



Westunes Vol. 68 No. 2

Summer 2018

WESTUNES

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



The Newfanged Four



Artistic License



Suit Up!

2018 FWD Int'l Qualifying Quartets

INSIDE: Pictures • MoH • Phoenix 75th • Western Continentals 50th • Camp Fund 2 x Match



WESTUNES



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WESTUNES

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Quarter Page (3½" x 5")	\$12.50	\$10.00	\$7.50
Business Card	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$3.00

A complete list of rates and specs appears later in this issue.

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ORLANDO

2018 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
July 1 – 8, 2018

"Orlando is the No. 1 family destination in the United States."

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Spring 2017



Incredible
City

A circular inset showing the Orlando skyline at night, with illuminated buildings and a fountain in the foreground.

Incredible
Fun

A circular inset showing four people laughing and having fun on a roller coaster ride.

Incredible
Barbershop

A circular inset showing a group of men in dark suits performing a barbershop quartet on a set of stairs.

Barbershop.org/Orlando
Registration now open.

Carl Truman

1923 - 2018



Former FWD President Carl Truman joins Chapter Eternal

RENO, Nev., May 7 - Carleton Richard (Carl) Truman, former FWD President and 48-year member of the Reno and Las Vegas chapters, was born on June 3, 1923 in Detroit, Michigan and passed away at age 94 on May 7, 2018 in Reno, Nevada.

Carl served as President of the Far Western District 1998-1999, and was an officer of the Reno, NV Chapter, serving as Vice President of Music & Performance 2006-2009, as Chapter President in 2010, and as Immediate Past President 2013-2015. He was also a seasoned quartet man, singing lead or tenor over a span of 22 years in such quartets as: Snap, Crackle, Pop & Junior, Barbershop Express, Almost All Rebuilt Parts, The Contemporaries, Rumble Seat Daze, Pacific Sounds, Gas Lampe Revival, Clavimonium, Snap Crackle and Pop Pop, and Four Old Partners.

Carleton was the beloved husband of Wilma for 76 years. He is survived by his son, Carl Howard (Linda); daughters, Elizabeth (Tom) and Nora; grandchildren, Elizabeth (Jerry), Melissa (Daniel), and Olivia; and great-grandchildren, Gavin, Shane, Taylor, Avery, and Lily.

Special thanks to Kindred Care and Kindred Hospice.

Friends and family are welcomed to attend the funeral service, officiated by Pastor John Derme, on Monday, June 4 at 11:00 a.m. at Shepherd of the Mountain Lutheran Church, 955 W Peckham Ln, Reno, Nevada, 89509.

MASTERS IN REVIEW



Craig Hughes

Interviewing newly admitted members of this diverse organization we love is such a revelation. Just imagine if you discovered that **Dan Place** had a Black Belt in karate? (I didn't say he did, I said imagine it.)

That's the sort of surprising data we discover from the people we invite onto our risers. Take the case of new bass **Craig Hughes**:

Eagle Scout, West Point grad, it turns out that tall, rangy Craig was an Airborne Ranger. That means not only that he was tough, but he also jumped out of perfectly good airplanes furnished by the taxpayers. "I was a jump master, so I tossed folks out as well," he says playfully. Then he guarded real nukes for NATO in Germany and chased an American El Ed teacher, Barbara, till she agreed to marry him and they produced a matched pair of children but no singers.

Craig, however, born on Christmas Day, grew up in Clear Lake, Iowa, just a stone's throw from Mason City (*The Music Man's "River City"*). His father was a playmate of Meredith Willson, and music suffused the Hughes home, school and church. He was all-state chorus in high school and was even a bouncer at the Surf Ballroom where he absorbed the likes of Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper – until they crashed their airplane in a snowstorm in a cornfield near Craig's home on "the night the music died" (from *American Pie*). He also traveled the country with the West Point Glee Club, appearing on television with notables of the day (Raquel Welch, Spiro Agnew).

Thirty years of family, the military and selling medical supplies on the road for Cardinal Health (not unlike Harold Hill)

later, Craig joined the San Diego Chapter (**Sun Harbor Chorus**) and has rarely missed a rehearsal in 15 years. (The Masters has visited them for at least two classic performances in my memory – most recently with Ann Blyth in the audience for *Stranger in Paradise*.) Meanwhile, Craig racked up credentials as chapter president and various vice presidencies, two-time BOTY and even Barbershopper of the Decade (which decade was not clear). He is currently the Far Western District Executive VP after five years on the District Board (meaning he will probably be FWD President one day, following such MOH luminaries as **Bob Lally**, **Bernard Priceman**, **John Krizek** and **Allan Webb**). Craig has wrestled in several quartets and is a charter member of the High Sierra Harmony Brigade (where **Les Weiser**, **Jussi Ratsula** and I currently hone our tonsils).

Many friendships in the FWD and his longtime "dream to sing with the best" (and retirement) finally overcame Craig's reluctance to commit to 9-hour Wednesdays from San Diego to Santa Fe Springs.

I told him we are especially in need of good-looking fellas to shore up the basses while I am on my leave. And his big Ranger-bouncer bootprint could come in handy when **Brett Littlefield** is too tired for more than mild chastisement. He asserts that he is "pretty normal." Judge for yourselves.

Some of this information was conveyed to me two Fridays ago from "magnificent Idyllwild – that was before the retreat work began.

Now that Craig Hughes has made it through our boot camp, submit yourself to his steely grip and smiling face as a welcome addition to the **Masters of Harmony**.

— KIRT THIESMEYER

International Preliminary Quartet Contest, Ranks 3 - 10



NorthEast Division Quartet Contest, Ranks 1 - 8



NorthWest Division Quartet Contest, Ranks 1 - 5 & More



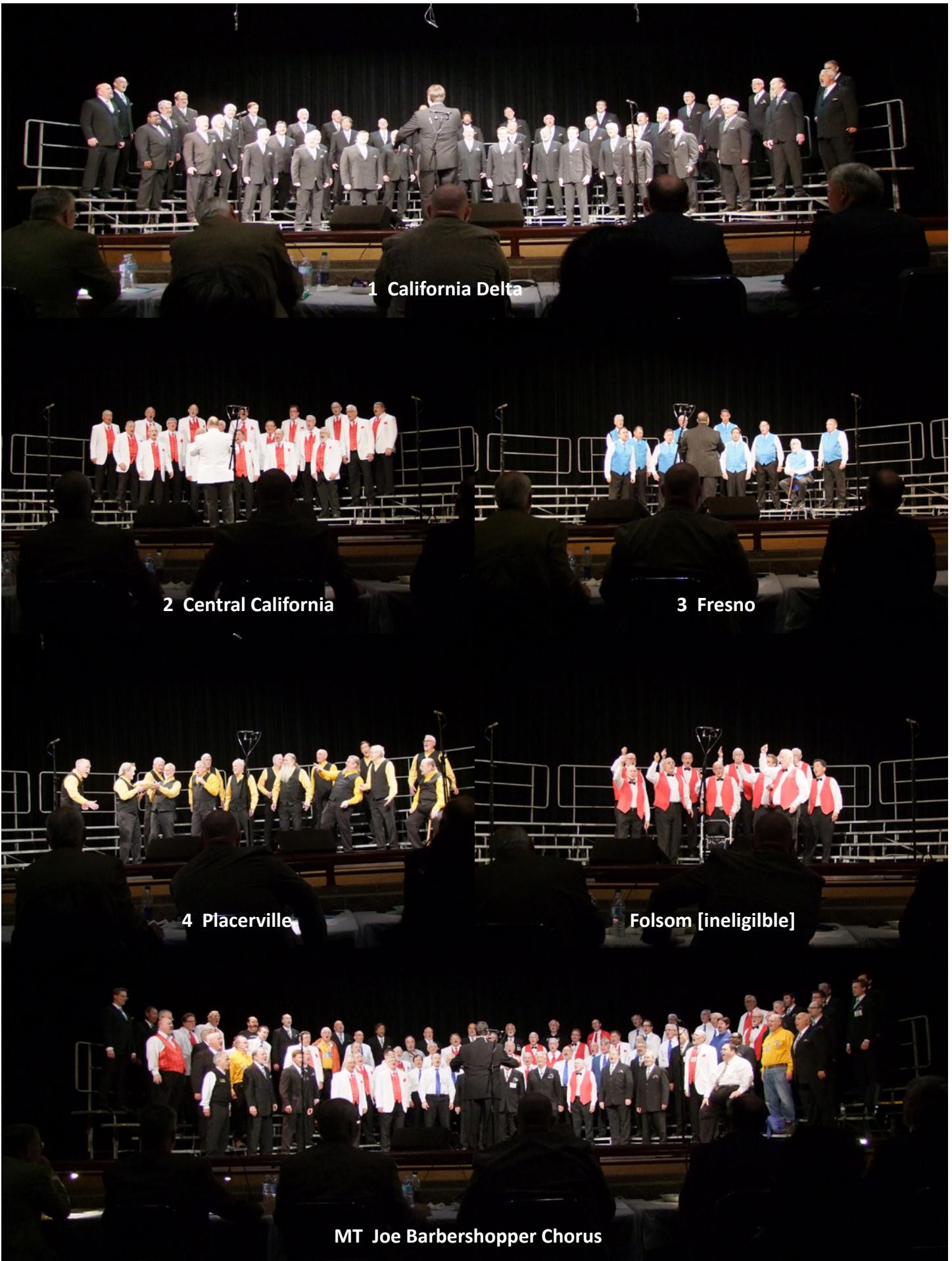
SouthWest Division Quartet Contest, Ranks 1 - 8



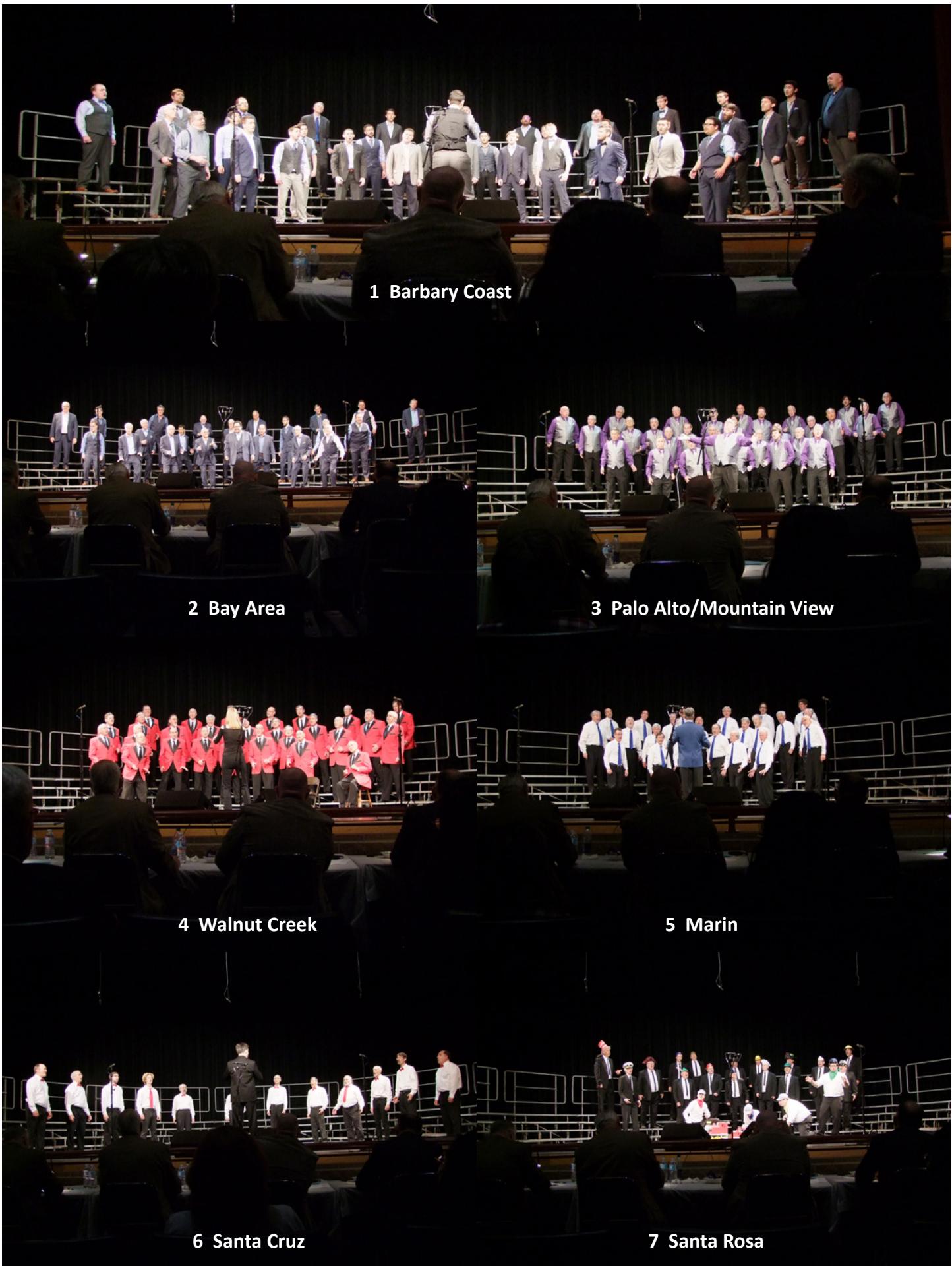
SouthWest Division Quartet Contest, Ranks 1 - 5 & More



NorthEast Division Chorus Contest, Ranks 1 - 5



NorthWest Division Chorus Contest, Ranks 1 - 8



SouthEast Division Chorus Contest, Ranks 1 - 5



SouthWest Division Chorus Contest, Ranks 1 - 5





2017 International Champion Chorus

Santa Fe Springs Chapter

The Masters of Harmony

Santa Fe Springs Chapter
by Ron Larson

“You’ll Never Go Wrong With A Song”

This is the title of the new Masters of Harmony show opener, a beautiful ode to the power of music to lift our spirits even when “it’s cloudy and gray and the day is feeling so long.” To add visual impact to its uplifting message, the Masters drew once again on Erin Howden to choreograph the song. Her performance package for the 2017 Las Vegas Chorus Contest was a major factor in the Masters win.

The Tony De Rosa Contribution

Almost a year before the 2017 contest, Alan Gordon began to work on changes designed to improve the Masters sound production. Tony De Rosa was brought in to move that process to even higher levels, and his work helped push the Masters sound quality to the level needed to win gold in Las Vegas. In preparation for the swan song set the Masters will deliver to the 2018 International Convention in Orlando this July, Tony is once again helping polish that sound so that its “wow” factor dovetails Erin Howden’s choreography. The Masters are so fortunate to be able to be able to draw on the talents of three uniquely qualified Gold Medalists – Erin, Tony, and Justin Miller. The 2018 swan song package they are creating promises to be spectacular.

MOH Presence at the Far Western District Spring Convention

In mid-March, the Southeastern-Southwestern Divisionals and International Preliminaries were held in a combined session at the Hilton Irvine. Eleven quartets competed for the right to represent the FWD in Orlando. Two quartets qualified for the Orlando contest—The Newfangled Four (Joey Buss, Jackson Niebrugge, Ryan Wisniewski, Jake Tickner) and current FWD champs Suit Up! (Justin Klemballa, R.J. Esquivias, Brent Graham, Rodney Armstrong) by finishing first and second, respectively. Moving on to the Far Western District contest in Fresno this fall are The Velvet Frogs (Craig Ewing, David Livingston, C.J. Sams, Bill Wilson) and Intonation (Les Dergan, Jeremy McMahon, Dan Ryan, Richard Muhn). Two choruses directed by former MOH members qualified for the Fresno contest—Mike McGee with Pacific Sound and Royce Ferguson with Pacific Coast Harmony. At least a dozen current or past MOH members competed as members of various choruses. Three MOH men were contest emcees—Brian Philbin (High School Contest), Craig Hughes (Show of Champions), and Bernard Priceman (Chorus Contest). MOH Director Justin Miller was the dedicatee of the convention.

Media Outreach Efforts

Even though the Masters are nine-time (and current) chorus champions and rehearse in one of the nation's biggest markets, large audiences at MOH shows are not a given. For several years, John Loftus has successfully promoted member use of email and social media to attract the public to MOH shows. He has now



passed that baton to Vice President-Marketing Robert Shelton who is urging members to share the show flyer through every means possible-email, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat, Google Plus, etc. Sean Sherrodd added to the outreach possibilities by pointing out that MOH now has its own

Masters of Harmony YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCfqJJujp9WRBYPbWgtrOtQQ>

Among the postings are these: a beautiful multimedia rendition of the Masters singing the National Anthem for Memorial Day 2016; the Masters singing the Finian's Rainbow Medley to honor the passing of Gene Cokeroft, legendary tenor of the Suntones, 1961 International Quartet Champion; and the Masters responding to the Vocal Majority's tag challenge in 2015. Please stop by and give us a look!

National Barbershop Quartet Day

On April 11, 1938, Rupert Hall and O.C. Cash helped organize a songfest with 24 of their friends. Four of those friends formed an impromptu quartet. S.M. Blevens sang lead, Donme O'Donovan added his tenor, O.C. Cash handled the baritone part, and Elmer Lawyer provided the bass notes as they sang "Down Mobile," now considered the first song ever sung under Society auspices. Little did they know that their efforts would mushroom into a worldwide organization known for years as the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America (SPEBSQSA), now as the Barbershop Harmony Society. The MOH took part in festivities honoring that memorable beginning by sending in a taped "Happy Birthday" to Society headquarters. On the actual date of

the 80th anniversary, the Masters held a guest night with invitations to MOH alumni and members of other chapters not rehearsing that night to join the chorus in a night of celebration. Fittingly, one of the songs sang that night was "Down Mobile." S.M., Donme, O.C. and Elmer, your dream is not only alive and well, it now circles the globe!



Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund for FWD Harmony Camps Double Match Challenge



WHY NOT CONSIDER A CONTRIBUTION TO THE LLOYD STEINKAMP ENDOWMENT FUND FOR HARMONY CAMP

The Double Match Challenge for the Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund for FWD Harmony Camps has been extended into 2018.

With the goal of providing an opportunity for all barbershop members to participate in the funding of Harmony Camps in the FWD in perpetuity, a major donor has agreed to continue the double match challenge in 2018. Your contribution in any amount up to \$400 will be double matched by this generous donor. For example a donation of \$100 will be matched with \$200, effectively yielding a \$300 donation to the Steinkamp Fund. You may make a onetime donation or donate on a monthly basis.

Lloyd Steinkamp was a true giant in the Far Western District and it was Lloyd who created the concept of Harmony Camp. The first camp was in 1996 at Camp Wrightwood near San Bernardino. This was not only the first Harmony Camp in the FWD, but also in the nation.

Today the FWD Harmony Camp remains strong with 92 young men attending the 2017 camp in Pollock Pines, CA. The purpose of the Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund is to provide, in perpetuity, supplemental financial support for weekend long Harmony Camps within the Far Western District of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Initially all funds donated to the Endowment will be used to build the capital of the fund toward an initial goal of \$200,000. Once the fund balance reaches this goal, withdrawals may commence to help finance the FWD Harmony Camp, consistent with the policies of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation.

Donations may be made by credit card (<https://ssl.charityweb.net/sacregcf>) and find the "Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment" in the drop down box preceded by the words "please use my donation for:"). You may also donate by check payable to Sacramento Region Community Foundation with a note in the memo box "Lloyd Steinkamp" and mailed to 955 University Avenue, Suite A, Sacramento, CA 95825.

As of December 31, 2017 the Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund has a balance of \$64,000. Our goal for 2018 is to increase the Fund by at least \$60,000. I invite you to join me in ensuring that Harmony Camp will exist into the future for the benefit of future barbershoppers.

Richard Lund, Director
Harmony Camp
rlund@innercite.com
530-621-1904



HARMONY CAMP 2018

September 21 – 23

Sly Park Education Center Pollock Pines, CA

This year's Harmony Camp, September 21-23, is a figment of our imagination – at this point.

You are the individuals and chapters who can make it happen.

Let that sink in a minute.

The Far Western District Harmony Camp has been separated from the skirts of support from Harmony Foundation. Therefore, we rely almost entirely on you, your chapter and like-minded folks who understand and believe in the concept of exposing 90 – 100 young men to the barbershop culture and harmony.

There are two “fund raising” aspects to Harmony Camp both of which are critical in ensuring the continuation of the FWD Harmony Camp. One is the Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund that is rapidly growing (currently above 70k) that will take care of the funding of future camps once we reach our goal of \$200,000; and the other is Operational Funding. Operational funding is what we need for This Year’s camp. Our budget for putting one of these things on every year is growing and is now up to about \$24,000. That is a lot of money to be raised for Harmony Camp 2018. And it depends totally on you and your chapter.

We ask that each chapter in Northern California donate about \$500 to the cause. That kind of involvement will go

a long way toward making it happen. In addition, you as an individual can write a check, a check in any amount that will similarly go a long way toward making it happen.

We have Artistic License and Capitol Ring as our headliner quartets this year – both outstanding quartets from Northern California. We are fortunate to have local quartets that enable us to hold down costs in an attempt to have a truly stellar camp in 2018 and that will bolster our finances for the future.

Through the years I have learned just how generous barbershoppers are toward this camp that you have supported so completely. Now is the time to continue that support. 90 – 100 young men are depending on us.

Please join with me in offering support to the Far Western District Harmony Camp 2018. Make your check out to:
Far Western District Harmony Camp and send to:

Richard Lund
6164 Windlestraw Road
Placerville, CA 95667

Thank you for your support,
Richard Lund



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Spectrum and **Ponderosa Pines**

Tickets: \$10 in Advance; \$12 Day of Show

Tickets available at local Chambers of Commerce
and from High Country Barbershop Chorus members.



Silver Medalists at 2017 Rocky Mountain District Convention
Second Wind Quartet

Joseph Hopkin, Adam Haggart, Matt Allen, Chaz Chesser



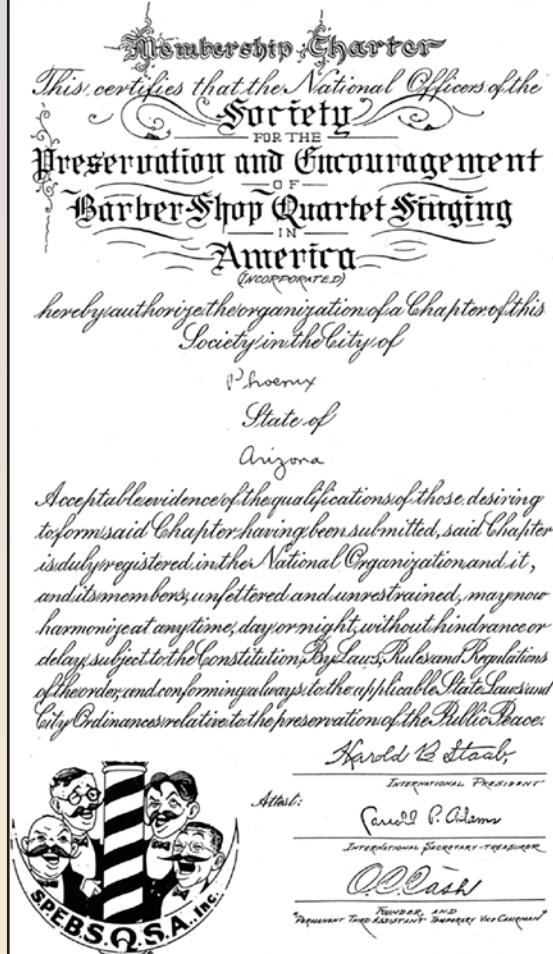
Phoenix Sahuaro Chapter - 1945

Phoenix chapter show celebrates 75th anniversary of its founding

By Jerry McElfresh

The year 1943 was a glum one for Americans. They were in the midst of World War II with rationing of food, gasoline and other necessities, millions enlisting and being drafted to fight tyranny, and people still working to overcome the effects of the Great Depression. They were looking for a bright spot in their lives and aside from a night at the movies or bowling or a family picnic, they didn't have much to lift their spirits.

So guys being guys, Phoenix resident **Billy Hallett** put word out in February 1943 that he was looking for potential members of a Barbershop quartet group. More than 20 people showed up and after having a good time singing old favorites at the first meeting, they decided to keep the fun going by organizing a Barbershop chapter. The group applied for membership in SPEBSQSA (now BHS) on March 15, 1943, and soon received a charter for the Phoenix Saguaro Chapter signed by Barbershop Society founder **O.C. Cash**.





Over the years the chapter name was changed to the Greater Phoenix Chapter and its choruses had a variety of names including the Phoenix Chorus, the Copperstatesmen, Salt River Beachcombers Desert Romeos, Spirit of Phoenix and The Phoenicians.

The current Chapter and its Phoenicians Chorus celebrated the 75th anniversary of the founding of the chapter with a major performance this March. The 75th anniversary show featured performances by the host **Phoenicians Chorus** and guest choruses, **East Valley Harmonizers**, **Desert Aires** and **A Cappella Syndicate**. A highlight of the show was entertainment by the International Finalist guest quartet **The Newfangled Four**.

Another highpoint was the show finale with songs by current and former Phoenicians and **Spirit of Phoenix** members including a number of singers from the other choruses on the show. The “**Finale Chorus**” sang two iconic Phoenix numbers, “A Ring to the Name of Rose,” directed by **Russ Young**, and “Baby Face/Exactly like You” medley, directed by **Gary Steinkamp**, both former directors of the Phoenix chorus. (No, no one rode over the backs of chairs ... it’s been 20 years since that was done!)

The show also celebrated another important event, the 50th anniversary of **The Western Continentals** of the Phoenix chapter who won International Quartet Gold Medals in 1968. Three members, baritone **Paul Graham**, lead **Ted Bradshaw** and tenor **Al Mau**, attended the show (bass **Phil Foote** passed away last year). Also present were bass **Terry Dietrich** and tenor **Curt Kimball**, who sang with the quartet when it won the District championship in 1964.

Also honored during the program were chapter members who did so much to further the chapter, district and International Society over the years. They included the late **Sam Aramian** and his son **Terry Aramian**, both former International presidents, Far Western District presidents and judges and quartet members; the late **Lloyd Steinkamp**, director, arranger, quartetter and acclaimed emcee; the late **Lou Laurel**, former International president who directed the Phoenix chorus to three International Gold Medals and 11 District championships; **Jack Mauney**, longtime chorus manager and “man behind the scenes;” **Gordon Berghold**, quartet man and former District President and current past president; **Fraser Brown**, director, arranger and holder of the record of performing in 31 International quartet contests and scoring as high as third place twice with Standing Room Only and winning the senior quartet gold medal with Audacity in 2009; **Dan Ryan Sr.**, longtime member,

current director of the chorus, music teacher and a veteran of many quartets including his current one; **Russ Young**, former chapter chorus director, former District president and certified judge and member of medalist Standing Room Only quartet; and **Gary Steinkamp**, former director and judge who led the chorus to three District championships and eight International chorus competitions, and who with Russ and Fraser won medals with Standing Room Only.

The show was followed by an afterglow featuring the headliner quartet and six BHS and Sweet Adelines quartets, interesting comments and historic notes from long-time and former members, and a lot of fun and fellowship.

Our audience also made the show a great one including Joe Salz, a member of the chapter since July 1950 and the Society for 70 years since July 1948; Judy Steinkamp and daughter Jill Henderson, traveling from California; former member **Bob Taylor** from Las Vegas; a fan who drove overnight from New Mexico to meet some of the men who sang with his father in the 1960s

and '70s, and a number of former chorus members who sang with us during the finale or stood to be recognized during the show.

The anniversary show took a great deal of work and coordination with **Jay Bartley**, **Jerry McElfresh** and **Dan Ryan** taking the lead on various parts of the program with help from our members and participating choruses, especially A Cappella Syndicate for technical support. Others helping to make the show a success were emcees **Bud Hesterman** and **Bill Kane**, **Pauletta Bartley** and **Quisha Ryan**, wife and daughter of Jay, and **David Melville** for his work on flyers, programs, online ticket sales and an excellent slide show that accompanied the performance.

The successful show, favorable comments from the audience and a feeling that we were able to honor the chapter's great, long history and those who did so much for it left The Phoenicians looking forward to another 75 years of four-part harmony in Arizona.

members won the Barbershop Society's quartet Gold Medal 50 years ago.

The quartet had formed several years earlier and won the Far Western District Championship in 1964. The quartet then included Curt Kimball, tenor; Ted Bradshaw, lead; Paul Graham, baritone; and Terry Dietrich, bass.

They went on to International competition in 1965, placing eighth. Curt was called to service during the Vietnam War and was replaced by Al Mau. They competed in 1966, scoring 21st. Terry moved out of state and was replaced by Phil Foote at bass.

The new combination went to International competition in Los Angeles in 1967, where they won silver medals. The next year, in Cincinnati, they captured the gold.

The quartet was active for more than a decade after winning the championship, performing on Phoenicians shows and as guests on other chapter shows. Al moved to California in 1971 and was replaced by Frank Friedemann, but they took a break briefly in 1972.

Phil had also moved but by 1973 both he and Al were back, and the Continentals resumed shows until a job transfer took Phil away again. He returned a second time in 1977 and the quartet continued to perform until 1979.

Phil Foote passed away last fall but Al, Ted and Paul are celebrating their 50th anniversary this year. Terry has returned to Arizona and Curt lives out of state.

The quartet was honored earlier this year at the Phoenicians 75th Anniversary show, and at the 2018 Arizona Division Convention, to whom the convention was dedicated.



Western Continentals celebrate 50th anniversary of championship

By Jerry McElfresh

This year marks a great anniversary celebration. The Western Continentals quartet made up of four Phoenix Chapter

The President's Page



Craig Hughes

Far Western District President

president@farwesterndistrict.org



Let me open this conversation with an announcement.

Ron Black is leaving the Far Western District. After many years on the Board of Directors as Vice-President of Contest and Judging and as Vice President for the Northeast Division, Ron and Jo are moving to Colorado. He has meant a great deal to all of us. He was my first Chorus Director and is a friend. His love and support of the District is very special. He is not going away – just moving.

Chuck Roots, a member of the Central Valley Chapter and the California Delta Chapter, was elected (unanimously) by the Board of Directors to the Division Vice President position. He is uniquely qualified to represent his Chapters. Chuck is a retired Air Force Chaplin with 28 years in Barbershop. I can't think of better preparation to support us in our mission.

I hope you are all as energized by our Spring Convention and Contests as I. If you "sat out" this spring you missed some great fellowship and singing. Our Conventions are not just contests. If you are not competing with a Chorus or Quartet you can still have a whale of a good time with your Barbershop Brothers and Sisters. Please check the [District Calendar](#) for the next event and plan to attend.

Speaking of events and calendars, let's discuss the importance of clearing your Chapter Shows with the District. Exciting Barbershop events occur almost every week and we don't want to step on each other's toes. The process for clearing your Show Date with the District Secretary is covered in the [District Statement of Policy](#). This is the owner's manual for the District and is "good" reading for everyone. Here's the reason for Clearances:

The purpose of obtaining show clearances is to prevent conflict in dates of activities between Chapters, Divisions, Districts, or Leadership Academy (formerly COTS), and to ensure that the proper ASCAP license is obtained. Conflicts make it difficult to obtain quartets, prevent nearby Barbershoppers from attending both events, reduce public attendance, and often result in unpleasantness between chapters.

If you have a date that looks open it is a good idea to check with the District Secretary before investing time and money in the venue and talent. We want to work with and for you and help make your event a great success.

As District President much of my time is spent on administrative duties. The best advice I have received so far is to stop and "have fun". Here are some recent things that made me smile.

Our Spring Convention and International Prelims in Irvine was a great time. One special moment was when **Chuck Hunter**, our Awards Chairman, presented the plaque dedicating the Convention to **Justin Miller**. Justin, Andrea and soon-to-be three-year-old Tenley accepted the honor with grace and charm. The newest Miller, six-week-old Mason, is a lifetime member of the Barbershop Harmony Society. It was great to have John & Sharon in the audience.

Justin is the only Director in BHS history to have two Gold Medal Choruses (**Westminster & Masters of Harmony**) at the same time. It was St Patrick's Day so we took the opportunity to have Justin direct the 550 attendees in "My Wild Irish Rose". The judging panel joined in with three gold medal leads and the sound was incredible.

Another memorable moment occurred at the NE/NW Division Contest in Brentwood. The venue was the local High School and all was perfect except for the false fire alarms and bells that rang on the daily class schedule. The bells were controlled at the School District office and it was locked for the weekend. We made it through the Chorus Contest under the able guidance of emcee, **Jason Dyer**, without too many issues. The Quartet Contest was more "fun". The bells were set for a recent open house and midway through the contest started ringing on seven-minute intervals. I was having a great time as emcee and the host chapter, **California Delta**, and our extraordinary stage manager, **Melany Callagher**, had everything running like clockwork. Melany had a timer set for seven minutes and, with the help of the judging panel, we were slotting the quartets into the bell free zone until a wonderful Quartet from Reno, **Argenta**, took the stage. "*Satin Doll*" was sublime and "on schedule". "*Birth of the Blues*" was even better and the quartet did a nice job with the bluesy tag but backstage the clock was running out and Melany and I were holding our breaths. The suspense was palpable and then, just as they hit the final chord the bell rang in the same key! Wow!! The audience was chanting "extra points" to the judges and I hustled on stage to keep the ball rolling. As I said "Didn't that last chord ring!" the fire alarm went off. We exited the hall for 10 minutes while they reset the alarm. The school finally turned off the bells and we completed the contest on time. Convention Chairman, **Richard Lund**, got a portion of our rental fee back due to the inconvenience, but the experience was "priceless". If you weren't there, you should have been!

I take time to visit our Chapters as often as possible. I sing with San Diego and Santa Fe Springs on Tuesdays and Wednesdays but do play hooky occasionally. I found time between Conventions to visit our **Aloha Chapter**. A night with the **Sounds of Aloha** was a treat. The islanders know how to have fun and sing really well. Thank you to all. By the way, I suggest all Barbershoppers get out and visit other chapters as much as possible. It's a real treat.

Set your calendars for our Fall Convention in Fresno – October 11-14. House of Delegates, Harmony Platoon, Chorus & Quartet Contests, afterglows and so much

more. Who knows what may happen at this one! Be there and find out.

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

In Harmony,
Craig Hughes, President

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Bill Rosica
Executive Vice President
evp@farwesterndistrict.org



The beginning of my role as Executive Vice President began with a bang. In late January, I attended the International Midwinter Convention in Costa Mesa, where I also attended the District President's Council Meeting as well as the Society Board Meeting. There were plenty of things to keep me going strong behind the scenes. I was also fortunate enough to be able to sing on stage for the finale of the Saturday night show. It should be on YouTube in the near future. Keep an eye out.

That event was followed by the Far Western District's own International Prelims and SW/SE Divisionals in Irvine. Your new Board met for the first time on Thursday to begin the new year. The House of Delegates followed on Friday to let the Chapters know what changes were on the horizon. If your Chapter didn't send a representative, consider appointing someone to attend the next meeting in October in Fresno. I also had the distinct pleasure of hosting Holly Kellar, International Representative for the weekend. At the conclusion of the HOD meeting, we conducted a "Listening Session", where any Chapter who had something to say, could do so. This was a terrific idea and worked so very well, that I am going to propose we have the same type of meeting after the HOD in Fresno. It allows each Chapter to talk about their successes

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and challenges and lets other Chapters contribute to the conversation.

President Hughes and I split duties for the NE/NW Divisionals and Arizona Divisionals, since they were both on the same days. While Craig headed north, I made the trek to Arizona. What a fine job General Convention Chairman John Johnson and his team did. The HQ Hotel was very accommodating and the HS Venue seemed to work nicely for the contest. It was obvious that the Arizona folks know how to run a contest. I found plenty of new friends during the weekend and look forward to seeing them again in October.

I received an inquiry regarding the position of YIH Manager from Steve Salmond in Las Vegas. Steve has served the Board in many capacities and will be a welcome addition to the District Management Team (DMT). I am still looking for someone to take my position of Membership Manager on the DMT. If you think you'd like to get your feet wet, please let me know and we'll talk.

Finally, I am working with David Mellville, Bryan Forbes and Donna Hisley (wife of a Barbershopper) on an idea that would give a whole new perspective to one of our Fall Conventions and Contests. We have heard by the fewer numbers attending our Contests that you want something different, so we're working on it for you. I won't let the "Cat out of the Bag" just yet, but we're working on logistics and costs at this moment and will have more information at our Summer Board Meeting.

grateful for Rincon Beach, Santa Monica and South Bay, all of whom did great memorable performances and all of whom qualified for October in Fresno.

I'm looking forward to South Bay's "pop-up" show on June 8, 9 and 15, 16. Called *Scarface, the Musical*, it's a speakeasy in a warehouse in Carson and the \$30 ticket price includes some food and drink... Call 800-595-4849 or go to <https://coastliners.tix.com> and make plans to be there... I'll be there on the 16th. We'll sing a tag at the afterglow to be held in the same warehouse.

San Fernando Valley's President, Ben Marder, reports they had a show on May 12 and I hope it was successful. They've been recruiting a few new members and under the direction of Tom Raffety, are ringing chords and having fun.

A great report comes out of Crescenta Valley Chapter. According to David Kilpatrick, "Our President, Mike McKenna, has more or less single-handedly revived an almost comatose Chapter, (down to two dues-paying members, now up to 14 members - including gentlemen new to Barbershop), and it is growing and performing in public, with plans to expand. We have become a Quartet Chapter and are enjoying lively meetings in preparation for competing in the Orange Chapter Comedy Quartet Competition this summer. It is a remarkable story that only he can tell." For those of you who would like to talk with Mike to see how he and his fellow members accomplished this, email him at mckenna2223@sbcglobal.net.

Pasadena, under John Minsker, had a surprisingly successful show on April 28. I say "surprisingly" because of the nature of people nowadays. They don't buy tickets in advance but suddenly on the 28th, the lines were long at the door. Their guest Quartet was **Fourtified**, the 2017 FWD Novice Quartet Champs from Tehachapi, and John said they were wonderful. Looking for a relatively undiscovered Quartet for your show....?

Bakersfield's Golden Empire Chorus had a show at the end of May and they are under a new director named Eric Dyer. We wish him and them, continued

Brent Anderson
VP Southwest Division
dvp-southwest@farwesterndistrict.org



'Twas another busy quarter in the SW Division. It was disappointing that so few Choruses decided to compete in March, but it was early in the year. Some Choruses were not ready and some had logistical issues, so we're

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success. I see that long-time Chorus and Quartet veteran **Don Kileen** is back in the FWD and singing Lead with the Chorus.

San Luis Obispo is having some membership issues and even discussed folding the Chorus, but the 10 stalwarts rejected that idea and are looking to do something different in the hopes of making changes. According to **Logan Patrick Miernicki**, their director, they are taking some time off for the month of May and then going to twice-monthly rehearsals, filling in the other Mondays with social events. You know the old adage... *if you keep doing the same things you'll always have what you always had...* And they are looking for some change. Anyone with any good ideas should contact Logan at lugars101@hotmail.com

Rincon Beach Chapter's Pacific Sound Chorus, under the leadership of new director, **Mike McGee**, is proud to have again won the SW Division Chorus Championship. They have recruited four new members and have another couple in the pipeline. They did a show in May along with **Channelaire SAI Chorus** and the big show in Santa Barbara, is September 15 featuring **Newfangled Four**. Mark your calendars and spend a wonderful weekend in classic Santa Barbara.

Conejo Valley Chapter, under **Jim Browne**, is doing well. They had a performance or two this quarter and several Conejo members are also dual members with **Rincon Beach**, where **Jim Browne** is assistant director. You just can't get too much of a good thing.

I went to Hawaii in early May to visit the **Aloha Chapter** and had wonderful time. They are under the joyous direction of **Mark Conching** and my wife and I were welcomed with much Aloha. The Chorus is about 45 guys and they are singing well. I reminded them we love to have them come to the mainland for the Fall Conventions and we hope that again happens soon.

Santa Maria Chapter had a show in late April, boosted by a few **San Luis Obispo** dual members. **Santa Monica** is doing well and did I mention that the current International Chorus Champion is the wonderful **Masters of Harmony?** That Chapter is such a model

for the rest of us... They work so hard and deserve all the accolades they earn, but they also have great fun, singing well. They'll be going back to Orlando in July to "sing off the trophy" to the 2018 Champs.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer. Check out the FWD calendar and make plans to visit a show in your "neighborhood." It's so good to visit other Chapters. It supports the Chapter, acknowledges their hard work, is entertaining for you and possibly you learn something you can bring back to your Chapter to make your shows even better.

In Harmony,



**Southeast Division Qualifies
eight Choruses and four Quartets
for 2018 District Contest**

Congratulations to all members of the Southeast Division who competed in the Southeast/Southwest Division Contests! As in last year's Contest, I was so proud to see that 9 of our 15 Division Choruses (Chapters) were in attendance, competing, and having a great time! Thanks to each Chorus Director for preparing their respective Choruses for this Preliminary Contest. And, as always, thanks to all of the Chapter members for participating in what proved to be a very musical day. In the end, 8 Choruses qualified for the District Contest in Fresno this coming October! Congratulations to:

Pacific Coast Harmony (La Jolla Chapter)
Gaslight Chorus (Brea Chapter)
Silver Statesmen (Las Vegas Chapter)
Sun Harbor (San Diego Chapter)

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Temecula Wine Valley Harmonizers (Temecula Chapter)

South County Sound (South Orange County Chapter)

Inland Sound (Inland Empire Chapter)

Orange Empire Chorus (Fullerton Chapter)

Our Division was also well-represented in the Quartet Contest. We had 10 Quartets sing for the opportunity to qualify for the District Contest. Here are the four Quartets that qualified for the Fall Contest in Fresno:

VOX (Southeast Division Quartet Champion – Congratulations!)

Fortunate Sons

Four Fifteen

Tipping the Scale

Good Times! (Southeast Division Seniors Quartet Champions as well as the Southeast Division Novice Quartet Champion – Congratulations!)

The triple panel of judges was outstanding, so I know you all got great comments and coaching during your evaluations. One of the many reasons to compete in our contests is being coached by the finest coaches (judges) in our Society.

But that's not all! We do have a 10th Southeast Chorus that was not able to enter the contest, but, was well-represented at the Convention. The **Westminster Chorus** could not compete in our contest because they will be representing us, as well as the rest of our District, at the International Contest this summer in Orlando, Florida. On behalf of our Division and the District, I wish **Justin Miller** and the Westminster Chorus all the best and Good Luck at International!

AND, speaking of Justin, **CONGRATULATIONS JUSTIN!** For those of you who were not in attendance at this Convention, Justin Miller was honored as being the Convention Dedicatee! From one who knows, this is a great honor! Justin is a well-deserved member of our Convention dedicatees.

South County Sound Show

I just had the great pleasure of attending the recent South County Chapter Spring Show. It was a great show. However, I want to relate to everyone in our Division, as well as the District, how this Chapter put into play a strategy that I have been describing for years that will

get new members into our Chapters.

The Chorus sang three or four songs at the opening of the show, and then had various Chapter Quartets entertain the audience. And then, they introduced three choirs from the high school vocal music program of the school theatre we were in. In short, they asked this high school's choir program to sing on their shows. All three choirs were terrific, and of the three, one sang some Barbershop songs. The others sang some great songs from their regular repertoire.

The bottom line to me is that these music students bring their parents to see them perform. And when students sing, more often than not, one of their parents are musical in some way. So if the Chapter gets one Dad to inquire about their Chorus, they have won. But more likely, there will be multiple amounts of Dads asking about the Chorus.

Get involved with your local high schools. Ask them if they need some money for purchasing sheet music for their program. Or, as Pete Suputo of the Fullerton Chapter asked me as a 23-year-old choir director, "do you need cabinets for your choir room? We (the Fullerton Chapter) will make them for you." And ask them to sing on your show. Maybe one of their Dads will be your Chapter's next terrific Bass!

All my best, and I'll see you all at the District Contest in Fresno. Don't forget to go to the "Late Show" to see past Champs sing for you and raise money for our International Competitors!

HIGH PRIORITY
— QUARTET —

Bass
Dan Davenport
480-259-6633
HighPriorityQtet@gmail.com

2016 International
Sr. Quartet Champion



Board of Directors Reports



Dick Whitten

VP Northwest Division

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The Northwest Division is alive and well! Since taking office I have had the privilege of talking to a number of the Presidents by phone and email, and have had the opportunity to attend some Chapter meetings in the Division. It seems we are a very busy group of Chapters and there have already been a couple of big events.

The communication of events and the timing is an area in which we need to do a better job. In the past, when Chapters applied for their ASCAP license or wanted to add their show to the District calendar the District secretary would clear the calendar and it would be published on the back of Westunes. With Westunes being on the District website it becomes less obvious to us unless we go and research the date on the District calendar. If we all did this as part of our planning process for our events we would have fewer conflicts and hopefully more support. As we become less communicative we find we are also later in our planning. The date appears on the calendar the month of the event, and none of the neighboring Chapters can come and support the event because they have scheduled a coaching session or tech rehearsal on the same day. We need to attend neighboring Chapter events to support each other as well as get different ideas about doing things. We can learn many things through active participation with other Chapters by visiting Chapter meetings as a group.

We also need to recognize when a neighboring Chapter is crying for help. There is nothing wrong with hiring a neighboring Chapter to put their show on in your city as a guest performer on your "Annual Show". You control the ticket sales and the revenue. Pay them expenses or a fee and you reap the profits. The city fathers can attend and hear what it sounds like and learn to support

the group that resides in their city. We all are aware that recruitment is becoming a critical issue in our Society, and nothing supports recruitment better than a great Barbershop sound. The old question we used to hear all the time was, "Are they good because they are big, or are they big because they are so good?" Great sound will attract good singers. We are all in this hobby because of the music. The music is our product, but it is also our most important tool for attracting new singers.



Chuck Roots

VP Northeast Division

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Ed Note: Chuck is newly appointed to replace Ron Black, who is moving from the FWD to Colorado in the RMD. We look forward to his articles in future issues of Westunes.



Adam Kaufman

VP Arizona Division

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The contest and show season have come and gone here in the Arizona division, and may I say it has been quite the season indeed!

There were some fantastic shows held in Arizona, and I was fortunate enough to perform in two of them and attend another. My first performance was the Mesa Chapter's Western-themed show called *How the West Was Sung* that left the audience standing on their feet! The other show was the 75th Anniversary show for the Phoenix Chapter. It was a really moving experience to be a part of a show where almost all of the Arizona

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Choruses were able to come out to sing and support the oldest Chapter in our Division. The Tucson show was a wonderful production featuring the 2010 International Champions, **Storm Front**, and those wonderful up-and-comers, **The Newfangled Four**. Unfortunately, I was unable to get to the Sun Cities or Salt River Valley shows, but by all accounts, they were both fantastic!

We celebrated 75 years of Barbershop in Arizona at our Division Competition this year, and we also recognized The Western Continentals. The Western Continentals Quartet is made up of four Phoenix Chapter members who won the Barbershop Society's Quartet Gold Medal 50 years ago on July 6, 1968, at the International Convention in Cincinnati, Ohio. This Gold Medal Quartet includes Al Mau - Tenor, Ted Bradshaw - Lead, Paul Graham - Baritone, and Phil Foote - Bass. We were also honored to have our FWD Executive Vice President William J Rosica attend to cheer us all on and represent the Board.

I am pleased to report that we qualified four Choruses at our Division Contest:

A Capella Syndicate (Division Champions)

East Valley Barbershop Harmonizers

Phoenicians

Tucson Barbershop Experience

We also qualified five Quartets:

High Priority (Division Champions)

Intonation

Montage

Heatwave

Dilly Dilly!

Yes, you read that correctly! **High Priority**, the Seniors International Championship Quartet, will attempt to bring the District Gold back to Arizona! Additional congratulations go out to **Montage** for winning the Novice Contest and to **Antique Parts** for winning the Seniors Contest. Last year's champion and current District Champion **Suit Up!** was there to give **High Priority** their first-place award and of course to sing for us. Thank you **Suit Up!** for being such a great inspiration to all our competing Quartets!

Oh, and did I mention that **Suit Up!** and **The Newfangled Four** both qualified at the International Prelims this

spring in Irvine, CA? We look forward to seeing them take the stage in Orlando! Things look great in the Arizona Division, and as we get ready for the heat of summer, it is good to know that we have some cool Barbershop going on here.

Speaking of Irvine, I attended my first FWD Board of Directors meeting during the Spring Prelims there. It was a wonderful and humbling experience. The amount of knowledge and talent that is on our Board amazes me, and I am truly grateful to have the opportunity to represent the Arizona Division.

The next meeting of the Board will be June 15-16 in Fullerton, CA, and as always, if there are issues you would like me to bring to the Board, please feel free to call me on my cell (516) 770-3743 or send me an e-mail: a.kaufman@yahoo.com.

We know Barbershop is awesome! Let us share it with the world!



With our Division Contests completed, I hope you had a chance to enjoy singing for your fellow Barbershop fans. Performing with your Chorus and/or Quartet is a great opportunity to delight members and families from other Chapters and then get world-class coaching from the educators in our judging system.

I hear you asking: "How can I make my Chapter, Chorus, Quartet, or other ensemble better?" As a voice teacher, I have to suggest that you improve your own instrument. Voice lessons are amazing. If that step is beyond your comfort level (or pocketbook) you can have great self-improvement by practicing at home the techniques you receive from your Chorus Director

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and music team. Without an outside ear, it becomes critical that you record yourself while vocalizing by yourself, then recording and playing back clips of you singing in your Chorus or Quartet. Smart phones have the recording capability (audio and video) so there is no additional cost to purchase equipment.

Most learning tracks have your part on one side and the other three on the other. After learning notes and words, have you ever recorded yourself singing your part with the other three parts on the learning track? Be nice to yourself – I don't know anyone who listens to themselves and cannot find opportunities for improvement.

Harmony University has been described as being "hot-dipped in Barbershop". Can you imagine the energy and joy of spending time with passionate singers that invested a full week to learn from the finest educators of music in the world? Do I exaggerate? NO! I learned more about music theory in Harmony College classes in one week than I did in two years as a university Music Major – probably because the enthusiastic faculty made the classes fun.

Can't get to Nashville in August for a full week? Let Harmony U come to you. Harmony Foundation uses some of your donations to professionally produce courses that are put on the society website for use by Barbershoppers, a cappella musicians, and music educators.

Go to www.barbershop.org and click on the EDUCATION TAB. Start by browsing what is available. Enjoy a few videos of great performances. Check out some of my favorites:

- Vocal Health Resources/Healthy Barbershop Singing Videos
- Music Leadership/The Performance Category (scroll to the bottom)
- Director Education/HU Warmup Series/Donny Rose

Think you are too old for learning new tricks? A whole section on the care and improvement of the senior voice will be available soon. I'll bet you know about

the studies that prove that learning new skills is critical in maintaining mental effectiveness.

Enjoy our hobby to the fullest, and as always: Get out in public and sing with joy and beautiful tone. Attract new singers and new fans. Use social media to share the fun of Barbershop.



Gordon Bergthold

Immediate Past President

pastpresident@farwesterndistrict.org

In my last Westunes article, written in February, I discussed some of our Far Western District Board and the leaders who work for you and the District. The "on the ground" men who serve our five Divisions in the District are the most vital in communication for the 74+ Chapters making up the Far Western District. They will write their own articles explaining what's important to them but I thought I'd try to explain from a Past President's perspective of what the District Vice Presidents do to help our members.

First, they are the front line of the leadership team in relationship to the Chapter's communication with the District. They disseminate information from the Society and District to the Chapters via, email, telephone and personal visits. When the Chapter has a need they are available to answer questions or find answers in an expedited manner. If they don't respond for some reason, the next call should go to the Executive Vice President of the District, Mr. Bill Rosica. If he doesn't have answers the buck stops at the President's desk, and that is Mr. Craig Hughes. If none of them have the answer, contact your Immediate Past President, yours truly known as Mongo to most of you.

This is not new information but I feel that you should be reminded from time to time of the chain of command at the District level. Similar to the Chapters where the members are the foundation, the District

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Vice Presidents for your Divisions are the first line of communication. Not that you need reminding but the Division 5, Arizona VP is Adam Kaufman; Division 4, Northeast California is Chuck Roots; Division 3, Northwest California is Dick Whitten; Division 2, Southeast California is Nick Papageorge and Division 1, Southwest California is Brent Anderson. They are each identified on the FWD website under *About – District Officers*. Please familiarize yourself with these men and contact them when a challenge or question arises in your Chapter.

Our newest District Vice President in NorCal East, Chuck Roots, drove from his home in Ripon on May 10 and visited the Chico Chapter's first meeting in a year. His unselfish gesture is indicative of what the DVPs do on a regular basis to represent the District and to lend a hand to struggling Chapters. When a DVP drives two and one-half hours, one way, to visit a Chapter you know that he is dedicated to his job as a District leader. Hats off to Chuck Roots on his very first Chapter visit in the Far Western District.

In Harmony,
Gordon "Mongo" Bergthold
IPP FWD



David Melville
Marketing & Public Relations
marketing@farwesterndistrict.org

Marketing wisely on a shoe-string budget

This is the second in a series of articles I plan to publish this year in Westunes that are specifically talking to the marketing guys in our chapters. I do not profess to be marketing professional by any means, but my intention is to share with you the things I have learned after doing this for many years, and hopefully some of you will benefit from it.

Last time we looked at some alternatives to those

expensive show flyers, including placing ads in local newspapers, senior publications, PBS and Public Radio program guides, church bulletins, other chapter show programs, and of course right here in *Westunes*. Those still cost money, but you'll get much better exposure for a lot less than printing and mailing show flyers.

So let's take a look at some no-cost ways to get the word out, or as I like to call it, "THE FREE STUFF".

Website

Do you have a website? By that, I don't mean a Facebook page, but rather an actual website that has your branding. If not, then it's time to consider getting one. Of course they're not free, but once you have one you can provide all sorts of information about your chorus, your quartets, your shows, and even sell tickets —**all at no additional cost**. Include your website URL (link address) in all of your advertising; make it the central target to bring people in, to not only learn about your show, but also about your chorus, quartets, when and where you meet, and any other information you want to publish.

Creating a website is easier than you think, and nowadays there are variety of tools available so you don't need to know anything about programming. We'll explore more about that in a later issue, but for now suffice it to say that every chapter should have a website, and if you are still mystified by all of this technology and how to get started, I encourage you to contact me so we can set up some time to chat and talk about things in plain English.

Social Media

According to Nielsen, Internet users continue to spend more time with social media sites than any other type of website. For our purposes, the benefits of participating in social media have gone beyond simply social sharing to building reputation, attracting members, and increasing monetary income.

There is an old saying, "word of mouth is the best form of advertising", that certainly applies with respect to social media. News travels through a network of friends and contacts through a process of liking and sharing, effectively being a personal endorsement, and can then be shared by their friends, friends of friends, and so forth. Also similar to word of mouth is that these social media I'm about to describe are all free services

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that can be used effectively to go far beyond anything that you or your members could do on your own.

Facebook

To say that Facebook (facebook.com) is nothing short of a phenomenon is an understatement. With over 2.2 billion monthly users as of January 2018, it's a social media and social networking site that simply can't be overlooked. While it is not a replacement for a website, it's a great vehicle for marketing for the simple fact that people are more apt to be on Facebook and see something about your chorus in their newsfeed than they are to visit your website on a daily basis.

If you don't already have a Facebook account, you'll need to create one at facebook.com to get started. If you don't care to have a personal Facebook account, just provide the minimal information to set up the account, and adjust the privacy settings to maintain relative anonymity.

Next you'll want to create a "Page" for your chorus or quartet. Here you can provide all sorts of information, post photos and videos*, create events, and more. Be sure to include a link to your website on the main page and each event!

You can get a few other guys to help you manage your Facebook by making them editors. Go to your page and click Settings, then choose Page Roles to get to the place where you can add them.

Now that you have a Facebook page, the last step is to get people to "Like" your page. When people like, i.e., follow your page they will see things you post in their timeline, and if they like what you post, their friends will see it too. In marketing terms, that's known as "getting your foot in the door". Your chapter members will play an important role in getting the ball rolling. Many of them are already on Facebook; give them the link to your page, and ask them to invite their friends to "like" your page.

Twitter

Twitter (twitter.com) is an online news and social networking service on which users post and interact with messages known as "tweets". A tweet is a short message that you post on Twitter, and is received by those who follow you, but is also public and can be searchable by anyone, even if they aren't a follower. Originally limited to 140 characters, they were doubled to 280

characters late in 2017. While that may seem short, the tweet itself can be a headline with a link to more information.

People who receive your tweet can "re-tweet" it, and their followers will then see it. Those people can also re-tweet, and a popular tweet can grow exponentially, which is referred to as "going viral".

Every user on Twitter has an account name that starts with @. For example, the Far Western District's name is @FarWesternDist. When you want to "tag" (mention) someone in a message, simply include their "@" name in the message, and they'll get a notification. This is called an @mention. A practical example of this would be to @mention your headline quartet (assuming they have a Twitter account).

Another trick is to use what is known as a "hashtag". You create a hashtag simply by placing a pound (#) character in front of a word or compound word with no spaces, for example, #BarbershopHarmony. Hashtags provide context, which will get picked up when a user is searching for a topic in Twitter. Be careful not to over-hashtag your tweets – one or two is probably enough.

Wishing @Westminstergold all the best at #BHSOrlando

A tweet can also include a photo, a GIF (animation), or a poll. Your twitter account can also be set up to integrate with your Facebook page and your Instagram account. This is particularly nice feature, because it will automatically "tweet" anything you post to your Facebook page with a link back to your Facebook post as well as any pictures you post to Instagram.

LinkedIn

LinkedIn (linkedin.com) is a professional networking service, mainly used for employers posting jobs and job seekers posting their CVs. The feature that is most interesting for our purposes is that users can "connect" with each other, either by having a direct relationship or by introduction via mutual connections. This "gated-access" approach is intended to build trust among its members.

Although not suited for promoting shows, LinkedIn has definite potential for attracting new members. Your chapter should consider setting up a business profile on LinkedIn, and encourage your members who use the service to associate themselves with your chapter.

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That way, their connections will learn about your chapter through the grapevine.

Pinterest

Pinterest (pinterest.com) is a social network designed to visually discover information on the web, mainly using pictures, but also with GIFs (animations) and videos. Users create “boards” having a variety of topics, and “pin” photos to the board. Other users see the pins in their feed for topics that interest them. They can follow the board or the user who created the pin, or re-pin the photo to a board of their own; in either case, the photo links back to the original poster.

Pinterest allows companies to create pages (business.pinterest.com), which is a great way for your chorus or quartet to generate “pinterest” in your group. Create a variety of boards to promote your group, and most importantly to show how much fun your members are having!

Instagram

Instagram (instagram.com) is a photo and video sharing network with over 800 million users as of September 2017. You’ll need to install a free app on your smartphone in order to use the service. The app allows you to upload photos and videos, which can optionally be edited with various filters, and organized with tags and location information.

Similar to Pinterest, Instagram is a great way to show your group in action and having fun. It also integrates extremely well with Facebook as well as other social media sites.

YouTube

YouTube (youtube.com) is a video* sharing website that allows users to upload, view, rate, share, add to favorites, report, and comment, and like other social networking sites, subscribe to other users. As of 2017 there are more than 400 hours of content uploaded to YouTube each hour, and one billion hours of content are watched in YouTube every day.

All users can upload content up to 15 minutes each in duration. With a good track record they may later be offered the ability to upload content up to 12 hours in length, as well as live streams with proper verification.

Although video* can always be viewed on the YouTube website, it is also possible for you to embed it on your

own website so it can be viewed there, and it also interfaces well with most other social media sites.

Caution regarding videos

You may have noticed that I placed an asterisk (*) after the word “video” throughout this article. There is a popular myth that a video clip can contain up to 30 seconds of music without fear of copyright infringement and is considered “fair use”. Be advised that there is no such rule, and the Society advises to get permission before posting any such video on the web. That being said, videos on the Society’s YouTube channel ARE licensed, and can be used as a link from your web page, but videos you produce yourself must be licensed. When in doubt, ask for permission!

Wikipedia and the Barbershop Wiki Project

Wikipedia (Wikipedia.org) is a web-based encyclopedia hosted by the Wikipedia Foundation that is free for all to contribute detailed information, history and references. The Society, most districts, and many chapters have created pages on Wikipedia. Your chapter can, too!

The Barbershop Wiki Project (barbershopwiki.com) boasts to be the most comprehensive barbershop encyclopedia in the world, and is a collaborative site where anyone can edit nearly every page. It uses the same engine as Wikipedia, so after you have contributed a page on one site you can easily copy it to the other.

Rating networks: Foursquare, Swarm, and Yelp!

Foursquare (foursquare.com) is a local search and discovery service website and mobile app which provides a personalized local search experience for its users.

Swarm is a companion mobile app to Foursquare that allows a user to “check in” at various locations and share it with their friends.

Yelp (yelp.com) and the Yelp mobile app publish crowd-sourced reviews about local businesses.

In keeping with social networking, ratings are shared with friends. There may be some value in setting up a profile for your chapter, if for no other reason than to have yet another source for information on when and where you meet. If you do, also encourage your members to “check in” regularly, as the added traffic will help to boost search engine priority.

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Email List

Unless you chartered yesterday, you hopefully already have a list of email addresses for your patrons. If not, then start building your list at your next show. There are a number of easy ways to do this: a comment card inserted in your show program; a sign-up sheet at your ticket counter; a form printed on the back of your show tickets, and of course a sign-up form on your website. All you need to collect is first and last name, and an email address.

There are a number of email list services available, but the one I like to recommend is MailChimp (mailchimp.com) for the simple reason that they offer it as a FREE service for mailing lists up to 2,000 subscribers and 12,000 emails per month, which is more than sufficient for most chapters. What's more, they have a variety of templates that are very easy to use, and you can include photos, videos*, and a button to like to your website (or ticket sales site) in addition to the text, and send out a great looking email to your patrons in no time at all!

Another nice feature of MailChimp is that you can link it to your Facebook Page and Twitter accounts, and it automatically posts to those media with a link to your email message. Additionally you can add a subscribe button to your Facebook page to get your followers to add themselves to your mailing list.

Press Releases

While you can -- and should -- consider placing ads in your local paper (and *Westunes*), you should also send press releases to all news media in a wide radius. Google will help you find their websites, where you can find the names and email addresses to send them. They will be hit and miss, but when they hit it will result in a nice article, and some free advertising. Jerry McElfresh provided us with an excellent document on Press Release format which you will find on the FWD website at **Education > Leadership Academy Presentations > VP Marketing**.

Local Radio and Television

It's easy to overlook radio and television because the common perception is that they are way too expensive for our meager budget – and that is correct if you only think in terms of buying advertising. But many local stations like to feature "light" news in their morning

programs, and will often jump at the chance to have a barbershop quartet come on and sing a song or two. This is a great and fun way to get exposure for your group, and some free last-minute promotion for your show or singing valentines.

Take Me Out to the Ball Game

Here's an opportunity to mix marketing with community service, and have fun at the same time. You don't need to live in a town that has a major league team; they sing the National Anthem at city league and little league games, too! I've had the pleasure to do this on a number of occasions, and every time we get a tremendous response, and comments like, "Thank you for singing it the way it was supposed to be sung". Be sure all of your men have plenty of business cards to hand out afterwards.

Wrapping things up

While this list is by no means conclusive, we've covered a lot of ground, and hopefully given you a bunch of ideas that will get you great results. The best part is that you can do all of this for free. And when I say "you" I mean it in the plural sense. Get a bunch of guys involved with this, and you'll all have fun.

Next time, let's look at some basics you'll need to know to set up a website.

To be continued ...

The graphic features a blue rectangular background with a thin orange border. In the center is a white square containing a black and white portrait of a man with glasses and a mustache, identified as Bill Kane. To the right of the photo, the text "Bill Kane" is written in a large, bold, white serif font. Below that, "Quartet Activities" is written in a smaller, white sans-serif font. At the bottom right, an email address is provided: "quartetactivities@farwesterndistrict.org". The corners of the central white square and the overall graphic frame are decorated with small, stylized yellow square cutouts.

Summertime an' da livin' is easy? Well, here in Arizona with temps up over 100 degrees, maybe not so easy. But still, not too hot to Quartet!

You don't have a Quartet?

Your Chapter's Chorus could use another Quartet singing a song to fill out the performance package.

District Management Team Reports

What Chorus couldn't?

Get three other guys together and learn one song to fill that need . . . maybe even a Christmas song not being done by the Chorus? There's a lot of time to get that number up to performance-ready if you start now.

If your combination works out, why not also learn the National Anthem and go sing for some sporting event . . . and then learn a couple of songs to do Singing Valentines? (If your first attempt doesn't work out . . . well, try another. Sometimes it does take more than one try to get the best combination.)

Not finding the voices in your Chapter? Consider coming to one of the Platoons, where you'll randomly match up with guys from other Chapters around FWD, or even around the country, if you go to one of the International Convention Platoons.

Since we last talked there have been a couple of Harmony Platoons here in FWD . . . at the Spring Prelims in Irvine California and at the Arizona Division in Mesa. After several rounds of fun contests, each Platoon crowned its champion, and here they are:



2018 FWD Spring Convention Platoon Champs

DDSL (our initials)

Tenor - Steve Cowan, Palomar-Pacific CA

Lead - Logan Patrick-Miernicki, SLO/Santa Maria/
Brea/SF Springs CA

Bass - David Erickson, Santa Monica CA

Bari - Drake Pyatt, Las Vegas NV

Winning Song: *Bare Necessities*



2018 FWD Arizona Division Platoon Champs

Out for Blood

Tenor: Adam Kaufman (Mesa, Arizona Quartet Chapters)

Lead: Bryan Thompson (Mesa Chapter)

Bass: Bill Kane (Mesa, Greater Phoenix,
Arizona Quartet Chapters)

Bari: Frank Hartline (Tucson Chapter)

Winning Song: *My Alabama*

Announcements for future Platoons can be found on HarmonyPlatoon.org website, and FWD website. The next one will be in Orlando at the summer International Convention and you'll also find details online at the BHS website. But you'd better hurry, 'cause you just have a few more weeks to learn the Platoon songs. Look for the next FWD Platoon at the 2018 Fall FWD Convention in Fresno.



From the Phoenix Saguaro Chapter



FRESNO

2018

**Far Western District
Fall Convention
October 11-14**

**Registration opening in June
events.farwesterndistrict.org**



Arizona Division

Bob Shaffer • Division Editor

Central Arizona Chapter

Bill Kane

Our Chapter met a number of times this spring at our home base in Scottsdale, with singers attending from all over Arizona, including Prescott and Tucson. We also had a visit to the Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association festival in Mesa.

The focus of our activity was preparation for the Harmony Platoon held at the Arizona Division convention. Congrats to two of our members who were crowned champs at that "fun" competition: Tenor **Adam Kaufman** and Bass **Bill Kane** (along with Bryan Thompson from Mesa and Frank Hartline of Tucson). Rehearsals began in May for those participating in Harmony Brigades.

Greater Phoenix Chapter

Jerry McElfresh

The first quarter of 2018 was a busy one for The Phoenicians, with most of our efforts put into our **75th Anniversary Show** marking the founding of the Phoenix Chapter in March of 1943.

The show also honored the 50th anniversary of **The Western Continentals'** Quartet Gold Medal and honored a large number of

former and current members who helped the Chapter and its Choruses achieve so much during three quarters of a century of entertaining and fun. **See the full story elsewhere** in this edition of Westunes.

The Phoenicians sang in the Arizona Division Chorus Contest and scored high enough to qualify for District competition this fall. The Chapter also made Valentine's Day a memorable one for women and men who received **Singing Valentines** delivered by Quartets from the Chapter.

It was a busy time for membership too, with the Chorus gaining 10 new members who sang with us in the Division Contest and most of them in the Anniversary Show. They are **Ethan Pike, Ken Corns, Grant Fox, Tim Gustafason, Eric Hertzfeld, Bill Shaw, Bob Thompson** and **Danny Ryan**. Ken, Grant, Eric, Bill and Danny are former members of the Chapter. Also joining recently and singing with us were **Aaron Burleson** and **Ken Stanton**.

Mesa Chapter

Ray Aalvik

The East Valley Harmonizers welcome new member **Gary Somerville**. Our membership is growing with six guests that have been coming regularly.

We are also forming a membership advisory council that will promote ideas to attract and retain members.

Elections were held in the Fall and 2018 officers were installed by Nick Papageorge in January. They are; President **John Johnson**, VP Music & Performance **Greg Grace**, Secretary **John Soper**, Treasurer **Bernie Esbner**, VP Membership **Thom Olmstead**, VP Marketing **Roy Murray**, Chorus Manager **Randy Bingel**, Board Members-at-Large **Vic Bowen** and **Ken Brannon**, VP Program **Adam Kaufman**, and Immed. Past President **Bob Shaffer**.

Valentine's Day was a great time to spread some cheer with **Singing Valentines**. The Chorus delivered 50 of these "songs from the heart" in one day, using Quartet combinations of 30 different singers. Many thanks to all members who pitched in, with special kudos to **Greg Grace** (Music Team chairman), **Bob Shaffer** (coordinator), and **Alisa Bingel** (scheduler).

Our Spring Show March 4 at Apache Junction High School drew compliments from the attendees we spoke to. It takes a lot of work by many members to create stage props and the many preparations and our people did an outstanding job. We were also asked to perform

in the 75th Anniversary Show of the Phoenicians along with several other Choruses.

If you find yourself in the Phoenix area on a Thursday night, please drop in and sing with us at St Mark's Episcopal Church, 322 N Horne in Mesa from 7:00 to 10:00 PM. Come and have some fun singing with **Russ Young**, enjoy some Quartet singing at the end of rehearsal, then follow us over to our always lively afterglow at Native Grill.

Prescott Chapter

Sam Stimple

It's a brand new year, and the **High Mountain Chordsmen** got off to a tremendous start with its Installation of Officers and Awards Dinner for members and spouses/guests at Gabby's Grill in Prescott Valley on January 4. **Dick Patton**, Chapter Treasurer, was awarded Barbershopper of the Year for 2017. Board members, enthusiastic and dedicated, will continue in their same roles as last year. **Ed Roush** was honored as Director of the Year.

The Chorus and Quartets provided entertainment for the Prescott Public Library's Third Friday Concert Series. Chapter members scurried all around the valley to present Singing Valentines on February 13, 14. J.J. Hawkins from Harmony Foundation was a special guest on February 22. **Antique Parts** attended the Sun Cities Barbershop Show and were honored to sing at the afterglow. In early March a Chapter delegation presented a monetary gift to Prescott Area Shelter Services (PASS). Funds for this donation were from the Chorus's Christmas mini-concerts.

The Chapter was saddened by the passing of longtime member **Herm Williams**, and of Marie R. Byrne, wife of USAF Colonel (Ret.) **Ron Byrne**.

The **High Mountain Chordsmen** worked diligently on their Divisional Contest package, complete with new black top hats and canes. **Antique Parts** and **Western Connection** competed in the Division Quartet Contest. It was a fantastic day!

Salt River Valley Chapter

Eric Bjornsen

In January, **A Cappella Syndicate** got a chance to breathe again after a busy holiday schedule. The **Syndicate** was honored to perform the National Anthem for Law Enforcement Appreciation Day at a local donut shop, and again for the 14th Annual Arizona Fallen Officer Memorial 5K run. The **Syndicate** appeared briefly on local television broadcasts for both of these events.

After a performance at a swanky resort in Scottsdale, the **Syndicate** walked into the patio of a local restaurant and surprised a young woman with a love song as her would-be fiancé got down on one knee and made the marriage proposal. She said "Yes!" A few weeks later, several appreciative recipients were treated to **Syndicate-style** Singing Valentine, including one woman who turned 80 on Valentine's Day.

The **Syndicate** was pleased to support the 75th Anniversary of the Phoenician Chorus, and performed with several other Valley Choruses, including the Phoenicians, the

East Valley Harmonizers, and the Desert Aires, and featured Quartet, Newfangled Four, which brought the audience to its feet. The finale included former and current Phoenician Chorus members singing a few classics.

Capping off a busy quarter, the **Syndicate** produced its 3rd Annual Spring Show, entitled "Syndicate Goes the Distance". The greatly enjoyed performance was held at the Mesa Center for the Performing Arts.

A Cappella Syndicate won the Arizona Division Chorus Contest; this represents three consecutive years of victory at this event. The Chorus is grateful to have received regular coaching from Harmony International Performance Category Director and BHS Performance Candidate Theresa Weatherbee, who continues to offer her expertise in a number of our rehearsal sessions.

Sedona Chapter

Michael McCaffrey

Sedona's Barbershop Chorus, **Harmony on the Rocks**, hosted a free guest night on January 19. Guests were treated to a mini concert and then were encouraged to learn a new song along with the Chorus. Not only did the guests enjoy contributing to the melding of all four parts but the exercise also resulted in the addition of two new members to the Lead and Baritone sections of the Chorus. Welcome **Larry Parker** and **Glenn Snyder**.

In our ongoing relationship with the Sedona Red Rock High School music program, the Chorus engaged

in another mini concert and a question and answer session with the students. This relationship is also entering a new phase with the engagement of **Courtney Yeates**, the Musical Director at the high school, in defining new ways the Chorus can better contribute to the program.

The Chorus was also asked to sing at a memorial service for one of the members of the Church of the Red Rocks.

And on a final note (intentional), the chorus named its 2017 Barbershopper of the Year, Bass **Michael Steele**. Congratulations Michael.

Tucson Chapter

Frank Hartline

2018 has seen many significant events so far for the Tucson Sunshine Chapter. Chorus Director **Danny Ryan** resigned to pursue a career in law enforcement. Deputy Director **Gil Storms** stepped up to

conduct the Chorus for our Green Valley and Annual shows. Our March 3 production *On the Road* featured guest Quartets Storm Front and The Newfangled Four and was a rousing success - with over 30 singers on the risers. Assistant Directors **Mike Vo** and **Tony Spar** directed the Chorus during the Arizona Division competition and qualified the **Tucson Barbershop eXperience** for the Far Western District competition in the Fall.

We are currently seeking an experienced Barbershop Director while sending both Mike and Tony to Harmony University Directors College in July. During the summer the Chorus will sing in local churches for choirs who are taking the summer off, as well as doing shows at a local mall and on Memorial Day. The Chorus grew in membership slightly during the past year and hopes to continue to recruit to have an even larger group for the annual show and Christmas concerts.

White Mountains Chapter

Doc Dockendorf

The biggest news from the **High Country Chorus** is that we have finally found a replacement Director for **Doc Dockendorf**. Her name is **Dr. Theresa Dick**, who is Music and Arts teacher at Blue Ridge High School. She is an accomplished violinist, having sat first chair in the White Mountains Symphony Orchestra, and then was conductor for many years. Her choirs have appeared on our Christmas Shows for years, and consistently win top awards at school competitions. She is excited about directing Barbershop and is looking forward to attending HU this year on a Front Line Director Scholarship. With her connection to young singers, she has started bringing some of her students to rehearsals. How refreshing this is.

Meanwhile, Doc is looking forward to singing Bass and enjoying his Director Emeritus title!

Northeast Division

Roger Perkins • Division Editor

California Delta Chapter

Jim DeChaine

VoCal will have the privilege of representing the Northeast Division at the District Convention in October, with its success at winning the Division competition in April with a score of 78.8. We had 47 members participating on stage,

the largest Chorus in competition from Northern California. VoCal also hosted the NE/NW Contest at the Allen E. Jones Performing Arts Center, Liberty High School in Brentwood. We were delighted in being selected as the Most Improved Chorus for the Northeast Division for 2018. VoCal had a notable 16 members participating in 7 of the 15

Quartets competing. Capital Ring (**Dallas Halvorson, Larry Halvorson, Kevin Palmer, Mike Stewart**) was the top Quartet from VoCal. Other VoCal members who sang in Quartets were **Phil DeBar, Jim DeChaine, Paul Goldsmith, Richard Kaiser, Corley Phillips, Dan Wilson, Blair Reynolds, Richard Lund, Tim Martin, Dave Wallace, Steve**

Leipelt and Bruce Sellnow. Artistic License was the mike tester for the Quartet Contest (**Gabe Caretto, Rich Brunner, Jason Dyer, Julian Kusnadi**). Richard Lund served as the Convention Chairman and **Jason Dyer** served as the Chorus Contest Master of Ceremonies.

Bruce Sellnow received the prestigious FWD Hall of Fame Award at the March 17 International Prelims Contest. Bruce was honored for his many years of dedication to his Chapters, directing, etc. and especially his more than 20 years heading up the High School Quartet Contest.

We welcomed three new members this quarter:

Brandon Youngblood, Lead, age 32, from Stockton, teaches Psychology at Sacramento City College and San Joaquin Delta College. Brandon discovered Barbershop in high school, attended a Youth Harmony, was instrumental in forming the Northeastern District Youth Workshop Chorus in 2013.

Anthony Miller, Bass, age 16, from Antelope, attends high school at Antelope High School. Anthony started singing in an elementary school choir and continues to sing with his high school choir. He went to Barbershop camp twice and recently sang with the Sounds of the Sierra VoCal Youth Chorus at Midwinter.

Erique Bishop, Lead, age 19, from Elk Grove, started singing at age 3 in church. Music has been his whole life and has actually saved his life. He would not be alive without music. He also recently sang with the Sounds of the Sierra VoCal Youth Chorus at Midwinter.

Central California Chapter

Miles Sutter

[Ed note: As we all know, Singing Valentines have unexpected circumstances <smile>]

Roe Darnell, Lead, **Bill Cale**, Tenor, **Marc Jantzen**, Bass, **Stratt Riggs**, Baritone delivered **Golden Valley Chorus** Singing Valentines. The four of us were having a great day. UNTIL - we came to our next-to-last Valengram, a last-minute add-on, and it was to be delivered to the Department of Motor Vehicles! Thoughts surged of long lines only to be greeted by a mountain of paperwork guarded by overworked clerks. As we walked up to the DMV we were greeted by a very long line of people, rocking from foot to foot, waiting to enter the door. With a chorus of "pardon me" and excuses we squeezed ourselves inside only to be greeted by a room full of people waiting for their turn at the counter. Steeling himself for a rebuttal Stratt stepped up to the desk and asked for Veronica. With a curt pointing of the finger toward the back of the building the clerk replied, "She's somewhere over there." Smiling at people who were wondering what kind of person would show up at the DMV in a tuxedo we made our way to the eye testing station and asked the tester to direct us to Veronica. She pointed to a clerk and identified her as Veronica. To put it mildly, the room was tense as we interrupted Veronica. We told her that Ron asked us to sing to her and suddenly everyone in the building became quiet. Coworkers pulled out cell phones and left their stations to watch. We sang as Veronica laughed and cried at

the same time. We were rewarded with resounding applause and the knowledge that we lifted the spirits of everyone in the building. (From **Roe Darnell**)

One of the Valengrams we were assigned was to an older lady living in a retirement apartment complex in Modesto. She had several daughters who pitched-in to wish their 95-year-old mother a Happy Valentine's Day. **Dave, Mike, Steve** and I showed up at the ladies fourth floor apartment. Workers were doing some major renovations in a neighboring apartment, creating quite a bit of noise. Add to that a radio they had blaring in the hallway. The scene was not conducive to singing a love song. I rapped on the lady's door numerous times. I listened very carefully for some indication a person was actually in the apartment. It was very hard to tell with the racket in the hall. I had already turned the radio off in an attempt to minimize the excessive sound. Finally, a hunched over, very physically limited lady answered the door. She was hard of hearing and couldn't really figure out why we were there. We gave her the card and a rose, along with a *Let Me Call You Sweetheart*. We took the picture, though her living quarters were small and very crowded, but we made it work. All the time this was going on, I kept thinking, "Someone needed to be here to help this lady while we did our thing." As we were about to cross the street heading back to the car, we noticed a middle-aged lady carrying a box of candy and balloons looking at us strangely. I asked if she was the daughter who had requested we sing for her mother. She said she was. Then she

asked if we had already been to her mother's room. We assured her we had. Her face turned dark, and she said, "That's messed up! You were supposed to be here at 10:00." My watch said 9:59 at that moment. Well, she wanted to video our singing and so forth, so she handed the money (COD) to one of the guys and stormed off. We discussed our dilemma and decided to go back up and sing another song ("Heart of My Heart"). The daughter was thrilled and the mother was smiling from ear-to-ear. It all turned out well, and everyone was pleased with the outcome.

(From Chuck Roots)

A note from our fellow Barbershopper, **Howard Barber**, living in Santa Cruz:

Our Granddaughter, Abby, is a last-year student at University of Oregon in "Nike Town", otherwise known as Eugene, Oregon. We were invited to an 80th birthday party for a fellow retired teacher from Merced, now living in Grants Pass. Abby lined up flights, an Uber ride and her own car to help us get from Santa Cruz to Grants Pass via Portland and Eugene. While in Eugene, I lined up a Valengram from the **Cascade Chorus** to be delivered to her at a great restaurant during our lunch. I asked the man in charge of the arrangements if I could be permitted to tap into the Quartet and finish the second song (*Let Me Call You Sweetheart*). Four men arrived in Tuxes, presented the flower and the card and then sang *Heart of My Heart*. The restaurant crowd loved it-cheers and applause! Then I tapped the Tenor out and finished the song with them. What a kick! Everyone went crazy and Abby was delighted that her elderly Grandpa

stole the show! Barbershopping got a good boost in Eugene. I even yelled: "Go, Ducks!"

The GVC hosted the FWD Novice Quartet Contest for the ninth time. One Mixed Voice Quartet from Stockton and five Men's Quartets competed. **Ron Russell, Pete Sust, Bill Gates, Darrel Bright, Scott Hutchinson, Stratt Riggs, Dave Wallace, Bill Gates, Grady Williams, Roe Darnell** and **Bruce Sellnow** handled all the arrangements. The MC was our own **Bill Cale**.

Winners were: Mixed Voices Quartet **MIXED META 4** from the Stockton Chapter. The Men's Quartet ranking was 3- **EASY WINNERS**, 2- **THE ATRIA QUARTET**, and the Men's Novice Contest Quartet Champion was **FLAGSHIP**.

The GVC again performed the National Anthem at the opening day baseball game for the Modesto Nuts. Eighteen singers braved the night air to perform.

GEORGE D. TALLMAN NOVEMBER 3, 1921 - APRIL 2, 2018

George D. Tallman passed away peacefully at the age of 96 with his loving wife by his side. In 1950 they moved to Turlock where he started his first job as Superintendent of the Daily Journal where he worked for more than 20 years. He had a lifelong passion for choral music. He was a charter member of the Golden Valley Barbershop Chorus, and received the 2001 BOTY award. He is survived by his wife, **Arlene**, of more than 71 years.

Folsom Chapter Doug Vestal

The **Atria Quartet** took second place in the NorCal Novice Quartet Contest. All four are members of the **Folsom Harmony Express**, but two are also members of the **Nevada Placer Sierranaders**. Quartet members are **Roger Perkins** (Tenor), **Kent Borrowdale** (Lead), **Ken Potter** (Bari) and **Doug Vestal** (Bass). Roger and Ken are also N-P Chapter members.

The Folsom Chorus and Quartets under the direction of **Kent Borrowdale** sang once again at The Atria, a senior living home in Carmichael. The theme was **Time To Go Camping** with songs like *Down By the Old Mill Stream* and *In the Evening By the Moonlight*. **Roger Perkins** sang *Ghost Riders in the Sky* with the Chorus backing him up. The Atria Quartet sang *Lida Rose* with **Jan Vecchio** performing as Maid Marion from *The Music Man*. Jan has been a professional singer and performed with the Folsom Harmony Express on several shows.

Nevada Placer Chapter Roger Perkins

The **Atria Quartet** finished second place in the NorCal Novice Quartet Contest held in Ripon on March 3. Although all are members of the **Folsom Harmony Express**, two are dual with the **Nevada Placer Sierranaders**. Quartet members are Tenor **Roger Perkins**, Lead **Kent Borrowdale**, Bari **Ken Potter** and Bass **Doug Vestal**. Roger and Ken are the dual N-P Chapter members. The Atria Quartet also competed in the N/E Division Contest in Brentwood on April 14. They didn't win!



Northwest Division

Don Shively • Division Editor



Palo Alto/Mountain View Chapter

Larry Valencia

The Peninsulaires Chorus would like to thank all of the past members who joined us on our 70th Anniversary Show on March 10 at San Jose City College. Special thanks to **Hi Fidelity Quartet** for stepping in on very short notice as our Featured Quartet, due to a medical issue that had afflicted one of **The Velvet Frogs** members. The show and afterglow were awesome! I must also mention that using our new risers for the first time at a performance was so cool. Thank you to those that donated to our Riser Fund Raiser last year.

We welcome new members **Terry Blumenthal, Daniel Gollohan, Adam Donovan and John Thomas**. Congratulations to our Director, Sean Abel, on his well-earned new title. We can't call him "Doctor Abel" just yet, but we all will be doing so real soon.

Our joint benefit performance with **Voices In Harmony** at Evergreen College, San Jose, raised money and canned goods for the local Food Bank.

Our Annual Vocal Clinic is underway and we expect that this event will attract a few more candidates to our Chorus.

I gotta express my gratitude to my fellow Peninsulaires for assisting me with our new storage shed project. We got 'er built, finally, and now have ample room for all of our stuff.

San Mateo County Chapter;

Tom Addison

The Faultline Chorus happily welcomed **Tony Irwin, Shaun Collins, Lance Mangano and Bill Nott** to our group. We continue to welcome guests and new members who have found us via "Meet Up", the average age of whom are about half of our mean. It is a neat application that is worth investigating if you are looking to add youth to your Chapter.

Director **Cort Bender** has us hard at work learning new songs for our upcoming show *Jukebox Saturday Night*, featuring songs from Doo Wop to Motown.

New officers installed in January included President **Ed Sterbence**; Vice President of Music and Performance **David Hochron**; Secretary **Rich Alger**; Vice President of Chapter Development **Jeff Cleary**; and Treasurer **Pete Wanger**.

FYI:

Top 30 2018 International Quartet Preliminary Scores

1 Signature	SUN	92.0
2 After Hours	ILL	90.0
3 Throwback	SUN	89.7
4 Category 4	DIX	87.3
5 Quorum	JAD	87.0
6 The Newfangled Four FWD 85.4		
7 Artistic License	FWD	85.2
8 Pratt Street Power	MAD	84.5
9 Rooftop Records	SUN	84.3
10 Clutch	SWD	83.7
11 Flipside	EVG	83.4
12 The Core	JAD	83.3
13 Gimme Four	MAD	82.1
14 Maelstrom	RMD	81.9
15 Suit Up!	FWD	81.7
16 Midnight Croon	LOL	81.6
17 Studio 4	MAD	81.5
18 Late Shift	CAR	81.3
19 Frontier	PIO	80.8
20 Harmonium	CSD	80.2
21 Boom Town	CSD	79.8
22 Route 1	MAD	79.3
23 Up All Night	MAD	78.7
24 Playback	ONT	78.6
24 Vocality	LOL	78.6
26 Supertonic	ONT	78.5
26 Showpiece	SWD	78.5
28 Rhapsody	SWD	78.5
29 Second Wind	RMD	77.9
30 The Simple Life	SUN	77.8

FWD Q Order Of Appearance

- 7/3 S1 18th The Newfangled Four
- 7/4 S3 37th Suit Up!
- 7/4 S3 43rd Artistic License



Southeast Division

Greg Price • Division Editor



Inland Empire Chapter

Gaylord Spence

The **Inland Empire Chapter** is setting some new precedents in the way it learns and selects its contest music. In the past, we took a brief 2-week sabbatical during the Holidays and, during that time, our Director and the VP of Music would select one new song to replace one in our current contest repertoire. This method left little time to bring a new song up to contestable standards, particularly when we have an early Division Contest in March.

New VP of Music **Gary Smith** instituted a new system whereby a number of new songs are selected and learned after the Division Contest cycle. These songs are designed to keep our repertoire fresh for our August Chapter Shows, and also allow us a longer span to select a song from that group to integrating into the following year's Division Contest repertoire. The Chapter is in full agreement with this method and expects to raise our contest scores with its future implementation. Singing better is always more fun, and by the use of Gary's method we hope to increase the "Fun Factor" for the Inland Sound.

Las Vegas Chapter

Peter Feeney

The **Silver Statesmen** had a very busy spring under the leadership of new president **Kenny Rios** and the continued skillful direction of director **Jim Halvorson** and the music team. The Chorus earned the 2018 Far Western District Southeast Division Championship (Plateau AA) in Irvine, California. In addition, the Chorus was named the Most Improved Chorus.

The Chapter had a very busy Valentine's Day. The day was highlighted by appearances on local television (**Broadcast Quartet** and **Good Times**) and visits to homes and offices to deliver songs and flowers.

The Chorus and Chapter Quartets prepared for the Spring Show at UNLV's Doc Rando Recital Hall in May together with the **Color Country Chorus** from the St. George, Utah Chapter.

On Saturday April 28 the Chorus and Chapter Quartets were joined by the Sweet Adelines **Lady Luck Showtime Chorus** to entertain the parents and children of military families at the annual "Spring Fling" sponsored by the Army National Guard in Las Vegas. Silver Statesmen Quartets **4 Ever Yours**, **Cross City Harmonizers** (District High School Quartet Champions),

Old Folks Quartet, and **Good Times** performed. From Lady Luck, the 2017 Regional Quartet Champions **Ringin' Again** performed.

Correction: In the Spring Digest I identified the installing officer at our board installation dinner, **Linda Kelly**, incorrectly. Linda is the director of the Lady Luck Showtime Chorus.

Palomar-Pacific Chapter

Tom Redler

Our 64th Annual Installation Dinner was held at the Green Dragon Tavern and Museum in Carlsbad. Newly elected officers are: President **Joseph Quince**; Secretary-Treasurer **Alex Termulo**; VP Chapter Development **Scott Higgins**; VP Music and Performance **Charlie Wendt**; VP Marketing and Public Relations **Tom Redler**; and Director-at-Large **Bill Colburn**. Liaison with the Society is **Roger Hufferd**. We were honored to have Far Western District President **Craig Hughes** as installing officer. Highlight of the evening came when President Quince announced that the newly appointed Director of our Music Men Chorus is long time Barbershopper, **David Garstang**! David was introduced to Barbershop singing as a young boy. His father, a longtime member and officer in the Society, took David to

a Chapter meeting when he was just 14 years old. David joined the El Cajon Music Masters that same year, and has been hooked ever since. He sang with **The Grand Tradition** that won the 1978 FWD Quartet Championship. They went on to win International medals in 1980, 82, and 83. He won a second FWD Quartet Championship in 1994 with the **Western Union** Quartet. He still sings with the **Behind the Barn** Quartet in his "spare" time. When he heard that we were looking for a director to replace the popular **Arthur Sauls**, who had to leave in order to pursue a degree in music in Fullerton, David remembered how his father always admired our **Music Men** Chorus and decided to apply. It was a match made in heaven, and David has already inspired the Chorus to reach new musical heights. We had a very successful Valentine season with three Quartets visiting

numerous homes, senior centers, and businesses presenting the standard "Singing Valentines." Next, he brought us back to competition after an absence of four years. We entered the SE Division Chorus Competition at the Far Western Division Spring Convention in Irvine in March. We achieved our goal of finishing in the 60s, and had a wonderful experience. As David has so proudly announced: **PAL PAC is BACK!!**

San Diego Chapter
Greg Price

Our Singing Valentines program was one of the highlights of our year. Several Quartets participated throughout the day and evening making memories for the recipients and singers alike. Many thanks to **Craig Hughes** for once again stepping up to coordinate the very successful event, which raises significant funds

for the Chapter treasury.

The Chorus competed at the SE Division Contest held in conjunction with the FWD Spring Convention in Irvine CA. We qualified to compete at the Fall Convention in Fresno in October. The Chorus put on a pop-up concert in downtown San Diego at Horton Plaza both in and outside the many stores in the center, to the delight of surprised customers.

A week later, Chapter Quartets **Behind the Barn**, **Quad Squad** and **Tectonics** performed on three successive days in Chula Vista at the opening festivities for an innovative non-profit Alzheimer's day care center. The facility features a life-sized 1950s town square complete with stores (including a barber shop), a library and a museum, all housed within the walls of an existing warehouse.

Southwest Division

Justin McQueen • Division Editor



Rincon Beach
Brent Anderson

After a late start to the year's agendas due to the horrible Montecito mudslides, the Rincon Beach Chapter resumed musical activities. Director, **Mike McGee** is seeking to replace most of the tunes we've been singing so the Chapter members are working

on new music and also improving singing skills.

The March Contest was satisfying with Rincon repeating as the **Southwestern Division Chorus Champions** and also being named the **Plateau AA champs**.

The Chorus performed for the second year in a row at the Ventura

City Eco-Fest celebrating Earth Day. Joining the Chorus were Chapter Quartets, **The Rincon Rovers** (**Lu Hintz, Bill Edmonds, Mike Murphy, Ed Fuller**), and a new, as-yet-unnamed Quartet with **Joel Levitz, Bobby Georges, Doug VanBogelen and Brent Anderson**. For now, they are **Quartet du Jour**, which for those of you who speak French understand that is defined as, "any

three people who will sing with **Brent Anderson...**"

The Chorus welcomed new members **Russell Rawls, Tony Korianitis** and **Jay Shapiro** to the ranks. **Steve Herman** passed his auditions and is in the process of joining. **Jay Pryor** rejoined the Chorus after a hiatus of a few years, and **Jim Fisk**, also a former member, is in the process of requalification and rejoining.

The Chorus was joined by the **Channelaire SAI Chorus** from Camarillo area, and our Chapter Quartets including the **Acetones for a show in Ventura**. The **Acetones** are special in that they are three very smart, PhD candidates in Materials Science at UCSB...and one old guy. **Garth Ratliff** is the old guy and **Tom Cristiani, Chris Freeze and Tobias Brown-Heft** are the soon-to-be-PhD's. Sadly, all three students will be leaving the area soon and it's our hope they will stay with Barbershop as all three have great voices and much to give and receive from a lifetime of Barbershop singing.

San Fernando Valley Chapter

Ben Marder

The **Valley Harmony Singers** performed our Spring Show entitled *Spring Fling*. We featured Jin: Mystifier and Magician along with the Chorus and Quartets.

We did not compete in the District. Like so many other Choruses in the Far Western District, we are having a difficult time attracting young new members. We do have one exception. He is a young Tenor. He

goes to the same church as one of our members. Instead of competing, we are working on improving every aspect of our vocal production with the help of Director **Tom Raffety** and our Assistant Director **Jeffery Bunch**.

For the past several years the Valley Harmony Singers participated in a one-hour Memorial Service at Valley Oaks Memorial Park. This service always had special meaning to several veterans in our Chorus.

Several of our past members are now singing in the wonderful world-renowned Masters of Harmony Chorus.

Santa Fe Springs Chapter

Ron Larson

Ed note: Placed as a Feature article.

Santa Maria Chapter

Eugene Kai

The **Central Coast Chordsmen** of Santa Maria, CA with Chapter Quartets conducted their 46th annual show *It's all About the Girls* and the **Tri-City Sound Sweet Adelines Chorus** graced our stage with two of their Quartets. The Tuesday following the show will be a special guest night.

The Chapter is working on increasing the membership through several different venues and hoping for success. We mourn the passing of wives of two of our Chapter members in the month of April. These wives have been active for many years at our shows and functions and will be greatly missed.

Santa Monica Chapter

Marty Mitnick

Valentine's Day was spent spreading love and good wishes to over 60 happy recipients. Our Quartets traveled far and wide under the management of **David and Eileen Erickson** who were able to schedule each and every order.

The **Oceanaires** were again invited to sing the National Anthem at the Sub-Hub Stadium for a Galaxy Soccer game.

Barbershoppers of the Month were recognized for their untiring efforts in performing those actions which are required to keep an organization running smoothly: for November: **David Livingston**; December: **Bruce Schröffel**; January and February: **David and Eileen Erickson**.

We warmly welcome our newest members: **Ken Fox, Jeremy Loper** and **Chris Truman**.

FYI

Two FWD Choruses Compete in 2018 International Chorus Contest in Orlando, FL

Contest starts 10AM EDT

Order of Appearance

7/6 8th Barbary Coast
Fog City Singers

7/6 9th Westminster
The Westmnster Chorus

Westminster International
Medal Record
2007 1st
2010 1st
2013 2nd
2015 1st

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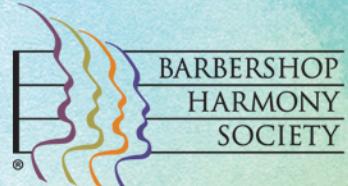
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The demand to participate in Barbershop Harmony Society singing programs for all ages is great, yet some do not have the means to join us. Through your generous support, we can provide the funding needed to enrich more lives today while ensuring longevity for this cherished art form.

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Events

DISTRICT CALENDAR

View the official Far Western District Calendar at farwesterndistrict.org/events/calendar

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

- **July 1-8, 2018** BHS International Convention, Orlando, FL
- **October 11-14, 2018** FWD Fall Convention, Fresno, CA

For an extended list of conventions, visit farwesterndistrict.org/events/conventions

EVENTS REGISTRATION

Register for FWD Conventions at events.farwesterndistrict.org

Register for BHS Conventions at www.barbershop.org

Sunshine

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

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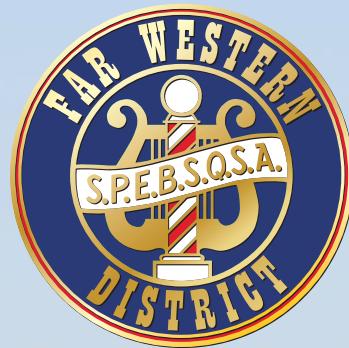
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