching socks and get serious about this barbershop singing thing back in October 2005. After a trial rehearsal where we sang every song we could remember (and many we didn't know at all), another "long-distance" quartet was born.

About 2 years after our first rehearsal, we were fortunate to win the Far Western District Quartet Championship in Phoenix. In addition to bringing home the quartet gold that weekend, we were honored to receive the first Lloyd B. Steinkamp Standing "O" Award. This award is bestowed upon a quartet in the contest that the audience feels is the most entertaining among their peers.

Todd Kidder - Tenor

Todd joined the Vacaville Chapter of the Society in 1971 after having sung barbershop-style music for about 8 years with his father and brothers. He served as an assistant director for the Vacaville Chapter for several years.

Todd's first quartet, Kidder & Sons, Incorporated was formed in 1969 and took home the FWD championship in

1987. He first sang with Rich Brunner and others in 'Rad Dads', and in joined Rich again in 'Freestyle'. He is a veteran of the International stage, finishing with 11th in International Competition in 2002 with Freestyle.

In VocalEase, Todd is pleased to once again share the stage with 'little brother Scott', a goal they have for many years.

Todd and wife Diane live in Vacaville, California and have five grown children, Emily, Jennie, Bryan, Brandy and Jennifer, who married Christopher Bell, and have added three grandchildren to the clan, Christine, Matthew and Nicholas. He has been a law enforcement officer for twenty years and is currently a Sergeant with the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Department.

Rich Brunner - Lead

Rich began singing barbershop harmony in 1978, when his high school music teacher (a member of the Dapper Dans) started a high school quartet. He joined the Sacramento Chapter in 1982, and has been a member since that time.

While attending UC Davis, where he earned his degree in Music, Rich sang with a college quartet, the 'Davisville Student Forum', all of whom became members of the Sacramento Chapter as well.

Rich has been a FWD Champion on three occasions, first with 'Musician's Choice' in 1988-89, with "Freestyle" in 1999-2000, and again with VocalEase in 2007-2008. He has been an International competitor 10 times, including 5 semifinalist appearances with Freestyle, which achieved 11th place in 2003.

Rich lives in the Sacramento Valley with his wife, Pattie, and sons Luke and Griffin, and their -permanent puppy', Skyler. He is Vice President of Systems for MAXIMUS, a large systems integration company focused on healthcare and government.

Scott Kidder - Baritone

Scott began singing at the age of 5 with his brothers, Todd and Aaron. The ukulele-playing trio performed on barbershop shows and other local events in the Washington, D.C. area. When the family relocated to Clark Air Force Base in the Philippines in 1969, "Papa" Don decided to satisfy his barbershop needs by forming a quartet with his three sons. While in the Philippines, the family quartet entertained troops and eventually won an Armed Forces talent search to appear on the Ed Sullivan Show in March of 1971.

[Continued on page 12]

[From page 11]

After returning to the States in the fall of 1971, Kidder and Sons, Inc. spent much of the next 20 years performing on barbershop shows and competitions across the United States and Canada. Kidder and Sons finally won the coveted Far Western District championship in 1987.

Scott has earned 6 gold medals with the Masters of Harmony, serving as both Lead and Baritone section leader; and has sung in several other quartets, most recently with bass Joe D'Amore in Finale - 2001 Far Western District champions and 2002 International finalists. He is thrilled to finally have the opportunity to once again share the stage with his "older" brother Todd.

Scott works as a Senior Programmer/Analyst for Maxon Furniture, and lives with his lovely wife, Cindy, and wonderful sons Ryan and Kyle in Irvine, California.

Joe D'Amore - Bass

Joe became a member of the Pasadena Chapter in 1979 and fell in love with the barbershop style of music. He soon became the chapter's musical director and sang in his first barbershop quartet (The Crowning Attraction). Joe sang bass in the Far Western District Novice Champion "Sound Horizon" in 1982.

In 1985, Joe led a group of motivated barbershop singers in chartering the Foothill Cities Chapter, Masters of Harmony chorus. Joe shared the chapter's musical leadership as co-director with Jeff Ebner. And, when Dr. Greg Lyne moved to Southern California and accepted the music director position for the group, Joe was elected Chapter President. Joe helped the chorus win two of its six International gold medals.

Joe is a three time Far Western District quartet champion, a four time International quartet medalist with Standing Room Only, and an International quartet finalist with Finale.

Joe is married to his best friend, Marcia. They live in Glendora, California. Joe and Marcia have three wonderful children - Michael, Heather and Matthew - and a very spirited Chocolate Lab by the name of Lakota. Joe is a project manager for Pearson Learning Solutions.

Well, that's about it. We are really enjoying representing the FWD and we look forward to singing with you soon.

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2007 FWD Chorus Champions Masters of Harmony

by Ron Larson

Thanks to Youth in Harmony Chairman Mark Freedkin's meticulous planning, this year's Young Men's Harmony Festival at Orange Coast College in February was regarded as the best festival ever by the choral music directors who attended. Mark commended OC Times and Gotcha! quartets for being positive role models while demonstrating the barbershop art form at its highest levels. He also thanked Ken Potter, Craig Ewing, and Royce Ferguson, widely regarded as some of our Society's finest coaches, for serving as clinicians and directors for the 217 young men who came from 27 different area schools. A number of Masters of Harmony members and MOH Harmony Sweethearts volunteered their time to the all-day event by serving as chaperones. Congratulations, Mark, for organizing and overseeing an event these young men will remember for the rest of their lives. In years to come, this memorable day will most likely motivate some of them to join chapters around the country thus helping to keep barbershop harmony alive and well!

To help the Masters prepare for the toughest competition they have ever faced, they called on coaches who have been so much a part of past Masters' successes: choreographic genius Erin Howden, Greg Clancy of Vocal Majority and Max Q fame, and former MOH Director Dr. Greg Lyne. Erin and Greg have provided valuable coaching insights the Masters hope will help them win Gold in Nashville. Dr. Lyne will take his turn and bring his unique perspectives to the Masters' rehearsal in late May.

Thanks to the efforts of MOH chorus member and Bakersfield resident Bill Rosica, the Bakersfield Association for Retarded Citizens (BARC), agreed to sponsor a benefit concert on April 19, at Bakersfield's historic Fox Theater. BARC is a local organization long known for its successful training and rehabilitation programs for the area's disabled and disadvantaged. This was the first Masters' appearance in Bakersfield in two years. The concert program also included current Far Western District Quartet Champion VocalEase, as well as MOH quartets The Crush and Expeda.

Since the last report, Yasumichi Ichikawa, Matt Schoonmaker-Gates, Steve Sanders, J.P. Krauss, Chris Peterson, Kent Richardson, John Forrest and Dave Phinney, all basses, have become members of the Masters family, along with Jonny Tillery, Cody Littlefield and Joey Buss, leads, and Peter Drew and John Brockman, baritone.

"Outstanding In Front" Directors' intro is outstanding all-around

by Dane Hutchins, Harmony Gadabout

There are many harmony-oriented activities and programs the society indisputably does just-right, in which participants might experience the beauty of a remarkable performance or gain musical or artistic knowledge well beyond what is expected. The "Outstanding In Front" introduction to directing, delivered at Venice High School on March 29th, is one such program.

It's human nature for people to feel awkward when asked to stand in front of others to demonstrate some skill they've not yet mastered. So with some trepidation, about two dozen people came to the class, uncertain of their comfort levels with what they would encounter. Most were BHS members, but also present were several SAI singers and local choral directors. Conducting the class was Mike O'Neill, the society's Music Educator and Chorus Director Development Specialist, well-armed with musical knowledge beyond his years, dispensed with such warmth and confidence that all present felt immediately at-ease and comfortable.

After a quick introduction to the program, Mike began discussing the specific directing skills needed by practitioners, including posture and body alignment, arm and hand positioning, downbeat and ictus, preparatory and closing arm and hand motions, etc. Everyone mimicked Mike's movements, directing themselves singing familiar BBS tunes, "Let Me Call You Sweetheart", "Down Our Way", "Sweet and Lovely" and several others. Some time was spent demonstrating the different arm patterns used for two, three and four beat time signatures, as well as during timing changes such as rubato and fermatas, etc.

Unexpected but quite fitting with the overall flow of information were somewhat-lengthy discussions of related topics. "Building a Functioning Team" discussed creating chapter roles to enable the director to do what he loves best while putting others in key positions to lighten his load; "Leadership and Relationship" emphasized the elements needed to build open, honest and positive relationships between all chorus members: genuineness, mutual respect and positive mindedness. Participants remarked that the qualities being discussed were also critical success factors for building successful community groups and business organizations.

Several technical topics were presented. "Sound Management" discussed and demonstrated how posture and alignment, breathing and body support affected sound production. "Improving Our Singing" delved into the importance of a singer's attitude and amplitude, air flow, resonance in producing vowel sounds, singing without tension and habits to build; "Developing A Unit Sound" asked a number of singers to sing phrases several times, each time focusing on and boosting their unity of sound, so the entire class clearly recognized the remarkable improvement.

The seven-hour class introduced and presented a great number of topics central to the directors' art and spent considerable time discussing small differences in approach and practice that would help determine the quality of a director's ability to effectively control the flow and performance of a chorus. It became evident to all that in order to become an effective director, many, many hours of dedicated practice would be required; yet all came away with a firm foundation of information they could build upon should they decide to pursue the director's track. All society members having an interest in directing would do well to participate in this class whenever an opportunity to do so presents itself.

Youth Harmony Camp 2008

Richard Lund, Camp Director

I'm here at Tahoe, it is mid April and there's still three feet of snow outside the cabin! Wow. But it's also time to be thinking about Harmony Camp, September 26-28 at Sly Park. As you may recall, we have Late Show as our headliner quartet with the incomparable Jordan Litz at lead who at the completion of Harmony Camp 2008 will have attended more Camps than even Cory! How bout that, Jordan!

The thought that young men have their lives changed by Harmony Camp is, indeed, real. I remember my first Camp in the Santa Cruz Mountains and recall that during registration I noticed a young boy with his dad off on the side.

Dad was teaching his son tag after tag and the boy was simply drinking it in. I later learned that the boy was Jordan Litz with his dad, Bill. I carry this impression with me to this day, and I know we are changing lives and having a strong positive effect on the many young men who avail themselves of this wonderful opportunity - much like Bill Litz has had on his son, Jordan. To this day Bill remains one of our most important volunteers at Harmony Camp.

I am also reminded of a young man out of Ponderosa High School, Jason, who is now in college, but who has changed his life's plan to music, all because of barbershop and Harmony Camp. Jason is one of the most enthusiastic young men I know. He always has an idea or plan on the front burner. Right now it's forming a collegiate quartet together with the goal being on stage in Nashville this summer. You may be thinking what're his odds of accomplishing this? Pretty low, you say? I say not for Jason. He and three other music majors out of Sac State, including James Morgan of the old Whirlwind quartet, are working on a couple of relatively easy songs - remember, it's far better to sing an easy song really well than to sing a more challenging one not so well. And you will see them in Nashville - right Jason and James? Just another example I'm personally aware of, where Barbershop and Harmony Camp have impacted lives.

Then there are the young men in Westminster who are alumni of Camp. Nearly all of OC Times, and The Crush for starters; and several other individuals: in particular Adam Ehrenpfort, of the old Whirlwind quartet. That's nine or so off the top of my head, but I know there are others. And how many of those guys were impacted by the Father of Youth Harmony Camp, Lloyd Steinkamp. Remember, it was Lloyd who so strongly believed in the concept and created Youth Harmony Camp in the first place.

Anyway, I've gone on long enough about the old times. We are in the process of raising funds for Harmony Camp 2008! If you haven't talked with your chapter and your chapter board, now is the time. We need to raise about five thousand more dollars before September to support the 2008 Camp. As always, I'll be sending emails and telephoning Board Presidents to ask for Chapter support. And even more pointedly, I simply ask that your Board and Chapter decide first whether or not to support Camp and then at what level of financial support they choose to commit to Harmony Camp 2008. No amount is too small and individual contributions have been and continue to be welcome.

My chapters, Placerville and Reno, will support Harmony Camp 2008, the level being decided by the members of the Chapters.

I look forward to seeing you in Bakersfield in October and once again sharing the joy and excitement of Harmony Camp 2008.



2007 International Chorus Champions Westminster

What an amazing spring this has been. From the transition to our new director to the production of our spectacular annual show, this has definitely been a season to remember.

The event of the season was our annual show, the Fantasy Quartet Show. If you missed this event, you missed one for the record books. Current and past gold medalists competed in a head to head live internet vote from all fans of barbershop who decided the members of the headlining quartet. The quartet was flown in for a special one-time performance, creating two highlights for the society: the first and possibly last time these men would ever perform together. These winners had an impressive 10 gold medals between them. Once again we would like to thank and honor our winners: Tim Waurick (Tenor-Vocal Spectrum), Joe Connelly (Lead- Interstate Rivals, Keepsake, and Platinum), Jeff Oxley (Bass-Rapscallions, Acoustix, and Max Q) and Tony DeRosa (Baritone- Keepsake, Platinum, and Lead- Max Q) for making the dreams of barbershoppers everywhere come true. With their first rehearsal being the day they performed on the show, the quartet's performance exceeded the hopes and expectations of every member of our chorus, and every member of the audience. They gave an experience which will not soon be forgotten.

Sharing the stage with this once in a lifetime quartet was our very own chapter quartet and current international silver medalists, OC Times. As expected, they were very entertaining and enjoyed by all. The buzz created from this performance has many people talking about high expectations for the contest in Nashville this summer. Our best wishes go out to them as they attempt to achieve their barbershop dreams.

Current international semi-finalists, and collegiate silver medalists, The Crush, were a great addition to the show. Their style and musicianship is a great indication of their future achievements on the district and international

stages. The buzz has already begun about a possible second top twenty finish in Nashville.

We would also like to recognize and thank our novice contest winners Sin City Four, comprised of David Meye, Nick Pizzo, Spencer Mayer (former FWD high school quartet winner) and Carson Knuth for their performance on our show.

With the addition of the webcast to our annual show, those who were not able to be in attendance were able to view the show all across the world. As we took the stage at 2pm Pacific Time, Ash from Perth, Australia set his alarm for 4am so he wouldn't miss the first downbeat. Ken Custer also found a way to tune in at precisely midnight all the way from Iraq to support his fellow barbershoppers. The dedication and support of our barbershop friends made this a memorable performance and we thank every person for watching and contributing to our journey to Nashville. Many people watched the show at their leisure throughout the week following the show; thanks to everyone who gave feedback on the Harmonet, your comments were greatly appreciated. We understand that although there may have been a few bugs that need to be worked out for next year, the experience was enjoyed by all.

Along with presenting the Fantasy Quartet, our annual show gave us the opportunity to properly introduce our new director, Justin Miller. We are very pleased with his ability to step right in and continue this brotherhood we enjoy so much. His energy and enthusiasm for barbershop is limitless and is exemplified during our rehearsals. The new music he's introduced has many of our members excited about performing our swan song set this summer in Nashville.

We have been very fortunate to be the reigning international champions; the embrace we have felt from every member of this amazingly talented district has made us feel more like a family than ever before. We look forward to once again representing the Far Western District at international, this time as the returning champions. And we hope to see everyone there as we all cheer on our brothers, The Masters of Harmony, on their quest for their seventh consecutive international championship!

Spring Convention 2008 Honoree Nick Papageorge

[Ed. note: I found Nick's acceptance speech quite moving with many memories. Here it is in entirety.]

This is truly an honor. When Dean Scoville told me that the district wanted to honor me in this way, I thought, why me? My immediate reaction was that it was because I have been leading the AFWDC for so many years. But when I wrote the biography that Dean told me to write, I realized that I have had many varied jobs and experiences here in the Far Western District and at the International level. Throughout this weekend, many of you have been coming up to me and saying, "I didn't know you did this or that. I didn't know you were Young Men In Harmony Chairman." Well, yes I was. I took over for the great Carl Walters. And by the way, I apologize to each of you who took the time to read it (2 pages) in the program. I didn't think that it would be there in its entirety.

Of course, no accolade happens solely because of 1 person. I have many people to thank. And I told Judy Steinkamp that I wouldn't take too long. She told me that I better not because Lloyd was up there waiting to cut this mic cable if I did.

Firstly, I must thank my family who are all here this weekend: Queen Gerry, our oldest son Jesse, the International College Quartet Champion Sammy and our Rock and Roll Star Nicky. Nicky, mom and I hope you make it big so you can pay off our house! And of course, you all know my "other wife," Queen Pam. Many of you knew Gerry and me before our Big Fat Greek Wedding, and then watched and helped our kids grow up to be outstanding men and great barbershoppers and musicians. For that, we can never thank you enough.

Throughout these years there have been those dedicated barberhoppers who served as mentors to me as well as many others. There were so many! Throughout the 80's and 90's, I was fortunate enough to have been on the founding Board of the FWD Chorus Director's Guild. That board was comprised of Howard Mesecher (chairman), Lloyd Steinkamp, Russ Young, Lou Laurel and me. Howard, Lloyd and Lou were excellent role models and teachers. Russ and I were entrenched in barbershop knowledge and protocol. And, as you can imagine, great stories.

In the Contest and Judging Program, specifically the Arrangement Category, I was touched by an angel - Lou Perry. He helped school me in just how to arrange a barbershop song. He always told me that it was easy to arrange a song in 8, 10, or 12 parts, but arranging only 4 parts was very difficult. He was also very special to our entire family. He would visit us in Redondo Beach often.

In fact, he and Ruth sent Gerry and me a special gift of a sand painting. It was an Indian picture of fertility. Sammy was born 11 months later!

But back to my beginnings. There were guys like Emmet Bossing, Lynn Britten, Mike Senter and Jack Hines - all judges helping out a very young (for those days) quartet. Who (of those of us old enough to remember) could ever forget the woodshedding parties at Jack Hines' house? He had an old barber-chair in which the lead singer sat, while the other parts stood and sang around him. I can remember being in that chair with Jack (what a woodshedder he was), Emmet, Milt Rae, or Doug Anderson standing around. And if anyone ever tried to sing anything that resembled an "arrangement," they would be thrown out.

And I would be remiss if I didn't thank the man who brought me up in this hobby - my barbershop father, Earl Moon. He was the most influential man in my barber-shopping life. And, of course, it wasn't just Earl. Millye would keep us all in line! Twice a month (sometimes weekly) they would host a young college-age quartet, coach them, and preach them the barbershop gospel. Millye would always feed us; most of the time it was her rich chocolate cake and milk. But she would always yell out her opinion from the kitchen or her china-painting room. "Hey you guys, that was horrible. Get it in tune!" Years later I went on to co-direct the Whittier Chapter with Earl in its hey-day. I feel fortunate to have been the only one Earl let direct a song with the chorus in a district contest while he was at the reigns.

Obviously with a wife who is a two-time International Champion in Sweet Adelines International (Gerry and Brian Beck are the only individuals who have been in a finalist quartet in all four parts!), I have also been mentored by many outstanding musical minds: Bev Sellers, Joni Bescos, Ruby Rea and Sylvia Alsbury, to name a few. And there were many others I can assure you.

And then there were all of those quartets I was fortunate enough to be a part of. Each and every man with whom I sang has influenced me, taught me valuable lessons, and been like a brother to me. So please indulge me:

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SAM'S CLUB

Ken Potter, Kelly Shepard, (my son) Sammy Papageorge

Many of you old enough to remember, are aware that I forgot one quartet. Well, I didn't. Each of us who are blessed enough to sing in a quartet, on that stage over there, have special memories. When I was a sophomore at Occidental College in Los Angeles, four of us from the 90-member, world-renowned Occidental College Glee Clubs happened upon this amazing musical style. The four-some you all got to know was Peter Beers, baritone, Kevin Smith, Bass and Russ Walker, tenor. However, the original quartet consisted of Peter, myself, Tom Krennek, bass and Steve Barclay, tenor. Peter owned two barber-shop recordings: the Pacificaires and the Golden Staters. We spent hours writing down each of the voice parts of each of the songs on each of those records. And those were the songs that we sang. We weren't clever enough to come up with a really great name, so we settled with "The Occidentals." Pretty good, huh?

At the college, we would put on forty-five minute shows for the Occidental Community in the College Chapel each quarter. We didn't even know that there was a society - we found out much later that Peter knew about the society because his high school music teacher was a barber-shopper. But one of our classmates father was a big-time barbershopper. He was one of the Far Western District's best MC's - Jack (do you have a minute?) Kelly. He grabbed us after one of these shows and told us he was going to take us to this meeting where there was a lot of this style of music being sung.

So Jack took us to a meeting of the Crescenta Valley Chapter. Well, we listened to the chorus a little and then they introduced us, and we sang. They went crazy. We were feeling like stars! So we sat down feeling pretty self-assured, and then this guy introduced another quartet. Gentlemen, please welcome the current International silver medalists, The Pacificaires!. The more we listened the more we sank in our chairs. WE had just sung their songs, and not as well as they did! Boy they were fantastic! (we were fortunate to have Al Mau as a coach for many years) We were hooked, and the rest is history!

Well, almost history. The Crescenta Valley chapter had a "six-week rule" which said that prospective members had to wait six weeks before they could actually become members of the Society. There was a divisional contest that Jack wanted us to enter, but it was only 4 weeks away. Not to be deterred, Jack called Mike Senter who was directing the South Bay Chapter. Mike got Jack in touch with Dave Briner who told us all to come to a performance at a local mall. We sang for the Chapter, as

well as the people in the mall. The board immediately went into a private meeting (rumor has it that Dave told their board to approve us), and we were immediately inducted into the South Bay Chapter. In the years to come, Peter would become a long-time director of Crescenta Valley, Russ would become a long-time director of the Ventura chapter and I would become a long-time director of the South Bay, Fullerton, and Whittier Chapters. This little quartet was a great "find" for our founding father Jack Kelly, and for our district.

And then THE REST WAS HISTORY. District Champions in 1977, International Finalists, and shows all over the country. We began at 21 and ended at 30. The four of us (me doing most of the leg-work) began our champs' organization in our championship year. Budgets in the district were getting tight and expenses for everything were climbing. I talked to Hank Brandt of Grandma's Boys since he started the first organization in Illinois. Our FWD Champion's organization has been in existence for 31 years. That fact is a result of one guy in the district being a mentor to a group of young men. My only regret is that I don't get to see Peter, Kevin, Russ, Tom, and Steve at these conventions, but they are all doing well and told me to say hello to you all.

So to all of my "Quartet Friends" here this weekend to qualify for International - it is now our time! We have taken and learned, and it's now our time to take over for our mentors. It is our time to be mentors - to teach what we've been taught from the greats. Ours is the greatest district in the Society. All of the ideas and programs that the FWD initiates, eventually make their way to the International Office - Young Men In Harmony, The Chorus Director's Guild, The High School Quartet Contest. It's now our time to be the Presidents, the Judges, the faculty members, the committee chairmen. It's our time to "find" those new singers and teach them the barbershop gospel. None of us will know how and where our teaching will take hold, but you can be assured that it WILL take hold. It is now our time to be the "biggies" and continue to keep the Far Western District at the top of our Society.

Again, I am extremely humbled by this honor and I thank you with all of my heart.

**FWD Fall Convention in Bakersfield
October 9-12, 2008
Let's Get Our Conventions Singing Again
Come Join in the FUN!**

**REMEMBER THE FWD
YOUTH EDUCATION FUND**

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT 2008 FALL CONTEST AND CONVENTION

Contests and Show

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

HOSTED BY THE
MASTERS OF HARMONY
OCTOBER 9-12, 2008
Rabobank Convention Center
Bakersfield, CA

Meetings and Events

District Board Meeting
House of Delegates Meeting
Past District Presidents Meeting
AH-SOW

REGISTRATION PRICES		HOTEL INFORMATION	
ALL CONTESTANTS MUST BUY AN ALL EVENTS REGISTRATION FOR THE APPLICABLE AGE GROUP		All Hotel Reservations must be made through the Bakersfield Convention and Visitors Bureau	
ALL EVENTS EARLY BIRD (Postmarked by September 9 th)	ALL EVENTS LATE / ON SITE (Postmarked after September 9 th)	Fill out Housing Form and FAX to (661) 325-7074 or mail to 515 Truxtun Ave. Bakersfield, CA 93301	
ALL EVENTS:	ALL EVENTS:		
Adult \$40.00	Adult \$50.00		
Student (under 23) \$20.00	Student (under 23) \$25.00		
	SINGLE EVENTS \$25.00 each		



2008 FAR WESTERN DISTRICT FALL CONTEST AND CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s)	Chapter or City:	Member	Wife/Guest	Child/Student	District Officer	Chapter Delegate	AFWDC / VIP	Amount Due
*		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
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*Address								
City	State Zip							
Email	Phone							
Competing with:								

Mail one form for your party (up to eight names per sheet), and a check covering all registrations to:

BOB CATHAWAY – FALL REGISTRATIONS
6604 Audene Way, Bakersfield, CA 93308

☐ Check here if you have a disability that may require accommodation in order for you to fully participate in the convention.

Make check payable to: **MASTERS OF HARMONY** or include CC info below **TOTAL ENCLOSED:** _____

☐ Visa ☐ M/C Number _____ Card Expiration _____ Signature _____

Find online order link at spebsqsafwd.org — Questions? Call 661-399-6292 or e-mail nwcathaway@bak.rr.com

You may FAX your Credit Card orders to: 661-391-8625

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A.

2008 FALL CONVENTION – OCTOBER 9-12

HOUSING FORM

ARRIVING ON: ☐ THUR OCT 9 ☐ FRI OCT 10 ☐ SAT OCT 11 CHECK OUT SUNDAY OCT 12

NUMBER OF PEOPLE: _____ ☐ DOUBLE DOUBLE ☐ KING ☐ NON-SMOKING ☐ OTHER _____

INDICATE 1ST, 2ND AND 3RD CHOICES:

_____ MARRIOTT HOTEL (FORMERLY HOLIDAY INN SELECT) (HEADQUARTERS) (\$99)	_____ FOUR POINTS SHERATON (\$90)
_____ DOUBLETREE (\$92)	_____ COURTYARD MARRIOTT (TBD)
_____ BEST WESTERN HILL HOUSE (\$99)	_____ RESIDENCE INN (TBD)
_____ RED LION INN (\$99 ²⁵)	_____ SPRING HILL SUITES (TBD)
_____ GARDEN SUITES INN (\$63)	_____ BEST WESTERN CRYSTAL PALACE (TBD)
_____ HAMPTON INN (\$88)	

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE _____ ZIP _____

☐ VISA ☐ M/C

☐ AM EX ☐ DISC NUMBER: _____ EXPIRES: _____

Mail this form to *Bakersfield Convention & Visitors Bureau*, 515 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, CA 93301
or FAX to: (661) 325-7074

Please note that the *Holiday Inn Select* will be a *Marriott Hotel* by contest time. This does not affect your reservation.

2008 Nashville International Competition: Quartet Draw

OOA	Quartet	District	%
1	Chameleon	ONT	77.3
2	OC Times	FWD	88.1
3	Crossroads	CSD	85.2
4	Ringers	MAD	82
5	Last Kids Picked	MAD	77
6	Crush, The	FWD	77.4
7	Absolut	SNOBS	77.3
8	VocalEase	FWD	79.5
9	Stardust	FWD	78
10	Storm Front	RMD	84.4
11	Allies, The	JAD	83.7
12	Wheelhouse	MAD	83.9
13	Four Aces	MAD	80.2
14	Redline	DIX	87.3
15	Inflagranti	BinG!	70.2
16	Old School	MAD	85.6
17	Q.E.D.	BABS	76.4
18	Wildcard	PIO	72.3
19	Ringmasters	JAD	76.9
20	3 Outa Four	EVG	78.5
21	Metropolis	FWD	85.5
22	Speakeasy	SWD	80.2
23	On Demand	SUN	78.3
24	Jet Set	EVG	76.7
25	Voce	ILL	79.0

26	SEP	SWD	81.3
27	The Great Nashville Singout	DIX	78.6
28	Late Show	FWD	80.9
29	Hot Air Buffoons	JAD	81.5
30	Vocality	LOL	77.2
31	Audacity	FWD	76.4
32	3 Men & A Melody	CSD	82.5
33	High Definition	CSD	81.0
34	NeXus	RMD	81.4
35	Men In Black	NED	83.2
36	After Midnight	LOL	78.5
37	Sterling	SWD	81.5
38	ThunderBox	RMD	76.2
39	Lunch Break	DIX	78.4
40	State Line Grocery	DIX	87.5
41	TKO	JAD	77.6
42	Rounders	SUN	84.1
43	Main Street Station	LOL	76.6
44	Reveille	MAD	79.7
45	Ringmasters	SNOBS	78.2
46	Glory Days	SWD	85.1
47	HotShots	SUN	78.0
48	Pinstripe	DIX	79.7
49	Wise Guys	SUN	78.1
50	Past 'n' Present	CAR	71.5
51	Revolution	RMD	77.7
52	Foreign Agreement	SLD	76.2
53	Ignition!	RMD	81.7
54	Rush Street	ILL	78.4



FWD International Preliminary Quartet Contest followed by the High School Quartet Contest Pictures and Results



Quartet Registration - Harmony College West

July 18-20, 2008

Redlands, CA



Please write legibly below.

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

Tenor		
Lodging _____ I will stay in the Dorms (\$200)		
Full Name		
Chapter Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip
Telephone	Email (optional)	
Special dietary needs: please describe		
Special physical needs: please describe		

Lead		
Lodging _____ I will stay in the Dorms (\$200)		
Full Name		
Chapter Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip
Telephone	Email (optional)	
Special dietary needs: please describe		
Special physical needs: please describe		

(Continued on back.)

Far Western District of The Barbershop

Quartet Registration - Harmony College West

July 18-20, 2008

Redlands, CA

Baritone		
Lodging _____ I will stay in the Dorms (\$200)		
Full Name		
Chapter Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip
Telephone	Email (optional)	
Special dietary needs: please describe		
Special physical needs: please describe		

Bass		
Lodging _____ I will stay in the Dorms (\$200)		
Full Name		
Chapter Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip
Telephone	Email (optional)	
Special dietary needs: please describe		
Special physical needs: please describe		

Coaching will be in the dorm rooms	Total \$800
------------------------------------	--------------------

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

Keith Eckhardt
HCW Registrar
5449 Robert Rd.
Pollock Pines, CA 95726

Make checks payable to **“Far Western District HCW”**. All forms and fees must be received by Monday, June 16, 2008. Registrations received after June 16 will be considered on a Space Available basis and the fee will be \$900.

Far Western District of The Barbershop



Individual Registration - Harmony College West

July 18-20, 2008 Redlands, CA



Lodging	<input type="checkbox"/> I will stay in the Dorms (\$150)	Includes instruction, lodging and five meals
	<input type="checkbox"/> I will commute each day (\$95)	Includes instruction and five meals
Full Name		
Voice Part	Tenor	Lead
	Baritone	Bass
Chapter Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip
Telephone	Email (optional)	
Special dietary needs: please describe		
Special physical needs: please describe		

In the spaces below, write the number **1** next to your first choice classes, making sure that you have selected 8 hours of instruction. Then write a **2** next to 8 hours of classes that would be your second choice(s). We will do our best to place you in your first choice class(es). Please choose classes so that you one class period in each session A-D.

Choices	ClassTitle	Session	Hours	Instructor
	Barbershop Arranging 101	ABCD	8	Dave Briner
	Outstanding In Front	ABCD	8	Jim Turnmire
	Show Production	ABCD	8	Allen Fossenkemper
	Membership Workshop	AB	4	Clark Abrahamson
	Quartet/Chorus Spokesman	AB	4	Tom Schleier
	Sight Reading-Beginning	AB	4	Phil Ordaz
	The Comedic Approach - Barbershop and Humor 1	AB	4	Brian Philbin
	Vocal Production 1	AB	4	Craig Ewing
	Secrets of Directing	A	2	Steve Shannon
	Plateau A Chorus Coaching	BC	4	Steve Shannon
	Contest Emcee	CD	4	Tom Schleier
	Marketing and PR Workshop	CD	4	Clark Abrahamson
	Sight Reading-Intermediate	CD	4	Phil Ordaz
	The Comedic Approach - Barbershop and Humor 2	CD	4	Brian Philbin
	Vocal Production 2	CD	4	Craig Ewing
	Barbershop Acoustics 1	A	2	Dan McQuigg
	Tag Teaching 1	B	2	Dan McQuig
	Barbershop Acoustics 2	C	2	Dan McQuigg
	Tag Teaching 2	D	2	Dan McQuig
	Ear Singing (Woodshedding)	D	2	Steve Shannon

Send **\$150** (includes lodging) or **\$95** (commuting), payable to "Far Western District HCW", and this form to:

Keith Eckhardt
HCW Registrar
5449 Robert Rd.
Pollock Pines, CA 95726

Register Online at www.bhsfwd.org/hcw-uor

Full class descriptions are on the website.

All forms and fees must be received by Monday, June 16, 2008. The fee after this date is \$175.

**FWD DVP for Division 1 SCW****Bernard Priceman**

5150 Avenida Hacienda

Tarzana, CA 91356

818-345-4125

E: bernard@thepricemanteam.com

The first part of the year has already been busy in the SoCal West Division. In the world of competition, three of our choruses (Rincon Beach, San Fernando Valley and Pasadena) and three of our quartets (Masterpiece, The Crush and Expeda) qualified to compete at the Fall District Contest. Two quartets (The Crush and O.C. Times) have qualified for the International Quartet Contest in Nashville in July, with another two likely quartet qualifiers (Metropolis and VocalEase) yet to compete, out of area. And finally, our own Masters of Harmony will be one of three District chorus competitors in Nashville (along with Voices in Harmony and Spirit of Phoenix). That's quite a list for one Division, I'm proud to say. By the way, if you haven't made plans to be in Nashville, shame on you. It's going to be one heck of a barbershop week, with the chance to visit our new HQ as an added bonus.

Other events which took place in SoCal West in the first quarter of the year included a successful CDWI (Chorus Directors Workshop Intensive) hosted by the San Fernando Valley Chapter, a huge Youth Festival (217 boys in attendance!) hosted by the Masters of Harmony and a training session hosted by the Santa Monica chapter for "wannabee" directors. There will be another CDWI towards the end of the year, with limited space. Let me know if you have any interest.

Two very important events to look forward to next year will be, perhaps for the first time ever, the hosting of both major conventions in the same metropolitan area - The Mid-Winter International Convention in Pasadena next January and the Summer International Convention in Anaheim in July. Each will be hosted by SoCal West Chapters - Pasadena and Santa Fe Springs, respectively. I hope you will start planning now to be at both events. This will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to see the best of the best at the lowest possible cost, taking up the least amount of your time.

Lastly, membership figures are out for the first time in a while. Tallying them up is a complicated procedure, but as best as I can see, the SoCal West Division lost 5% of its members between March 2007 and March 2008. That's about par for the course across the Society, unfortunately. The key to increasing our membership will always be recruitment. It heartens me to see more and more youngsters enjoying our hobby, but there are still too many chapters who fail to do anything to locate youth in their areas. Don't be one of those chapters. It's never too late to start working to attract younger members.

Need help? Call me. I know all the right people to get you going. You'll never look back.

Happy Summer. Sing and have fun. See you in Nashville and Bakersfield.

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

2262 Bagley Ave

Los Angeles, CA 90034-1109

310-558-4949

E: martinmt@aol.com**CONEJO VALLEY****RAY EDEN**

We used the past three weeks with the final details on the show which is scheduled May 4 at the Kavli Theater in Thousand Oaks. Last Saturday a detailed review was held with the schools and key Barbershoppers that include **George Dallas**, show chairman, **Neil Pennywiit**, **Bob Homkes**, **Dick Chatteron**, **Brian Stokes**, **Richard Barmaun**, and **GeeBee**. **Mr. Dick Van Dyke** was present to go over last minute details. This year will bring total gifts to schools to about \$100,000.

PASADENA**TIM SINGER**

The **Pasadena Crown City Chorus** put on its first Annual Spring Concert to a jubilant and enthusiastic crowd on Saturday, April 28, 2008, at the Wilson Middle School in Pasadena. The show's theme was "Sentimental Journey," and joining the Crown City Chorus on the journey were chapter quartets, **IMPACT** and **Enterprise**, and special guests, District Champs **VocalEase**. True to their image, these guys were fabulous—the hit of the show and the afterglow, and you couldn't meet four nicer guys anywhere. Our recommendation, if you haven't booked them for something already, do it now; their dance card is understandably full. Special credit for the show's success goes to **Len Jensen**, Stage Manager Extraordinaire, and **Steve Peacock**.

In other news: in our continuing effort to assist Wilson Middle School, we made great improvements to the auditorium's sound and lighting system, under Len Jensen's guidance and hard work. Saturday's show was the first test of the upgrades, and they worked beautifully.

In the combined SoCal West Division and International Prelim Contest, both Chapter quartets **Enterprise** and **IMPACT** competed. **Enterprise** was awarded Novice Quartet Champions. The **Crown City Chorus**, under the tutelage of our director, **John Minsker**, finished third, and qualified to compete District in October.

SAN LUIS OBISPO**PETE BENNETT**

Singing Valentines were again a success, with a huge saturation of the radio waves (thanks to the inside work of AGM Account Rep and bass of the quartet **Streetwise**,

Rob Mills.). Also, the Chorus scored as Plateau A Champs of SoCal West, which was the first competition experience for eight of our newer members!

Our Annual Show, "Barbershop After Dark" featured 2006 FWD Champs **Late Show** and 2007 SAI Region 11 Champs **Rio**. Chapter quartets **The Maestros**, **Streetwise**, **The Postmen**, and **Fascinatin' Rhythm** also performed. Kudos to Show Director **Rob Mills**, Show Chairman **Ray Johnson**, PR VP **Rudy Xavier**, and Scriptwriter extraordinaire **John Staley**. Our long-time director **Rick Marshall** is moving to Napa. **Logan Patrick-Miernicki** agreed to fill in until the fall or until the Director Search Committee comes up with a permanent replacement.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

BRUCE POEHLMAN

The Valleyaires are proud to have placed 2nd in the SoCal West Division contest, receiving the AA Plateau 1st place award as well as the Most Improved chorus! Under the direction of **Dave Tautkus**, the chorus continues to improve - even given the additional stress of hosting the Spring Convention. Much thanks to **Mitch Guzik** for running a great convention! tation.

SANTA CLARITA

BILL WOLF

The Santa Clarita Harmony Hills Chorus put on one heck of a Spring Show this March. The Chorus really showed what a lot of hard work, and hard fun can produce results. Our Special Guest Quartet, **The Crush**, tore the house down; and our guest quartet, **Oddly Enuf** (featuring our Director **Duncan Gilman** at Baritone) did us proud. A chance meeting while we were harmonizing at the local Pizza Hut earlier in April resulted in our being invited to perform at the "Arts for Earth Celebration" at the Sepulveda Basin Wildlife Reserve, Woodley Park (Van Nuys), on Saturday April 26th.

SANTA MONICA

JERRY WALKER

New officers of the **Oceanaires** was installed at the USC University Club on campus. Outgoing President **Jerry Walker** hosted the Oceanaires, and **Jim Leedom** served brilliantly as Master of Ceremonies and Installation Officer. Jim wrote uproarious lyrics highlighting the national presidential campaign and sang them to the tune of "Bibbidi- Bobbidi-Boo." Director **Todd Kolberg** honored **David Erickson** with the Director's Award. **Aaron Mood** was awarded **BOTY** honors by vote of the members; and **Bob Heron** received the President's Award for his service as the Oceanaires' Director for three years. **The Trojan Men**, an undergraduate a cappella group, provided entertainment. Young men from the Venice High School Allegros, who have been participating in rehearsals with the Oceanaires, and their director **Wendy Kornbeck** were guests at the luncheon.

The Oceanaires held a retreat in February and agreed on a vision of being a performance chorus. Plans were laid

for a spring "Singing for Life" blood drive, but, the American Red Cross mobile unit section in west Los Angeles declined to provide bloodmobiles.

Valentines Day was a complete success and the **Oceanaires** had many singing orders. Chorus Manager **Ken Schultz** did an outstanding job of handling all the complex logistics; and **Vance** and **Caroline Heron** generously gave us use of their home as Valentines Day Headquarters and lots of food to keep our energy high.

Todd Kolberg directed the **Oceanaires** in a special performance at **Jerry Walker's** retirement party celebrating 36 years of university administration at USC. Shortly after a performance by The Trojan Marching Band, the Oceanaires chorus performed three songs to a large audience of USC faculty and staff. **Bruce Schroffel** (lead) performed new lyrics that he composed to the Notre Dame Fight Song along with **Dan Barling**, **Aaron Mood**, and **Bob Heron**. Bruce's lyrics were a tremendous hit.

SOUTH BAY

MIKE MARTIN

The installation of officers was at the delightful Simon's Restaurant in San Pedro with **Don Duperon** taking the helm as chapter president for a second term. **Jim Campbell** using a squeeze bulb horn for emphasis installed the new and continuing officers. Chapter quartets **C-Nile Sound** and **Docs on the Rocks** performed as well as **Ready Willing & Mabel**. **BOTY** was awarded to **Michael Thorpe** who was unable to attend the luncheon and **ROTY** was awarded to **Mike Cavanaugh**. **Don Duperon** was sworn into the O.L.D.D.O.G.s, a group of former chapter presidents.

The chapter announced the passing of a truly fine member and gentleman, **Bruce Saffery**.

Singing Valentines Day came and went with the usual list of warm stories, tears and laughter as several chapter quartets started off the day early and some still out late into the evening. Some of the quartets delivering roses and song included **Asterisk**, **C-Nile Sound**, **The Fourgetters**, **Sound Union** and **Senior Extempore**.

The end of an era came in the form of an announcement from **Ada McCabe**, wife of **John McCabe**, that the **Hey Hey Honey's** had held their final meeting and they presented the chapter with a check for two thousand dollars. The Honey's are wives and sweethearts of chapter members and for nearly 60 years have raised money, sold tickets to events, and helped the Coastliners out in more ways than can be counted. Thank you for everything.

March brought the 55th annual Saint Patrick's Day meeting with quartets from chapters around the southland together for an evening of fun and contests.

45 year member **Don Barton** was awarded the Society's Bachelor of Harmony Degree.



FWD DVP for Division 2 SCE

Gene Clements

21725 Esmalte
Mission Viejo, CA 92692-1029
Phone: 949-581-5544
E: GRClements@aol.com

I'm writing this two days before the SCE contests, so I have no results to share. But, you know them by now, anyhow. I do want to publicly thank the ORANGE QUARTET CHAPTER for hosting it, the first time they've ever done something like this, and to give sincere thanks to PAUL SANDORF who chaired the event and kept things on track for all of us. Well done, Paul and Well done OQC !!

The licensed, prospective Temecula Chapter's chorus sang in lead-off position, their first time in a contest environment. Let's hope they can charter soon. College quartets? We had 'em. Let's get more young singers into our BHS. They are our Society's future, gentlemen.

We had possibly a FWD first on the Saturday contests. The contests were held back-to-back with only a 40 minute intermission between them. In the past, the quartets went first, and the audience was always rather sparse 'cause the chorus guys were usually off rehearsing for the chorus contest. But this year, we put the chorus contest first so the chorus guys would then be able to watch the quartet contest. It worked quite well, and except for those fellas waiting for the A and R sessions, the general audience and most of the competitors were on their way home by around 4:30 PM.

Thanks to all of the choruses and quartets who competed and to all of the other barbershoppers, spouses and SOs who in one way or another helped to make the day one to remember !!



Division 2 SCE Editor

Dick Girvin

34888 Lyn Ave
Hemet, CA 92545
951-926-8644
E: dickgirvin@juno.com

APPLE VALLEY

JIM DUGDALE

The Apple Valley chapter has a Youth Outreach Project, primarily a Song Book Distribution program, taking place among the elementary schools in Apple Valley. The project, in its 3rd year, is headed by VP Mu&P **Buford Strange**. To date they have provided nearly four hundred song books among five local schools. The books are provided at no cost to the schools and are used to give a

vocal music experience to young people who wouldn't otherwise have any exposure at all.

The busy chapter already had a successful Singing Valentines program, and has a total of nine chorus and quartets performances booked up through May 11.

To date this year, they have sung for: a celebratory dinner honoring patrons donating to a fund for children who have lost both parents due to a tragic accident, the Desert Knolls convalescent home, the Pinon Hills installation of chamber of commerce officers dinner, a Retired Teachers Association luncheon, two birthday celebrations - one 90th and one 100th, and the Rock Spring Retirement Home.

BREA

JOHN GASTON

The **Gaslight Chorus** is busy preparing for what should be a spring and summer full of performing for their public. They are anxious to improve on their score at the upcoming SoCal East Division Contest. The chorus hosted a Friends and Family Night event so their loved ones can see some of the things they do in preparation for a contest. They are hoping for some good feedback and to share a little of what they do on Tuesday nights.

The chorus was issued an invitation to sing with the Fullerton and Westminster choruses at the upcoming Pearson Park show. It is a special privilege to be a part of an event with such a long history of tremendous shows and all the good it does for local schools. They will sing for a number of local churches, hoping to meet men who will take an interest in Barbershop.

The Gaslight Chorus welcomes its newest chapter quartet **Thirty-One** - T **Dave Gunther**, L **Mark Stokes**, Br **Nathan Wagenet**, and Bx **Ken Briggs**.

EL CAJON

MIKE DORMAN

The **Music Masters** chorus members found themselves "working behind the footlights" a lot recently, with multiple appearances at the Fredericka Manor (whose live-ins really appreciate good barbershop singing!). They also gave a very rewarding presentation at the annual Flower Show in Coronado where **Harmonically Correct** wowed the audience. Thanks for the hard work by director **Tom Anderson**. They welcome new member **Fred Wassich**.

FULLERTON

DICK COTE

Twenty (count 'em) contributors were honored on the front page of the latest *Barbershop Clippin's* as creators of the great stories contained in this 20 page issue. **Ray Ashcroft**, **Al Bell** **CJ Bowes**, **Robert Calderwood** **Elton Carey**, **Art Clayton**, **Dick Cote**, **Marv Ewing**, **Stan French**, **Sam Glorioso**, **Hershel Green**, **Ken Klein**, **Fred Robirds**, **Pete**, **Saputo** **Deane Scoville**, **Dean Sowell**, **Stanley Tinkle**, **Leon Williamson**, **Dennis Woodson** and **Buddy Yarnell** all contributed.

Editor **Dick Cote**, a nine-time winner of the FWD Large Bulletin Contest and a three time-International Bulletin contest winner, is enjoying his stated "retirement" by publishing whenever the mood strikes him.

Headlined in the issue was Art Clayton's story on the recent Valentine activity of the chapter, citing kudos from clients and reports of exposure on two TV stations and being approached by CBS Evening News and Jimmy Kimmel Live in Hollywood.

Chapter member **Dennis Woodson** reported receiving the posthumous Far Western Distrat Hall Of Fame award for his late father, Les Woodson—a 52 member of the Society and district the recent FWD Convention in Bakersfield.

HEMET

BRUCE SMITH

Hemet's chapter bulletin *UPBEAT* now an on-line production, continues to display fine color pictures with Editor Smith's timely chronicling of the chapter's events. Headlined in their April issue are stories from their VP of Music **Jack Morrisseau**, their president **Dave Kelley** and director **Howard Escher** -- all on the front page!

Secretary **Art McMahon** report from the recent board meeting specifically assured the members (1) that the chapter is solvent (2) identified a program by **Clay Panlaqui** to produce better sound, and (3) reestablished the ticket prices for the next show.

INLAND EMPIRE

DAVE COVEY

Congratulations to **Mike Brown** and **Bob Patterson**, the chapter's, new Bachelor of Harmony awardees. Out of almost 3,100 members of the Far Western District, Only 115 have received this prestigious award.

Harry Irwin will replace **Phil Crawford** as VP of Marketing/PR. Phil resigned for health reasons.

The chapter was saddened by the death on March 9 of **John Stepanuk**, a member who quietly and skillfully contributed to the chapter's well-being.

IRVINE

STEVE YOUNG

Things have been relatively quiet for the Irvine chapter as they prepare for their second annual Mother's Day show and fine-tune their package for this year's contest. A new member, Jason Topel, who sang previously with a chapter on the east coast, has accepted the challenge of choreography for Irvine and has spent several hours working on improving their interpretation and presentation.

LA JOLLA

KEN BAKE

Pacific Coast Harmony chorus members participated in the Singing Valentines program. This year was especially significant because, thanks to a generous contribution from The Bob Baker Auto Group (a group of local car deal-

erships), they were able to provide Singing Valentines to almost 30 families of deployed military personnel.

California Crossroads joined **Metropolis** in headlining the **Coachella "Sandblasters" Chapter Show** in Rancho Mirage, performing afternoon and evening shows.

ORANGE QUARTET CHAPTER

MARK SHELDON

The Pacific WaveMakers competed in the January SoCal Novice Contest.

Singing Valentines were successful once again, organized by **Dave Gryvnak** and **Rich Spencer**. Chapter quartets **Balderdash**, **Bleu Lite Special**, and **WaveMakers** participated (with other chapter members stepping in to fill in vacancies as needed), as did a couple of pickup quartets. *The Orange County Register* sent teams along and published a story with photographs and online video.

Barbershoppers celebrated **Floyd "Blackie" Blackwell's** 85th birthday in February with a party at his retirement home.

Orange-based quartets **Shenanigans** and **Balderdash** took first and second at the South Bay Chapter's annual St. Patrick's Day Contest. **Shenanigans** (also known as MASH) members are: T Ed Paulvir, J Jeff Parmer, Br Stan Tinkle, and Bs Don Derler.

Mark Sheldon was announced as FWD 2007 Bulletin Editor of the Year for the *Orange Squeezin's*.

Phil Roth celebrated his 80th birthday at an April Chapter meeting by giving a special performance of "Old Bones" with his quartet **Bleu Lite Special**; his wife Phyllis was also there to share the moment.

The Orange Chapter was saddened by the loss of founding member **Jim Czach** in February; and 63-year Society member **Blackie Blackwell** in March.

PALOMAR PACIFIC

STEVE HINKLE

The Music Men proudly acknowledge the community outreach efforts of Chapter members T **Bob Hornstein**, L **Dick LeBeau**, Bs **Bob Landes**, Br **Joe Pascucci**, and Bs **Bob Swearingen**. Every couple of months for the past two years these gentlemen have been bringing the sweet sounds of Barbershop harmony to the shut-in wards, dialysis area and spinal cord section of the VA Hospital in La Jolla.

Chapter Quartets **A Song and A Smile**, **Sound Design**, **Premium Blend**, and **The Vocals** delivered Singing Valentines to a wide variety of happy recipients. **Chuck Youde** masterfully handled all the logistics, while Chapter volunteer **Katherine Burns** took all the orders. The Chapter got great article and picture support from the *San Diego Union Tribune* and *The North County Times*.

Because of the on-going efforts of **Woody Cady** and **John Hulbert**, TMM's YIH program sponsored the attendance of 10 young men and the Choir Directors from two local area high schools to the Harmony Festival held in Orange County. *The North County Times* offered their support.

The Music Men conducted a Guest Night February 26. VP Chapter Membership **Ken Burns** worked hard to ensure that it was both a fun and informative evening for all attending the event. Member **Larry O'Harra** was named Feb BOTM for the terrific Visitor Information brochure that he put together especially for this occasion.

Assistant Chorus Director **Lucy Cartano** Mike O'Neill's workshop in L.A. entitled, "*Outstanding in Front*", an Introduction to Directingm, inspiring and informative.

RIVERSIDE

BILL SHOVA

The chapter has enjoyed several stellar sessions with coach **Sean Divine** and a Saturday work session with coach **Lou Benedict**.

Phil Crawford's resignation as VP of Music and Performance due to health reasons was reluctantly accepted by the chapter and the Board of Directors.

Roger Cromey became a member, rejoining many of his friends from the old Inland Cities and Whittier Chapters.

SAN DIEGO

DON RENZ

The San Diego Chapter continues its vigorous rebuilding effort with a strong emphasis on greater exposure in the San Diego area through performance opportunities and outreach by chapter quartets.

President **Craig Hughes** created a comprehensive "Jobs" program to ensure that the stuff that needs to get done does, in fact, get done. Although the Leadership has opted not to participate in competition this year, the members have been urged to attend the Division contest.

Longtime chapter member and dedicated Barbershopper **Bill Beacom** was recently presented the FWD *Bachelor of Harmony* FWD award.

TEMECULA

TOM SPEARS

The Wine Valley Harmonizers are thriving and looking forward to attending the contest in Garden Grove this year - their first! The singers have been working hard on their contest package, and have had terrific coaching from the likes of gold medalist Dawn Castiglione teaching some wonderful SP technique, and silver medalist lead singer with OC TIMES, Sean Devine, teaching vocal technique. The sessions were both encouraging and eye opening.

Since January, the chorus has had some fun outside of the normal rigorous rehearsals in preparation of the contest.

In February they held an "Elvis Night", with flyers sent around several towns suggesting an Elvis "sighting." Held on February 19, they pushed to inspire people who sing like Elvis, who like singing, or even simply who wanted to listen to singing to come on out and join in the fun. It was a great guest night, attracting several guests, and was filled with fun and refreshments. Carol Spears coordinated the refreshment table, which was a big hit with both the members and guests.

The Wine Valley Harmonizers wish to extend a hearty THANKS to the **Masters of Harmony** for their generous donation of white tuxedos.



FWD DVP for Division 3 NCWH

Steve Sammonds

1128 Beaumont Drive

San Jose, CA 95129

Phone: 408-252-4093

E: sammonds@comcast.net

For those who could not attend the district convention in Bakersfield, you missed a great time. Once again, Division 3 had very low attendance at the House of Delegates meeting. I encourage you to ask your chapter leadership to make sure that your chapter has a voice and a vote at the HOD. Although I represent the division on the district board, the HOD is the primary governing body, and every chapter has a vote if they send a representative. Some very important decisions have been made in the past few years, and I want to make sure all chapters of our division are represented.

An interesting thing happened at the afterglow of my chapter's show on April 26. The story starts a couple years ago when the quartet Late Show first formed. They had videotaped one of their early rehearsals and posted it on You Tube for the heck of it. Among the many people who viewed the video was a young man in Texas who decided after watching Late Show that this barbershop thing was pretty cool, and he wanted to know more about it and joined the Society. Flash ahead to the weekend of April 26: the same young man from Texas just happens to be visiting Stanford University where he will start school next year as a freshman. He learned about the Palo Alto-Mountain View Chapter's show from the web and saw that Late Show, the quartet that got him interested in barbershop, was headlining the show! He came to our show and the afterglow, where he met Late Show and told them his story. If someone can calculate the odds of that coincidence occurring, please send them to me.

The story has a couple of lessons. The first is the growing power of the Internet in attracting the attention of the younger generations we need to perpetuate the Society and the barbershop style. But the second part of the lesson is equally important: the content posted on the web.

I didn't think to ask the Texas fan why the Late Show video grabbed his attention, but I can make some educated guesses. First, Jordan, the lead of Late Show, was still in high school at the time the video was posted, the same age group as the viewer. Second, even the video of an early rehearsal of a future district champion likely displayed some pretty darn good singing. Knowing the guys in Late Show, I doubt they would have posted anything on the web that did not show either themselves or barbershop in a good light. The power of the Internet is a double-edged sword. The right kind of content will attract new singers from whatever demographic you seek, but content showing poor quality will do quite the opposite. Please remember, too, that anything you post that identifies your group as affiliated with the Barbershop Harmony Society not only reflects on your group, but on all of us. Do not underestimate the power of the Internet, and please post responsibly (and legally --- do not forget copyright law).

As summer approaches, remember that the best way to promote ourselves is to get out and sing in public. Art festivals and other outdoor summer events provide a great opportunity to make ourselves known. Just like the web, be sure to know your audience and present your group in the best possible light. Have a great summer.



Division 3 NCWH Editor
John Heather
 1058 Celilo Dr
 Sunnyvale CA 94087-4004
 408-732-3276
 E: jtheather@yahoo.com

ALOHA

JACK Y HASHIMOTO

The Aloha Chapter started off the quarter with our annual Singing Valentines. This year 10 quartets did 86 gigs all around the island of Oahu, earning an estimated \$5,000 gross for our chapter. Kudos go to **Rick Klemm**, **Dan Tom** and **Hank & Gloria Drayton** for handling the administrative end, and much thanks to the quartet members.

We performed along with 4 other choruses before a very appreciative audience at the Honolulu Choral Festival. This event is held each year so that each chorus can showcase the type of singing that has made them successful, and to share the gift of song with fellow choral groups.

We welcome new members Lead **Steve Cole** and Bari **Karl Diller**. Steve is the Director of Sales at the Kona Brewing Company, and comes to us with experience with the Seattle Opera, Honolulu Opera, Honolulu Chorale, Army Special Services, Hawaii, Honolulu Community Theatre and the Clark College Band & Vocal Ensemble. He lives with his wife Jasmine in Mililani. Karl is doing research at the University of Hawaii in Manoa in the genetics of human language, and is a former Professor of Linguistics

at the University of New Hampshire. Karl sang in a barbershop quartet as an undergraduate in college. He resides with his wife Liz in Kailua .

BAY AREA CHAPTER

MAX BATES

Congratulations to all who contributed to a successful Singing Valentine event spearheaded by John Gilliland and a host of other Voices In Harmony faithful.

The high school quartet **Element**, whose members are also members of the **Voices In Harmony**, came home with the "gold". They are **Jon Desprez**, **John Sousae**, **Austin Deeter**, and **Michael Norcross**.

We are also very proud of the great showing and qualification by **Late Show** to compete again on the International stage in Nashville this July.

Cindy Hansen made another visit to a **Voices In Harmony** rehearsal on March 25th to add refinements to the contest choral package.

Voices In Harmony had a unique experience in February to make some recordings at the George Lucas, Sky Walker Recording studio, where sound tracks for Star Wars and other Lucas epics were recorded.

Effective May 9 the **Voices in Harmony** will meet at the IES Hall at 1401 East Santa Clara St., San Jose, CA, a new venue. We will still meet on Tuesdays at 7:30PM.

EUREKA

MAC GARDNER

There were many dirty faces, lots of whiskers and weird costumes, but the music was marvelous! Our spring show "*I Been Working on the Railroad*" featured Irish rail workers of the 1888 era and remnants of McNamara's Band. The show moved to the brand-new Arkley Center for the Performing Arts. A record crowd fit right in.

Our headliner quartet was **Hi-Fidelity**, and who were wonderful! One of their songs had 24 changes of pitch. Wow! Most barbershoppers seem to feel challenged with more than one pitch change.

Other hits were Director **Jon Majors'** capable leadership, a clever script by **Doyle Doss**, dandy song selection by Music VP **Bill Edmondson**, and a beautiful printed program by new member **Charlie Hand**. Chairman **Don Atterbury** ably coordinated the whole show.

Our two local quartets—the **Outstanding Bills** and **Mirth First**—got their share of the applause. The Northcoast Preparatory and Performing Arts Academy, a charter school, featured every one of its 84 students, and they made a hit. "Best show ever" and "We liked the new approach," were among the enthusiastic comments.

FREMONT/HAYWARD**RAY SPINOSA**

The **New Dimension Chorus** once again took part in the Chabot College 'Evening of Entertainment' featuring performers from classes offered through the college community education program. Two sets were performed for an appreciative audience. In February, an unsuspecting Singing Valentine recipient was working at a computer screen when approached by four tuxedoed quartet members who proceeded to sing 2 love songs while many co-workers looked on, and he was unable to bring himself to turn away from his screen. This was surely a Valentine's Day to remember. Also, in February, the chorus performed for recovering patients at the Villa Fairmont Mental Health Rehabilitation Center in San Leandro. After the performance several audience members took the trouble to shake hands with every chorus member. This was particularly gratifying, and we wish all the patients in this facility a speedy recovery. In March, one of our quartets, The Town Square Harmonizers, performed at a birthday party for a young man of 90 years. Finally, in April, the chorus performed at a luncheon honoring those doing volunteer work for the City of San Leandro.

MARIN**DON HODGE**

The Marin Chapter's revitalized Board of Directors and volunteer corps has spent the first few months of the year tackling organizational issues and is now gearing up to plan and implement a membership recruitment and retention drive.

Two new chapter quartets have formed and registered with the Society. One of the two, Opus IV, featuring new bass **Antonio Sausys** along with a chorus section lead, assistant director, and director (no pressure there!) sang at the NorCal Novice Quartet competition in Ripon this February and reported having a great experience.

MONTEREY PENINSULA**DAVID WHORF**

The **Cypresses** recently played to a grateful and appreciative house at Hacienda Carmel. The program included selections from our most recent show, "*A Harmony Postcard*." Our Director **Kristen Thompson** once again inspired our chorus to perform at our best. The theme for this presentation was a "musical trip" across America from East to West and included such favorites as "The Sidewalks of New York" to "The Cohan Medley" to "Darkness on the Delta" to "Home on the Range" to "Ragtime Cowboy Joe" and ending with "California Here I Come!"

"Good Ol' Day" is a yearly celebration in Pacific Grove and this year we were represented by a quartet and an octet singing selections from the "Polecat Song Book."

PALO ALTO/MOUNTAIN VIEW**DEAN JAMES**

The **Peninsulaires** presented a star-studded show at the high-tech Woodside High School Theater. The show fea-

tured two champion quartets: the youthful exuberance of **Element**, 2008 FWD High School champs, and the smooth but dynamic stylings of **Late Show**, 2006 FWD champs.

The **Peninsulaires** brought to the stage several new songs and an updated version of their 2006 FWD Contest performance of "A Really Great Chorus," which is a tribute to our Westminster International Champions. With a new video introduction, this "over the top" parody once again brought the audience to its feet several times, just as it had two years ago.

The afterglow was a parade of great quartets, capped off by another complete, eight-song set from **Late Show**.

SAN FRANCISCO**DON KINGTON**

Cable Car Chorus's music director **Charles Feltman** has retired from his day job as an engineer and is now able to devote even more time to engineering ever-improving sound from these fine fellows.

The Chapter recently welcomed a new member to its bass section. That's always good news, but the REAL story is - after more than 60 years of its existence the Chapter now has a genuine San Francisco Cable Car conductor as a member! **Charles Haletky** has to be one of the youngest men working on the S.F. icon. Charles is new to barber-shopping but not to singing bass or reading the spots.

SAN MATEO**THOMAS ADDISON**

The **Golden Chordsmen** welcome our newest barber-shopper, director **Judaline Ryan's** third child, a boy named **Victor Nolan Ryan**. Show chairman **Fred Moraga** was delighted with yet another successful Spring Show "*Ed Sullivan Revisited*". Enthusiastic crowds at both the matinee and evening performance welcomed guest quartets **Lipschtick** and **PDQ**, and **Josh Ryan** as Elvis Presley, **Sound Judgment** doing Everly Brothers and Beatles parodies, and **TrebleMakers Five** singing as the 1950's group "the Sensations". Former member and Sound Judgment Tenor, **Tony Pistilli** channeled his best Ed Sullivan impersonation and was hilarious as the master of ceremonies. President **Andrew Eichenbaum** has announced that the chapter will again participate in San Carlos Hometown Days and Burlingame's Art in the Park, bringing some old fashioned four part harmony to both of those events, and continuing a tradition that started over 25 years ago.

SANTA CRUZ**LAWRENCE STERN**

The **Gold Standard Chorus** lost its founder **Ken Brosius** on February 18. The only continuous member since 1989, Ken was the spirit of our chorus. He chaired several shows, including the first public show, *Beginnings* -- 1990, and was *BOTY* in 1991. His personal goal was to have the chorus become an outstanding member of the Santa Cruz music community. He passed away one month before Gold Standard was named Chapter of the Year for 2007.

This school semester **Trond Toft, Gina Jett, Jordan Johnson, Trudy Kittle, Dan Jett, Duane King, Kim Orloff, Bev Wesley, Jeremy Weissman, and Jerry Paul** rotated in quartets to sing at nine of the county's high schools.

SANTA ROSA

RAY CROWDER

The following awards were presented at the Santa Rosa's Installation and Awards dinner:

Mister Espirit De Corps - - - - -Lynn "Brit" Brittan
 Mister Versatile - - - - -Wayne Hovdesven
 Hume Bacon Humanitarian Award - - - - -Ray Crowder
 Our Unsung Hero - - - - -Doug Hayward
 Ed Hildebrand Memorial Hall Of Fame - - -Mike Ferrel
 President's Award - - - - -Scott Douglas
 Barbershopper Of The Year - - - - -Bill Jackson
 The 2008 Installation Officer was **Robb Ollett**, and **Jim Dechaine** continues as chapter President.

On April 19th, **Wayne** and **Joyce Hovdesven** hosted the chapter's "spring" social. **Evelyn Estrella** did a great job as "emcee" for a group Trivial Pursuit game.

The **Redwood Chordsmen** performed at the Flamingo Hotel for the Santa Rosa Rotary Club. Both **Gary Smith** and **Dan Schell** chatted up the joys of barbershopping to all their friends in the large audience.

SF BAY CITIES QUARTET

CASEY PARKER

Ah Spring...You can sing of your roses... We sing this familiar standard at every meeting, but have you ever seen a wild Irish rose? See at <http://www.sfbayquartets.org/> Our April 9 meeting was especially enjoyable when 60 year plus member **Bob Bird** arrived with **Pam** and **Sean Watson**. Never a wallflower, Pam joined in the fray with a rousing Coney Island Baby. Our venerable woodshed chairman **Dennis Baker** brought us a very singable *The Vacant Chair*, an ancient reminder of war's tragedy that remains relevant today. We practiced our latest new (old) arrangement *Only You* complete with falsetto swipes. The **DQ 4** sang from their vast repertoire and received thunderous applause. Casey reminded the membership of our 10th anniversary picnic and singout April 27 in Morgan Hill.

WALNUT CREEK

DICK JOHNSTON

The **Devil Mountain Chorus** installed officers and directors for the coming year at a dinner meeting hosted by **Dick Hickman** at Rossmoor's Hillside Clubhouse.

Al Eames announced that **Don Helmholtz** was named Barbershopper of the Year for 2007.

Steve Sammonds, FWD Division 3 VP, presided over the installation of officers and directors. Taking the oath of office were President **Brad Dewey**, Sec **Jack Harrell**, Treas **Ron Leiker**, VP Music **Bob Leek**, VP Program **Bob Dunn**, VP Membership **Gary Miner**, Publicity Chairman

Norm Colby, Director At Large **Ed Frahm**, and Immediate Past President **Dick Hickman**.



FWD DVP for Division 4 NCENN

Jim Turnmire

1349 East El Paso
 Fresno, CA 93720-2638
 559-432-8778
 E: jtmire@comcast.net

Jim is enjoying an extended safari in Africa.



Division 4 NCENN Editor

Roger Perkins

11493 Sherwood Way
 Auburn, CA 95602
 530-823-0339
 E: perks@wizwire.com

CARSON CITY

RALPH QUOSIG

After 58 years of harmony in choruses and quartets, tenor **Bob Wise** missed his first curtain call. On March 30th, Bob joined that eternal barbershop chorus in the great beyond. We'll miss his happy persona and his weekly mustering of pick-up quartets with such inspiring names as the Forlorn Four and the Sons of Pitches.

Three quartets regaled lovers in the greater Carson City area with Valentines. Jim Crowley, Director of the Chorus of the Comstock, began his semester course Introduction to Barbershop Harmony at the Lake Tahoe Community College. Our quartet Wild Cards (Crowley, Ramer, Quosig and Love) assist Jim with the good old songs.

We sponsored **3rd Try** to the High School Quartet Contest in Bakersfield last month. The quartet from Carson High School are **T Alex Crounk, L Emzy Burroughs, Br Philip Wortman** and **Bs Keith Jones**.

President **Rook Wetzel** presented the Carson High School Concert Choir with a \$500.00 check for its performance on our annual Show last December. Choir director **Susan Sonnemaker** now has 40 boys interested in joining the choir next year as a result of our YIH efforts.

The **Quartet Factory** in Reno delighted seniors at the Promenade on the River with their second performance. QF promotes quartetting for novices as well as old hands. Members include singers from the **Silver Dollar Chorus** in Reno, the **Chorus of the Comstock** in Carson City and other long-time barbershoppers from both communities and Fernley. **Barbershop Express** (L **Lauren House**, Bs **Norm Howard**, T **Jay Ciccotti**, Br **Ralph Quosig**) was the featured quartet. **Jim Davis** directed the ensemble for the National Anthem, several Polecats and Irish Blessing. Howard Stevens mc'd. Hats off to QF; it's the only effort in Northern Nevada dedicated to quartetting.

In the past year director **Jim Crowley** has gradually brought the chorus along so we are now able to quickly sight-read new songs with relative ease. Eighteen months ago the chorus had difficulty with Barberpole Cat stuff...with Jim the improvement has been startling...and enjoyable to boot. We welcome new Assistant Director **Jim Davis**, a past director of the chorus.

A hearty welcome to newcomer basses **Chuck Harris** and **Bert Lackenbauer**.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

MILES SUTTER

97 scheduled Valengrams were delivered this year plus several impromptu requests on Feb. 14. Quartets participating were **Collaboration**, **Fortune Hunters**, **Good Time Harmony**, **His Story IV**, and **Ron Russell's** quartet. Ron and Howard Barber handled the phone calls.

The **Golden Valley Chorus** hosted its first Far Western District 2008 Nor-Cal Novice Quartet Contest. The Palo Alto/Mountain View chapter provided the huge traveling trophy. Past champs **Santa Rosa's Sound Check** were mic testers. Six quartets competed. **Visalia's Sound Projection** took first honors as the Far Western District 2008 NorCal Novice Quartet Champion. Just one point away was **Palo Alto/Mountain View's Four of a Kind**, and third place was snapped up by our own **Almond Blossom Four** (**Steve Taylor**, **Derick Sturke**, **Greg Kramp** and **Howard Barber**). The event was chaired by **Dain Goad** and **Bruce Sellnow** did overall event planning. **Floyd Rough** built the sound shell. Working backstage were **Dick Compton**, **Bob Chapman** and **Terrell Chambers**. **Derick Sturke** handled photography, assisted by **Scott Erickson**. Contest Judges were: **Paul Engel** (Music), **Robert Lenoil** (Presentation) and **Phil DeBar** (Singing). **Chuck Leavitt** was Contest Administrator and **Bill Cale** emceed. The evening was topped off with a pizza afterglow, coordinated by **Buz Smith** and emceed by **Herb Andrew**.

The GVC guest night was a night to remember and featured the awesome voice of **Dina Guntenspuger** singing *Summertime*, accompanied by **Bob Chapmen** on piano. Also featured were six lovely young ladies who called themselves **Perfect Name**, plus quartets, and octets. The evening started off rather auspiciously with **Howard Barber** directing The Old Songs, el Presidente, **Ron Russell**, welcoming our many guests, **Phil Lustri's** physical stretching exercises, and **Dain Goad** and **Greg Kramp** taking chorus and guests thru vocal warm-ups. **Dain** started the evening's activities with everyone singing a few polecat selections, and then, to get our guests more involved, formed an octet with four chorus members and four guests. **Dina** was next, followed by the aforementioned **Perfect Name** sextet, who performed beautifully for such young ladies. **The League of Ordinary Gentlemen**, four young men who recently had competed in Bakersfield, sang next. The chorus then did their con-

test set, followed by **Collaboration**, **Twilight Time**, **Common Bond** and **Fortune Hunters** quartets. **Central Valley Harmony Coop** (aka VLQ) performed as only they can, followed by **Good Time Harmony**, who concluded the musical portion of the evening. While pizza was being served we had the opportunity to also watch **Derick Sturke's** slide show depicting past GVC activities.

The **Central Valley Harmony Co-Op** performed Friday evening, April 4, at the Merced Theater Restoration Fundraiser event. The goal of this event and several others this year is to raise approximately \$1.7 million in matching funds, so that the total of \$3.4 million can be utilized to restore this magnificent 77-year-old Theater to its 1930's glory. When restored, it is expected that the Merced Theater will seat about 1,100 people for movies and theatrical performances.

DAVIS-VACAVILLE

ROY BELLHORN

Our annual shows, held in Davis and in Vacaville, drew larger and more receptive audiences than we've seen in some years. The chorus, under the tutoring and direction of **Ollie Brilhante III**, responded with performances held in great esteem by the chorus members, especially the more seasoned members, and our most esteemed critics, the wives.

The chorus or one of our quartets performed at several retirement communities including **Merrill Gardens** (Vacaville), **Covell Gardens** (Davis) and **Trilogy** (Rio Vista). Members of the chorus also convened to sing at several assisted living/convalescent homes in the region.

Under the urging of **Ollie Brilhante III**, the Davis-Vacaville chapter's chorus, the **West Valley Chorus**, will be re-entering the Divisional competition this year.

FRESNO

DAVID REITZEL

The **Gold Note Chorus** welcomes new member lead **Jason Jones**, who as a pre-membership visitor was brought to the front as a good example by coach **Dr. Greg Lyne**.

Several members of the **Gold Note Chorus** sang patriotic songs in a ceremony for ex-POWs at the Veterans Hospital in Fresno. Another group of Gold Noters sang and manned the telephones during a pledge drive on KNXT-TV, the local Catholic station.

Director **Dede Nibler** has made us proud again, this time receiving the Region 11 Sweet Adelines Noteworthy Award for Regional service and dedication to the barbershop community. Part of the evidence is her finding time to direct her women's group **Voices Unlimited**, sing in her new quartet **Dolce**, and handle major responsibilities in the *New Wrinkles* production with multiple performances in the spring.

Our 50th Anniversary show was a lively look back featuring directors emeritus **Eric Essayan** (now bass section leader), **Leslie Knudsen**, and **George Western**. Emceed by **Jim Bryant** and **Lowell Reynolds**, choreographed by the inimitable **Wes Jackson** and **John Hays**, and stage managed by **Ken Strauss**, the wonderful evening found us singing the old songs and some that are new. Highlights included 18 colorful signs honoring a whippoorwill, three girls (four if you count Mary Lou), a crazy, baby black-light number with white gloves, a beach scene with men cavorting by the sea, some football rowdies of the past accompanied by an Uproar, a red-headed mama who also directs, and numbers by local quartets **Sierra Chord Express**, **Dolce**, **Silver and Gold**, **A Tonic Explosion**, **Route 99**, and **Second Hand Joes**. And we were marvelously entertained by our featured guest quartet **The Crush** of Westminster fame. An afterglow organized by **Terry Starr** and emceed by associate director **John Hays** capped a notable 50 Years of Harmony.

NEVADA PLACER

ROGER PERKINS

The **Sierranaders** lost two long-time members recently. Charter member **Bill Lipschultz** died on January 29 at age 78 after a 6 year battle with a rare disease called amyloidosis. He was a founding member in 1983 and chapter president for two years in the early '90's. Bill was a very active community leader and referred to as "Mr. Auburn" by many. He was an attorney and before moving to Auburn in 1975 worked alongside Johnny Cochran on the defense team for the Black Panthers. After retiring he served as executive director of the Sutter Auburn Faith Hospital Foundation. He was active in Rotary for 50 years and on the board of several other local organizations. A Celebration of Life was held on Feb. 3 with about 400 people attending. Chapter quartet **Stampede** (**Norm Kendall**, **Pat Jones**, **Dennis Lloyd**, **Roger Perkins**) sang two songs for the crowd.

John Gurule died on Feb. 1 in Phoenix, AZ. He was a Society member for over 30 years and of the **Sierranaders** for about 17 years. After moving to Arizona was a loyal member of the Tucson chapter. He was the founder of the annual *Somewhat Serious Quartet Contest and Bean Feed* in Auburn. Every year the event draws about 120 barber-shoppers from all over NorCal. He was a chapter officer and played many roles in annual shows.

The **Sierranaders Chorus** did their third annual performance with the Auburn Concert Band. The band and the chorus took turns playing and singing. There were also performances by quartets **The Chord Miners** and **Pacific Standard Time**. The audience of about 150 was quite appreciative and we were able to pass out fliers for our 25th anniversary show coming up on May 31.

PLACERVILLE

BILL PECK

The **Gold Rush Chorus** has one of the most active *Youth*

In Harmony programs in the district. In March **Ron Murray** received the *President's Award for 2007* at the FWD convention in Bakersfield. It was presented by **Bill Cale** (2007 FWD President) and **Shawn York** (OC Times) who was introduced to Barbershop through **Gold Rush Chorus** Quartet visits to his high school. The chapter has gained several members from the program. **Andrew Mortensen** joined after singing in his high school quartet. He then got his dad, Keith, interested and he became a member also. While driving his daughter to her quartet gigs **Mickey Sleigh** became interested in our hobby and became a life member. Recently two young men **Jason** and **Brian Dyer** joined the chapter.

Congratulations to **The Bandits** from Ponderosa High School who placed third in the FWD High School Quartet Contest in Bakersfield. They received a \$300 check for their school music program.

The Ponderosa High School Baritone Chorus, along with their young ladies and men's quartets, performed for 200 6th grade students at Camerado Middle School, and then later they were joined by our own **Preservation II** where they performed for 100 students at Holy Trinity Grade School. At the end of the program Ron asked the group of 4th graders what they thought about Barbershop singing. Their faces lit up and they all said at one time, "Awesome!"

SACRAMENTO

FRANK KINNISON

The Capitolaire's had a weekend coaching session with **Royce Ferguson** on April 26-27. Royce also made himself available for quartet coaching on the 27th.



FWD DVP for Division 5 ASNSU

Gordon "Mongo" Bergthold

1577 Prescott View Place

Prescott, AZ 86301-1551

928-830-0877

E: glbergie@cableone.net

Three and one-half months have elapsed since replacing Ivan Jensen as the DVP for the ASNSU Division 5. It has been a very busy spring with events that have taken me to several chapters during February, Tucson March 1st for their annual show, March 7th and 8th to the Phoenix annual show, Bakersfield, California March 13, 14 and 15 to the Spring Convention, and just last weekend, April 19th, the ASNSU Division Contest in Phoenix.

The time spent with the FWD members has been very educational, especially the first Board Meeting in Bakersfield. The district has many challenges, but the board members are most concerned about the health of the various chapters and maintaining and growing membership.

We are an aging organization, but we have so much to

look forward to with our younger members coming to the forefront with a passion for four-part harmony. It was refreshing to hear three young quartets at the ASNSU division contest. Sound Agreement finished 6th, as the Novice Champs and qualified for district; Tagteam finished 5th, won the College trophy and qualified for district. N' Harmony X from Flagstaff and Arizona's NAU College competed for the first time ever and finished 12th while Composition 4 from the White Mountain area finished 9th, only eight points from qualifying in the very competitive division competition.

The division's chapters are in the process of self-evaluation and determining the goals for this year and beyond. We are anxious to assist in the process and already planning chapter planning meetings for the northern end of our division in Nevada and Utah and for COTS in the fall of this year again in the Phoenix area. There will be further updates on the specifics for these meetings in coming articles from your DVP.

Meanwhile, keep singing and bringing in new members.



Division 5 ASNSU Editor

Frank Ortega

120 E Canyon Creek Dr
Gilbert, AZ 85295-1516
480-306-4222
E: wordslinger1@cox.net

GREATER PHOENIX

JERRY MCELFRISH

The first quarter started out with a well-attended installation and awards dinner that saw a number of awards presented to members who help to keep the chapter running, including the BOTY award to **John Bloomquist**, front row man and presentation committee member. A successful Singing Valentines program was followed by an equally successful annual show with three performances at the Orpheum Theater in Phoenix. An Arizona favorite, **Rex Allen Jr.**, hosted the show.

With the show behind us, we moved on to preparation for the division contest and working on two new songs for this summer's international chorus competition in Nashville.

We emphasized membership during the quarter with a guest night which drew 17 prospects, and at least half are on the road to becoming members. Other membership efforts included formation of TAG (The Activities Group), which meets on chorus nights. The group, consisting of retired and inactive members, recently honored one active member, **Bob Robinson**, and two inactive members, **Paul Graham** and **Sam Aramian**, for their 50-year memberships in the Society.

The Spirit of Phoenix wrapped up the quarter by winning the division chorus contest and earning the right to com-

pete in the fall district competition. Among the eight quartets qualifying for district were six with members of the **Greater Phoenix Chapter**, including the Division's Seniors Quartet Champion, Novice Quartet Champion and Collegiate Quartet Champion, who qualified for the international collegiate contest in July.

LAS VEGAS

ROC PUCCI

During the last quarter, a number of barbershoppers from various chapters throughout the country and several prospective members visited the venerable Gamble-Aires Chorus of Las Vegas. To date, however, only two have become members. One is **Kurtis Harrold**, who graduated from high school last year and sings lead and tenor very well. He is enthusiastic and always willing to bust a chord. How many of us wished we would have joined our group that young? Another new singer is **Larry Litchfield**. He was a Society member more than a decade and still has his original SPEBSQSA membership certificate, dated January 1, 1961 (more than a half-century ago!). Larry also sings with two other musical organizations in town and likes the diversity of it all. He sings lead and tenor and does a great job on both parts. His career-long background has been in marketing, public relations and communications, so President **Bill Lusk** quickly assigned the duties of Marketing/Public Relations VP to Larry, relieving **Rich Coon** of one of his many duties.

The chapter now has three working quartets: **Broadcast**, **Older-n-Dirt** and **Lucky 7**. The chorus is having fun and singing better every month under our talented directors, **Albert Weiss** and **John Waugh**.

LAS VEGAS METRO CHAPTER

JOHN THOMPSON

Six chapter quartets spread throughout the Las Vegas valley, wooing sweethearts, young and old, with Singing Valentines. This was one of our most successful SV events ever, with 60 orders fulfilled and performed everywhere from "strip" resorts, to corporate meetings, to private parties. A big boost came from our quartet **Rumble Seat Daze**, who was interviewed on KNPR (public radio) to promote our Society, chapter, quartet, as well as Singing Valentines. In addition to the interview with the program host, the foursome sang several songs during the 45-minute show. The quartet also appeared on the morning show at KDWN to promote SVs for the chapter, giving renditions of "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" and "Story of the Rose (Heart of My Heart)."

The **City of Lights** chorus was invited to perform as part of the monthly concert series at Mt. View Presbyterian Church in Sun City Summerlin. We "wowed" a packed house, beginning our nine-song performance by strolling down the center isle with the "Hi Neighbor" greeting and ending with "Thanks For The Memory". "Lida Rose" was used to demonstrate how the different voice parts combine to form the distinct chords and sound of barbershop harmony.

PRESCOTT CHAPTER

SAM STIMPLE

The chapter's executive board launched the New Year with a planning retreat in President **Joe La Barge's** home. Later that week we held our annual awards banquet at the Hassayampa Country Club. Nearly 40 members and spouses saw **Gene Vandervoort** crowned 2007 *BOTY*. **Jerry Harbeson**, **John Vincent** and **Keith Kelly** received the Director's Award for driving the greatest distance to chapter meetings and performances in 2007. Immediate Past President Kelly installed the officers for 2008.

In spite of icy roads and near blizzard conditions, several chapter quartets delivered 40 heart-warming Singing Valentines to unsuspecting recipients throughout western Yavapai County.

Dressed in green garb, the **High Mountain Chordsmen** and quartets treated residents of Prescott's Granite Gate Senior Living Community to a St. Patrick's Day performance. The audience enjoyed a sing-along of familiar Irish songs.

The HMC chorus is eagerly awaiting the return of former director **Joan Piechocki** and is working on several new songs for the next annual show, "*Wild & Wooly West*" with three interim directors from within the chapter: **Hap Lovejoy**, **Rich Ludwigson** and **Sam Stimple**.

SIERRA VISTA CHAPTER

ED RAYMOND

The **Cochise Chordsmen** recently added six new songs to our repertoire. Co-directors **Dave Germain** and **Paul Godwin** are doing a great job teaching the chorus the expected dynamics and interpretation for these numbers.

The chorus performed in April for over one hundred grade school children at the School Age Services building in nearby Fort Huachuca. **Dave Germain** explained the origin and purpose of barbershop, after which the chorus provided a 30-minute singing demonstration. It made a lot of sense that the audience reaction was surprisingly positive. When asked how many sang in choirs or choruses, over sixty percent of the children raised their hands. Another surprise was a short ceremony in which the children thanked us and gave us souvenirs.

Our youth outreach program has attracted two elementary school boys (a lead and tenor), who already sing in their school chorus. Both are attending our practice sessions regularly and are fitting in well.

SUN CITIES CHAPTER

BOB MCGOWAN

The Division 5 Spring Convention/ Contest brought the promise of improved performance by our chorus. With Interim Director **Jerry Roland** leading us in the two selections, we improved our score by ten points over last year, scoring 639 points and almost catching the Sedona Chapter. However, we did advance up the ladder, and this has encouraged us to shoot a bit higher next year. The

advanced age of our chorus has taken its toll on the energy of some voices, so our goal is Quality, rather than Quantity.

Jerry has had success in training our chorus to sing more with one voice and with better blending of the voices. His extensive musical background has been welcome with the sudden departure of our previous director **Rich Thompson**, due to health considerations.

The welcome addition of new faces in the chorus comes at a crucial time as we have lost several members due to poor health in the past few months. We are hopeful some of them will overcome their problems and be able to return soon.

Our Singing Valentines program was successful, although we had a shortened one-day program this year due to our annual show date being so close. President **Stu Leck** chaired the committee this year and did a stellar job.

Our advertising campaigns have been given a boost thanks to Media & Publicity Chairman **Jack McGill**. He has been successful in publishing stories about our chorus in various local papers, especially in Sun City West and the Recreation Board publications.

The chorus now has several committees designed to better manage our performance venues and rehearsal site. This will reduce the Program VP's workload and result in smoother program operation.

TUCSON

RON HAYES

Our new chorus name, **Tucson Barbershop eXperience**, became a reality at the recent FWD Division 5 Chorus Competition in Phoenix. With 47 on the risers, TBX placed second to the Spirit of Phoenix, was the Plateau A Chorus Champion, received the Division Most Improved Chorus award, and became eligible to compete in the District contest this October. The chapter also hosted the Division 5 Convention with a team headed by **Ron Schrubb**.

The Tucson Chapter's Board of Directors changed the terms of all officers and board members to begin on July 1st instead of the traditional January 1st.

Continuing into his second year as musical director of TBX, **Jeff Dolan** inspires the chorus to grow and improve. We are attracting younger men, some of college age.

The chapter is preparing for its 3rd Annual Youth in Harmony Festival, and with the assistance of the local SAI chapter, we anticipate attendance of over 200 students. During the Spring FWD Convention, local music educator Mareena Boosamra-Ball was awarded the District's Award of Harmony. Ron & Annie Hayes, YIH/YWIH coordinators, received the award on Mareena's behalf and presented it to her during her school's spring concert on March 18.

Chorus Director Wanted Visalia

Visalia is a chapter of 50 men, with average attendance of 33, and meets on Tuesdays of each week. We would like to get someone with Barbershopping experience.

Please contact:

Bob Peden

(559) 584-4976

tenorbob@sbcglobal.net

San Luis Obispo

Front-line director who wants to:

- Live in beautiful San Luis Obispo County
- Direct a competent group of singers who seek constant improvement;
- Join a healthy chapter with a proud tradition of performance & hospitality.

Contact:

Pete Bennett, President

(805) 550-2874

peterbflat@gmail.com

2008

June

7 Bay Area Show

7 Santa Fe Springs Show

13-15 South Bay Shows

29-7/6 **INT'L CONV Nashville, TN**

July

12 San Fernando Valley Show

12 Reno Show

12 White Mountain Show

17-18 *Harmony College West*
Univ of Redlands

August

16 Fullerton Show

September

13 Bay Area Shows

October

9-12 *FWD Fall Convention, Bakersfield*
Host: Masters of Harmony

18 Walnut Creek Show

18 Stockton Show

18 Nevada-Placer Show

25 Nevada-Placer Show

25-26 Santa Cruz Youth Outreach Show

30-11/2 Great Pacific Harmony –

2008 Pan Pacific Convention

<http://panpacificharmony.org>

November

1 Placerville Show

2 San Fernando Valley Show

4-8 SAI Int'l Conv, Honolulu, HI

15 **COTS 1 Day**

22 **COTS 1 Day**

29 Bay Area Shows

December

6 Reno Show

13 Santa Fe Springs Show

12-13 Fullerton Shows

2009

January

10 **COTS 1 Day**

17 **COTS 1 Day**

25-2/1 **Int'l MldWinter, Pasadena**

March

14 Tucson Show

19-22 *FWD Spring Convention*

Las Vegas Host: City of Lights

26-29 SAI Region 11 Conv, Bakersfield

April

2-5 SAI Region 12 Conv, Sacramento

May

10 *SCW Divisional (TBA))*

17 *SCE Divisional (TBA)*

June

6/28-7/5 **INT'L CONV Anaheim, CA**

Host: Masters of Harmony

October

8-11 *FWD Fall Convention*

Sacramento Host: Capitolaire

November

3-7 SAI Int'l Conv, Nashville, TN

14 **COTS 1 Day**

21 **COTS 1 Day**

2010

January

9 **COTS 1 Day**

15 **COTS 1 Day**

March

6 Tucson Show

18-21 *FWD Spring Convention*

Open for bid

May

10 *SCW Divisional (TBA))*

17 *SCE Divisional (TBA)*

June

6/27-7/4 **INT'L CONV Philadelphia, PA**

Navy Wives Surprised by Cards and Singing Valentines

By Dan Tom

When Christina Roberts saw the newspaper article about the Singing Valentines being offered by the Sounds of Aloha Chorus, she knew she had found the perfect addition to the surprise she and fellow activities co-chair Alison Prosek were planning. Christina and Alison are members of the VP-47 Officers' Spouses Club, whose husbands are currently deployed to Iraq with Patrol Squadron 47 stationed at Kaneohe Bay Marine Corps Base Hawaii. The 15 members of the club were scheduled to take a catamaran sunset cruise on Saturday, February 16, as an "Over the Hump" celebration to mark the halfway point of their husbands' seven month deployment.

Since it was so close to Valentine's Day, Christina thought it would be a nice surprise if the wives received handwritten cards from their husbands. That took some doing to pull off. Christina first contacted her husband to get all of the men's addresses. Then she and Alison bought blank note cards and pre-addressed the envelopes so they would all come to Alison. They sent them off with a note explaining what to do and when to mail them back. It was to be kept a secret. They crossed their fingers that no one would be left out as the men in the squadron are not all in one place and there is a lot of moving around.

Christina was searching for a unique way to present these cards to the 15 wives at the celebration and the Singing Valentine provided the perfect answer. On the day of the cruise, a quartet from the Sounds of Aloha Chorus appeared at the catamaran dock at Kewalo Basin dressed formally in white tuxedo shirts, red bowties, black tuxedo pants and red cummerbunds. Christina met them and

handed the cards to the quartet. To her great relief, all the cards had miraculously arrived together that very day in Alison's mailbox.

The catamaran captain allowed the barbershop quartet to board the boat along with the wives and other passengers. After everyone got seated, the quartet sang "Heart of My Heart" and "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" as cameras clicked, video cameras rolled, and tears flowed. After singing the two songs, the quartet called out the name of each of the wives and presented her with the handwritten card from her husband along with a silk rose.

Afterwards Christina wrote, "Everyone was truly touched by the singing valentines' performance and delivery of these special cards. You all were fantastic and definitely the talk of the evening." Jaclyn Monnig, one of the wives, told her, "It was so nice to have something handwritten from my husband. I get emails all the time, but having a handwritten letter is really something special."



Although Christina was fully expecting to pay for the Singing Valentine out of the club's funds, she received a surprise of her own as the Sounds of Aloha Chorus was thrilled to give it to them as a gift to the wives and as a thank you to their husbands. Bass of the quartet, Larry Paterson, who has been singing barbershop for 37 years, remarked that it was the best one of all the valentines he had ever delivered. The other three members of the quartet, Dan Tom, tenor, John Char, lead, and Hiroshi Yuki, baritone, couldn't agree more. The Sounds of Aloha Chorus celebrated its 60th anniversary in September of last year. Throughout those 60 years the chorus has been privileged to have many active duty and retired military among its members.



Masters of Harmony, Santa Fe Springs, CA



Voices In Harmony, Bay Area, CA



Spirit of Phoenix, Greater Phoenix, AZ

WESTUNES

Magazine

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