



Volume 61

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Number 4



WESTUNES

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

2011 Far Western District Contest Results, Fresno, CA



1 Bay Area - Voices In Harmony



1 Artistic License

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

Tucson, AZ **January 17 - 22, 2012**



2012 Midwinter In Tucson January 17-22

Arizona Centennial Celebration

2 Contests

Senior Quartets @ Noon Fri. Jan. 21

Youth in Harmony Festival @ 10:45A Sat. Jan. 22

2 Shows

Friday & Saturday Night @ 8

Top 5 International Quartets

Arrive Early and Tour Tucson Area Attractions
in the Warm and Sunny Southwest

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Tombstone

Bisbee

Sonoran Desert Museum

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San Xavier Mission

Old Pueblo Walking Tour

Wednesday Golf Tournament

Thursday Night Jan. 19th Dinner/Show

\$ 30 Dinner @ 4:30P== \$ 20 Show @ 8P

Online tickets at www.tucsonbarbershopharmony.org

Show Lineup

Tucson Barbershop eXperience chorus

Spirit of Phoenix Chorus

OC TIMES

Answers at melbert2@cox.net





WESTUNES Staff

Editor

Ray S. Rhymer

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

Division 1 SW Editor

Ken Day

1019 S La Grange Ave Newbury Park CA 91320-5313
805-498-4218 E: kday98296@roadrunner.com

Division 2 SE Editor

Dale Vaughn

3056 Mount Miguel Dr San Diego CA 92139-3637
619-475-1700]E: dalevaughn@cox.net

Division 3 NW Editor

John Heather

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

Division 4 NE Editor

Roger Perkins

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

Division 5 AZ Editor

Frank Ortega

120 E Canyon Creek Dr Gilbert, AZ 85295-1992
408-306-4222 E: azwordslinger@gmail.com

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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Send all articles and photographs to:
WESTUNES Editor by email

- Articles: use MS Word or PDF files [embed fonts]
- Photographs: use high resolution JPEG.
Please identify people in photos clearly.

1- page ad is 9.5"h x 7.375"w

FWD Official Address

See FWD Secretary Peter Feeney
in center column

2012 Far Western District BoD

Editors Note:

Electronic Westunes is on the horizon. Concern was expressed about having contact information disclosed pulcally on the internet.

This is a test case.

The Contact Information for the 11 officers below is made available by clicking the following secure link:

FWD Contacts

President Russ Young

EVP Allan Webb

IPP Bernard Priceman

Secretary Peter Feeney

Treasurer Bob Heron

SBM John Miller

Division Vice Presidents

Div 1 SW Bill Rosica

Div 2 SE Craig Hughes

Div 3 NW Steve Sammonds

Div 4 NE Richard Lund

Div 5 AZ John Bloomquist

In addition, the FWD District Management Team Contact Information will be made available the same way.

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Issue	Submittal Deadline	Chapter News Submittal to Div Editor Deadline
Winter	1 Nov	25 Oct
Spring	1 Feb	25 Jan
Summer	1 May	25 Apr
Fall	1 Aug	25 Jul

These are new dates for the new Quarterly publication schedule

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110 - 7th Ave. N, Nashville TN 37203-3704
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or use the secure Society website login
<https://ebiz.barbershop.org/ebusiness/>

District President



Bernard Priceman

FWD Contacts

Gosh, this is my last Westunes article as District President. How quickly time passes. It seems like only yesterday that I was sending you all a “Join in the Fun” button and writing the first of my monthly Prez emails. And now suddenly it’s time to hand over the reins to your next President Russ Young. You couldn’t be in better hands. Russ is a long time barbershopper, music educator, District quartet champion and a certified singing judge. He and I have worked closely over the past two years and I have grown to know him and to admire him. He is dedicated, experienced and extremely capable and already getting his thoughts going as to how to make sure our District remains a powerhouse in the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Being District President has been hard work but wonderfully rewarding. I have truly appreciated the friendship and the continuous support and hard work of my Board and the District Management Team. They made me look good. What a talented bunch of guys they are and how well we have worked together. I’ll still be on the Board for the next two years but I guess I’m going to miss being at the helm. I have also appreciated your regular emails to me over the last two years, with all of your support. You’ve kept me on my toes and taught me a lot about what your needs are as barbershoppers.

Over the past two years we introduced several initiatives and Russ will be continuing each of them – monthly Board meetings via Skype, an email from the President to the membership each month and regular meetings between the Board and Chapter Presidents. We ran successful Leadership Academies and Harmony Colleges, excellent Division and

District Conventions and the best-attended Midwinter Convention ever. We also brought home International Chorus Gold Medals each of the past two years and our youth programs continued to thrive. And our new “Learn to Sing” program has started off really well.

So what of the future? Well, the District is doing fine right now so we have a solid base from which to grow. Our finances are healthy and stable, no District is run better than ours, no District sings better than we do and no District recruits more men than us (we just need to retain them better). To help us grow further, plans are afoot to provide you with help. We believe that better singing is the main key to growing and in order to help improve the quality of singing, we are looking to provide you with regular coaching.

There won’t only be musical coaching, though. We’re looking to help you on the admin side, too. We want to help you market yourselves better and recruit better and organize yourselves better. We have the right men to help you and I’m looking forward to getting them scheduled to visit all of those chapters in need.

By the way, the Society is doing well, too. Yes membership figures are down, as they are with almost all hobby organizations, but things are somehow feeling better. I’m looking forward to a new-old membership recruitment program to be rolled out early next year - Operation Harold Hill. The Society is bringing back this most successful membership program in our history. I’ve just been asked to be one of about 60 Harold Hills across the Society and I’m excited. It’s going to be a fun program, but it means that some of you will continue to hear from me. I’m sorry!

Before I go, I want to thank all of you for being my barbershop brothers these past two years. We are indeed a brotherhood and will continue to be so – helping and encouraging others, enjoying singing together and meeting regularly at conventions and other fun events. Don’t ever stop enjoying your hobby. “Join in the Fun”.





by Bud Case

200 years of Barbershop Experience

Every quartet must have a name. That was never so true as on September 13, 2011, when the Visalia MOC was honored to celebrate a rare event; the formation of the Valley F. O. G. (Four Old Guys or according to Brian Morse, the Valley F. R. O. G.-Four REALLY Old Guys). Rare things happen rarely for very good reasons and this occasion fits. The Chapter honored four of its members that have each been Society members 50 years! Northeast Division VP Jim Turnmire traveled from Fresno to make the presentations along with our president, Dee Baughman. The Valley F.O.G. consists of Bob Browne-Tenor, "Gerty" Goertzen Baritone, Bob Peden-Bass and "Smitty" Smith-Lead.

Bob Peden joined Barbershop in the Fresno Gold Note Chapter and while there was the bulletin editor. Later he helped form the Hanford Kingsmen Chapter which was active for 20 years. When it closed he transferred to Visalia and has been actively serving as Music VP and Chapter activities Chairman. He says his great claim to fame was singing tenor in the popular quartet Saturday Nite Bandstand Review. (Gerald "Tank" Waldrum-Bass, Gale "Smitty" Smith-Lead).

Gale "Smitty" Smith and Elvin "Gerty" Goertzen also joined the Fresno Chapter and very soon sang together in the Valley Cats Quartet. It was six months later that "Smitty" realized that "Gerty" was married

to "Smitty's" cousin. All four of these very capable singers mingled their lives in and out of other quartets like the West Coast Four, Saturday Night Bandstand Review and Wrinkles (Gerty, Jim Turnmire, Doug Yarrow, "Mac" Mackintosh). Singing the 12 Days of Christmas in Saturday Nite Bandstand Review with "Tank" Waldrum, Les Dergen and Bob Peden is a particularly fond memory of "Smitty's".

Bob Browne joined Barbershop in Boulder, CO, in 1961. After a year he moved to the San Francisco Bay area and joined the San Jose Chapter until 1989 when he moved to the Fresno/Visalia area. He attributes our hobby with keeping him fit and active in spite of the stresses of his fire fighting career. He was the lead for the Fancy Dans Quartet for 25 years (competing many times consistently in the top ten) with Tenor-Lloyd Oksen, Baritone-Paul Angel and Bass-Jim Purcell. Their two trips to New Zealand played a significant part in the development of Barbershop there beginning in 1980. That year they were invited to perform as the Californians Quartet twice a day for 19 days at New Zealand's National Fair. The next year they performed as the Best Westerners Quartet on both islands for the motel chain that was raising funds in a charity telethon. With those two trips they helped introduce and develop barbershop in New Zealand as well as many life-long friends. Currently he sings in Sound Projection Quartet with Bob Peden-Tenor, Landes Dung-Baritone, and Brian Morse-Bass.

The three songs they entertained us with were rendered with virtuosity of true lovers of our barbershop style that lets us know that all the hard work that goes into singing well is not only to produce beautiful music but also the sharing of all our journeys. This author joins the thousands if not tens of thousands that have been thrilled with chord-ringing, the artistic flair of emotional hues, and the joy and laughter created by four ordinary men doing extra ordinary things with four-part harmony.

District Executive Vice President



Russ Young

FWD Contacts

What a fantastic Fall Convention we had in Fresno! It was great to see so many of you there, cheering on our competitors and participating in the many activities that were available. A special congratulations to the outstanding quartets and choruses on their contest performances. Of course, the convention team under the direction of Convention Chairman Jim Turnmire did a commendable job of making sure all of us had nothing but the best of everything during our stay. Thanks team!

I'm writing this as I prepare to leave Dallas, having just finished a tremendous weekend at the Society Leadership Forum. Also representing our District were Allan Webb, incoming Executive Vice President, Music and Performance Chairman, Nick Papageorge, and Membership Chairman, Jack Peters. This weekend brought District leaders from across the Society together to share successes, develop new ideas, and discuss how to conquer challenges. Ultimately, we return to our own District with a renewed enthusiasm to serve our members. I'm feeling a huge sense of pride as I leave, as discussions in our sessions made me once again realize just how fortunate we are in our own District. Excellent leadership throughout the years has instilled such stability that our District is able to weather recent challenges while continuing to develop and implement programs that benefit our membership and set examples for others. This became even more evident to me when, after speaking of our successes and future plans, a huge round of applause ensued, followed by several questions. Flattery is the highest form of a compliment, and that sent the message to me of just how well respected we are in the FWD and of how

proud I am to be part of it. I'm also certain that my travel partners had similar experiences and had their batteries recharged as well.

One of the most widely discussed programs in Dallas was the newly unveiled Harold Hill membership program. Some of you may remember this program some years ago, and that brought in several new members into our fold. This is very similar, but has been updated to meet the needs of today's chapters. I encourage you to take a look at the newly launched website and sign up as a chapter to participate. You will certainly be hearing from Jack Peters on this. Go to operationharoldhill.com to get more information.

This time of year we have several chapters preparing for holiday performances. As in the past, I encourage you to attend these shows. You may recall my challenge: for each of us to go to at least one more show a year to help support our brothers. Of course, it never hurts to bring a friend!

While the Fresno convention brought us so many memorable moments, it helped me to reflect on the past two years under the leadership of President Priceman. Bernard is a man of many ideas who wants nothing less than the very best for our District. I feel fortunate to have served under him in my capacity on the Board and have learned so much from his expertise. To my advantage, Bernard will still be very much in the picture as Immediate Past President, and I will lean on him for support. The drop of the gavel at the Board meeting closed another chapter in FWD history and opened a new one for the newly installed officers for 2012. Thank you, Bernard, for your leadership and vision into the future. You have been a mentor and friend to me and our District.

FWD Sunshine Chairman Les Cudworth

3227 Root Ave
Carmichael, CA 95608-3415
916-489-3910
lesimpact@netzero.net



by Richard Lund, Camp Director

I will start off with a quote from the evaluation form of one of our 81 campers. The question was: Did you get what you expected? The young man answered, "I expected camp to be lame and it was awesome."

Awesome may well sum up Harmony Camp 2011. Many believe this may have been the Best Camp ever! With Mike O'Neill as our Music Dean (Mike is a hot young music specialist from Nashville and the bass of Lunch Break), and with Vocal Spectrum, 95 North and First Strike, 81 young men were hop dipped in barbershop. The inexhaustible enthusiasm of Connie Keil and Gabe Caretto; and the incredible talent of Jim Halvorson completed our talent laden leadership group.

Of course, in addition to the men above we had the incomparable group of a dozen or so midlevel music guys along with twenty something volunteers making the weekend work like a well-oiled watch (wait, that descriptor doesn't work anymore, does it). Anyway, we had our "usual" total of fifty or so volunteers to provide overall teaching and support for the boys. It never ceases to amaze me how well all these guys work together and make this thing such an amazing experience for the boys!

I want to briefly share with you a program in the development stage but one we anticipate having in place at Harmony Camp 2012. In response to requests from college age young men who attended Harmony Camp as high school students, we are planning to incorporate a formal college track at Harmony Camp. We will keep you updated as plans

are solidified however I assure you my excitement is high as I work with those who have verbally committed to this program. I will be coming to all of you for contact information on Junior College and College programs to market our expanded Harmony Camp program.

Your unwavering support for Camp and the good work that all of you do for the boys never ceases to amaze me. You contributed well over eight thousand dollars this year in support of Harmony Camp. That figure was even mentioned by the Far Western District Treasurer at the House of Delegates' meeting at the District Convention!

Young men and their vocal music teachers learn of Camp through you and your Youth Outreach efforts. The young men who attend camp are the direct result of your efforts. Your generosity and support for our FWD Camp is quickly becoming legendary; and you deserve all the credit in the world for what you do!



Lastly I should note that we had four vocal music teachers attend Camp for the weekend. To use the words of our young camper, Mike O'Neill's meeting with them during Camp was "awesome" We received a lot of good feedback from them and a promise to spread the word. In addition, two Sweet Adeline representatives spent Saturday with us to "learn how we do it."

Thank You again for all your help! It is You who make this all possible and I firmly believe that in the long term, our beloved Society will grow as a result of your efforts.



**Chair: Chapter Support & Leadership
Gordon "Mongo" Bergthold**

FWD Contacts

Another year is slipping by and the FWD has had success at Kansas City, the leadership team is gaining ground on the chapter visitation program and building membership through the singing program and other events that bring singers together.

What we haven't done is take advantage of the expertise that is available through the Chapter Service Representatives that are listed in the FWD website. It's amazing that although every chapter has something that it could improve upon, very few ask for help. There are so many men with quartet, chorus and administrative experience who want to help the FWD chapters, we need only ask!

There are chapters who need musical help and we're going to send our team members to those locations to offer help in 2012. It may not seem like those visits accomplish a lot to the man on the risers but we've found that when chapters have visitors who offer to help good things happen. We have found through our chapter interviews that anyone who comes from the FWD or BHS to visit the various chapters is welcomed and usually put to work in some way or another. Even if you don't ask for help we're going to make it available through more contact with the FWD chapters.

For those who still wonder what I do as the CSLT Chair, please read the following:

The duties of the Chairman of the Chapter Support and Leadership Training Committee are:

Developing, administering and maintaining an effective chapter counseling program in the district, including the recruitment, appointment, management and training of chapter counselor trainers and chapter counselors.

Recruiting and developing a Leadership Academy (formerly COTS) faculty for chapter counselor

training and maintains and disseminates chapter Counselor and Counselor training materials within the district.

Recommending the certification of Chapter Counselors and trainers from the district, when appropriate.

Coordinating and administering Chapter Operations Training Seminars in the district.

Acts as liaison with the Society Chapter Support Committee and communicates and coordinates its policies within the district.

Recruit and train a long-term District Leadership Academy coordinator (DLAC) whose tenure will be indefinite to assure most effective continuity of this critical task.

Participate in Society training as provided for CSLT personnel.

Attending FWD BOD and HOD meetings when specifically invited by the District President.

The Chairman directly communicates with: District through the President, district board of directors, District Geographical Vice Presidents, Chapter Counselors, Society Chapter Support and Leadership Training Committee.

I'm at your disposal and all you need do is ask for help and we'll see to it that your request is handled in an expeditious manner.



**Chair: Chorus Director Development
John Minsker**

FWD Contacts

Man, oh man, where did the year go?

The Chorus Director's Guild continues to grow, but there's room for more of you!

We've got a start on a Director's Pool, making directors available for temporary fill-ins, when needed.

We're about to institute a "Mentor" program spearheaded by our fearless President, Bernard Priceman, where a more experienced director visits chapters

that may need a little help. More info about that by the next issue.

Thanks to the fine work by Ron Black and a passel of others, we arranged for the chorus directors at the District competition to be videotaped, providing them with a visual record of what THEY did, or didn't do. More information / feedback in the next issue.

Comments, thoughts, suggestions or volunteering are all good things, and welcome.



**Chair: Contest & Judging
Ron Black**

[FWD Contacts](#)

Hope everyone enjoyed the Fresno District Convention. That venue is always a good place to go to, nice theater, convenient hotel(s), good hospitality. (I'm just biased having lived in Fresno for 19 years!)

So two chapter's choruses will represent the FWD in Portland next July.

Bay Area Voices In Harmony earned the District Representative slot, and La Jolla Pacific Coast Harmony is going to International for their first time (made a wild card slot)! If you weren't there, you missed the show put on by the American River Chorus, as they staged a complete political rally (with no disqualifying patriotic themes!), complete with the pResident elect, the crowds of supporters and dissenters, all surrounded by the Secret Service.

Our District Champion Quartet, Artistic License topped the audience favorite Tenacious Q, who finished just ahead of 95 North. Any one of these three were good bets to take on for the winner (although I was biased for Artistic License, being from my California Delta Chapter!). So next spring's International Quartet Preliminary contest (March 8 - 11 in Ontario) should be a barn burner when you add in last years International Competitors Masterpiece and The Edge (and 95 North)!

Be planning your trip to that Convention, and plan to

go on Friday. All of Southern California will want to go, because it is 3 contests in one! It's the Quartet International Preliminaries (to qualify to go to Portland in July), and both Southwest and Southeast Division contests. So the Division Quartet contest coupled with the Prelim's Semi-final round will be on Friday evening (maybe late afternoon also, we could have over 30 quartets easily), Division Choruses on Saturday, and quartet Finals on Saturday evening, and a huge afterglow to finish it off.

The Spring Contest Entry Form CJ-20 is now available on the BHS Website at ebiz.barbershop.org

Please contact me or Music and Performance director Nick Papageorge if you want to obtain coaching for your chorus or quartet - we have ways to make that happen.



**Chair: Convention Activities
Keith Eckhardt**

[FWD Contacts](#)



**Chair: Events
John Jones**

[FWD Contacts](#)

Successful on all fronts, Jim Turnmire and the Fresno Chapter produced and hosted an outstanding Fall convention. From mass sing, to great facilities, to a smooth flowing contest, to marvelous hospitality this is one to set the standard! Thanks to all.....

Next up for FWD is our 2012 Spring Convention hosted by the highly experienced Bill Rosica and the Santa Fe Springs Chapter and located pretty centrally in Southern California. We can expect another super opportunity to participate in our hobby. We should have a great lineup of top quality quartets and strong representation of chapter choruses. Come and do both..... sing with the best and listen to the best! Registration forms and other info can be found in this Westunes and online at the FWD website: <http://spebsqsafwd.org/>

2012 starts with the Midwinter Convention in Tuscon, AZ. If it is anything like the 2011 Midwinter in Las Vegas, you don't want to be left out. So plan on spending Jan 17-22 in Arizona. The 2012 FWD Prelims will be in Ontario, Ca. right next to the Ontario International Airport. Easy in and easy out...March 8 -11, 2012. With both the Southeast and Southwest Division choruses competing on the same stage, this will be fun! Our Northeast, Northwest, and Arizona Divisions will be at home, so everyone should be rested up to take on the International Convention which is back on the West Coast and just a short hop to Portland Or over the week of July 1 – 8, 2012. The International is truly one of the top experiences for our hobby. To wrap up our year we will be making our regular sojourn to the Arizona Division for our fall convention.

I cannot emphasize too strongly that you begin planning for our 2012 Fall Convention in Mesa, AZ. The town of Mesa is pretty, the weather perfect in October and both the venue and the headquarters hotel are great. A genuine getaway for Oct 11- 14, 2012 but if we begin thinking of this trip after our spring conventions, we will have folks unprepared. The convention hosted by the Phoenix chapter is being managed by a top-notch team that has hosted both District and International events. Watch for highlights and registration forms headed your way.

- March 8/11, 2012 – Prelims, Southeast/Southwest, Ontario –Santa Fe Springs Chapter
- April 13/14, 2012 – Northwest Division, Woodside, Palo Alto Mountain View Chapter
- April 20/21, 2012 - Arizona Division, Phoenix, Tucson Chapter
- May 18/19, 2012 - Northeast Division, Sacramento, Sacramento Chapter
- Oct 11/14, 2012 – FWD Fall Convention, Mesa, Phoenix Chapter

Here are your Division Event Planners:
 Northeast – Sam Barger nevadasam1@sbcglobal.net
 Northwest – John Jones johnkathyjones@aol.com
 Southeast – Paul Sandorf patosand@yahoo.com
 Southwest – Jim Serdahely sirdaly@aol.com
 Arizona – Ivan Jensen ivanbbs@thejensens.com

	<p>Chair : Marketing & Public Relations Greg Titus</p> <p>FWD Contacts</p>
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	<p>Chair : Member Services Jack Peters</p> <p>FWD Contacts</p>
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	<p>Chair: Music & Performance Nick Papageorge</p> <p>FWD Contacts</p> <p>t</p>
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	<p>Chair : Young Men In Harmony John Krizek</p> <p>FWD Contacts</p>
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Youth Fund Needs Help

There are many options for individuals and chapters when it comes to supporting our youth outreach mission.

One is the kind of direct support for local schools as epitomized by the Santa Cruz and Conejo Valley chapters, with their fundraising shows involving school choirs. The funds go directly to the local schools. Another is contributions to Harmony Foundation. It's been exciting in recent years to hear Sean Devine describe all the success and good works of our Society's charitable arm.

In between Harmony Foundation and local causes is the Far Western District Youth Education Fund. This is the fund that provides the prizes for the high school quartet contest every year. And it has provided grants of \$500 to chapters hosting youth festivals or workshops, so they can buy music and cover other expenses. In years past, this fund also paid for the

District YIH brochure, and the Youth Harmony Camp video. Once upon a time it paid for two youth harmony camps—before the NorCal Youth Harmony Camp evolved into its own entity, with its own dedicated charitable fund.

I am advised by treasurer Bob Heron that due to outgo exceeding income in the last few years, the FWD Youth Education Fund is running dry, and may not be able to fund the high school quartet contest awards next March.

All of the choices available for financial support of our educational cause are good ones. All fit under the Society's 501(c)3 nonprofit designation. I would ask that—as we approach our year-end giving decisions—we all consider the needs of our District and its youth education programs. After all, we were the pioneers that launched so much of the youth movement, and all the joys that have since flowed. Let's keep that momentum going.



Chair : Quartet Activities

Bill Kane

FWD Contacts

Chapter Advertising for Quartet Singers

Recognizing that the retention rate is twice as high for quartet singers as non-quartet singers, an East Coast chapter has posted on the Harmonet:

“This is a friendly invitation to all barbershoppers in the Baltimore/DC area who are without a chapter and looking for the opportunity to do more quartetting with like-minded individuals. If this sounds like you, please read on....

”The Anne Arundel County, MD Chapter is looking for singers who want to form new quartets, and maybe become part of something bigger. Quartet singing is the backbone of our chapter, and is the reason for our chapter chorus' continued improvement over the last five years. And we

want to share our passion for quartetting with even more guys. We devote the first full hour of every chapter meeting to informal (and organized) quartet singing.”

Several individuals here in FWD have contacted me for new programs they can use to get more quartetting into their chapters. They may not all be able to devote an hour to quartet singing at chapter meeting, so some of our ideas can take much less time or happen on other days of the week. I have a great team now of guys who attended the Harmony Brigade in Reno this August and are developing some new quartet activity plans for chapters. Thanks to Don Salz, Paul Engel, Bob Cathaway, Gary Cartano and Michael Parish.

One new program is called Quartet Boot Camp, which is based on translating the Harmony Brigade (HB) to a chapter. We have one format for it called One-Song-Four and are working on a yet-to-be-named version using a chapter contest or multi-chapter contest. We are also working on a pilot program for a one-day event based on HB principals (which we'll call Platoon). President Priceman mentioned this in his post-Fresno email to us all and we are planning on it taking place at some Division conventions next spring.

Contact me if you'd like more details on Quartet Boot Camp or One-Song-Four for your chapter.

By the way, if you are a guy looking for a quartet, or a quartet missing one part, there is an online search website you may want to contact:

<http://www.quartetmatchup.com/>

FWD Sunshine Chairman Les Cudworth

**3227 Root Ave
Carmichael, CA 95608-3415
916-489-3910
lesimpact@netzero.net**

Arizona Chapter Strives To Promote and Encourage Quartet Singing

*By Jim Milner, Secretary
Arizona Quartet Chapter*

The Arizona Quartet Chapter is dedicated solely to the advancement of four-part barbershop quartet singing. Unlike the chorus experience, there is something about singing a barbershop chord with three other guys that cannot be duplicated in any other combination. For many men in this hobby, it was just such enjoyment that caused them to continue to attend chapter meetings, contests and conventions. Unfortunately, many of these events do not offer enough opportunities to sing with three other guys. Therefore, it is our mission to give our members more opportunities to sing in different quartet combinations and strictly engage in activities that promote and encourage quartet singing.

Almost all who attend our biweekly meetings can hold their part. Most have quartet experience, know how to follow the lead, voice match for blend, etc. We average about 16 guys at a meeting, which allows for one quartet singing a set of two songs, and the others listening enthusiastically. If we have established quartets attend (usually two), they sometimes sing sets of three or four songs. In the middle of the meeting, we sometimes do tag-out quartets for 15 minutes or so. Or someone may teach a tag, and quartets will perform it. Once, we tried four basses, four leads, four tenors, and four baritones. Lots of laughs! The basses were the best. There are several incidents of choosing someone who hasn't sung in a while to pick three other guys and do a two-song set. For variety, we have four "Strictly Barbershop" booklets and four "Heritage of Harmony" songbooks to read out of on occasion.

The guys seem to like the informal setting, and sometimes stick around after the meeting to sing. We meet on the first and third Wednesdays at the Arizona American-Italian Club, 7509 N. 12th St, Phoenix, and go from 7 to 10PM. On occasion, we try to send a quartet to the clubroom to sing a couple of songs for the Club patrons. Everyone enjoys it.

Some quartets show up to have a place to rehearse and work on their next performance, taking advantage of experienced coaches when they can. During the evening, they have the opportunity to sing in front of the chapter to fine-tune their performance. Occasionally, we have a guest clinician come in to coach a quartet while our members observe, giving all of us a chance to learn.

All in all, our members benefit from having more time to sing in quartets and, as a chapter, we continue to provide an environment that fosters personal growth and enrichment through quartet singing. Some quartets show up to have a place to rehearse and work on their next performance, taking advantage of experienced coaches when they can. During the evening, they have the opportunity to sing in front of the chapter to fine-tune their performance. Occasionally, we have a guest clinician come in to coach a quartet while our members observe, giving all of us a chance to learn.

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March 8-11, 2012**

**FWD Quartets Will Compete to Qualify for
the July 1-8, 2012 International Quartet
Contest in Portland, OR
SW & SE Quartets and Choruses Will
Compete to Qualify for the October 11-14,
2012 Fall Final Contest in Mesa, AZ**

**HOD meeting is Friday, March 10, 2PM.
Chapter Delegate or not, you can attend
to witness how the HOD functions.
If you approve [or disapprove], contact
your DVP to let him know.
"IT'S YOUR DISTRICT"**



2011 FWD Quartet Champions Artistic License

by *Rich Brunner*

"Who the heck is Artistic License?" We realize many of you may have been asking that question since we were crowned Far Western District Champs this past October. We're guessing this is because as a quartet, we're pretty darn new (more "new" than "pretty" to be precise) and most of you had never seen us before our big splash in Bakersfield. So, in keeping with the long standing tradition that the new champs write a bit of an "Introducing the Guys" in the Westunes right after winning, we thought we'd take a few minutes of your precious time and share a bit about who we are. Besides being a small bit interesting (we hope!), it will save us the ignominy of having you all walk up and say I like how "that guy" sings. Instead you can call him Jason. Invariably, that's who you'll be talking about. You like how Jason sings. Everybody seems to, hmmm. Heaven knows, we do.

So, with out further delay, here's Artistic License.

We'll start with our bass section. This is owned in full by the big redhead with the huge smile. If you've ever met Jason Dyer, you remember him. Primarily it's because he's just a heckuva nice young (22 years old!) man, but also because he's just so clearly smitten with and respectful of our barbershop hobby. Jason is off-the-charts in his musicality and is already a certified candidate to be a Music Judge. He's just

about to finish off his music degree at Sacramento State University and begin work on his teaching credential. He lives in El Dorado Hills, CA with his striking young bride, Elizabeth, who is herself a bit of a prodigy. Her quartet "Heavenly" recently placed 2nd in the National Rising Star contest held by Sweet Ads. Talent in abundance.

Working our way up the clef to the land of ugly notes, we have our charismatic Baritone, Mr Gabe Caretto. This excessively talented young man is also Music Director of the up-and-coming American River Chorus, based in Sacramento. Gabe is way over-educated, owning two bachelors degrees and two Master's degrees, both in Music and Finance. His career is as the Controller for a large architectural design firm. He's also a self-described "Jazz-Head" and seems to know most every song ever written. Many of you have seen him on stage previously in Late Show, our 2006 FWD Champs. One of the things that sets Gabe apart is his versatility. He has competed on stage on all four voice parts. Unlike many baritone singers (sorry, guys), its actually really nice when he gets the occasional solo or feature. Gabe has two teenage sons, William and Wesley, and he lives in Elk Grove, CA with his sweetheart Cindy and two huge dogs named Sadie and XXXXX.

On the lead part, we feature the distinctive tones! of Rich Brunner. As a four-time Far Western District champ (Musician's Choice, Freestyle, VocalEase and now Artistic License), Rich is a very familiar presence on stage to most folks in the FWD. A lifelong barbershopper, Rich will sing any song or tag, any part, with anybody, any time. Having earned his music degree way back in the day, Rich instead followed the money and got into technology. He's currently the VP of Systems for a large Business Process Outsourcing firm, whatever that is. He's the president of the American River Chorus (ARC) and is known to effectively find ways to cram 28 hours into every day. Rich has two teen-age boys, one a freshman at UC Berkeley, and the other that sings with him in the ARC. Together with his lifelong love, Pattie, and two Vizslas (them is dogs), he lives in Rocklin, CA.

[Continues on page 12]

[Continues from page 11]

The dashing tenor of Artistic License is the legendary Todd Kidder. Although smaller in stature, he's somehow larger than life. Todd has been singing barbershop for about 7 zillion years. He actually started at age 4. Really. Most audiences first saw him in Kidder & Sons, our 1987 FWD Champs. He also sang with Freestyle and in VocalEase, so he's been performing at the championship level for years. Todd's tenor voice is very distinctive, as is his infectious humor. After retiring recently (no, really!) as a County Sheriff, Todd immediately went back to work in law enforcement at Marin College. He and his beautiful wife Diane have five grown children (even some grandkids) and they live in Vacaville, the town where they both grew up.

So there you have it. Together these four really nice guys make up your new champions, Artistic License.

We're invested in providing strikingly musical and entertaining performances. We have a blast singing together and, while we don't take ourselves too seriously, we are very professional in our approach to improvement. Above all, we know that our music is only worthwhile if you enjoy it. We love singing barbershop and hanging with barbershoppers, so our hope is that if you see us standing around, you'll swing by and say "Hey, could I sing one with you guys?" Invariably, it'll be just as much a thrill for us as it is for you.

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PUT YOUR QUARTET IN THE SPOTLIGHT at the NOVICE QUARTET CONTEST

*By Bob Calderwood, president
Orange Quartet Chapter*

Fifty years ago, the Westminster Chapter instituted the Novice Quartet Contest to promote the formation and development of new quartets. Twenty years ago, under the sponsorship of that same Westminster Chapter, the Orange Quartet Chapter was chartered for exactly the same purpose. We at Orange are proud to be able to carry on the tradition of this important event.

The Southern California Novice Quartet Contest will take place at 7:00pm on Saturday, January 28, 2012 at the Village Theater, 1140 N Tustin St, in Orange. The event provides an opportunity for new quartets and those with limited experience to present their talents and learn about the process of competition in a friendly setting. More experienced quartets should consider using the event as part of their preparation for the division contests in March. Each competing quartet will be scored according to standard Society methods and will receive an evaluation so that the quartet members will understand their strong points and those areas where they need improvement. For the purpose of determining winners, a handicapping system based on past experience in competition will be used.

All barbershoppers are encouraged to participate. Quartets do not need to be Society-registered, but all four singers must be Society members. There is a \$25 entry fee per quartet. Entries must be submitted no later than January 1, 2012. Make your plans now so that the holidays don't catch you napping!

Audience tickets are priced at \$10 and \$15. Youths 11 years and under pay half price. Competitors do not need to purchase audience tickets for themselves.

Entry and ticket order forms, as well as rules and other information can be obtained on the web at orange.harmonize.com or by calling 714-442-8500 or sending email to orangequartets@gmail.com.



2011 International Chorus Champions The Masters of Harmony

by Ron Larson

In October, members of the Santa Fe Springs Chapter elected 13 men to serve as their 2012 Board of Directors. These men plus Immediate Past President Kirt Thiesmeyer will direct official chorus responses to the unique challenges of an International Championship year, a year that will include hosting the Far Western District's 2012 Spring Convention in Ontario, California. Bill Rosica returns as chapter president; AJ Manker will serve as secretary and Jussi Ratsula as treasurer. Ray Johnson, Jake Bailey, Joe D'Amore, and Gary Stone will serve as vice presidents in charge of vital chapter functions. The six board members-at-large include Ron Andreas, Tom Christman, Dain Goad, Rich Owen, Graham Pence, and Bill Power. All will be installed at the Annual Awards and Installation Banquet in January 2012.

Three days after the election, the Masters of Harmony, outgoing Far Western District Champion Chorus and current International Champion Chorus, performed a swan song set late in a Saturday filled with Far Western District Convention chorus and quartet competitions. The set included the contest package that made the Masters the International Champion Chorus for the 8th consecutive time. Many who filled Fresno's beautifully appointed William Saroyan Theater had not seen the Masters of Harmony perform in Kansas City and with their sustained enthusiastic applause, expressed the pride felt throughout the District at having the chorus gold medal back in our district for another year. Four

quartets with Masters members finished in the top ten: Tenacious Q (2nd), Don't Tell Mom (4th), Velvet Frogs (6th) and Midnight Madness (7th). Men from the MOH family directed three of the choruses competing in Fresno: Gary Steinkamp (3rd place Spirit of Phoenix); John Brockman (Riverside's 7th place The New Gang on the Corner); and Craig Ewing (Fullerton's 10th place Orange Empire Chorus). Other Masters men with important convention roles were renowned Production Manager, Doug Maddox, and in the judges' pit, Ken Potter. Sean Devine gave a rousing speech to the House of Delegates on behalf of Harmony Foundation. He presented MOH with the largest of the checks handed out to various chapters for notable participation in the program that is helping ensure the long-term viability of our Society.

Special congratulations go to our sisters in harmony, Harborlites Chorus, who rehearse in Anaheim, just a few miles down the road from Santa Fe Springs. The Harborlites were one of two dozen Barbershop Harmony Society and Sweet Adelines International groups competing on the Gospel Music Channel's eight-week contest show, America Sings!, this summer. Harborlites won the contest and its grand prize of \$10,000. Congratulations to our sister chorus for taking our hobby to a new audience so successfully!

Continuing an innovation started over a year ago, anyone wishing to attend a MOH performance can go to the MOH website and select specific seats through our online ticket ordering program. Patrons can order tickets using all major credit cards through PayPal or by mailing a check to the Masters of Harmony.



2 Tenacious Q

3 95 North



4 Who Told Mom



5 Brewhouse



6 & 1 Velvet Frogs



7 Midnight Madness



8 BLING!



9 spam



10 Four Fifteen



11 Go For Broke



12 & 3 From The Top



13 56 East



14 First Strike



15 & 4 Joint Venture



16 & 5 Silver Knights



17 & 6 Preferred Blend

Order of rank is X & Y: X in regular, Y in Senior Contest



18 Flash Point



19 Beyond The Pale



2 Senior Great Western Timbre Co



Vocal Edition [NR - for evaluation only]

Order of rank in the FWD Fall Final Quartet Contest

**After the 2012 International Convention in Portland, Oregon
ALASKA BARBERSHOP MIXED CHORUS CRUISE**

JULY 8 - 15, 2012

ON HOLLAND AMERICA'S OOSTERDAM

A Signature of Excellence



Ron & Jo Black

Looking for a relaxing and fun time on an up-scale cruise ship? Join Ron & Jo Black, Hi-Fidelity Quartet and fellow Barbershoppers on an Alaska Inside Passage cruise following the 2012 International Convention in Portland. Ron directs the mixed chorus.



Hi-Fidelity

Hi-Fidelity is the featured quartet--Craig Ewing, tenor; Dan Jordan, lead; Gregg Bernhard, baritone; Martin Fredstrom, bass. Hi-Fidelity is the 2002 Buckeye Invitational Grand Champions, 2005 Far Western District Quartet Champions, 2006 Harmony Sweepstakes National A Cappella Champions and 2008 Pan Pacific Champions. They distinguish themselves with painstaking craftsmanship, sophisticated song stylings, a strange sense of humor... and.... they sing 'good' too!

For a brochure with all of the cruise information, please call or email Edward Pio at 831-206-0450/edwardpio@gmail.com or Jo Black at 916-253-9293/jomamabass@gmail.com Don't forget the Early Bird Discount.

World Music Tours

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Call or email for a brochure today!

Cruise From **\$1,295** per person, dbl/oco This price includes all Gov't. taxes & fees and Barbershop Activities.

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT 2012 SPRING CONTESTS AND CONVENTION

Contests and Show

International Quartet Prelims
SE and SW Division Choruses
SE and SW Division Quartets
District High School Quartets
Show of Champions

HOSTED BY THE
MASTERS OF HARMONY

MARCH 8-11, 2012
Colony High School Theater
3850 E. Riverside Drive
Ontario, CA

Meetings and Events

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

REGISTRATION PRICES		HOTEL INFORMATION
<u>ALL CONTESTANTS MUST BUY AN ALL EVENTS REGISTRATION FOR THE APPLICABLE AGE GROUP</u>		<p>All Hotel Reservations must be made directly with <i>Holiday Inn Express & Suites – Ontario Airport</i> 2280 South Haven Ave. Ontario, CA 91761 (909) 930-5555 or www.hiexpressontario.com</p>
ALL EVENTS EARLY BIRD (Postmarked by February 8 th)	ALL EVENTS LATE / ON SITE (Postmarked after February 8 th)	
<p>ALL EVENTS:</p> Adult \$40.00 Young Adult (under 26) \$20.00 Child under 13 Free New Member First Conv'n Free (Check New Member Offers)	<p>ALL EVENTS:</p> Adult \$50.00 Young Adult (under 26) \$25.00 Child under 13 Free SINGLE EVENT \$25.00 each	



2012 FAR WESTERN DISTRICT SPRING CONTESTS AND CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM

Name(s)	Chapter or City:	Member	Wife/Guest	Young Adult	Child <13 / New	District Officer	AFWDC / Other VIP	Amount Due	
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*Address		<p style="text-align: center;">Far Western District ONTARIO SW/SE Divisional, Spring '12</p>							
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 – SPRING REGISTRATIONS Check here if you have a disability that may require accommo-
 6504 Audene Way, Bakersfield, CA 93308 dation 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 bhsfwd.org — Questions? Call 661-399-6292 or e-mail rwathaway@bak.rr.com



5 Reno, NV



6 Brea, CA



7 Riverside, CA



8 San Fernando Valley, CA



9 Palo Alto-Mountain View, CA



10 Fullerton, CA



11 Davis-Vacaville, CA



12 St George, UT



13 Santa Monica, CA



14 Las Vegas Metro, NV



15 Sacramento, CA



16 South Bay, CA



17 Fresno, CA



18 Central California, CA



19 Palomar Pacific, CA



FWD DVP for Division 1 SW

Bill Rosica

FWD Contacts

It seems like yesterday that I was summing up 2010 and now here it is the end on 2011. For those of you who were not able to attend the fall convention in Fresno, you really missed a great convention and contest. Jim Turnmire and the Fresno Chapter did a bang up job of organizing and running a first rate weekend. Some of our friends from the Evergreen District were in attendance and were heard to say that the Far Western District conventions are only second to International.

Congratulations to the Bay Area Chapter and Artistic License for their championship performances. I know Dr. Lyne and his guys will represent us well in Portland. And I'm sure we'll see Artistic License in Ontario this spring vying for a spot as well on the quartet side. And speaking of Portland: do you have your reservations in yet. Again, the International Convention and Contest will be a little closer for all of us. Let's see if we can get the attendance over that pesky 6,000 level. It's good for all of us and the Society.

I must say I haven't seen so much excitement at a House of Delegates meeting in some time. If running people from the floor for a spot on the Board is what it takes to get the chapters to send delegates, then my vote is let's contest all the offices. Thanks to all who attended and let their vote count. And a special thanks to Keith Eckhardt for accepting a nomination from the floor and letting the process work. Those of us on the Board look forward to working with Keith in all the positions he now holds.

By the time most of you read this, we should have either visited your chapter or scheduled a meeting to conduct a survey on your chapter's wants and needs. President Priceman and Immediate Past President Lally have been assisting me in getting to all the Southwest Division Chapters since I live at the very north end of the division.

Finally, I hope everyone has afforded themselves the opportunity to attend Leadership Academy. We will have this year's in Sacramento and next year we'll be back down in the LA area. With the cost to the District, this is the only way we could continue with the program and not lose money on the deal.

Have a great Holiday Season and I hope all your Christmas Shows are a success.



Division 1 SW Chapters

Ken Day, Editor

1019 S La Grange Ave
Newbury Park CA 91320-5313

805-498-4218

kday98296@roadrunner.com

ALOHA

DANIEL TOM

The last week of September saw fifteen singers from the Sounds of Aloha Chorus and their wives travel to Brisbane, Australia to represent the chorus at the 2011 "River Harmony" Pan Pacific Convention VI.

Over 1000 delegates from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Spain, Canada, Hawaii and other US states made this the highest attended Pan Pacific to date. This was actually three conventions - the AAMBS and NZABS national conventions were held concurrently. Over 40 quartets and 26 choruses competed at the Pan Pacific over a three day period. Taking a page out of Australia's and Brisbane's history, the Sounds of Aloha Chorus dressed as convicts attempting an unsuccessful escape and sang a contest package consisting of parodies of "Let's Get Away From It All" and a "Forgive Me/Who's Sorry Now" medley.

Our chorus contingent was made up of **Bill Joor, Eli Joor, Mike Johnson, Kawika Mitchell, Mike Joor, Don Raymond, Rob Hartley, Larry Paterson, Dan Tom, Keith Hedeem, Keijiro Kusunoki, Jordan Popper, Hiroshi Yuki, Zig Palagyi.**

Congratulations to the president of AAMBS **Mike Donnelly**, who we also claim as our own as he got his start in barbershopping in Hawaii as a member of the Sounds of Aloha, for the great success of the Brisbane Pan Pacific and for the great strides Australia has made in barbershopping. A big thank

you to convention chair, **John Shelton**, and to our host chorus, the **Brisbane River City Clippers**, for putting on a fantastic convention.

BAKERSFIELD **BOB CATHAWAY**

The Bakersfield Chapter is continuing to learn new songs, each a bit more ambitious than the last, to slowly but surely improve our singing and performance quality. We had our "visit" from the FWD BOD, none other than our own **Bill Rosica**, who discussed what the chapter wanted and what we needed to consider to get there. We were also visited by former member **Don Kileen**, who now resides in Florence, Oregon. Don was one of the cornerstones of the chapter for many years, and the "old timers" especially enjoyed catching up with Don.

Our newest senior quartet **F.O.G.S. (Four Old Guys Singing)** is made up of **Stan Haymaker, Jim Mahoney, Bob Cathaway** and **Dave Fletcher**. They will be performing with the Bakersfield Music Theater in its first presentation of "*Wrinkles*", a review of Broadway musicals with all participants over the age of 55 (mostly WAY over). The quartet will be doing three songs from "*Music Man*".

CONEJO VALLEY **BOB JOSEPHSON**

Our 22 October *Sundaes Social* had a good turnout. It was called "*That Saturday Sundae Show*". **Harmony Connection** and **Soundcheck**, our 2 regular in-house quartets, were joined by 3 more. 5 quartets from our small chorus shows some real enthusiasm!

Next year's High School Benefit Show has local high schools already on board, preparing their numbers in keeping with it's theme: "*Back to the Fifties*".

PASADENA **BILL CAULEY**

Newly elected officers for 2012: President **Dan Madsen**, Sec **José Ochoa**, Treas **Pierre Debbaudt**, VP Music & Perf **Jonathan Hinckley**, VP Membership **Larry Oberlander**, VP Operations **Leonard Jensen**, VP Shows **Michael Alexander**, and Board Member **Barclay Tucker**.

Summertime activities included a one hour performance by **IMPACT** at Memorial Park in Pasadena, and

a major summer party hosted by **Steve & Sue Peacock**. Music director **John Minsker** used the summer to concentrate on the intricacies of barber-shop craft including singing, intonation, vowel shapes and sounds, using your face while singing, and smiling. And of course, practicing at home!

The **Hinckley** family are new members – all tenors; **Jonathan** and sons **Daniel**, 11 and **Joseph**, 7 (the youngest active singing member in the society?).

RINCON BEACH **KEN DAY**

We held our second annual Bar-B-Que dinner show at the Poinsettia Pavilion in Ventura. Show chairman **Bruce Hunter** with **Michael Murphy** made things really come together. We had 162 dinners sold, with **Mary Hintz** handling beverages and **Verne Arnold** taking tickets. **Brent Anderson** did his usual terrific job as MC.

In addition to the chorus, we had three quartets participate: **Chordstruck**, **Priority Male**, and **Top Notch**. Joining them was a new mixed ensemble called **Fusion**. We included a community sing and coaxed men in the audience to join the chorus onstage and sing a song with the chorus.

We were invited to participate at a fundraising event in Santa Barbara at the Marjorie Luke Theater for the Palabras organization that assists at risk kids.

New guests for our Holiday singing include **Larry Deering**, **Pablo Garcia**, and **Gary Stephens**.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY **BRUCE POEHLMAN**

The Valleyaires came back from an exciting FWD Convention, singing better and scoring better than we have in a long time! It was a great convention for us, and we especially thank **Royce Ferguson** who helped the chorus warm up and get psyched for the contest. Thanks to our wonderful director **Laura Pallas**, who has really brought the chorus to a new level. Many thanks to **Doug Ward** who helped host our hospitality suite.

SAN LUIS OBISPO**PETE BENNETT**

The Gold Coast Chorus is thriving under the steady hand of Director **Thomas Bourne**. Our singers are finding new levels of confidence in their ability as a result of Thomas's enthusiastic, yet patient guidance.

The chapter is excited to welcome new members - bass **Ted Henson** and bari **Nate Estrada**.

We're currently brushing up on Yuletide songs in preparation for our Holiday Show, to be held jointly this year with the Pacific Horizon Chorus (SAI).

We'd love to have you visit when you're in the San Luis Obispo area. Before heading this way, visit our website www.slogold.org and/or call **Pete Bennett** at 805-550-2874.

SANTA BARBARA**ERIC FENRICH**

The Channel City Chorus moved to a new rehearsal location - the downstairs choir room at the First Presbyterian Church, 21 E. Constance, near downtown Santa Barbara. The acoustics in this room are tremendous, allowing our members to hear one another better. In addition, it allows us to stay in one room and it gives us more room to grow! We added **Stephen Clemens** and **Pat Hackney** while **Stephen Watson** and **Tim Dunvan** both returned.

As we do every year, the CCC has temporarily transformed into the Holiday Harmony Chorus for the upcoming Christmas season.

SANTA MARIA**RICHARD BURCH**

Our show this year was held at a new-to-us venue. Smaller seating capacity meant we had a full house. Our headliner quartet was **Pacific Sound** who have been singing together since 1982. The time has come, however, for them to hang up their pitch-pipes and pursue other barbershop avenues. The Central Coast will miss them as a quartet and we are honored they chose our show as their swan song.

We had a second show in Lompoc and were very pleased with the attendance. A big thanks to **Doug Pike**, **Bob Arnold** and **Dick Jones** for putting up posters around town and promoting the show. The

following Tuesday we moved our rehearsal to Lompoc and had an audition night. We hope to see some new members as a result, along with past members from the old Lompoc chapter.

SANTA MONICA**MARTY MITNICK**

Doc Bill Boeck and his gracious wife **Sandy** hosted **The Oceanaires** to a swim party/barbecue. The event was planned and organized by Bill's son **Tim Boeck** and **Katie Walker**, with the assistance of President **Jerry Walker** and his lovely wife **Lora**.

Carl Rogers arranged for **Sound Stage** [**Jerry Walker, Tom Laskey, Alan Hanson, Bob Curran**] to entertain at a party given by **Stanley Brosman**, M.D., for his patients who were age 90 or older.

TWO Ice Cream Socials were held, and we were joined by **From The Top** and **Oddly Enuf**, both from **The San Fernando Valley Valleyaires**. The Oceanaires very own quartets also were spot-lighted: **Mixed-Q, Generation Gap, Director's Cut** and **Sound Stage**.

Our quartet **Director's Cut** with [**Todd Kolberg, Jim Leedom, Bill Finlan, David Zasloff**] entertained at the Pacific Palisades Block Party.

A warm welcome to member **Frank DeVanzo**. **Bill Finlan** who was named *BOTM*.

Generation Gap [**Bob Heron, Vance Heron, Alan Hanson, Bruce Schroffel**] performed at the West L.A. Veterans Administration.

SOUTH BAY**JOE NAGLE**

The Coastliners are excited to welcome **Michael Levi** and **Rob Wareham** into our ranks. VP Chapter Development **Don Duperon** gets credited with the Man Of Note for both men.

C-Nile Sound (**Denny Lawrence, Charlie Thompson, Karl Jacobs, Bruce Beyne**) performed for a Plaza Del Amo Retirement Home dinner, and the Torrance Health Fair.

A chorus of 16 **Coastliners** performed for the Manhattan Beach Hometown Fair Community Showcase for the second time in as many years.

It is with deep regret that I report that **Bruce Guthrie**, a 38 year member of the Coastliners, passed away on May 26th. His wife Marina and their two children were at his bedside. He did not suffer long, which is what his family had hoped for. Bruce was the bass in the 1959 FWD Quartet Champion **The Saints** who placed 5th in International competition in 1960 and 1961. Most recently Bruce was the bass of **California Gold** in 2009 and 2010.

VENTURA JAN TAVARES

The Channel Islands Clippers elected the following to the Board next year:

President **Jan Tavares**, VP of Music and Performance **Jim Sumstine**, Treasurer **Jay Shapiro**, Secretary **Lu Hintz**, VP of Public Relations **Verne Arnold**, At Large **Fred Engle** and **Ron Lindsay**. **Bill Butala** is VP of Chapter Development.

The Clippers sang at the Ventura County Fair at the city's Fairgrounds on the Sea Bridge Stage. 3 chapter quartets also performed.

WHITTIER NORM BERNIER

My preference in our music is still the Barbershop sound. The sound we try to emulate has been in the forefront many years and still continues to grow if we all strive to keep it alive.

The Whittier Choralaires opens opportunities for new members by an open door welcome for all to share the love of singing. We have been attempting to fill the many scheduled appointments for sing outs that have been arranged by **Paul Feinzimer** ("One Fine Zimmer").

Our slate of officers for 2012: **Paul Feinzimer** and **Robert Sowell** will co-chair the office of President, while continuing filling their position of Secretary & VP of Programs and Sing Outs; Treasurer is **John LeFever**. To those who have carried on the legacy of the **Choralaires**, I give my continued thanks for allowing me to be your President.



**FWD DVP for Division 2 SE
Craig Hughes**

FWD Contacts

by Allan Webb, Outgoing SE DVP

Greetings to the Southeast Division! As of this writing, we recently returned from a great District Convention in Fresno, where the Southeast Division was well represented in both the Chorus and Quartet contests. Congratulations to all the competitors, and special congratulations to the La Jolla Chapter, which has been invited to compete at International in Portland next year as a wild card. All seven SE chapters represented in the chorus contest did a great job. In the quartet contest, SE chapters were represented in at least half of the top 10 quartets.

On the membership front, the year over year membership numbers from Q3 2010 to Q3 2011 show something interesting: the SE Division has actually shown a year-over-year net increase in membership of 4%, driven mostly by Brea, Riverside, St. George, Orange (Quartet), and Westminster (all of whom showed double digit % growth, with Pal-Pac on the cusp at 9% growth). The three regular chapters other than Westminster with double digit growth are fairly recent success stories in terms of increasing the quality of their musical product through having a knowledgeable and dynamic director at the helm. The Orange Quartet Chapter is clearly doing something right, with net increase of 67% (the highest in the Division), going from 24 to 40 members.

I hope to have a feature story run in a future Westunes about these chapter success stories, so other chapters can come to an understanding about what has worked for them and perhaps emulate it going forward. If you just take the percentage growth of Brea, Riverside, St. George, and Orange, you're looking at a 34% average increase in membership from a year ago (103 to 138 members). We would very quickly turn around our membership decline if more chapters can achieve those kinds of results.

As you may know, I have been elected as the 2012 EVP of the FWD, a position which I will take on in January 2012. This will be my last Westunes article as the SE DVP, although I'm sure you'll hear from me as EVP from time to time. Craig Hughes, from the San Diego Chapter, has been elected as the 2012 SE DVP and will be taking over this space in the spring issue of the Westunes. It's been great fun this year, and I know Craig will be a great DVP for you next year

by Craig Hughes, Incoming SE DVP

It is my honor and privilege to serve as your Southeast Division VP. I love Barbershop and think that every man that can harmonize should be doing it regularly. It is good for the body and great for the soul. My goal is to help our 19 Division Chapters grow and prosper in 2012. Our Chapters have much in common and a few special idiosyncrasies that impact growth, retention, and ultimately fun. Please use me as a resource to accomplish the routine business and I will reach out to you as a source and inspiration while we continue to maximize the joy, exposure, and ultimate growth of Barbershop. I look forward to meeting many of you at Society events and hope to attend your rehearsal sometime in the near future. I'll be the guy with the big grin on his face.



Division 2 SE Chapters

Dale Vaughn

3056 Mount Miguel Dr
 Sa Diego CA 92139-3637
 619-475-1700[h] 619-218-6154[c]
 E: dalevaughn@cox.net

COACHELLA VALLEY TERRY MANN

Our slowest time of the year has just passed and the best news is that our summer attendance was double last year and 3 times the year before, even with some of us full time residents taking holidays or vacations. We averaged about an even dozen through the summer. Our first snow bird **Don Preston** returned.

There were 5 of us at the Fresno convention. Each man who attended the convention agrees that it is too good a fun time to pass up in the future. Expect to see more of us at conventions.

Our critical task at the moment is to refurbish and to expand our mailing list., without which we will be unable to achieve our current goals. We are hoping that we will be able to sing at Ontario in March,.

EL CAJON

BILL SOUKUP

Youngsters will soon be seeing pictures of their beloved Christmas time red suited idol. Then they'll start thinking hard about the things he should bring with him when he visits. Their parents – and grandparents – will certainly sympathize, although they already know what they want from the red jacketed El Cajon Music Masters: an hour or more of Christmas Carols sung in barbershop harmony.

The Harmonically Correct foursome thoroughly surprised the former President of the Coronado Garden Club by serenading her at her farewell party.

Gary Mathews, the **Music Masters'** delegate to the meeting of the House of Delegates of the FWD, believes that the very satisfying and successful meeting had one of the highest attendance figures ever, with 60 of the 79 chapters in the district represented.

FULLERTON

DICK COTE

On 8 July 2011 at the International Convention in Kansas City, **Dick Cote**, long-time Publisher/Editor of the Fullerton Barbershop Clippin's, was inducted into the Society's Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors (PROBE) Hall of Honor. This induction was made in recognition of Dick's efforts in producing one of the foremost bulletins in the Society and capturing the Bulletin Editor of the Year (BETY) Award in 1998, 2001, and 2004, an unmatched and unprecedented record in PROBE annuls.

Yet another successful "*Harmony Under the Stars*" was held at Pearson Park. Performers included the **Orange Empire Chorus, Hi-Fidelity, Masterpiece** and the **Santa Monica Chorus**.

Member profiles in the current issue of Barbershop Clippin's include: **Jeff Young; Andrew Coward; Charlie Winn; Dick Cote;** and **Jimmie Eacret**.

The Harmony for Lunch Bunch celebrated yet another milestone for our founding member, **Stan French**. We've been lauding his achievements for years... charter Orange Empire Chorus member, many times president, historian, membership vp, official greeter, area counselor, etc. And on July 15th, we helped him celebrate his (so far) greatest achievement, his 95th birthday on the 17th.

In Memoriam articles appeared for two members: **David Stanley MacKain**, first Musical Director when the chorus was chartered in 1957; **Dave Cureton**, a member since 2002.

(Ed. note - **Dick Cote** has been dealing with some rather serious medical issues of late and offers this update on his condition. Glad to hear you're on the mend, Dick!) "As to my condition, I'm coming along quite well. I'm regaining my strength bit by bit and the doctors and nurses tell me that I'm doing well. So, never having been through anything like this before, I can only take their word. My biggest problem is not the heart valves, or even the breast plate that they opened, but the problem I have getting a good night's sleep. But that, too, will pass."

LA JOLLA

DALE VAUGHN

Pacific Coast Harmony welcomes our newest member to the risers, Bass singer **Bobby Reynolds**.

Following a lot of hard work, dedication and outstanding coaching sessions by **Cindy Hansen Ellis & Ron Black**, the **Pacific Coast Harmony** chorus was thrilled to place 2nd at the FWD contest in Fresno. We were most pleased to have two out-of-town members on stage with us, **Steve Varga** from China Lake, CA and **Joe Vertrees** from Albuquerque, NM. We're also extremely proud of our two chapter quartets, **Preferred Blend** and **56 East**... you did us proud!

Chorus Manager **Michael Bauer** is off to Japan on a work assignment for one year. We'll miss you Michael but expect you'll be joining us in Portland! Thanks to **Dave Pfizenmeier** who is stepping into some pretty big shoes.

As this article is being written, PCH has just received a couple of wonderful communications from Headquarters in Nashville – first, an invitation to be the mic-testing chorus at the 2012 International Convention & Contest in Portland. Then, a can-you-top-this moment came when we were notified that we have now become a competing wild-card chorus! It doesn't get much better than this, folks!

LAS VEGAS GAMBLE-AIRES

LARRY LITCHFIELD

Our new director, **John Hulbert**, is on board after receiving a warm Chorus welcome at his first "official" Thursday night rehearsal Nov. 3. John is well known throughout the Society and FWD where he most recently served as director of Palomar-Pacific Chapter's fine Music Men Chorus in San Diego County for many years. Welcome to our family, John!

A slate of 2012 officers was elected in September. They are **Larry Litchfield**, president; **Dennis Johnson**, music/performance VP; **Rick Ives**, membership VP; **Dave Kennedy**, treasurer; **David Larson**, secretary; **Ross Marty**, Chorus manager; **Roc Pucci** and **John Waugh**, members-at-large; and **Bill Lusk**, IPP. Yours truly will handle PR/marketing until someone steps forward.

The Chorus welcomed **Patrick Cristobal** as our newest member and an outstanding young tenor. Patrick attends UNLV in their Theater and Music programs. We look forward to a productive relationship with Patrick and his school mates as we continue our focus on attracting more young men to our Chorus.

We are deeply appreciative for service to our Chapter by veteran barbershopper **Stu Willcox**, who resigned the Music/Performance VP position in July. **Dennis Johnson** was appointed VP Music and Performance for the balance of 2011 (he's also bass section leader and Membership VP). Dennis' outstanding Music Team is comprised of **John Hulbert**, director; **Albert Weiss**, director and tenor section leader; additional section leaders **Rick Ives** (leads), **David Floyd** (bari-tones); **John Waugh**, vocal production coach; and librarian **Rick Jones**.

The Gamble-Aires staged a twilight concert in the Boulder City Library's outdoor amphitheater. The Chorus and our three embedded quartets (**Broadcast**, **The Four Suits** and **Older 'n Dirt**) offered selections to generous applause. During Broadcast's turn at the mic, Ross Marty's young son, Tom (tenor with the G-As), was surprised when called to "stage center" to invite his girlfriend (Nikki) to join him from the audience. He then held her hand and invited her to be his date for the high school Homecoming Dance. She accepted and the happy "couple" enjoyed an on-stage hug!

Our Chapter has welcomed several prominent barbershoppers as recent visitors at our Thursday night rehearsals. Guests have included: **Bob Hartley**, past Bronze Medalist with Metropolis quartet; ex-Gamble-Aire **Jerry Little**; and former super senior Gold Medalist members of the Silver Knights quartet: **John Mininger** - tenor; **Chuck Wines** - bari; and **Warren Hettinga** - lead.

For the first-time ever, the **Gamble Aires** and the Sweet Adelines' medal winning **Las Vegas Celebrity City Chorus** will be appearing on each other's Christmas shows.

Webmaster/bass **Matthew Beatty** continues to make major improvements to our marvelous website; visit www.gambleaires.com and check it out.

ORANGE QUARTET CHAPTER

MARK SHELDON

Members were saddened by the passing of **Paul Kelley** and **Bill Brown**, both charter members.

Andrew Coward was welcomed to the chapter (a dual member already with **Fullerton**). The traditional Summer Sing was hosted for the second year by the Lowerre family at their home.

Officers for 2011 are President and Program VP **Dave Lowerre**, IPP and Treasurer **Bob Calderwood**, Secretary **Rich Spencer**, Music VP **Mike Werner**, Membership VP **Paul Sandorff**, PR VP **Mark Sheldon**, YIH VP **Don Levering**, and At-Large Members **Ken Tillmanns** and **Thom Lowerre**.

RIVERSIDE

GAYLORD SPENCE

In keeping with the Riverside Chorus' "*New Gang on the Corner Growth Explosion*" we added three new members: **David Center** (Baritone), a brand new member to the Society, **Shane Cottrell** (Bass), a previous member from 2005 that just recently rejoined with us, and **Brad Hogarty** (Baritone), joining us now as a dual member, also with the **Apple Valley High Desert Valleyaires**. Our growth is a direct result of having **John Brockman** as our director.

Another first for us this year is producing a full-fledged Barbershop show. We secured the commitments of the **Inland Empire Sweet Adelines** and **The Crush**, 2010 FWD Champion Quartet. Our chapter quartets **BLING!** and **Special Attraction** will round out the program.

SAN DIEGO

DUCROT PEPYS

We held our first "*Ready Set Sing*" series of community voice lessons taught by our director, **Kathleen Hansen**. With 10 to 13 students per session we provided an uplifting service while introducing the men to Barbershop. Several men joined us on the risers and expressed an interest in joining.

The Chorus performed at the annual Festival of Sail – the largest Tall Ship festival on the West Coast.

We were pleased to present **Bob House** (past District President) with his 50 year pin. Bob joins **Walt Chisholm** and **Kerm Taylor** (our 2012 President) in this special group of men still active with the Chorus.



**FWD DVP for Division 3 NW
Steve Sammonds**

[FWD Contacts](#)



Division 3 NW Chapters

John Heather, Editor

1058 Celilo Dr

Sunnyvale CA 94087-4004

408-732-3276

E: jtheather@yahoo.com

FREMONT HAYWARD RAY SPINOSA

The New Dimension Chorus performed for the Baywood Retirement Home. The chorus has been performing there regularly for the past several years.

The chapter received a visit from BHS Music Educator **Mike O'Neill** who spent an evening giving helpful insights into proper singing techniques, imparting information about the *Learn to Sing* program the chapter hopes to implement soon, and teaching tags.

MONTEREY PENINSULA SAM KIER

The Monterey Cypressaires devoted the past two months to preparation for their show *At the Hop*. They presented preview performances at two retirement homes. *At the Hop*, staged at the historic Golden State Theater in Monterey, involved a scripted parade of hit tunes from the 1950's and 60's. **The Cypressaires** and their perennial partners-in-harmony, the **Bay Belles Women's Chorus**, shared the stage with **Hi-Fidelity**, who dazzled the crowd with their "*Elvis Unplugged*" set.

In an effort to sell enough tickets to fill the 900-seat theater, ten-year-old **Nathaniel Shearer** outsold 95% of the older members of the chorus. Nathaniel has been singing in the Cypressaires' tenor section since last December. He learns music quickly and loves to share what he's learned with his younger brothers Ammon, Kaleb and Joshua. Nathaniel's dad, Samuel, a Ph.D. candidate at the Naval Postgraduate School, sings lead with the Cypressaires. An impressed chapter board named young *Nathaniel Shearer, BOTM* for September.

PALO ALTO/MOUNTAIN VIEW DAVID WEATHERFORD

The Peninsulaires, under the direction of **Steve Sammonds**, made a strong showing at the FWD Fall Contest in Fresno, achieving the highest rank and best average score in over 20 years. With 32 men on the risers, including three for whom this was their first competition with us, the chorus reached new heights in all three scoring categories.

The second edition of *The Singer's Voice Clinic*, led by **Paul Eastman**, gave 30 men a 90-minute lesson in singing each Tuesday night for six weeks. Of the 30 singers, 10 joined the annual Holiday Chorus to perform holiday favorites for the community.

The annual Cabaret and Ice Cream Social, featuring our very own Northwest Division champion quartet **spam**, was held in Palo Alto. This year's theme was "*Olde Tyme County Faire*." The chorus and chapter quartets presented two shows, an afternoon show with ice cream and cookies, and an evening show with lasagna dinner.

SAN FRANCISCO DON KINGTON

Elected to guide the Chapter and its **Cable Car Chorus** for 1012 are: **Greg Goyhenetche**, President; **Charles Haletky**, Treasurer; **Tom Carter**, Secretary; **Jason Poyner**, Vice President Music; **Fred Merrick**, Vice President Membership; **Leon Sorhondo**, Board Member at Large; **Newt Harband**, Immediate Past President. **Charles Feltman** remains as Music Director.

The Chorus, under the direction of **Charles Feltman**, presented its Annual Show "*Composers: They Don't Get No Respect*." The script was written by Director Charles, with the lines delivered by members of his quartet **Time Before 4**. Rounding out the performing quartets were **Bayside** and **San Francisco Gold**.

SAN MATEO THOMAS ADDISON

New director **Cort Bender** is furiously working on our unit sound and with his experience as a voice teacher and choral conductor teaching all of us, old and new, about becoming better singers. His enthusiasm and experience are paying off. We attracted several new members eager to participate in our wonderful hobby. He directed his first **Chordsmen** performance at the September Members Stroll at the beautiful Filoli Estate and Garden,

Fred Moraga and **David McCann** organized another Halloween Cabaret show, a chorus tradition for 30 years that was broken last Halloween as we were without a director. We are now looking forward to proceeding with our Halloween Dinner, replete with

costumed guests and chorus, show and prizes, that was sorely missed last year. We are also looking forward to our busiest time of year, the holiday season..

SANTA ROSA RICHARD PARRY-JONES

These are exciting times for **The Redwood Chordsmen**. The former members of the **Rohnert Park Wine Country Troubadours** transferred en masse to our chapter, and so begins the task of making our chorus better as well as bigger. Joining us from the **Troubadours** is our new Associate Director **Jan Lappin**, and **Bill Fulwider, Koty Hall, LeBane Hall, Tucker Hall, Allan Jones, Dick Nicholls, Jerry O'Leary, Larry Resnikoff, Don Romeo, Mark Sundahl, Joe Tringali and Gary Waltz**.

We also welcome new members **Shelly Albaum, Norm Nance, Walter Howard and Chad Morrison**. We've provided all the recruits with learning materials and uniforms, and we're looking forward to performing together in early December.

Suddenly, our goal of 50 Members for our 50th Anniversary in 2015 is within reach. Jan and our Director **Phil DeBar**, extend an invitation to all interested songsters to come and be a part of the resurging **Redwood Chordsmen**.

SF BAY CITIES QUARTET

JORDAN MAKOWER

Roger Logsdon, a Baritone with the **Singing Capital Chorus** in Washington D.C., emailed us asking if we could supply a quartet to sing for his mother's 90th birthday party, when he arrived from DC. He mentioned that his Mother had never heard him sing.

We formed the quartet, and decided that Roger would do the Bari. **Steve Gummersall, Roman Avila and Jordan Makower** completed the quartet. The lady, her relatives, and friends were treated to the special performance soon after she arrived at the family's house. The group stayed around until after lunch to sing a final number and a *Happy Birthday*. Roman presented Roger's Mom with a bouquet of flowers.

We get these requests from time to time. On one occasion, several months ago, at our Wednesday

evening bi-monthly meeting place at Harry's Hofbrau, the manager asked us to serenade a waitress who had an especially trying day. When we were done, the entire room filled with applause!

These incidents are typical of our group. We share our love of quarteting among ourselves, and others who request it. We improve our skills by our friendly singing during our Wednesday evening meetings

Harmony for Lunch Bunch

Marveling at the number of cars in the parking lot, I eventually found a spot and entered to the sound of German music! It was Oktoberfest, and the line to order food was practically out the door. Our Harmony for Lunch Bunch meeting, sponsored by the **San Francisco Bay Cities Quartets Chapter**, had more than the usual group attending. **Dave Laubscher** received his membership card commemorating 35 years as a barbershopper, then we got down to singing. **Marv Bertelson** led the group in one of our favorites, *Her Bathing Suit Never Got Wet*, and this was soon followed by another group sing the infamous *Pig Song*. **Lee Nichols** was there, as usual, in fine voice, not at all winded from his morning tennis games. The Lunch Bunch meets the first Wednesday of every month.



**FWD DVP for Division 4 NE
Richard Lund**
[FWD Contacts](#)

by Jim Turnmire, Outgoing NE DVP

After more than 10 years and serving with at least 5 District Presidents, I have decided to retire from the Far Western District Board of Directors. I first served as NorCal East Division Vice President, then as Chorus Director Development Vice President for 5 years, and then again when we returned to the regional governance Vice Presidents, as District Vice President for Northeast Division.

It has been a real honor to serve in this capacity for all these years, but it is time to let someone else have this privilege. I know my replacement, Richard Lund will do a fine job. He has been the driving force behind all the Northern California Youth Harmony Camps.

I'll see you at the next convention!

by Richard Lund, Incoming NE DVP
Hellooooo, North East Division of the Far Western District! Your brand new DVP here, saying hello and wondering what this job is really going to be like for you and for me.

That said, my number one major goal for the upcoming year, and beyond, is to visit your chapter often, enjoy riser time with you, and get to know You! In writing here and now I pledge to see you, hear your ideas, and assist in any way you as a Chapter and as individuals believe would be helpful.. Beyond that I will do whatever it takes to carry your suggestions and concerns back to the FWD board. Together we will work to continue the legacy of Barbershop Harmony.

What a District Convention we just had! Congratulations to the incomparable Voices In Harmony for a spectacular performance. Go Get Em in Portland VIH!

And how can you describe the performances by Artistic License? I was transfixed in my seat as I watched the magic unfold. I also happened to be sitting just behind Don Kidder, father of Todd, the tenor. Don turned around after their performance to answer a question I had asked and I noticed the tears in his eyes! What a proud father.

Northern California did itself proud this time around; and will be well represented in Portland next July! Congratulations to All the competitors and All the Luck in the world to those going on to Portland! I hope many of you will join me in Portland to cheer our FWD brothers in Harmony on.

Fall and Holiday shows are coming up Fast! Patsy and I will be looking to take in as many as we can

manage. I So enjoy getting out to see You perform. That always says a lot about You and your chapter's commitment to serving the community and having Fun in the process. If you can, I'd love to hear about your show beforehand so we can share in the fun!



Division 4 NE Chapters
Roger Perkins, Editor

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

CALIFORNIA DELTA **RAY RHYMER**
The American River Chorus congratulates the **Voices in Harmony** for winning the FWD Chorus Championship once again. The best to you in Portland as you represent the FWD for the world. We'll be cheering you on.

The first session of our Annual Singing Clinic [ASC] was held this past week with 9 guests in attendance. The ASC is a four week seminar about Barbershop singing. A forty minute class on Vocal Production is offered each week [in four segments] for the guests, after which they are invited to join the ARC on the risers in singing 2 Holiday songs. The guests are invited to sing those 2 songs with us during the December Holiday Show.

CARSON CITY **COLIN SOONG**
The Chorus of the Comstock annual show *Sh-Boom* was a phenomenal success. In following with the popular local area summer motorcycle and auto events *Street Vibrations* and *Hot August Nights* the chorus highlighted music of the 50's. With **Bill Weiser** as MC and lead by our director **BJ Hill**, it was root beer floats, vintage Chevy's and Doo-Wop singing in the barbershop style. Our headliners included "Elvis impersonator", **Matt Wilkerson**, our own **Assisted Living (Rook Wetzels, Box Wilcox, David Smith and Lester Harris)**, Sweet Adeline Int'l competition qualifiers **Heavenly** and **Talk of the Town (Raymond Davis, Ryan Jensen, BJ Hill and Adam Teachout)**.

Special thanks to **Rook Wetzels** and his show committee for persistence in making the show a reality,

and thanks to members of the **Reno Silver Dollar Chorus** for their participation.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA MILES SUTTER

September 10th the GVC had the honor of being asked to participate in the 10th anniversary tribute to our nations most recent disaster, the destruction of the World Trade Center. This event took place at the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Department Regional Training Center in Modesto. The temperature reached 100° and several people passed out from the heat, so with some trepidation we ventured out and performed without incident. **Herb Andrew** was MC for the event. Those that stayed to hear us sing were very appreciative of our selection of patriotic songs. Boy Scouts and bagpipes were part of the honor guard as we concluded our performance.

Congratulations to **Voices in Harmony** and **Artistic License**, our new FWD chorus and quartet champions! All the weeks, and sometimes months, preparing for Division and District competition came to fruition on Saturday, October 15th. The William Saroyan Theatre in Fresno was the venue. The nearby Radisson Hotel was the place for a plethora of activities: ticket sales, registration, FWD Board Meeting, AHSOW, AFWDC Late Show, buffet dinner, quartet evaluations, etc. GVC elected to share in an *all you can eat buffet* in coordination with **Sacramento, Folsom** and **California Delta Chapters**. A great way to get through the afternoon with snacks and enjoy the company of fellow barber-shoppers. GVC's performance was (in my humble opinion) the most entertaining of the day. The audience laughed and applauded at the antics performed by Bruce and Howard during *The Band Played On*. Winners worthy of mention are: **Velvet Frogs**, Senior Quartet Champs; 5th place, **Brewhouse**; 4th place, **Don't Tell Mom**; 3rd place, **95 North**; 2nd place and also the recipient of the *Lloyd Steinkamp Standing "O" Award*, **Tenacious Q**. The highlight of the evening was the appearance of our 2011 International Chorus Champion **Masters Of Harmony**! It was wonderful to see our past director **Dain Good** singing with them.

DAVIS-VACAVILLE ROY BELLHORN

We're still on "Cloud 9" after winning the 2011 Plateau A chorus trophy at the FWD Convention in Fresno. Since our chapter was formed through a merger of the former Davis-Woodland and Vacaville Chapters in 1998, we have only been invited to compete at the district level once before. Winning at the division level was exciting enough, but the honor we were given in Fresno was truly gratifying.

Any accomplishment like this is the result of a joint effort from many individuals. However, there is no doubt the prime mover was our director **Ollie Brilhante**. His teaching style, enthusiasm and encouragement provided the motivation for us to make an effort to sing better. Thanks go to coach **Bill Tieberg** for his considerable help in getting us ready for competition.

Our regular rehearsals continue to be held from 7:00 to 9:30 PM on Monday evenings. We moved our meeting place to the Community Presbyterian Church, 425 Hemlock Street, Vacaville.

FOLSOM DENNIS STOHL

Chapter quartet **TBDL** performed on the Nevada Placer Cabaret show.

The Harmony Express sang at the Sylvan Cemetery in Citrus Heights for the reinterment of a Civil War veteran buried and long forgotten. He had lived out his life in Citrus Heights and was interviewed in his old age by the Sacramento Bee in 1917. The U.S. Government provided funds for a headstone.

NEVADA PLACER ROGER PERKINS

The Sierranaders performed at the Nevada County Fair. The first performance was going well until bass **Dick Serns** passed out on the risers. He fell off the backward taking **Dick Mayeur** down with him. Serns hit his head on the concrete and Mayeur suffered a cut on his hand and scraped legs. Paramedics were nearby and took Serns to the hospital in Grass Valley. They thought it could have possibly happened due to a lack of hydration and the heat on stage. Serns was back at our chapter meeting the following week and is none the worse.

The annual quartet contest at the N.C. Fair followed the two chorus performances. Seven quartets were entered and included a double quartet, the **Sierra Belles**, from the local **Sierra Gold** SAI chorus. The winning quartet was **Vibrance** from the Sacramento Valley SAI Chapter. In second place was the **Wildwood Quartet** and taking third was **TBDL** from the **Folsom** and **Nevada Placer** Chapters.

Chapter treasurer and workhorse, **Bill Beck** & wife **Sally** are moving back to San Jose.

The Gold Country Fair in Auburn always features a talent contest and this year it happened to fall on Sunday, 9/11. **Happy Days** (**Tim Martin, Nick Nero, Dan Wilson, Roger Perkins**) won the contest last year and were invited back to entertain while the judges tallied their scores. Their final song was *America, the Beautiful* and dedicated to the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Towers. The audience stood and placed their hands over their hearts.

PLACERVILLE KEITH ECKHARDT

The Placerville Chapter has enthusiasm running high. Our October 29 show featured the new FWD Quartet Champs **Artistic License** and also the **Heavenly** women's college quartet who won the silver medal in Houston at the SAI convention. We have four new members who are really enjoying their barbershop experience. We've scheduled a Holiday Chorus as a recruiting effort this year and next year we plan to use both Learn 2 Sing and something from the Operation Harold Hill program. Watch us grow.

RENO STEVE SHURLIFF

The first ever High Sierra Harmony Brigade took place in Reno this last August. I attended the concert and the quartet competition and was quite impressed. There were close to 100 participants, and you can bet I will be one of them next year! Congrats to **Dave Queen, Tony Kruk** and **Bonnie Kruk** for doing such a great job!

The Fall Convention was great fun, and we were very happy with our 5th place finish. After we performed I was able to watch the last 10 choruses perform and

enjoyed them all. It seems everyone keeps getting better, and to finish 5th among this crowd was quite satisfying indeed.

Fall is here and our chorus continues to grow! We welcome **Matt Wilkerson, Steve Edney, Pete Martens, Fred Watson** and **Kevin Wilcomb** to our ranks. The youth movement continues as well with the addition of **Brandon Heath** and **Brandon Hill**.

SACRAMENTO JOE SAMORA

The Capitolaires held a Quartet Jamboree in which seventeen members competed. The winners were the **Snickerdoodles** (**Keith Slater, Steve Allison, Randy Finger, Blair Reynolds**). Other winning quartets were **Four Square, Nonsense** and **The Ringers**. **Clark Abrahamson** served as the MC.

The sounds of Barbershop singing could be heard during the Crocker Art Museum's Senior Art Social. Twenty Capitolaire)s entertained the audience. The Crocker Art Museum is the longest operating art museum on the West Coast.

The Capitolaire)s held their annual retreat at Camp Lodestar, Wilseyville, with twenty-two participants. Presentation Judge **Marty Lovick** from the Evergreen District was our guest coach.

The Capitolaire)s held a "Surprise Farewell Party" on September 6 for Associate Director **Bill Borah**. Bill is working for the United Methodist Church in Haiti and will be gone for three months.

Youth in Harmony representative **Richard Lund** visited the Capitolaire)s in September to thank us for our monetary donation and participation in Youth Harmony Camp held in Sly Park.

Thirty-one **Capitolaire)s** under the direction of **Ron Black** competed in the Chorus Contest in Fresno. Five members had never competed in a district contest before.

Longtime member **Eugene Neary**, (Ret. Major USAF), passed October 13, 2011.

STOCKTON

AL WOLTER

Members performed the National Anthem for the Stockton Ports five times, with **The Portsmen** singing the *National Anthem* and *God Bless America* for the game on July 2, with fireworks. The chorus performed during intermissions of the Wednesday *Music in the Park* events at Victory Park once in June, July and August. Performances featured the **Fat City Four**, the **Delta Divas** (made up of Chapter Associates), and **Tune Struck**.

The Forget-Me-Notes, a VLQ made up by members who enjoy the retired life, performed for the Kiwanis Club of Manteca, the annual meeting of the Haggin Museum, the Stockton Engineers Club, and a Neighborhood National Night Out gathering. They also visit local senior facilities where a number of older former Portsmen members are residents.

Fat City Four traveled to Angles Camp and the Calaveras Fairgrounds to entertain at a corporate picnic. They sang the *National Anthem* for Game 1 of the California League (Single A) Baseball Playoffs.

Tune Struck sang the *National Anthem* for the home opener of the Stockton Thunder Hockey Team.

Our Annual Picnic was held September 18 where 38 folks had a great time. **Fat City Four** started the official festivities with the *National Anthem*. A total of \$1,106.00 was contributed and used to send 17 young men to Harmony Camp this year.

VISALIA

BUD CASE

Rare things happen rarely for real good reasons and this occasion fits. The Chapter honored four of its members that have each been Society members 50 years! NE Division VP **Jim Turnmire** came down from Fresno to make the presentations along with our president **Dee Baughman**. The Valley F.O.G. consists of **Bob Browne**, “**Gerty**” **Goertzen**, **Bob Peden** (Marylyn), “**Smitty**” **Smith** (Betty).

This year’s Spaghetti Feed had special guests **Jim Warner** (FWD Convention Honoree) and his wife **Jan** came down from Fresno with the **Silver & Gold Quartet** to entertain us. Chapter quartets **Sound**

Projection (**Bob Peden**, **Bob Browne**, **Brian Morse**, **Landes Dung**) and **Some Assembly Required** (**Steve Varga**, **Matthew Gibbs**, **Ken McNutt**, **Dee Baughman**, **Ed Grant**) performed.

The weather was perfect as the Chapter bartered and haggled its way to about \$1,250 in our “Yard Sale”. Many members donated items as well as hours helping **Ted Petersdorf** put it together. **Gary Smith** donated the “yard” and his lovely wife fed us lunch. We sold two unicycles and a clay pigeon launcher and a lot of other ordinary “stuff”. One person’s “stuff” is another person’s treasure.



**FWD DVP for Division 5 Arizona
John Bloomquist**

FWD Contacts

by Ivan Jensen, Outgoing AZ DVP

Once again I have to say how fast the time has passed. It was just a few short months ago that I stepped in to fill the Division VP position until a new DVP could be found. I am happy to say it did not take long to find a very good person for the job. This person has now been nominated and elected to the position starting January 1, 2012. I have tried for several years to get John Bloomquist involved at Division and District levels, but was unsuccessful. Finally, someone was able to catch him at a weak moment and we landed him for this position. I have known John for several years and will do everything I can to help him step into this new position. I will also do everything I can to help each and every member of the Great Arizona Division get to know John. I asked John to provide a few words for our article this Quarter then for the next or 1st Quarter of 2012, he will be on his own. Below, is the information John provided for your information and the first step toward getting to know him:

by John Bloomquist, Incoming AZ DVP

Well, after Barbershopping for almost 27 years which includes Chapter President, VP's of Program, Membership, and Music for two different Chapters, Music Team Member, Visual Team and Front Row

Member, BOTY for two Chapters, Chapter Hall of Fame, and singing in quartets for 15 years, I figured it was time to go to work. So, the AZ Division VP is just the thing to keep me busy. I appreciate the opportunity to take my experiences to a new level.

I know we are all concerned about the declining membership and hope to work with each Chapter to make strides to increase our numbers. Additionally, I will be encouraging each Chapter to become more involved with the many Division and District events, all of this to help increase each members enjoyment level.

I ask all new and returning Chapter Presidents to get with me as soon as you can to establish a regular line of communication. I also look forward to visiting everyone and making new friends and starting new relationships. THAT is where I find the fun. Please call me at 480-251-7457 or email me at desertblom@aol.com.

Thanks for your support. John Bloomquist

Continues, by Ivan Jensen, Outgoing AZ DVP

Thanks John for your input. I would like to touch on a couple of items in my final article for 2011.

It is a sad day when we have to close down a chapter because they are unable to obtain or retain enough members to continue meeting and singing together. We had to say good by to Sierra Vista in August for that very reason. We also have a couple more chapters in the Division who are facing the same problems. I hope John and all of us in the Division can and will work together to save these other chapters. The other item to mention is the membership. John has already mentioned it and you have heard it from all of us at District, Society and Division levels. We need to do something to help this trend turn around. The most successful membership program the Society has ever had was Operation Harold Hill and that program is being returned in 2012. Look for a lot more information on the program and be ready to join in the fun and pick up several new members in your chapters. I just completed my 3rd Quarter report to the district and found that only 3 of our then 12 chapters had shown an increase in membership from the 3rd Quarter of

2010. Those three chapters were Central Arizona Quartet Chapter with a 3% increase, Sun Cities with a 15% increase and Prescott with a 6% increase. Great job guys, please share your secrets with the rest of us so we can all enjoy that growth.

Thanks again for the opportunity to serve you and let's all keep a song in our hearts. It is good for us.



Division 5 Arizona Chapters

Frank Ortega, Editor

120 E Canyon Creek Dr

Gilbert, AZ 85295-1992

Phone: 480-306-4222

E: azwordslinger@gmail.com

CASA GRANDE

LOREN ENGLUND

Our concentrated four-month effort to promote and recruit singers for the chorus has resulted in four potential members. Our slogan was U-CAN-SING-2. We used the services of the Casa Grande Chamber of Commerce and local commercial and retail businesses to promote our effort. The project was co-chaired by **Loren Englund** and **Roger Biel**.

Our annual Christmas concert in December, co-chaired by **James McClelland** and **Davetta McBride**, will feature the 2010 Sweet Adelines International Champion **Scottsdale Chorus** (also called **The Acquire**), the **East Valley Lamplighters Chorus** from Mesa, choruses from the Casa Grande Union and Val Vista high schools, chapter quartets, and gospel singing Pastor **Davetta McBride**.

GREATER PHOENIX JERRY MCELFRISH

The Spirit of Phoenix Chorus took third place out of 19 choruses and our two quartets did well in Far Western District contests in Fresno. **Go for Broke** came in 11th to earn the mike tester spot in the quartet finals featuring the top 10 quartets. **Vocal Edition** sang only for evaluation, but there was agreement that they would have placed in the top 10.

This year's Arizona Division Fred Koch Memorial *Summer Bash* featured the Division Novice Quartet and Chapter VLQ Contests, *Luck of the Draw* Contest and Parade of Quartets plus the traditional golf, woodshedding pool time and other fun stuff.

SOP member **Randy Bingel** was accepted in the training program for Society contest administrators. Phoenix member **Bill Kane** was appointed to a new position in the District – Quartet Activity Chairman.

Elected to the 2012 Board of the Greater Phoenix Chapter were President, **Bob Upham**; Past President, **Terry Aramian**; Secretary, **Bob Gray**; Treasurer, **Don Koehnlein**; Vice President Music, **Mark House**; Vice President Program, **John Bloomquist**; Vice President Marketing, **Terry Grimme**; Vice President Membership, **Ray Kahler**; Chorus Manager, **Jack Mauney**; and Board Members-at-Large **Bo Larson, Jerry McElfresh** and **Gary Ciba**. **Ray Bizzigotti** and **Marv Peterson** were named chapter BOTMs.

The Kindred Spirits support group for the Spirit of Phoenix presented a welcome \$1,000 check to the chorus for expenses connected with the Far Western District contest.

MESA **BOB SHAFFER**
The East Valley Lamplighters made another appearance at an Arizona Diamondbacks game. We performed the *National Anthem* for the game against the Houston Astros. Eighteen members made the trek to Phoenix and sang under the direction of **Jim Brown**. We're also proud to note that for the 3rd straight year that the D'Backs won the game after our performance. Can anyone say, "Good Luck Charm?"

Much to our surprise, the chorus recently realized that we had learned 16 new songs so far this year, with 14 of them coming after our annual show in March. Time flies when you're having fun! With Director Dick Naas back in town, work has begun polishing those songs to make them performance ready. The chorus wishes to thank Jim Brown for continuing the teaching of the new repertoire over the summer months, and for giving us some great tips on the use of proper vocal techniques.

We had a successful performance in Gilbert on July 3rd at the town-sponsored "Community Patriotic Music Celebration." We're looking forward to future singing opportunities involving the town.

The chapter was saddened by the passing of our newest member **Shaun Scott** who lost a long-running battle with cancer. He was especially happy to have been able to perform with us at the Diamondbacks game. Shaun, you will be missed.

PRESCOTT **SAM STIMPLE**
The High Mountain Chordsmen welcomed six new members during the past year: **Berry Bownds, Larry Gotfredson, Warner Dixon, Jim Skinner, Norm Smith** and **Bill Williamson**.

The chorus presented a stirring two-night patriotic show entitled *Salute to America and Its Veterans* over Independence Day weekend, a fun performance at Juniperwood Ranch Winery in Ash Fork, a mini-concert in the county courthouse gazebo celebrating the Mountain Artists Guild's summer display, and super-powerful barbershop programs for the first of three *Arizona Best Fest* centennial events.

Barberpole Cat qualifications are conducted twice a month prior to chorus rehearsals. **Bob Pearson** is leading the pack with nine of the 12 songs already under his belt. Many thanks go to **Antique Parts** and **Silversounds** for providing quartet assistance.

The slate for 2012 includes: **Ed Massa**, President; **Joe La Barge**, VP Music & Performance; **Clay Miller**, VP Chapter Development; **Bill Kamper**, VP Marketing & Public Relations; **Jim Skinner**, VP Youth Activities; **Steve Hunt**, VP Program; **Ed Wolfe**, Secretary; **Bob Steele**, Treasurer; and BMALs **Lynn Grubb, Bill Hill**, and **John Vincent**. **San Stimple** takes the well-earned position of IPP.

SEDONA **LEE SHOPTAUGH**
Despite vacations this summer and some attrition, the **Harmony on the Rocks Chorus** kept harmony alive in Sedona. We performed at the Jewish Community Center of the Verde Valley, and sang at a fundraiser for the Sedona United Methodist Church. We also had a joint meeting with the Prescott Chapter. This year, in what has become an annual reciprocal event, it was Prescott's turn to make the trek over the mountain to Sedona.

One of our pickup quartets sang at a 90th birthday. After singing one of The Beatles songs *When I'm 64*, the nonagenarian, who chimed in singing, suggested we could have sung *When I'm 94*.

SUN CITIES CAMPBELL TITCHENER

The Desert Aires were well represented at the annual Fred Koch Memorial Bash in August, including a VLQ [**Bob Riedel, Ed O'Connor, Larry Callagher, Gene Brandwein, Dave Moses, Bud Hesterman, Bill Shaw, Ralph Brooksthat**] that came in second in spirited competition.

Bill and Louise Kimmel are moving back to Tulsa, OK, where their barbershop experiences began some 63 years ago. Bill is a 15-year member of the bass section and wife Louise is the daughter of **Raymond Grainger**, a stalwart of the **Fire & Police Quartet**, which sang and practiced right around the corner from **O.C. Cash** and his **Okie Four**.

Chapter President and Assistant Director **Bill Shaw** is back from studying directing at Harmony University. His most memorable experience: "Starting each general assembly as part of a 450-voice chorus of the best barbershoppers in the country."

The Sun Cities School Board Quartet was honored to sing at a Sun City Sundial rededication ceremony. The Sundial is one of the world's largest and has measured time since 1973.

TUCSON SUNSHINE JACK STATLER

The Tucson Barbershop eXperience performed the *National Anthem* twice at Tucson Padres baseball games. Chapter quartet **Touch of Grey** filled in when a request conflicted with our rehearsal night.

Several TSC members manned an all-day booth at an antique car show (an obvious male attraction) at the Tucson Convention Center. Opportunities to introduce convention attendees to barbershop harmony were limited by the constant blaring of rock music over the sound system.

TSC was well represented at the Fred Koch Memorial Bash, fielding a VLQ, chapter quartets, and individuals signing up for other competitions. **Frank Hartline** reluctantly relinquished last year's golf trophy to this year's winner, but scored a "trophy" singing baritone in the first-place **Luck-of-the-Draw** quartet.

Another successful Youth In Harmony Festival, held under the skillful leadership of **Ron and Annie Hayes** at Flowing Wells High School, was sponsored by TSC and the Sweet Adelines **Tucson Desert Harmony**. More than 130 young men and women and their music teachers were directed by clinicians **Russ Young, Dayle Ann Cook, and Becky Larson**, along with chapter quartets **Sonoran Sound, Joint Venture, and Footnotes**.

WHITE MOUNTAINS JOHN WELKER

The High Country Chorus performed its annual show in Show Low. The show, a tribute to Frank Sinatra, featured four quartets: **The Knotty Pines, 4 Wheel Drive, Better Late than Never** and guest **Audacity** from the **Greater Phoenix Chapter**. A few weeks later, eight of our members, four of whom were our teenagers, attended Harmony University. Since Harmony University, the young men have brought four more guests (hopefully, prospective members) from their high school chorus.

The City of Show Low held a concert dedicated to the first responders, the police and fire departments. Local radio and TV stations covered the event and our quartet **4 Wheel Drive** performed.

YUMA ROB BAILEY

The Yuma Chapter has relocated. We still meet on Tuesdays at 7 PM, but now we're at Saint John Neumann Catholic Church's cultural annex at 11545 East 40th Street. Please call Rob Bailey at (928) 502-2652 for detailed directions. And plan to join us for afterglows at the Dairy Queen.

2011 - A GREAT YEAR FOR FWD MUSIC

by Nick Papageorge

First of all, let me say what a great success our Fall District Contest was last month! The Quartet contest was fabulous: the top three quartets showcased a great deal of musicality and fun. And, of course, congratulations to our new Far Western District Quartet Champions, Artistic License! Also congratulations to our new Far Western District Chorus Champions, Voices In Harmony, and good luck at International. Finally, to all of the competitors, the entire district celebrates with you in your outstanding performances and efforts.

I just returned from a very informative weekend in Dallas for the Society's Leadership Academy (along with Russ Young, Alan Webb, and Jack Peters). 15 of the 17 Music and Performance Vice Presidents were in attendance and we had a fantastic round table where much information was passed along. I was very proud to represent you all. All of the districts hold us in high regard and want to know about everything we do. However, I did come home with a lot of interesting and helpful information that will help all of our chapters in the areas of member retention and growth, which will result in musical growth.

I plan to contact each chapter's Music & Performance Vice President and/or Chapter President to discuss some of these great ideas. All of us will be hearing a lot about the Learn To Sing Program, and the Harold Hill Program. These are both great programs to gain new members. Alan Gordon is heading up the Learn To Sing Program and is ready to help you start it. Contact Alan or myself and we'll get you going. Other new programs that will be introduced in our district include Chapter Chorus coaching and Chapter Mentoring.

Look for a new and improved Harmony College West next year in Redlands, CA., during the weekend of July 20-22, 2012. I am very excited about some changes that will be made. You'll be getting information in early January about classes and registration. I hope that many more of you will attend next year because your attendance not only helps you improve as a singer, but it also helps your chapter improve.

Remember to have your chapter take advantage of the District's Coaching Reimbursement Program, and Standing Ovation Program. If you would like a Standing Ovation Review for your Holiday Show, or even a Holiday "Sing-Out," call me and let's get something scheduled.

FWD Spring Convention in Ontario

March 8-11, 2012

FWD Quartets Will Compete to Qualify for the July 1-8, 2012 International Quartet Contest in Portland, OR

SW & SE Quartets and Choruses Will Compete to Qualify for the October 11-14, 2012 Fall Final Contest in Mesa, AZ

HOD meeting is Friday, March 10, 2PM. Chapter Delegate or not, you can attend to witness how the HOD functions.

If you approve [or disapprove], contact your DVP to let him know.

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CONVENTIONS, SHOWS, EVENTS

2011

December

- 2 Fullerton Show
- 3 Bay Area Show
- 3 Fremont-Hayward Show
- 3 Fullerton Show
- 3 Greater Phoenix Show
- 3 Pasadena Show
- 4 California Delta Show
- 4 Santa Fe Springs Show
- 9 Brea Show
- 10 Brea Show
- 10 Canana Del Oro Show
- 10 Greater Phoenix Show
- 10 Las Vegas Show
- 10 Santa Fe Springs Show
- 10 Santa Rosa
- 10 Whittier Show
- 11 La Jolla Show

2012

January

- 17-22 INT'L MIDWINTER CONV
Tucson, AZ
- 19 Tucson Show
- 28 Orange Quartet Chapter Show

February

- 18 Santa Fe Springs Show

March

- 3 Hemet Show
- 3 Tucson Show
- 4 Hemet Show
- 4 Sun Cities Show
- 8-11 FWD Spring Convention AND
SW & SE Division Contests
Ontario, CA Host TBD
- 15-18 SAI Region 11 Convention
- 24 Greater Phoenix Show
- 31 San Fernando Valley Show

April

- 13 Brea Show
- 14 Brea Show
- 14 Santa Fe Springs Show
- 13-14 NW Division - Woodside
Host: Palo Alto/Moountain View
- 20-21 AZ Division - Phoenix
Host: Tucson
- 26-29 SAI Region 12 & 21 Conventions
- 28 Fullerton Show

May

- 6 Palo Alto-Mountain View Show
- 18-19 NE Division - Sacramento
Host: Sacramento

June

- 9 California Delta Show

July

- 7/1-8 INT'L CONV Portland, OR

October

- 11-14 FWD Fall Convention
Mesa Host: Greater Phoenix
- 10/30-11/3 SAI Int'l Conv, Denver, CO

2013

March

- 14-17 SAI Region 11 Convention
- 21-24 FWD Spring Convention, TBA

June

- 6/30-7/7 INT'L CONV Toronto, ON

October

- 10-13 FWD Fall Convention
- 11/5-9 SAI Int'l Conv, Honolulu, HI

2014

March

- 20-23 FWD Spring Convention

June

- 6/29-7/6 NT'L CONV Las Vegas, NV

October

- 9-12 FWD Fall Convention

- 11/4-8 SAI Int'l Conv, Baltimore, MD

2015

March

- 19-22 FWD Spring Convention

June

- 6/28-7/5 INT'L CONV Pittsburgh, PA

- 10/6-10 SAI Int'l Conv, Las Vegaa, NV

October

- 15-18 FWD Fall Convention

2016

July

- 7/3-10 INT'L CONV Nashville, TN

- 10/18-22 SAI Int'l Conv, Las Vegas, NV

2017

July

- 7/2-9 INT'L CONV Minneapolis, MI

2018

July

- 7/1-8 INT'L CONV Orlando, FL

2019

June

- 6/30-7/7 INT'L CONV
Salt Lake City, UT

Clear all show dates with
FWD Secretary, Peter Feeney