



Westunes Vol. 67 No. 3

Fall 2017



WESTUNES

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

Masters of Harmony

2017 International Champions



INSIDE: Earl Moon • Youth Camp • Fog City Singers • Flightline • Pacific Sound • Brigade



WESTUNES

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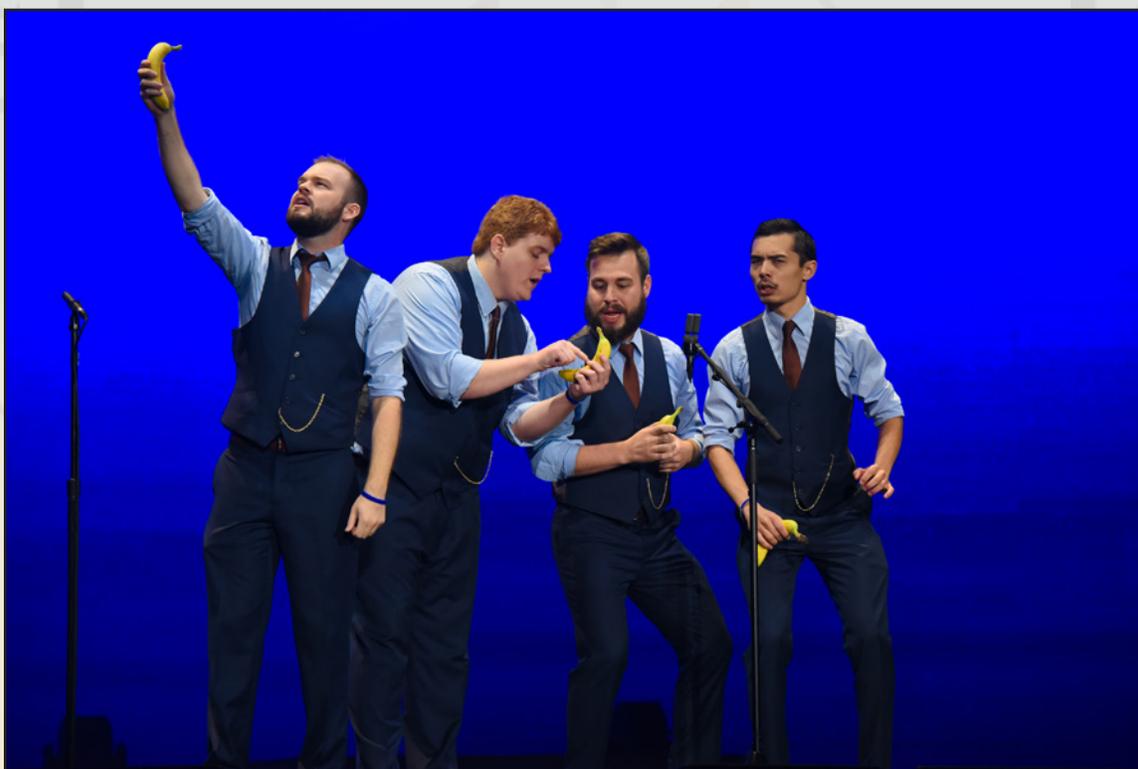
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2017 Far Western District International Quartet Competitors



Artistic License

Todd Kidder, Tenor • Rich Brunner, Lead • Gabe Caretto, Baritone • Jason Dyer, Bass
8th Place Finalist • 87.2



The Newfangled Four

Joey Buss, Tenor • Jackson Niegrugge, Lead • Ryan Wisniewski, Baritone • Jake Tickner, Bass
9th Place Finalist • 87.0

2017 Far Western District International Chorus Competitors



Barbary Coast Chapter • Fog City Singers

9th Place • 88.4



La Jolla Chapter • Pacific Coast Harmony

22nd Place • 81.8



California Delta Chapter • Voices of California

26th Place • 81.0

2017 Far Western District Youth Barbershop Quartet Contest Competitors



2017 International YBQC Champions Flightline

Oscar Sotelo, Tenor • Daniel Huitt, Lead • Marcus Kang, Baritone • Kyle Williamson, Bass



Eclectones

Garett Stilwell, Tenor • R.J. Esquivias, Lead
Mario Ynigues, Baritone • Brady Larson, Bass

4th Place • 77.9



File copy

Western Harmonics

Dallas Halvorson, Tenor • Kevin Palmer, Lead
Christopher McCuddy, Baritone • Rhett Roberts, Bass

16th Place • 71.8



2017 International Champion Chorus

Santa Fe Springs Chapter The Masters of Harmony

by Ron Larson

When the **Masters of Harmony** were offered the opportunity to host the Southeast/Southwest Divisional contests at El Monte High School in early May, we accepted the challenge even though we had not hosted a convention in years and had less than the usual allotted time to prepare for it. Under the skillful leadership of **Bill Rosica**, two-dozen Masters members volunteered to chaperone the unusually large number of competitors (19 quartets, 16 choruses). FWD Events Chair **Bryan Forbes** noted, "...the flow of contestants across the stage was smooth and timely, allowing the audience to enjoy each performance without delay or confusion." **Bernard Priceman** MC'ed the chorus contest that saw Masters members on the risers of nine of the choruses. Six of the 18 competing quartets listed Santa Fe Springs as one of their chapters. Congratulations to the chorus winner, **Westminster**, and **184**, the quartet winner!

Once again, the Masters of Harmony annual spring show was held at Cal State Long Beach's Carpenter Center. The theme was "From Broadway to Main Street and Back Again!" The opening set featured songs from Broadway shows and chorus members dressed in costumes matching the various characters in the songs—swashbucklers, fantasy creatures, gamblers, phantoms, tough guys, even Spiderman, the Aladdin genie, and Dr. Seuss—truly a costume menagerie for the ages! After changing out of the outlandish outfits, the Masters performed the contest package and were rewarded with loud, sustained applause from the near-

sellout audience, a welcome confidence booster so close to the contest. Featured quartet **Main Street (Roger Ross, Tony De Rosa, Mike McGee, Myron Whittlesey)** regaled the audience with its unique mixture of traditional barbershop and pop songs. Also performing to enthusiastic applause were MOH quartets **Masterpiece (Brett Littlefield, Alan Gordon, Patrick Haedtler, Rob Menaker)** and **The Newfangled Four (Joey Buss, Jackson Niebrugge, Jake Tickner, Ryan Wisniewski)**. Long-time MOH supporter **Carol Stephenson** made a stunningly successful debut on the show. Her solo on the chorus rendition of "For Good" produced one of the loudest and longest ovations of the show. The highly successful show was an excellent propellant toward the showdown in Las Vegas.

From June 2-4, the Masters traveled to mile-high Idyllwild for a weekend of work on the Las Vegas contest package. Coach Tony De Rosa continued to tweak vocal aspects of performance while **Erin Howden** fine-tuned the choreo. On Saturday evening, after 10 hours of work, the chorus sang the package for Tony and Erin and the looks of approval on their faces were just priceless—to this point — Mission Accomplished!

On June 16, over 400 people gathered at the Old World Festival Hall in Huntington Beach, California for a "Celebration of Life" Ceremony honoring the late **Jeff Baker**. **Joe D'Amore** opened a ceremony that featured the Masters of Harmony singing "You'll

Never Walk Alone,” Nightlife singing “Steal Away” (with **Cody Littlefield** filling Jeff’s baritone position), the **Harborlites** Chorus singing “For Good,” a number of spoken and video remembrances (including Jeff doing an impromptu choreography bit with **The Rich-Tones Chorus** (SAI) that had the audience in stitches), and **The Vocal Majority** singing “The Lord’s Prayer.” Jeff’s infectious smile and the warmth of his presence made the world around him a brighter and more beautiful place. Rest in peace, our dear brother.



On July 3, the Masters family began to assemble in Las Vegas for the eagerly anticipated 2017 International chorus and quartet competition. The Masters knew that The Vocal Majority, winner of 12 International championships, came to the contest with the nation’s highest District

qualifying score and that the Masters were tied for second with **Central Standard**, the chorus that finished 38 points ahead of us in the 2016 Nashville contest. The Masters, winner of eight consecutive chorus gold medals, had faced the VM in competition only once, in Las Vegas in 2014, when the VM prevailed by 49 points. An interesting rehearsal assignment had the two choruses rehearsing at about the same time in adjoining rooms and, throughout the week, each could hear portions of the other’s contest songs coming through the walls, sometimes overlapping key parts being rehearsed-distractions that may have actually boosted the performance level of each chorus. On contest day, both choruses sang in the afternoon session. The VM sang 23rd of the 30 competing choruses. Its package of Danny Boy/Stouthearted Men threw down a formidable gauntlet to all others in the contest and drew thunderous applause from the audience. Five choruses later, it was the Masters of Harmony’s turn on the stage. The ballad was a medley of love songs from **West Side Story** (“I Have a Love” and “One Hand/One Heart”) arranged by **Kirk Young**. Its eternal message of love overpowering hate was possibly the most emotionally moving song the Masters have ever sung. The audience in the Axis Theater at Planet Hollywood responded with loud applause to the poignant love story so beautifully set to music. The Masters then took the audience on a musical

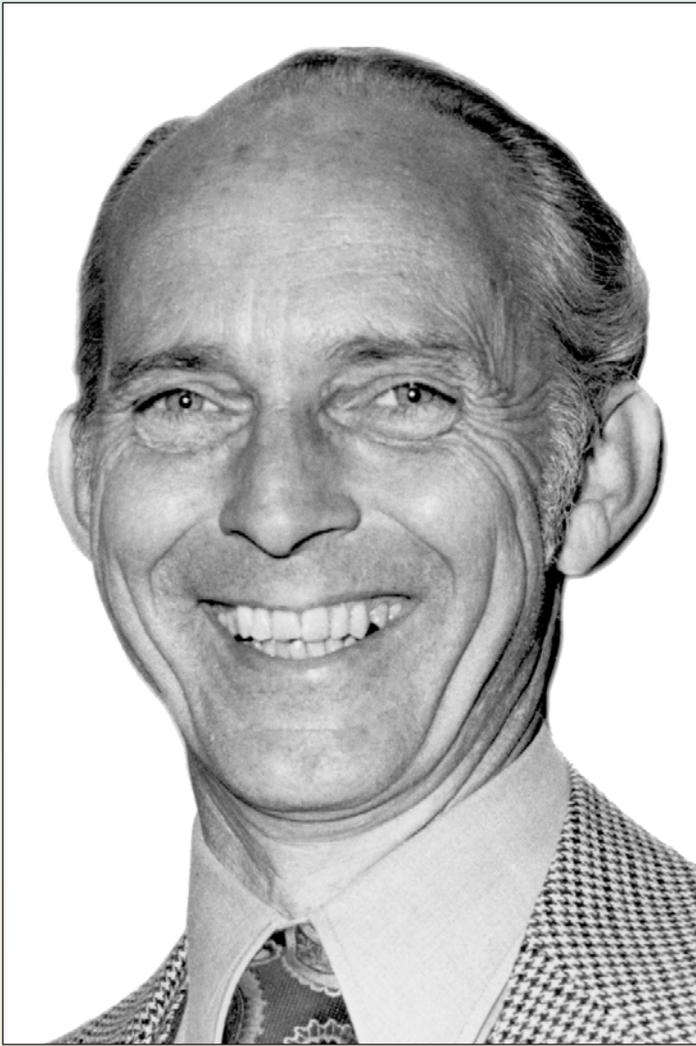
journey the likes of which no International audience had ever seen from the Masters. The uptune, “Its Too Darn Hot/Fever” is a rollicking, high-energy, fun-filled song based in part on a Cole Porter musical, arranged by **Aaron Dale** and choreographed by Erin Howden. The audience reacted with an ovation that rivaled the massive one given to the Masters in Las Vegas three years ago. When the scores were announced, the Masters of Harmony were judged the winner by 8 points – a score of 96.4%, their highest International contest score ever, to the VM’s 96.2 percent. Central Standard took third. When the Masters held their medal ceremony, the men of the VM came from their adjoining rehearsal room chanting MOH, MOH! To which the MOH men responded with VM, VM! The chants quickly merged to become VMOH! The two choruses then intermingled on the risers and sang, “You’ll Never Walk Alone.” What a treat it was for all in attendance that late Saturday night when over 260 men from two evenly matched choruses with great respect for each other joined forces to make beautiful choral music as the week in Las Vegas drew to a close.

Congratulations are in order for these Far Western District entrants: **Flightline** (**Oscar Sotelo, Daniel Huitt, Marcus Kang, Kyle Williamson**), the 2017 Youth Barbershop Quartet Champion; **Artistic License** (8th) and **The Newfangled Four** (9th) – each foursome moved up two spots from the 2016 contest; and **Fog City Chorus** from the San Francisco area, a 34-man chorus just two years old, which finished ninth with a score of 88.4 percent.

Meanwhile, the MOH’s vocal coach Tony De Rosa led **Main Street** to the International quartet championship, garnering his fourth gold medal – **Keepsake, Platinum, Max Q**.

Since the last issue of *Westunes*, the Masters of Harmony welcomed **Nick Bratcher, Adam Ehrenpfort, Ryan Hicken, Kent Jenkins, Domenick Murray, Mike Nicholes, Kenny Rios** and **John Yost** into membership.





Earl Moon

2017 Lifetime Achievement Award

Acceptance speech by Nick Papageorge

On behalf of his daughter Melanye, I am very honored to accept the Society's Lifetime Achievement Award for EARL MOON.

I spoke with Melanye, and she wants to thank the Society for this great honor. Luckily, she and Millye were able to go to Kansas City in 2011 to receive Earl's Hall of Fame Award. Unfortunately, neither of them will be here tonight. As some of you know, Millye passed away this past November and Melanye just lost her husband of 36 years. So for personal reasons, she is understandably unable to make the trip here.

Earl was my mentor, my quartet baritone, co-director, and most importantly, my friend. He and Millye "adopted" a young quartet from Occidental College in 1974, and was our first coach. They did pretty well because we made the semi's the following July. (I say they because Millye was coaching from the kitchen)

But we were not the first "youngsters" to be "found and mentored." Doug Anderson, Jimmy Kline, Ron Black, Nightlife, Tom Gentry, Rik Johnson, Phil Ordaz, and it goes on....

And what about his iconic arrangements? Shine on Harvest Moon, Baby Won't You Please Come Home, Nighttime in Dixieland, Sam the Old Accordion Man, Who's Sorry Now.....and it goes on. Did you notice that these were all uptunes?

Many felt that he was only an up-tune arranger; until the Boston Common won the International Contest in 1980. Of course they sang his great uptune, The Barbershop Strut. But all were flabbergasted to find out that he also arranged "Forgive Me!" A BALLAD!

In summary, Earl was a Barbeshoppers' Barbershopper. In my mind, I still see Earl standing outside the cafeteria at Harmony College, pipe in hand (he fashioned himself as Bing Crosby), in casual conversation with first time attendees. That conversation shortly turned into him teaching a tag. The chords ring, and everyone goes crazy! And before long there was a chorus of 40 or 50 singing another tag. Here was this iconic medalist quartet man, medalist chorus director, and premier Society arranger standing outside the Harmony College cafeteria at breakfast, lunch, and dinner, teaching tags to numerous followers. And of course, during those tag sessions he was also teaching them the Barbershop Culture. That area outside of the cafeteria was his living room away from home.

Again, on behalf of the Moon family, I thank the Society for honoring Earl Moon (E2 Moon) with this very special award.



Youth Harmony Camp

September 8 - 10, 2017

Sponsored by the Barbershop Harmony Society, Youth Harmony Camp in Pollock Pines, CA, is a magical weekend for high school age boys. The cost is \$95 (Friday dinner through Sunday breakfast) which covers music, registration, room, and board. If you have a student who wants to go but lacks financial resources, we are able to assist. Registration forms can be found on the camp web site <http://farwesterndistrict.org/events/youth-harmony-camp> along with answers to questions you may have. Feel free to contact me (camp director Richard Lund) directly at rlund@innercite.com. Should you wish, I am able to visit your class(es) and provide additional information.

Our 2017 teaching quartets are Instant Classic, 2015 International Gold Medalist from Indiana and 2013 International Collegiate Champions Newfangled Four from Southern California. In addition to the quartets, we bring four top clinicians from around the country to provide instruction for the boys.

The skills honed at Youth Harmony Camp are useful to all singers. As a music educator, we invite you to join us as guests of the District for all or a part of the weekend. This year we are expanding our Saturday afternoon session for Music Educators which is led by Music Educators who will discuss the methods of teaching we use at camp. After attending Harmony Camp, one choral director commented «My boys learned in three days what it would have taken me weeks to teach them.

Please share this with your male students and don't hesitate to contact me should you have questions.

And a note regarding a phone call I recently received from a young man who attended Harmony Camp in 2008. He called asking if he could assist us this year at Harmony Camp. He is currently singing professionally at his church while working on his Ph.D. However he said he misses barbershop and wants to get back in. Obviously he will be one of our volunteers this year.

Harmony Camp indeed does make a difference in lives. Once exposed to Barbershop Harmony at Camp the experience sticks with young men for the rest of their

lives. I ask that you not hesitate to give this gift to young men you might know or come into contact with during your daily life.

I encourage you to join us on September 10th at 11:00 am, Sly Park Education Center in Pollock Pines for our "Friends and Family" show. I guarantee you won't come away disappointed.

Richard Lund, Director Harmony Camp 2017



15 Far Western District Winners

by Cody Littlefield

Cody Littlefield contributed the following: "Fun fact for the day: The Far Western District has had 15 championship winners at the International level within the past decade. I don't know about you, but I take tremendous pride in that."

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Group</u> | <u>Title</u> |
|-------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| 2007 | Westminster | Chorus |
| 2008 | Masters of Harmony | Chorus |
| | OC Times | Quartet |
| 2009 | The Vagrants | Youth Quartet |
| | Audacity | Senior Quartet |
| 2010 | Westminster | Chorus |
| 2011 | Masters of Harmony | Chorus |
| 2012 | Boomtown | Youth Chorus AA |
| 2013 | Newfangled Four | Youth Quartet |
| | Masterpiece | Quartet |
| 2015 | Westminster | Chorus |
| 2016 | High Priority | Senior Quartet |
| 2017 | Masters of Harmony | Chorus |
| | Flightline | Youth Quartet |
| | Boomtown | Youth Chorus AA |



Fog City Singers credit chapter mission to their success

By Jamie Bedford, Julian Kusnadi, & Mike Louque

The men of the Fog City Singers were extremely proud to represent the Far Western District in Las Vegas this year. We've been asked what we did as a chorus to finish where we did in our international debut, and we credit our work on our chapter mission as the driving force that led to our thrilling 9th-place debut finish. While we have a wide-ranging set of Objectives and Key Results that we regularly use to assess our health and achievement as a chapter, very few of them are related to contest. In fact, qualifying for Vegas checked off perhaps our loftiest contest-related goal! Earning a wildcard invite resulted in extensive discussion around the question "What do we do now?" With our mission as our inspiration, we decided that we would use our first appearance on the International stage as an opportunity to make a splash and deliver a memorable performance.

The mission of the Barbary Coast, CA, chapter is to create a close fraternity of musicians; to apply diverse, world-class resources; and to revolutionize how barbershop music is performed and appreciated. Since this is the first time we've been asked to submit an article for the Westtunes, we hope that sharing some details about how we worked towards our mission will serve as a bit of an introduction to the rest of the district.

Possibly our proudest accomplishment in Vegas: 60% of our chorus in Vegas were newly active BHS members, including 11 singers brand-new to the society, and nearly as many previously inactive BHS members. Creating and cultivating our fraternity involves contending with professional and high-performing amateur ensembles in the San Francisco Bay Area vying for talented singers' time, so consistently offering an exceptional

artistic and social experience is necessary to thrive in our local community. Prospective members are given a thorough audition that ensures our members are surrounded by peers of equal or greater musical abilities, and we keep our singers (and audiences!) engaged with around 25 new songs per year.

We are fortunate to have an extremely talented director, Chris Lewis, who has challenged us with different styles of music ranging from pure contest barbershop through southern harmony and on to Russian liturgy. The variety helps us grow, but some of those styles are outside of the expertise of our musical leaders, so we augment our internal team as needed. Since we started in the Fall of 2015, we have worked with world-class resources, including top BHS coaches, directors of local groups like Chanticleer and Musae, and Stanford University faculty. These diverse experiences continue to play a key part in our musical and fraternal successes.

Revolutionizing how barbershop is performed and appreciated is a tall order, and our partnership with Musae was especially meaningful in this regard. While part of the collaboration was for us to learn about singing traditional choral pieces from an established San Francisco female vocal ensemble, the other part was being able to return the favor by helping them with barbershop songs that were a part of their program. This collaboration helped a highly-experienced ensemble to enjoy performing barbershop music in a state-of-the-art manner, and they brought our music to an audience who may have never heard barbershop sung as well as Musae can sing barbershop (spoiler alert: they sing it exceptionally well!). We are looking forward to building on the success of this initial collaboration with Musae and are

continuing to reach out to other groups in the city.

Moving back to the topic of Vegas, we were excited to learn there would be hand-held mics available for the first time ever, so we jumped at the opportunity to try something new by featuring soloists on an empty stage. We applaud the spectacular stagecraft of our brothers to the south, and also applaud the wonderfully elaborate sets and costumes from our brothers to the east. While we are less likely to attempt such endeavors (other spoiler alert: we haven't yet found the right rehearsal space to even try!), we promise to continue to find ways to be memorable and entertaining.

We would like to congratulate the Masters of Harmony for a well-earned gold and also to thank the Las Vegas chapter for hosting a great convention. Our guys want to thank the members and families of the Masters of Harmony, Pacific Coast Harmony, and Voices of California choruses as well as the rest of the Far Western District for your cheers and applause. You really made us feel welcome up there, and we are grateful for your support! We also owe an immense debt of gratitude to Allan Webb and the FWD board of directors for helping us assume the Whittier charter. Without the help of Allan and the district board, we would not have even been able to compete in our first division contest, much less international. We hope to honor that gift and the history of the Whittier chapter in everything we do.



Flightline's journey begins in a Roundabout fashion

by Kyle Williamson

Flightline started in 2013 while we were all members of the Boomtown Youth Chorus started by Joey Buss. Our first performance was at a friends and family night as a pickup quartet called Roundabout (a play on "Crossroads"). We soon made it official and competed in the CBQC in Toronto in 2013 with Lukas Berglin, a foreign exchange student from Sweden. He left for home shortly after International, and we were on the hunt for a new baritone. We found Cody Littlefield and went on to win the FWD Contest in 2015, the Dealers Choice Award in Pittsburgh, as well as medaled 3 times in the youth contest from 2014-2016, reaching as high as 2nd. We owed much of our success in these years to our main coaches Brett Littlefield and Martin Fredstrom.

After being 6 points away from winning the YBQC in Nashville we knew we wanted to come back even stronger. However, Cody told us his plan to step down to focus on school, leaving us a man short (again). Luckily our friend John Sifuentes suggested Marcus Kang from Texas as a replacement. We sent a lot of messages back and forth and sang together for the first time at mid-winter in San Antonio. He fit in instantly, and our local quartet suddenly became long distance.

It was Kyle and Marcus' last year of eligibility, so to make the most of it we set up a lot of sessions with our coaches Will Harris, Sam Papageorge, and Royce Ferguson and worked our butts off for 6 months crafting our set. All our hard work paid off and we finally achieved the goal we set for ourselves five years ago. We are so honored to represent the FWD by being your 2017 YBQC Champions. We are currently booking gigs through 2018 including shows and youth workshops. Email us at flightlinequartet@gmail.com for info on availability and pricing.



Pacific Sound Chorus Presents
Harmony Celebration



Featuring
Pacific Sound
Catch the Wave

Champion Men's
Barbershop Chorus

CARPE Diem^{CHORUS}

International Champion
Women's Chorus

September 16, 2017

2 Shows!!!

1 pm & 7 pm

matinee

evening

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Santa Barbara, CA

Pricing:
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Senior (65+): \$20
Student: \$15
Gold: \$50

^Sit in the first 4 rows!!^

Tickets On Sale Now!!!

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pacificsound.eventbrite.com



Kelly Shepard Moves to Australia



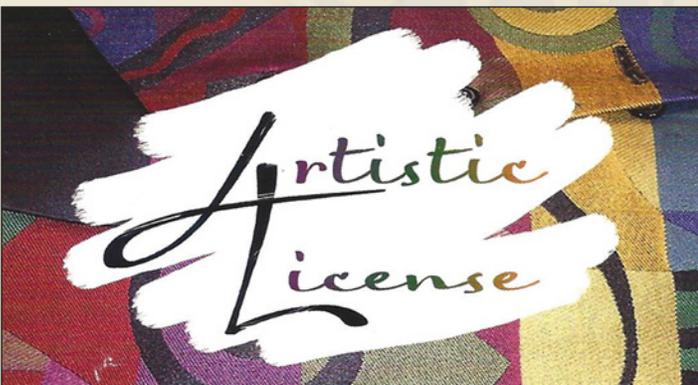
Kelly Shepard, musical director of **Pacific Sound Chorus**, bronze medal baritone of **Metropolis**, FWD District champion bass with **Sam's Club**, former bass section leader and two-time gold medalist with **Masters of Harmony**, and all-round barbershop good guy, is packing up his family, animals and belongings and moving to Australia on July 31st.

Kelly is married to Naomi, who is Australian, and they have daughters, age 12 and 16. Opportunities have presented themselves to re-settle near her family in the Gold Coast area of Australia and they have opted for that adventure.

Both are teachers and will probably do that in the Land Down Under while perfecting barbie skills and in-between didgeridoo lessons, but many of their plans are open-ended. They just know they'll be close to family, they have skills and talents, a sense of curiosity and adventure and, it will all work out...

Kelly wants you all to know he'll still be active in Barbershop, will probably see you at International or Harmony U from time to time, and you can stay in touch by email at metrobarikelly@gmail.com

Pacific Sound Chorus (Rincon Beach Chapter) has enjoyed his leadership for the past 5 years and thanks him for improving the chorus, keeping it fun, and wishes him the best in this next chapter of their lives.



Mike McGee, new Musical Director of Pacific Sound Chorus



As luck would have it, with **Kelly Shepard** making the decision to move his family to Australia, that coincided with **Mike McGee** moving back to Santa Barbara. Mike, newly-crowned Gold Medal baritone of 2017 International Champion, **Main Street**, has taken over as musical director for **Pacific Sound Chorus, (Rincon Beach chapter)**.

Many of you may know that Mike grew up in Santa Barbara, was the original baritone in **Metropolis** quartet, earned a few gold medals with the **Masters of Harmony**, directed the **Santa Barbara Channel City Chorus** for a while and was the founding director of **Pacific Sound Chorus** back in 1999. He made the decision to move to Florida in 2002 and directed the Tallahassee chapter and also Jacksonville, taking them to the 2006 International convention. After 15 years with Disney, singing with the Dapper Dans and other Disney entertainment positions, Mike has moved back to CA to be close to family and also pursue some entrepreneurial interests.

An interesting bit of trivia about Mike...with medals from **Metropolis** and **Main Street** littering his trophy case..., Mike is tied with **Doug Anderson** for most quartet medals ever, with 10, behind **Joe Connelly** with 11 and **Tony DeRosa** with 15.

Mike is excitedly throwing himself into directing **Pacific Sound** and excited to see all Far Western District fans at the **Pacific Sound** shows, **Sept. 16th, 1 PM and 7 PM in Santa Barbara**. These shows will feature **Pacific Sound**, SW Division Chorus Champs, **Carpe Diem**, 2016 International Sweet Adeline Small Chorus champs, and, in their first show since capturing the coveted gold medals - **Main Street**.

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!***

Richard Lund Director, FWD Harmony Camp

530-621-1904 or rwlund92@gmail.com



The 2017 High Sierra Harmony Brigade

by Jeff Healion

The High Sierra Harmony Brigade swept through Reno on the last weekend of August with its unique version of high octane quartetting, eye-popping chorus singing, and hilarity. Now in its 7th year, the High Sierra Brigade is part barbershop's quickly growing Brigade movement that has already expanded beyond the US to Europe. As the only Brigade in the west, the High Sierra Harmony brigade offers ambitious singers an opportunity learn 11 challenging songs and then join 100 other men to compete and sing in endless number of quartet formations. By the end of the weekend, a brigader may have sung with more men than he has in his entire barbershop career. The experience gains momentum on the days leading up to the weekend when guys arrive early to go to local schools to sing for music classes. Competitions through out the weekend test the "come prepared" philosophy unique to Brigade as random foursomes are assigned songs as they walk onto the competition stage. Judging is handled by celebrity judges of the likes of past champs Flightline, Newfangled Four, 95 North, Special Feature, the Velvet Frogs, and this year's FWD 2003 reunion champ, "Q" who showed they haven't missed a beat from their original victory. For many, the highlight is singing with the Hundred Man Chorus made up of singers who know their music so well that one rehearsal puts the chorus into eye popping competition and performance levels. For others, the highlight is simply the passion that brigaders bring to a weekend of quartet singing. Brigade may be something you've just casually heard mention of, but every year more singers are getting a peak into this remarkable part of our beloved hobby.

They came from: AZ, CA, CO, CT, FL, ID, MI, MT, NM, NV, TN, TX, UT, WA, and Victoria, B.C., Canada

The 2017 Quartet top three Quartets are:



1st - Last Minute

T - Logan Shevalier L - Jeff Buckles
Bs - Jerry Quintana Br - Daniel Holbert



2nd - The Leftovers

T - Jussi Ratsula L - Nas Khan Montoya
Bs - David Morris Br - Dave Scott



3rd - We Ain't Main Street

T - Ken Yergler L - Robert Lenoil
Bs - Ben D'Angelo Br - Cameron Steider



The Harmony Brigade Chorus



ALL ROADS LEAD TO BAKERSFIELD

Join us for a fun-filled weekend with lots of activities and singing!

Harmony Platoon • AHSOW • District Board Meeting • House of Delegates • Past Presidents Meeting • Hall of Fame Meeting • Harmony for Lunch • Ladies Hospitality • AFWDC Late Show • District Quartet Contest • District Chorus Contest • Show of Champions • Afterglow • Hospitality Rooms • AFWDC Breakfast



Events at Rabobank Convention Center



Headquarters at Bakersfield Marriott

Early-Bird Registration through September 21: \$50 Adult • \$25 Student

events.farwesternndistrict.org



Gordon Bergthold

Far Western District President

president@farwesterndistrict.org



If you missed the International Convention in Las Vegas during the July 4th week, shame on you. The Far Western District had four Choruses, two Senior Quartets and three Youth Quartets competing. The Masters of Harmony won the Chorus Contest and Flightline won the Youth Quartet Contest. New Fangled Four and Artistic License both made the top ten in the Quartet Finals with Artistic License in 8th place and New Fangled Four in 9th. Needless to say, as President of the FWD, I was very proud of our quartets and choruses. Our newest chorus, Fog City, finished 9th in their very first ever international competition surprising everyone who had never heard of the Barbary Coast, CA Chapter.

Coming up beginning October 19, 2017 is the Far Western District Fall Convention in Bakersfield. I would hope that we have a strong turnout from all of our 75 chapters so that you can witness our Chorus Qualifiers for the 2018 International Contest and to crown a new District Champion. It has been said by many seasoned Barbershoppers that attending a District Convention in the FWD is like attending a mini-international because of the quality of our choruses and quartets.

The District Convention is also a good time to catch up on the District leadership's happenings by attending either the board meeting on October 19 or the House of Delegate's meeting on October 20; or attend both and become real knowledgeable on the FWD's leadership activities.

Leadership is about being a servant first and leaders serve their followers by providing direction, coaching, and helping to remove obstacles. I know

that the FWD leadership strives to do that for its Chapters and members although not many Chapters take advantage of the help that is offered. Please contact your Division Vice President and let him hear your requests and suggestions. If you don't let us know what you're thinking we have no way of knowing how to plan for the future. Your FWD leadership is listed on the FWD website so that you can contact any of us very easily. Take advantage of the tools available to you as a member.

The Chapter Facilitator program is also available to all Chapters in the Society. Simply contact the Barbershop Harmony Society and request that a Facilitator be assigned to your Chapter and they'll take it from there.

As I mentioned in my last article:

Let's not hear, "we've always done it that way", but try doing something different in your Chapter and don't be afraid to fail. In fact, be afraid not to try.

Baritone Ryan Wisniewski Lead Jackson Niebrugge

Bass Jake Tickner Tenor Joey Buss

newfangledfour.com tnfourtet@gmail.com

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Wow! What a summer for Barbershop!!

International was incredible. The **Las Vegas Chapter** hosted a wonderful celebration with a little bit of everything. There were floods and some of the most amazing singing in the world. Check out the highlights on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/3xpxx-vadow> and then dig into the individual performance videos.

The Far West was well represented with:

- Four of the thirty competing Choruses:
 - **Masters of Harmony** (Santa Fe Springs) - **2017 Champs!**
 - **Fog City** (Barbary Coast)
 - **Pacific Coast Harmony** (La Jolla)
 - **Voices of Harmony** (California Delta)
- Two in the top five in the Youth Quartet Contest are Far West:
 - **Flightline – 2017 Champs!**
 - **Eclectones – 4th**
- Two of the top ten in the International Quartet Contest are Far West:
 - **Artistic License – 8th**
 - **The Newfangled Four – 9th**
- And, our own **Mike McGee** won it all with **Main Street**.

Next up is our **Fall Convention** in Bakersfield – October 19 to 22. It is a must-attend event for all. Competing or not, come for the music. You will see the best the Barbershop World has to offer. Five International Choruses to include the current Champion – **Masters of Harmony** – performing their contest set and the 2015 International Champion – **Westminster Chorus** – competing to win their way back to the 2018 Contest in Orlando. The Quartet Contest promises to be one of the best. I hope you will add your harmony on stage and off with your family in Bakersfield.

I encourage your attendance at one of the International Conventions.

The Midwinter Convention is coming to the Far West. Mark your calendars for **Midwinter Orange County** - January 16-21. This fun event is at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa, California.

Great News! The Far West has been selected to sing in the **2018 Midwinter Senior Chorus Festival**. **Craig Ewing**, VP for Music & Performance, is coordinating the FWD Senior Chorus. It will be an awesome opportunity to show off the “timeless talent” of the Far West. If you are over 55, dust off your vocal chords and get ready for a fun experience with your District friends.

Midwinter is the venue for the International Youth Chorus Festival. This year there were 20 choruses (five 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. The 2017 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.

The next three July Conventions are coming to:

- **2018 - Orlando, FL**
- **2019 - Salt Lake City, UT**
- **2020 - Los Angeles, CA**

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

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Well, the big news of the past quarter is that we had an International Convention, right here in our own back yard, and it was a heck-of-a-lot-of-fun, with some excellent SW Division results to report ...

It was so nice to see so many SWD members at the convention. While Las Vegas is not ideal in many, many ways, it offered us one of the best auditoriums we've ever been blessed to have, and a sound system that in my opinion (38 International Conventions) was the best I've ever heard. In addition to the two mics in the center for each quartet, there were two other mics, placed perhaps 2 feet to both the right and left of the center. Those other mics picked up the outside voices in such a subtle way that you suddenly, could "hear" those voices, making the joy of four-part harmony very perceptible. It also enhanced the opportunity for "performance" and some quartets were masterful in their use of those new mics.

You all know by now that crowd favorite, **Main Street**, from Sunshine District, was the Quartet winner, edging out **Signature**, also from Sunshine. **Artistic License** from VoCal in Sacramento was 8th and breaking into the top 10 for the first time (9th place), with a very enjoyable six songs was **Newfangled Four**. **Joey Buss, Jackson Niebrugge, Ryan Wisniewski** and **Jake Tickner** make us SW Division members proud.

A SouthWest Division sidebar...the Baritone of **Main Street** is **Mike McGee**, from Santa Barbara. Mike moved to Florida 15 years ago, was instrumental in the formation of **Main Street** and, as you'll see elsewhere in this Westunes, he's now moved back to Santa Barbara and is the new musical director of **Rincon Beach Chapter (Pacific Sound Chorus)**.

Before we leave the subject of quartets, **Flightline**, was

the winner of the Youth Quartet (formerly Collegiate) Competition. They were second last year and this year, in an extremely close contest, were able to snag the gold medal. So, congratulations to **Oscar Sotelo, Daniel Huitt, Marcus Kang** and **Kyle Williamson**.

The Chorus Competition was the tightest we've seen in years. The incredible Dallas **Vocal Majority** was there in full force in quest of their gazillionth gold medal, and they lived up to the hype. Their performance was flawless, as far as I could see. Four choruses later, the **Masters of Harmony** took the stage and gave an equally flawless performance. I was never so glad to not be a judge. When the results were announced, the MOH were declared the winners...by 8 points out of almost 2900! A 96.4 average score, which I'm sure is one of the highest of all time.

In a fantastic act of brotherhood, the VM crashed the MOH victory party, individually hugged and congratulated all the MOH and then all 300 of them sang Jim Clancy's arrangement of "You'll Never Walk Alone." THAT was a thrill.

We are so fortunate to live in the FWD, and also the SW Division, because the MOH are our "homies" and we get to see them so often. Under the "masterful" direction of the incredibly talented **Justin Miller**, this team of Barbershoppers exemplifies what is possible as a singer with our art form. I personally know many of the MOH and yes, many of them wear gold medals from Quartet competition, but most are ordinary guys like us. Justin, and the entire MOH music team, inspires every singer to become the best they can be, and they have again become gold medal winners, (for the 9th time in MOH history). True winners don't mind hard work. They are drawn to it. They are driven to see just how far they can go, and we observers need to honor and acknowledge how hard they work, and the effort and time devoted in order to give us such world-class vocal performances.

To mention one person who was a part of this victory. **Logan Patrick Miernicke**, who directs the **San Luis Obispo** Chorus, drove every week from San Luis Obispo to Santa Fe Springs to sing and compete with the MOH. His dedication was personal, in the sense that he wanted to see if he could be a gold medal winner, but also he did it to become a better singer, performer and

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musician. What he learned and gained from that quest and adventure, he will share with his SLO brothers to help them get more from their Barbershop experience.

Logan has a personal performance story that bears telling. Logan is a big man, and the MOH costumer forgot to get suspenders for him. You know...stuff happens. In the first big move on the uptune, his pants dropped to his ankles...and Logan performed the remainder of the song and accepted the thunderous applause with a huge knowing smile, and thankful he wasn't in the front row. The title of that song was "It's Too Darned Hot" and I guess you'll admit, Logan was "cool."

Mentioned elsewhere in this Westunes you'll read the details that **Kelly Shepard** is moving to Australia and **Mike McGee** (gold medal Baritone of **Main Street**) will take over as Musical Director for the **Rincon Beach, Pacific Sound Chorus**. Kelly gave Rincon a great five years and we all wish him and his family well in the "land down under."

Pacific Sound Chorus has a great show upcoming in Santa Barbara. The title is "Harmony Celebration" and features a championship cast of performers. **Pacific Sound** is the reigning SW Division Chorus Champ, **Carpe Diem** is the 2017 Sweet Adelines Small Chorus International Champion, and **Main Street**, the new 2017 International Quartet Champ, is the headliner... The date is Saturday, Sept. 17, with shows at 1 PM and 7 PM and a killer, free afterglow at a local pizza parlor. Quartets are invited to come and perform on the afterglow. Come spend the day, visit and support your SW Division Chapter shows.

Bakersfield Chapter is again looking for a chorus director. Who do you know that has arm-waving skills and wants to help an enthusiastic bunch of guys sing better and attract more singers? Contact **Rich Owen**, FWD Treasurer and Chapter President with your candidates.

Speaking of Bakersfield, I hope to see all of you October 19-22, at the FWD Convention in conveniently located, Bakersfield, CA. We are such a large district that it is tough to find "the" location that best accommodates us all, but Bakersfield comes pretty close. The housing is affordable, the theater is great and of course, the people are the best! Remember *participation* is the key to fun.

Experiences are so much better than "things."

And with that in mind, register now for the International Midwinter convention in Costa Mesa, CA this next January 16-21. Midwinter conventions are so much fun and again, to have it in our backyard is an opportunity not to be missed. There are some great shows, a wonderful and inspiring Youth Chorus and Quartet competition, the International Seniors Quartet competition, and of course, more of the great fun that comes from associating with Barbershoppers.

Keep singing, get off your butt, dig in and participate. Don't miss a chapter meeting. You'll have more fun and the people around you will benefit from your participation. I look forward to seeing and singing with you, in Bakersfield. I know a couple of great tags I love to share.



Congratulations to all members of the **SouthEast Division** who competed in the International Quartet and Chorus Contests: 9th Place Quartet Finalists, **New Fangled Four**, the **La Jolla Chapter**, and **International Youth Barbershop Quartet Champion, Flightline!** And, of course, congratulations to all of our FWD competitors, including: 8th Place Quartet Finalists, **Artistic License**, 9th Place Chorus Finalist, **Barbary Coast Chapter**, and the **California Delta Chapter**. Also in the Youth Barbershop Contest, congratulations go to: 4th **Place medalists, Eclectones (AZ)** and, **Western Harmonics (NE)**.

And of course, congratulations to all of our friends in the **Masters of Harmony** for taking care of business and bringing the **GOLD Medal** back to the FWD. Your performance was musical and absolutely breathtaking!

Those of you in attendance at the International Chorus

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Contest, saw that I accepted the “Joe Liles Lifetime Achievement Award” on behalf of my mentor and friend, **Earl Moon**. The award is a great honor and remembrance for Earl. It was an even greater honor to accept it for his family. Earl’s daughter, **Melanye**, was very excited and humbled to learn that the Society was honoring him. She was not able to attend the convention, but was happy that I was able to accept the award. My words of acceptance are printed in this issue of **Westunes** to help you all remember what a great man and Barbershopper Earl was. And needless to say, he belonged to the Far Western District!

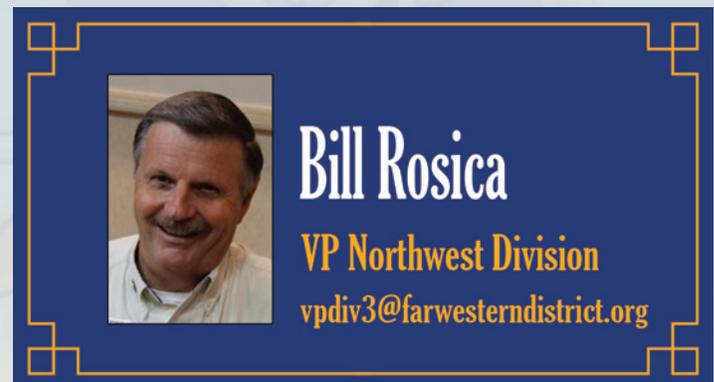
We now go on to Bakersfield and the Fall District Convention and Contests. The Southeast Division will be proudly represented by 9 (that’s **NINE**) choruses: the **Westminster Chapter**, the **La Jolla Chapter**, the **Brea Chapter**, the **Las Vegas Chapter**, the **San Diego Chapter**, the **Fullerton Chapter**, the **South Orange County Chapter**, the **Temecula Chapter**, and the **Inland Empire Chapter**. Also representing the Southeast Division are the following quartets: **184**, **Fortunate Sons**, **Four Fifteen**, **Behind the Barn**, **Time Was**, **Sugar Daddies**, and **Above The Lawn**. Good Singing to all of you!

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 the new “**Member Center**” and watch the videos that show you the forms, how to find them, and how to fill them out! If you have any questions, have your President call me and I’ll get the correct person in touch with you!

I am about to go on my yearly summer/fall “Chapter Show Tour.” So far it will start with a combined show produced by the Inland Empire and Apple Valley Chapters in Apple Valley. After that, the Las Vegas and St. George Chapters will get together in St. George, Utah! Let me know of other shows in the works. I love to see chapters get together to put on shows. The combined efforts provide an entertaining and musical performance.

Lastly, a big **THANKYOU** and **CONGRATULATIONS** go to **Greg Dryer**, International Convention Chairman and the **Las Vegas Chapter**, for hosting a marvelous International Convention. Hosting any convention is a huge task, but the International Convention is beyond huge! You all did a great job and made the Far Western District proud!

Please don’t forget to mark your calendar for the District Convention/Contests in Bakersfield during the weekend of October 19-22, 2017. The Southeast Division will be amply represented! It is always a great event full of fun, listening, and singing! Make sure you’re there!



After attempting to go to Nashville last year to attend the Leadership Forum, but thwarted by Southwest Airline’s computer SNAFU, I finally made it this year with EVP Craig Hughes. The seminar changed its name to Leadership Summit, and for a very good reason. Summit denotes the top and I found the top from every District was in attendance.

Here is a breakdown of what I attended during my 2-1/2 days of classes:

Friday:

- Welcome by Marty Monson
- What are the qualities of a great leader?
- Why are you a leader of BHS?
- Three words that describe your District.
- Singing: Leadership on and off the risers (Swing Down Chariot)
- “Member Center” Tutorial
- What the heck is the Barbershop Harmony Society doing?
- Breakout Sessions
 - I attended Events/Conventions
- Leveraging technology to enhance our work.

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- Singing: Leadership on and off the risers (Edelweiss)

Saturday:

- Warm-ups and Aha moments.
- Breakout Sessions
 - I attended Marketing
- Roadmap to Impact and Sustainability
- Elective Session
 - BHS Chapter Assessment Model: Where are you now?
- Singing: Leadership on and off the risers (Both songs)
- Keynote speaker Kevin Keller
- Discussion and recaps

Sunday:

- Warm-ups and sing
- Roundtable discussions
- Wrap-up and Remarks

As you can see, it was a very busy weekend, but I came away with a few ideas that are worth looking into. First and foremost, I think that the “Summit” idea would be great for District. Replace our Leadership Academy with a Summit and breakouts for individual offices (President, Secretary Treasurer, etc). This would allow more training in Leadership that anyone in the chapter who has potential could attend. Singing two songs reviewed ahead of time was not only fun, but can be used to show how a good leader really is effective. These ideas won’t be finalized overnight, but would be a great step in the right direction.

One area which was discussed and I believe is very important is Diversity. We have all spoken about inclusion but have not done much to make it happen on a District level. We see it on stage at International more now than before, but we have a lot of work to be done on that front.

In summary, I would like to thank the District for sending me and suggest that all chapters consider sending one or more potential Leaders next year. It is amazing how much can be learned by attending these Society-sponsored events.

One more thing ... Please get your chapter to attend the District Convention in Bakersfield this fall. Even if you’re not competing, consider going and enjoying your hobby as an audience member.



Two things are on my mind, my week at Harmony University, and our upcoming Harmony Camp.

Harmony University was a Blast, as usual. I learned a Lot. I saw lots of old friends; met a bunch of new friends. All together, I had a Great time. My question for you is why weren’t you there?

Harmony University is a weeklong “event/experience” that you simply have to be there to appreciate. Only a few left coasters partake of this amazing experience, and I have always wondered why. Yes, I get it. It’s Nashville; almost all the way across the country; and it’s expensive to get there. But let me ask you a question that you could simply ponder for yourself: when you took your last weeklong vacation, how much did you spend? If you spent more than \$1,000, you spent way more than Harmony University would have cost. It’s an amazingly cheap “vacation”. And you get to hang out with some of the best and brightest Barbershoppers in the world!

Do you value your experiences in Barbershop? Would you like to triple or quadruple those priceless experiences in just one week. Go to HU. It’s all that and more. You will not be disappointed.

I spent much of my time with the Honors Chorus. It’s just something that I’ve latched onto as a great thing to do to sing for a top-level director for a week, learn what he does and how he gets so much out of us mere mortal Barbershop singers. It has been an amazing experience down through the years singing for such greats as Mark Hale, Darin Drown, Doug Harrington, Aaron Dale, Steve Armstrong, and Kirk Young. If you aren’t familiar with all of these guys, you should take the time to look them up and see what they have done. They are a pretty amazing bunch of directors.

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I also took lots of courses at HU. Probably the most impactful was the Bel Canto method, taught by Debra Lynn. I actually took a class from her while at International in Las Vegas this year, and found it to be so compelling that when I saw that she was teaching a weeklong class at HU, I simply had to take it. My experience with the earlier class was amazing. And when I got home and went to my first quartet rehearsal, I didn't tell the guys anything, I simply sang in the new "way" and they All literally Exclaimed: what have you done with your voice!! It's wonderful!!! Keep doing it!!! Lots of comments like that are all I need to wholeheartedly endorse Bel Canto and Debra Lynn!!

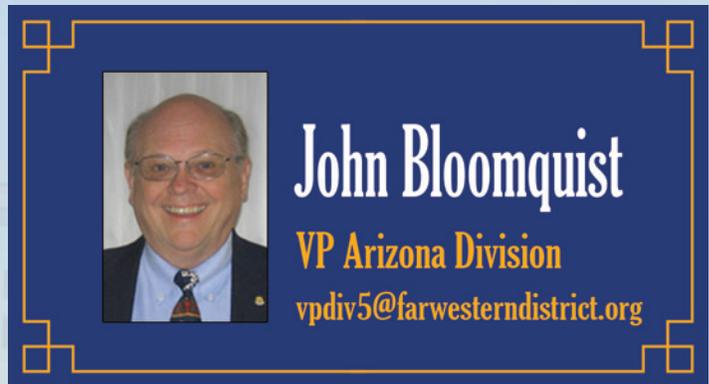
Lots of other courses and even more impactful, the shows and the opportunities to perform on stage in front of seven hundred pretty high-level Barbershoppers who simply compel you to perform well!!

I simply cannot say enough good things about Harmony University. And if you have been to HU a few years ago, and think you know what it's all about, you don't. Donny Rose, the Dean of HU, has transformed the experience and made it fresh and compelling each and every year. All I can say is GO; you won't regret it.

Harmony Camp is coming up quickly! Oh my!!

It's going to be fantastic. You should plan to attend the Friends and Family show on Sunday, Sept 10 at the Sly Park Educational Center, 5600 Sly Park Road, Pollock Pines, CA.

We will have the boys singing four great songs in their Harmony Camp Chorus. Instant Classic, along with The Newfangled Four will also be singing. Quite a lineup for any show, and it's free! Just come and enjoy.



This year the FWD was again represented well at the BHS International Convention and Contest in Las Vegas. Congratulations to the Masters of Harmony for their "masterful" performance capturing the Gold in a most competitive event! The Masters were joined on the risers by AZ Div members R.J. Esquivias, Jeromy McMahon, and Justin Klemballa. Congrats on your commitment and making memories for life. Congrats also to Artistic License and The Newfangled Four for their top 10 performances. In the Youth Quartet Contest, Flightline did a fine job garnering a Gold Medal and AZ Division reps Eclectones finishing 4th! Congratulations to all!

As we move forward to Fall and the FWD Convention and Contests in Bakersfield, please ensure that each chapter is represented at the House Of Delegates meeting on Friday.

The **AZ Fred Koch Memorial BASH** was held Aug 18-19. What a great time was had by all in addition to some fine singing. This event is the kickoff to Fall and as an AZ Division event, it was fun to see many new and old faces and make some new friends. Thanks to Sheryl McKinney and her staff for continuing to make this an annual success and enjoy the brotherhood of Barbershop!

The season for Chapter elections of officers is fast approaching. Now is the time to get your nominating committee in place. We will be having our Leadership Academy on Jan 12 in Mesa, more info to follow. Please have all of your officers attend this important learning event, as there is always something new to learn.

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



Take 80 high school age boys, a top notch team of instructors, a dedicated group of counselors and support staff, a weekend at a camp site in the Sierra Foothills and throw them all together with the best music on the face of the earth, Barbershop Harmony, and stand back - it's late September and time for the Northern California Youth Harmony Camp!

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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 of this October FWD BOD meeting, I will be ending my term as AZ Div VP. It has been a pleasure to work with all of the wonderful Chapters and I wish the best of success to you all. I want to thank the FWD Presidents that I have had the honor to serve under. Thanks to Bernard Priceman, Russ Young, Allan Webb and of course Gordon “Mongo” Bergthold. You have all shown me great leadership but most of all, your friendship. Carry on.

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



Sure hope you attended the International Convention in Las Vegas. Yes, it was hot. But so were the performances! And congrats to the Masters Of Harmony for a well-deserved win. And to Main Street for theirs as well (with our own Mike McGee as baritone).

Our two quartet representatives Artistic License and Newfangled Four were in the top ten. Plus three other chapter choruses competed, Barbary Coast (Fog City Singers) were 9th, La Jolla (Pacific Coast Harmony) were 22nd, and California Delta (Voices Of California) were 26th. And at 26th place, it was still an “A” score!!

Harmony University just couldn’t beat last year, but did. IMO, beat every year so far (this was my 38th!). I’m sure you’ve seen stuff about it in the Live Wire, and will see in the upcoming Harmonizer. (You should really try to go, don’t put it off !)

Coming up on October 20-21 is the FWD Fall Convention in Bakersfield. 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.

And competitors (see below), if you haven’t already, please go to the new Contest Entry site at <https://www.barberscore.com> to register your quartet or chorus. Deadline is September 21st. It’s so sad when some quartet or chapter officer calls me after that date and begs to enter. ☺

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

Quartets

1. Above The Lawn
2. Backroads
3. Brannigan
4. Some Friends Of Mine
5. Sugar Daddies
6. Four Fifteen
7. Belle Voci
8. Behind The Barn
9. Miles Ahead
10. The Front Line
11. Just 4 Kix
12. Friday Matinee
13. Scoop Em Up
14. Velvet Frogs
15. 184
16. Heat Wave
17. Whoop Em Up
18. Hot Spot
19. What Four
20. Apex
21. Capital Ring
22. Renaissance
23. Suit Up
24. The Good Guys
25. Current Chord
26. Intonation
27. Fourtunate Sons
28. Time Wise
29. Dynamix
30. Spellbound

Choruses

1. Santa Maria
2. Rincon Beach
3. Salt River Valley
4. Fullerton
5. Bay Area
6. Temecula
7. Pasadena
8. Palo Alto / Mt. View
9. Inland Empire
10. San Diego
11. Central Calif
12. Walnut Creek
13. South Bay
14. Las Vegas
15. Santa Monica
16. Brea
17. Barbary Coast
18. California Delta
19. La Jolla
20. Westminster

See you there!

District Management Team Reports



Fall FWD Convention Platoon to Honor 139th Street Quartet

Plan to make it to Bakersfield by Noon on Friday October 20 and hear the 139th Street Quartet performing with the Harmony Platoon. The Platoon will be singing four songs created by 139th Street, and 139th will headline the show (with Royce Ferguson joining them on tenor). You can be a part of all the fun yourself by joining Platoon (hint, hint, see how below).



139th Street Quartet in 1976

Platoon has chosen the 139th Street songs both because they are great songs to sing, but also to honor this fine FWD quartet. We've all enjoyed so many decades of their singing since winning the FWD Championship in 1976 (not too long after forming) and won a second place medal at International within 2 years. They sang at the International Top Five Level with four different Leads. . .WOW! From starting the Collegiate Quartet Contest 25 years ago (which our own Flightline won this year in Vegas) to bringing a Russian quartet over to the US, to *Cheers* appearances on TV, they have always

been known for innovative quartet activity. They were 2014 inductees into the BHS Hall of Fame. So it is with great pleasure and no surprise that they are so supportive of the Platoon program.

You can join the Platoon and be singing these songs in Bakersfield: *1927*, *My Alabama*, *Sing An Old Barbershop Song*, and *I Owe It To My Dear Old Dad*. In addition, if you've attended prior Platoons you'll have a chance to relive up to 20 of the Past Platoon favorite songs at a Thursday night "Tag-Out" Pizza Party song-fest.

A registration flyer for Platoon can be found on the FWD website, on the HarmonyPlatoon.org website, or by requesting one from BillKaneVip@msn.com. Why not register today and get started singing the four great 139th Street original songs with Platoon?



During my trip to Nashville for The Leadership Summit this past July, I attended a class called: BHS Chapter Assessment Model: Where are you now? The instructor, Terry Reynolds, took us through the 98 questions to assess chapters in our Districts. The interesting thing to me was the fact that for years we seemed to treat all chapters the same way, that is, all chapters want to compete and put on shows every year. Nothing could be further from the truth. Each chapter is unique. You may be that chapter who enjoys getting together socially and singing with your buddies once a week or you may be that competition-driven chapter who looks forward to the Fall Contest each year. Or you may fall into a chapter somewhere in between.

Whoever you are, this assessment can help you continue to grow and prosper because it doesn't place you into a particular category. The Society is just now finalizing the document and in the next few months will be

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sending out information regarding how it can be used.

I found it very eye-opening as I belong to two chapters, Bakersfield and Santa Fe Springs. Both chapters have goals for themselves and they are very different. As the class went through each question, I thought about how each chapter would possibly answer. They were certainly different, but each chapter would benefit from answering in their own way. There are no wrong answers, just different.

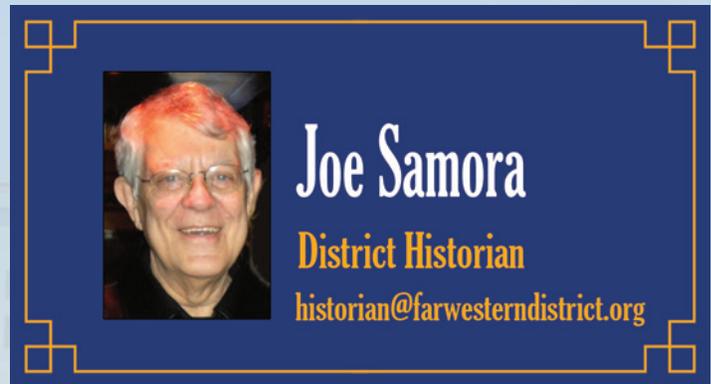
If your chapter decides to take advantage of this program, it will help the District assist you in attaining your goals. Without different chapters with different goals our hobby would not survive. We need to offer something for everyone and this is a good first step.

BTW: I handed out the “Each One Bring One –We Won” buttons to your Division Vice-Presidents at our summer Board Meeting. Please ask him about the buttons when you see him. Remember if each member of your chapter only brings in one new member this year, your chapter will double in size.



Do you have business cards for your chapter?

Thanks to online printing services, business cards are very inexpensive. For as little as \$5.00 you can order a box of 500. Be sure to include the day, time, and location of your meeting place. It's a great way for your members to provide their friends and contacts with all the information that is needed to bring a prospective member to your next meeting.



“Hall of Fame Words of Wisdom”

By the end of 2017, I will have interviewed four Hall of Fame recipients.

I think what they have to say about what they like about Barbershop singing and what improvements could be made is important.

Two questions I asked each of them was “What changes have you noticed in the Barbershop organization and singing?” and “What changes would you suggest?” Most of the Hall of Famers had been active in Barbershop singing for over 50 years.

Brittan shared: “The chapters and offices are more complex, more responsibilities are involved. We sing better because of learning tracks and technical advances.” Changes that he suggested were “increasing the use of chapter coaches, learning tracks and presenting annual shows for greater public awareness of Barbershop singing. Chorus members should rehearse on risers. Encourage chapter members to attend training e.g. Harmony University, Inter-chapter events foster more communication between chapters.”

Barger added: “The music has changed to attract younger men. Changes have occurred in the International Board of the Barbershop Harmony Society.”

Salz said: “I’m an advocate for chapters instead of identifying the chapter by the chorus name. I want to return to the old Barbershop logo. District administration should have a long-range planning committee.”

Insightful comments from past Barbershop leaders. Thank you gentlemen.

(Hall of Fame interviewees included Lynn Brittan, 1979; Sam Barger, 1998; and Joe Salz, 2002).

District Management Team Reports



This has been an incredible year for the Far Western District: gold medals for the Masters of Harmony and Flightline; a top ten finish for Artistic License, The Newfangled Four, and the Fog City Singers; a 4th place finish for Eclectones; and our own Mike McGee winning all the marbles along with Main Street. I've said it before, and I'll say it again: we are all so lucky to be living in an AMAZING district with an endless supply of artistry and talent, and dedicated leadership that continuously stimulates us in the pursuit of excellence. Or, to put it another way, FWD is "da bomb".

Speaking of excellence, did you know that the Far Western District is known throughout the Society for putting on the best conventions? Yes, it's true; in fact, our Fall Convention is often referred to as the "Mini International" due to the many activities we offer in addition to the contests. Our host, the Bakersfield Chapter, has been working diligently to make this a convention that you won't want to miss, and in lieu of my giving out a spoiler, let me just advise you to "expect the unexpected" this October.

All-Events registrations will be offered at the Early-Bird discounted rate of \$50.00 for adults and \$25.00 for students until 11:59 PM on Thursday, September 21. Now, you can choose to wait until after the deadline and pay the regular rate, or pay at the door for a late fee, but that \$15-20 you'll be saving by registering early will buy you a nice dinner, and you will be getting much better seats. It's your choice.

All seats are reserved for the Fall Convention. If you haven't attended in recent years, I am happy to let you know that our new events system allows you to choose your seats when you make your registration. I know there are some of you who struggle with anything "technical", so I'll call your attention to the help page

and video that will walk you through the process. It's really easier than you think, but if you are still struggling you can contact me and I'll be glad to help.

I hope you've noticed that Westunes has taken on a new look and has increased the number of features. Ray Rhymer and I are committed to making this the best possible publication befitting a great district, and our goal is to make this a periodical that EVERYONE will want to read. Obviously since you are here I am preaching to the choir, **but if you have enjoyed this issue, please don't tell us, tell all your friends!**

ATTENTION QUARTETS AND CHAPTER MARKETING VPs: Take a look at our new advertising rates on Page 2. In past years a fill page ad went for as much as \$200; now that same ad is \$50. And quartets, you can run a business card ad for as little as \$3 per issue (\$12 per year). Yes, this is incredibly cheap. Why? Because our costs of production have gone down dramatically, so we are passing the savings on to you.

I've often heard, "But nobody reads it anymore." Bunk! Here are some facts: Our Winter 2016 issue had 803 readers of the online "eMagazine" edition and 626 downloads of the print edition; while some of those 1429 readers are certainly not active members it still represents roughly 2/3 of our active membership. So yes, your Westunes DOES get read, and placing an ad is a ridiculously cost effective way to get the work out on your quartet or your chapter show to the entire district.

Well, that about wraps up my message for this issue. Thanks to Ray and his crew for putting out what I think is an outstanding publication, and I will look forward to seeing ALL of you at the convention registration desk this October in Bakersfield.

An advertisement for "HIGH PRIORITY QUARTET". It features contact information for Dan Davenport: "Bass", "Dan Davenport", "480-259-6633", and "HighPriorityQtet@gmail.com". Below this is the text "2016 International Sr. Quartet Champion". To the right is a photograph of a gold medal with a blue and red ribbon. The medal is circular and has the text "INTERNATIONAL SENIORS BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY" around the top and "QUARTET CHAMPION" around the bottom. In the center is a logo featuring a stylized figure and a banner.

A legacy worthy of *a Legend*



As members of the Far Western District know better than anyone, *Doug and Jan Maddox* devoted their time, energy, spirit, and ultimately, financial support to share their love of vocal music with generations to come. We take this opportunity to pay tribute to their lives, and all they gave to our community. With their planned gift, they continue to give through endowment.

Contact us to learn how gift planning can support our mission and leave your legacy through enriching lives through singing.

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MASTERS OF HARMONY

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QUARTETS AND CHORUS

Immediately after the close of the
convention in the arena immediately behind
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No host food and beverage service available



ARIZONA DIVISION

Bob Shaffer • Division Editor

Central Arizona Chapter

By Bill Kaneb

The quartet chapter has been on summer vacation since our last report. We'll start meeting again in the fall to prepare for the Harmony Platoon in Bakersfield at the Fall FWD Convention. Besides learning the four songs for the Platoon contests that 139th Street Quartet created, our guys will be brushing up on the 20 or 30 past Platoon songs they will be singing at the Bakersfield convention Platoon Pizza Party.

Greater Phoenix Chapter

by Jerry McElfresh

The Phoenicians Chorus has a new choral director who is not so new after all. Dan Ryan Sr. was appointed as director, stepping off our risers to take the position. Dan is a longtime member of the Phoenicians who is far from new at directing and has led several choruses over the years. They include the former Scottsdale men's chorus and the Phoenicians, sharing that role with Russ Young in 1999 when the chorus placed in the top 10 in International competition.

The chorus has added three members: Mike LaPorte, Eugene Brandwein and Les Dergan. Mike is new to singing barbershop while Eugene and Les are veterans joining us from other chapters. Les is also a longtime quartetter.

We have had a few changes in chapter leadership. Jay Bartley is adding the

title of Music VP to his role as Program VP, John Mertens has been appointed as Membership VP and new member Eugene Brandwein, who has previous experience as a chapter secretary, is taking that position. He replaces Dan Ryan, who held that job until being named our musical director.

Mesa Chapter

by Bob Shaffer

The Harmonizers successfully hosted the AZ Division Convention and Contests in April at Mesa HS auditorium. Kudos to our division – of the eleven quartets that competed, seven qualified outright for the Bakersfield Fall Convention. Not to be outdone, four out of the five choruses that competed also qualified for District! The Harmonizers were one of those four, having returned to the contest stage after a 7-year absence. This is also the first time we have qualified on score, we have only been wild cards in the past. It certainly helps when the judges award you with the highest score in the chapter's contest history.

Who knew learning new music could be so much fun! We've spent most of our rehearsal time this spring and summer preparing new music for future shows. A great big thanks to our wonderfully talented Music Team of Greg Grace (Music VP) and Jim Brown (Asst. Director) – when they get thru with warm-ups, we are physically and vocally ready before director Russ Young steps up to the lectern. Thanks, men!

The chorus continues to grow rapidly, and welcomes new members Tim Herbst and Russ Kitchner, transfer members David Melville and Bob Szabo, and dual-members Shreyas Amin, John Harper, Tim McMullan, and Bob Upham.

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 a well-attended afterglow.

Prescott Chapter

by Sam Stimpel

Recent rumors that the Prescott Chapter is "folding" are absolutely false! We are 43 years young and still going strong. If the chapter's demise is imminent, we are the last to know! We have a solid core of members who work hard to sing well. April saw the chorus performing in Prescott's well-known St. Michael's Hotel on Whiskey Row (nothing stronger than coffee, thank you), singing for our late Barbershop brother Berry Bownds, and competing at Divisional in Mesa. Musical Director Ed Roush was very pleased with our singing and evaluation comments. HMC's return engagement with a local RV park was a hit. Other opportunities to share our heartfelt music included a Memorial Day observance at Citizens' Cemetery, an impromptu "flash mob" on the Yavapai County courthouse square, and our annual Father's Day

celebration with the residents of Arizona Pioneers' Home.

Antique Parts (2016 Super Senior Champs) kept busy by singing at a graduation party, a 100th birthday celebration, and local middle/high school choirs were dipped in hot Barbershop by the quartet's appearance. As the quartet left one school venue, a comment was heard: "Gee, I didn't know old people could sing that good!"

The chapter hosts 4th Friday Harmony for Lunch Bunch. Call [\(928\) 273-1397](tel:9282731397) for information and directions.

Salt River Valley Chapter

by Eric Bjornsen

Now in its third year, A Cappella Syndicate endeavors to change people's lives for the better through a cappella music.

In April 2017, the Syndicate won the Arizona Division Contest, retaining top Arizona honors, and is ranked 5th going into the Fall District competition. FIVE Syndicate quartets qualified for the District contest: Suit up, Renaissance, Whoop 'em Up, Scoop 'em Up, and Heat Wave. Also in April, the Syndicate thrilled audiences in its 2nd Annual Show, performing at the Mesa Arts Center.

May brought one of our favorite coaches to town for a vocal workshop. Director Mark Hale shared his gold-medal talents with the chorus, and continued to move the group toward a unified sound with optimal placement and resonance. World-renowned performance coach Theresa Weatherbee continued to provide her expertise in a number of sessions, helping each singer to find the magic in the music. We are grateful to these excellent coaches. The Syndicate continued to explore recording approaches and strategy, and laid down several song tracks with the goal of creating its first CD.

Syndicate musical leadership continues to be in demand around the Society,

whether at District-sponsored schools (like the M-AD Top Gun) or via private quartet or chorus coaching sessions. Artistic Directors Gary Steinkamp and Brent Graham are also active BHS judges.

Sedona Chapter

by Michael McCaffrey

Harmony on the Rocks made a guest appearance in Flagstaff at the NAU Gospel Choir concert on April 1. Not only did we get to sing a repertoire of our gospel numbers, we were also treated to the fine sounds of the Gospel Choir, and all of this in the wonderful setting of Prochnow Auditorium on the NAU campus

The chorus also engaged some local singing talent to start our practice sessions with a series of 30-minute warm-up exercises. Deb Sanders and Susannah Martin have both made separate appearances to run us through the drills. Members of the chorus were impressed with the results of both sessions and are planning to reengage Deb and Susannah at least once a quarter.

In order to make our presence more known in Sedona, we are using Public Service Announcements running at the local movie theater to try and reach more potential members. Thanks to Denise Rosen for creating the beautiful artwork for this HOTR PSA.

Harmony on the Rocks has been a mixed chorus for a number of years - we have a hard time recruiting male Tenors- so we were greatly appreciative of the new focus of the Barbershop organization, particularly the allowance of mixed choruses. We will be quite interested in how this will be implemented. Congratulations to Marty Monson and team for the work they expended on this strategic vision.

And finally congratulations to one of our Leads, Tom Doeller, for celebrating his 95th birthday.

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, Bowstring Dr., Sedona.

White Mountains Chapter

by Doc Dockendorf

The High Country Chorus held its 15th Annual Show, entitled The Greatest Generation, a tribute to all veterans, but especially our WW II Vets. Over 800 patrons attended the two shows, and we received universal accolades from our audience. We individually introduced, and gave a brief bio on each of the eleven attending WW II veterans, who ranged in age from 94 to 103. Those honored included chorus member and WW II Veteran Ivan Mahaydik.

It was a wonderful experience for not only the audience, but for our chorus members. Our guest quartet was Renaissance, Senior Quartet champion of the Arizona Division. Also appearing as our headliner group were the Uptown Angels, who performed a USO show a la The Andrew Sisters. They are a very entertaining group who not only sing well, but are choreographed to the limit. They have appeared in Las Vegas, and have opened for Jay Leno. If you want a refreshing change of pace for your show, we highly recommend them.

Chapter quartet Ponderosa Pines appeared at numerous performances, including Church services, entertaining the Elks Emblem Club, and singing the National Anthem at the local race track. The Pine Tones quartet sang for an Ice Cream social, and for the guests at a local RV park.

We are looking forward to starting on our Christmas show, so that we can raise money for our local high school music programs.



Northeast Division

Roger Perkins • Division Editor



California Delta Chapter

by Jim DeChaine

Our Artistic License quartet represented the Far Western District well at the BHS International Convention in July by placing 8th with a score of 87.2 (their highest score ever). They were one of two quartets from the FWD to be in the top 10, the other being The New Fangled Four in 9th place with a score of 87.0. Both represented the FWD well.

VoCal placed 26th in the International Competition this year with a score of 81.0. The Masters of Harmony Captured the Gold again with a score of 96.4. In 9th place was Barbary Coast (Fog City), with a score of 88.4, and in 22nd spot was the La Jolla Chapter (Pacific Coast Harmony) with a score of 81.8%.

VoCal played host chapter for the Sacramento Rivercats Baseball team's Voices in Harmony celebration on August 14, honoring Barbershop Chapters in the greater Sacramento area who will witness the Voices of California sing the "Star Spangled Banner" and the 7th inning stretch song "Take Me Out to the Ballgame". Our Director, Gabe Caretto, will have the honor of throwing out the "first pitch" ball. Members of all chapters interested in supporting the Barbershop cause were encouraged to attend the game.

Central California Chapter

by Miles Sutter

Our Ice Cream Social was filled to capacity with 130 guests, friends and family! Congratulations to Mark

Jantzen for chairing this wonderful event. There was plenty of Barbershop music with the GVC, high school quartets and even a Barbershop demo presented by Howard Barber, Chuck Roots, Mike Viss and Greg Kramp. Many chapter members and wives assisted with the tasks necessary to conduct the event.

On Memorial Day, the GVC performed at Lakewood Park as requested by the Modesto American Legion Post #74 and Veterans Organizations of Stanislaus County.

The GVC once again performed for the residents of Samaritan Village. In the activities room, our performance was only twenty feet away, which made for a very intimate, heart-warming performance. GVC quartet "4 For The Road" [Howard Barber, Mike Viss, Greg Kramp, Terrell Chambers] entertained the audience. Howard Barber led an audience sing-along and in a round. Playing the piano, he had them name that tune in two measures.

Folsom Chapter

by Dennis Stohl

The FHX under the direction of Kent Borrowdale once again performed patriotic songs on Memorial Day at Sylvan Cemetery in Citrus Heights. We had an excellent turnout and there were more than 100 people in attendance to honor our war veterans.

Nevada Placer Chapter

by Roger Perkins

The Sierranaders held their 27th annual Bean Feed and Somewhat Serious

Quartet Contest on June 6. Over 75 people attended from VoCal, Stockton, Placerville, Sacramento and Folsom. The judges were the Atria Quartet (Roger Perkins, Kent Borrowdale, Ken Potter, Doug Vestal) with help from Les Cudworth when members of the quartet competed. They are all members from both the Nevada Placer and Folsom chapters. We had a tie for first place for the first time. The winning quartets were "Who'r the Judges" (Al Wolter, Kent Borrowdale, Ken Potter, Richard Lund) tied with Tonal Titans (Keith Slater, Corley Phillips, Kevin Palmer, Richard Lund). Second place was I Only Have 4 Eyes 4 You (Tim Martin, Scott West, Rafael Pazo, Ron Black) and in third place we had Beauty and the Beasts (Stephane Thurman, Chuck Thurman, Rafael Pazo, Bob Yater).

Reno Chapter

by Steve Shurtliff

They say you can't keep a good man down... Well, you can't keep a good chorus down either. Scott Olson is now directing us, and doing a good job. He is also an excellent Lead. Given the choice, he would probably rather sing than direct – so, as good as he is doing, we are still open to another director to come join us.

July is Arttown month here in Reno-Sparks, and we did our usual part. We did well, were very much appreciated, and had a great time in the process. The afterglow wasn't bad either.

The music is always there, and always a joy. It's great to be a Barbershopper.



Northwest Division

Don Shively • Division Editor

Barbary Coast Chapter *Fog City Singers*

See featured article on Page 10.

San Francisco Bay Cities *by Jordan Makower*

SFBC is a small group, dedicated to maintaining the original ideals of SPEBSQSA. We also maintain a space for our Senior members to meet and sing twice a month, after their lunchtime meal. Bill Beck represents a typical member. He recently turned 87, attends as many conventions as possible, and proudly displays their patches on his vest.

Along with many other chapters, we have found it quite difficult to complete computerized IRS and other forms required by BHS, as they are not now as easy as they used to be when only a postcard was required, but with people like Chuck Mollett and Chuck Leavitt's help, we persevere.

Join us at Harry's Hofbrau on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month, and read about us on John Heather's website; www.sfbayquartets.org

Walnut Creek Chapter

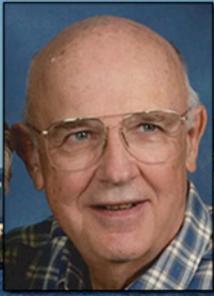
By Ken Hitch

The Devil Mountain Chorus has been enjoying a not-so-busy summer, after a very busy 6 months. There were Singing Valentines in February, as well as playing Host to the NW and NE Divisions Novice Quartet Contest. At the NW/NE Division Contest in March, DMC took home Most Improved Chorus and a Plateau First Place. We put on two shows in May, in one of

which an invited guest was a local Sweet Adeline Chorus. Another Sweet Ad Chorus invited us to sing at their annual Ice Cream Social. Early June saw us singing at the Walnut Creek Art and Wine Festival.

Coming up we have coaching scheduled, we will sponsor boys at the Harmony Youth Camp, we will be pouring beer at the Walnut Creek Walnut Festival, and singing at a Sweet Ad BBQ. Then we have several Christmas performances to wrap up the year.





Southeast Division

Greg Price • Division Editor



Inland Empire Chapter

by Gaylord Spence

The Inland Empire Chapter replaced its former VP of Music and Performance, Bill Kliewer, with one of our newest members of the chapter, Gary Smith. This was a very amicable move, although we are saddened by the loss of Bill. Bill decided that he wanted to spend more of his retirement years near his daughter (and her family; read grandchildren) in Texas. He's already bought a home there and is gone!

The good news is that Gary, a former BBS chapter director during the 80s, has hit the ground running and we have never skipped a beat! His skills are already paying dividends by his agreeing to coach our chapter quartets prior to our two August shows. One of these shows involved our being a guest chorus on the Apple Valley Chapter's show, along with four of our quartets. The second show of the month was our 6th Annual show in which we featured our chorus as well as ALL of our chapter quartets! The appreciative audience of this community keeps inviting us back, which is a rare but pleasant association. We will do our absolute best to keep this association thriving, as well we should!

Las Vegas Chapter

by Peter Feeney

In the spring SouthEast Division contest, the chorus, singing in position 13, scored 1220 points to qualify for the Fall District Chorus Contest. The chorus scored 615 points singing

"Sweet and Lovely" and 605 points singing "Wait 'til the Sun Shines, Nellie". The chorus performed under the direction of Jim Halvorson.

Congratulations to chapter quartets Time Wise and Above the Lawn. With a score of 1213 points Time Wise became the new SouthEast Division Champion. The quartet scored an average of 67.4% for each song. The quartet has qualified for District competition in the fall based on the scores of all senior quartets competing at Division contests. Above the Lawn also competed as a super senior quartet and scored 1116 points thereby becoming the FWD Super Senior Champion! Both quartets will compete in Bakersfield.

The Las Vegas Chapter served as the host chapter for the 2017 International Convention held at the Planet Hollywood in Las Vegas July 2-9, 2017. It was the second time in three years that Las Vegas served as the host chapter for the International Convention. Under the leadership of Las Vegas Chapter president Greg Dreyer, chapter members and other volunteers worked tirelessly to help make the convention the success it was. In all, a total of 25 leaders stepped forward to organize and lead the scores of volunteers in their work. Activities requiring the efforts of the volunteers ran the gamut from registration to judges' services to auditorium/backstage staffing to publishing the daily bulletin and more.

In addition to preparing for the

International Convention the chapter was very active in community events during the second quarter. The chapter entertained patrons at the Boulder City ArtFest in April and sang the National Anthem before the Las Vegas 51s baseball game. Chapter quartets were busy as well. Good Times quartet appeared on Fox 5 TV in Las Vegas to help celebrate Barbershop Quartet Day. On Memorial Day and again on July 4, 2017, Broadcast quartet appeared on Channel 8 in Las Vegas performing patriotic songs.

Chapter members Roger Buehrer, Baritone, Chuck Wines and Larry Peckhart, Bass; Warren Hettinga, Baritone and Jeff Swart, Tenor finished a great gig during the quarter at Spring Mountain Ranch in Las Vegas singing in the chorus for the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical, "Oklahoma".

Finally, the chorus and the men's club of Temple Sinai in Summerlin (Las Vegas) hosted an 'all you can eat' pancake breakfast at Temple Sinai. The event, coordinated by chapter member Ivan Lambert, featured performances by the chorus and various chapter quartets.

San Diego Chapter

by Greg Price

The Sun Harbor Chorus had a great time competing at the FWD combined SE/SW Division contests in El Monte. With twenty-four men on stage we won the SE Division Plateau AA Championship and qualified to sing

SOUTHEAST - continued on Page 34



Southwest Division

Justin McQueen • Division Editor



San Fernando Valley Chapter

by Ben Marder

In 1986 the San Fernando Valley Valleyaires Barbershop Chorus became the first Los Angeles chorus to win the Far Western District. They went on to International in Hartford, CT, and placed 9th in the world.

Soon after International, several members of the Valleyaires split and formed the Masters of Harmony Chorus.

In the past 25 years that I have been a member, several of our members have transferred to the Masters. Two of the most noted men were Bernard Priceman, Far Western District President, and David Tautkus, teacher, director, and coach. At the 2014 International in Las Vegas, NV, we had one of our former members, Duncan Gilman singing in the Vocal Majority, and several former Valleyaires singing in the Masters.

At the International held in Las Vegas, NV 30 choruses from around the world entered the contest. This time the Masters brought home the gold with 112 men on the risers. They finished with 2893 points, 96.4%.

Why is this important? In the past few years three of our finest members transferred to the Masters. They are Ed Schackman, Bob Czubiak, and Michael Von Schoonhoven. All won the gold. The Valley Harmony Singers congratulate these men and all our former Valleyaires. We're very proud of all of you.

Santa Maria Chapter

Central Coast Chordsman

We've recently updated and modernized our Chapter Website centralcoastchordsmen.org so take a look. The chapter is currently working their two songs for District Contest in October.

Additional participants are being sought. Rudy Xavier was recently honored as the Barbershopper of the month for his work on the new website. We're saddened by the moving of our Bass section leader Bob Arnold. He's been a blessing to the chapter.

Our Sweets and Old Songs Show is scheduled for Sunday 24 Sept. at 3 pm. Check our website for the location and details.

Santa Monica Chapter

by Marty Mitnick

Barbershoppers of the Month Awards for the month of March: Marty Mitnick for his contributions to Westunes; April: Tim Singer for writing the script for our Spring Show –“Love That Boat”: May: Katie Walker Boeck for her always efficient and untiring direction of the SOS members who make every Oceanaires event a success and Larry Boone for his expert managing of the lighting and sound equipment for our stage productions.

We welcome our newest member Jackson Guze.

Memorial Day was again the time to honor and remember our military with our participation in the musical

program at Woodlawn Cemetery in Santa Monica with hundreds in attendance.

In June the Culver City Ladies Club hosted its annual Ice Cream Social with entertainment provided by our very own Andrew Lehto (Tenor), Jack Walton (Lead), John White (Bass) and Frank Giffen (Baritone).

Santa Fe Springs Chapter

Masters of Harmony

See featured article on Page 6.

SOUTHEAST

Continued from Page 33

at the Fall District Convention. More importantly, since we compete only to improve performance, we increased our score in the ever more challenging judging categories by two percentage points plus.

The chapter continues its steady growth, welcoming several visitors and an experienced new member, Baritone Jeff Buckles.

We are busy preparing for our show in September and the October District Contest in Bakersfield. We will soon be distributing music for our 40th successive Christmas Show, happy in the assurance that Santa will once again lend us the services of his famous Elf Chorus.

Events

DISTRICT CALENDAR

View the official Far Western District Calendar at <https://farwesterndistrict.org/events/calendar>

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

- **October 19-22** FWD Fall Convention, Bakersfield, CA
- **January 16-21**, 2018 BHS International MidWinter Convention, Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Costa Mesa, Orange County, CA
- **March 15-18, 2018** FWD Spring Convention, SE/SW Division and International Prelim Contests
- **July 1-8, 2018** BHS International Convention, Orlando, FL

For an extended list of conventions, visit

<https://farwesterndistrict.org/events/conventions>

EVENTS REGISTRATION

Register for FWD Conventions at <https://events.farwesterndistrict.org/>

Register for BHS Conventions at <http://www.barbershop.org/>

Sunshine

To report important life events that occur with our members, please contact your Division Vice President

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