



Westunes Vol. 67 No. 2

Summer 2017



WESTUNES

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



Artistic License 87.5



The Newfangled Four 83.3



The Masters of Harmony 92.9



Barbary Coast 83.4



California Delta 81.9



La Jolla 81.8

**Quartets and Choruses Representing the FWD at the
2017 BHS International Convention & Contest in Las Vegas, NV**

Editor: Ray S. Rhymer (in 16th year)

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WANTED

★ **Wenger Risers** ★

Dead or Alive! (Preferably Alive)

The Mesa AZ Chapter is GROWING!

We are looking for **THREE** Wenger
Tourmaster 6-foot 3-Step sections
and **SEVEN** 6-foot 4th Steps

ALL LEADS CONSIDERED!

(Even from Baris, Basses or Tenors!)

Contact John Johnson

risers4mesa@farwesternndistrict.org



HALL OF FAME INDUCTION

MARCH – 11 – 2017 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Far Western District Statement of Policy states “The Objective is to Honor the all-time Far Western District “Greats”, individuals who have unselfishly, with dedication and devotion, performed through the years in the highest degree of service to the Far Western District.”

After a few remarks, 2016 Hall of Fame Chairman Richard Lund, began the presentation:

The barbershopper that I have the distinct privilege of introducing to you as our newest honoree being inducted into the Far Western District Hall of Fame is a Long time barbershopper of more than 37 years.

He has been an assistant director and a front line director multiple times and for numerous chapters. He has sung in two Far Western District Champion quartets, and one of his quartets medaled four times back in the nineties placing as high as third internationally. He has coached many choruses and quartets over that 37 year career including a recent International Senior Quartet Champion.

He has been a certified judge in the Singing category for 18 years and was on the Category Board of Review for 3 years and served as the Category Specialist for another 3 years. He served as the Far Western District Associate Contest and Judging Chairman for 6 years. He then became the Executive Vice President of the Far Western District for 2 years, followed immediately as the Far Western District President for 2 years, serving a total of 12 years on the FWD Board of Directors.

He is responsible for the design and manufacture of the large metal medallion on the front of this very lectern that I am standing behind that honors our beloved Hall of Fame member, Doug Maddox.

He currently serves the Far Western District as the head of the District Production Coordinator Team that oversees all of the audio and visual enhancements for all of our District Conventions. He has MC'd many contest sessions for Far Western District Conventions and served in numerous other convention activities.

He was the FWD YMIH chairman for several years and served as a clinician for many one day Festivals and weekend Harmony Camps. He was on the founding board of the FWD Chorus Directors Guild, with Howard Mesecher, Lloyd Steinkamp, and Lou Laurel. He has served on the Harmony University faculty in the Directors College as well as the BHS committee that started the Youth Festival at Midwinter Conventions.

In summary he has, for the past 37 years, actively and unselfishly, with dedication and devotion served both the FWD and the BHS in all of the many areas that I have detailed before, and comes now to be our next inductee into the Far Western District Hall of Fame:

I introduce to you, Mr. Russ Young!!

FWD 2017 Fall District Contest Competitors page 1 of 2

FWD 2017 Fall District Competitors

Classification	Name	Division	Avg Score	Senior?	Youth?	Seed
International 2017 - Las Vegas						
Quartets	Artistic License	NE	87.5			5
	Newfangled Four	SE	83.3			11
Choruses	Santa Fe Springs	SW	92.9			tied 2
	Barbary Coast	NW	83.4			15
	California Delta	NE	81.9			19
	La Jolla	SE	81.6			24
FWD Fall 2017 - Bakersfield (30 quartets invited)						
Quartets Qualified by Score (average of 68.0 points or higher)	Suit Up	AZ	78.3			1
	Capital Ring	NE	75.1			2
	Hot Spot	AZ	74.4			3
	Dynamix	NE	74.0			4
	Renaissance	AZ	73.8	Y		5
	184	SE	73.4			6
	Brannigan	NW	73.0			7
	Current Chord	NE	72.3			8
	Fortunate Sons	SE	72.3			9
	Some Friends Of Mine	NW	71.7			10
	Velvet Frogs	SW	71.5			11
	Whoop 'Em Up	AZ	70.4			12
	Four Fifteen	SE	70.0			13
	Friday Matinee	AZ	69.9			14
	The Front Line	NE	69.8			15
	Miles Ahead	NW	69.3			16
	Scoop 'Em Up	AZ	69.3			17
	Apex	SW	68.7	Y		18
	Heatwave	AZ	68.6			19
	Intonation	AZ	68.4			20
	Just4Kix	NW	68.3			21
Wildcard Quartets invited	Behind the Barn	SE	67.9			22
	Telegraph	SW	67.9			23
	Time Wise	SE	67.4	Y		24
	Belle Voci	NE	66.8			25
Quartets next in line (if a quartet scratches)	66 West	SW	66.4			
	Seaside	NW	66.1			
	The Good Guys	NW	65.5			
	Argenta	NE	64.9			
	The Great Outdoors	SW	64.3			
	Emergency Exit	SE	64.0			
	Bandwagon	NE	63.1			

FWD 2017 Fall District Contest Competitors page 2 of 2

FWD 2017 Fall District Competitors

Classification	Name	Division	Avg Score	Senior?	Youth?	Seed
*Senior Quartets qualified by score	The Good Guys	NW	65.5	Y		26
	Sugar Daddies	SE	62.9	Y		27
	What Four	NE	62.2	Y		28
(Super Senior champion)	Above The Lawn	SE	62.1	Y		29
	Backroads	NE	61.5	Y		30
* Senior quartets who qualify for the District contest do not push out any of the five allotted quartets						
Youth Quartets qualified by score	Flightline		79.9		Y	
(YBQC submissions via video)	Eclectones		75.8		Y	
	Western Harmonics		68.9		Y	
Choruses	(25 choruses invited)					
Choruses Qualified by Score	Westminster	SE	93.7			1
(average of 62.0 points or higher)	Barbary Coast	NW	84.3			2
	La Jolla	SE	81.2			3
	California Delta	NE	81.0			4
	Salt River Valley	AZ	77.8			5
	Bay Area	NW	76.4			6
	Brea	SE	75.2			7
	Rincon Beach	SW	73.1			8
	Mesa	AZ	71.4			9
	Greater Phoenix	AZ	70.3			10
	Santa Monica	SW	69.1			11
	Las Vegas	SE	67.8			12
	San Diego	SE	66.7			13
	Palo Alto - Mountain View	NW	65.7			14
	South Bay	SW	65.7			15
	Pasadena	SW	65.5			16
	Walnut Creek	NW	65.1			17
	Fullerton	SE	65.1			18
	Tucson	AZ	64.2			19
	South Orange County	SE	63.7			20
	Central California	NE	62.7			21
	Temecula	SE	62.5			22
	Inland Empire	SE	62.4			23
	Placerville	NE	62.3			24
	Santa Maria	SW	62.1			25
Choruses next in line	San Fernando Valley	SW	61.3			
(if a chorus scratches)	St George	SE	60.1			
	Marin	NW	58.6			

FWD International Preliminary and NE or NW Division Contest Pictures with Rank



Hot Spot 2 I



Dynamix 3 I NE 2



Brannigan 4 I NW 1



Some Friends of Mine 5 I NW 2



Current Chord 6 I NE 3



The Front Line 7 I NE 4

FWD International Preliminary and NE or NW Division Contest Pictures with Rank cont'd



Miles Ahead 8 I NW 3



Friday Matinee 9 I



Belle Voci 10 I NE 5



Seaside 11 I NW 5



The Good Guys 12 I NW 6



Backroads 13 I NE 10

FWD International Preliminary and NE or NW Division Contest Pictures with Rank cont'd



Tune Struck 14 I NE 13



Bari and the Threee Bears 15 I NW 7



Capitol Ring NE 1



Argenta NE 6



Bandwagon NE 7



What Four NE 8

FWD International Preliminary and NE or NW Division Contest Pictures with Rank cont'd



Tune Struck 14 I NE 13



Bari and the Threee Bears 15 I NW 7



Capitol Ring NE 1



Argenta NE 6



Bandwagon NE 7



What Four NE 8

FWD NE or NW Division Contest Pictures with Rank cont'd



H.I.C.K.S. NE 9



Classic Edition NE 11



The Artful Codgers NE12

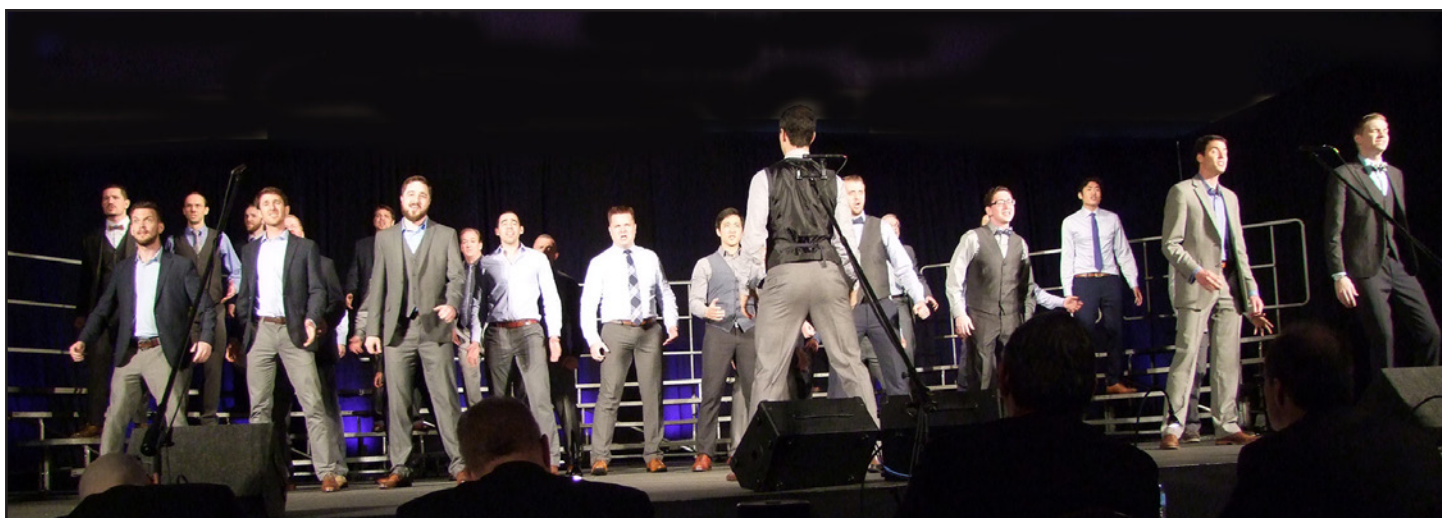


Just4Kix NW 4

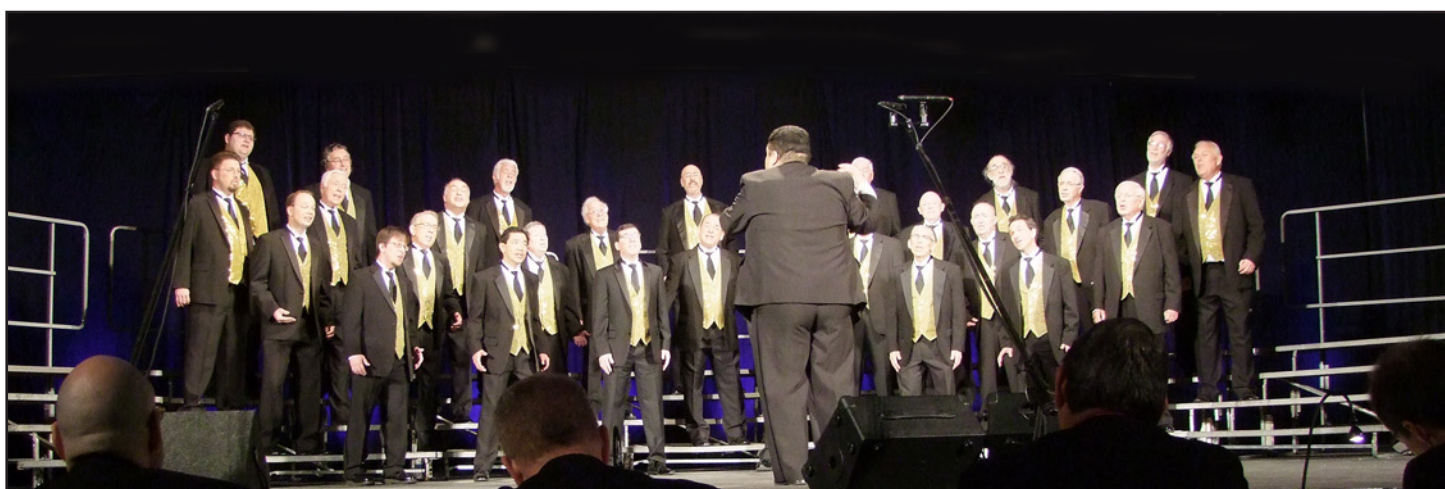


Western Harmonics QSF MTs & Int'l YBQC Qual

FWD NW Division Chorus Contest Pictures with Rank



Barbary Coast NW 1



Bay Area NW 2



Palo Alto-Mountain View NW 3

FWD NW Division Chorus Contest Pictures with Rank cont'd



Walnut Creek NW 4



Mariin NW 6



Santa Rosa NW 6

FWD NE Division Chorus Contest Pictures with Rank



Californis Delta NE 1



Central California NE 2



Placerville NE 3

FWD NE Division Chorus Contest Pictures with Rank Cont'd



Reno NE 4



Folsom NE 5



Sacramento [Eval Only]

FWD High School Quartet Contest Pictures with Rank



The Four Chordsmen 1st



Split Decision 2nd



Three and a Half Men 3rd



The Canal Boys 4th



SOUNDSATIONS Mike Testers



Far Western District Chorus Champions

Santa Fe Springs Chapter by Ron Larson

Philosopher William James once said, “The greatest use of a life is to spend it on something that will outlast it.” Over the years, Masters of Harmony members have devoted considerable time and effort making that statement a reality for others interested in barbershop harmony. One such example came in the fall of 2011 when MOH member Joey Buss started the Boomtown Chorus. Comprised of young men mostly in their late teens and early 20s, the chorus competed in the 2012 International Youth Chorus Festival in Tucson, Arizona. The group won the championship for choruses with an average age under 19. Last January, Boomtown competed in the 2017 Youth Festival at the International Midwinter Convention in San Antonio, Texas. Under the direction of Brett Littlefield, Boomtown earned a Superior rating in the Plateau AAA category (20 to 25 age range).

Possibly the best-known example of the Masters’ members tireless efforts on behalf of other aspiring singers is Mark Freedkin’s signature staging of the 17th Annual Young Men’s Harmony Festival at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa. Co-sponsored by the Southern California Vocal Association, a professional organization of choral music teachers, this unique vocal music festival brings young men from all over the southland for a full day of barbershop harmony coaching. Its success has led to the development of similar events all over the country. Following preliminary warm-ups, The Newfangled Four (Joey Buss, Jackson Niebrugge, Ryan Wisniewski, Jake Tickner), a foursome not much older than the students themselves, held the young men in rapt attention with a rousing demonstration of the barbershop style. The Masters of Harmony and The Newfangled Four took turns captivating the highly appreciative audience for the evening show. For the show finale, 280 singers filled the risers to overflowing and sang “Fun In Just One Lifetime” and “America the Beautiful” to wildly enthusiastic applause from the nearly 250 parents, families, teachers and friends in attendance.

In 2002, Andy Edwards pioneered a Singing Valentines Program. This involves delivering a single red rose and a personalized Valentine’s card to a usually surprised and delighted recipient, followed by the singing of “Let Me Call You Sweetheart” and “Heart Of My Heart.” Over the next few years, the program met with varying degrees of success and was discontinued. In 2016, the Masters of Harmony revived the program by partnering with the Fullerton Orange Empire Chorus, known for its very successful Singing Valentines Program. The partnering was repeated in 2017 and three MOH quartets delivered a total of 20 singing Valentines. The overjoyed recipients

included office workers and teachers at a Catholic school and nursery school. One recipient was a former barbershopper at a retirement home who took over the lead for “My Wild Irish Rose” to the delight of his friends. Special thanks go to Sheila Lowerre, Tom Nichols, and Jay Campbell, who skillfully coordinated the complex delivery schedules.

Over the years, the sheer size of the Masters of Harmony has limited the chorus’s ability to perform in certain places. To give the chorus the flexibility to accept invitations to perform in smaller venues, the MOH created a group of about 24 singers called Masters Ensemble. In March, Masterworks (Adam Marangakis, Tom Moore, Joe D’Amore and Cody Littlefield) from the ensemble sang for the Whittier Police Department’s 19th Annual Silver Shield Award Banquet, a formal event held in Industry Hills, California. This event also celebrated Whittier PD’s 100th year of serving and protecting the citizens and businesses in Whittier. The quartet’s stirring rendition of The Star Spangled Banner drew a huge ovation from the 700 people attending the event.

Since the last issue of *Westunes*, the Masters of Harmony have welcomed Norm Finn, Will Harris, Billy Hill, Justin McQueen, Logan Patrick-Miernicki, Jim Schumacher, Travis Tabares and Wesly Tan into membership.

FWD Harmony Camp

Gentle reminder to promote Harmony Camp with young men in
your neighborhood.

2017 Harmony Camp

September 8-10, 2017

Sly Park Educational Center

5600 Sly Park Road, Pollock Pines, CA

2015 Gold Medalists Instant Classic

and FWD Champions The Newfangled Four

along with clinicians

Dean Gabe Caretto, Ron Black, Jim Halvorson, and Doug Carnes

***This will be a Spectacular Camp - Don't let your
young man miss it.***

March 23, 2017

Since its inception in 1959, Harmony Foundation has believed that singing improves lives. Those who experience the joy of singing will do better in school, in their jobs, in family and social relationships. Singing has also been linked to medical therapies and other health benefits. Harmony Foundation financially enables programs that share, nurture and perpetuate the love of singing by funding Barbershop Harmony Society's (BHS) outreach programs.

As part of the volunteer leadership of the Barbershop Harmony Society, you are familiar with some of these programs such as the Youth Barbershop Quartet Contest (YBQC), Youth Chorus Festival at Midwinter Convention, Harmony University scholarships, and the Healthy Chapter Initiative. But are you aware that Harmony Foundation provides funding to other programs such as the Partnership and Advocacy program and A Better World Singing Day at the Nashville International Convention? These programs promote a deeper connection between barbershop harmony and the broader music community; or as Marty Monson, BHS CEO, often says, programs that are "looking out the window."

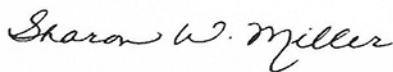
Are you aware that the largest program funded by Harmony Foundation is the Donor Choice Program?

This Donor Choice partnership program provides financial support to districts and chapters at the local level **and** the Barbershop Harmony Society global level that benefits a better world through singing. It connects the donor, the Foundation, the district or chapter, and BHS without the burden of seeking individual philanthropic financial support on your own. This allows you to focus on singing, fellowship, and embracing all the benefits of singing that are at the core of our mission while maximizing Harmony Foundation's fundraising expertise to *work for you!*

I am pleased to enclose Far Western District's Donor Choice funding for gifts received July 1 - December 31, 2016 along with a list of contributing donors and distribution guidelines. We strongly encourage you to recognize these donors, remembering *this is a choice*. Acknowledge your appreciation for their financial support that is launching Far Western District and the Barbershop Harmony Society into the future: truly a partnership program.

In 2016, Harmony Foundation distributed ***\$424,200 to districts and chapters through this partnership program***. Will you partner with us by encouraging your members to give to Harmony Foundation? Your gifts will support both the international impact of BHS as well as your district and chapter efforts when gifts are designated through Donor Choice.

Harmoniously yours,



Sharon Miller
Acting President and CEO



District President

It's hard to believe that 2017 is nearly half over but the FWD is running full steam ahead with the Spring Convention behind us and Division Conventions near completion. It was an honor to stand before you once again at the House of Delegates meeting and as MC for the quartet finals followed by the Show of Champions in Sacramento. Our Board meeting was held on Thursday, March 9 and the minutes of that meeting and the HOD meeting are available on the FWD website. If you missed the convention weekend take a look and get caught up.

A new aspect of the convention was having both a Harmony Hall representative and Harmony Foundation person present at our Board and House of Delegate meetings. Antonio Lombardi, Manager of Chapter Leadership & Education, made himself available to the leadership and general membership throughout the weekend. Robert Rund of the Harmony Foundation was also available to all members and leaders for issues pertaining to the Foundation's goals and focus.

Our FWD leadership team is very active in their respective communities and to illustrate one of those activities please go to [v6. Hayden's Story - NBA Cares 2017](#) on YouTube and experience what District Vice-President, Richard Lund, did with his quartet recently. While there are many illustrations of this type of dedication to our avocation by other leaders in our District, this one is extremely rewarding.

Being on the FWD, or your own chapter, leadership team is a very rewarding, yet sometimes strenuous position; but it allows you as a member of the Society to realize how much goes into keeping the districts and chapters operating at a sustainable level. We are losing chapters, and members, throughout the society due to aging, availability of other opportunities for extra-curricular activities, and a loss of directors. The loss of directors and the loss of members is a mixed dilemma that seems to be caused by many challenges; however, the apathy and exit of members and the extra work piled on the directors

and others who try to do everything for the struggling chapter/chorus seems to be one of the major factors.

This issue is being addressed by your District leadership and the Society through the training of Facilitators who are now available with only a phone call or email to your district vice-president. These men have spent time in Nashville with others from the society learning how to facilitate the various challenges facing our chapters. Simply ask for help and we'll see to it that your request is met in a satisfactory manner. Another tool is "The Healthy Chapter Initiative" that can be read at www.barbershop.org/healthychapters. This is yet another way the Society is attempting to align itself with the 17 districts and 700+ chapters in order to streamline communications.

Bottom line is this! Your District leadership and the Society headquarters are in constant communication trying to make the Barbershop experience one that makes you proud and wanting to bring our music to others throughout the communities in the FWD and the world.

Some good words to live by as stated by Aristotle:

*"Excellence is an art won by training and habituation. We do not act rightly because we **have** virtue or excellence, but we rather have those **because we have acted** rightly. We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a **habit**."*



Executive Vice President

To paraphrase John Donne, "***No Chapter is an island entire of itself; every Chapter is a piece of the music, a part of the score***". Just like your personal impact on your Quartet and Chorus, your Chapter impacts the joy and love of Barbershop in your community and our world. Keep this in mind as you skim my ramblings.

We have wrapped up some outstanding Division Contests and our Spring Convention in Sacramento. Great singing and lots of fun. Thank you to all who

attended. If you weren't there you missed something very special. These events are much more than contests. In fact they *can be more fun* without the constraint of competition. Your District Events Team along with the host chapters put on the best "parties" in Barbershop and we need your help by attending.

Summer is arriving in true Barbershop fashion with lots of Harmony and Fellowship. This is the season for outstanding events – big and small.

It's show time for many Chapters. There are eight shows on the [events calendar](#) for the month of May and three more in June. Please check the calendar and make sure YOUR show is listed and check out what else is happening. It is a great time to support one another and enjoy some great music.

Many of us are going to celebrate the Fourth of July week at our [2017 International Convention](#) in Las Vegas. If you haven't been to International, this would be a great time to start your July 4th tradition.

The Far West will be represented in the

- Youth Barbershop Quartet Contest by
 - o Eclectones
 - o Flightline
 - o Western Harmonics
- International Quartet Contest by
 - o Artistic License
 - o The Newfangled Four
- International Chorus Contest by
 - o Fog City Singers
 - o Masters of Harmony
 - o Pacific Coast Harmony
 - o Voices of California

It is a great time to live in the Far West. Mark your calendars for [Midwinter Orange County](#) - January 16-21. This fun event is coming to the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, California.

Midwinter is the venue for the International Youth Chorus Festival. This year there were 20 Choruses (5 from FWD) and 599 singers. Our District recognized the magic by approving a ***motion to sponsor (\$10,000) Youth Chorus Festival through donations by the chapters or by the District through an amended***

budget should chapter donations fall short at our fall 2012 House of Delegates. This year's commitment was filled by generous donations from 24 Chapters, 1 Quartet, and 3 individuals with the support of our own John and Sharon Miller. The generosity of the men and women of the District was recognized by the young singers. There were more than a few tears as the almost 600 young performers joined in song to "*make the music that makes a difference*". Please start "passing the hat" at your Chapter Meetings so we can meet and exceed our commitment for 2018. Let's shoot for a larger number of participating chapters. Note: It is very important that the individual and family donations continue. Dropping your spare change in a bucket every week adds up as well.

Midwinter Orange County will also include a Senior Chorus Festival. Craig Ewing, FWD VP for Music & Performance, provides the details in this edition of *Westunes*. It will be an awesome opportunity to show off the "timeless talent" of the Far West.

Speaking of *Westunes*, if you have gotten this far into the "magazine", congratulations. Ray Rhymer (2017 FWD Hall of Fame Inductee), David Melville, and the many contributors are committed to provide timely and entertaining information. Please check out the Division Digest section and see if your Chapter is reporting. Please "advertise" *Westunes* at your next Chapter Meeting and consider printing out a copy for the member that "doesn't use a computer".

Remember: "***No Chapter is an island entire of itself; every Chapter is a piece of the music, a part of the score***". There is harmony and magic in the music. It is a score that is too good not to share.

Thank you for everything you do for your Chapter and the District.



Brent Anderson

VP Division 1 Southwest

vpdiv1@farwesterndistrict.org

District Vice President 1 SouthWest Division

I'm getting excited about Las Vegas and the International Convention July 2-9. It's always nice to have an International Convention in our home District. We are a fun and very talented District and home of many, many International Quartet and Chorus Champions and so it's nice that the convention will be filled with lots of FWD folk to help cheer on **The Masters of Harmony** in their quest for their 9th Gold Medal. Of course, we are such a strong chorus district, the MOH will be joined by **La Jolla's Pacific Coast Harmony**, **Sacramento Delta Chapter's Voices of California**, and the newcomers from San Francisco's **Barbary Coast Chapter**, the **Fog City Singers**.

On the quartet scene, although this year we don't have as many FWD quartets as usual in the competition, both **Artistic License** and the **Newfangled Four** are projected to be in the final ten. **Flightline** will be competing in the Youth Contest and are hoping to improve on last year's second-place finish. **American Pastime**, our 2014 FWD Quartet Champs, recently hung up their pitchpipe and so we will miss them in Vegas.

I understand there are not that many Vegas tickets left, but some *do* remain and *every* seat in the new **Planet Hollywood Axis Theater** is fantastic. Drop everything - go to www.barbershop.org/vegas and buy tickets right now!

Welcome back! As this is being written we are getting ready for the combined Southwestern and Southeastern Division Convention and Competition to be held in El Monte, CA, and it is shaping up to be one of the best-attended divisional competitions in several years. We have 15 choruses and 20 quartets, and that wonderful full day of competition and camaraderie will be

followed by a Show of Champions which will feature the new Divisional Quartet and Chorus Champs and, since we will not be having a *Go For the Gold Show* this year, will also include the **Newfangled Four**.

My thanks to the **Masters of Harmony** who will be the hosts for the Convention. They are so busy getting ready for the July International Chorus Competition, however, they have a well-led, and well-tuned organization with the talent, desire and experience to pull off a first-class convention and I look forward to that event.

Current SW Division Chorus Champ, **Rincon Beach's Pacific Sound Chorus** will be defending its title but will be led by **Kelly Shepard** for the last time. Kelly announced he and wife, Naomi, will be relocating their family to Australia and leaving in July. Naomi is Australian and the opportunity for Kelly and his girls to have this adventure is just not to be missed. He has directed **Pacific Sound** for five years now, and we, and the FWD, will certainly miss Kelly and wish them well.

And, as luck would have it, **Mike McGee**, who was the founding director of **Pacific Sound Chorus** back in 1999, and then moved to Florida, has returned to Santa Barbara and will direct **Pacific Sound** starting in July, as soon as Mike and his quartet, **Main Street**, have completed the Competition. We also wish Mike and **Main Street** well and hope that perhaps Mike will have a shiny new medal around his neck as he takes over the Ventura-based chorus. (*Main Street will also be the headliner quartet on the Pacific Sound show in Santa Barbara on Sept. 16. Mark your calendars now...*)

San Fernando Valley Harmony Singers and the **Santa Maria Central Coast Chordsmen** will be returning to competition after several years of absence. Santa Maria's ranks will be bolstered by several members of the **San Luis Obispo Gold Coast Chorus** who will compete as dual members with Santa Maria. It's my hope that other smaller chapters might consider doing the same in the future. I think it's only \$10 to be a dual member! It's fun to perform, and to sing for an appreciative Barbershop audience. It's not about winning, per se, it's about participation and having fun.

Speaking of participation, we just recently lost **Jeff Baker**, Baritone of International Gold Medalist, **Nightlife**, and Jeff was a great example of participation

and the benefits of a full life in this wonderful “hobby” of ours. He was a quartet singer, chorus leader, gifted coach, emcee and all-around participant...and as a result of that full life, taking advantage of the opportunities given to him and created by his efforts, he became very loved and appreciated. That was so evident by the thousands of people who rallied around him and gave him and Patti such strength during his courageous battle with cancer. Jeff, of course, deserved that audience of fans because he, first of all, was a contributor and he gave his participation to the hobby to make it better for us all.

I think many of us lose sight of the fact that by us participating...being in a quartet or chorus, going to conventions or just going to the weekly chapter rehearsals...certainly, we have fun but we also make a contribution to the fun of everyone else. Your chapter brothers have a better experience because YOU come to rehearsal. And when you give, you get so much in return.

Which brings me to another favorite subject: Why don't you form a quartet? Nothing will make you a better singer faster, than forming a quartet. The responsibility you must take in a quartet of holding your own, tuning the chords, knowing all the notes and words...those responsibilities make you a better chorus member and a better brother to all your chapter brethren. And quartetting is so much fun!

All you need is four guys who enjoy each other and enjoy ringing chords. You don't have to be world-class by any stretch. There are so many audiences who will appreciate and love the four of you singing harmony together and they will have no idea, nor will they care, if you have ever won quartet medals.

What songs will you sing? I'll let you in on a secret...the secret to the 30+ year success of my quartet, **Quartet du Jour** ('Like" us on Facebook). What's that name mean? You think the definition is some fancy French derivation...? No, **Quartet du Jour** is defined as “any three guys who will sing with Brent Anderson.” And the songs Q du J sings are *Coney Island Baby*, *Wait 'Til the Sun Shines Nellie*, *Hello Mary Lou*, *Chordbusters March* with *First Hello* thrown in for the requisite ballad, and finishing with *Darkness on the Delta*. All these songs are in the new Polecat II book and professional, part-specific learning tracks are available

and inexpensive. You may think these songs are too easy or too common for quartet repertoire, but you're wrong. They demonstrate the beauty and strength of Barbershop Harmony, and the audiences think this is the greatest thing they've ever heard. We open with *Coney* and finish with that wonderful tag in *Darkness*, and the smiles and thanks are so fulfilling.

So find three other good guys (or find five or six and interchange as available) and learn these six songs and go thrill some audiences.

I will look forward to seeing you in Las Vegas. And, BTW, if you know any of those above-mentioned songs, let's find another couple guys and you can be in **Quartet du Jour**.



Nick Papageorge
VP Division 2 Southeast
vpdiv2@farwesterndistrict.org

District Vice President 2 SouthEast Division

Congratulations to all members of the Southeast Division who competed in the Southeast/Southwest Division Contests! There certainly was a lot of outstanding singing going on. I was so proud to see that 10 of our 15 Division Choruses (Chapters) were in attendance, competing, and having a great time! I personally want to thank all of you and your members for participating. The triple panel of judges was outstanding, so I know you all got great comments and coaching during your evaluations.

With an average score of 93.7, congratulations to the new Southeast Division Champion Chorus, **The Westminster Chorus**! Also congratulations to the following Choruses that also qualified for the District Contest in Bakersfield this fall: **La Jolla** - *Pacific Coast Harmony Chorus*, **Brea** - *Gaslight Chorus*, **Las Vegas** - *Silver Statesmen Chorus*, **San Diego** - *Sun Harbor Chorus*, **Fullerton** - *Orange Empire Chorus*,

South Orange County - *South County Sound Chorus*,
Temecula - *Temecula Wine County Valley Harmonizers*,
and **Inland Empire** - *Inland Sound Chorus*.

(Yes you read it correctly – 9 of our choruses qualified for the District Contest!)

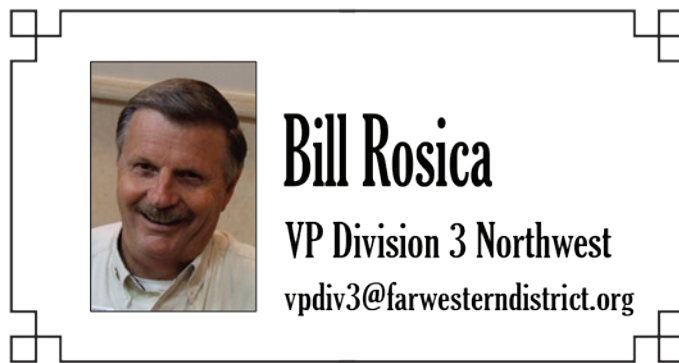
I was equally proud that 11 of the 18 competing quartets were from the Southeast Division. And again, I was very proud of the great singing and performing of our quartets.

With an average score of 73.4, congratulations to the new Southeast Division Quartet Champion, **184!** Also, congratulations to the following quartets that qualified for the District Contest in Bakersfield: **Fortunate Sons**, and **Four Fifteen**. (I firmly believe that **Behind the Barn** will also be in Bakersfield – they missed the qualification score by only 1 point with a triple panel!!)

Now I must get to a little business. All Chapter Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers must make sure that their chapters have filed all forms for the IRS and State Tax Agencies. NOW! Did I say, “the forms are due now!?” Please take care of all Chapter business-related paperwork **now**, so that our Chapters remain in good status, and are not in jeopardy of losing their Charters! Call me if you need help, or go to ebiz and watch the videos that show you the forms, how to find them, and how to fill them out!

Lastly, a big **THANKYOU** and **CONGRATULATIONS** go to **Bill Rosica**, Convention Chairman, **Bryan Forbes**, FWD Events Coordinator, and **Russ Young**, my partner on the Contest Management Team, for coordinating the Division Contest! It was a huge event! We had over 570 registered! And thanks to the **Masters of Harmony** for taking care of all of us as hosting Chapter!

Please don't forget to mark your calendar for the District Convention/Contests in Bakersfield during the weekend of October 19-22, 2017. It is always a great event full of fun, listening, and singing!



District Vice President 3 NorthWest Division

Well, a third of the year is already gone. My first duty as Northwest Division was to attend the Spring Prelims and Northern Division Contest in Sacramento. This would be my second visit to McClellan and the Convention team did a wonderful job of organizing and conducting a fun weekend.

Looking at the scores, the Northwest Division qualified four quartets:

Brannigan	876	73.0%
Some Friends of Mine	860	71.7%
Miles Ahead	832	69.3%
Just4kix	820	68.3%

Likewise, we qualified four Choruses:

Fog City Singers	1011	84.3%
Voices in Harmony	917	76.4%
Peninsulaires	788	65.7%
Devil Mountain Chorus	781	65.1%

So, what does that mean? Well, all these qualifiers are now invited to participate in Bakersfield in the Fall. I would hope that all are making plans to do just that. Remember, our conventions are a main source of income for the District and allow your Board to keep dues at a reasonable rate.

And speaking of money, I'd like to put a plug in for Harmony Foundation. We will be visited by the new CEO Dr. Perry White at the Fall Convention along with our Representative Robert Rund. The FWD has always been a leader in anything we do. If you are not a donor, please consider for as little as \$10.00 /month, keeping our hobby (Lifestyle) alive for the future generations to

come. It would be great to see lots of red ribbons hanging from your badges to show our new CEO our support.

I know I am a ways away from most of my Chapters, but I'm only a phone call or email close.



District Vice President 4 NorthWest Division

Barbershop is a positive experience! Anytime I go to a show, perform in a show, have fun at an afterglow, I am always lifted up. It lifts me up, to paraphrase the song!

In your own life, take moments frequently, to step back and recognize just how powerful these Barbershop experiences are and thank the man upstairs for this wonderful thing called Barbershop Harmony.

I just had another of those magical Barbershop experiences this past weekend singing with my quartet, Backroads, on the spring show of my old Placerville Chapter. I woke up Sunday morning with a smile on my face, and I can't seem to lose the smile. Furthermore, the show had the Ponderosa High School Choir as part of the show, and they were spectacular, as usual. But they also had a young men's quartet and several of the young men singing solos in their part of the show. I bring this up because the boys are Harmony Camp alumni!

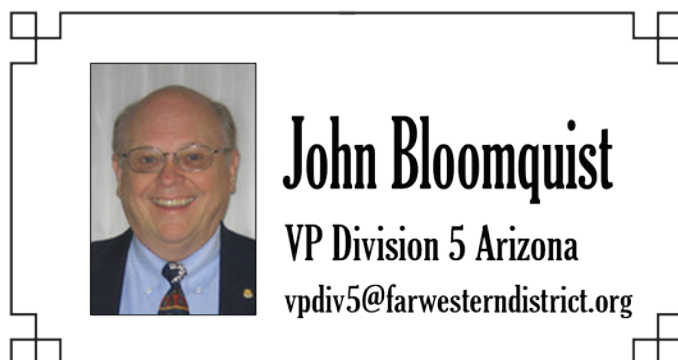
Also, during the afterglow at the Cameron Park Round Table Pizza a couple of young employees burst into our "private" room with big smiles on their faces and rushed over to give me a huge hug. They were also Harmony Camp alumni who suddenly recognized who it was having an afterglow party in their Round Table. What a rush for me! And just one more reminder of the power of Barbershop!!

Once again, it is the magic of Barbershop culture and Barbershop Harmony that engages the young men and brings out the best in them both in terms of giving them a short-term success path, as well as a path for long-term success in life!

My whole point is simply to recognize how powerful a force Barbershop is in so many of the lives that we Barbershoppers touch with each show that we do, with each young (and old) man that we share our souls with through this wonderful music.

It's a short message this time; but I was so moved this morning when I woke up with that smile that I just felt I had to share it with you!

Go out and have Fun with your Barbershop "hobby"; and don't hesitate to experience Barbershop to the fullest!!



District Vice President 5 Arizona Division



District Vice President DRCJ

The Conventions in Sacramento, Mesa, and El Monte complete the contest season for the Spring of 2017. The results are found elsewhere in this issue, on the

FWD website, and were included in Westags.

<http://farwesterndistrict.org>

The list includes:

- All quartets who have qualified for the Fall District Contest (scored higher than 68%).
- All choruses who have qualified for the Fall District Contest (scored higher than 62%).
- Any quartets and choruses added as wildcards.
- Any quartets or choruses that are next in line if any current qualifier chooses not to attend.
- The top five Senior Quartets who can enter the Fall Contest.
- The FWD 2017 Super Senior Quartet Champion, who will receive their traveling trophy this Fall.
- Youth quartets who have qualified for Youth Quartet Contest in Las Vegas.
- All quartets who will be performing at the International Contest in Las Vegas.
- All choruses who will be performing at the International Contest in Las Vegas.

If your quartet or chorus has qualified for the Fall contest, I will be contacting you by e-mail to remind you to enter your CJ-20 Contest Entry Form on <http://ebiz.barbershop.org>. **If you have qualified but have not entered the contest yet, please do prior to June 5.** Please enter the form even if you don't have your songs selected yet, so that we know you plan to participate!

Write if you have questions. I receive LOTS of e-mail this time of year with questions, and some are forwarded to me by others. Please utilize my help with anything relating to contests. And go to the Convention, whether you are in the contest or not! It's fun!

Will I see you in Las Vegas this summer?

rlblack1@gmail.com



District Vice President 1 Mu&P

The BHS Midwinter Convention is coming to the FWD. It will be held in 2018 at the beautiful Segerstrom Hall in Costa Mesa, California from Tuesday Jan. 16 thru Sunday Jan. 21. Full sets from our current medalist quartets and invited superstars will headline two evening shows. The youth festival gets bigger every year (thanks to your support of Harmony Foundation), and has participants from around the world. While the youth event has become the biggest draw, the International Senior Quartet Contest will feature the best of our seasoned performers.

Last year a Senior Chorus Festival was added to the Convention. Districts may create a chorus with current (dues-paid) members with a minimum age of 55. With the Festival (don't call it a contest), on our home turf, should the mighty Far Western District have an entry?

To sing on the international stage, the District must have an official panel score their Senior Chorus. The top 5 scorers are invited to the Midwinter. With our large geographic area, we would have to use our Fall Convention as our scoring opportunity.

My first question was: Is this inclusive or exclusive? Should participation be open to all, or should there be criteria? What criteria? Some of us are a bit competitive (it's a man thing). Do we use the Platoon Model and restrict the chorus to those recommended by their chorus directors?

Clearly the men would have legal music and learning tracks and be expected to have the music memorized. Should they be prepared at a level that they could sing the songs in a quartet, or would rehearsal time be needed to learn notes and words?

Please let me know if you have an interest. The Board has asked that I collect input so we can decide if we should move forward. What criteria do you think appropriate? If interested, would you be willing to attend a regional rehearsal prior to October? Would you attend a Harmony College West weekend (probably SoCal in August) with "Senior Festival Chorus" as one of your course options.

Please contact me at CEsing10r@gmail.com with your suggestions! I can also be reached on my cell 714-356-8501, but prefer e-mail so I can better track and share ideas.



Chairman Chapter Support & Leadership Training

STRONGER, HIGHER, & MORE RELIABLE

The success of our society rests on the health of its diverse array of chapters. Healthy chapters produce a strong membership pipeline, a higher level of artistry and musical credibility, and a more reliable grassroots distribution mechanism by which our charitable service aims can be actualized, measured and refined.

The purpose of the Healthy Chapter Initiative is to develop strategies for strengthening the overall health of the many diverse chapters we have in the Far Western District.

The Far Western District gave full support of this Initiative in our Spring Board Meeting, as well as at the House of Delegates Meeting. Each chapter was invited to contact Antonio Lombardi to share their willingness to participate.

Too often chapters find themselves caught up in

programs and activities that have been a part of their existence for a long time. Often these are programs and activities that consume plenty of valuable resources. This Initiative invites a chapter to discover just who they are and why they exist. This Initiative also causes introspection as to what the chapter does to support that identity and how it delivers its product. A chapter can get wrapped up in what it's doing without understanding why it's doing it, or why it exists.

Empower your chapter to Identify itself, align what it does and engage with your members and with your chapter life.

Contact your Chapter Leadership and see if they have contacted Antonio Lombardi and shared their willingness for your chapter to participate.

<http://www.barbershop.org/education/healthy-chapter-initiative/>

https://issuu.com/theharmonizer/docs/hzr_jan-feb_2017_full



Chairman Chorus Director Development



Bryan Forbes

Events

events@farwesterndistrict.org

Chairman Events



David Melville

Marketing & Public Relations

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Chairman Marketing & Public Relations

If you are the VP of Marketing & Public Relations for your chapter, then this article is for you. If you are NOT the VP of Marketing & Public Relations, then this article is for you also, because everyone should understand the key role that position plays in the success of your chapter.

Anyone who has held this position will agree that it can be summarized in two words: Constantly bombarded.

The VP of Marketing & Public Relations is basically the head of the sales department for your chapter. The key word here is “department”. It is a BIG job, and in order to do it effectively you will need help. Build a committee from among your members, and even non-members if they are willing to help.

We call it marketing because in a broad sense you are creating and developing a market for a product. There are basically two things you and your team need to identify in order to be effective:

□ **What is your product?**

□ **Who is your market?**

Before you do anything else, get together with your team to come up with the answer to those two questions, and then

come up with a plan that you and your team can work to “divide and conquer” to meet the objective. Keep in mind that the scope of this should be more than just your annual show; it should encompass everything that your chapter has to offer throughout the year.

A good start is for you and your team to go through the 5-Minute marketing Plan.

1. **First Minute: Product** – What can you do right now to improve the quality of your product or services in the eyes of your customers?
2. **Second Minute: Price** – What offers can you provide to encourage new customers to try your product or current customers to be more loyal?
3. **Third Minute: Placement** – What new approaches can you try to reach different customers?
4. **Fourth Minute: Promotion** – What new ways of communicating with customers can you try right away?
5. **Fifth Minute: People** – What can you do to make your customers feel more enthusiastic and thankful about your group and its product?

There is a lot of useful information and some great ideas and resources available on the Society and Far Western District websites to help you get started.

On the BHS website (barbershop.org) click on Resources, then Document Center and scroll down to Marketing. You’ll find a selection of marketing materials, including templates for promotional flyers and brochures as well as a collection of public service announcement audio files that you can provide to your local radio stations to publicize an upcoming show, a patriotic holiday performance and other events.

The Far Western District website (farwesterndistrict.org) has a collection of documents and links to help you by clicking on Education. You’ll find some great resources there; in particular I encourage you to look at the Leadership Academy presentations for both Marketing and Webmaster.

Ultimately, there is perhaps no better source for ideas than to see what others are doing. Nearly all of our chapter in the FWD have a website, or at the very least a Facebook page. You can find their websites from the FWD website by clicking on Chapters, and then Chapter Directory. Similarly you can also find chapters in other districts by first going to their district website by clicking on Links and then BHS – Districts. If you see something you really like, contact their marketing guy; chances are good he will be more than happy to talk to you and provide you with more information and ideas.



Bill Rosica

Membership

membership@farwesterndistrict.org

Chairman Membership

As we begin to get into our summer months, some Chapters take time off or slow down just a bit. I would encourage you to re-energize and plan some family get-togethers with other Chapters. In order to enrich the lives of our members, we need to keep the ball rolling.

Membership during the summer months can be broken down into two phases, Recruitment and Retention. Recruitment may be the easiest, get the community to come through the door. That can be by annual shows, chorus performances, or quartet performances. If you don't mention anything about your Chapter sometime during these performances, you're missing a great opportunity. I would not have joined the Society if it had not been for a chance meeting of my Dad and a quartet at a Shell Oil Company Picnic, where the quartet mentioned where they met and a time and place. The rest is history.

Retention is a little tougher. We, as Chapter members, need to make sure we don't leave our guests standing around during break. Make sure you make the effort to get to know the guest and ask how he came to show up. I know at Santa Fe Springs, I look for the guy who is a little shy and find out all I can in the 15-20 minutes I have. Each week I find a new guy and make sure I touch bases with last week's guest. If we can get them through the first few weeks, our chances of retaining them is much better.

Lastly, I have Membership buttons I had made that have "Each One Bring One, We Won" printed on them. Any Chapter who wants to hear my short, OK maybe not real short, presentation, let me know. I can even give you the lowdown on the phone.



Bill Kane

Quartet Activities

quartetactivities@farwesterndistrict.org

Chairman Quartet Activities

Should I register for Platoon at the FWD fall convention in Bakersfield?

Only if you enjoy quartet singing (or think you would)!

There were over 60 guys who participated in Platoons at FWD conventions this spring in Northern California (Sacramento), Arizona (Mesa) and Southern California (El Monte). They had a day full of quartet singing in many different combinations, from fun competitions to public performances at schools and rest homes.

The guys had learned four songs in common prior to the event, enabling them to match up with others from chapters around the area that they had not even met before. For example, here is the group that won the first contest, from Tucson, Phoenix and even Alaska. You might recognize the tenor from International Senior Champs *High Priority*?



Limited Edition – Quarter Finals Champs: Tenor Ray Estes (Phoenix/Arizona Quartet Chapter), Lead Ed Bostrom (Frank Thorne), Bass Rich Kates (Tucson/Phoenix Chapters), Bari Frank Hartline (Tucson Chapter).

Why would you want to meet and sing with guys from other chapters? Well, it is sorta fun. And you notice the different color lanyards that indicate the part they sing? Really helps you find guys to quartet with informally throughout the Convention weekend.

After a random mix the Platoon held another contest and four different guys won. . .wait a minute that's the same Bass as the last winner. Is every quartet with this guy going to win? Well, good luck of the draw for the guys from Mesa, Frank Thorne and Arizona Quartet Chapters. Notice the clever name they chose.



The Young and The Rest of Us – Semi Finals Champs: Tenor Ted Blank (Frank Thorne), Lead Adam Kaufman (Mesa/Arizona Quartet Chapter), Bass Rich Kates (Phoenix/Tucson Chapters), Bari John Lockwood (Arizona Quartet Chapter).

Both of our first two winners were singing that great chart from Lou Perry *For All We Know*. Will another of the other songs produce a winner? Stay tuned.

Another random draw and the finals contest produced the highest score so far. . .and yet the quartet finished second in this round. All members of the Arizona Quartet Chapter, these guys also sang *For All We Know* (boy is that a good song). In fact, a couple of the Platoon guys took it to Arizona Division contest with their registered quartet the very next day.



Why Me? – Second Place Overall: Tenor Ray Estes (Phoenix/Arizona Quartet), Lead Jim Hart (Tucson/Arizona Quartet), Bass Bob Standfast (Sedona/Arizona Quartet), Bari John Lockwood (Arizona Quartet).

But who won? Two guys from Alaska? Yes, but they also spend the winters in Arizona. Congratulations to Ed Bostrom, who lives in Dewey (near Prescott) and Chuck Renschler, who lives near Phoenix when he isn't in Anchorage. And since the Bari lives in Prescott, they are already looking for a Tenor nearby to form a "snow bird" quartet. (They already have the four Platoon songs in common.) Could participation in Platoon help you make the contacts to get a quartet started?

By the way, another song finally won, as *Half Alaska* sang *All I Do Is Dream of You, The Whole Night Through*. (Songs are randomly assigned to quartets at Platoons.)



Half Alaska – Finals Champs: Tenor Jay Bartley (Phoenix), Lead Ed Bostrom (Frank Thorne). Who is this guy in the middle? Bass Chuck Renschler (Anchorage/Phoenix), Bari Neal Ketcher (Phoenix/Kalispell MT/Sunrise FL/Prescott).

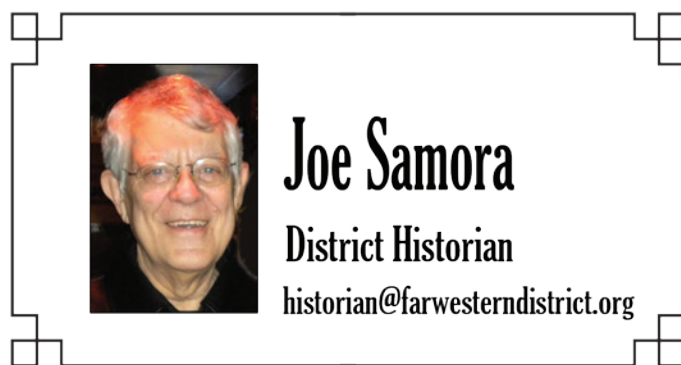
Don't want to wait till Fall for the next Platoon?
Me neither.

That's me in the middle of the champs picture. No time for me to sing during Platoon. . . just too busy with administrative details. But I took one of my favorite Platoon songs and found three other guys in my chapter who would learn it and then performed it for the chapter. You could do that yourself. No obligation to form a permanent group, just another chance to quartet. We call it the One-Song-Four. Give it a try.

Sooooooo, should you check out the FWD website for a Fall Convention Platoon registration form? Or the HarmonyPlatoon.org website? Well, if you do and it isn't posted yet, just email me for details: BillKaneVip@msn.com.

Don't wait too long to register for Platoon. We always like to give you at least a couple of months to learn the four new songs.

Chairman Youth In Harmony [OPEN]



District Historian

"What I've Learned"

In October, 2015; FWD President Mongo Bergholdt asked me to serve as District Historian. Mongo mentioned that our District would be 70 years old on October 22, 2016 and wanted someone to record our history.

I had been a state archivist for three decades so I figured, "Why Not?" I soon learned that there is more

to Barbershop than just singing. There is a group of dedicated administrators who make important decisions. They may sing in a quartet, chorus or both but each has made a commitment to help make our District, the best or better.

I have learned that if you think you know it all, you stop learning. So I decided to interview Hall of Fame recipients, men honored by their peers for doing more than just sing but who help run the District.

What these men have in common is the same excitement to share their hobby, Barbershop Singing. Although my task has just begun (I have interviewed three past Hall of Famers to date), I learned they all consider the FWD the best. Their enthusiasm for their craft is inspiring. I feel fortunate they are willing to share their time and knowledge with me. Although I have been active in Barbershop for a dozen years, ten as a chapter officer, I had no idea how the District functioned.

The fruits of my labor will be a compilation of the Hall of Fame interview transcripts. What will the status of FWD Barbershopping be in five years when our District celebrates its 75th anniversary? I have learned from these men that anything is possible.

Addendum: Sam Barger shared with me that his first quartet was called "Lovely Bunch of Cocoanuts", 1948.





Bakersfield Chapter
By Rich Owen

The Golden Empire Chorus has enjoyed a renewed interest and attendance ever since we put on our “Revival” show in August of 2015. Attendance at rehearsals has been steady at 15 to 18 members ever since. There are two new memberships, and a number of former members returned and renewed their memberships. The chapter membership roster is currently 24 members.

BMAL **Dave Fletcher** organized our first ever “spaghetti feed” fund raiser at the local American Legion hall. It was a rousing success and we are hoping it will become a regular “outreach” event. The chorus joined with the **Mighty Oak Chorus** of Visalia to present a joint show in Visalia followed by a similar show in Bakersfield. The Bakersfield version of the show was called *A Spoonful of Disney* with Disney songs being the main part of the show. The headliner quartet was the **Velvet Frogs** and **The Front Line** made a special guest appearance. The show was financially successful.

The night before the Bakersfield show, the chapter had a “70ish Year Reunion” (the chapter was incorporated in 1947) which was very successful. Members and former members from as far away as the Dallas Texas area came to town to have dinner and watched videos of shows from the past and, of course, sang until they closed the restaurant. Afterwards, there was more ringing of chords at a local Pizza parlor. When asked if we should do another reunion in a few years the answer was “how about next year”.

One disappointment for the Golden Empire Chorus in 2017 was the loss of our director. **Adam Calvillo** has relocated to the Seattle area for better employment opportunities. The chorus is currently in the capable “directing” hands of both **Tank Waldrum** and **Jim Mahoney**.

We bid a fond farewell to member **Lee Stahl** who joined the chorus eternal in March 2017.

Rincon Beach Chapter
By Justin McQueen

Rincon Beach Pacific Sound Chorus has been hard at work preparing to qualify for District at the upcoming Divisional Contest in El Monte on May 13, 2017. Since the last digest, Pacific Sound Chorus had three performances. The first being at Leisure Village in Camarillo for the Leisure Village Women’s Club on March 9. In April, we had back-to-back performances on the 22nd and 23rd. One in Ventura, the other in Goleta. The Ventura performance was for Earth Day 2017. The Goleta event was the 3rd Annual A Cappella Showcase hosted by Pacific Sound at the Butler Event Center. Performing at the event were the **Santa Barbara Soundwaves**, **The Chemistry Quartet**, **UCSB Ravaani**, **Priority Male**, and of course us.

We welcomed two new members to our ranks, **Ed Fuller** and **Juan Bowen** both Basses and welcomed additions.

San Fernando Valley Chapter
Valley Harmony Singers
By Ben Marder

It is with deep sorrow that I announce the passing of one of our most beloved members, **Chuck Walton**. Chuck died of a brain tumor at his home in January.

Chuck was a member of the Valley Harmony Singers, formally the Valleyaires Barbershop Chorus for 51 years. He had just received his 6th Man of Note. In the mid 80s Chuck went to International in Hartford, Ct. with the Valleyaires and placed 9th in the world.

Chuck loved ringing chords in the Barbershop style. He also loved singing in quartets. He sang in several. Chuck was also a mentor to whoever walked in the door. He had one of the most beautiful Baritone voices I’ve ever heard. He was also Baritone Section Leader for many years.

Chuck loved his wife and family. He had many talents and hobbies. Among them were 4-part harmony, motorcycles, flying airplanes and playing the guitar. Chuck Walton served in the U. S. Air Force for many years both in active and reserve. Chuck will be deeply missed by all.

Santa Maria Chapter By Gene Kai

Just completed our annual show production on April 22. Thanks to our headline quartet **Front Line** and all other participants for their participation in a great show. Work on the 2018 Spring Show began immediately.

We continue to work hard on Socal West competition songs. Members from the Gold Coast Chorus of San Luis Obispo and Central Coast Chordsmen of Santa Maria have joined forces to participate in this FWD event.

Having a great time together. Recent Barbershoppers-of-the-Month were **Don Ward**, April for his afterglow emcee duties and **Rod Pope**, March for website duties.

Santa Monica Oceanaires By Marty Mitnick

Singing our National Anthem for the Los Angeles Galaxy Soccer fans at the SubHub Center in Carson was, for the fourth year, an exciting experience to remember.

Our Spring Show under the direction of **Laura Pallas Singer** and **Ben Lowe** was an absolute success. *Love That Boat* was written by our very own **Tim Singer** and it included the guest quartet **Invitation**.

The audience was entertained, prior to curtain, by our own **John White**, "Pianist Extraordinaire".

The performance included songs by our own quartets: **Fisk Street Four**, **Harmony Smashup**, **Oddly Enuf**, **Overland Avenue** and **Sound Stage**. A special thank-you to **Katie Walker Boeck** and our SOS (Supporting Our Singers) members for their continuing support and assistance in our programs; **Pat Kellogg** for his managing the advertising and printing for the show and **Larry Boone** our sound engineer.

We welcome our newest members: **Charles Carothers**, **Pablo Leon-Luna**, and **Alonso Pirio**.

The **Oceanaires** were deeply honored to sing at the Memorial Service held in loving memory of **Carl Rogers**, a long-time member of the **Oceanaires**.



El Cajon Chapter By Jeff Freeman

The Music Masters now has 12 singers on stage for the first time in three years. We recently sang at Wesley Palms, Otay Lake Lodge, and Stellar Care and will be performing for two churches this summer.

At our April 28 Guest Night, we were entertained by **Solo Voce** shortly after they placed 7th at the Sweet Adelines Region 21 Quartet Contest.

Inland Empire Chapter By Gaylord Spence

The Inland Empire Chapter just completed its "Sister Cities Concert" with invited guests from Erlangen, Germany (one of the "sister cities" to Riverside, CA), the **Stad'l Harmonist** and it was an outstanding show. The "Harmonist" sing what they term as German Barbershop, still a 4-part a cappella style of music but with a very distinctive chord structure compared to American Barbershop. In addition to our own sets in the program, we sang three songs together; two from their repertoire and one from ours, and it was an absolute blast! These guys can really sing!

The Chorus is in a growth mode acquiring two new members, **Gary Smith**, a Barbershopper with previous experience down San Diego County way during the 80s, and **Daniel Poston**, a newly retired postal employee that just found his love of singing. Both men are excellent additions to our Lead section!

The Chorus was quite busy with new singing opportunities, all brought about by the hard work of **Dave Strough**, our fireball of a VP for Marketing and Public Relations. We have two major concerts lined up for the month of August, in addition to what Dave schedules for us. There's no resting on our laurels for this Chorus; it's time to get out and perform!

Las Vegas Chapter By Peter Feeney

To celebrate Barbershop Quartet Day on April 11, channel 5 (Fox 5) in Las Vegas invited one of our chapter quartets to appear on their local morning show. **Good Times** quartet accepted on behalf of the chapter and had a great time singing the local show into and out of commercial breaks. The TV show's hosts could not have been more gracious. It was a wonderful morning for our chapter and for Barbershop Harmony!

The **Silver Statesmen Chorus** was invited to entertain patrons of the Boulder City Nevada Spring Arts Fest on Saturday and Sunday April 22 and 23. The Chorus performed on both days as did the chapter quartet **Time Wise**. The weather was perfect and the Chorus had a great time!

San Diego Chapter By Greg Price

It's official! After 71 years, San Diego Chapter SPEBSQSA (our name as it appears on the Chapter Articles of Incorporation) has taken a leaf from the BHS book and registered a fictitious name (DBA.) We can now legally do business (e.g. open bank accounts, accept payments, enter into contracts, etc.) under the name everyone recognizes as the **Sun Harbor Chorus**.

Early in April, the Chorus participated with 21 other singing organizations in San Diego Sings, an annual day-long event held at the Spreckels Organ amphitheater in Balboa Park. Each group gave its own performance during the day, culminating in a massed chorus of almost one thousand voices singing a choral piece learned and rehearsed before the event.

We welcomed new chapter members **Jeff Buckles, Tom Fazekas, Frank Hafner, Brad Roberts, Don Saba** and **Dale Vaughan**, most of whom are experienced Barbershoppers who will be adding to our sound as we participate in the SE/SW Division ontest in El Monte, CA.

We are happy to welcome back our director, **Kathleen Hansen** who is almost 100 percent recovered following recent health challenges and thank our Assistant Director, **Neal Palmer** for filling in during her absence.



San Francisco Bay Quartets Chapter By Jordan Makower

At our May "The Harmony for Lunch Bunch" luncheon at Harry's Hofbrau, we were joined by Nevada's Silver Statesman Chorus member **Randy Preston** and his wife, **Avona**. Randy has been a BHS member for 12 years, and was welcomed to sing with two of our quartets. Six groups sang, employing the talents of **Steve Gummersall, Marv Bertelson, Mike Irvin, Bruce Bunting, Chuck Mollett, Sieg Yoder, David Tuttelman, and Jordan Makower**. **Bill Beck**, in our audience, celebrated his 65th year as a member; **Jordan** his 38th, and **Sieg** his 28th. For more information, go to **John Heather's** website: www.sfbayquartets.org and plan a trip to San Jose to sing with or listen to us.

Walnut Creek Chapter By Ken Hitch

Another Barbershopper has joined the 'Big Chorus in the Sky'. Our brother, **Pete Miller**, passed away on April 4. Pete was a 50-year Barbershopper who sang with the Walnut Creek Chapter's **Devil Mountain Chorus** for much of that time. Pete belonged to the Bakersfield Chapter early in his career and also sang with Bay Area Metro and Voices in Harmony for a time. He was the Lead in **Sound Solution** for 20 years and also directed a chorus of his fellow employees at Chevron for many years.

Marin Chapter By Newt Harband

The Marin Golden Gate Barbershop Chorus, under the direction of **Phil DeBar**, is going strong! We're attracting new members and organizing for more sing-outs in addition to our regular performances at the San Rafael Pacifics baseball games (singing in June), the July 4th Marin County Fair (singing on July 1), and our Annual Show in November (Nov 19, 2017). We are also reaching out to high schools to interest them

in Barbershop Harmony. Recent additions to our chorus include **Morgan Moore** and **John Nelson**. We are fortunate to have a veteran Barbershopper, **Scott Fewell**, helping out as Assistant Director. Last year's BOTY award went to hardworking **Fred Saland** who has been with us for just over a year.

Napa Valley Chapter By Bill Lockhart

The **Napa Valley Harmonizers** was very busy in the community! March was especially fun with St Paddy's Day downtown, singing in all the pubs and wine bars... and on the streets! We even spent time posing with several Bride's parties, and singing love songs to them! In May we were hired to help Trefethen Family Vineyards celebrate their Grand Reopening after fixing 2014 earthquake damage. One of our quartets, **Uncorked**, strolled the winery grounds and welcomed visitors. We have been invited by Sunrise Rotary of Napa to kick off the July 4th Parade with a medley of patriotic tunes.



California Delta Chapter By Jim DeChaine

VoCal was coached by **Joe Cerrutti**, Musical Director of the **Alexandria Harmonizers**, for the second year in a row at a fantastic three-day retreat in March.

The **Voices of California** took first place for the Northeast Division at this year's NE/NW Division/Prelims Contest with one of our highest scores for our seven years as a chapter, 81.0. **VoCal** also co-hosted the NE/NW Division/Prelims Contest at the McClellan Conference center this year with the **Placerville** Chapter. This is the first time two chapters have co-hosted a Spring Convention at the NE/NW Division and things went very smoothly. There were a notable 24 members from **VoCal** participating in 9 of the 23 quartets in the Contest.

Artistic License scored its highest score yet at the Evergreen District/Prelim Convention Contest in April, with an 87.5.

Western Harmonics [Dallas Halvorson, Kevin Palmer, Chris McCuddy, Rhett Roberts], a new chapter quartet earned First Place at the **NorCal Novice Quartet Contest**. Two of our other quartets also participated – **What Four** [Tim Martin, Corley Phillips, Winston Char, Richard Lund] taking second place in the contest; and **Les is More** [Les Cudworth, Mark Bain, Steve Kennedy, Larry Womac].

Four chapter quartets performed 44 separate singing Valentines this year, raising a net to the chapter of approximately \$2,000.

Our Spring Show this year was at the Harris Center for the Arts in Folsom with two performances. Special Guests on the show included **Instant Classic**, 2015 International Quartet Champion, and **GQ**, a 2016 International Finalist Sweet Adeline Quartet.

Visit us at www.Voicesofcalifornia.org.

Central California Chapter By Miles Sutter

The **GVC** Installation and Awards Ceremony began with the welcome and introduction by our president, **Roe Darnell**, followed by the singing of *The Old Songs*, directed by **Howard Barber**. **Chuck Roots** followed with the invocation. **Howard** and **Betty Barber** had the honor of being our installing officers. **Bruce Sellnow** presented the Director's award to **Mike Viss**. **Roe Darnell** presented the President's award to **Dave Wallace**, the Endurance and Perserverance award to **Bill Cale**. **Pete Sust** presented the 2016 BOTY award to **Miles Sutter**. Under the direction of **Chuck Roots** the Chorus sang *Let Me Call You Sweetheart* to the waitresses. The evening's festivities ended with **Chuck Roots** directing *Keep the Whole World Singing*.

We had 30 Valengram requests this year, and great coverage in the Modesto Bee, thanks to **Grady**. Our quartet sang to the student body at lunch time at Grace Davis High School in Modesto. This was to encourage the start of a male Barbershop program on campus.

April 13 the GVC again performed the National Anthem at the opening day baseball game for the Modesto Nuts!

Davis-Vacaville Chapter **By Roy Mattice**

The Davis-Vacaville Chapter announces the need for a new full-time Chorus Director. We desire a director with Barbershop experience and an idea where to take our Chapter in the future. Contact Steve Rollins at ROLLIE52@aol.com with your resume. Our upcoming activity is the Ed Graff Memorial Tag Contest; of which we invite Barbershoppers around our Chapter to participate with us. For more information, contact Roy Mattice at roymattice@gmail.com.

Folsom Chapter **By Dennis Stohl**

BBLT (Roger Perkins, Kent Borrowdale, Ken Potter, Doug Vestal) had the honor of singing at an early morning 105th birthday party for David Ellis living at Meadow Oaks care home in Roseville. There was a TV crew from local Channel 31 to film the event for their morning show. David was in WWII and is still doing well other than difficulty with hearing. The staff and other residents enjoyed the performance and they want BBLT to return to entertain the residents again.

Nevada Placer Chapter **By Roger Perkins**

The **Sierranaders** had a rather slow Valentine's Day this year. With only 10 requests, we decided to sing more than two songs at the senior care residences. It paid off when two of them paid us more than the requested amount. We also had time to go and sing for our wives. The singers this year were **Tom Klasey, Trent Bass, Ken Potter** and **Roger Perkins**.

A memorial service and celebration of life was held for the late **Verne Bagby** at the Sierra Pines Methodist Church near Lake of the Pines where he lived. Verne was a dedicated Barbershopper and was a 31-year member. He sang with the Sacramento Capitolaire and Nevada Placer Sierranaders for over 15 years after moving here from Southern California where he sang with South Bay. There were over 150 people in attendance including his nephew, **Jim Bagby** (Rural

Route 4). There were about 25 Barbershoppers who sang *What a Wonderful World* followed by *Keep the World World Singing* as requested by his wife **Annice**.



Central Arizona Quartet Chapter **By Bill Kane**

The guys were meeting to rehearse for a Platoon event at the Arizona Division Contest weekend. These sessions drew quartet singers from Prescott, Flagstaff and Tucson, as well as the local Phoenix area. The Chapter was pleased to have a visit at one meeting from member **Adam Kaufman's** new quartet **Saucebox**, who got some coaching for the Arizona Division Contest from the Chapter Musical Leader Senior Gold Medal Champ **Ray Estes**.

Chapter Secretary **Gene Brandwein** presented President **Bill Kane** with his renewal card reflecting 55 years with BHS. Treasurer **John Lockwood** reported the group is financially sound. The Chapter takes a summer vacation, along with many of its members, but is looking forward to a start-up of activity again in the fall.

Mesa Chapter **By Bob Shaffer**

The Harmonizers Annual Show *If I Could Write A Song*, held at the Apache Junction Performing Arts Center, was well received and a participation (41 men on stage), and financial (most profitable show ever), success. The show featured International Senior Quartet Champs **High Priority**, SAI quartet **Valley Girls**, the Apache Junction HS Varsity Chorus, and Chapter quartets **Quadratic Audio** and **Backspin**. The scripted show, our first ever, was tied together by a script written by a team headed by Director **Russ Young**, with Chorus members **Jim Brown** and **John Bloomquist** playing major roles.

The next two days after our show were spent delivering over 50 Singing Valentines around the East Valley region. Over 20 men participated in six different quartet combinations, and the event was coordinated by **Alisa Bingel**, wife of one of our Chorus members.

Much to his surprise, Chorus Director **Russ Young** was inducted into the FWD Hall of Fame at the FWD Spring Convention in Sacramento. There is a fine article on Russ' accomplishments elsewhere in this publication, so we won't repeat them here. We do want to say, however, how proud we are of Russ and so thankful that he is our Director!

The Chorus welcomes new members **Rollie Halvorson** and **Andrew Steedman**, and dual members **Keith Engbrecht** and **Don Koehnlein**.

Sadly, the Chapter reports the passing in March of our Immediate Past President, **Bill Johnson**. Bill was a long-time Barbershopper, starting back in the Long Island NY Chapter, and he also sang with the Phabulous Phoenicians. Bill held many board positions with the Harmonizers, including two recent terms as President, but was best known as a great encourager of Barbershop singing wherever he went. Bill will be missed greatly by his mates in Mesa, and as hosts of the AZ Division Convention we will dedicate the Convention in his honor.

As always, if you find yourself in the metro Phoenix area on a Thursday evening, please drop in and ring some chords with us. We are having a blast with **Russ**, and we always include some quartet time at the end of every meeting before heading off to the afterglow.

Sedona Chapter **By Michael McCaffrey**

This Quarter's activity consisted of learning new songs for our November concert. Our repertoire for that show will include *Hey Good Looking*, *Red Rose Rag*, *The Way You Look Tonight*, and *It's a Brand New Day*. Any creative folks out there that can come up with a theme?

We had a sing-out at the Verde Valley Montessori School entertaining kindergarten through eighth grade students.

As always, if you find yourself in Sedona and just can't handle not exercising your vocal chords, please drop by

our Wednesday night 6:00pm practice at the Church of the Red Rocks on Bowstring Dr. in Sedona.

White Mountains Arizona Chapter **By Doc Dockendorf**

The High Country Chorus had a very successful Christmas Show, which started us on a high for our Installation Banquet, held at Torreon Golf Course. Chairman **Ron Montez** and his lovely wife **Kathy** arranged for a great dinner. Our new officers were installed by Director **Doc Dockendorf** using the Bill Biffle Installation Ceremony, with the theme "Together in Harmony". For the first time, we had a local guitarist who provided background entertainment, instead of a Quartet. The ladies especially enjoyed her, and we are likely to repeat this plan in 2018. Barbershopper of the Year Award went to current President **Millard Bolt**, Spark Plug Award and Director's Award went to **Duane Krause**, while the President's Award went to **Jerry Schrunk**. Music And Performance VP **Jim Bohart** presented the Most Improved Singer Award to **Mick Mitchke**. A special recognition Award was presented to **Ron Longenbaugh** for his work as Uniform Chairman.

Singing Valentines was successful, though a lower number were delivered this year. As always, we had a number of complimentary deliveries to local Radio, Newspaper, and Chambers of Commerce that support us during the year.

The Board of Directors voted unanimously to send a local High School Music Teacher **Mindy Flake** to Harmony University. Plans are underway to offer the same opportunity to several other teachers in the future. While we may not benefit by attracting HS boys to our Chorus, we will certainly be promoting Barbershop in our community.

Notices

Calendar

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

Conventions / Contests

HEAR YE - HEAR YE - HEAR YE
All members
NOW REGISTER ELECTRONICALLY
IN ADVANCE FOR
ALL FWD CONTESTS and CONVENTIONS

You can pay at the door, but there is a steep price increase - not suggested.

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.

Near term 2017 & 2018 FWD & BHS dates are:

- July 2-8 BHS International Convention
Location: Axis Theater, Las Vegas, NV
- July 23-30 Harmony University
Location: Belmont University, Nashville, TN
- October 19-22 FWD Fall Conventions
Location: Bakersfield, CA
- January 16-21, 2018
BHS International MidWinter Convention
Location: Segerstrom Center for the Arts
Costa Mesa, Orange County, CA
- March 15-18, 2018
FWD Spring Convention
SE/SW Division and International Prelim
Contests
Location: TBA

To Email Your District Officers & Chairmen

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