



Fall 2015 Volume 65 Number 3

WESTUNES



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

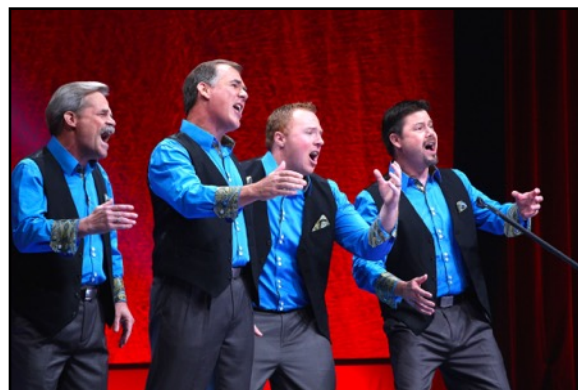
FWD Chorus and Quartet Results at International in Pittsburgh



WESTMINSTER Wins The GOLD with a score of 97.5%



The Crush 7th Place 88.0%



Artistic License 10th Place 86.3%

Bay Area, McPhly, The Newfangled Four, American Pastime, Flightline & North of the Border See page 3-4

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Notice: If you wish to submit an article for publication, the deadlines are: Feb 1, May1, Aug 1, Nov 1

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



FWD Chorus and Quartet Results at International in Pittsburgh cont'd



Bay Area 18th 81.2%



McPhly 13th 83.7%



The Newfangled Four 14th 83.2%



American Pastime 28th 79.1%



Flightline 30th 78.9%



North of the Border 34th 78.6%

College Quartet Contest



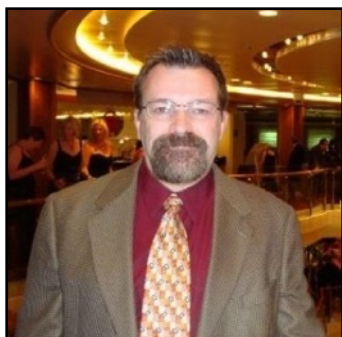
Flightline 5th 78.7%



Brannigan 15th 75.0%

A black and white photograph of a large group of young people, mostly teenagers, singing enthusiastically. They are all looking towards the camera with open mouths and expressive faces.

FWD Youth Harmony Camp— September 18-20,2015
Sly Park Educational Center, Pollock Pines, CA
Quartets: After Hours and Brannigan
 Contact Richard Lund rlund@innercite.com or 530-621-1904
<http://yih.farwesterndistrict.org/youth-harmony-camp>



Greetings Far Western District Members!

I am the registrar for the FWD Fall Convention in Mesa, and I am contacting you with some important information about registration for this year's convention.

First of all, registration for the convention is on-line only. You will find the link to the registration site on the FWD website at farwesterndistrict.org, or you may go directly to the district events website at events.farwesterndistrict.org. At the events website you will also find detailed information about the convention, important deadlines, hotel options, and information about using the light rail system.

There are two ways to register: as an individual or as a group. It's quite simple: an individual registration is for one person only, and a group registration is for more than one person – as few as two or as many as 100 or more. A detailed help document showing step-by-step instructions for both individual and group registrations is available. Click on “How to Register” on the events listing, the convention details page, or on the Help menu.

Secondly, the deadline for registering at the Early-Bird Discount rate is approaching soon. From now through **September 15**, the price for an Adult, All-Events registration is \$50.00 (\$25 for Young Adults under 26). I strongly encourage you take advantage of this, not only to receive the discount, but also to have better seating in the auditorium.

Starting at midnight, September 16, the price goes to the Regular rate of \$65.00 for Adults and \$32.50 for Young Adults under 26. Registration will be available on-line at the Regular rate until Noon on Wednesday, October 14.

Starting in 2015, the FWD Board approved the addition of a **Late Fee** for those who choose to register at the convention. The price for those who wait until then to register will be \$70.00 for Adults and \$35.00 for Young Adults under 26.

For those who have friends or family wishing to see you perform, **Single-Event tickets** will be available for purchase at the Convention Registration Desk. There are no advanced sales of Single-Event tickets. The price is \$30.00 each for admission to one of three events: Friday Quartet Semifinals, Saturday Chorus Finals, or Saturday Quartet Finals and Show of Champions. Attending two events requires a separate ticket for each event.

Finally, seating will be assigned strictly in the order in which the registrations are received, giving preference to those who register earlier. Choruses and Quartets who wish to sit together as a group must register as a group. We will not be attempting to reserve blocks of seats for those groups who register individually as this is not fair to those who register early. So again, if you want to sit together as a group, then we encourage you to register as a group, and your group will be assigned seats together in the order in which your registration is received.

When you arrive in Mesa, you will find the **Convention Registration Desk** where you can pick up your name badges (or do a late registration) at the Marriott Hotel (Headquarters) on Thursday evening from 6:00pm to 9:00pm and again on Friday from 9:00am to 3:00pm. It will then move over to the Mesa Arts Center and be open there from 4:00pm to 10:00pm on Friday, and again on Saturday from 8:00am to 7:00 pm.

On behalf of your hosts, the Greater Phoenix Chapter, I'd like to personally welcome each and every one of you to Mesa this October. We have a great convention planned for you, and we are very excited to be holding this year's contests at the Mesa Arts Center's Ikeda Theater, surely one of the best venues in the Far Western District. Please contact me via email webmaster@farwesterndistrict.org if you have any questions related to registration, and stop by to say hello when you arrive in Mesa.

In harmony,
David Melville
Registrar, 2015 FWD Fall Convention
Webmaster, Far Western District

ANNOUNCING THE LLOYD STEINKAMP ENDOWMENT FUND FOR FAR WESTERN DISTRICT HARMONY CAMPS

The Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund for Far Western District Harmony Camps has been established at the Sacramento Region Community Foundation to provide support for FWD Harmony Camps. The Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment fund, honoring Lloyd's vision and creativity in introducing young men to barbershop harmony, is designed to create an earnings stream that will sustain the harmony camp program in future generations. Our initial goal over the next three years is to raise \$200,000.

This is a unique opportunity to participate in "Making a Difference" in the lives of young men in your community. The magic of music is mystical in its power to impact a life. Your support of harmony camps through a donation to the Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund will impact the lives of young men in perpetuity.

You may make a tax-deductible donation to the Endowment through one of the following methods:

- **Check** - Make payable to Sacramento Region Community Foundation and note "LSEF" in the memo line
- **Credit card** - Go to www.sacregcf.org and click on Donate Now
- **Appreciated securities** - Contact the Sacramento Region Community Foundation for transfer instructions
- **Planned gift or bequest in your will** - Contact the Sacramento Region Community Foundation for information

WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY!

Since its founding in 1983, the Sacramento Region Community Foundation has been dedicated to connecting people who care with causes that matter. Our mission is to transform our community through focused leadership and advocacy that inspire partnerships and expand giving. The Sacramento Region Community Foundation serves as the fiduciary agent for all of its component funds and is fully committed to carrying out the purpose this fund supports. The Foundation is a public charity and contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent possible.



SACRAMENTO REGION
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

955 University Avenue, Suite A • Sacramento, CA 95825
916.921.7723/fax 916.921.7725/website: www.sacregcf.org

For additional information or to discuss your interest in greater detail contact
Richard Lund, Director
Far Western District Youth Harmony Camp
Rwlund92@gmail.com
530-621-1904

HARMONY COLLEGE WEST & LEADERSHIP ACADEMY



January 8 - 10, 2016
FEATURING:



Instruction for:

President - Secretary - Treasurer - Membership - Marketing
Music & Performance - Directing - Arranging
Coaching: Individual - Quartet - Chorus
Vocal Techniques & Ringing Chords
Sunset Station Hotel & Casino
Henderson (Las Vegas), Nevada

Registration (Room & Meals not included):

Early Bird - \$50 (to 10/25/15)
Standard - \$65 (10/26/15 to 12/6/15)
Last Minute - \$80 (12/7/15 to 1/8/16)

Buffet (with free players card):

Breakfast - \$6.49
Lunch - \$7.99
Dinner - \$9.99

(Other Dining Options Available)

Hotel: \$92 per night plus resort fees & tax - FWD special thru 12/7/2015
(Two Queen beds or a King bed - same price)

Online Registration - events.farwesterndistrict.org

Bring the whole Chorus for a Chapter Changing Event!



American Pastime

2014 Far Western District Quartet Champions

Hello, Far Western District!!!!!!

It's hard to believe, but we're closing in on the end of our year as FWD quartet champs. Where did the time go? We have much to be grateful for and, before we say our farewells to you in Mesa this October, we thought we'd write a recap of the year we experienced.

Qualifying to compete at International in Pittsburgh after such a short time with our new baritone, Steve Pence, is certainly a highlight. We are so proud of Steve. He fits the quartet like a glove – maybe it's that father/son thing he and Graham have going on – and we sure do have fun together.

We had a blast performing on shows this June - South County Sound and Go for the Gold...on the same day – go fig'ya. It is such a pleasure performing for appreciative audiences. We are looking forward to shows we have booked this summer and fall. There really is truth to the rumor that the best way to improve as a quartet is to perform in front of people; makes all that rehearsal stuff worthwhile.



What a thrill it was for us to be one of the quartets representing the FWD in Pittsburgh this year. We were very pleased with our performance in the quarter finals. What an incredible contest. And, despite the short amount of time we've been together, we improved over last year's average score and placement! Sure; we were a bit disappointed we didn't crack the Top 20, but we are honored to have represented our great FWD today and we did so proudly. And, we are so proud of our Tenor, Graham Pence, for being part of the awesome Westminster chorus who earned the gold in Pittsburgh this year. Wow!! We witnessed some excellent performances from all of the quartets and choruses in the contest. Amazing!

We've made excellent improvement thanks to our superb coaches - Dr. Chris Peterson and Sam Papageorge. Thank you so much for your confidence in us and for your support. We received some great comments and suggestions from the International judging panel and we are looking to improve over the next year.



Before we sign off, we want to give a special thank you to our wives who support us as we "do this thing we love to do." DeeDee, Erika, Kristin, and Marcia...THANK YOU for your love, PATIENCE, support, and encouragement. We could not enjoy barbershopping without you and your support.

Thank you to all of our Far Western District fans and supporters. You mean the world to us. We hope to be singing for you again soon. Love,

2014 Far Western District Quartet Champions

Contact:
Graham Pence
(626) 786-5830
grahampence@gmail.com
APQuartet.com



TELL YOUR STORY

The BHS is looking for *unique stories* they can share with the world in the Harmonizer that may be one of a kind.

Please submit an experience related to your association with this fine hobby of ours that you think might qualify, directly to me.

Please keep it under 200 words. All districts will be submitting their most appropriate articles, so don't get upset if you don't see your article in print, but then again, you might become famous --- or is it infamous!

All articles submitted to me, will need to have a disclaimer that it is approved for this purpose by the writer.

Submit to:
Jack Peters
FWD Storyteller chair
jjack1811@gmail.com
snail mail to:
18118 Lemon St.
Fountain Valley, CA 92708

The Music Man "Schoolboard"

Modesto, CA



[Left to right]

Howard Barber (T - Jacey Squires) Central California Chapter D-057 "Golden Valley Chorus"

Chuck Roots (L – Ewart Dunlop) Central California Chapter D-057 "Golden Valley Chorus"

Derick Sturke (B – Olin Britt) dual member Central California Chapter D-057 "Golden Valley Chorus" and California Delta Chapter D-123. "Voices of California"

Bruce Sellnow (Br – Oliver Hix) dual member Central California Chapter D-057 "Golden Valley Chorus" and California Delta Chapter D-123. "Voices of California"

Four members of the Barbershop Harmony Society, representing two chapters served as "The School Board" for the recent Modesto Performing Arts production of Meredith Willson's "The Music Man". Howard Barber (T) Chuck Roots, (L) Bruce Sellnow (Br) and Derick Sturke (B) represented our Society well, all but "stealing the show" for six mostly sold out performances. Modesto Performing Arts came to the Golden Valley Chorus (Central California Chapter) requesting a quartet intact to place in the show. "The Golden Valley Boys" were formed from four long time friends and barbershop brothers specifically for this appearance.

2015 SoCal Comedy Quartet Contest

by Mark Sheldon, Orange Quartet Chapter PR VP

The 2015 Southern California Comedy Quartet Contest was held July 25, in the Little Theatre of Fullerton Union High School. The Orange Quartet Chapter hosted this year's event, with significant assistance by the Fullerton Chapter to secure and operate the venue.

Many individuals contributed their time and skill to this year's event. Bob Patterson once again ably served as Emcee. A team of many volunteers led by Contest Chair Michael Werner added their efforts to make the event a success.

Judging for the Comedy Contest is traditionally less formal than for the Novice Contest, without strict category scoring. Nevertheless, our two judges – Tom Nichols and Steve Katz – took the job of evaluating quartets seriously. Stephen Katz added value for participating quartets by providing a post-contest Presentation evaluation for the competing quartets, giving valuable feedback on this important element of Comedy.

Third place went to **Close Shave**, and second place to **Orange A-Peel**, both quartets based in the **Orange Chapter**. The 2015 SoCal Comedy Quartet Champion was **D.N.R.**, with members of the Orange and Fullerton Chapters: Stan Haymaker (Tenor), Mark Logan (Lead), Woody Woodson (Baritone), and Frank Fliszar (Bass). The winning song set featured parodies of "Somewhere Over The Rainbow" (based on a routine by Chordiac Arrest) and the Beach Boys' "In My Room."

In addition to the contest numbers, the audience was entertained by a number of quartet performances including a brief demonstration of impromptu quarteting as practiced at the Orange Chapter. Beyond the Contest, our chapter is available as a resource for quartets and individual singers to improve their quarteting skills!

Leadership Articles



**District President
Allan Webb**

At the Summer meeting of the FWD BOD, we had much discussion about the scheduling and operational aspects of District events, both conventions as well as educational events like Harmony College West and Leadership academy, which resulted in the following BOD actions:

Bryan Forbes, Event Chairman mentioned that the 2016 division conventions would be SE/SW/International QT Prelims March 18 and 19; NE/NW April 2; and Arizona April 15. Ron Black moved that the three conventions, SE/SW, NE/NW and Arizona maintain a minimum of three-year calendars. **Motion Carried**

The District calendar has been revised to reflect combined Spring/Division for 2016 (Spring/SE/SW in March), 2017 (Spring/NE/NW in March), and 2018 (Spring/SE/SW in March), and the separate Division dates based on that rotation have been removed for those years. We are retaining the separate Division model beyond the three-year rolling window in the event that an increase in membership/attendance (which is the ultimate goal) requires us to move back to completely separate events. However, if the current level of participation continues, we will continue to roll with combined Spring/Division conventions rotating between NorCal and SoCal.

Bryan Forbes had reviewed the issues of his draft Convention Process and Procedures presented at the DMT meeting on Friday evening. His conclusions regarding modification of the process are as follows:

- Recommendation #1, transferring responsibility of securing contest venues and headquarters hotels for District Conventions and Contests from Host Chapters to the FWD Event Chairman and creating a multi-year rotation schedule was approved by the board. **Motion Carried**

Bryan has done a ton of analysis of the past 15 years of events. The recommendation above is the result of that analysis and will go before the HOD in the Fall for ratification. Fundamentally, this will allow the District to contract for venues well in advance (even prior to a Host Chapter being identified) from a fairly small pool of venues which are "known good" for our event logistics. We will still need Host Chapters to step up and provide the majority of the event management on site, but it relieves them of the responsibility to find a venue, come up with the entire convention budget, etc.

It also allows us to avoid relatively last-minute assignment of convention locations, which historically have gone as late as a Fall HOD approval for a Spring venue, primarily due to a lack of Chapters stepping forward to bid for a convention until very late in the process. This action would essentially separate the identification of the Host Chapter from the venue contracting process.

The full HOD brochure will be published at the beginning of September. Be sure to review the items up for a HOD vote and let your Chapter President know how you would like your Chapter to vote on the issues up for consideration by the HOD. As always, the minutes of the District BOD meetings are on the Far Western District website for you to peruse at your leisure, under the Media tab (click Documents and Forms/District Documents/Board Meeting Minutes)

Regards, Allan



***Executive Vice President
Gordon Bergthold***

In the summer edition of Westunes I ended my article with the following; the most inspired leaders serve as an example to others. They recognize that ***the pinnacle of leadership is reached when, standing atop the summit, you care more about others than you do about your own view and your own ego.*** I believe this bears repeating as the FWD Chapters focus on

nominations for the 2016 leadership positions that will guide them in the future months.

Leadership of a barbershop chapter is a very important aspect of the success or failure of the organization. The president is the administrative leader of the board that governs the chapter and he is most likely to succeed with a strong music vice president, secretary and treasurer. I mention the music vice president second because he serves as the liaison between the music team and board of directors and can be the critical link between the president and musical director. The secretary can make or break a president as he is the communication center for the chapter bringing information from the Barbershop Harmony Society in Nashville and keeping the operations of the chapter moving forward within the limits set by the chapter Bylaws. He is the most essential member of the president's team and can lessen the load for his tenure. The treasurer keeps the financial records and makes sure that the chapter files the proper IRS documents on time securing the non-profit status of the chapter and subsequently, the society. He also handles the day-to-day financial banking needs of the chapter and needs to be a trusted and financially responsible individual.

There are other elected officers in the chapter that are important and essential for the success of any chapter and each organization places emphasis on these positions depending on the needs and history of the chapter. I'll mention membership because each chapter places a great deal of emphasis on recruiting and retention. The Membership VP is a critical position to fill, but it should be expected that each member of the chapter serves on the membership committee even if it's not a published committee per se. No one person can be responsible for greeting new members, assigning a mentor, following up in writing or telephone, etc. It is incumbent on the board to support the membership person with the necessary associates so that he can do his job in an effective manner.

I realize that each chapter has its own method of electing officers but these reminders may help you in formulating a plan that will enable the chapter to

operate at its peak efficiency. Please give a reasonable amount of time for selection of the nomination slate and don't just use the phrase, that's the way we've always done it....because that often means re-electing the same people and they often burn out and eventually leave the chapter because no one stepped up to replace them. To borrow a phrase from Rotary, "Service above Self", serves us well. Remember, volunteer organizations like Barbershop thrive on good leadership but we all have a responsibility to make the chapter successful.

Step up and offer your services in leadership; you'll get more out of the experience than you put into the effort. I can guarantee that result if you'll not be afraid to fail and be afraid not to try.



**District Vice President 1 SW
Brent Anderson**

The highlight of the past quarter was going to Pittsburgh and attending the International Convention and Contest. Even for a convention in the East, it was nice to see so many from the FWD in attendance, and not just competitors, but "ordinary" Barbershop fans such as myself and my family. And what an outstanding, exciting, competition this year. Wow! What fun!

I was fortunate to join the Society in late 1975, and have the International Convention the next year in San Francisco. In the same way that I was fortunate to get into a quartet at my very first chapter meeting (I thought that was "normal"), I also thought it "normal" to go to the International Convention, and so I did. I was "hooked" with the fun of the convention, the singing, the tags, the new friends, the competitions, the socializing, and so I've made that a regular part of my life ever since. This July was my 40th convention opportunity and I have been to 35. I now have so many wonderful friends from, literally, all over the world and my convention week is a special, annual highlight.

I might also mention that the Midwinter Conventions are considered by some, to be even more fun, especially now that we get to see the great Youth Chorus contest in addition to full 20 minute shows put

on by the current quartet champs and each of the top four medalist quartets. There's a little more leisure time to visit friends, see the city, sing and relax a bit. So right now, make your plans to come to Reno in January. Like my fortunate coincidence of having my first International Convention opportunity be in CA, perhaps this Midwinter trip for you, if it's your first, will also become a regular part of your year.

In our Division we were well represented in Pittsburgh. **The Crush**, who are now living in various parts of the US, but representing the MOH, again were a top 10 quartet, finishing 7th. Also from our Division and making us proud, was the **New Fangled Four** at 14th place, **American Pastime** at 28th and **Flightline** at 30th. I should mention **Flightline** also represented us in the International Collegiate quartet competition, coming in a solid 5th place.

Each of these quartets also had members who sang and thrilled us as members of **Westminster Chorus** as they won their third gold medal in an absolutely spellbinding performance. I'm sure this performance is captured in YouTube so if you've not yet seen it, please drop everything and go watch it right now. As I said...it was spellbinding. Hooray for the FWD!

I recently had the opportunity to go to **San Fernando Valley Chapter** and not only see, but also participate, in their Ice Cream Social held on August 7. **Tom Raffety** has come out of retirement to again direct them and they've added a few new members plus pulled in a few "recycled" ones. The theme was "How the West was Sung" and replete with colorful cowboy hats, the members sang in chorus and quartets to an appreciative audience. My quartet, **The FourTune Seekers**, was honored to be the opening act for this show and we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

Neil Pennywitt, of the **Conejo Valley Chapter** is recovering from a serious health issue and it was nice to see him back on stage singing with his comedy quartet, **The Harmony Connection**. Also on the show from Conejo Valley, was director **Larry Nixon's** fine quartet, **Sound Check**, and also a **South Bay Chapter** comedy favorite, **The Senile Sound**.

In other news from our Division, I reported that **Bonnie McKibben** had left as director of **Aloha Chapter** and returned to the mainland and I'm happy to report that **Mark Conching** is again directing **The Sounds of Aloha Chorus**. He is rejuvenated and the chorus is happy and doing well.

Bakersfield Chapter will be having a show on Sept 27 that is designed to bring out dozens of new men to come to meetings to discuss forming a "new" chorus. The current chorus is struggling for members and that old Catch-22...how can you put on a good show to attract men to sing with you if you only have 5-8 active guys in your chorus? Well, the good people at **Rincon Beach Chapter...the Pacific Sound Chorus** under the direction of **Kelly Shepard**, are coming to the rescue and they will be the musical entertainment for this benefit show, and they will be joined by **American Pastime** as the featured quartet. An auditorium at a local high school has been secured, tickets are being distributed at a very attractive price (free), to employees at several major area employers, and at the show, men will be encouraged to come to a series of organizational meetings over the following weeks, where the core of potential new members will be exposed to the excitement of Barbershop led by their director, **Gerald "Tank" Waldrum**, and assisted by other experienced FWD leaders. If this works, it could be a template to help other struggling chapters. Stay "tuned" to Westunes for updates on this event.

Speaking of **Rincon Beach**, by the time of publication Rincon will have had three shows. On August 22, they staged two shows in Santa Barbara and the guest stars were many. In addition to **Pacific Sound Chorus**, they featured **Carpe Diem Chorus**, the new Sweet Adeline Chorus that won their Region 11 competition first time out. In addition to the **FourTune Seekers** quartet, also on the show was the wonderful, mixed-voice foursome, **Ready Willing and Mabel (Pete and Caroline Neushul, Kate Walker, and Jim Campbell)** who sang a cappella and also sang accompanied by the 20-piece Big Band called **The Rockin' Moroccans**. If you've not had the chance to see these groups perform, find their website and check out their next gig because they are GOOD.

On August 30, Rincon put on another show in Ventura, and the headliner for this Sunday afternoon show was the **New Fangled Four**, fresh from their exciting performances in Pittsburgh. Rincon chapter meets in Ventura County but members come from a wide radius so **Pacific Sound Chorus** performs all over the Tri-County area to satisfy fans in a broad geographic area.

Santa Clarita chapter is struggling but remaining positive and hanging together. They are now directed by **Ray Johnson**, a member of Masters of Harmony and the dozen or so stalwart singers are still having fun and trying to attract new members. If you know of any singers who live in that area of our District, please reach out and direct them to come visit the chapter.

Santa Barbara Channel City Chorus is in a similar situation - a dozen or so regulars who are being led by a trio of experienced leaders. I visited a while back and they still have enthusiasm and enjoy making music together.

Santa Monica Chapter will have a show on Sept. 12 which is the same day as another show put on by the **Masters of Harmony**. I'm sure many in our Division were conflicted on that date as both chapters are known for fun, exciting shows. **The Masters of Harmony** are staging many shows to capitalize on this, their 30th year of existence. October 1 is officially their 30th anniversary. The Masters are directed by **Justin Miller**, who also directed **Westminster** to their recent Gold Medal. In addition, he and his wife recently had their first child, so this is truly a busy, blessed, exciting and wonderful year for Justin.

All of us were saddened to learn of the death of **James Sabina**. James started Barbershopping as a high school quartet winner from **Lompoc Chapter**, and then made his way to the Los Angeles area and became the tenor of **Metropolis** quartet. A beautiful, very entertaining video memorial of his life was put together by the quartet and can be seen on YouTube <https://youtu.be/oOz1JI2YYLQ>. He leaves behind two young daughters, so the quartet has put together a college fund for the girls and it would be special if

you would consider contributing to the fund. Go here <http://go.fidelity.com/edny> <http://go.fidelity.com/uc98>. Their names are Isabelle and Lily.

Now our attention turns to the upcoming FWD Convention and Contest in Mesa AZ, which will be held the weekend of October 15-18. We are expecting a large number of our members to attend, and if you have not yet decided to do so, please make up your mind to go. There is a Platoon quartet group who will arrive on the 15th and undoubtedly have a wonderful time. The weather will be terrific, the convention site is wonderful...very modern with good acoustics, and there are numerous hotels in the area, all giving good prices to encourage you to attend. There's a new rail system that will take those of you who fly there, directly from the airport to the headquarters hotel...so, no expensive shuttles or taxis. The more of you who attend, the more fun it will be. It's that simple!

Representing our Division in the quartet contest will be **Blood Sweat and Years**, **Flightline** and **The FourTune Seekers**. In the chorus competition will be **Santa Fe Springs (The Masters of Harmony)** who will be favored to qualify to represent the FWD in Nashville in 2016 at the International Contest. Also from our Division, we'll be represented by **Rincon Beach**, **Santa Monica**, **South Bay**, **Pasadena** and **San Fernando Valley** chapters.

Lastly, we're headed into the Holiday season already. Yes, it's not that long until Christmas. Most of you will already be working on Holiday music in October. So schedule your shows and register them with the FWD Secretary so that our FWD friends and neighbors can look you up on the FWD website, and so that I can publicize your shows and we all can make plans to come see/hear you sing.

If there's anything I can do to be of help to you, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. I am committed to helping you have more fun from this wonderful "hobby" of ours.

You know, you make the most memories in life by participation....by actually "doing" things. I hope

you'll all plan to come to Mesa, AZ and enjoy the fellowship of all the wonderful people who make up the FWD of the Barbershop Harmony Society. See you there...



**District Vice President 2 SE
Craig Hughes**

What a great spring and summer in the Southeast Division!

Our **2015 Division Convention** in Santa Monica was amazing. Thank you to the **Masters of Harmony** (Host Chapter), **Bill Rosica** and **Doug Price** (Event Co-Chairmen), **Ron Black** (VP Contest & Judging), and **Russ Young** and **Nick Papageorge** (Backstage Magicians).

- The Southeast had eight Choruses compete and all qualified for District Competition in Mesa, Arizona. La Jolla's **Pacific Coast Harmony** is our 2015 Division Chorus and Plateau AAA Champion. South Orange County's **South County Sound** is Plateau AA Champion. Inland Empire's **Inland Sound** is Plateau A Champion. Fullerton's **Orange Empire Chorus** is Most Improved.

- The Southeast had twelve Quartets compete and six qualified for District. Las Vegas's **Harmony Lane** is our Division Quartet Champion. **Harmony Lane** is a family affair with **Dallas Halvorson** on Tenor, his dad **Larry** on Lead, Uncle **Jim** on Bari and longtime friend **Buzz Bossard** on Bass.

The **2015 International Convention** in Pittsburg was filled with successful Southeast Division representatives.

- **The Westminster Chorus** is **International Champion!** They scored an amazing 97.5% - the second highest ever (*they scored 97.7% in 2010*) - and represent all that is good in Barbershop. They are true champions.

- We had four Division Quartets compete at International. **North of the Border** is brand-spanking new and finished in the top 35 on their first time out. Division Champions **McPhly** (2014) and **The**

Newfangled Four (2013) finished in the top 15. Division Champion **The Crush** (2009) finished in the top 10.

District in Mesa Arizona – **October 15 to 18** will be another great event and I encourage all members' attendance to bask in the glow and afterglow with your brothers in Harmony. Please try to attend the House of Delegates Meeting on Friday. Your Chapter has one voting delegate so make sure your President fills out the credentials for the man representing your Chapter. It could be you.

Mark your calendars for the **2016 Harmony College West and Leadership Academy** in Las Vegas the second weekend in January. No one does it better than the **Far Western District**. This will be a super event for everyone. Details to follow.

On a personal note, I continue to see parallels between the best of life and Barbershop. I was recently the foreperson on a criminal jury and found the process interesting. I admit to entering the jury room with a decision in mind but, after spending two days with a really diverse group, I delivered a verdict that was more informed and better fit the circumstances. I find working with the leadership team at the Chapter and District level as enlightening. All Barbershoppers bring unique talents to the "hobby" and can make the "product" more extraordinary by their involvement. Please don't be shy. Share your talents. We need "all four parts" to make a chord. Leadership is about collaboration and delegation in harmony. Much like my jury experience.

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



***District Vice President 3 NW
Charles Feltman***

NorCal West had a very active quarter.

Voices In Harmony had its Spring Show (matinee and evening) with Love Notes (SAI Queens) on April 18. They also just returned from the 2015 International in Pittsburgh with an 18th place

finish. Regrettably, a fair portion of the membership could not make this trip to International.

Under their new Music Director Sean Abel, the Peninsulaires took the top score in the AA size Division competition. Now that their April 25 Spring Show is over they are looking forward to their November 15 Fall Cabaret. That will be a matinee Ice Cream Social followed by an evening Dinner Show.

The South Bay Quartet Chapter (1st & 3rd Wednesday lunch) is alive and well based on my visit in early July. It was amazing to hear many older members sing (still remembered) songs not sung regularly for about 25 years.

The Marin Chapter will be opening a Pacific Coast Minor League Baseball game on August 12. They will have their annual Show in November (but exact date and venue are not yet on their website).

The Cypressaires in Monterey helped celebrate Memorial Day at Colton Hall in Monterey. They also have an annual Show planned but the date and venue are not yet on their website.

The San Francisco Chapter performed two American songs at the Presidio Memorial Day to rave reviews. Those still in town on July 26 will brave the 4:40 AM call time for the SF Marathon Star Spangled Banner.

Both San Francisco and San Mateo Chapter will have October 3 Shows this year (mutual agreement - no conflict). San Mateo is still running its fifth Tuesday quartet night - I encourage more visitors since I had a blast last month.

The Walnut Creek Chapter has made great strides in recruitment, working towards an October 4 Show. Their quartet program, now a regular part of their Chapter Meeting, has generated a lot of enthusiasm. They ran a woodshedding party last month to better train their ears (and those of others visiting). They are also hosting a Barbershop BBQ for the Division on August 29 in Moraga Commons Park.

Fremont-Hayward is holding together with an imbalance of Basses and summer attendance doldrums. Recruitment concurrent with more consistent vocal production was the current focus on my last visit. If anybody else can visit them any Thursday it is a real blessing which energizes their membership.

Eureka had their first Show this year on May 2 (no date on the second one). Kudos for any chapter with two shows a year since this gets them out into the public. Check their website if you go north to visit because they moved their rehearsal venue in March.

Santa Cruz had a May 30 Cabaret Show with many Chapter Quartets a local one from SAI. Having some women's voices (except as Basses) in the mix has positive membership reviews.

Full disclosure - I went to this show despite a long drive because of my SAI distaff connection ;-)



***District Vice President 4 NE
Richard Lund***

Here I am at thirty-six thousand feet heading home. It's been an absolutely amazing week of Barbershop at Harmony University in Nashville, Tennessee! Can't wait to get home; can't wait to share all of this treasure with the guys in the chapter. Oh wait. It never happens that way; every year when I come home from HU, it seems almost impossible to convey the excitement and enthusiasm that is Harmony University.

But wait... I don't have to worry about that this year... nearly All of my riser buddies are here on the plane with me!!! We ALL went to Harmony University TOGETHER as the Voices of California Chorus!! I'll say this, and no one ever really believes it: the week was a near life-changing event for us as a chapter. In its most simple form, we sang an initial "evaluation" song Monday morning in front of all of our coaches and several others of the quartets that also came to HU. That was the technical part of the process to establish a calibration level of where we are "in the beginning". We then gathered again on Friday

morning after a full to overflowing week of coaching from several of the top coaches in the Society, to sing a final "evaluation" song again for our coaches - no, no, by this time our newly found lifelong friends. WOW, what a change in the chorus sound; and what a change in all of us.

Yes, we ALL went to Harmony University this year. We all made the commitment of time, money and rationalizations with our loved ones and families in order to ATTEND Harmony University as a chorus unit to experience the tremendous effect that Harmony University has on individuals, quartets and, yes, entire choruses. We are bringing the excitement of our tremendous experiences home with us – singing at a higher level and the camaraderie of a week of coaching and working together at the highest levels.

My feelings are literally of total joy and fulfillment. The chorus has, in fact, had the pure pleasure of all those wonderful Harmony University experiences. It is truly an amazing feeling.

Many of you have experienced the joy and wonder of our International Conventions. Nearly all of those experiences of an International Convention are vicarious. You are, in almost all cases, an audience member, or at most a singer in a chorus so that you spend about 10 minutes in the sun, and the rest of the time watching.

Harmony University is like taking those ten minutes and stretching them out to an entire week! It is simply the most personal, exciting, uplifting, and whatever other fantastic adjectives you can find to describe the time that you spend singing, being educated, and watching other guys, and gals, succeed with this hobby of ours.

Our chorus will never be the same. We have come across a mountain range, together, and life as it was in pre-Harmony University for Voices of California has changed. Quite literally, a new chapter in our development has begun.

The Chorus Coaching track at Harmony University is but one of many, many offerings that are available at HU. I strongly suggest that Harmony University should be on every Barbershopper's "bucket list." Coming to Harmony University means you can enjoy a potpourri of classes offered, all geared to help you grow in your understanding of music, your performance, and other techniques for singing, directing, arranging, and even tuning! During your meal times, sit with your society heroes and listen in, ask questions, and even take a quick selfie! Harmony University classes are enlightening, engaging, and fun, and the extracurricular activities, the late night tag singing, and all the ice cream you can eat will make you long for more hours in the day.

I urge you to take a look at your chorus, your quartet and yourself individually and take up the challenge to attend Harmony University in 2016. In fact, take advantage of all of the tremendous events that we Barbershoppers have literally right in front of us that can help us grow and enjoy our hobby even more. Harmony University is but one of the many incredible events that the BHS and the Far Western District put on each year that truly Help all of us as individuals and as chapters. The list is extensive: Harmony College West, Divisional contests and District Conventions, and all the coaching seminars that we put on; and even Leadership Academy. It is not an exaggeration to say that all of these events provide growth and educational experiences for you and your chapter quite unlike nearly all other hobbies out there. They are yours for the taking. Drink of them deeply!



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

What a GREAT TIME to be part of this awesome Division.

With the International Convention in Pittsburgh over, the Far Western District again came away with our heads held very high. Congratulations to our brothers, THE Westminster Chorus for your outstanding performance. I was proud to see you so well rewarded. Also showing well for the FWD was Voices in Harmony. Congratulations as well to our

FWD quartet representatives, in particular, The Crush and Artistic License for your top 10 performances. Additionally, I want to recognize Mc Fly, The Newfangled Four, American Pastime, Flightline and North Of The Boarder for their exceptional efforts. Speaking of Flightline, they along with Brannigan and Makeshift (one member from AZ Div...thanks RJ) were awesome in the College Quartet Contest. Way to go everyone!

The FWD Fall Convention will be held here in Mesa, AZ once again, and things are really "heating up" so to speak. At this writing, the HQ Hotel has sold out of our room block. There are three other hotels on the list. If you haven't done so, be sure to get your reservations in soon. Also, since our last convention here in 2013, the light rail project to downtown Mesa has been completed. This means you can catch it at Sky Harbor Airport and end up just up the street from the HQ Hotel and it also passes one of the overflow hotels. This will allow you to save some cab fare as well as getting to see some awesome sights along the way for under \$4. Such a deal!

The annual Fred Koch Memorial BASH is set for the weekend of Aug 14-16. This event continues to be an awesome weekend of Barbershop fellowship.

Please take a long look at EVP Bergthold's message in this issue. He has hit on some points that ring true for all of us, in particular, here in the AZ Div. Communication is THE most vital element of any organization. If the information is withheld or not clearly passed on, problems will develop. There have been a couple of situations where that is true. I want to thank the leadership of the White Mountains Chapter for its thoughtful efforts and constant communication to its members. They were on the verge of folding as a Chapter which would be terrible for the Div and the White Mountain area in general. With calm heads, clear minds, and a constant flow of positive energy, they voted recently and defeated the motion with a resounding "no" vote. Well done gentlemen! I wish every Chapter could take a lesson from them. We are a fraternity that thrives on our good will. Problems

which seem monumental are generally small things that seem big without proper communication.

Finally, I announced in the last Westunes that Frank Ortega has resigned as AZ Division 5 Westunes Editor. I have sent a request to all of the AZ Div. Chapters to contact people to check with their membership to see if anyone was willing to step up to fill this important position. Now I know that Frank has pretty big shoes to fill, but I am sure that SOMEONE can do it. Please let either myself or Ray Rhymer know if you have an interested party. If you are wondering how this is going, take a look at the Chapter comments later in this issue.

As always, membership is consistently on the front burner. How many **Man Of Note** awards will YOU get for the year? Do it because you love singing and really just want to share the joy with as many men as possible! Simply ask, “where do you do your singing”? You will be surprised.

As I said before, it is GREAT to be part of this awesome Division!!! See you all in October.



***District Vice President C&J
Ron Black***

I’ve just returned from the **best** Harmony University ever! After decades being on the faculty at H.U.,

I was thrilled to be there with 51 other members of the California Delta, Voices of California for the week-long coaching. Everything about the event at our new “digs” (Belmont University in Nashville), was top notch. Read more about it in the Live Wire and upcoming Harmonizer. (You should really try to go next year!)

The Fall Convention in Mesa is just around the corner. Register on the FWD website for your tickets. Hurry up, the deadline for early bird pricing is coming up soon. Go for the convention, the competition, the Platoon, the classes, the singing in the lobby, and watch the best in our District sing for us.

Here is the draw for the Fall Chorus and Quartet contests. See the FWD website for the contest flow times.

OOA	Quartets	Choruses
1	Intonation	Fullerton
2	Brannigan	South Bay
3	Four Fifteen	Temecula
4	Gotta Wear Shades	San Fernando Valley
5	Blood, Sweat, and Years	Palo Alto - Mountain View
6	Carefree Highway	Tucson
7	The Front Line	San Diego
8	The Natural Selection	Inland Empire
9	High Priority	Placerville
10	The Other Guys	Santa Monica
11	Jackpot!	Fresno
12	Don't Tell Mom	La Jolla
13	Flightline	South Orange County
14	Behind the Barn	Rincon Beach
15	Echo	Brea
16	Dynamix	Las Vegas
17	North of the Border	Bay Area
18	Whoop "Em Up	California Delta
19	Shave the Bear	Santa Fe Springs
20	Spellbound	Greater Phoenix
21	Left Coasters	
22	Lordsburg Brothers	
23	Batteries Not Included	
24	Heatwave	
25	Suit Up!	
26	Four Tune Seekers	
27	Harmony Lane	
28	Conchordance	



**District Vice President Mu&Perf
Nick Papageorge**

***** **HARK, HARK,** *****

**ALL FAR WESTERN DISTRICT CHAPTERS!
HARMONY COLLEGE WEST &
LEADERSHIP ACADEMY**

**ATTENTION ALL! -
MASTERPIECE
TO BE GUEST QUARTET AT HCWEST.**

AGAIN THIS YEAR! Harmony College West will be combining with the FWD Leadership Academy. It will be held at the Sunset Station Hotel and Casino in beautiful Las Vegas, Nevada, January 8 - 10, 2016.

But first I must address an issue that may with interfere your Chapter's love of making music, and performing. Unfortunately, many of our Chapters are delinquent in filing the required forms with the IRS and their respective States that allow them to remain a non-profit organization. (In all fairness, they may not have posted the filing on EBiz. That must be done as well so that the Society and District can confirm it has been completed) I'm sure that my fellow Board members will also be addressing this frightening state of our great District. If you don't know about your Chapter's filing, ask your Secretary or Treasurer; or even better, ask them if they need help with it. There are videos on the Society website that show exactly how to take care of this vital issue. But I assure you, it's easy. I looked at the forms, and even I can fill them out. They are the EZ forms for most of our Chapters. Enough said. I hope you all take care of this, because if you don't, you may not be singing.

Each year I encourage as many of your chapter members as I can to attend Harmony College West. It will be held at the same time and place that your Chapter Officers attend their Leadership Academy. Imagine the knowledge and work that chapter

members, their chapter officers, and their chapter quartets can collaborate on, during a weekend retreat of learning and strategic planning/goal setting. Not to mention the Barbershop Experience, i.e., singing, ringing chords, and just plain FUN!

HCWest will offer classes in Barbershop basics such as arranging, vocal techniques, sight-reading, and more. There will also be an emphasis on Chorus Director training at all levels. Royce Ferguson and I are planning exciting, new opportunities for all of our directors (or those Barbershoppers who may want to find out how to direct). We have many chapters in our District that need directors, so we are making a concerted effort to train exciting and vibrant new directors. Please, **SEND YOUR DIRECTOR!** More information will be available this month!

Are you aware of the "Best Seat In The House" program? For a donation to the Harmony Foundation, you can participate in the judging of a contest! It would be an eye and ear-opening experience for you. You would actually judge the quartets or choruses, and be in on the judges' discussions. Very cool indeed! Check out the details at bestseat.org

Many of our choruses are gearing up for a Holiday Show or an Annual Show. Remember that your chorus can engage in the "Standing Ovation Program." This program is set up to have a qualified District coach attend your show and give your chapter constructive feedback to make your subsequent shows even better!

Lastly, **PLEASE SUPPORT** the Far Western DISTRICT CONTEST in Mesa! Many of you will be competing and the rest of us will be having a blast listening and watching you!

Have a musically rewarding Fall!



**Chapter Support &
Leadership Training
Steve Salmon**

One for the Money, Two for the Show, Three to get ready, now go cat Go!

As we head into this Fall there is much going on in each of our chapters. We should all be heading into Fall board elections as well as planning for the New Year. It is the board's responsibility to head into the New Year excited and ready to support our Music, Membership, and Marketing (see previous Westunes submission). Since I couldn't get this song out of my head I decided to use it as a framework for today's reading. (Thank you Elvis, thank you very much.)

1) Money – Every chapter needs some. You won't be in leadership long before this topic comes up. Just as we expect our music team to have a musical vision for the year, the chapter board must also have a financial vision for the year. It is not fair to rest the financial responsibility of the chapter on the backs of the music team. Yes, the annual show and paid performances are a part of the financial puzzle, but probably not all of it. There are many ways for chapters to raise money, and often these activities build comraderie and brotherhood in the chapter. Of course there are Singing Valentines, and I hope you are preparing to own that holiday, but there is also Mother's Day, Father's Day, Independence Day, and many others. My chapter ran a fireworks booth, had a Father's Day Pancake Breakfast, and is now looking into how to host a Barbershop Bingo Night. We also received two different Grants this year, and are exploring other means of raising money.

2) Show – There will always be an annual show, but I want to reflect on the weekly show the leaders bring to our chapter meetings. Are your meetings fun and upbeat? How is the language around your chapter meeting? Is everyone who gets in front of your chapter positive and upbeat? Do they bring an attitude of success and prosperity? If not, where is the board? Why are you not leading? There is no benefit from negativity, or lackluster presentations, to your membership. To be in front of your chapter is a privilege, and we need to bring our "A" game each week. Two things are constantly in play in our lives; our State (How we feel), and our Blueprint (What we believe). Every person who is a part of your "weekly show" must understand the impact they have on chapter members. Every person who gets in front of

your chapter must consider how they make you feel and make sure their contribution is a positive one.

3) Get ready – What makes a good leader? It's time to choose next year's board. Who is willing to spend the time researching and networking to bring success to your chapter? In this internet age there is no shortage of resources for someone who is resourceful enough to go look for it. You can search out solutions to any challenge. There are society resources, district resources, and lots of chapter resources to help you be successful. I hope your nominating committees are actively pairing up chapter leaders and board positions. Create a plan (a blueprint) for the coming year.

4) Go Cat Go – We are looking forward to a great year in the Far Western District. The fact that you have read this article to its completion tells me you are a leader, and I hope you are doing all you can to support your chapter and its success. Be a positive voice in your chapter and lift up the burdens of others. If you are in a leadership position in your chapter, keep positive and share your vision with your board. What is the most important thing that needs your focus? What we focus on is what we are emotional about, and what we are emotional about is what we achieve. I wish you the best as you prepare for the coming year and all that it has to offer you.

<http://www.fundraisingip.com/fundraising/100-fundraising-ideas/>

<http://www.services.juniata.edu/osa/100FundraisingIdeas.html>

http://wn.com/power_of_positive_language

<http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational-leadership/sept08/vol66/num01/The-Power-of-Our-Words.aspx>

<http://www.positivityblog.com/index.php/2006/10/11/10-ways-to-change-how-you-feel/>

<http://www.langevin.com/blog/2011/12/01/don%e2%80%99t-blame-the-learner-evaluating-the-effectiveness-of-training/>



**Chorus Director
Development
Greg Lyne &
Royce Ferguson**

No article submitted.

Events Bryan Forbes

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 Bingle



Marketing & Public Relations Jerry McElfresh

In a recent Westunes column I pointed out that communication is a major job of any Barbershop Marketing and PR officer, me included.

Communication involves telling our story to our own members, our fans, Barbershoppers in other Districts and the public. Doing that helps us accomplish our major goals of promoting money-making shows and other ventures and helping our chapter Membership officers to gain and retain members.

With those goals in mind, District Webmaster David Melville and I, with support of District President Allan Webb and Executive VP Gordon Berghold

(next year's president), are launching, in coming weeks, a monthly Westags email-based publication designed to get the word out to all of our members on matters of interest and importance to them.

We'll soon start sending monthly reports on Division and District events. They'll include a number of brief items, a calendar of events and occasional comments from District officers. Examples would include Harmony Camps, Leadership Academies, District conventions and Division programs such as last month's Arizona Barbershop Bash.

The first edition will deal largely with the upcoming Fall District Convention and Contest in Mesa, AZ, and will provide information on how to submit material for distribution in Westags.

Mention of the Fall Convention opens the door to remind you what a great time you'll have if you are in Mesa on Oct. 15-18. More than 20 of the District's top choruses will be competing for invitations to next summer's international contest in Nashville and 28 quartets are scheduled to vie for the District Championship and Senior Quartet honors.

You can find information on the FWD Website about registration, schedule of events, Harmony Platoon program, Association of FWD Champions Late Show; District Board and House of Delegates meetings, Barbershop classes and a lot more. Don't miss it.

2016 HCW/LA scheduled

The 2016 joint Harmony College West and Leadership Academy is scheduled to return to the Las Vegas area on January 8-10. Classes will be held at Sunset Station – Las Vegas / Henderson, the site of this year's successful program. Plan now to have as many of your chapter officers and members as possible attend these educational programs.

Membership
Steve Young

Newly appointed.



Quartet Activities
Bill Kane

Since you are reading this column we'll assume you have some interest in quartet singing.

Are you in a quartet? Have you ever been? If not, why not?

You are so lucky to be in the FWD where there are so many opportunities to quartet. But you say you haven't found them? Well, let me help. Contact me and let's discuss. I take it as a personal challenge to help you find a way to quartet.

Email is best, but I do take phone calls.

billkanevip@msn.com
480-518-6474

Challenge me!



Youth In Harmony
Jim Halvorson

No article submitted

American Pastime Card
2014 FWD Champions

www.apquartet.com

American Pastime

626-786-5830

Graham Pence
Tom Moore

grahampence@gmail.com

Scott Kidder
Joe D'Amore

FWD Sunshine Card

FWD Sunshine Chairman
Les Cudworth

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



Division 1 SWChapters

Ken Day, ditor

Aloha Chapter

By Jack Hashimoto

We said “Aloha” to Director **Bonnie McKibben** in April as she directed her last performances for us at the Honolulu Choral Festival, at the Pohai Nani Retirement Home. Bonnie moves to Southern California to further her work in music and to be closer to her family. We really regretted seeing her leave us, but were happy that she was able to be closer to her family.

We said “Welcome back” to **Mark Conching** who took over as Director in May, and stepped in like he had never left the podium. He did so with new enthusiasm, and the guys welcomed him with open arms. This is Mark's third or fourth stint as director for this chorus, and he has been a mainstay for over 30 years. We sang for the Ward Villages Theaters and the Pearl Ridge Theaters to promote the movie Pitch Perfect 2, along with our sister chorus the Honolulu Blend Show Chorus. Tim Warwick visited this month to say hello and coach us. The month ended on a high note as we were featured at the annual Mayor's Memorial Day Ceremony at the Punchbowl National Cemetery of the Pacific.

BOTMs during this period were: April - **Mike Joor**; May - **Bob Gibson**; June - **Kawika Mitchel**.

Rincon Beach

By Ken Day

We competed in the SW/SE combined Division Contest and finished second [in SW division to the **Masters of Harmony**] and scored high enough to qualify for the Fall Contest in Mesa, AZ.

We had two shows on August 22 at the New Vic Theater in Santa Barbara. A fantastic SAI chorus called **Carpe Diem** as well as **Ready, Willing, and Mabel** (a mixed quartet) backed by the “Rockin’ Moroccans” band performed with Pacific Sound.

A week later we performed a larger repertoire from Pacific Sound and headliners were the 2013 FWD Quartet Champions **The Newfangled Four**.

We will travel to Bakersfield in September to do a show to bring more notice to barbershop singing in the city. The Bakersfield Chapter will be handling the venue and the advertising. We want to help with a resurgence in membership.

San Fernando Valley

By Mark Wolf

The Valley Harmony Singers moved our rehearsal location back to our old stomping grounds at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Van Nuys, CA. We are sad that director, **Laura Pallas**, decided to focus her directing efforts onto her Sweet Adelines Santa Monica Chorus. The other side of this coin is that **Tom Raffety** accepted the directorship and we couldn't be more pleased that he has accepted the position! Tom previously held this position from the '90s through 2005 and it's great to have him back!

We welcome newest members **Wendell 'Bo' Jenkins, Jr.** and **Rich Feldman** (both basses) and welcome back long-term member **Konrad Kellner**!

We held an Ice Cream Social in August and our holiday show will be on Dec 12th. Details are on our website: www.valleyharmonysingers.com.

San Luis Obispo Chapter

By Pete Bennett

Director **Logan Patrick-Miernicki** has been presenting a series of pre-rehearsal music and craft classes, and the members have given them a solid thumbs-up! Logan inspires our singers, and our chorus sound continues to improve.

New member **Chuck Maly** returns to Barbershopping after a 40-year hiatus. Now retired, Chuck sings lead. Chuck was originally in a Detroit chapter.

The community enthusiastically welcomed back the **Gold Coast Chorus** to perform our patriotic songs at the Memorial Day ceremony honoring those who gave their lives in service of our country.

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

Santa Fe Springs

By Ron Larsen

The **Masters of Harmony's** 30th Anniversary Year continues to be a year of memorable events as well as reflection on past successes, what made them possible, and thoughtful reassessment of what it will take to continue performing at the highest possible level. The Masters 2015 mantra “You Have What It Takes” is guiding that reassessment and recent audiences seem to agree!

The Masters successfully handled the dual task of hosting and competing in the combined Southeast/Southwest Divisional Quartet and Chorus Contest at Santa Monica High School. Thanks to the skillful planning of Convention Co-Chairmen **Bill Rosica** and **Doug Price**, as attested to by FWD Events Chairman **Bryan Forbes**, contest activities ran smoothly. The Southwest Division Seniors Quartet Contest winner, **Blood, Sweat & Years**, featured two MOH members, **Les Weiser** and **Bob Cathaway**. Scheduling the Masters of Harmony as the last chorus competitor allowed a number of MOH members time to perform with other choruses before rejoining the Masters on stage. MOH won the Southwest Division Chorus Contest with a score of 90.9%.

The 2015 Annual Spring Show *Flashback* was a superbly staged paean to three decades of standing ovation performances. Those entering the Carpenter Performing Arts Theater were greeted by a display of trophies, memorabilia, gold-medal banners and costumes worn on each of the eight MOH international championship performances. The theater was alive with eager anticipation and, over the next two hours, the near-capacity audience rewarded the performers with loud, sustained applause. A special video presentation titled “Memorable MOH-ments”

presented each trophy-winning performance in stunning detail. The current chorus then recreated some of those moments in a Gold Medal Medley arranged by **Kenny Potter**. The crowd-pleasing musicality of **American Pastime** (**Tom Moore, Joe D'Amore, Steve Pence, Graham Pence**) showed why this foursome has become a very worthy International quartet competitor. Featured guest quartet **Lunch Break** gave the audience a comedic performance it will long remember, providing some of the longest, most sustained laughter ever heard on a Masters stage.

Thanks to tireless behind-the-scenes work by Lake Arrowhead resident and chorus member **Arbe Kraft**, the Masters performed in Lake Arrowhead's Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church. The chorus thrilled an audience of about 400 in front of a huge glass window that framed some of the majestic beauty of this lakeside community. The acoustic quality of the church sanctuary area was superb, allowing the chorus and each of the three performing quartets - **Masterpiece**, **The Newfangled Four**, **American Pastime** - to fill the sanctuary with world-class harmony.

Special congratulations go to our barbershop brothers from Westminster who brought the Pittsburgh house down with a gold-medal performance that scored a stunning 97.5! MOH quartets competing in Pittsburgh represented the FWD well. Top MOH finisher was **The Crush** with emeritus member **Matt Gray**.

Both The Newfangled Four (**Joey Buss, Jackson Niebrugge, Ryan Wisniewski, Jake Tickner**) and American Pastime (**Graham Pence, Steve Pence, Tom Moore, Joe D'Amore**) gave improved performances that bode well for their future contest appearances. **Flightline** (**Oscar Sotelo, Daniel Huitt, Cody Littlefield, Kyle Williamson**) finished 5th in the Collegiate Quartet Contest and 30th in the open contest.

On Saturday, July 18, chorus member **Dickson Chen** married his fiancé **Jungmi Kim** in a beautiful ceremony at the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Pasadena. Over 50 of his chorus brothers performed a mini-concert at the post-wedding reception. The wedding and reception were webcast, making it possible for Jungmi's many relatives and friends in Korea to witness the event. Thank you, Dickson and Jungmi, for sharing your special days with us and for allowing us to surround you and your guests, here and overseas, with beautiful barbershop harmony!

It is with sadness that the Masters noted the passing of emeritus **Jim Throgmorton**, winner of four gold medals during his 27 years with the Masters and of former member **James Sabina**, tenor of **Metropolis** and winner of two gold medals during his 14 years with the chorus.

Since the last issue of Westunes, we welcomed **Jesse Davidson** into membership at a special badge ceremony. Three applicants - **Bob Hartwig, Lucas Purcell** and **David Rivas** - received board approval but have yet to be badged.

Santa Monica
By Marty Mitnick

Singing our National Anthem in a stadium filled with over 15,000 spectators is a special treat. The **Oceanaires** were again invited to perform at the Galaxy Soccer stadium.

Another performance was presented for the Palisades Women's Club celebrating the birthdays of their 90-year-old members.

June BOTM award was presented to past president **Jerry Walker**.

David Zasloff was warmly greeted as he returned after an absence of over two months due to health issues.

Bob Wilson is undergoing a long-term medical treatment regimen and we hope he will be able to return to the **Oceanaires** shortly.



Division 2 SE Chapters
Dale Vaughn, Editor

Coachella Valley Chapter
By Stan Gile

It's now truly hot in the desert, but the **Sandblasters** are continuing to grow. We have added new tenor, **Darr Sandberg**, and have had repeat guests, **Gary Cooper**, Bari, and **Richard Henderson**, Bass, thanks to the effort of **Mike Dunn**, Bari. We are averaging almost twice as many men per night as we did for the same time period last year.

Our new Director **Mark Austin** attended Harmony University this summer.

Visit us at: <http://www.cvbarbershop.com>

Fullerton Chapter
By Don Derler

One of the most wonderful evenings I've spent Barbershopping was our time with **Sang Park's** kids from **Temecula High School**. I can't help but think about the impact this hobby has had on me. The singing of **Keep the Whole World Singing** with the kids left me tingling, and helped me to remember what got me started in the first place.

Exposure to the public for the chorus and for our quartets is one of the major things [in my opinion] that will ignite the fire in those who might find themselves traveling the same road I did. Social media, under the guidance of **Mike Evans** is also expected to help. Guest nights, or "Bring a Buddy" night, as **Don Derler** suggested, may also be a great tool.

With the support of our **Orange Blossoms** and the high school kids, we put on a show that was absolutely enthralling for our guests. Whenever we sing for the public, whether it be in the chorus or in a quartet, we may hit that special someone who feels he just has to find out more - all because he has been mesmerized, as I was - all because of a song. - Ken Klein, President

Beloved member **Stan French** is remembered by long-time chapter member **Al Bell**. Here's a snippet... "Stan was a character and a man of character—not always an easy spectrum to balance. This puts into perspective why we honor him so respectfully and lovingly as we celebrate his life."

Visit us at: www.oechoorus.org

Inland Empire Chapter
By Gaylord Spence

The **Inland Empire Chapter** is proud of our very busy show schedule this summer. With the recent melding of two successful chapters we had the contacts and resources to put on three shows in August. Two shows were hosted by the chapter at the Solid Ground Church in Rancho Cucamonga, and the final summer show was hosted at Sun Lakes Country Club in Banning. All these shows were on the heels of just performing at Loan Mart Field, formerly The Epicenter, for the Rancho Cucamonga Quakes. In addition to raising funds to support our chapter activities, the point of all these performances and exposure was to feel more comfortable on the contest stage in Mesa in October to match or exceed our spring qualifying score.

We warmly welcome new member **Gilbert Garcia**
Visit us at: www.welovetosinging.com

La Jolla Chapter
By Dale Vaughn

Pacific Coast Harmony traveled to Santa Monica for the SE/SW Division Contests and once again returned home as SE Division Champs! A great event so ably hosted by our brothers in the **Masters of Harmony**, current SW Division Champions.

Our Annual Dinner Show was easily the highlight of this quarter. We welcomed 2013 FWD Quartet Champs and BHS Collegiate Champs **The Newfangled Four** as headliner quartet. They were joined by chapter quartets **Behind the Barn**, **Added Attraction**, **Pacific Experience**, **Easily Distracted**, **Revelation** and **Rip Curl**.

World-famous Balboa Park in San Diego was the destination for many members of Pacific Coast Harmony for the wedding of PCH member **Preston Kingsley** and his beautiful new bride **Linda**. The happy couple met while Linda was going to school at SDSU. We have unfortunately lost Preston to his new family in Norway!

The chorus did a Music Series performance at St. David's Church and a Community Outreach performance for Fiesta del Sol in Barrio Logan.

Our Director Search Committee completed interviews with several qualified candidates for our chorus director position and the process continues with those candidates each visiting a rehearsal and working their skills and magic with the chorus. We will compete in the FWD contest in Mesa with our only director in our 13-year history, **Kim Vaughn**, who officially retires effective November 1. Congratulations, Kim... we love you!
Visit us at: www.pacificcoastharmony.org

Las Vegas Chapter
By Martin Judd

We welcome new members **Rudolf (Rudy) Jovero** – an excellent bass who helped us make our fireworks stand a success this year, and **Benjamin Rockoff** – another excellent bass who signed up for Harmony U as soon as he heard about it. These

gentlemen have already shown themselves to be hooked on our singing style as well as hard workers.

The Silver Statesmen had their annual shows at the **Desert Spring United Methodist Church**. The event was based on 'old time Vegas' with many of the songs that were made popular by the 'Rat Pack'. In addition to the chorus, the following quartets performed; **Jackpot**, **4 Ever Yours**, **Harmony Lane** and **Freemont Street Experience**. **Robert Arnold** was an excellent MC.

In an effort to pad the treasury a little, **The Silver Statesmen**, in conjunction with the **Temple Sinai Men's Club**, sponsored a Father's Day Pancake Breakfast. Chapter secretary **Ivan Lambert** spearheaded the event. The men's club provided the venue and the cooks and the chapter provided the servers, waiters, bus boys and musical entertainment throughout the morning.

In another first for **The Silver Statesmen** during the week of June 23 – July 4, we ran a fireworks stand. Initiated by EVP **Greg Dreyer**, **John Lennox** and **Roger Anderson** stepped up to do a great job putting the week together considering that none of us had any experience with this type of fund-raiser. A new 'young' member **Rudy Jovero**, currently a student at UNLV, had helped his high school run a fireworks stand for four years. With his knowledge of the inner workings of such a stand, the event was a success.

The Silver Statesmen were honored to participate in a joint concert with the **Ile de France Children's Choir** at the **Good Samaritan Lutheran Church**. As the current host for our weekly rehearsals, this allowed us to give a little payback for all their kindnesses.

Visit us at: www.silverstatesmen.com

Palomar Pacific Chapter
By Keith Bogost

At our guest night, several prospective members showed up and refreshments were served. **Bill Olszanicky** did a good job setting up the evening.

The Chapter performed at Merrill Gardens in Oceanside. **Spare Parts (Paul Bloom, Joe Quince, Tal Klaus, Keith Bogost)** did a demonstration of the 4 parts which make up barbershop harmony and sang a few songs. **Four Shades of Gray (Charlie Wendt, Chuck Youde, Bill Scofield, Dick Schulze)** and **The No Names (Paul Bloom, Al Leuthe, Bill Scofield, Roger Hufferd)** also performed.

A successful segment of our June program was a *Why Do I Sing*, suggested by **Roger Hufferd**. Each member stood on the risers and explained, briefly, why he comes to weekly rehearsals and performs with our group. Happiness and mental health were at the top of the lists.

A joint show will be held with Temecula in September. In preparation for this, the director of the Temecula Chapter, **Sang Park**, will direct our Chapter for several weeks so we can coordinate our efforts with those of their Chapter.

Bass **Dave Schaffer** was approved as a new member, and **Mark Mace** was awarded BOTM.

All members were encouraged to purchase the Barberpole Cat Songbook Vol. II and a learning tape for their respective parts.
Visit us at: www.musicmenchorus.org

Orange Quartet Chapter
By Mark Sheldon

The Chapter is saddened by the passing of our member Eli Peralta. Eli had sung throughout his life including quartetting with his brothers.

The Chapter has formed a Music & Performance Committee with objectives of improving the quality of our singing and breadth of common repertoire among our members. We are initially facilitating access and proficiency with the newly extended BarberPole Cat (I and II) collections. We also have several members active in the Harmony Platoons and encourage others preparing for Platoon events to join us for practice.

The Orange Chapter once again hosted the *Comedy Quartet Contest* in late July. A big "thank you" to the many barbershoppers from our chapter and others who participated both as volunteers and/or as contestants!
Visit us at: www.harmonize.com/orange

San Diego Chapter
By Craig Hughes

Sun Harbor was busy performing as a Chorus and in Quartets for lots of gigs - big and small - public and private. Our **Quad Squad** quartet was twice featured as the opening act in the world-renowned Spreckels Organ Pavilion to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Balboa Park.

Louis Regas (President), **Larry Good** (Joe White Scholarship winner), and **Mike Mullert** (newest member) attended **Harmony University** in Nashville and brought back great energy and many ideas.

Every Tuesday is "guest night" but we are gearing up for something special. We have had a nice number of "walk-ins" this year and want to attract many more through personal invitations, social media, and flyers. We held a Guest Night on August 18th with all the trimmings and welcomed old and new friends.

San Diego is a mecca for visitors. Please visit if you are in town on a Tuesday.
Visit us at: www.sunharbor.org

South Orange County Chapter
By Rich Jensen

Late breaking news: **South County Sound Chorus** has found a director. More information to come.

The chorus mourns the recent passing of **Carl Schoonover** (Chapter Treasurer).



Division 3 NW Chapters
John Heather, Editor

Marin County
By Newt Harband

The **Marin Golden Gate Barbershop Chorus** was well-received at the Marin Sing event — multiple singing groups performed at an outdoor market place in Larkspur.

We performed at the Marin County Fair led by assistant director **Paul Wren**.

After singing the National Anthem at our local baseball team's games, the fans of the San Rafael Pacifics complimented us on our excellent singing.

Recognized as one of the premier singing groups of Marin county, we are attracting more members.
Visit us at www.marinbarbershopchorus.org

Monterey Peninsula
By Sam Kier

The hard-core members of the Monterey **Cypressaires** continue to rehearse on Tuesday nights despite the lack of a chorus director.

They performed at the City of Monterey's Memorial Day observance and made plans to stroll and sing occasionally at the Farmer's Market on Alvarado Street.

The chorus turned out to help barbershopper **Joe Pintacura** and his wife, **Shirley**, celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary.
Visit us at: www.cypressaires.org

Palo Alto/Mountain View
By David Weatherford

Thirty men and women participated in the **Peninsulaires'** annual Singer's Vocal Clinic this year. The six-week free clinic culminated with an open house, where guests **Bay Area Showcase Chorus** (of SAI) joined the **Peninsulaires** on the risers for a rendition of "Lida Rose/Will I Ever Tell You." Clinic students were invited to participate.

Darin Drown, baritone of the 2010 International Champion quartet "**Storm Front**" and former director of the award-winning "**Sound of the Rockies**" chorus, led the **Peninsulaires** in an all-day coaching session. **Darin's** vocal production tips and techniques have already had a positive effect on the group's singing. He'll have a chance to reinforce and provide further suggestions for improvement when he returns for a second all-day session.

Our favorite BBQ chef, **Jim Turner**, cooked up another feast for the annual **Peninsulaires Picnic** at DeAnza Park in Sunnyvale. The members brought the trimmings and enjoyed an afternoon of food, fun, fellowship, and harmonizing.

The chorus sang for the patrons at the **Palo Alto Farmer's Market** in downtown Palo Alto, from 9:30 to noon. This biannual event is always a highlight for the singers as well as the shoppers.

Visit us at www.barbershop-harmony.org.

San Mateo

By Thomas Addison

The fabulous Filoli Estate was the venue of our first summer performance. We sang our *Beach, Bee bop, and Barbershop* to a receptive crowd gathered on the stage of the tennis court on a perfect warm summer evening. The event was the semiannual Members Stroll, during which the gardens are open and members are provided complimentary wine and Hor'douvers and musical entertainment. The "old songs" of our era, the songs of the '50s and '60s saw many members of the audience mouthing the words as we performed. We are looking forward to repeating the show.

New members have reinforced our tenor, lead and bari sections and we are now searching for basses.

Visit us at www.goldenchordsmen.org

Santa Rosa

By Ray Crowder

We are holding ongoing auditions for a new Director and have had the pleasure of working with **Jan Lappin**, former Director of the **Rohnert Park Wine Country Troubadors**, and former Associate Director of the **Redwood Chordsmen**. We also worked with **Sharon Carlson**, current Director of the **Song Of Sonoma**, Sweet Adelines chorus, and **Dan Halle**, an eastern transplant and Lehigh University graduate who recently moved to Santa Rosa. Kudos to our Director Search Team **Dick Whitten**, **Bob Lappin**, **Chase Ferrante** and **Dave Key**, for doing an excellent job of preparing these folks to front our chorus.

Our thanks to **Dick Whitten** for taking over the position of Music VP, and to **Dan Schell** for stepping up as our new Secretary. Also, welcome to **Chase Ferrante** as a new Board Member-at-Large.

It's great to see old members **Andrew Cook**, **John Millious**, **Clark Smith**, and **Kelly McConnell** back on the risers, and we want to welcome our most recent guests, **Jeff Sengstack**, and **Glen Draughber**.

Visit us at chordsmen.groupanizer.com

SF Bay Cities Quartet

By Jordan Makower

Casey Parker is honored in this column. He had a Ph.D, was a professional engineer, pilot, worked for US Naval Defense, and became a SPEBSQSA member in 1947. Casey was one of the founders of SFBCQ. He and the group with him had an idea of building an organization that would be a 'drop-into', non-exclusionary place where quartets could practice their repertoire (even if they weren't members of our group), a tradition that is carried on today.

We filled a row of tables with singers at **Harry's Hofbrau** in San Jose at our meeting this month. Some people, on limited incomes, can't afford to retain membership in BHS, or have been asked to leave by other groups. Some people have diminished hearing and must sit close to someone with a strong voice to be able to hear a tune and attempt to sing along. Other

people, patrons of **Harry's**, stop by or sit down, and applaud our every song from The BarberPole Cat Song Book. Still others request songs that most of us remember, and we sing those, a cappella of course.

FWD NW DVP Charles Feltman joined our group for lunch and singing, and heard **Four Men In Accord** [**Steve Gummersall**, **Dave Laubscher**, **Marv Bertelson**, **Mike Irvin**] sing *Her Bathing Suit Never Got Wet*. Our 'pick-up' quartets sang a few favorites, and the rest of us sang as a group.

Join us at **Harry's** for lunch, the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month,

Visit us at www.sfbayquartets.org

Walnut Creek

By Dwight Lang

The **Devil Mountain Chorus** held woodshedding sessions and barbecue hosted by our president **Mike Cating**, and a performance at a brunch at the Summerset 1 community in Brentwood. The woodsheddors had a great time, and the Summerset 1 performance was so well received, they asked us back for two more performances next year. The **DMC** hosted the second annual A Cappella Summer BBQ, at Moraga Commons Park, Moraga. Everyone involved with a cappella groups or who loves a cappella music was invited.

Visit us at www.devilmountainchorus.org



Division 4 NE Chapters

Roger Perkins, Editor

California Delta Chapter

By Jim DeChaine

We are so proud of our **Artistic License** quartet finishing in 10th place at the Pittsburg International Quartet Competition. **Gabe**

Caretto, **Todd Kidder**, **Rich Brunner** and **Jason Dyer** have each expressed their heartfelt thanks for the support and encouragement they received from so many.

Our chorus attended Harmony University this year, spending an incredible week in Nashville and receiving fabulous tutelage by some of the greatest coaches in barbershop. Thirteen of our members also participated in the ninth annual Honors Chorus at HU. **Jim DeChaine** and **Bill Faulkner**, were members of the original honors chorus in 2007.

Our chorus welcomes new Visual Performance Director **Amberlee Prosser**. We are excited to have this very talented young lady develop visual performance plans.

VoCal had a very successful guest night with 19 guests. Several guests are in the pipeline for membership, including our newest member, baritone **Raphael Pazo**.

Two members (**Bruce Sellnow** and **Derick Sturke**) participated in six performances of Meredith Willson's classic *The Music Man* at the Modesto Performing Arts center.

VoCal participated again in the annual **SacSings** event, where we were one of 15 choruses from the greater Sacramento area performing at the fabulous Harris Center in Folsom. This event is sponsored by the Sacramento Valley Coral Coalition, a non-profit benefit corporation dedicated to promoting choruses and choral singing throughout the Sacramento Region.

Our chorus participated again in the annual "Big Day of Giving". This huge event realized donations to 529 local non-profit organizations on that single date that totaled over 5.6 million dollars. VoCal received \$8,040.

Central California Chapter

By Miles Sutter

May 16th! Armed Forces Day! Ice cream social! "What A Day This Has Been"! Mancini Hall was the venue, filled to capacity, with 150 eager souls, awaiting the performance of the GVC.... and ICE CREAM! Our MC was **Derick Sturke** who introduced our songs with an occasional voice over. **Howard Barber** led the crowd sing-a-long, which is always a crowd pleaser.

We had the pleasure of singing for the residents of Samaritan Village. The activities room was filled to capacity with smiling faces only twenty feet away, which made for a very intimate, heart-warming performance. We had the added attraction of the barbershop quartet from Hughson High School singing two songs. GVC quartet (**Bob Clark, Chuck Roots, Mike Viss, Greg DeMers**) demonstrated their individual parts, and then sang as one to *My Wild Irish Rose*.

Bob Chapman, Sherman Verver and **Marc Jantzen** have been working with Bethany Manor Retirement in Ripon, with Marc directing the group in barbershop harmony. We then had the pleasure of hearing the **Bethnay Men's Chorus** sing three barbershop songs. Also on our program was a quartet from Hughson High School. These wonderful young voices are being tutored by our own **Bob Clark**. **Richard Lund** gave a short speech regarding Youth Harmony Camp and the importance of these "camps" for our children and barbershop. They then proceeded to sing *Heart of My Heart* to GVC's Miss Barbershop Harmony, **Audrey Hull**. GVC ended the afternoon event singing *Armed Forces Medley*.

Our own **Golden Valley Boys**, (**Howard Barber, Chuck Roots, Bruce Sellnow, Derick Sturke**), performed at the Gallo Performing Arts Center for their production of **The Music Man**.

Folsom Chapter

By Doug Vestal

The Harmony Express Chorus sang a scripted set of songs entitled *There's No Place Like Home* to the residents of Mercy McMahan Terrace Senior Living. MC for the event was **Stan Trumbull**. Chapter quartet **B-BLT (Kent Borrowdale, Ken Potter, Roger Santiago, Stan Trumbull)** also sang including the hilarious song *Please Mr. Columbus*. **Roger Perkins** sang a solo on *Wagon Wheels*, accompanied by the chorus. The residents sang along with the chorus on the closing number *God Bless America*.

Harmony Express presented the same scripted set of songs to the residents of Eskaton Lodge Granite Bay. This was the first

performance for them at this venue. Chorus Member **Burt Weichenthal** is credited for making contact with the Activities Director and obtaining the engagement.

The Chorus sang at the Memorial Day Ceremony at Sylvan Cemetery in Citrus Heights, and has been invited to sing at this event for several years. Event organizers expressed appreciation for our performance noting that some attendees have said they come to the Ceremony just to hear the Barbershop Chorus.

Nevada Placer Chapter

By Roger Perkins

The **Sierranaders** had their 25th annual **Bean Feed/Somewhat Serious Quartet Contest** on June 2. It was the last one at this location. The event has been a big draw from neighboring Barbershop chapters and this year there were 85 barbershoppers in attendance. The judges for the contest were the members of **B-BLT** quartet from **Folsom Harmony Express, Voices of California** and **Sierranaders (Roger Santiago, Kent Borrowdale, Ken Potter, Stan Trumbull)**. Once again good weenies, beans and drinks were served. **Tony Prowense** supervised and our MC was **Richard Lund**. Our photographer was Westunes Editor **Ray Rhymer**. This year we had 13 quartets in the contest. While the judges tallied the scores the 2007 quartet champs, the **Great Perkors (Tyler, Sean, Mark, Roger)** sang two well-received songs. **B-BLT** then performed three of their entertaining songs followed by the presentation of awards to the top three quartets. In third place was **Almost All Ready Assembled (Al Wolter, Mike Selby, Raphael Pazo, Chuck Kenny)**. Taking second place was **Hang 4 (Shel Given, Don Salz, Steve Allison, Ron Black)**. And the winner was **Whatever 4 (Brandon Dyer, Randy Finger, Ron Black, Richard Lund)**. Afterwards there was lots of woodshedding while chapter members performed cleanup duties.

The **Sierranaders** held a going away party on June 16, for long-time member, **Al Drouin**. He and **Jeanne** are moving from Grass Valley where they have lived for 27 years to Turlock to be closer to family. Al is a 54 year member of the Society and has been an integral part of the bass section. He previously sang with the Peninsula Chapter. He was the bass of **Main Street Review** which placed 2nd in the FWD in 1981. The chapter held a large going-away cake for Al and Jeanne and about 20 guests showed up including **Richard Lund (NE DVP)** and **John Jones (former NW DVP)** who Al brought into the Society many years ago. We'll miss you, Al.

On a sad note, **Tony Prowense** had a nasty fall getting into a pontoon boat at Lake of the Pines. He suffered multiple facial, head and neck fractures. He was in the hospital for several days and is now recovering at the home of Steve and Marci Mathews, his daughter and son-in-law. Tony has been one of the mainstays of the bass section and also an organizer for the Bean Feed and our shows.

Reno Chapter

By Steve Shurtliff

July in Reno always means Artown, where the city becomes alive with all types of music, dance, visual art and much more. We did our part to a very enthusiastic and packed house. Our own **Barbershop Express** (the hardest working quartet in

Reno!) performed as well and the show was tremendous fun for all involved.

Our second Reno *Sings Under the Stars* show took place at the end of August.

We heartily welcome new members **Taylor Strong** and **Lucas George**.

Sacramento Chapter

By Joe Samora

The **Capitolaires** learn one new song monthly, and the March selection was *The Whiffenpoof Song*. New member **Norm Hile** was a 1967 “Whiff.” The Whiffenpoofs were formed in 1907 by the Yale University Glee Club and are composed of fifteen of the school’s best singers. Welcome, Norm!

The Capitolaires’ annual spring show *Happy Birthday, Mr. Marconi* was held in Christ Community Church. **Dave Young** was show chair and **Larry Womac** narrated. **Ray Rhymer** and **Dan Warschauer** directed. Guest performers included **TopCats** (VoCal), **Moment-OH** (SAI), Antelope High School Chamber Choir and “**Jubilation**”, the Christ Community Church Hand Bell Choir. Afterwards members and guests enjoyed an Afterglow held at Crowne Plaza Hotel.

The Capitolaires received over \$2,000 in donations within 24 hours during Sacramento Region’s Annual Big Day of Giving on May 5. Five hundred and twenty-nine non-profits raised over five million dollars.

The Capitolaires performed in **SacSings**, sponsored by the Sacramento Valley Choral Coalition (SVCC), in the Harris Center for the Performing Arts in Folsom. Fifteen choruses, totaling about 700 singers, from the Greater Sacramento area performed during three concerts that featured a variety of musical genres including pop, jazz, classical, Broadway, sacred/spiritual, folk/Americana, barbershop and humorous novelty songs. **Clark Abrahamson** represented the Capitolaires on the SVCC Board of Directors. He and **Joe Samora** served on the publicity committee.

The CAPS (ten men) sang during **Lanse** [our Music Librarian] **Dotson’s** retirement party.

Over a dozen Capitolaires sang under the direction of **Dan Warschauer** during Celtic Cross Presbyterian Church services in Citrus Heights, for the fourth year. Three Sacramento members [**Keith Aiken**, **Gary Halldorson**, **Joe Samora**] sing in the church choir.

Division 5 AZ Chapters

Editor [OPEN]

No Chapter submittals

Surely there is one AZ Division member who is willing to serve as the AZ Division Editor. The duties: collect electronic submittals from AZ Division chapters, assemble them in one document, then email that document to the Westunes Editor. Send that email 4 times a year: Feb 1, May 1, Aug 1, Nov 1. AZ chapters need an AZ Division Editor to get their chapter information published.

Notices

Calendar

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

Conventions, Contests, LA/HCW

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

For your planning purposes, 2015 FWD Convention/Contest, and 2016 LA/HCW dates are:

Oct 15 - 18, 2015 FWD Fall Convention
Mesa, AZ

**NOTICE: CONVENTION REGISTRATION
WILL BE ON-LINE ONLY.**

See page 5 article from David Melville

January 8 - 10, 2016 LA/HCW

Location: Henderson, NV

January 26 - 31, 2016 Int'l MidWinter Convention

Location: Reno, NV

March 17-19, 2016 FWD Spring Convention

Int'l Prelim Quartet and SE & SW Division Contest

Location: TBD

April 2, 2016 NE/NW Division Contests

Location: TBD

April 15, 2016 AZ Division Contest

Location: TBD

July 3 - 10, 2016 International Convention

Location: Nashville, TN

October 13 - 16 FWD Fall Convention

Location: TBD

Chapters Looking For Directors

Sun Cities Chapter, Sun Cities, AZ

Apply to David Moses, 12510 Rampart, Sun City West, AZ 85375, 623-537-9804, mosesintx@yahoo.com

Tucson Sunshine Chapter, Tucson

The Tucson Sunshine Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society is looking for an experienced, year-round, frontline director. Applicants of either gender are invited to apply. Being a barbershopper is preferred, but not required.

Ability to work in a bottom-up environment as a crucial member of the chapter's Music Leadership Team is a must, as is the ability to plan ahead in both the short and long terms.

Benefits include paid membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society as a member or associate member and opportunities for paid education through the Society

If you're interested, please contact [Jim Rapp](#), Tucson Sunshine Chapter President

Monterey Cypressaires, Monterey, CA

Go to www.cypressaires.org to express interest.

To Email Your District Officers & Chairmen

president@farwesterndistrict.org

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