



Winter 2013 Volume 63 Number 4



WESTUNES

WESTUNES, established in 1961, is the official publication of the Far Western District Association of Chapters in the Barbershop Harmony Society

2013 FWD Quartet Champions - The Newfangled Four



2013 FWD Chorus Champions - Masters of Harmony



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Calendar

The FWD Website now contains the official FWD calendar - go to <http://barbershopfwd.org>

Acronyms

BOTM	Barbershopper of the Month
BOTY	Barbershopper of the Year
DP	District President
DRCJ	District Representative Contest & Judging
DVP	District Vice President
CSLT	Chapter Support & Leadership Training
CDD	Chorus Director Development
C&J	Contest & Judging
E	Events
EVP	Executive Vice President
M&PR	Marketing & Public Relations
Mem Ser	Member Services
Mu&P	Music & Performance
QA	Quartet Activities
YIH	Youth In Harmony
OSS	Official Scoring Summary

2013 FWD Final Quartet Contest Pictures



FWD YOUTH HARMONY CAMP - 2013

6164 Windlestraw Road
Placerville, Ca 95667
rwlund92@gmail.com 530-621-1904

This is just to Thank You and share with you some of the wonderful events and photos of this past weekend.

Camp last weekend was Fantastic!! It rained all day on Saturday ... What rain (smile). It was that good.

We had some early challenges. The Facility let us know a week before Camp that we couldn't use the gym, where we always held our general sessions, and that we would have to use the cafeteria instead for general sessions. It was tight; we had to "break" the risers in two places to get a tighter curve to make it fit in the room. But other than that, and the rain on Saturday, the change to the cafeteria was a non event and the whole weekend just went really smoothly.

We had 82 boys. That is right in there with past years numbers: last year 88, year before 77. So we are holding our own and growing slowly. That's a good thing! Also of significant note, we had boys from four brand new high schools represented!

Our volunteers are simply amazing. For several years now we have had to "limit" the number of volunteers to fifty. Yes, I know, that's a lot; but it sure helps get the word out that Camp is Fun, and a great place to be.

Storm Front, First Strike and Chordhouse Squares were all simply Fabulous. We were honored that Darin Drown and Jim Clark, bari and lead of Storm Front both brought their young sons. And we had a wonderful line-up of clinicians: Gabe Caretto, Ron Black, Darin Drown and Jim Halvorson.



Father / Son - Done setting up risers!!

ALL of this is the result of your generous Support of our Far Western District Youth Harmony Camp! It is your support, through finances, volunteering and most importantly through getting boys to come to Camp that makes this entire weekend Work! On behalf of all of these young men, Thank You!!!

Richard Lund



A sampling of Great expressions



3 ½ Men Quartet with Dan McQuigg – Milpitas HS

2013 FWD Chorus Final Contest Pictures

JERRY ORLOFF
(1/16/31 - 10/25/13)

1981 FWD
Hall of Fame
2011 BHS
Hall of Fame

Celebrated BHS Member Jerry Orloff Passes

Jerry Orloff, an internationally known barbershop quartet singer and teacher, passed away at his home in Aptos after a lengthy struggle with vascular dementia.

"Global Ambassador, Herald of Harmony,
Membership Mogul"

Jerry Orloff is probably most widely recognized for his startling record of having officially sponsored over 200 new members -there simply isn't enough lapel room on his jacket to wear all his "Man of Note" pins at once!

What many have been less aware of is his tremendous amount of successful behind-the-scenes effort to spread the gospel of barbershop harmony and enhance our enjoyment of it in unique ways. In the late 60s he was the creative spirit behind the recruitment program entitled "Auditions for Admission;" in the early 80s he was a prime mover in showcasing foreign quartets and choruses at International conventions, which evolved into "World Harmony Jamboree;" also in the 80s the very first "Sing With the Champs" occurred, largely due to Jerry's efforts. In the 2000s Jerry and wife Kim either organized and ran, or participated in numerous barbershop tours and cruises with destinations around the globe.

Some details: Jerry shared his passion for four-part harmony with his wife, Kim, as a members of the Mixed Metafour Quartet, a unique coed mixed barbershop quartet comprised of Jerry and Kim plus Bev Wesley of Aptos and several other men who sang the lead part between 1984 and 2012. Jerry performed and shared his love of singing throughout the world, with appearances in New Zealand, Australia, England, Sweden, Wales and Russia as well as across the United States. In 2001 Jerry and

Kim created an additional quartet with another couple, Brian and Holly Beck, of Dallas, Texas. This quartet, Hao Yun Qui, was specifically formed to teach the barbershop style in China; they made several trips there from 2001 to 2003, teaching at universities and senior organizations in Northern China. The quartet taught standard American songs in English as well as several native Chinese folk songs which they had arranged in barbershop style and learned in the original Mandarin.

Jerry was also a member of the local Santa Cruz Chapter of SPEBSQSA, also known as the Gold Standard Chorus. He participated in many of their shows (both in the chorus and with his quartet), as well as singing "Valengrams" every February, and Christmas carols in shopping centers every December.

While music was the center of his life, Jerry also was a devoted father of four who shared his love for the outdoors and fishing with sons Dan, Randy, Mike and Barry. From the time they could walk he went with them on fishing and houseboat trips... a family tradition which continued throughout his lifetime. He was no stranger in the kitchen, making fantastic chicken matza-ball soup and sharing with all his sons his unique talent for pickling cucumbers, carrots, tomatoes and whole watermelons. Jerry's other passions included photography and anything Minnesota - often torn between his love of the Minnesota Vikings and San Francisco 49ers. He was an avid hockey fan, and was a play-by-play radio announcer for the St. Paul Saints in the early 1960's. Born in St. Paul, Minnesota, Jerry moved with his family to Daly City, CA in 1963. There he owned and operated a paint and art supply store with his parents Solly and Florence Orloff for nearly 20 years. He moved to Aptos in 1983, and soon thereafter retired from sales in order to work full-time sharing the joy of singing harmony.

Jerry's family joined many local barbershop singers for a musical celebration of his life in Felton CA.

Remembrances in his name may be made to Young Men in Harmony/Harmony Foundation International (www.harmonyfoundation.org) at 110 7th Ave North, Suite 200, Nashville, TN 37203.

---- CONVENTION CHATTER ----

FROM THE GENERAL CHAIRMAN: How time flies! There are less than 8 months until the 2014 BHS International Convention opens its doors! Your committee is working very hard to make this one of the best Conventions in recent memory...but, to meet our goals, WE STILL NEED MANY VOLUNTEERS!

If you're planning to visit Las Vegas for the Convention, your contributing a few hours will help us greatly! Please go now to www.bhsvegas2014.com and enter your information into our computerized volunteer database form. As we get nearer the event, you and other volunteers will be contacted and advised where and when help is needed.

Special thanks go to two Silver Statesmen for taking extra steps in supporting the Convention:

Philip Spinks went on a business-related trip recently and took a bag of Convention pins with him to sell to local choruses in the regions where his meetings were held. He made many sales! The income from these pin sales goes toward financing the Convention.

Ed Cotton sat at our Convention information table at the recent FWD convention for two days so the other chorus members could sing in the contest. The generous donation of his time was greatly appreciated by the rest of his chorus.

If you haven't yet decided to attend the Convention, please reconsider what we're offering! The entire Convention will be held in one facility – the magnificent **MGM Grand Hotel** on the Strip! You'll never have to go outside in the summer heat unless you want to. Rooms, restaurants, shows and all convention activities (except the Mega Sing) will be inside the MGM. Rooms are available at \$129/night plus fees and taxes. Parking is free! Most importantly, it looks like we'll be hosting, potentially, one of the greatest chorus contests ever. Finally, if you think you may attend but want to wait to register, remember that you get to pick your seats in the Arena on a first-come, first-served basis when you register.

The sooner you register, the better your seats! And don't take a chance on not getting your room at the MGM Grand. RESERVE IT NOW! It doesn't cost you anything to make your reservation unless you *don't* use it. You won't want to miss out on the *convenience* of staying at the MGM Grand. SEE YOU NEXT SUMMER AT THE CONVENTION! – **Martin Judd**, *Convention General Chairman*

CONVENTION 'DOERS': The Chapter's current roster of Convention committee chairs is impressive and deserving of recognition. So here are the guys putting it all together for the rest of the world:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: **Martin Judd**, General Chairman; **Steve Salmon** and **Greg Dreyer**, Vice Chairmen; **Wes White**, Treasurer; **Allison Salmon**, Secretary.

STEERING COMMITTEE: **Albert Weiss**, Quartet Services; **Fred Green**, Publicity/PR/Civic Relations; **Randy Preston**, Registration; **Ross Marty**, Staffing/Volunteers/Pins/Uniforms; **Philip Spinks**, Auditorium-House; **Larry Pechart**, Special Services.

SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN: **Stan Ackers**, Chorus Services; **John Hulbert**, Chorus FAM (oversees Chorus Managers' familiarization visits to the MGM in November); **Dean Hunt**, Risers; **Matthew Beatty**, Webmaster; **Peter Feeney**, Harmony Foundation; **Dave Kennedy**, Camping & RV; **Ed Cotton**, Gospel Sing & Church Service; **Keith Pratt**, Singing With Champs; **Fred Goldberg**, World Harmony/AIC; **Dave Pruska**, Auditorium-Stage; **Brian Sellnow**, Chorditorium; **Avona Preston & Becky Halvorson**, Barbertots; **John Lenox**, Judges Services; **Bill and Jacque Klaus & Roger Anderson**, Information Booth; **Cecilia Pechart**, **Avona Preston**, Hospitality Room. Thanks, everyone, for your service to the Chapter!

NOTE: Volunteers are still being sought for the Convention's *Daily Bulletin Editor/Score sheet & Daily Bulletin Distribution* positions. (Contact **Fred Green**)

RV PARK INPUT: Getaway Geezer **Dave Kennedy**, the 2014 Convention's RV/Camping chair, was joined by his fellow Getaway Geezer (yours truly) on a tour of the Valley to locate and assess available RV parks suitable for motor home attendees at next summer's International BHS Convention/Contest.

Check out his final RV site recommendations now posted as an easy-to-read graphic on the BARBERSHOP page of *The Great Geezer Getaway Guys'* new website at www.geezergetaways.org. This and other Convention information updates will soon appear regularly on the official Convention website at www.bhsvegas2014.com now open for business but still under construction by webmaster/chorus member **Matthew Beatty**.

Featured Articles



District President Russ Young

This is my last Westunes article as President of the Far Western District. The past two years have, in many ways, gone by very quickly. As I reflect on where we've been, where we are, and where we are going, my mind is at ease knowing that we continue to be in excellent shape as a District.

One of my goals as FWD President was to bring out the best talent in our District and "put them to work" for the betterment of the FWD. As a result, there has been much focus on reaching out to chapters and encouraging all to take advantage of this talent. Through the efforts of the Chapter Support and Leadership Training Chairman, Gordon Bergthold, we have been successful in helping chapters navigate through issues that might have otherwise had undesirable results. We have also utilized the expertise of the Chorus Director Development Chairman, Dr. Greg Lyne, in bringing awareness to the need to continually encourage aspiring musical leaders as well as improve the quality of directors. Those are just two examples of what has been accomplished in recent years. These efforts will continue to grow and enhance the musicality of all of our chapters as the DMT compliments each other's efforts in making it "all about the music". Additionally the Leadership Academies have been enhanced to assure attendees gain knowledge and gather ideas that will improve their chapter members' barbershop experience.

We also made significant progress in developing the new website with enhanced features, electronic delivery of Westunes, and improved communication with FWD membership. These projects will continue to be reviewed in order to provide the best possible product for our members.

Please help me send a special thanks to Board Members Bill Rosica, Peter Feeney and Bernard Priceman, all of whom have served our District for many years. Bill and Peter are stepping down for personal reasons, and Bernard has "timed out" on the Board as the Immediate Past President. I know we will continue to see each of you at future events.

I'd also like to thank the men who worked tirelessly on behalf of the FWD, serving on the Board of Directors and DMT. Their support and encouragement has been invaluable to me over the past two years and I want to thank them for their devotion and leadership. You are all men of good character with a true love for singing and improving our District.

Finally, I want to welcome new Board Members Bob Gray, Neal Pennywitt, and Gordon Bergthold. I have every reason to believe these men will continue serving the District well in their respective roles of FWD Secretary, Division VP, and Executive VP.

Our District is in good hands financially, musically and with outstanding leadership. My successor Allan Webb will certainly continue carrying on a tradition of posturing the FWD as THE leaders of the Society. I look forward to working with Allan to carry out his mission. And always remember that together, we can change the world.....

ONE SONG AT A TIME!!!!

In Close Harmony,

Russ Young

F W D

P r e s i d e n t



Executive Vice President Allan Webb

It's amazing how time flies! I can't believe this is already my last article as EVP, and that my next one will be in the District President space. Many thanks to Russ Young and the rest of the FWD BOD for the last two years of representing the best District in the Society. I'm looking forward to building on that foundation in 2014, along with our incoming EVP Gordon (Mongo) Bergthold. I am very appreciative of the vote of confidence shown by the nominating committee and the HOD in selecting our 2014 board members, and we all pledge to do our best by the District.

In November, Mongo and I, along with incoming CSLT Chair Don Salz, will be attending the Society Leadership Forum in Nashville, TN. This annual

forum has traditionally been the place where the District President Council convenes for discussions amongst the DPs and EVPs of all 17 Districts, as well as the Society BOD. Various DMT Chair meetings usually happen there as well, to assist with planning for the coming year.

This year, the DP Council made the decision to modify the Leadership Forum structure. Instead of aligning the Saturday sessions along DMT Chairman lines, we chose instead to align the discussions with one of the 2014 Society Aims as adopted by the Society Board in Toronto: to satisfy the five focus areas which were identified by our Chapters during the 2011 Chapter Visitation Program surveys. These five areas represent the most common things that our Chapters indicated were most important to them. Our sessions on Saturday were devoted to coming up with strategies in these five focus areas which can be executed by either Staff, District volunteers, or Chapters.

The five focus areas are:

- Help with Recruiting
- Provide more frequent visits from, and communication with, District Officers and Society staff
- Provide coaching help to chapters
- Help chapters plan and implement shared activities
- Modernize the music and arrangements available through the BHS

Concrete strategies were developed by the Leadership Forum attendees (over 100 of them), constituting a cross section of District Presidents, EVPs, various DMT Chairmen (CSLT, M&P, CDD, etc), and others chosen by their Districts as prime candidates for participation in the discussion. All of the content produced during the weekend is being compiled by Society staff and should be published for subsequent action by the beginning of the year.

You'll be hearing more about the full set of the 2014 Society Aims as materials are released by the Society. Keep an eye on the Society and District websites. The District will also be sending out periodic email blasts to the membership with links to these and other topics which are of interest to our Chapters and members.

See you in the Spring 2014 issue of the WESTunes!

District Vice President 1 SW



congratulations to all the competitors who crossed the stage in Toronto. Congratulations to "Masterpiece", Quartet Gold Medalists, "New Fangled Four", International College Quartet Gold Medalists, and "Westminster" International Chorus Silver Medalists for your accomplishments.

As this is my last article as Vice-President of the Southwest Division, I have to say that I have enjoyed serving for the past three Presidents, Bob Lally, Bernard Priceman and Russ Young, over the last six years. I have a new respect for membership and budgets and will long remember all the HOD meetings as well as those famous, albeit stunning, Board Meetings.

Membership during my time has been the eternal thorn in all of our sides. Some chapters have figured it out while others still struggle. I don't believe there is one answer to this dilemma. We've tried many programs, but maybe, just maybe, it is recruitment by our members on an individual basis. Here are a few accomplishments over the past six months:

Chapter	New members	Current Membership
Conejo Valley	2	29
San Luis Obispo	3	33
South Bay	3	56
Aloha	5	72
Santa Maria	3	28
Santa Monica	3	49

As some of you may already know, I will be retiring and moving to the Evergreen District sometime next spring. My wife, Mary and I are looking forward to the far reaches of Idaho, somewhere near Sandpoint. There are many projects I'd like to pursue, but have not had the time. That doesn't mean I'll be leaving Barbershop, just that I'll be in the workshop working on cabinets instead of listening to learning tracks for the upcoming contest or show. I have visited the Chapter in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho and found quite a few FWD transplants. Certainly different than the high-powered chapter I belong to now, but a great bunch of guys looking to enjoy their hobby.

Thanks again for your support over the years and I look forward to seeing you again at International Conventions or maybe an Evergreen or Far Western District Convention.



District Vice President 2 SE Craig Hughes

The Barbershop fall and winter in the Southeast Division is full of fun activities. Chapter Shows, District Convention and Contest, Chapter Elections, Leadership Academy and Holiday Performances are just the tip. The fellowship and weekly joy of singing with friends complete the “iceberg”, (a rare cold reference from sunny Southern California).

The District Convention in Bakersfield was outstanding. From the early participation of the Harmony Platoon members to the late (Sunday AM) tag singers there was something for everyone. Thank you to all who attended with a special thanks to the Chapters represented at the House of Delegates meeting. This is the governing body of our District and we need your advice and consent. I am pleased to serve as your Division Vice President for another year.

We have a Division Champion taking the top spot in the District for the second year in a row. **The New Fangled Four** quartet has added Far Western District Champion to their International College Champion title. **95 North**, (2012 SE Division and District Champs), presented the trophy. We had seven choruses compete and placed three in the Top Ten: **La Jolla**, **Brea**, and **Las Vegas**. There is great singing in the Southeast Division.

Speaking of Contests...the **Orange Quartet Chapter** hosted their Comedy Quartet Contest in July to the largest audience since its revival. Results: First - **Harmony Connection**; Second - **Spit-Tunes**; Third - **Reformed Villains**. Great fun! Plan on attending and competing in 2014.

Be sure to visit the Westunes Chapter Reports and see all the fun things they have been doing this fall and consider joining a quartet if you haven't already. There is a special bond in Quartet you seldom experience elsewhere.

Congratulations to all the new Chapter Officers for 2014. If you haven't already, please have your secretary post the new officers' names on the Society's eBiz site. That's how we keep up with “who's who”.

Now for the numbers: Our Division is down 54

members this year BUT we have 72 members that are behind on their dues. This is an annual summer slump that needs addressing. Secretaries, please reach out to the past-due members and let's all tell the world about the joy of Barbershop Singing. Encourage the auto-renewal option so your members have the convenience of singing without the hassle of remembering to renew.

Brea is hosting our 2014 Spring Convention at the historic Fox Theater in Riverside California. It will be an event to remember and include the International Quartet Prelims. Mark your calendars for March 20-23 for the best Spring District Convention in the Society as evidenced by Lodi 2013.

Both International Conventions are in our neighborhood this year. Mid-Winter in Long Beach, January 28 – February 2, and International in **Las Vegas**, June 29 – July 6. Don't miss this opportunity to *drive* to International.

Thank you for your support of the Division. We are the best of the best.



District Vice President 3 NW Chuck Leavitt

I missed the FWD Fall Convention this year because of a family wedding but kept close to the board meetings and competitions via friends' reports and official minutes. The major new business item at the District Board meeting was the recommendation to the House of Delegates to add two new Board members – Chairman of Music & Performance and Chairman of Contest & Judging to be voted on next spring. Be sure your HOD representative is informed and prepared to vote your chapter's wishes next spring. I recommend a yes vote.

Congratulations to all our competitors. The Far Western District Quartet *and* Novice champion is also the 2013 International Collegiate Champion – **The Newfangled Four**. Our Senior District Champ is **Joint Venture**; **Velvet Frogs** is the FWD representative to the International Senior Contest in Long Beach this January.

Four FWD choruses will compete in Las Vegas! How cool is that? The Chorus Champion is **Masters of Harmony** with a score of 91.4% and they will represent the FWD at International next summer. The final BHS District contests were completed as I was

writing this article and International Board invitations (wildcards) will likely go to: **Voices in Harmony** (82.1%), **Spirit of Phoenix** (80.8%) and **Voices of California** (80.7%). We won't know who our FWD quartet competitors are until after the FWD Spring Convention. We do know one thing though – they will be good. Make plans to be in Vegas to cheer everyone on.

Timely Tip: It is interesting to note that International caliber choruses are found throughout the district and some men commute long distances to participate at this level. What draws them? What would draw singers to your chapter? What more can you do? *Here's a clue:* practice better so you can sing better. I'm talking about the time outside of meeting night so you are ready to make a positive contribution. Learn your music listening to tracks in the car, or whatever, but then put the tracks aside. Record yourself and note improvement opportunities. Then, practice those parts with a specific result in mind (your section leader can help). Do this in short 10 or 15-minute focused sessions. If you aren't focused you will just develop bad habits and we all know that practice will make them permanent. It is easier to focus in short segments. Repeat as often as you have time and can stay focused. You will sing better.

An invitation: If you are not in a quartet, keep looking for three other parts! If you are, plan on competing in the 2014 Northwest/Northeast Division Contest at the Hutchins Street Square in Lodi on May 17, 2014. Make sure your chorus signs up too for this one-day contest. We were at Hutchins Street last year and it worked out very well. The few chorus evaluation logistical glitches will not be repeated. We also know how to take out the floor squeak in the quartet set-up. (You had to be there).

My chapter is well into Holiday Show preparations - I bet yours is too. I hope that you have fun and bring joy to everyone that sees you perform.



**District Vice President 4 NE
Richard Lund**

Well, this is not going to be entirely about Divisional activities; but it is about Barbershop.

I was struck this past weekend by the success of Love Notes as the new Queens of the Sweet Adeline Barbershop world. The

concept that young singers from both genders can have great success in their respective competitive arenas is, I guess, obvious to some, but it remains a very real discovery to me. Oh, I don't mean that I just now discovered the fact, but rather that our youth programs are starting to really take off in our barbershop world. The young ladies of Love Notes have actually been together for eleven years! Yes, they are only in their mid-twenties; thus, they started in their early teens and some were even pre-teens. By any standard, that's a long time singing together; and yet, they are So Young!!

I will take one short side reminiscence and mention that my old quartet Preservation II competed in a "fun contest" at Lake Tahoe some six or eight years ago and came in second. Unfortunately, there was this other quartet of very talented young girls who really sang the "snot" out of their songs (as we barbershoppers are wont to say) and just squeaked past the old guys in red jackets (that would be Pres II). It was great fun and it's always kind of neat to think that we just barely got beat out by a Sweet Ads Champion (smile)!

Getting back to the subject of champion-caliber quartets, I guess Vocal Spectrum, Musical Island Boys, OC Times, and on and on, have truly shown the way for the young folks.

Anyway, I am immediately reminded of the spectacular barbershop performance that burst on our Far Western District stage this past October 12 in the form of Newfangled Four, who won Both the Novice title AND the District Championship! What an incredible achievement by a bunch of young guys. They, of course, brought the house down with each of their songs, and especially their high and loud, ringing the crap out of the entire auditorium, and bringing everyone out of their seats cheering last chords on every song they sang.

Of course I have an ulterior motive in all of this and that is to promote Harmony Camp 2014. Our "headliner" quartet is Lunch Break, and our "second" (tongue firmly in cheek) quartet is none other than Newfangled Four!! I'm gliding on air these days already looking forward to seeing the interaction of the boys and these spectacular quartets.

I also want to make a real push this year to get as many young men to Camp as possible to experience the joys of seeing and hearing this kind of talent!

And of course, it is you guys who always make this

happen. So I'm letting you know early that talking to the young man down the street, or getting in to see the choral director at the school where your grandson attends is the thing to do Now.

Guys, these young folks are showing us with their talent and their determination that They Are the Future. Let's you and I help make that happen.

I would be remiss if I didn't talk at least a little bit about our immediate past Camp 2013 with Storm Front, First Strike and Chordhouse Squares. WHAT a Camp! We had 82 young men and 50 volunteers (our limit). It rained All Day on Saturday, but almost no one noticed ... it was That Good! The boys this year were terrific, as usual. They seemed really well prepared and determined to make their weekend spectacular. It Was!!

As I write this, we are also rapidly approaching NorCal Leadership Academy, November 23, at the McGeorge Law School in Sacramento. We are presenting all the usual classes, but in a bit of a different format. We are also presenting a new class for non-officers called "New to Barbershop". Should be an excellent refreshment of official officer duties, as well as a chance for newer guys to "rub elbows" with many of the leaders of barbershop in Northern California/Nevada and develop their own leadership capabilities to take back to their respective chapters.



***District Vice President 5 AZ
John Bloomquist***

Winter is a busy time in the Arizona Division!!!

AZ Division Quartet Champions, our friends **Vocal Edition** did an outstanding job placing 2nd in the District Quartet Contest. Also, **Frequency**, in their first FWD Dist. contest placed 3rd. AZ Div. Novice Champs **Speakeasy** did a great job placing 6th. The AZ Division also has a new Champion! Congratulations to **Joint Venture** for capturing the FWD Senior Championship!

The District Chorus contest was as exciting as it could be. Congratulations to our Champions, **Masters of Harmony**! The AZ Division will also be represented in Las Vegas by our own **Spirit of Phoenix** who qualified as a wild card contestant. In fact, as you know, FWD qualified four choruses for

the International contest. Congrats also to **Voices in Harmony** and **VoCal** for also qualifying. The quality continues to improve with all contestants in the International Contest scoring over 80%! This is unheard of before.

I want to take a moment to again thank the Mesa Chapter for stepping up to host the AZ Div. Leadership Academy in Nov. Bob Shaffer and his crew along with FWD EVP Gordon Bergthold organized the event that attracted six Chapters and over 30 attendees. Thanks for helping us all to be better Chapters to serve our members.

I hope everyone takes advantage of Executive Director Monson's initiative to help to increase our Society membership by taking the survey if it comes your way. Get out and promote Barbershop singing to your local music educators at every opportunity.

As the Holiday Seasons approach, many Chapters will be having Christmas shows and I hope you will all be able to take in as many as you can. It will be a busy time of the year. FWD will again be a focus for the Society with the Midwinter Convention being held in Long Beach. If you can, please consider attending as it will again be a great motivator to us all with the Show of Champs, Senior Quartet Contest as well as the Youth Chorus Festival! This will be a power-packed event!!

I want to take a moment to thank everyone for your best wishes, prayers and overall love, during my recent health issues. As we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas, I wish all the best to you and your families. Let's have a great 2014!!

As I said before, it is GREAT to be part of this awesome Division!!!



CSLT Gordon Bergthold [outgoing]

I've served the district as Chapter Support and Leadership Team (CSLT) for four years and it's time to turn over the reins to another gentleman who has been a barbershopper for his entire adult life. Dr. Don Salz is a Licensed Psychologist who works for the State of Nevada in the Southern Desert Correctional Center. Don received his doctorate from the University of the Pacific in 1993 and I'm certain that the training will serve him well as he works in the leadership support and training role for the Far Western District. Please welcome Don to the

new position when you see him at the next convention.

As I move into a new, challenging position on the Board I'm looking forward to working with a talented group of individuals who have dedicated so much of their personal time to serving the chapters of the FWD. I recently attended the Barbershop Harmony Society Forum in Nashville and learned what to expect in the coming year in my new position working with Allan Webb, our new President, and others throughout the BHS. We can expect an up tempo leadership from Nashville under the capable leadership of Marty Monson, CEO.

Emphasis and focus will be on Recruitment/Retention, Frequent visits and increased communication with district and society staff and officers; Coaching help for Chapters (musical and administrative); Assisting Chapters plan, and implement share activities with other chapters; and Modernizing the music and arrangements available through the Society.

The Society leadership stressed that they work for the membership pledging to develop a stronger communication effort with the districts, which would in turn allow the districts to disseminate information to the chapters in an expeditious manner. There was a renewed enthusiasm displayed by the Society employees reflecting the upbeat management style of Marty Monson. The BHS is in good hands and as stated by Marty Monson on why we exist, "Together, making music that's making a difference".

We've got the talking part done. Now we need to "Walk the Talk".

Gordon "Mongo" Bergthold
FWD EVP Elect

Don Salz [incoming]

It was my pleasure, and my first function as CSLT, to participate in the Leadership Forum at Nashville, along with Allen and Mongo. It was mostly fun, though some of the work our breakout group did felt more difficult than my real job. The HQ guys made sure to keep things going in the general meetings. Here is what I brought away:

- The society has an impressive group of volunteers across the society who are caring, hard working and intelligent.
- Society employees are brilliant and sensitive to the

needs to both retain our members and reach out to our future members. I am proud to a part of a Society run by these men. Nashville's gotta be a fun place to work.

- Soon, you will be able to search, sort, and purchase music and tracks from one database with both published and unpublished songs. Also, all songs will have a difficulty rating on a 1-5 scale.
- The Society will begin publishing a series of modern songs in the barbershop style (note: not "modern arrangements"). The first is a David Wright arrangement of "The Rhythm of Love" by the *Plain White T-shirts*. I never hard of it or them, though my 20-year-old has – and that is the point. The song will come out when the tracks are ready. Tracks and music will be free to download for a short time for a video submission contest: quartets submit their version of their song on YouTube, with a prize for the best one. It is hoped entries will come from all over the world.

Velvet Frogs Card





CDD Greg Lyne

Dear FWD friends,

I was not able to be in Bakersfield, unfortunately. But I did have the chance to view each and every chorus competitor via the webcast. I found it to be most interesting. What I learned is that we have a lot of great things happening here in FWD!

As you might guess, I watched, particularly, the directors do their thing with their respective choruses. There are so many remarkable things our FWD chorus directors bring to their choruses: stability, confidence, awareness - all a result of their teaching and their conducting awareness. Additionally, each director brought his/her own personality to the stage and shared it with the singers and with the audience. It was apparent that these directors are entirely dedicated to assisting their singers to sing and perform better. Our directors are doing a fine job and it's obvious that they are fully engaged in doing what they can to bring the best product they can to their chorus. What a joy it was to view this first-hand.

To you singers, may I suggest that, given the talent you have in front of you, that you and your music and administrative team will be best served by doing all you can to support and guide your director in every way possible? Your director wishes to be a team player and an outstanding leader as well. Directing a chorus is not an easy task. Singers can make all the difference in the success of a director and of your chorus.

How, you ask? Well, first of all, be present at all rehearsals. Additionally, really listen to what your director requests musically and then respond vocally with immediacy. When singers do this, directors are allowed to become even better than they thought they could be.

The synergy between director and the chorus singer(s) can be amazing. When a director and singers work together magic can happen. Make it happen!

Thanks for a terrific contest. Let's keep working toward an even higher musical and performance product.



DRCJ Ron Black

Hope everyone enjoyed the Bakersfield District Convention!

We've been there so many times we forget how LARGE that auditorium is. Some competitors and audience members have talked to me about improving the sound and visual experience if we do return to that venue in Fall 2016 (tentative now). The hotel experience is not great either. Again, in 2016 the tentative plan will be to use the Doubletree (also where Region 11 SAI goes every year). They are great to work with.

As has happened before, four chapter's choruses will represent the FWD in Las Vegas next July!

At the top of the list, District Champion for 2013 and Past International Gold Medal chorus Santa Fe Springs - Masters of Harmony (who will surely try for another gold!), are up against the Vocal Majority, back after their three-year hiatus. Also competing are Bay Area - Voices in Harmony, Greater Phoenix - Spirit of Phoenix, and California Delta - Voices of California.

Our new District Champion Quartet, The Newfangled Four (having won the International College Quartet Contest in Toronto), jumped ahead of potential winner Vocal Edition and took home the huge champ quartet trophy. Also awesome was the swan-song set of 95 North, who brought their families on stage and sang to them (not a dry eye in the house).

Next year's conventions are as follows **(including the deadlines for contest entry)**:

March 21-23 will combine the Southwest and Southeast Divisions with the International Quartet Preliminaries in Riverside, CA. The venue is the recently renovated Fox Theater. **Deadline for contest entry is February 21.**

May 3 will be the Arizona Division in Phoenix. **Deadline for contest entry is April 5.**

May 17 will combine the Northwest and Northeast Division at the same venue as last year's March convention, in Lodi. **Deadline for contest entry is April 19.**

Qualifying Scores for the 2014 FWD Fall Final Contests are:

Chorus 62, was 58

Quartet 68, was 66

It is interesting to note that chorus participation is still strong in the Spring Contests, and way up in the Fall contest. Total Quartet participation in the spring is down for both total quartets and Seniors (note that some quartets have disbanded that have usually been there in previous years). Also interesting is the drop in average score for the Fall Quartet Contest (again, due to disbanded quartets from the Spring qualifications).

	Total	Total	Total		Intl.	Super			
	al	al	al						
	Ch	Qt	Qua						
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	uses	n	Pts	n	Pts	ifiers	ior	ior	Coll
						(Fall			ege
						Sr.)			

SPRING TOTALS

201			65.			67.			
3	31	931	1	224	56	3	4	12	1
201			63.			64.			5
2	35	985	9	256	64	1	6	19	4
201			64.			63.			4
1	30	705	7	248	62	9	4	22	6
201			66.			66.			1
0	29	897	6	240	60	0	4	14	4
									2

FALL TOTALS

201			67.			64.			
3	24	804	8	84	21	8	1	7	1
201			69.			70.			n/
2	20	659	1	72	18	6	2	1	ap
201			68.			67.			n/
1	19	632	3	80	20	1	2	6	ap
201			68.			68.			n/
0	20	739	0	80	20	2	3	6	ap

n/a = not
available
n/ap =
not
applicabl
e

A few significant judge retirements happened this year:

Connie Keil	PRS	35 years
Phil Debar	SNG	18 years

Mark Hale	MUS	20 years
Chuck Hunter	CA	23 years
Paul Engel	MUS	26 years
Russ Young	SNG	18 years

After the above retirements and a few additions, we now have 15.4% of all Certified Judges here in the FWD.

5 Contest Administrators

7 Music Judges

3 Presentation Judges (boy, do we need Applicants here, contact me!)

8 Singing Judges

NOW is the time! Time for what? To APPLY to be a Judge! If you're interested, contact me ASAP. That means right away!



E Ted Sayle

The Fall Convention in Bakersfield is now behind us. What great fun. Even the Saturday Afterglow that was thwarted by a wedding reception loud enough to generate headaches, but it all turned out well. Thanks to Justin Miller who took his chorus into the lobby for a "gang sing" that won hearts and fans. Hotel guests, passers by, and even wedding reception guests marveled at the joy of so many folks singing good music. Many other chapter singers happily joined in. Thank you Justin!

Chairman Bud Case and his team did yeoman work to make everything turn out well. Thank you Bud!

Society CEO Marty Monson could have been many other places, but he chose our FWD convention and contributed a lot by his speeches, and his handshakes. Thank you Marty!

John Miller was the official Society representative to our FWD, and delivered his usual and uplifting information. Thanks John.

Russ Young brought the house down with his "aloha speech", as he strolled up and down the stage giving all of us much encouragement. Thank you Russ!

Next year (2014) will see some very exciting conventions, here is what is planned:

2014 FWD Event dates for your calendar are:

Jan 28 - Feb 2 International Midwinter Convention in Long Beach, CA

Mar 20-23 FWD Spring Convention with Int'l Quartet Prelim & SE/SW Division Contests in Riverside, CA

May 2-3 FWD AZ Division Contest in Mesa, AZ

May 17 FWD NW/NE Division Contests in Lodi, CA

Jun 29 – July 6 International Convention in Las Vegas, NV

Oct 9-12 FWD Fall Convention and Finals Contests in Fresno, CA

And, in 2015

Oct 15-18 FWD Fall Convention and Finals Contests in Mesa, AZ

Revised and updated convention manuals are under construction and (hopefully), will be ready to start the new year.

You are hereby forewarned - prepare now for the Las Vegas International next July - it promises to be a barnburner! You don't want to hear somebody say "you should have been there!"

Your Division Event Planners are [use <https://ebiz.barbershop.org/ebusiness/> to find their contact information]:

Northeast = Sam Barger

Northwest = Larry Weiss

Southeast = Paul Sandorf

Southwest = Jim Serhahely

Arizona = Randy Bing



M&PR Jerry McElfresh

Looking ahead, 2014 should provide a real opportunity for the Far Western district to show our brothers in song from around the world what a great district, group of chapters and members we have here.

The Midwinter Convention, Jan 30 - Feb. 2, in Long Beach and the International Convention and Contest, June 29 – Jul 6 in Las Vegas, will give us the opportunity to be one of the best hosts the Barbershop Harmony Society has seen.

Each of us needs to be a perfect host. Do your best to help people with directions, information and advice on how they can get the most out of their visit and make them want to come back.

It's time to look back, too, over 2013 to sum up what has been a busy and productive year for District Marketing, our Web presence and our quarterly news publication, Westunes.

Public Website

Websites have been created by Webmaster David Melville for the five Divisions in the District, an online shop and Westunes, in addition to the district's own website. The new parent site, farwesterndistrict.org, has had close to 100,000 visitors since mid-March.

Online Store

Our online store was launched early this year, and for its inaugural run it was used for registration for Harmony College West. From an e-Commerce standpoint it worked quite well.

Subsequently, we used the store to provide online registration for this fall's Leadership Academies.

Private Website (Members Only)

The site (a work in progress), will be found at members.farwesterndistrict.org when it is completed. We lost the capability to send bulk e-mail messages to all District members and subgroups at mid-year. However, we now have an interim solution in place, using a subscriber service called Constant Contact. Getting Members Only completed, particularly the massed e-mail component, remains a No. 1 priority.

Westunes changes

Editor Ray Rhymer answered concerns of members who were not comfortable with the new Westunes Web format (with a printed edition no longer mailed to members), and he created a PDF version that members can read online like a magazine and that also can be added to the magazine's online archived issues that go back to 2002.

Several informal surveys also indicated that many members were not aware when a new issue of Westunes was available and that many others did not read it in the new Web format. Establishment of the PDF format as noted above should help with the latter problem.

The District also has regained the ability to notify all members of important matters through the use of Constant Contact, including notices that Westunes is available for reading, as was done for the first time with this issue. Ray and Westunes contributors work hard to provide information about the District and its

activities and we hope that these changes will make it easier for all of our members to keep well informed throughout the coming year.



Mem Serv Jack Peters

As outgoing FWD Membership Chairman, let me say thank you to all who gave me the opportunity to serve, assist, and meet so many great passionate barbershoppers all around our great district and the entire BHS.

With some of the concepts and ideas we generated and activated together, we've been able to motivate more of our existing members to see the value of growth and welcome many new members into our brotherhood over my three (3) years of service. Continue the effort to make sure the "Whole World" will sing more.

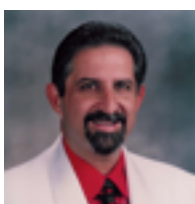
I'm handing off the Membership Chairman reigns to a very, very, passionate 40+ year barbershopper who has tons of experience and ideas to share with all who will take advantage of his expertise.

Thanks again for a great three years --- now, heeere's Shelly!

Hi, I'm Shelly Albaum. I started barbershopping when I was 14 years old, back in the 1970s. My quartet "Pacifica" won the Far Western District championship in 1982. So I'm a dyed-in-the-wool barbershopper with a strong sense of where we have been, and what we can be.

With the help of my colleagues in Santa Rosa, we saw the Redwood Chordsmen double in size, and we added 10 points to our contest scores, in less than two years. *And we had fun doing it!*

Here's the truth: Chapter meetings are way more fun when 40 or 50 guys show up than when 15 or 20 guys show up. I am eager in 2014 to work with chapter Membership VPs throughout the Far Western District, help smaller chapters have more members and also more fun. Let's talk!



Mu&P Nick Papageorge

2013 - A GREAT YEAR FOR FWD MUSIC & PERFORMANCE

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, The Newfangled Four! They are full of fun and energy. (They remind me of a certain quartet back in 1977 who were full of energy at 25 years old who won the District Quartet Contest....) Also congratulations to our "new" Far Western District Chorus Champions, The Masters of Harmony, and good luck at International. Finally, to all of the competitors, the entire district celebrates with you in your outstanding performances and efforts. It is very rewarding to see the efforts that each quartet and chorus puts into their "music and performance." In the FWD, we remain the envy of the society in regard to our musicality!

Cal Sate University East Bay in Hayward, CA. was certainly HOT this past August, but it wasn't just the weather. The campus was STEAMING with BARBERSHOP MUSIC during the weekend of August 9-11. The cafeteria was filled with Tags and Songs all weekend long as students were taught the essence of our hobby during a fun-filled two days.

As always, there were classes in arranging, vocal techniques, and directing and comedy. Our quartets were coached by many of our District's finest coaches, all of them learning a great deal about singing and ringing chords, and how to enhance their presentation. The classroom students gained knowledge that will help them become better singers and enjoy their hobby more. But more importantly, their chapters will be rewarded by the vast knowledge those students gained at the school and bring back to the chapter. Make sure you attend next year's school!

And of course I am sure that all of the students at the school wish to once again thank the faculty:

Dr. Greg Lyne, Justin Miller, President Russ Young, Brett Littlefield, John Minsker, Brian Philbin, Melany Huston, Craig Ewing, Ray Rhymer, Sam Papageorge, and Paul Engle. I know that I do!

Lastly, it has been a great three weeks at our FWD Leadership Academies in Phoenix, Pico Rivera, and Sacramento. I am always pleased to facilitate Music and Performance roundtables with each of our Chapters' Music and Performance Vice Presidents. We discuss what our district offers in regard to Music and Performance programs, as well as how to improve our chapters musically.

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.

As always it is an honor for me to serve our District in the area of Music and Performance!

American Pastime

www.apquartet.com



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Graham Pence
Tom Moore

grahampence@gmail.com

Scott Kidder
Joe D'Amore

Card



QA Bill Kane

FWD Harmony Platoon Goes "International"

Nearly 80 quartet singers from all across the country are now preparing for the first Harmony Platoon to be held at an International convention. A healthy contingent of men from FWD chapters will be joined at the Midwinter convention in Long Beach next January by guys from Colorado, Washington, Montana, Michigan, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Alaska and Canada. Anyone attending the convention can join the audience for the Platoon contests, which are planned to be held at the headquarters hotel. You can also catch the Platoon guys performing on the Queen Mary Thursday night at the AISQC room (the Wedding Chapel). Judges for the Platoon contests will be 139th Street Quartet, and I'll bet we can even get them to sing one on our Show of Champs.

The first Harmony Platoon held outside FWD was in the Evergreen District the weekend following our FWD convention in Bakersfield. There were over 70

men attending. About that same number enjoyed the Platoon quartet fun at Bakersfield, with a combination winning the championship from four different chapters: Bay Area, Palo Alto-Mountain View, Ventura/Rincon Beach and CA Delta.



2013 FWD Fall Convention Platoon Champs

(L to R) Tenor David Weatherford, Palo Alto-Mountain View; Bass Bill Winfield, Ventura/Rincon Beach; Lead Mark Bain, CA Delta; Bari Chris Phoenix, Bay Area

Keep an eye out for announcement of future Platoons on our website: HarmonyPlatoon.org.



YIH Jim Halvorson

What a great year it has been for the FWD with Youth in Harmony. This summer we saw our very own Newfangled Four take home the gold in the International College Quartet contest, only to follow that up as your new Far Western District Champs in Bakersfield. That is a pretty exciting accomplishment and a rousing endorsement for our chapters of the power that youth can play in your chapter.

We also had another amazing NorCal Youth Harmony Camp in September hosted by the Amazing Richard Lund. With four great clinicians and the 2010 champions, Storm Front, the students were treated to a great weekend of harmony, education and socializing. If you haven't sent your local students to this camp, now is the time to start planning for next year. This is a "must do" event for any young man you know who has been bitten by the barbershop bug.

Our next year proves to be another great year for Youth in Harmony. This year the BHS Midwinter convention will be held in Long Beach, CA at the end



in on this experience. You will get to hear the current year top five medalists, the senior quartet contest and the Youth Chorus Festival. There will be 20 choruses from across the country and at least three choruses representing the mighty FWD. This is a great opportunity to see what our future holds and show them that barbershop is a "Lifetime" hobby.

In February, the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) will hold its regional convention in Santa Barbara, CA and will feature a performance by our very own Westminster Chorus! This chorus continues to blow audiences away and truly lives up to the idea that O.C Cash lived by, that this group of men can sing any style of choral music as good, if not better, than any other men's chorus out there. Their performance will certainly be something to be remembered.

As the spring of 2014 comes into view, we will also have numerous YiH day camps that will be held in Arizona and California. Make sure you are working with your schools to send men to these events to give them a taste of the barbershop sound. And last but not least, start working with your High Schools now to plan to send a quartet to the HS quartet contest this spring. This is always a great event and I have never met a young man who went through this weekend that didn't want to come back the next year. This is a great opportunity and you should encourage it.

Have a happy and safe new year!

FWD Sunshine Chairman Les Cudworth

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2013 FWD Quartet Champions

The Newfangled Four

Joey, Jackson, Jake, Ryan

DREAMS DO COME TRUE

2013 was apparently a good year for The Newfangled Four; from coming out of nowhere to becoming Southeast Division Quartet Champions, to becoming International Collegiate Quartet Champions, and to recently becoming your new Far Western District Quartet Champions, we have one heck of a track record going for us! Our reoccurring dream is to go four-for-four in Vegas and walk away International Quartet Champions...but the likelihood of that happening seems a little slim. Four college kids can dream, however! And dreaming has definitely gotten this quartet quite far in the past year. For those who are still unfamiliar with these four crazy kids, allow me to introduce ourselves going further:

Let's start with arguably the most recognizable and accomplished of the quartet, our tenor Joey Buss! Joey started singing barbershop as a freshman in high school, when he was put into a quartet singing lead with three upperclassmen. From there, he attended the MOH Young Men in Harmony camp in 2005 where he was introduced to OC Times, who later invited him to join the Westminster Chorus and eventually the Masters of Harmony. From there, Joey sang in a number of quartets including "The Vagrants," which went on to win the International Collegiate Quartet Contest in 2009 singing tenor, and placed third in the district contest that same year. Joey also sings tenor in Tenacious Q, which placed 3rd in 2010 and 2nd in 2011 and 2012 at the Far Western District quartet contest, and won the "Lloyd Steinkamp Standing O Award" all three years they competed. Joey has given a lot of time and effort back into the Youth in Harmony movement, singing at several festivals and workshops around the country, and is the founder and director of the Boom Town Chorus, which is registered to participate in the

International Youth Chorus Festival in 2014 in Long Beach, which the other three of us help lead. Joey is studying Computer Engineering at CSULB and works as a professional vocalist at Six Flags Magic Mountain. Apparently he's also single...not sure how important that's going to be later. But one can dream!

Then there's my bass, and fellow roommate, Jake Tickner! Jake grew up in northern California in the small waterfront town of Discovery Bay. His love for this hobby came in the beginning of his sophomore year of high school, when he became the bass in the school's barbershop quartet. Little did he know it'd lead him here with the three biggest losers in the world! Now in his fourth year as a Vocal Performance major at CSULB, he sings with the chamber choir, the award-winning vocal jazz group "Pacific Standard Time," and has served as one of the bass section leaders in the Westminster Chorus. He has also had the distinct honor of winning his first chorus gold with the Masters of Harmony back in Kansas City in 2011, and only a couple of months ago, became an International Collegiate Quartet Champion, a great day that still remains vivid in his memory. He wanted everyone to know that he loves singing with three of his best bros and looks forward to more awesome inspiring fun-time adventures with them. How flattering! Jake and I currently share an apartment in Long Beach, and he enjoys a good movie, harmonizing on a daily basis, and every now and then, a nice trip to the In-N-Out. He is also single.

Next I have the pleasure of introducing my favorite lead in the society, my good friend Jackson Niebrugge! Jackson started singing when he was six years old, mostly in children's choirs. He ended up taking a hiatus from it all but wanted to continue making music, so he picked up the trumpet; he is now a Trumpet Performance major at CSULB and has been playing for about eleven years. His love for barbershop began when he met our buddy Jake at school in the fall of 2010. Jake took Jackson to a Masters of Harmony rehearsal, and from then on he was hooked. He ended up joining both the Masters and Westminster in almost no time at all, and shortly after, started singing in a quartet with Joey and Jake called The Harnadillos. Granted they had a different baritone at the time, but that's where I come in! In his free time, Jackson also dabbles in making harmonies and playing some good old-fashioned video games. And just recently, began dating quite the girl! Sorry, ladies.

Last but not least, you have me, baritone Ryan Wisniewski. Originally from San Diego county, my family and I moved out to Las Vegas just in time for me to start middle school. It wasn't until I started singing barbershop as a freshman in high school that I began to realize my clear obsession with this hobby. After graduating high school, I joined my two local chapters, which have since combined to become the Silver Statesmen, a group I'm still happy to call myself a member of. A year later, I moved back down to California to finally live my dream of singing with the Westminster Chorus, and decided it would benefit me to sing with the Masters of Harmony, as well. Through all of it, I starting singing with three guys I had been Facebook stalking for years, and the rest is history! And like my friend Jackson, I am happily taken! And she really likes barbershop, too!

I'm sure I speak for everyone in The Newfangled Four in saying that this has been a really great year. I for one never expected to be writing a Westtunes article as a recent District Champion so soon, and that gold medal I have hanging up in my room is still unreal to see. I am truly blessed to have three of my best friends to sing with on a regular basis, and it's even nicer to have them all within a couple miles of me! I feel that we truly have a gift to give, and it's incredible that we get to represent you all doing what we love! We can't wait for our next performance together, and we all hope you'll look out for us in the years to come; you will not be disappointed! Here's to a great run!

Till next time,

Ryan Wisniewski

Baritone - The Newfangled Four

2013 International Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Champions

2013 Far Western District Quartet Champions

2013 FWD Chorus Champions Masters of Harmony

Masters of Harmony qualify for a 2014 showdown in Las Vegas.

by Ron Larson

One of the major reasons for the success of the **Masters of Harmony** is the cadre of men who have brought their passion for excellence to the chorus since it was founded in 1985.

These men created an organizational model that other chapters look to for guidance. Working within this model, the chapter's "founding fathers" and their successors found directors who helped the MOH achieve world-class status as a chorus.

At the head of the chapter's organizational chart is the chapter president. Since 1985, the Masters of Harmony have had 14 presidents and six of them are still active. In January 2013, **Ron Andreas**, who became the 14th member to hold that office, is uniquely qualified to lead the Masters. In his capacity as a faculty member at the University of La Verne, he teaches leadership classes to masters level students. He has also given seminars based on his manual "Leadership Essentials." With the help of the Music Committee, Ron hit the ground running with a visionary plan designed to lead the Masters to the 2014 International Convention in Las Vegas and beyond. The plan involves quarterly goals with chorus updates on progress being made; helping individual chorus members master the intricacies of our unique art form; and getting the entire chapter membership involved in some aspect of promoting chorus activities. His dynamism meshes perfectly with that of Director **Justin Miller**, and the overall effect on MOH members has been electric, as infectious enthusiasm usually is. Ron's challenge to perform with excellence throughout the year and next year, to Las Vegas and beyond, has been eagerly accepted. Game on!

In July following the Toronto International Convention, the Masters hosted a party honoring Gold Medalist Quartet **Masterpiece**, Collegiate Champion Quartet **The Newfangled Four**, **The Westminster Chorus** for its silver medalist performance, and **The Crush** for a very strong sixth-place finish. 140 singers packed the 11 risers. About 100 of them got to bask in the glow of Masterpiece's Gold by posing for pictures with the gracious champs. The Harmony Sweethearts provided 200 cupcakes for the assemblage. This was not only a tasty way to remember the event but also a chance to honor the memory of Sweetheart member **George Vivieros**, who lost his life in a tragic accident in Toronto before the contest finals. George, the cupcakes, a tradition you started, were absolutely delicious!

In September, the Masters traveled 75 miles to perform for a sold-out audience at the Sun Lakes Country Club in Banning. Judging from the enthusiastic audience response, the Masters more than met the challenge of performing well on a small country club stage. The performance was especially memorable for two people. One was chorus member **David Feiner**, who performed with the Masters on his birthday. David has the unique distinction of being a third generation gold-medal winner. David's grandfather Murray won a gold medal with the Masters, as did David's father, Mark. The other person was **Betty Putnam**, former Mayor of our host city Santa Fe Springs. Betty played an important role in helping the Masters develop a mutually beneficial relationship with the city of Santa Fe Springs. Thanks, Betty, for all you have meant to our chorus!

To enhance the feeling of being part of a very unique family, Ron Andreas instituted a new Masters tradition and brought back an old one. The *new* tradition honors members and their Harmony Sweethearts, as they transition from active to emeritus status. The first recipients were **Lou and Marilyn Tedesco**. Lou had been an active member of the Masters for over 14 years and his wife has been very active in the Harmony Sweethearts. Each was presented with a plaque honoring their years of service. The *old* tradition was a Masters family barbeque, something not done in recent years. The event was titled an "End-of-Summer Barbeque" and it was held at Ron and **Bonney Andreas**' beautiful home overlooking the stunning vistas of the nearby San Gabriel Mountains. With help from **Jim and Sharon Ernsberger**, about 80 guests, ranging from charter members to

recent members, attended the event. Members brought a variety of food for all to enjoy. Throughout the afternoon, plenty of barbershop chords echoed from the nearby hills, some ringing, some not. Ron was so pleased with the event that he plans to hold another the first part of next April.

Continuing his outreach emphasis two days later, Ron and **Joe D'Amore** attended a rehearsal of the University of La Verne's **3rd Street Sound**. La Verne faculty member **Carol Stephenson** directs this ensemble of 20 young men who love to sing barbershop music. Her skill and enthusiasm led our board of directors to help 3rd Street Sound financially as it prepares to compete in Long Beach at the Society's Midwinter Convention. The board awarded the youth chorus \$500 to help with sheet music, learning tracks, and costumes. What a terrific opportunity this is to support the Society's ongoing efforts to engage young singers in our hobby!

In October, the following men were selected by acclamation as the 2014 MOH Board of Directors: President Ron Andreas, Secretary **Maurice Freleaux**, Treasurer **Matt Swann**, VP-Chapter Development **Don Shively**, VP-Marketing **Bill Power**, VP-Music & Performance **Joe D'Amore**, VP-Operations **Tom Christman**, VP-Public Relations **Gary Stone**, and Board Members-at-Large **Amnon Avidor**, **Ryan Collins**, **Jim Ernsberger**, **Rich Owen**, **Don Sevesind**, and **Phil Wolf**. **Bill Rosica** will serve another term as Immediate Past President. These men will be installed at the Annual Awards and Installation Banquet set for Saturday, January 4, 2014 at Khoury's Restaurant in Long Beach.

Also in October, the Masters of Harmony took the next step on their road to Las Vegas by winning the 2013 Far Western District Chorus Championship in Bakersfield over 23 other choruses with scores that averaged 91.4%. Their contest songs included "On The Street Where You Live" and "Stranger In Paradise." That evening in the Show of Champions, the Masters sang a rousing version of "Back In Business" with dynamic choreography developed by **Erin Howden** and polished by Presentation Coordinator **Sean Sherrodd** with help from Masterpiece's bari **Alan Gordon**. The Masters also introduced a new song to the audience entitled "Dedication." The song is a tender, emotionally moving song based on the epitaph Mark Twain had inscribed on the tombstone of his beloved 24-year-old daughter, Olivia Susan Clemens. Numerous comments delivered directly to individual chorus members indicate that the Masters' songs that day touched the hearts of many convention attendees.

On the morning of the contests, Bill Rosica took advantage of a unique opportunity to take barbershop music to the greater Bakersfield area when he accompanied the current Barbershop Society Collegiate champions, The Newfangled Four (**Joey Buss**, **Jackson Niebrugge**, **Ryan Wisiewski** and **Jake Tickner**) to a local radio station. Perhaps expecting a stereotypical barbershop quartet rendition of something like "Sweet Adeline," the radio crew was blown away by the high quality of what the judges and audience would experience later that evening when the young foursome won the District's quartet championship. Two other MOH quartets were top-ten finalists: **Velvet Frogs** (**Les Dergen**, **David Livingston** and Emeritus **C.J. Sams**) took 8th place and **4 Octaves** (**Bill Finlan**) finished tenth.

Throughout that Saturday, Masters of Harmony members competed as dual members with eight other choruses and the following directed four other choruses from the following chapters: Fullerton-**Craig Ewing**, Greater Phoenix-Emeritus **Gary Steinkamp**, Rincon Beach-Emeritus **Kelly Shepard**, and South Orange County-**Martin Fredstrom**. MOH Director **Justin Miller** directed **The Westminster Chorus**'s swan song set as the 2012 FWD Chorus Champion. Several members helped make the convention a smooth running, successful event: Convention Housing Manager and MOH Emeritus **Bob Cathaway**, Contest Administrator **Jim Haggerty**, Judges Services Manager **Don Laursen**, Production Manager **Doug Maddox**, and Afterglow Chairman **Bill Rosica**.

Stay tuned for progress reports on our road to Las Vegas and one of the most eagerly anticipated conventions in Barbershop Harmony Society history!

Since the last edition of *Westunes*, **Jeff Hathaway** and **Ernie Reyes** were welcomed into membership. **Mark Ewing**, **David Feiner**, **Don Shively** and **Rich Stanford** returned as reinstated members.

Last weekend (Aug 23-25, 2013), I and some 75 other barbershop quartetting fanatics got together in Reno at the High Sierra Harmony Brigade to sing our hearts out, visit several high schools to "spread the good word

about the barbershop style” and perform in a show for a highly enthusiastic audience ... oh, and we also held a rather unique quartet competition along the way.

What a weekend of singing! Back in April we each received charts and tracks for eleven songs – that’s right eleven – to learn and be able to sing cleanly and easily right out of the chute with three other guys, picked at random, to make up one of some twenty such randomly selected quartets. Yes, you’d better know your music Really Really well; I mean Really well!! If you don’t, you risk being rejected by your quartet mates (yep, that’s one of the rules of Brigade) and replaced by someone else.

You then make up a name for your quartet. Some of the names are incredibly clever and humorous. You are given one of those eleven songs and a couple hours to prepare for the preliminary competition on Friday night.

95 North made up the judging panel, with an assist from FWD’s own Dave Briner, and Jim Clark our FWD Harmony Foundation representative on *Friday* evening. The top ten quartets from Friday’s competition went on to the final on Saturday, along with a Wild Card quartet made up from a random selection of the guys from the bottom ten quartets – just to add some spice. The Wild Card quartet has occasionally won the Saturday night finals!!

The finals are even more intense and potentially difficult, especially if you don’t know all the songs Really Well. One quartet name at a time is selected to sing; that quartet comes forward and draws the song that they will sing as they go on stage.

If this sounds like your cup of tea, by all means, you should sign up now for next year’s event. It will be held August 22-24, 2014 in Reno. Check out their website: <http://www.highsierrahb.org/>

It is an amazing weekend of singing and more singing! If you have any desire to improve your singing, improve your ear, sing with some Really good singers, and have a ton of fun with barbershop, then you really should consider signing up. It is Not for everyone, though. You really need to contact one of the members - yes, we now have our first class of actual High Sierra Harmony Brigade members. It takes three consecutive years of participation in order to qualify to become a member. And there are now some twenty-eight brand new members of the HSHB!

This is an invitational event; in other words, once you contact a member, he will put his reputation on the line and recommend that you be invited. A list of members can be found on the website under the roster tab. If you don’t know any of these gents there is still a path for application for you on the website.

It is now Monday morning, and I am finally starting to recover from the Wonderful Weekend! I am already looking forward to next year!!



Division 1 SW Chapters

Ken Day, Editor

Aloha Chapter

by Jack Hashimoto

Beloved member **Robert "Bob" Sypowicz** died recently and his funeral was held on October 17 at the Sacred Heart Church in Honolulu. The chorus had the honor of singing at the funeral and certain of our members led singing and other parts of the ceremony. Bob was the very heart of the business end of our chorus, leading in fund raising, principally through Foodland Super Market's annual gift matching program and Chairman of Friends of Four Part Harmony. He was three-time president of the Chapter and named Barbershopper of the Decade for the years 2001 to 2010. He also was our principal pitch pipe blower for many years, after joining the chapter in 1992. He leaves wife Shelly, son Russell (Angela) and grandson Noah.

Thanks to **Don Raymond** who served as our coordinator for our participation in the funeral.

At our recent elections for board of directors for the year 2014 the following were elected: President - **Jordan Wong**, IPP - **Rick Klemm**, Secretary - **Dan Tom**, Treasurer - **Glenn Crowder**, VP Music & Performance - **Mike Darcey**, VP Membership - **Rob Hartley**, VP Program - **Bryce Irvine**, VP Public Relations - **Hank Drayton**, Directors At Large - **Brian Oberholtzer**, **Larry Paterson**, **Bill Joor**, **Tom Hutton**.

BOTM for this quarter were: July - **Tim Hopkins**, August - **Phil Wee** and September - **Stu Kimura**.

Pasadena Chapter

by Bill Cauley

After all of the extra work and coaching, we returned from Bakersfield elated by our performance and proud of earning the Plateau A championship. Every attempt will be made to solidify the lessons learned from the judge's evaluations.

Our chapter officers for the coming year are: President - **Bill Cauley**, Secretary - **José Ochoa**, Treasurer - **Walter Tang**, VP Music & Performance - **Jonathan Hinckley**, VP Operations - **Leonard Jensen**, VP Marketing & Public Relations - **Steve Swinney**, VP Membership (interim) - **Bill Cauley**, and three Board Members-at-Large - **Michael Alexander**, **Gene Naducy**, **Zachary Armstrong**.

We are preparing for our annual Christmas Show, this year at First Church of the Nazarene in Pasadena. And we'll be doing phone Christmas carols this year.

Rincon Beach Chapter

By Ken Day

We worked very hard all through the summer preparing for our annual dinner show on September 21st. In keeping with the 75th Anniversary theme of the BHS, it was entitled "*Hooray for Harmony*". Our creative genius was **Garth Ratliff**, who wrote the script. **Brent Anderson** added ideas and worked as MC, as well as singing with the chorus. **Bob Schilken** lined up the use

of the named *Many Meals* to handle the catering and serving. He also managed to borrow extensive amounts of sound and lighting equipment from friends. Garth found actors that belong to a group called *Comedy Tonight Productions* who supplied both onstage parts and a stage manager.

Additional talent was provided by a quartet from the chapter named **Priority Male** [**Bill Chase**, **Jim Browne**, **Jim Rodriguez**, **Bill Crome**]. A group called **Fusion** from both our chorus and the *Channelaire SAI Chorus* sang with members **Brent Anderson**, **Michael Marion**, **Bernie Sentianin**, **Jim Serdahely**, **Michael Van Schoonhoven**, **Linda Ragsdale**, **Bobbette Gantz**, **Tammy Ragsdale**, and **Banks Staples Pecht**. Also performing was a new Sweet Adeline quartet called **Anticipation** from the Sacramento area with [**Kim Eckert**, **Nikki Gloudeman**, **Cheri Jump**, **Courtney Anderson** (daughter of Brent)].

A "*VLQ*" [**Jay Pryor**, **Walt Rugh**, **Bernie Sentianin**, **Jim Browne**, **Jim Rodriguez**, **Michael Murphy**, **Jim Serdahely**, **Bill Crome**] performed for the volunteers at Leisure Village in Camarillo. **Quartet Du Jour** [**Art Taylor**, **Bernie Sentianin**, **Doug Van Bogelen**, **Brent Anderson**] sang a Senior Home event in Santa Barbara. A "*VLQ*" [**Art Taylor**, **Bill Chase**, **Jim Browne**, **Bernie Sentianin**, **Doug Van Bogelen**, **Michael Murphy**, **Brent Burningham**, **Bruce Hunter**, **Brent Anderson**] sang at the "*Variety Unlimited*" show in Santa Barbara.

We competed at the FWD Fall Convention and Contest in Bakersfield and finished 9th out of 21 competitors.

San Fernando Valley Chapter

By Tim Singer

The **San Fernando Valley Chapter** is now officially the **Valley Harmony Singers**, with a new logo and a new slate of officers, led by President-elect **Mark Wolf**. We have settled in to our new digs at First Presbyterian Church of Encino, 4963 Balboa Blvd and we invite one and all to come pay a visit.

VHS's good friend **Bernard Priceman** visited as did the **Santa Clarita Chapter**. We had an impromptu, mixed, quartet tag contest, with the winning quartet receiving lollipops—sweet. Each chorus also sang for the other, and we ended the evening joining on some old favorites. It was a fun and memorable evening we hope to repeat.

Rene Rivas, our incoming Chapter Development VP, recently set us up online with *Meetup*, a website designed to help groups of people with shared interests meet up offline.

We are getting ready for a holiday show, "*'Twas The Night Before*," which will be staged at our new venue.

San Luis Obispo Chapter

by Pete Bennett

Chapter quartets **Outta Bounds** and **Treble Makers** performed on our sister SAI chapter Central Coast Celebration' show "*Jungle Fever*" in August. The ladies' costumes were incredible, but **Don Poole** stole the show with his "native" outfit.

We're growing! The SLO chapter welcomes new members **John Osumi, Sam Polk and Pete Sarafian.**

A reminder for any barbershoppers who might be visiting the Central Coast on a Monday night and need a dose of barbershop; our new meeting place is the **United Church of Christ** at 11245 Los Osos Valley Road, adjacent to the Laguna Lake Golf Course.

Santa Barbara
by Eric Fenrich

The Channel City Chorus sang on the FWD contest stage for the first time in who-knows-how-long. Singing "*Walkin' My Baby Back Home*" and "*Cecelia*", the CCC finished 22nd with an average score of 59.1. The CCC qualified for the District contest last May after a seven-year absence from the competition circuit. For more than half of our contest performers, it was their first time on the District stage. In September, about 15 members from our neighbor to the north - the **Central Coast Chordsman** from Santa Maria - paid us a surprise visit. They practiced our contest songs with us before we spent the evening singing songs common to each repertoire, and, of course, quarteting! We will return the favor, joining them December 10 for their Christmas Show. CCC is preparing for the upcoming holiday season when it will perform throughout the Santa Barbara area as the Holiday Harmony Chorus.

We welcome new member **Jomel Sodusta** to our Lead section.

Santa Monica
by Marty Mitnick

An important part of chorus membership is the availability to sing in a quartet. **The Oceanaires** are building quartets as each month goes by. The most recent performance was by **Overland Avenue** [**Aaron Mood, Jack Walton, Frank Giffen, John White**] as Headliners at "Boulevard Music's Open Mike Night. **Sea Breeze** [**Aaron Mood, Ben Lowe, Alan Hanson, Vance Heron**] sang at the Sweet and Hot Unfestival.

Our annual Ice Cream Social presented at Palisades Lutheran Church was a sell-out. **Ken Scholtz** was ticket chairman. The management and preparation was orchestrated by **Katie Boeck** (wife of member **Tim Boeck**) and **Jack Fry**. Katie & Jack were both presented with BOTM awards. A special thank you to all of our **S.O.S.** (Support Our Singers) members (wives and friends of the **Oceanaires**), who participated in this event.

A special Saturday all-day rehearsal, plus an evening follow-up rehearsal were held under the direction of guest coach **Paul Ellison**, who taught the concept of "Wave-Box Singing". A fun evening of dancing with Cha-Cha lessons was presented by member **Ken Scholtz** and his wife **Marion**.

BOTM for July was **Gregor Christofaro** - for September we acknowledged both **Bob Herron** and **John White**.

Welcome to the newest members of **The Oceanaires**: **Adrian Berliner** and **Steven Merritt**.

Whittier Chapter
By Paul Feinzimer

"We have good news and bad news. First the good news:

We sang at the First Friends Church as guests of "*New Century Singers, Whittier*", a women's chorus also directed by our Director **Judy Kertes**. This was the Fall Show of the *New Century Singers* entitled "*A Portrait of Music*." The audience loved it and we had a great time singing. Helping us were **Steve Peacock** of the Pasadena Chapter and **Ray Mitchem**, a former **Choralaires** member. We owe a great debt of gratitude to Ray and Steve. An afterglow at 3 Alarm Pizza followed. The other customers there appeared to love the singing!

And now for the not such great news:

The **Whittier Choralaires** need your help. A chapter with a long and honorable history, we have suffered attrition of our aging membership to the point that our continued existence is in serious doubt. We have only six active members and our Director. If you are a past member of the **Choralaires** or are any BHS member who is willing and able to sing, please help to keep our chapter alive. If you are no longer a member, please rejoin. If you are a member of another chapter, please consider becoming a dual member.

Any past **Choralaires** member, or any interested BHS member from another chapter can help keep our chapter going by becoming a new or dual member of **Choralaires**. Dual membership is not expensive. Dual members would still be part of their current chapter(s). Both new and dual members could help rebuild our chapter with their presence and financial support.

Division 2 SE Chapters
Dale Vaughn, Editor

Brea Chapter
By Mark Stokes



As summer came to a close, we celebrated our first cabaret show at the Hacienda Golf Club in Hacienda Heights. It was a sell-out and a great show.

We held our annual chapter bar-be-q and finished another successful contest in Bakersfield, finishing in 6th place with our highest ever scores in a district competition. We were the most improved chorus and AA champion.

We elected our 2014 officers and added several first-time board members. Congratulations to **Ken Briggs** as our 2014 president elect.

We are preparing to host the 2014 division contest next March in Riverside CA. This will be a combined SE/SW and international prelim competition. It is our first opportunity to be the host chapter and the whole chorus is getting involved in the project.

All in all it's been another great year for the **Gaslight Chorus**. Visit us at: www.gaslightchorus.org.

Coachella Valley Chapter

By Stan Gile

We are welcoming back our many snowbirds as they leave the soon-to-be-colder climates to bring their voices (and their money) to the Palm Desert area. We are very thankful for both. We welcome new member **Sam Moyle** to our group. Director **Dick Reed** is in the process of giving out our new music for the year.

The **Faultline Quartet** [**Mike Esteem, Dick Reed, Stan Gile, Blaine Mac**] sang at the Palm Desert Chamber of Commerce Expo, and our whole chorus was part of the Bakersfield Platoon competition.

On a sad note, our chapter and all of Barbershop lost a great arranger and mentor with the passing of **Ruby Rhea**, wife of our Bass, **Milt Rhea**. Ruby arranged hundreds of songs for some of the leading quartets of Barbershop. The **Hummbugs** [**Fred Anderson, Dave Hawks, Corbett Benson, Stan Gile**] had the privilege of singing her arrangement of “*Unforgettable*” at her Memorial Service. It was a fitting tribute to a great lady.

Visit us at: www.cvbarbershop.org.

El Cajon Chapter

By Bill Soukup

The **El Cajon Music Masters Chapter** just lived through another quarter of good and sad times. The good times were the enthusiastic welcomes and warmhearted applause from our friends at the assisted living facilities where we continue to perform. Our appearance at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Coronado, however, was a mixture of the good and the sad -- we responded to the request of **Bob Harshberger's** widow.

Bob was a graduate of the Navy Academy, a retired Navy Commander, an enthusiastic, and active barbershopper, and a very productive member of the Music Masters for over 16 years. At one time a lead, and subsequently an excellent baritone, at various times he served as Secretary-Treasurer, Program Manager, and Vice President. Being an officer there, he arranged for our annual sing-outs at the popular Coronado Flower Show. All in all he was a loyal and accomplished barbershopper and a very good friend.

Knowing his affection for barbershop music, his wife asked us to sing at his funeral. We were certainly happy to sing our goodbye to Bob – it was both good and sad to do so.

Our exceptional tenor **Gary Matthews** again attended the Harmony University about which he says “everybody should go at least once.” He also attended the BQPA (Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association) meeting.

Visit us at: www.ecmusicmasters.com.

Fullerton Chapter

By Don Derler

So what were the O.E.C. funsters up to recently? Well, another chapter party of course. This “brotherly bash” was on Saturday August 17, and held at spacious Craig park in Brea... a picnic! This joyful event was organized by our #1 chapter hustler **Mac McDougall** in conjunction with **Don Derler** and **Pete Saputo**. We invited all of the local chapters,

neighbors, friends, and relatives to share the fun with us (and our sweet Orange Blossoms).

The Festivities began with Friends (visiting), Food, (thanks Orange blossoms) and Frivolity. “Mike” **McDougall** on the “Mike” served as chief host and masterful MC. Between noon and 5:00 p.m. we had the big meal, entertainment by assorted quartets, a bean bag toss game, a water balloon catching (soaking) game, a Frisbee golf game, and a “Luck of the Draw” picnic pickup quartet contest.

And we had surprises: Winning the prize for traveling the farthest to attend our picnic was **Andrew Coward**, former chapter member and resident of HONG KONG CHINA! Another welcome surprise was the appearance of **Brian Young** and **Edward Fajardo** and their reunion with **Stan Tinkle** and **Dick Cote** as their old “*Mosaic*” quartet.

About 200 attended. Chief chapter barbecue boy, **Don Derler**, assisted by **Pete Saputo, Mike Evans, Jim Gruver** and **Art Iniguez** got right to the meat of the party by grilling up the burgers and weenies, and working their buns off (pun). Then we had the Picnic Pickup (Sing with the chumps) quartet contest. We had guys from So Bay, So County, Whittier, Inland Cities, Brea, Santa Fe Springs, and Orange chapters helping to form 15 quartets. Garnering 2nd place silver medalist status was **Craig Ewing, Hershel Green, Woody Woodson, and Dick Cote**. Our picnic pickup champs were **Final 4** [**Mark Ewing, Steve Hansen, Brian Young, Don Derler**].

We're grateful and indebted to **Mac (frugal) Mc Dougall**, (planning, shopping, wrist bands, sign painting, MC, etc.), **Don Derler**, on the grill, on the stage, in the games, and lots of ideas!...and AS ALWAYS, our chapter “workhorse”, **Pete Saputo** and “workmare” wife **Elaine**. Elaine was all over the buffet and assisting non-stop Pete in all the chores he'd taken on, like: Hauling (EVERYTHING) uphill to our (and he helped pick it out) beautiful spot, setting up the stage, announcements, grilling, food service, signs, information...AND probably doing most of the cleaning up and hauling away!

With people like this we know that we'll continue to be a gang that will always be number FUN, whether we like it or not...AND WEDO!

Visit us at: www.oechoorus.org.

La Jolla Chapter

By Dale Vaughn

Special thanks to those hard-working **Pacific Coast Harmony** volunteers who have tackled several San Diego Chargers games working concession stands and earning us much-needed funds for the chorus treasury.

The chorus enjoyed our annual weekend retreat and welcomed coach extraordinaire **Marty Lovick** down from Vancouver, BC. We welcomed a visit from **K.J. McAleesejergens** of the Harmony Foundation to our Tuesday night rehearsal and after hearing his motivational presentation, we can now proudly boast a considerably higher percentage of member support to the Foundation.

The FWD contest in Bakersfield resulted in a fifth place finish. We are very proud of our two competing Chapter quartets **Behind the Barn** and **Preferred Blend**. We had six members participate in the Harmony Platoon program. This is growing and becoming more popular with each event!

The following were elected to serve on the Board for the 2014 term: IPP **Jerry Kent**; President **Lou Benedict**; VP Chapter Development **Michael Bauer**; VP Marketing & PR **Craig Monsell**; VP Music & Performance **Mark Whelan**; VP Membership **Bryan Thompson**; Secretary **Dale Vaughn**; Treasurer **Jim Schumacher**; Members at Large **Mike French**, **Pete Hensley**, **Jim Watt**.

We finished the quarter with a rousing Oktoberfest BBQ fundraiser for Gethsemane Lutheran Church. The chorus was joined by chapter quartets **Behind the Barn** and **Added Attraction** as well as three pickup quartets.

Happy to welcome new member **Daniel Leonhart**, Tenor onto our risers!

Visit us at: www.pacificcoastharmony.org.

Las Vegas Chapter
By Larry Litchfield

OUR FIRST DISTRICT CONTEST! *Wow!* Under the direction of **Jim Halvorson**, 41 **Silver Statesmen**, many with spouses, wound up in Kern County, CA for an exciting three-day experience at the FWD Convention and Contest in Bakersfield, CA. It's safe to say, as the *newest* Chapter in the District (if not the entire Society), that we "did good"...*really* good: finishing in 8th place with a final score of 71.4 in a field of 24 highly-competitive choruses!

FROM OUR DIRECTOR – "I am proud of the accomplishments we have made in the short time we have had together. The judges' comments proved that we are on the right path and the audiences are continuing to respond positively to our efforts. I look forward to our continued bonding and growth as we seek to find and please new audiences." – **Jim Halvorson**

CHOREOGRAPHY COACH! A very special Silver Statesmen *thank you* goes to **Westminster Chorus** member **James Halvorson** (son of SS member **Larry Halvorson**) for his skillful and very helpful planning and coaching of the lively choreographic routine accompanying our contest up-tune.

OUR COMMUNITYWIDE SHOWS CONTINUE! In the wake of the new Silver Statesmen Chorus' two highly successful community debut summer shows, we had yet another show at the *Desert Spring United Methodist Church*. The following quartets appeared at all three performances: *Rumbleseat Daze* [**John Lenox**, **Roger Andersen**, **Bud Adler**, **Dick Morrison**]; *Broadcast* [**Albert Weiss**/**Roger Buehrer**, **Rick Ives**, **John Waugh**, **Dave Kennedy**]; *Good Times!* [**Mike Connor**, **Dave Pruszka**, **Dean Hunt**, **Greg Dreyer**]; *A Capocalypse* [**Dallas Halvorson**, **Collin Salmon**, **Isaac Salmon**, **Brandon McNabb**]; *Tonality* (from the Celebrity City Chorus of Sweet Adelines) [**Colleen McCormick**, **Joanne Ianacone**, **Vicky Tomacino**, **Donna Mininger**].

LEADERSHIP COMMENTARY: "The fall convention is history and it's time to evaluate our weekend. In short, AWESOME! The Silver Statesmen are doing what we set out to do and that clearly is a definition of success. In our mission statement we talk about having a path of progress and our performance in Bakersfield shows that we are on that path. Even though we did not win the contest, I feel we are the biggest winners. Each man was able to walk away from the weekend with pride in themselves and the chorus. We all did great and as a result we were part of the re-establishment of a solid future of barbershop in the Las Vegas Valley." – **Larry Halvorson**, *Lead Section Leader*

SILVER KNIGHTS QUARTET REALIGNMENT: Veteran barbershopper and new chapter member **Ernie Krausman** has joined the foursome as bari. The other three are founding members **Warren Hettinga**, **John Mininger** and **Chuck Wines** (now the bass). These gentlemen have 167 collective years singing barbershop and a combined age of 265 years and are a past FWD Division senior champion.

NEW BOARD: Chapter officers for 2014 are: President **Steve Salmon**; Treasurer **Wes White**; Secretary **Ivan Lambert**; VP-Music **Albert Weiss**; VP-Membership **Dennis Johnson**; VP Marketing & PR **Fred Green**; VP Programs **Brian Sellnow**; Chorus Manager **Randy Preston**; Member-at-Large **Dave Pruszka**; Member-at-Large **Bill Lusk**; and Immediate Past Presidents, **Larry Litchfield** and **Martin Judd**.

95 NORTH! Our Chapter's Immediate Past FWD Champion quartet performed in the Friday night Late Show with three other past champions -- **Artistic License** (2011), **Masterpiece** (2008) also (current 2013 International Champions), and **Musician's Choice** (1988).

A BUDDING WRITER! Bari **Brian Sellnow** had his clever *terminology* bylined article "pilfered" from **Fred Green's** outstanding *Nugget* newsletter by the Johnnycake Ridge Singers Chorus (Ohio) newsletter. Congrats on the theft, Brian...and your new mid-America notoriety!

NEW MEMBERS: **Xavier Pierce**, **John Peck**, **Ron Chick**, and **Don Salz**. Welcome aboard, gentlemen! This brings our total chorus headcount to 85

Visit us at: www.gambleaires.com.

Orange Quartet Chapter
By Mark Sheldon

Visit us at: www.harmonize.com/orange.

Palomar Pacific Chapter
By Keith Bogost and Patrick Fairchild

The **Music Men** performed at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Oceanside to an enthusiastic audience.

We accept with grace the retirement of our oldest active member/singer **Bob Swearingen**. Robert is a WW2 vet who started singing BS in 1984 back home in Tennessee. Later, he joined The Music Men at age 69 and has been an active and valued member ever since. Bob has served on the Pal-Pac Board in multiple capacities, has organized the Valentine's Day quartet

fundraisers, and has three Men of Note. He says that some of his most enjoyable experiences have come from his association with Barbershop Singing. At age 93, Bob says he is not sung out, but could use a rest.

Our Elected Board for 2014 is: President **Bill Scofield**; IPP **Norm Shute**; Secretary and Music & Performance VP **Al Leuthe**; Program VP **Roger Hufferd**; Chapter Development VP **John Swanson**; Youth in Harmony VP **Paul Bloom**; Treasurer for Life **Chuck Youde**; Members-at-Large **Joe Quince**, **Richard Kellam** & **Patrick Fairchild**.

Visit us at: www.musicmenchorus.org.

Riverside Chapter
By Gaylord Spence

The Riverside Chapter's **New Gang on The Corner** Chorus is pleased with its progress in melding its strengths with the talents of its new director, **Carl Buntin**. A significant number of our members also signed up for the November 16 Leadership Academy in Pico Rivera, including our director, to focus on what we can do to get to the next level.

We elected a new interim president for our chapter, **David Center**, who will continue in 2014. We now believe that we have all of the right people in the correct positions to make positive strides towards our goals in the coming year.

We are proud to announce that we have been asked to take an active part in the **Inland Empire Sweet Adeline's** Christmas Show in Riverside and will be hosting two performances of our own as well.

Visit us at: www.newgangchorus.org.

San Diego Chapter
By Ducrot Pepys

Our Fall Show, **Together in Harmony!**, was a smashing **Sun Harbor Chorus** success with the support of **The Pacific Suns** youth barbershop chorus, **Night & Day** mixed quartet, **Tuesday Night Alibi**, **Cloud Nine**, and **Behind the Barn**. We were able to raise money for **The Pacific Suns** and gave San Diegans quality Barbershop entertainment in the historic Casa del Prado Theater.

The Chorus and **Behind the Barn** competed in the FWD Contests. The Chorus did well and got many positive comments and "things to work on". **Kathleen Hansen** had us well prepared. **Behind the Barn** performed well considering that they were on their third Tenor in less than a month. Tenor #1 - La Jolla's **Jude Thomas** moved to New York, and Tenor #2 - San Diego's **Dave Garstang** had emergency surgery (he's recovering very nicely), leaving Tenor #3 - La Jolla's **Preston Kingsley** to join Lead - La Jolla's **Dave Pfizenmeier**, Baritone - La Jolla's **Mark Whelan**, and Bass - San Diego's **Neal Palmer** to sing for score only. Whew!

Louis Regas will repeat as 2014 President and is already establishing goals and challenges for the New Year.

San Diego is proud to welcome our newest member - **David Barsky**. David competes with **Eric Jones** on the Senior Track circuit and Eric recruited him on the drive to a meet. He is a great addition to the Chorus. San Diego is a mecca for visitors. Please visit if you are in town on a Tuesday.

Visit us at: www.sunharbor.org.

Temecula Chapter
By Bo Josephson

The **Wine Valley Harmonizers** are greatly enjoying the expertise and enthusiasm new Director **Mr. Sang Park** is bringing to the chorus. A graduate of CSU Fullerton in Music Education and a past member of the Orange County Empire Chorus Chapter, Sang has directed choirs at the Chaparral and Great Oak High Schools in Temecula for several years and is well known in the Temecula area. Several of his current and former choir students have accepted his invitations to visit Harmonizers' rehearsals, and it's been a blast to welcome these young men and blend their voices with ours--we can see the future of the Society in their expressions as they ring those chords for the first time. Our attendance, singing quality, and aspirations are all definitely UP!

FYI to barbershoppers who would like to visit and see how the new order 'ringeth': our Wednesday night rehearsal venue has undergone a change of management and is now called "Atria Vintage Hills" rather than "The Sterling at Vintage Hills." Come by and see us--the fellowship is awesome, the director is superb, and refreshments are served faithfully at 8:30pm!

Visit us at: www.TemeculaChorus.org.

Division 3 NW Chapters
John Heather, Editor



Monterey
Sam Kier

The Monterey Chapter is still showing strong signs of life despite its unsuccessful year-long search for a chorus director. **Bruce Bloxom**, the chapter's former VP for Music and Performance, has been developing a weekly program plan that he and several other chorus members implement on Tuesday evenings. Rehearsals are devoted to keeping the chorus repertoire in good shape and preparing for scheduled public performances that are booked for the Christmas holidays.

Visit us at www.cypressaires.org.

Palo Alto/Mountain View
By David Weatherford

The Peninsulaires sang *The Star-Spangled Banner* and *God Bless America* at a San Jose Giants playoff game before a near-capacity crowd at the San Jose Municipal Stadium. Although The Giants lost the game, everyone enjoyed singing for a very enthusiastic crowd.

The Singers' Voice Clinic welcomed over 50 men and women from the community with six weeks of vocal training in September and October. Several of the male attendees have expressed interest in auditioning for the chorus, and some of the ladies were referred to our sister organization, Sweet Adelines International.

In the Harmony Platoon contest held during the District Convention in Bakersfield, one of our chorus members (yours truly) sang tenor in the winning quartet, "**Tonal Recall**," along with **Mark Bain** of VoCal (lead), **Bill Winfield** of Ventura (bass), and **Chris Phoenix** from Bay Area (bari). What a great way to start the convention! **CONSTELLATION** made a strong showing in the District quartet contest. Congratulations to **Mark Torrence**, **Bill McCain**, **Jordan Johnson**, and **Allen Takahashi**. And the chorus did well, too, finishing several places above our expected ranking.

Visit us at www.barbershop-harmony.org.

San Mateo

By Thomas Addison

Our second show of the season was a resounding success! The Halloween Cabaret where we welcome costumed guests, serve drinks and dinner and follow with a rousing barbershop show took place again at Mater Dolorosa Church in South San Francisco. Songs featured were our Blues and Gospel set, with selections by Chapter quartet **Sound Judgment**.

The Chapter welcomed three new members. **Matheiu** and **Pete Mills** are our first father and son team in a long time. **Ron Dugrenier** joined **Dean Stocker** in the tenor section. We are now in need of additional basses as section leader and Music VP **Rick Cram** decided to move to Sacramento.

We continue to maintain the tradition of an evening of quarteting on the fifth Tuesday of any month with five Tuesdays, a tradition that goes back to the founding of the chapter in 1967. Guests are always welcome.

Visit us at www.goldenchordsmen.org.

Santa Cruz

By Allen Takahashi

Santa Cruz Gold Standard Chorus is mourning the loss of our best known and beloved member **Jerry Orloff** who passed away October 25. Jerry was a Hall of Fame member of both the FWD, and the Barbershop Society. He was also a man-of-note unsurpassed in the society – having brought literally hundreds of men into the world of barbershop. When actively singing in the chorus he made it a point to make sure every new person who walked in the door felt truly welcome - including myself when I returned to Barbershopping after a long hiatus. He will be sorely missed by all of us.

The chorus executed the LTS4F membership program under the leadership of **Gerry Stone**. We had a good turn-out and learned a lot from the likes of **Randy Meyer**, **Ray Rhymer**, and **Dr. Tony Dehner** who generously donated their time to help us grow. Our most recent additions to our bass section come from opposite ends of the age spectrum: High Schooler **Caleb Riley**, and retiree **Aubrey King** from Washington State.

The chorus sang for a campfire program at New Brighton Beach. Mixed voice chapter quartet **Coastal Blend** [**Dan Jett**, **Nancie Barker**, **Ian Blackwood**, **Dale Summer**], did an appearance on the KSCO radio morning show, sang for a 100th birthday party, and sang at the Lakewood Village Senior Living Center.

Our newest chapter quartet - **Redwood 4** [**Larry Hardison**, **Bob Folker**, **Marty Dolciamore**, **Glenn Davis**] formed to compete in Novice Quartet competition. Subbing **Nick Roberto** for Marty (who was sick), the day before contest, they came in 2nd in the male quartet division.

Constellation [**Jordan Johnson**, **Allen Takahashi**, **Bill McCain** (**Frank Thorne**), **Mark Torrence** (**Peninsula**)] competed in the combined NW/NE Division contest in Lodi with a comedy routine finalized just prior to walking on stage and earned enough points to qualify for District competition. One competition song they sang was the public debut of a song *Lucky Day/Innocent When You Dream Medley* arranged by our chorus director **Jordan Johnson**. **Constellation** recently headlined the Placerville Chorus show.

Visit us at www.sctbarbershop.org.

Santa Rosa

By Ray Crowder

We're proud of our 10th place finish at the District convention in Bakersfield. Hats off to our director **Phil Debar** and our Music Team headed by **Neal Rogers**. Several new members were competing in their first contest.

The Redwood Chordsmen sent 10 men to the Harmony Platoon in Bakersfield, and 3 were featured in the top five finalist quartets. Congratulations to **Shelly Albaum**, and **Scott Douglas** (2nd place), and **Koty Hall**, (5th place). Five Santa Rosans were in the top five semi-finalist quartets.

We sponsored 21 young men who attended the Youth Harmony Camp. There were 13 boys from Maria Carrillo High and 8 boys from Montgomery High. Kudos to our Youth Outreach VP **Andrew Cook** for his diligent work, and to his quartet **RARE FORM** for performing at several local schools to drum up interest in the camp.

Welcome to our newest members **Jeffrey Nambayan**, **Jordan Reese**, **Tommy Wikle**, and **Doug Hayward**, a former member whom we are welcoming back. Among our recent guests was **Chris Smith**, popular columnist with the Santa Rosa Press Democrat, who is in the process of preparing a feature article about the **Redwood Chordsmen** and Barbershop harmony.

Visit us at chordsmen.groupanizer.com.

SF Bay Cities Quartet

By Jordan Makower

Consider the similarities between an alloy and a quartet. Different elements combine to produce a substance that has the best qualities of each, in a new product. Each element, by itself is unique but, when blended, has a strength and vibrancy even better than any single component. There is a magic quality in

the harmony produced by a quartet that makes a person gape in amazement and joy. The songs can be uplifting, carrying the listener away from their surroundings. When viewing a completed structure, a person doesn't consider the metals that it is composed of. It is just so in a quartet. The San Francisco Bay Cities Quartets, composed of singers from surrounding areas, met for lunch this past Wednesday at Harry's Hofbrau in San Jose. **Four Gents In Accord** [Steve Gummertsall, David Laubscher, Marv Bertelson, Mike Irvin] sang *Brown Derby*. **Never Too Old Four** [Bruce Bunting, Chuck Mollett, John Jones, Ric King] sang *Hello, My Baby*. **Bill Gates, Bill Beck, David Tuttelman, Dr. Lee Nicholas, and Roman Avila** mixed in with other singers to make additional quartets.

We celebrated **Chuck Mollett's** 17th year as a barbershopper and Doc Nicholas's 92nd birthday. We also meet for dinner on the second and fourth Wednesday each month at Harry's. Come join us, and make our group even stronger with your voice. Test your mettle and become alloyed with us!

Visit us at www.sfbayquartets.org.



Division 4 NE Chapters **Roger Perkins, Editor**

California Delta Chapter By Rich Brunner

Lots of fun going on since the chorus returned from international this summer. We had our annual picnic with guys coming from all over Northern California and Nevada to attend. Always nice to find opportunities to spend time not just with "The Guys", but with their better halves and children too! As you might guess, there was lots of singing too.

We had the first annual **VoCal Golf Tournament** at the end of September, which was a great day at Teal Bend Golf Course. A portion of the proceeds were earmarked to help local youth harmony. Big thanks to **Norm Smith** for spearheading the effort and to **Morrie and Sharon Schlesinger, Jennifer Wallin, Lorna Ingram, Betty Carol Smith and Dan Warschauer** for their help in making the whole operation go smoothly.

We organized a train to take members of the local choruses from Sacramento down to the FWD Convention Bakersfield. Certainly a much more stress free way to travel through the heartland of California. Somehow we even added a few riders on the way home. At the big convention in Bakersfield we scored a new high for our chorus (always fun!) and had a great time sharing our Chez VoCal Chefs package with the great Far Western District.

Central California Chapter By Miles Sutter

"ZIP-A-DEE DOO-DAH! WHAT A WONDERFUL DAY!"
And what a day it turned out to be! *"Plenty of sunshine"* for the 42 people in attendance to enjoy, and enjoy we did! Many thanks to our hosts **Bob and Sonya** for opening their beautiful back yard for this very important occasion. The occasion was two-fold: renewing our annual picnic get-together and asking for donations for our high school students so we could send them to

Youth Harmony Camp. Thank you, everyone, for your generous donations. And just exactly what were we doing this Saturday afternoon, September 14? Well, how about 'eating', singing, 'eating', quartetting, 'eating', socializing, 'eating', an "accidental" dip in the pool! We had the pleasure of hearing from nine quartets, thanks to our Jamboree Man-In-Charge, **Dick Compton**. Prizes? Of course we had prizes! GVC spared no expense when it came to prizes. The winning quartet, according to our lovely judges, received a program planning guide to record all their singing engagements! 2nd place quartet received a flashlight, to light their way to the top. The third place quartet received a ruler, so they know how far they need to go. Congratulations to **Stratt** for the marvelous cheeseburgers and hot dogs! Our MC for this wonderful afternoon was our own **Herb Andrew**. Our special guests on this great afternoon were **Richard and Patsy Lund** and **Dan Warschuer**.

Davis-Vacaville Chapter By Tom Powers

We had a difficult time this summer and early fall losing several long-term members to job transfers, health issues, personal matters, etc. On the other hand, we have picked up several new members to help us build for the future. We continued with a heavy schedule of performances throughout Solano and Yolo Counties and competed at the District Convention in Bakersfield in October.

Elected officers for 2014 are: President **Steve Rollins**; Secretary **Wit Ashbrook**; Treasurer **Steve Calapp**; Membership VP **Rich Potts**; Music VP **Bob Hansen**; Program VP **Bob Benson**; Publicity and Public Relations VP **Dave Roy**; and Board Member-at-Large **Tom Powers**.

Our chapter hosted this year's Leadership Academy (previously known as "COTS.") held at McGeorge Law School in Sacramento. It was good to see many of you at that event.

Folsom Chapter By Dennis Stohl

The Folsom Harmony Express' Annual Recital was held and the theme was *"Happy Trails to You."* Western barbershop tunes were featured for this year's recital. Quartets performing were **Above C Level, B-BLT, and The Great Perkos**. Attendance to the recital was free, but donations were gratefully accepted.

The FHX annual Wives Appreciation dinner was held at the Spaghetti Factory in Rancho Cordova. The program included several numbers by the entire chorus and quartets. It also included some magic tricks by **Les Cudworth** and cowboy rope spinning by **Roger Perkins**. **Diane Weigert** received special recognition by Director **Kent Borrowdale** who presented her with a bouquet of roses and a plaque. Diane worked at Denny's Restaurant where the chorus holds their AfterGlow. She recently retired after having served them desserts and dinners for many years.

Nevada Placer Chapter By Roger Perkins

The Nevada Placer Chapter celebrated its 30th anniversary on August 22. The celebration was held on a meeting night at



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Competition Status

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Address: _____
City: _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____
Phone: () _____
eMail: _____

☐ Chorus Contestant ☐ Quartet Contestant
☐ Non-Competitive Member ☐ Guest
Part: ☐ Tenor ☐ Lead ☐ Bari ☐ Bass
Chapter/Chorus: _____
Quartet Name: _____

FULL REGISTRATION EARLY BIRD (Check One)	FULL REGISTRATION POST EARLY BIRD (Check One)	SINGLE EVENT REGISTRATION SOLD ON-SITE ONLY (Check One)	HOST CHAPTER USE ONLY
<input type="checkbox"/> Full.....\$45.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Youth/Student.....\$22.50 (under 26) EARLY BIRD CUT OFF February 21, 2014	<input type="checkbox"/> Full.....\$55.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Youth/Student.....\$27.50 (under 26) All Competitors must have FULL Registration	<input type="checkbox"/> Fri. Single Session.....\$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Fri. Youth Single Session.....\$12.50 <input type="checkbox"/> Sat. Single Session.....\$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Sat. Youth Single Session.....\$12.50	<input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Cash Amount: \$ _____ Date Rec'd: _____ Badge No: _____

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

Steve and **Anne Evans'** home. They have hosted our annual BBQ/swim party for over 15 years and we had about 45 people in attendance. Two of the chapter founding members, **Ernie Kleven** and **Dave Bishop**, were in attendance. Yours truly, **Roger Perkins**, feels like a charter member having been Chorus Director of the **Sierranaders** for 29 years.

The chorus performed for the 20th time at the Nevada County Fair (California's Most Beautiful Fair Grounds) in Grass Valley. After the two performances the annual quartet contest took place. We ended up with five quartets in the contest and the winning quartet was **Gesundheit!** [**Norm Roberts**, **Denny Strub**, **Al Salazar**, **Ron Haldorson**] from Chico. Good singing and good comedy. This is the second time they won this contest. In second place was **Vibrance** (S.A.) followed by the **Wildwood Quartet**.

Our annual Cabaret Show was called "*Named That Tune*" and took place in both Auburn and Grass Valley. The **Sierranaders** would sing a verse or intro to a song and it was up to contestants to name the tune. Contestants were **Kent Borrowdale**, **Roger Santiago** and **Stan Trumble**. They happen to be in the quartet **B-BLT** with chapter member **Ken Potter** (the old one), and sang on the second half of the show. They took turns giving inane answers such as "**What Do You Do With the Butter When the Role Is Called Up Yonder**"? Our MC was our NE Division Vice President, **Richard Lund**. **Patsy** was in the audience both nights to cheer us on. The **4T9r4** quartet (**Steve Mathews**, **Verne Bagby** and **Tony Prowense**) had a reunion on Saturday evening and sang with former quartet member **Corley Phillips** who now sings with the **California Delta** chapter. Also on the bill was **North South East & West** (**Al Drouin** - North, **Ken Potter** - South, **Tom Klasey** - East and **Roger Perkins** - West). The third quartet was **The Great Perkis** with **Roger Perkins** and his son **Mark**, and two grandsons, **Tyler** & **Sean**. What a thrill to sing with your family.

Reno Chapter By Steve Shurtliff

We are back from Bakersfield (wow – what a great venue!). Isn't it great how we all keep getting better! We were happy with our 7th place finish. Our quartet **Unanimous** did a great job as mike testers at the quartet finals.

We sang at the Reno Balloon Races again this year. Also, we did our stint at the Reno Air Races, singing all four days at each day's opening ceremony. **Barbershop Express**, our most active quartet, sang at Harrah's hotel/casino for 4 hours recently, going to various locations including the Steak House, where they received a very nice response. The result is that Harrah's now wants a quartet every weekend starting in early November and continuing throughout the Holidays!

We heartily welcome many new visitors to our chorus! Our membership is growing overall, and the near future looks very bright.

Sacramento Chapter By Joe Samora

Ray Rhymer became the **Capitolaires** new musical director. Active in barbershop since 1949, he formerly directed the

Placerville chapter. Ray has served for over twenty-five years as a Certified Judge and has taught many Society classes nationwide. He is the **Westunes Editor** and is a member of the FWD Hall of Fame. Welcome to "Where Singing Happens!"

During the summer months the **Capitolaires** sang at area churches under the direction of **Randy Finger** and **Ray Rhymer**. The chorus sings every summer when church choirs are on "leave".

The Election of Officers was held on October 1. **Steve Allison** is our incoming President. A dozen men will be serving on the 2014 Board of Directors. Several officers attended Leadership Academy.

The **Capitolaires** attended the NE Division Convention in Bakersfield on October 10-13 to watch the chorus and quartet contests.

A dozen **Capitolaires** sang during the Capitol Pops Concert Band's annual **Brews & Boos** (Octoberfest & Halloween). **Randy Finger** directed the chorus. Five hundred people were thought to have attended.

Stockton Chapter By Al Wolter

The **Portsmen** Annual Picnic was held where chapter members and guests socialized, competed in a pick-up quartet contest, and contributed \$500.00 to our *Youth in Harmony* fund for support of the Harmony Camp in Placerville.

The 2014 Chapter Officers are: President and responsible for the areas of Chapter PR/Marketing and Music & Performance **Al Wolter**, Chapter Development VP **Harry Williams**, Treasurer **John Eilers**, Secretary **Bill McCarty**, Board Member-at-Large **Bill Litz**, and IPP **Craig Vincent**. The Chapter continues to utilize the Associates in non-voting leadership roles. Several non-elected members were sent to the Leadership Academy to develop future officers.

The Chapter held its 59th Annual show "*Celebrate Harmony*" that highlighted both the Society's 75th Anniversary as well as the best of Broadway. The **Portsmen Chorus**, **Fat City Four**, and **Tune Struck** were featured, in addition to three new quartets: **Shipmates** (a new mixed quartet from last year's show), **All in A-Chord** (a new mixed quartet with two brand new Society members) and the **Maid Marions** (four of our Associates). **Three and a Half Men** from **Milpitas High School** (attendees of this year's Harmony Camp and the Silver medalists of the HS Quartet Contest this past March), rounded out the entertainers.

The Chapter received the **House of Delegates** approval to host the Northeast and Northwest Combined Divisional Convention and Contests May 17 of 2014 in Lodi, using Hutchins Street Square and the Holiday Inn Express, same as this past March. Convention Chair **Al Wolter** suggests that you plan early as the weekend will also be the Lodi Zinfest Weekend.

Visalia Chapter By Bud Case

Visalia Chapter held two yearly fundraisers. We held a

successful Spaghetti Feed and cleared \$1,000+ as well as entertaining our guests. **Silver and Gold** came down to help in the singing along with chapter quartets, **Some Assembly Required**, **Sound Projection** and **Front Line Quartet**. **Fred Speckman** was our head chef.

Ted Petersdorf headed up our most successful yard sale ever with \$1,700+ in one day! We raised over \$2,000 total. **Gary Smith** graciously allowed us to use the driveway in his old house. Many wives pitched in also.

The **MOC** was very proud to host the 2013 FWD Fall Convention and Contests in Bakersfield with over 1,400 registrants, 24 choruses and 22 quartets. Congratulations to the **Masters of Harmony** and the **Newfangled Four** quartet as 2013 champs.

As Convention Chairman I want to extend thanks to our members and their wives that labored prior to and during the convention. **Dee & Lynn Baughman** (Registration Chairman), **Landes & Robin Dung**, **Castle Dung**, **Jeff Grice** with (Secretary), **Pat Harrison** (Treasurer), **Greg Huber**, **Lance Jepson**, **Ken & Freda McNutt**, **Rod Robinson** (Back Stage Chairman), **Fred & Virginia Speckman** (Assistant Chairman/Flow Chairman) and **Lee & Sherry Smith** (PR Chairman).

Our team also included several essential individuals from other chapters we want to thank for their assistance. **Bob Cathaway** assisted us with the Marriott and Rabobank Concert Hall facilities, **Don Laursen** hosted the judges, **Richard Lund** and **Patsy Miller** worked with **Dee** in pre and on-site registration, **Bill Rosica** represented the MOH with the afterglow and arranged for some radio coverage, and **Terry Starr** helped with the “house” and the doors and on-stage risers from GNC.

I can’t name every district leader to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude. However guidance was provided by **Ted Sayles & John Jones** (Events), **Ron Black** (C & J), **Doug Maddox** (Production), **Jerry McElfresh** (Mktg. & PR), **David Melville** (FWD Webmaster) and others that encouraged us along the way. It is great to experience the support and encouragement of individuals within our chapter and district.



Division 5 AZ Chapters
Frank Ortega, Editor

Greater Phoenix Chapter
By Bob Szabo

Vocal Edition [**Eric Bjornsen**, **Tim McMullen**, **Dan Davenport**, **Danny Ryan**] represented the **Spirit of Phoenix** at the Toronto International and finished 31st overall.

The Arizona Division’s “Fred Koch” Memorial Summer Bash, held in Phoenix in mid-August, featured a parade of quartets, the annual golf tournament, and the “Luck of the Draw” quartet, novice quartet and VLQ competition.

A fabulous new choreographer **Erin Howden** (from Canada), provided the SOP with the most exciting performance package in years. She spent two days with only the front row and then

put the entire package together with the chorus in one evening. Hopefully, our audience in Bakersfield and elsewhere will be impressed with our performance.

Steven Juniel, one of our newest members and a recent high school graduate, was awarded a \$500 Barbershop Scholarship to help him in his future endeavors.

Scott Wiegand received *BOTM* honors for all his efforts in recording, editing and teaching our performance packages, and for making SOP an integral part of Facebook.

Gary Steinkamp hosted a “*Fraser Brown Quartet Tribute Party*” where many of Fraser’s previous and present quartet members attended and sang some of their favorite songs with him. Members included some of his first quartet, such as the **Vigilantes**, **Sound Committee**, **SRO** and **Audacity**. The entire evening was awe-inspiring, especially when SRO sang “*When You Wish Upon A Star*.”

SOP held a weekend chorus retreat at Camp Pine Rock in Prescott to fine tune and bring perfection to our District contest package. In addition to our fabulous director **Gary Steinkamp**, several of our section leaders donned leadership caps and became active contributors in generating both choreo excellence and enhanced vocal production.

Mesa Chapter By Rich Carey

The **Mesa Chapter** again hosted the 2013 Arizona Division Leadership Academy in Mesa.

The **Lamplighters** participated in the Fred Koch Memorial Summer Bash and Golf Tournament in Tempe in August. The chapter won the VLQ Contest with 16 singers present. Three of four chapter quartets participated in the Parade of Quartets as follows: **Two Under Par** [**Barney Griffin**, **Bernie Esberner**, **Charlie Nardin**, **Jim Milner** (stepping in for absent Dick Moore)]; **TILT** [**Ray Stasko**, **Rich Carey**, **Bernie Esberner**, **Charlie Nardin** (stepping in for absent Ron Steen)]; and **Mostly Vintage** [**Jim Brown**, **Rich Carey**, **Jim McClelland**, **Roger Morrow**]. In the “Pick of the Draw Quartet Contest”, a Mesa Chapter quartet made up of **Jim Brown**, **Bob Shaffer**, **Jim McClelland**, and **Jason Bullock** took 2nd place. Top honors in the Novice Quartet Contest went to a Mesa Chapter quartet comprised of **Jason Bullock**, **Roy Murray**, **Jim McClelland**, and **Bob Shaffer**.

Jim Brown volunteered his services to instruct a group of teens in barbershop singing at Skyline High School in Mesa. The weekly session occurs after school and the Youth in Harmony Foundation provides the music.

The **Mesa Chapter** awarded two \$500 music scholarships (one from their YIH Fund and a matching one from the AZ Division) to **Steven Juniel** and **Jonathan Sheldon**, both seniors from Chandler High School. **Jerry Fox** presented these awards at their last concert of the school year in May. **Jerry Fox** and **Roy Murray** invited the recipients to a chorus rehearsal to receive their awards and pose for pictures with President **Dale Weatherford**, AZ Division Vice President **John Bloomquist**, and Far Western District President **Russ Young**.

The Mesa Chapter officers for 2014 are: President **Bob Shaffer**; Treasurer **Bernie Esberner**; Secretary **Rich Carey**; IPP **Dale Weatherford**; Music and Performance VP **Dick Moore**; Membership VP **Bill Johnson**; Marketing VP **Roy Murray**; Chorus Manager **Randy Bingel**, (a new Board position); and Members-at-Large **Tom Haynes** and **Ray Stasko**.

Prescott Chapter
By Sam Stimple

The Prescott Chapter is pleased to announce that three new members have joined the ranks of the **High Mountain Chordsmen**: **Tom Keenan**, **Gordon Ralph**, and **Jeff Hartig**.

For a chorus of less than 30 active members, four quartets have emerged. That means that 16 singers are meeting at least once a week outside of chorus rehearsals to hone their singing skills. Better quartets produce a better chorus. Thanks to the members of **Antique Parts**, **SilverSounds**, **Bionic Sonics**, and **Western Connection**.

Ed Wolfe and **Eleanor Brighton** were married in Prescott. **SilverSounds** provided the entertainment at the reception. Ed is the bass in the quartet.

The chapter officers for 2014 are: President **Dick Patton**, VP Music & Performance **Tom Keenan**, VP Chapter Development **Ed Massa**, VP Program **Rich Ludwigson**, VP Public Marketing/PR **Jim Skinner**, VP Youth & Harmony **Lynn Grubb**, Secretary **Ed Wolfe**, Treasurer **Bob Steele**, Board Members-at-Large **Berry Bownds**, **Larry Lancaster** and **Sam Stimple**.

Believing that “self-improvement is its own reward,” the chorus participated in a stage presence clinic, designed and conducted by popular local musician **Danny Anderson**. He would love to be a barbershopper, but his plate is so full. At the end of the session, Danny smiled at the chorus’s success by saying, “It is inspiring to watch people do what they love – well.”

The chapter’s 39th Annual Show titled “*Up, Up, Up and Away!*” was presented at the Prescott Adult Center.

Sedona Chapter
By Lee Shoptaugh

The **Harmony on the Rocks** Chorus performed at the Sedona Elks Club for an evening billed as the “Lids of Life.” **Bob Carlson**’s script and prop referred to a hat rack that eventually contained a number of hats symbolizing each song that was sung. Some songs included, for example, “*When I’m 64*” (birthday party hat), “*Cool Water*” (cowboy hat), and “*Breaking Up Is Hard To Do*” (hard hat). The performance received such rave reviews that we reprised the performance for the Verde Valley Senior Center luncheon.

Who knew being old could be so funny or so sweet? That was the question and the theme for our annual show entitled “*The Golden Years*,” staged before a packed-house at Sedona’s Church of the Red Rocks. The featured quartet was **Speakeasy**, the 2013 Arizona Division Novice Quartet Champion [**Justin Klemballa**, **R.J. Esquivas**, **Shreyas Amin**, **Elliot Liles**].

Formed in February this year, the foursome finished a respectable 6th place at the Far Western District Quartet Contest in Bakersfield. Chapter quartet, **Beauty and the Beasts**, also chimed in with a couple of songs.

2014 officers are: President **Wally Reule**, Treasurer **Jack Edwards**, Secretary **Michael McCaffrey**, Chorus Director **John McDougald**, Assistant Director **Tom Doeller**, VP Marketing/PR **Tom Fox**, VP Membership **Michael Steele**, VP Music & Performance **Tom Doeller**, District Delegate **Jack Edwards**, IPP **David Lombardi**, and Board Members-at-Large **Don Tautkus** and **Lee Shoptaugh**.

Tucson Sunshine Chapter
By Jack Statler

During the summer months, **Tucson Barbershop eXperience** filled in for church choirs in six local churches as part of their summer church programs.

Performing the National Anthem at the Tucson Padres baseball games has been a delightful activity. However, in late August, TBX repeated this one last time as Tucson said “goodbye” to professional baseball when the team left town.

When the game was over, a chapter officers’ installation party was held at the stadium with **John Bloomquist** presiding. The following members will serve on the 2014 Board of Directors: President – **Jim Rapp**, Secretary – **Dave Tompkins**, Treasurer – **George Gibson**, Music/Performance VP – **Jim Hart**, Membership & Chapter Development VP – **Tony Spar**, Marketing & Public Relations VP – **Gerry Swank**, IPP – **Frank Hartline**, Board Members-at-Large – **Ron Hayes** and **Wes Krause**.

The 8th Annual Youth in Harmony Festival held at Rincon High School drew more than 200 young men and women, and was an outstanding success. The high-school-age participants that attended the all-day workshop (intense rehearsals, an introduction into the barbershop style, vocal drills, choreography practice, and more), headed by YIH VP **Ron Hays**, were encouraged to get involved and stay in their school choral music programs. Not only did the students benefit from expert clinicians and teaching quartets, both Barbershop Society and Sweet Adelines, but they also learned that singing can and should be a lifelong recreational activity. The festival culminated in an evening performance for family and friends.

A hearty group of 28 TBXers, with dedicated and inspired Director **Dayle Ann Cook**, competed at the Far Western District Chorus Contest in Bakersfield, finishing a respectable 13th place. Congrats to **Joint Venture**, who won District Seniors Quartet championship.

Notices

2014 Conventions and Contests

Go to the FWD website for event notifications and registration forms, which will be added as they become available to Webmaster David Melville <http://farwesterndistrict.org>

For your planning purposes, 2014 International and FWD Convention/Contest dates are:

Jan 26 - Feb 2, 2014 International Mid-Winter Convention, Long Beach, CA

Mar 20 - 23, 2014 FWD Spring Convention/Contests, Riverside, CA - contests include International Quartet Prelim, SE & SW Division, and High School Quartet; host is Brea Chapter See Registration Form on next page

May 2 - 3, 2014 AZ Division Convention, Mesa, AZ

Contest Site: Skyline High School, 845 S Crimson Rd, Mesa, AZ 85208

Headquarters Hotel: Country Inn & Suites, 6650 E Superstition Springs Blvd, Mesa AZ 85206 480-641-8000

May 17, 2014 NE & NW Division Contests, Lodi, CA - contests include Quartet and Chorus; host is Stockton Chapter

Jun 29 - July 6, 2014 International Convention, Las Vegas, NV

Oct 9 - 12, 2014 FWD Fall Convention, Fresno, CA - contests include FWD Fall Final Quartet, FWD Fall Final Chorus, FWD Fall Final Senior Quartet; host is Fresno Chapter

2014 FWD Spring Convention Registration Form