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WESTUNES

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Far Western District Association of Chapters in the Barbershop Harmony Society



**2014 Far Western District President
Allan Webb**

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Acronyms

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

Featured Articles



District President
Allan Webb

Welcome to 2014! With the new year comes a new FWD President (yours truly), and I'm looking forward to executing on the important work we have in front of us this year.

If you have not already done so, be sure to read CEO Marty Monson's article in the January/February edition of the Harmonizer. There have been some substantial changes in the Society Aims for 2014 which align them with the results of the 2011 Chapter Visitation Surveys. The focus is on addressing the issues most often cited by our Chapters in that survey.

As of this writing, we also just completed the International Midwinter Convention in Long Beach, CA. What an amazing event! Major kudos to the South Bay Chapter and their volunteers for doing a huge job hosting this convention. The Youth Chorus Festival showcased a ton of talent (including eight youth choruses from the Far Western District). From the opening party on the Queen Mary, to the Friday and Saturday shows featuring our Top 5 International Medalists as well as the **Masters of Harmony** and **Westminster**, to the Senior Quartet Contest (and our great new Senior Champions **Faces For Radio**), it was a weekend not to be forgotten. We even had a couple of reunion performances by our 1998 International Champions **Revival**.

The District Presidents Council and Society Board held both separate and joint meetings at Midwinter, along with CEO Marty Monson, Harmony Foundation CEO Clarke Caldwell and HF Director of Development Ryan Killeen. A number of good ideas and future direction came from those discussions, some of which are short term and some longer term, but rest assured that Marty is a dynamic leader with a lot of vision for what the Society can be and concrete plans on how to get us there. The District board will

be discussing how the Far Western District Association of Chapters can help advance the Society Aims, and Marty's vision, at our board meeting in March, and hope to have some recommendations for the HOD at that time.

Publication of this issue of the Westunes is March 1, only a few weeks prior to the combined District Spring-Southeast-Southwest convention in Riverside, hosted by the Brea Chapter. That's shaping up to be a great event, too, so if you haven't gotten your registration yet, now is the time! Details are on the FWD Website:

<http://www.farwesterndistrict.org/news/conventions>

Speaking of conventions, there is also a general convention survey on the website which I'd like to ask all of you to take as soon as possible. It's fairly short (probably less than 5 minutes), but represents an opportunity for the District leadership to get feedback, particularly from those who don't currently go to conventions. We want to find out the reasons why some Far Western District members choose not to attend, and try to make the convention experience a great value proposition. The survey is on the District website here:

<http://www.farwesterndistrict.org/news/convention-survey>

That's all for now, because this is becoming quite the wall of text. I'll save a few things for the next Westunes and for when I see you all in Riverside in March.

"Together, Making The Music That's Making A Difference"



Executive Vice President
Gordon Berghold

As I move into this new, exciting and challenging position on the Board I'm looking forward to working with a talented group of individuals who have dedicated so much of their personal time to serving the Far Western District (FWD). The most challenging

part of the position is assisting the President, Allan Webb in a support role and being available to the district management team when needed.

Yes, I'll be the "go to guy" for many important leaders in our district and that in itself can be a real important role as I learn more about the inner circle and how things really work with the district and society leadership teams.

Emphasis and focus will continue to be on recruitment/retention; increased communication with district and society staff and officers; coaching help for chapters in both musical and administrative areas; assisting chapters to plan, share and implement activities with other chapters; and modernizing the music and arrangements available through the Society. This may sound repetitive, and it is because we want our FWD chapters to know that we're here to serve them in any way requested.

The Society leadership met in Long Beach during the Midwinter convention and reiterated that they work for the membership and they want to do everything possible to improve communications by assisting the district leadership in keeping the most open dialogue possible so that we can disseminate information to the chapters in an expeditious manner. The BHS has many exciting things planned for the coming year and we intend to let the district chapters know about these plans as soon as they are ready for implementation. Marty Monson, CEO/Executive Director, continues his upbeat manner again stating, "Together, making music that's making a difference".

Shannon Elswick, the Society President, states in the latest Harmonizer that we are an organization of volunteers who share a strong sense of purpose. By volunteering for just one more thing this year we can increase the synergy of the society manyfold. Let's try to do just that in the next 11 months. Who knows what may happen!

I'll have a lot more to say after I've been introduced to the up tempo style that Marty and Shannon are

stressing. But for now, we've got the talking part done and we need to "Walk the Talk".



***District Vice President 1 SW
Neil Pennywitt***

No article this issue.



***District Vice President 2 SE
Craig Hughes***

I am pleased to start my third year as your Southeast Division Vice President. The job has its challenges and rewards. The biggest reward by far is meeting as many Division members as possible. I was honored to install several chapters' officers this year. We have great teams in place to prosper in 2014. The Southeast sets the standard in all areas of Barbershop Harmony. Our men and women are the best in the Society. Thank you for all you do.

A new year is a time for goal setting and review. I suggest three areas of focus are: Improve, Grow, and Have Fun. There are many ways to address these and the methods are unique to every Chapter.

Let's review 2013.

- Improve:
 - Performance: There is great singing in the Southeast. We are the home of Champions!
 - We had seven choruses qualify and compete at District. Three placed in the Top Ten (**La Jolla**, **Brea**, and **Las Vegas**). **Westminster** saved its 2013 competition for the International stage and won Silver. They were two points out of First – a 0.06% margin. Their performance and class is consistently tremendous.
 - Our quartets are the best. **The Newfangled Four** (SE Division Champion) won the International College Contest and **95 North** (previous SE Division Champion) competed in its first

International Contest. **Masterpiece** from the SE Division won it all. The 2013 Quartet Champions!

- Chapter Administration: We had 11 chapters attend Leadership Academy last year. A good showing but we can do better. There is always something we can improve for the chapter, e.g. some chapters have not updated their leaders in ebiz. This is an easy one for the Secretary.
- Grow: As of January 31, 2014 we are up 14 members over prior year-to-date. Most Chapters are holding steady. Kudos to the **Brea Chapter** for recognition as a “**Harold Hill Diamond Plateau Winner**”. They were one of just seven awarded by the Society for growth and achievement during the Harold Hill campaign.
- Have Fun: I had a great time in 2013. How about you? Fun is a personal thing and our chapters seem to have a handle on it. Our 75th Anniversary gave us an opportunity to share the joy with the community and fellow Barbershoppers. There are many definitions of fun so please find yours and enjoy the harmony.

Let's look at some ideas for 2014.

- Improve:
 - Performance:
 - We have great Directors and amazing coaches in the Far Western District. Take advantage of our coaching programs and consider competing this year. Sing for score or evaluation only. It is a valuable performance goal and way to measure your achievement. It is also a lot of fun.
 - Quartet – Quartet – Quartet. It's the cornerstone of our hobby and the best way to improve individually. One fun opportunity is to participate in a Harmony Platoon or Brigade event.
 - Education: Online and at Harmony University and Harmony College. There is great stuff out there.
 - Chapter Administration: Take advantage of the educational offerings given by the District and Society. Online and at events. Please send you team to the District Leadership Academy this year and use the District Leadership Team throughout the year.
- Grow: Our numbers are up but . . .

- The “dark side” of the over-prior-year numbers is 65 past due members. These men are anywhere from 30 to 180 days past due. This is a huge number and impacts everything we do. Please reach out and renew these members. Encourage the auto-renewal option so your members have the convenience of singing without the hassle of remembering to renew.
- Better singing and more compelling chapter meetings that meet your goals are keys to growth and retention.
- Have Fun: This is the year to enhance your experiences with amazing “local” events.
 - **Brea** is hosting our 2014 Spring Convention at the historic Fox Theater in Riverside California. It will be an event to remember and include the International Quartet Prelims. Mark your calendars for March 20-23 for the best Spring District Convention in the Society as evidenced by Lodi 2013.
 - Both International Conventions are in our neighborhood this year. Midwinter was in Long Beach, January 28 – February 2, and International in **Las Vegas**, June 29 – July 6. Don't miss this opportunity to *drive* to International.
 - Be sure to visit the Westunes Chapter Reports and see all the fun things they have been doing this fall and consider joining a quartet if you haven't already. There is a special bond in Quartet you seldom experience elsewhere.

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



District Vice President 3 NW
Chuck Leavitt

My wife Lynn and I are at the BHS Midwinter convention as I wrap up this article. What a terrific event! From the Queen Mary Party on Thursday, to the **Westminster** performance at the end of the Show of Champions on Saturday night, it was fantastic. The Youth Chorus Festival gets better and better. I am so proud of all of our FWD youth choruses. Congratulations also to senior quartets

Velvet Frogs (3) and **Joint Venture** (28) for representing the FWD so well.

We were in the midst of planning the 2013 NorCal Leadership Academy when I wrote my last Westunes article. The facilities at McGeorge Law School in Sacramento were perfect for our needs and the interactive emphasis in all the classes matched well with the excellent faculty. FWD Dean Craig Hughes and associate dean for NorCal, Richard Lund, put together a program that was a real step up in chapter leadership training. Every new chapter officer should attend in fall 2014. If you are an experienced chapter leader, plan on attending at least every couple of years to share your experience and get energized. We will all get better.

One of our FWD goals this year is to revitalize our chapter coaching program including musical coaching. Did you know that the district will pay half the travel expenses of your coach up to \$150? A chapter can do this twice a year or until the funds run out - which hasn't happened. You can find the chorus coaching reimbursement form in the documents section of the FWD website. The procedure is on the form. We are also in the process of updating and posting a list of available coaches. We want to create a Web-based tool that will help your chapter music team find and schedule the right coach for the right time to meet your needs. We are also seriously considering other significant music coaching options and opportunities for chapters – stay tuned.

Another goal is to increase the number of high school quartets participating in the HS Contest. The contest is held at the FWD Spring convention. It would be great if every chapter could sponsor a quartet. In fact it is a good time for chapters to start working with your local high schools to find a way to help bring music back to school – no strings attached.

The FWD Spring Convention is Mar 20-23 in Riverside. The **Gas Light Chorus** is hosting and they have all the pieces in place for an outstanding convention. The House of Delegates meeting is on Friday Mar 21 at 1:30 PM – I hope your chapter will

be represented. I know at least one High School Quartet from our division will compete in the HS contest on Saturday afternoon. The Int'l quartet qualifying finals are Saturday night and I'm already excited to find out which quartets will represent FWD in Las Vegas this summer.

I hope your chapter and quartet is planning to compete in the 2014 NE/NW Division Contests at the Hutchins Street Square in Lodi on May 17, 2014. The Stockton Chapter is hosting this year. We were at the Hutchins Street venue last year for Int'l Prelims and the combined NorCal division contests and it worked out very well. With a year to absorb all the lessons learned, I expect this convention to be outstanding.



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

Patsy and I were down in Long Beach at Midwinter and WOW! What an awe inspiring four days. From the youth chorus performances, to the Seniors Quartet Contest, to the Friday night show with **Masters of Harmony**, to the Saturday night show with **Westminster** - and performances by the five 2013 international medalists, the boys were exposed to the magic of barbershop. The talent and commitment of those in the FWD was nothing short of spectacular. Witnessing the interaction of Justin Miller and **Westminster** members with the young men the entire weekend will indeed change lives. What an inspiring weekend! What a marvelous jumble of great memories.

Among the memories is John Miller's keynote address that you can find here: <http://barbershopconvention.com/john-miller-delivers-keynote> PLEASE!! Watch it. You will be uplifted!

One of the wonderful concepts that I came away with was Marty Monson's message that we expand our focus on youth to a broader more encompassing focus on "outreach" to men (and women) of all ages. We want to focus on reaching folks at every station in life with the message of how music, and particularly barbershop music, can literally change lives – for the better.

We see that with the FWD Harmony Camp!! The young men who “bring their dads” almost invariably impact the dads as much as the boys as far as barbershop harmony and more specifically, barbershop culture and barbershop friendliness. When a dad comes along with his son, there is at least as much impact on him as on the son. We have numerous examples of this through the years of dads joining their nearby chapters and loving it because of joining their sons at Harmony Camp!!

I welcome the subtle shift of focus by the Society from a total focus on youth to a broader target including dads and moms that is palpable and welcome. There is also a clear and welcome shift toward facilitating communication between Nashville and the Districts of the Barbershop Harmony Society. I am certain Board Members of the FWD will be communicating this information to chapter members.

It is so hard to describe the feelings that I felt on Saturday night especially at the end when Justin Miller brought all of the Youth Chorus boys seated in the balcony (huge group of boys), together with **Westminster** to sing “Sound Celebration”. His masterful conducting of that huge group of young men was amazing! And so well done as to bring tears to my eyes!

Invariably, when I go to Midwinter, I come away with an ever stronger commitment to barbershop, the youth movement, and a feeling that we are in “good hands” with respect to the present and the future. However, each of us needs to commit to sharing our hobby with others – audience and potential members.

Finally, I urge you to take greater advantage of the opportunities that are provided by our Society for your enjoyment and education, most exemplified by International Conventions, by Harmony University and Harmony College West, and Leadership Academy. Plan to participate in the NW / NE Division contest in Lodi March 17. NE Division, let’s strive for 100% participation of chapters.

And oh, by the way, you should consider coming to Harmony University as your first stop along the way toward greater involvement. And if you do that, please consider the Honors Chorus of which I am a frequent member, and will be again this year with Doug Harrington as our “top of the line” director. Singing with these fabulous directors for a week is an experience for the ages! If you don’t recognize that name, Google him, along with the word barbershop. You’ll find he has something in common with **Ringmasters**.



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

The Arizona Division was very active so far this year!!!

AZ Division is ramping up for our Division Contest. Thanks to the events team headed by Randy Bingel for their efforts. As we approach summer the excitement will be building towards the Las Vegas Convention right here in the FWD (Las Vegas used to be part of the AZ Div)! I encourage everyone to attend the International Convention and Contest, and what a way to make this your **FIRST** one! The quartet and the chorus contests will be certain barn burners.

I just returned from the Midwinter Convention in Long Beach and want to take a moment to congratulate **Lori Lyford and her Chandler High School Men’s Choir** who competed in the Youth Harmony Festival! Great job representing our AZ Division so well, and I was proud to be able to address you on Friday morning. By the way, three of the members of the Chandler group are **Spirit Of Phoenix** members as well! Very Proud! On Saturday, our own **Joint Venture** competed in the Senior Contest and did a fantastic job! Congratulations on your first of many Senior Contest opportunities!!

I hope everyone takes advantage of Executive Director Monson’s initiative to help to increase our Society membership by taking the survey if it comes

your way. Get out and promote Barbershop singing to your local music educators at every opportunity.

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



CSLT Don Salz

The Care and Feeding of your Director

All our Directors are a treasure and critical to the success of a chapter.

One of the benefits of moving around as much as I have the last couple of years has been to sing for four of the top directors on the west coast: Jim Halvorson of Las Vegas, Gabe Caretto of California Delta, Ron Black formerly of Sacramento, and Donny Rose of Bellevue, WA. And their styles are completely different.

I compare Jim to the Dodger's Tommy Lasorda. He will talk to anyone (a lot), relates well to youth, and is a very funny man. At a recent rehearsal, he said, "Some of you are keeping your head in the same position regardless of where the note is. Others, if you tied a marker to your nose and sang in front of a white board, you could create a Picasso."

Gabe reminds me of the Seattle Seahawk's Pete Carroll and his over-the-top enthusiasm and ambition. His International-caliber chorus also puts on the best and most creative chapter shows I have ever been associated with. Gabe is football tough, too. His favorite words of encouragement are, "Don't suck!"

Like Socrates, who was the student of Plato and the teacher of Aristotle, Ron is a great teacher who never stops learning. His message is fresh, timeless, and limitless. Both the least and the most enlightened students benefit. While the answer to most of his questions is, simply enough, "More air," his teaching on "leading tones" gives me brain pain reminiscent of Metaphysics class in college.

Donny is gentle and inspirational in the fashion of Ghandi (or Yoda?). He sets high standards and it is the members who challenge themselves to meet them or take themselves off the risers, or out of a show or contest. I love this post prior to the last night of their recent membership drive:

The balance I am striving for myself and expect from all of NWS in this type of night is:

- upbeat, but demanding
- kind, but fussy
- overtly friendly and accepting
- quick pace to meet the needs of the intelligent men
- care about those who are lost, but don't teach to only the low
- I am in charge of only me, and that's plenty
- I will make connections with my music, with my body, with my brothers, and with my director. I need all four to make art.

- Donny Rose

So what can we do to nurture and nourish our Directors?

Board: Provide funds for purchase or creation of learning tracks for all chapter repertoire.

Program VP: Maximize rehearsal time by minimizing chapter business announcements. Encourage the Board and Chairmen to maximize use of Email, website, Doodle polls, and weekly handouts.

Section Leaders: Be pro-active. Consider sectionals before rehearsal or on off-nights – reinforcing the Director's vision and instructions.

Members: Spend time outside rehearsal learning your music as soon as you get it. Attend all rehearsals possible. Approach each song in rehearsal as a performance.



CDD Greg Lyne

Dear Directors and Chorus Singers of FWD,

I recently visited with a good friend who also happens to be a director of a FWD chorus. I mentioned the need to prepare a column for an upcoming Westunes publication and asked him what

he might recommend I share with directors/ singers of our District. He was quick to respond:

"Tell them that the directors and singers need be always involved in what might be called "basic training" - that is, developing and honing our skills both as directors or as singers." He then also stated that "singers need to know that the director is there to help the singer succeed."

Taking his nudge, the question, then, might be "are we working as closely (director and singers) with one another as we might?" Let's hope that we are. An essential part of rehearsal is drill. That means going over, replicating, repeating and establishing. Rehearsing does mean work and expenditure of effort. It needn't be drudgery but the effort must be jointly shared to help the music/singing get better.

There is a recreational aspect to singing in a barbershop chorus. It should be enjoyable and rewarding. Equally as important is the "re-creational" aspect where we "re-create" what lies on the music page - that is, everyone works together to solidify concepts and find ways to allow the music and singing principles to develop. It's a matter of discovering the essence of those musical symbols, the notes, rhythms, text, tempo, musical structure and finding ways to make the music come to life.

We have a wonderful and noble challenge before us! Let us continue to work closely together - directors and singers. When this happens, a better musical product and enhanced vocal ensemble can be the result. Let's go have some fun together!



DRCJ Ron Black

We have three conventions this Spring....

The International Quartet Preliminaries is combined with the Southwest and Southeast Division contests on March 21-22 in Riverside, CA. The venue for the contest is the recently renovated Fox Theater, 3801 Mission Inn Ave, Riverside, CA, 92501. The HQ hotel is the Hyatt Place

Riverside/Downtown, 3500 Market Street, Riverside, CA, 92507, (951) 321-3500. Also available is the Comfort Inn University Riverside, 1590 University Ave, Riverside, CA, 92507, (951) 683-6000. **Deadline for contest entry is February 21.**

The Arizona Division is May 2-3. The contest venue is the Skyline High School Auditorium, 845 S Crismon Rd, Mesa, AZ 85208. The hotel is the Country Inn & Suites, 6650 E Superstition Springs Blvd, Mesa, AZ 85206, (480) 641-8000. **Deadline for contest entry is April 5.**

The combined Northeast and Northwest Division contests are on May 17 at the same venue as last March, the Hutchins Street Square Performing Arts Center, 125 S. Hutchins St, Lodi, CA, 95240. The hotel is the Holiday Inn Express, 1337 E. Kettleman Lane, Lodi, 95240, (209) 210-0150. **Deadline for contest entry is April 19.**

Please plan to attend your Division Convention. There are new events and classes being offered, check out the registration pages elsewhere in this issue. And please note, if you plan to compete, here are the four "must do's":

- You must be a member of the Society
- You must be an a member of your FWD quartet or chorus
- Your quartet or chorus must be registered at the ebiz.barbershop.org site to compete*
- You must register for the convention

And you can go to the FWD Website Conventions page (<http://www.fwdconventions.org/>) to find out everything you need to know.

*The contest entry form (CJ-20) is filled in by you on the Society website. It is available for you to enter now. Go to here: <https://ebiz.barbershop.org>

Log in and go to Contest Entry. Compete! DO IT! You won't regret it.



E Ted Sayle

How exciting that the FWD is sending four choruses to Las Vegas for International in July! What do you think will happen to attendance in Las Vegas? Maybe the biggest in recent memory? Be sure to book your hotel and travel early. This promises to be the event of the decade.

Our Fall District convention/contest in Bakersfield last October turned out very well. As an added bonus, both the FWD and the Visalia chapter (Bakersfield host chapter) made a profit. It is rewarding that every event held in the FWD during 2013 turned a profit.....(losses do not benefit anyone).

As we look forward to a great experience in Riverside, Bryan Forbes and his great team from the Brea Gaslight chapter folks are working diligently to prepare for our arrival. The magnificent Hyatt Hotel will be excellent, and is just next door to the fabulous Fox Theater. Recently remodeled, this is one of the great performance venues in all of California. Don't miss it.

The Tucson chapter has stepped up to host the Arizona Spring Division contest in 2015, which is good news because they always do a fine job.

Likewise, the Stockton chapter under the capable leadership of president and convention chairman Al Wolter and his team, are preparing for Northwest and Northeast combined, back in Lodi, California. After last year's sellout at the Hutchinson theater, this will be another "must attend" event.

Our convention manuals have been updated, but still not combined into one as hoped. Work on this project is ongoing.

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

Northeast = Sam Barger

Northwest = Larry Weiss
Southeast = Paul Sandorf
Southwest = Jim Serhahely
Arizona = Randy Bing



M&PR Jerry McElfresh

I had an interesting and timely request last month from a member of one of our District chapters who had been asked by his chapter Board of Directors to take on the position of Vice President of Marketing and PR.

He said he had not done it before but he told the Board that he would consider the offer. He told me that he didn't want to do anything if it's not done well (which is a great attitude), then asked for my advice and counsel.

There is so much that we can do in the marketing and public relations job to promote our chapter; help to advertise and sell tickets to its performances, promote increased and continuing membership and to spread the word about the joy of singing and listening to Barbershop music, and it can be seen as a daunting task by someone who has never done it before.

I responded to the potential M&PR VP that I would try to give him some useful advice, but I'd tell him right away that my first suggestion would be to build a committee of 2, 3, 4 or more fellow members to help with the job and to not try to do it by himself.

That's not always easy to do but he could ask if anyone has had the job before, if anyone has worked in broadcast or online or print publications, done any work in advertising or public relations or been a successful salesman. The job takes all of those talents along with organizational and coordinative skills and it will be an easier one if there are people who can help. (In addition to being FWD's M&PR Chairman, I am the M&PR VP for my own chapter, and I've found that getting people to help with that job has really been helpful.)

Because the prospective M&PR VP probably missed the fall Leadership Academies held at three sites in the District he missed out on a lot of good ideas on how to be more effective in the job. Gordon Bergthold, current District EVP and former CSLT, and I facilitated discussion on Marketing at the Arizona Leadership Academy and did so by suggesting a few topics and then going around the table, getting suggestions from those in the job about what had worked for them and what had not as they tried to build public awareness of their chapter and Barbershopping.

I'll have more on that in the next issue of Westunes, but for now remember that getting help with the job is Rule Number 1, and Rule Number 2 is to never forget Rule Number 1.



Mem Serv Shelly Albaum

Grow That Chapter!

The more, the merrier -- that's what they say -- and it has never been more true than at a barbershop chapter!

You can have a lot of fun with 20 singers, but when there are 30 singers, the energy is five times greater. And with 40 singers, it's practically electric, there are so many different relationships, and the sound really fills the room!

By the time you have 50 singers, you'll start really believing in yourself -- not just that you can make great music, but that you can even make a big difference in your community.

In this column we're going to talk about how to take your chapter up that ladder by adding 10 singers this year. It's not rocket science, but we're going to change the focus from what you have often been told. We're going to take a bigger approach, that is faster, more effective, and more fun.

If you stop to think about it, it just doesn't make any sense. Our Society's music program is stronger than it has ever been. The quality of our champion quartets

and choruses has never been better. Our youth program is phenomenal.

And in the world around us, conditions for recruiting singers are outstanding. The mass media is popularizing a cappella singing, with national television shows like *The Sing Off*. Disneyland's Dapper Dans continue to charm millions. Meanwhile budget cuts that gut the arts in schools make our community singing programs more valuable than ever.

So why is the BHS half the size it was 30 years ago, instead of 10 times bigger?

The answer is painful to confront, but confront it we must: We have been doing something wrong, and we must start doing it differently.

So Membership VPs and Membership Teams in particular -- but all barbershoppers, too -- follow me and we will begin our journey toward growth.

We are going to actually do what I am told daily is impossible -- to grow the Barbershop Harmony Society up to 100,000+ members, where it belongs -- and more important, we are going to grow your chapter by 10 members right away, so you can start having way more fun than you have been having.

Along the way, we are going to explode some myths, and introduce some new organizing principles. We'll talk about different kinds of chapters, and which kind you should be. We are going to talk about what parts of the Harold Hill and SuperCharging programs actually work, and we will identify a few missing "secret ingredients" that will cause singers to almost magically appear at your chapter meeting.

You don't believe it? The Santa Rosa Redwood Chordsmen grew from 30 members to 60 members in less than three years. You can, too. Let's get started.

Step 1: We're going to publish full details here in the Westunes, and we'll be sending out PowerPoint shows, and monthly emails, and more. If you are a Membership VP, you will get this automatically. If

you are not a Membership VP and want to get it directly, contact me at albaum@gmail.com, and I'll make sure you are on the list.

Step 2: Let's talk about it. Find me at contests and conventions, and Harmony University, and Leadership Academy. Every chapter faces slightly different versions of the same challenges, and good frequent conversations will keep us on track. My job is to help you, and it's the best job I've ever had.

Step 3: There is no Step 3. Let's get started.

First we set our goals. I challenged you to get 10 new members this year, but I don't mean the kind of members that show up on the BHS roster. I mean the kind of members that show up at your weekly chorus rehearsal and sing.

So start by taking attendance each week and keep track of it in a notebook, or ideally in a spreadsheet. This is going to be your measure of success. In other words, 10 new members doesn't help if they only replace 10 members who moved, or got sick or quit. We want net gain.

Set the goal wherever you want, but a net gain of 10 makes a very tangible difference for all but the largest chapters, and that tangible difference is going to give you the energy to keep going. You'll need that energy, because what we're going to do is simple, but it isn't easy. It takes work. But it's worth it!

Next, we are going to destroy the myth that the primary job of the Membership Team is outreach. If you have been disappointed by the dozen different kinds of outreach proposed by the Harold Hill program -- Craigslist ads, Church Letters, I Sing Buttons, Letters to Former Members, Event Booths, etc. -- then you are ready to hear the truth.

I'm not criticizing the Harold Hill program -- I like it. We used it very successfully in Santa Rosa. But outreach is not your biggest problem. Outreach is not the first problem you need to tackle. And by itself, outreach accomplishes almost nothing.

Instead, we are going to start with the weekly chapter meeting itself. Is it an irresistibly fun experience for all members? Is it engaging for both advanced singers and beginners? Is it simultaneously welcoming and challenging? Does every member, every week, learn something, accomplish something, and experience a sense of fellowship?

If your meetings are like that, the rest of the program of attracting and retaining members is going to be very easy. If your meetings are not like that, then we have to change it, or else the rest is going to be unnecessarily difficult.

So go audit your next weekly chorus rehearsal. Watch to see who gets welcomed and who gets ignored. Count all the ways that guests are made to feel special and welcome. Check to see whether the newer singers are supported, or are they ignored by cliques?

Are there plenty of easy opportunities for good quartet singing, where you get that satisfying experience of ringing a really good chord -- so satisfying that you're guaranteed to come back next week? Or is that good quartet singing available only for the younger singers, or only for the more experienced singers? Is everyone wearing a name badge? Is there a weekly afterglow?

Look at the structure of your meetings: Are they fast-paced? Are the announcements tedious? Does your program feature a good mix of new tunes and familiar tunes? Does your repertoire include both barbershop standards as well as contemporary/popular numbers?

Does the chorus sound good enough for you to feel proud? Do you spend more time rehearsing stage moves than singing? Are you pounding the same two songs every week for contest? Does the director inspire the singers to be better, or mostly catch them on their errors? Does your program include singing games, like tag quartets or pickup quartet contests? Do you experience the larger barbershop world, either through video, or chapter visits, or by convincing members to attend other barbershop events, like shows and contests?

Does your chapter have a weekly (or at the very least, monthly) newsletter that documents what happens in the day-to-day of chapter life, and a photographer taking pictures of all the people and fun moments?

Are those photos shared in your newsletter, on Facebook, on your website, and via email?

Take a hard look -- write down your impressions -- and then we'll talk again.



Mu&P Nick Papageorge

No article this issue.

American Pastime Card

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QA Bill Kane

**Quartet Singing filled the air
in Long Beach**

Although there was some pretty fair chorus singing at the Midwinter Convention in Long Beach, you can imagine that I tuned in most to the quartets.

It was obviously a treat to hear our medalist quartets and our own champs **Masterpiece** and **New Fangled**

Four, and should-a-been champs 139th Street, but how much fun to hear our great FWD International champs **Revival** again. (BTW, as I write this, **Sidewinder** tenor Jerry Fairchild has had to go into Hospice. Emmett Bossing hopes we'll all pray for a miracle for Jerry. Many of you will remember that this is the 50-year anniversary of the **Sidewinder** championship win.)

Midwinter gave a couple of our FWD senior quartets a chance to compete on the International stage. I will always treasure the times I had that chance some decades ago. Congratulations **Joint Venture** and **Velvet Frogs**. And it is great to see FWD champ **Great Western Timbre Company** still competing, even though two of them have been living in Florida for a lot of years. Our own International Senior Champs from 2009 **Audacity** performed well in the AISQC hospitality room on the Queen Mary, as part of the opening night party. Neither broken hip for bass Greg Dodge nor dialysis out-of-town for the first time for bari Frazer Brown, kept this quartet off the stage.

The AISQC also allowed several quartets from the Harmony Platoon to perform in their room, and even a chorus of the Platoon guys, directed by 139th Street Quartet bari Pete Neushul. Nearly 70 guys had participated in the Platoon, coming from nine different districts in BHS.



Platoon champs **Loose Chickens** came from three chapters in FWD and one in RMD. They are (L to R) Baritone Lance Alloway (Riverside), Bass Roger Hufferd (Pal Pac), Lead Jim Schumacher (La Jolla) and Tenor Greg Ramsay (Pike Peak CO).

Several of those attending the Platoon from RMD are now talking about having a Platoon in their district. You should also watch for an announcement of a Platoon being added to one or more of the barbershop cruises scheduled for later this year. And besides the Platoon-Crazy Reunion we are planning at the Spring Prelims, we will be planning a Platoon for the FWD fall convention in Fresno.

Hope you have done some quartet singing lately. Did you do Singing Valentines? Did you get a quartet together to do one of the Novice Quartet Contests? Did you get three guys and sing a tag or Pole Cat at break at your chapter meeting? Don't ever miss a chance to enjoy the most fun that barbershopping has to offer. Keep the Q in BHS!



YIH Jim Halvorson

Spring is here!

Ah, the sweet sounds of spring are filling the air and one of the best barbershop times of the year is upon us. There is no better time than right now to get into your local schools and start developing relationships for the summer and upcoming school year next fall. Have you spoken to a local choral director about the HS quartet contest coming up in March? Have you shared some of the wonderful reports from our recent Midwinter conventions and youth chorus festival? Have you done your part to share the music that is making a difference with youth? If not, there will be no better time than spring.

Most schools have festivals running from February through April where students will be traveling and performing. If you know of a group that is preparing for an upcoming festival, invite them to your chapter meeting. Give that choir one of the best receptions they will ever get. In turn, charm them with your music and your hospitality. Make this a time to show that as barbershoppers, we care most about keeping people singing and that there is an outlet after HS and College for these students.

Choral directors are also starting the preparations for the next school year and what their choral programs would look like. What if you came to them with an offer to provide a "summer music camp" of sorts. Young men can come in and over the summer build valuable skills in vocal production, musicianship, music fundamentals and performance opportunities that will keep them prepared all summer. Help that teacher visualize what kind of work they will be able to do with a strong men's group in their program. Even if it is just a quartet of boys, they will boost the program and enlighten the director to the FREE opportunities available to their students over the summer.

Share with them some of the programs and successes that have already happened this year because of YiH programs in the FWD. We have already had another great Youth Harmony day with the **Masters of Harmony**, a successful Midwinter convention capped off by seven choruses representing the area serviced by the FWD and a memorable performance by our very own **Westminster Chorus**. Our NorCal Youth Harmony Camp was again a rousing success, and we have more requests than ever before for information regarding starting youth programs and developing more camps and one day festivals. In March we will hold the HS quartet contest once again in conjunction with the Int'l. Prelims weekend. Please contact Bruce Sellnow if you think you might still have a quartet that has interest in competing.

This is shaping up to be a great year. In my next report, I will share a reflection of the upcoming American Choral Directors Association's (ACDA) Western Division conference in Santa Barbara, CA. It should prove to be an amazing week, topped off for me by a performance of the impeccable **Westminster Chorus** as they show the choral directing world just how far barbershop has come. I look forward to great things coming out of this weekend and as always, I look forward to hearing about more of the great things we are doing in the FWD to share the lifelong benefits of four-part harmony.

Sunshine Chairman Card

FWD Sunshine Chairman Les Cudworth

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**2013 FWD Quartet Champions
The Newfangled Four**

Joey, Jackson, Jake, Ryan

LIVING LIKE ROCKSTARS

If there was ever a point that the members of The Newfangled Four would be taking it easy months after becoming Far Western District Quartet Champions, I am here to let you all know that they'd be dead wrong! It's still hard to believe all we've been through these past few months! From all of the youth festivals we've been a part of, to singing to the Midwinter audience on the big stage in Long Beach, it's been a wild ride that's not looking to let up anytime soon!

The rest of our 2013 was actually quite relaxing; not very many quartet commitments to worry about, a couple of Christmas shows with our home chorus, the Masters of Harmony, and of course, spending the holidays with our respective families! We were pretty grateful for the free time that we had, however, because we knew as soon as the New Year started we'd have a whole lot of stuff to worry about!

To kick it all off, we performed during the annual Masters of Harmony installation banquet the first weekend of January! It sure was rewarding to be recognized for our accomplishments during the past year and to celebrate them with our respected friends and colleagues. Near the end of the month, we headed up to Aptos, CA as the headliner for the Sing for Your Life festival, led by the Gold Standard Chorus! Both Jake and Joey have performed on the concert in the past with different quartets, so it was nice to have people with us who knew the

gig! We had the pleasure of staying with Jake's family friends nearby for the weekend, who provided us with wonderful homemade meals and warm beds to sleep in. Being relatively new to the traveling gig, my favorite part of it all was getting to meet such good people, both inside and outside of the festivities. What an amazing thing barbershop is to be able to bring together so many people all for the sake of merriment! We didn't get much time to rest afterwards, however, as Midwinter was right around the corner! We ran around so much that weekend, we swore there weren't any other people who were as busy as the four of us! Besides singing a set on the Friday night show as current Collegiate Quartet Champions, we had the pleasure of performing with both the Masters of Harmony and the Westminster Chorus, as well as taking our Boom Town Chorus to compete in the Youth Chorus Festival Friday morning. From all of the performances that weekend to catching up and tagging with old friends, this Midwinter proved to be the best one yet, despite what little free time we had. It was also nice not having to travel very far afterwards, considering the four of us live in Long Beach. We were very fortunate to have had the cards that were dealt to us!

As for February, it has been (and is still looking to be) the busiest month for us! The weekend after Midwinter, the ladies over at Harborlites invited us to sing for their girls during their annual Diva Day festival. Never have I imagined what it'd sound like to have an auditorium full of teenage girls go nuts over barbershop harmony, yet we were in for quite a surprise! It was like the Beatles were in the building! The very weekend after, Masters held their Young Men in Harmony festival (also in the very same venue)! We were fortunate enough to spend the day with OC Times and Masterpiece getting to work with all of these young men, and the product of the day turned out to be quite spectacular! Just this weekend after performing with Westminster during the ACDA Western Division Conference, we drove up to Santa Maria and stayed with one of my mom's best friends, who also fed us and provided us with everything four growing boys would need, in time to lead another youth festival with the Central Coast Chordsmen! Despite what our individual desires are when it comes to barbershop success, the four of us can definitely agree that the most rewarding part of it all is getting to witness the seeds being planted in the minds of these young men! As for the rest of the month, we are getting ready to head over to St. Paul, MN to sing with the Great Northern Union in their annual Collegiate Chorus Festival, which we are also very excited for! Not because of the weather, mind you!

And all this happened within the last three months! We already have shows booked in other parts of California, and we currently have plans to travel to South Dakota, Arizona, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee within the next few months! I for one never expected to be able to do all this so fast in our career, but I'd be lying if I said we didn't want it! We are so fortunate to be able to do all this on behalf of our beloved FWD and the Society as a whole, and we can't wait to see where we will end up next! The best part of it all is getting to experience it all with my three best friends in the entire world!

(Also, if you're wondering whether or not we'll be in Riverside for Prelims, the answer is no. Jackson was unable to get out of a commitment with one of his school ensembles, so we will be representing the District in about a month over in Reston, VA during the MAD Preliminaries. We hope to do you all proud as we go full steam ahead into Vegas!)

Till next time,

Ryan Wisniewski
Baritone - The Newfangled Four
2013 International Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Champions
2013 Far Western District Quartet Champions



2013 FWD Chorus Champions Masters of Harmony by Ron Larson

The **Masters of Harmony** love taking barbershop harmony to new audiences. In November, the Masters traveled to Port Hueneme for a Sunday afternoon performance at the Oceanview Pavilion. As the stage manager listened to the chorus warm up, the glow on her face was priceless. Her obvious enthusiasm helped set the tone for a performance that went on to garner thunderous applause and standing ovations from the audience. The show featured a unique mix of regular chorus repertoire, as well as holiday music befitting a theater already lit up by holiday decorations. Given the strong military presence in the area, the Armed Forces Medley was a huge hit. Anyone who serves or has served in our armed forces had a chance to stand and be honored during the song. **Masterpiece** (2013 International Quartet Champion) and **American Pastime** (2013 Southwest Division Quartet Champion) took turns captivating the enthusiastic audience with beautiful quartet harmonies. Special kudos goes to Harmony Sweethearts **Dee Thiesmeyer, Nancy Kraus, Gay Place** and **Courtney Crowe** for overseeing a highly successful sale of our CDs at the show. All in all, the performance was a great way to usher in one of the busiest holiday seasons in Masters of Harmony history!

Two weeks later, the Masters returned to the familiar ambiance of the Carpenter Performing Arts Center in Long Beach for a Christmas show titled "My Favorite Things." As the show patrons filed in, they were greeted by holiday music provided by a light jazz trio, a new and well-received addition to MOH Christmas shows. The show featured a blend of chorus favorites and new songs, **Les Weiser's** stirring solos, as well as sets by Masterpiece and American Pastime. The enthusiastic audiences rewarded the well-paced performances with sustained applause and standing ovations. Eight days later, the Masters got a similar response when they reprised this show to a near-capacity audience at Riverside's historic Fox Theater.

Wherever the Masters perform, the chorus is known as the barbershop chorus from Santa Fe Springs, California. This mutually beneficial partnership is an important reason for the success of the Masters over the years. The city provides an excellent centrally located rehearsal site at its Town Center Hall free of charge, saving the Masters thousands of dollars in rental fees. In return, the Masters sing at the city's annual Christmas Tree Lighting on the first Saturday in December. Because of recent rainy weather, the ceremony was moved indoors for the first time in at least 10 years, giving the overflow audience an up-close-and-personal view of the Masters in the room where they rehearse. Another way the chorus repays the city for its generosity is to provide quartet singers on a float that precedes Santa and Mrs. Claus to greet children and their parents at selected locations. For 32 years, Santa Fe Springs has been bringing this unique program to its residents over a two-

week period in early December. Masters singers have been singing well-known holiday songs on that lead float for the last 22 years. At various stops along the route, quartets invite willing youngsters to come up on the float stage to sing songs like “Feliz Navidad” and “Santa Claus Is Coming To Town” with them. While this is happening, proud parents take pictures and videos of their kids singing with the quartet. When the Santa float arrives, the kids can have their pictures taken with the Clauses. This year, eight different quartets gave 32 Masters men the chance to bring joyful holiday music throughout the city.

In 1989, the Masters of Harmony performed at the Ramona Bowl, site of *Ramona*, America’s longest-running historical drama. Somehow the performance planets didn’t align for a return appearance until recently when the Ramona Bowl management decided to add to its performance calendar by bringing in different kinds of performers. Although outdoor performances at the Bowl in December are at the mercy of chilly, sometimes inclement weather, the Masters gladly accepted the holiday season performance opportunity.

Just as they had at the Long Beach and Riverside shows, a jazz trio made up of college students played for audience members as they filed in, entertained again at intermission, backed up several chorus songs, and sent audience members home with upbeat holiday chords ringing off the hills surrounding the Ramona Bowl. The players included Cal State Fullerton students Jessica Ragsdale, Mark Herrera and Michael Selfridge at the Long Beach shows with Cal State Long Beach student Nick Ornelas replacing Michael Selfridge at the Fox Theater and the Ramona Bowl.

While the rain clouds stayed away this time, the performance took place under clear, moonlit, very chilly skies that had some chorus members wearing newly acquired thermal undergarments. The Masters mantra of “Master the Stage” was really put to the test and, at first, the applause sounded strangely muffled. As it turned out, audience members were applauding enthusiastically while wearing gloves – a truly unique sound! As the show progressed, the applause got louder because many decided to applaud bare handed then put their gloves back on. And judging by the audience response, muffled and unmuffled, the Masters lived up to that that mantra.

In early January, the Masters opened the most challenging year in its history with its Annual Awards and Installation Banquet at Khoury’s Restaurant in Long Beach. Master of Ceremonies Dr. **Chris Peterson** welcomed the filled-to-capacity audience of Masters family and friends. Continuing a tradition started in 2013, certificates of appreciation were presented to five Masters members making the transition to emeritus status after years of significant contributions to the chorus – **Dave Briner, Marlin Niesley, Joe Palmquist, Ron Perry, and Ron Van Winkle**. A silent auction, another new tradition from last year’s banquet, raised a sizable amount for chapter coffers. Awards Chairman and Emeritus Ron Perry proceeded to announce the award winners. The Barbershopper of the Year Award went to Chapter President **Ron Andreas**. Ron’s visionary leadership has helped create a palpable electric energy in chorus rehearsals, something that can propel the chorus to success in Las Vegas this summer and beyond. The Alice Blue Gown Award (Sweetheart of the Year) went to Dee Thiesmeyer who has brought an outlook similar to Ron’s to Harmony Sweetheart activities. Masterpiece and **The Newfangled Four**, current Far Western District Quartet Champion, shared top chapter quartet honors. Keynote speaker and installing officer was **Marty Lovick**, past category specialist from the Evergreen District. Emeritus Ron Van Winkle captured the essence of Marty’s speech with this quote: “He challenged us to have the courage to test the limits of our abilities and explore those untapped musical levels that still remain.”

Ron Andreas’s innovative new way to welcome members is designed to make the new member feel he is joining not just a special organization but also a unique family. Accordingly, he is invited to bring family members and

friends to a rehearsal and, when he is given his new name badge, they are also honored. The first new member to be welcomed to membership with this badge ceremony was **Zachary Green**. In a separate ceremony that same night, Barbershop Harmony Society Associate **Carol Stephenson** received her first “Man of Note” pin, and will soon receive a second! Her mentoring of University of La Verne students **Ernie Reyes** and Zach Green led to their becoming new MOH members. Later in the month, Leonard Jensen and **Walter Tang** were welcomed to membership with their own badge ceremonies. Zack, Carol, Ernie, Leonard, Walter and those who shared these ceremonies with you, welcome to the Masters family!

2104 Int'l Convention in Las Vegas, NV

CONVENTION CHATTER: Look! What's that at the end of the tunnel? It's not a light, it's not a train... that only leaves one thing – it's the 2014 BHS International Convention! The holidays are over and early registration is closed. Now it's time to get *big-time* serious (*like we haven't been right along?*).

Have you registered for the convention yet? If so, GREAT! If not, WHY NOT? They won't be able to keep putting these conventions on if people don't start attending and volunteering. This is the chance for the Society to showcase our great singing talent to the public and your chance to see the best of the best.

Seeing the big events on the satellite feed is OK, but it's NOT the same as being there. You miss out on the thrill of seeing it happen live. You miss out on the audience reactions. You miss out on discussing with 6,000 to 8,000 of your best friends how stupid the judges were when you attend the afterglow right after the contest. There are so many events between Sunday, June 29 and Sunday, July 6 that there's hardly time to breathe. Sometimes you wind up having to decide if you'd rather eat or sing. That's a tough decision for some of us. The 2014 Convention is being held in the Far Western District and for the first time ever in Las Vegas! That's YOUR District! The reigning International Quartet is from YOUR district. The current reigning International College Quartet Champion is from YOUR District and also happens to be YOUR current District Champion. YOUR District has a number of Choruses that will be in the mix for a Top Five finish this year if not winning it all. **They all NEED your support.** Get yourself registered; register your wife; register your significant other; register both if you think you would survive it.

Heck, why not register the kids too! If they are not already involved in barbershop, now would be a great time to introduce them to it. There is no reason to wait. The price isn't going to magically come down if you wait. Tax refunds should be starting to come in soon and what a great way this would be to put them to use. We need to build up the numbers. We are currently just short of 5,000, which isn't bad but we really need to try and DOUBLE that number. We need to show those who are not currently involved with barbershop just how great it is and how much we support it.

Many of you will be coming to Las Vegas to support your favorite Chorus or Quartet. Maybe you could find some time to help support the Convention too. These Conventions run on volunteers, lots of volunteers. If you think you could give us some of your time, we'd be happy to put you to work. Give us eight hours or more and we'll give you a nice shirt to commemorate your week. If you are interested in volunteering, please go to www.bhsvegas2014.com where you will find the form to fill out to become a volunteer.

The Las Vegas Chapter is looking forward to seeing all of you at the 2014 BHS International Convention here in Las Vegas this coming summer. Be prepared to have a GREAT time!



Division 1 SW Chapters

Ken Day, Editor

Aloha Chapter by Jack Hashimoto

Our winter season was filled with preparation for, and presentation of, our annual Christmas shows. This year the venue was the Paliku Theatre at Windward College in Kaneohe, on the island of Oahu. Held December 8, we had a matinee at 2:03 PM and an evening show at 5:03 PM. The theme of the show was "Rudolph Retires, A Musical Comedy for Kids 2 to 92".

The cast included Mixed Plate, **Sharon Doyle Garcia**, **R Kevin Doyle Garcia**, **Noel Mau**, **Adam LeFebvre**, **Jeff LeFebvre**, **Kawika Mitchell**, **Austin Lee** and **Dan Tom**. Show Chairman **Bill Joor** gathered a production staff headed by Director **Bonnie McKibben**, script writer **Ralph Brandt** and Stage Manager **Hope Laidlaw**. PacKids joined us on stage, led by: **Angela Morales** and **Phil Hidalgo**, musical directors; choreographer **Tonesha Holland**; and Artistic Directors **Rachelle Amparo** and **Meagan Olson**. Also performing in the show were Aloha Spirit, a medal-winning Sweet Adelines quartet; our own quartets Funnybones and Resonance; and the young men's chorus 8 Zero 8, led by **Mark Conching** and **Lars Isaacson**. All in all, a fun event for the chorus.

Barbershoppers of the Month for the quarter were: October - **Mark Conching**, November - **Larry Paterson**, and December - **Adam Lefebvre**.

Conejo Valley Chapter By Neil Pennywitt

The chapter prepared and performed in the fall at Temple Adat Elohim in Thousand Oaks in a variety show with a Vaudeville bent. The performance had an Al Jolson theme, and the chorus was joined by a professional acting team of Jolson impersonators.

Harmony Oaks had a number of shows during the Christmas season, highlighted by a performance at the Marshall Historic Park in Simi Valley.

We kicked off 2014 with a bang at a standing-room-only show at the Camarillo Public Library. Over 200 people enjoyed the chorus and mix of traditional barbershop tunes and performances by the chorus's three quartets – **Deerfield Express**, **Sound Check** and **The Harmony Connection**.

The Chapter Installation Dinner saw **Juan Bowen** inducted as 2014 President and **Larry Nixon** recognized as 2013 *BOTY*. **Neil Pennywitt** announced that he was elected to serve on the Board of Directors as the Division 1 Southwest Vice President of the Far Western District.

For more information visit the chapter website @ www.CVHOV.com.

Long Beach By Joe Nagle

Several members of the International City Chorus joined the Leisure World Barbershop Singing Club, under the direction of **Marty Fuchs**, for a 30-minute performance for the Leisure World RV Club. It was our first time performing for this particular group, and the performance was well received by the audience of an estimated 100 members. The performance was followed by dinner with the group, and the evening concluded by adjourning to our regular meeting location for some caroling and holiday cheer. This will (hopefully) become a new seasonal tradition for us.

Pasadena Chapter By Bill Cauley

2014 Chapter Officers are: President **Bill Cauley**, Secretary **José Ochoa**, Treasurer **Walter Tang**, VP Operations **Leonard Jensen**, VP Marketing & Public Relations **Steve Swinney**, VP Music & Performance **Jonathan Hinckley**, Board Members-At-Large: **Gene Narducy**, **Zack Armstrong**, and **Michael Alexander**.

Our annual installation dinner was a tremendous success, thanks to the work provided by the team of **Sean Chasworth**, **Dan Madsen**, **Steve Peacock**, **Bill Cauley**, and **Walter Tang**. Entertainment was provided by pick-up quartets and the entire group to the delight of everyone.

2014 Chapter Officers were installed by **David Briner**, a composer arranger and multi-gold-medal winner with **Masters of Harmony**. His inspiring words charged the chapter to continually seek new members, and to plan and organize for the future.

2013 *BOTY* is **Gene Narducy**, a member who is always on hand to perform whatever is asked; with his primary responsibilities being costuming, and keeping track of our inventory.

Our new president introduced a document *Organizing for 2014* which identified all chapter tasks and responsibilities with a chapter officer, who will in turn work through their events, schedules, and funding requirements.

Rincon Beach By Ken Day

The Rincon Chapter Pacific Sound Chorus started the holiday season out with a sing-out at the prestigious Santa Barbara Club for their annual Christmas-tree-lighting dinner. We sang for the Camarillo Springs Homeowners Association Christmas Party. We repaid the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Camarillo for their generous use of their facilities all summer at no charge. Then the chorus sang at Samarkand, an upscale retirement community [they have graciously invited us to sing for their Christmas season several years in a row]. We also sang at a joint benefit show with the Channel City Chorus of Santa Barbara, held at the Kenny Loggins event center to benefit the Unity Shoppe, a major supporter of homeless and underserved people. Channel 3 in Santa Barbara has supported this event for over 25 years, so we got some free TV time.

Finally, the chorus strolled up and down State Street in Santa Barbara singing holiday favorites with **Ken Partch**, a friend of the chorus, who hired us for the second year.

A chapter quartet called **Quartet Du Jour** [**Bill Chase, Garth Ratliff, Doug Van Bogelen, Brent Anderson**] sang at the La Cumbre Country Club. The same quartet sang at a Ventura church with former member **Kenny Larsen**. The other members this time were **Jay Pryor, Bobby McGee** (director of the **Channel City Chorus**), and **Brent Anderson**. Brent calls **Quartet Du Jour** any three other guys that sing with him.

Chapter quartet **Priority Male** [**Bill Chase, Jim Browne, Jim Rodriguez, Bill Crome**] sang on Jay Shapiro's boat for the Ventura Harbor's Holiday Light Parade. The following night the event was repeated with **Harmony Channel Quartet** [**Duane Ashby, Bruce Hunter, Doug Van Bogelen, Brent Burningham**].

Two different events were held at the Saticoy Country Club. At the first one, a quartet made up of **Jay Pryor, Monty Clark, Doug Van Bogelen, and Jim Serdahely** sang for the Oxnard Women's Club. A quartet made up of **Jay Pryor, Garth Ratliff, Doug Van Bogelen, and Jim Serdahely** sang for the Saticoy Country Club Women's Golf Tournament at the second event.

A mixed ensemble called Fusion performed for the Verdugo Hills Show Chorus. The men singing were Michael Van Schoonhoven, Bernie Sentianin, Michael Marion, Brent Anderson, and Jim Serdahely. The ladies included Linda Ragsdale, Tammy Ragsdale, Bobbette Gantz, and Banks Pecht.

The 2014 Installation of Officers had our great friend of the chapter **Bernard Priceman** as the installing officer. The **Velvet Frogs** provided the entertainment.

Officers for 2014 are: President **Jim Rodriguez**, IPP **Monty Clark**, Secretary **Ken Day**, Treasurer **Bruce Hunter**, VP of Music and Performance **Jim Serdahely**, VP Membership **Andrew De La Torre**, VP Program **Bill Crome**, VP Marketing and PR **Bernie Sentianin**, Members at Large **Bill Winfield** and **Lu Hintz**, and Chorus Manager **Bill Chase**.

San Fernando Valley Chapter By Bruce Poehlman

The **Valley Harmony Singers** just had their annual Installation Dinner and Awards Banquet. Congratulations to **Bruce Poehlman**, who was named *BOTY*. Congratulations to **Renee Rivas** for receiving the *Owen Edwards* award, **John Wright** for the *Rang Hanson* award, and **Bob Karlin** for the *Roger Dixon* award. Special honors were given to **Dale Weitzman** as the *Lady of the Valley Harmony Singers*.

We are busy getting ready for Valentine's Day, one of our favorite chorus/quartet activities, which makes money for the chorus as well.

Our Holiday Show was a great success in part due to help from members of the **Whittier Chapter**. We reciprocated by helping them out on their show as well. For small choruses, it can be a good idea to reach out to other small choruses in the area to do some mutual events, both to help bring a larger chorus to the performance and to bring in additional guests.

San Luis Obispo Chapter By Pete Bennett

Larry Long, frequent president of the Santa Maria chapter, installed our new officers at a well-attended dinner. **George Shepard** is our new President. VPM&P **Don Poole**, Secretary **Richard Burch**, and Treasurer **Scot Sheldon** continue in their positions for 2014. **Dane Howalt** and **Babe Silva** are Men-at-Large. **Rudy Xavier** is our 2013 *BOTY*; no one in the chapter works harder to make sure that no balls get dropped in the planning and execution of activities and events throughout the year. AND he's a computer genius, which comes in handy often in this day and age.

Dane Howalt was inducted into the *Don Miernicki Hall of Fame*. **Richard Burch** received the President's Award, **Scot Sheldon** was honored with the Director's Award, and **Tom Zirk** was named Unsung Hero.

The chapter has four quartets rehearsing for the upcoming Singing Valentines program, now in its 18th year in SLO County.

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

Santa Barbara Chapter By Eric Fenrich

The holiday season found the CCC busy with multiple performances in the Santa Barbara area. Many of our members journeyed north to Santa Maria to join our northern brothers – the **Central Coast Chordsmen** – for their annual Christmas program. Our brothers to the South – **Pacific Sound** – joined us in Santa Barbara for a joint benefit concert as part of the Unity Shoppe telethon.

The CCC annual awards banquet was hosted by lounge lizard Frank E. Delmonico, a.k.a. **Garth Ratliff**, who's schmoozing and crooning kept us in stitches. **Eric Fenrich** stepped down as president after three terms, giving way to **Stephen Watson**. Eric will now shift his attention to Public Affairs. **Richard Box** is the new VP of Membership; **Howard Lange** takes on the role of Programs, **Michael Frazer** continues Secretary/Treasurer, and **Paul Bergevin** is our new Board Member-at-Large. Long-time Music Team leader (and chorus founder) **Bob Wilke** finally stepped down from all leadership roles, leaving the MT to be run by committee.

Paul Bergevin was named Rookie of the Year, **Michael Frazer** received the President's Award, and former member **Craig Pierce** was added to our *Chorus Hall of Fame*. **Bob Wilke** gave the Founder's Award to **Nick** and **Donna Pierce** for their continual behind-the-scenes support of the chorus and **Stephen Watson** was named our *BOTY*. Non-member **Cap Price** received special recognition for his nine consecutive years of service to our annual Holiday Harmony Chorus.

Santa Monica Oceanaires

By Marty Mitnick

A full calendar of holiday performances were conducted at: Westfield Century City Shopping Mall; Silvercrest Salvation Army Retirement Home, Santa Monica; Culver City Restaurant Row; **Oceanaires** member, **Chuck Bevitt's** company holiday dinner; Palisades Lutheran Church, home of our President and Pastor of the church, **Wally Meese**.

Generation Gap (**Ben Lowe, Bruce Schroffel, Bob Heron, Vance Heron**), performed at a retirement home in Pasadena and **Sound Stage** (**Bob Curran, Alan Hanson, Tom Laskey, Jerry Walker**) sang carols at the Orpheum Theatre in Los Angeles. The Los Angeles Conservancy opened the magnificent historic theater for only one afternoon to show a film. A grand organ rose from the floor for a concert and **Sound Stage** sang *Man With The Bag* to more than 1,000 people.

Our annual installation of officers luncheon, orchestrated by IPP **Jerry Walker** with MC **Pierre Debbaudt**, was held at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel. The installing officer was our own **Tom Laskey** who had the new officers sing "Aye" in the key of B flat.

The new officers for 2014 are: President **Wally Mees**, Executive Vice President/President Elect **Jack Fry**, Secretary **Frank DaVanzo**, Treasurer **John White**, IPP **Jerry Walker**; Vice-Presidents: Chapter Development **Brian Hatfield**, Music & Performances **Jim Leedom**, Public Relations **Charles Bevitt**, Chorus Manager **Ken Scholtz**, Programming **Aaron Mood**, At-Large Members of the Board **Bill Boeck, Bob Curran, Pierre Debbaudt, David Erickson, Don Tsuchiyama**. Non-Board positions are: Costumer **Alan Hanson**, Librarian **Adam Marangakis**, and Sunshine Chair **Jack Walton**.

The *President's Awards* were given to **Katie Boeck**, as outgoing President of our "SOS" wives and friends support group, **Chuck Bevitt** for remodeling and sustaining our website, and our outstanding secretary **Frank DaVanzo**.

The Director's "Rookie of the Year" Award, presented by director, **Ben Lowe**, was given to **Tim Deal** for his outstanding musicianship and always giving 100% of his energy. Ben also recognized **Vance Heron** with an award for being the back-up director when needed. BOTY was awarded to two members this year: our Second Term President **Wally Meese**, and Treasurer **John White**.

As getting new members is priority one, a "BIG-10" award was presented to IPP **Jerry Walker** for his reaching the "10 Men of Note" achievement.

Eileen Erickson volunteered to be the new "SOS" President.

Whittier Chapter

By Paul Feinzimer

There are two pieces of sad news that I want to pass along:

Clayton "Clay" Sherman, former President of the **Whittier Choralaires** in 2001 and 2002 passed away in early January. Clay was a long-time Treasurer of **Whittier Choralaires**, at least

from 1996 until his presidency and then for a few more years after that.

Floyd Thaller, past President in 2005, also passed away in January. Floyd was a past Secretary for the Far Western District. He was in demand as an MC because of his humor and distinctive style. His red jacket was covered with 35 years of patches from International Conventions he and his wife **Libby** attended. **Steve Peacock** of the Pasadena chapter let us know that Floyd's life was ebbing. He organized a group of current **Whittier Choralaires** members (**Ed Schoemann, Ron Leutbecher, Pat Boyle**) and past members (**Steve, Bill Niemand, John and Larry Gassman, David Gunther**), as well as **Leonard Jensen** and **Phil Stray** (from Steve's and Bill's quartet JOLT!) to sing approximately 15 songs for Floyd and Libby in the hospital on January 11th. **Ron Leutbecher** sang Lead for "Irish Blessing" in a quartet with Steve, Phil and Leonard at Floyd's memorial service on January 21. Also present at the memorial service were **Ray Mitchem** and his wife **Judi**, and **Doug Wolven**.

The **Whittier Choralaires** had the pleasure of singing with the **Valley Harmony Singers** in their Christmas show. They, in turn, provided their **ODDLY ENUF** quartet [**Chris Wheeler, Bob Karlin, Mark Wolf, Tim Singer**] and two additional singers, **Ross Brown**, and former Whittier chapter member **Shelley Herman**, to assist us in our Christmas show. **ODDLY ENUF** sang many traditional Christmas songs with us, and also provided some great comic relief with their Christmas song parodies. Likewise, the **SOUND CHOICE** [**Larry Ray, Don Levering, Mike Werner, Mike Evans**] quartet from the **Orange Empire Chorus** helped us with our Christmas show and sang a selection of their own funny Christmas songs for everyone's enjoyment. In addition, we had the following singers join with us: **Steve Peacock** and **Tom Lewis** of the **Pasadena Crown City Chorus** and **Amnon Avidor** from the **Masters of Harmony**. All 13 visiting singers were of tremendous help to us and we owe a deep debt of gratitude to them all.



Division 2 SE Chapters Dale Vaughn, Editor

Brea Chapter

By Tony Hope

Winter is here (at least in some parts of the country), and with it brings joyous Christmas music and performances. The **Gaslight Chorus** had a multitude of performances in December, including two sold-out Christmas shows at the Curtis Theater in Brea. The chorus next travelled to the Brea Mall to regale holiday shoppers with four-part harmony, followed by an evening of song for friends and family at Christ Lutheran Church. It was our "thank you" for providing our chorus with a wonderful location to practice in each week.

The finale of the Christmas Season was a performance at Disney's California Adventure theme park. We took the stage in the early afternoon to a welcoming audience, and spent the rest of the afternoon enjoying rides, good food, and the fine company of fellow members as we sang our way through the park. A perfect ending to a great year!

As the New Year began, so did a new relationship. The chorus would like to congratulate **Richard Otto** and his wife **Mallory Otto** for finally tying the knot after many happy years together. We wish them many more happy years to come on their new adventure! Visit us at: www.gaslightchorus.org

Coachella Valley Chapter By Stan Gile

Our beloved snowbirds have returned for the most part. Given the weather back east, I'm surprised that they aren't all back. We are now putting an average of 25 guys on the risers and should be up to 30 in another month.

With the departure of **Milt Rhea** to the great NorthWest to be near his family, the **Hummbugs Quartet** [**Dave Hawks**, **Fred Anderson**, **Vic Guder**] added **Corbett Brattin** as their Bass.

The **Sandblaster Chorus** performed again this year at The Living Desert Zoo's "Wild Light" Christmas program, and at the Palm Desert Library to a packed house. Then we did a flash mob at the Westfield Mall, singing *Zip-a-dee Doo-Dah* and *California, Here I Come*. It was greatly received by the unsuspecting shoppers with many cell phone cameras being used, and cheers for us to continue singing.

The chapter guest night had six men come and sample our world of Barbershop singing. With them and other guests we have had recently, our numbers are increasing as we start the new year.

Faultline [**Blaine Mack**, **Stan Gile**, **Dick Reed**, **Mike Ostrom**] were very busy this winter, performing at the Wild Lights Major Donors' dinner at the Living Desert Zoo and at the Coachella Historical Society's Benefactors' dinner. They also were honored to sing the National Anthem for the Riverside County's Governance Convention, the Riverside County's Sheriff's Awards Ceremony, and most recently, twice at the Humana Golf Tournament, first at the Opening Ceremonies with President Clinton, (whom they got to meet), and also at the Military Appreciation Ceremony. Visit us at: www.cvbarbershop.org

El Cajon Chapter By Bill Soukup

The El Cajon **Music Masters** went Christmas Caroling on four occasions, especially to seniors and to believers in Christmas. Even more important, our audiences at the retirement communities and at church made it abundantly clear that they thoroughly enjoyed what they heard.

Our installation dinner had **Craig Hughes**, Western District VP, as our installing MC. Our Officers and Board Members for 2014 were installed with gusto and confidence.

Our new officers are: President **Paul Schmidt**, Immediate Past President **Ed Herron**, Sec/Treas **Roger Simpson**, VP Music **Ed Herron**, Program VP **Jeff Freeman**, and Chorus Manager **Jack Evans** (all of whom will be members of the Board.) **Tom Anderson** remains Chorus Director with **Roger Simpson** as Associate Director.

Our Board has voted to accept the members of Royce's Voices, a 15 man ensemble, as members of the El Cajon Chapter. We held a welcoming meeting with them at our regularly scheduled rehearsal on January 27th. We enjoyed sharing an evening of great singing together and hope to collaborate on future performances. Visit us at: www.ecmusicmasters.com

Fullerton Chapter By Don Derler

Orange County saw (and heard) a lot of four-part harmony from us during the Christmas season... by way of our four main songfests!

La Habra: Our 20th annual cabaret show. Thanks for the yearlong planning and organization by **Art Clayton**. This year's three-show marathon was sparked by our largest VARIETY of songs and skits ever, from sacred to "Hillbilly" and "Rap" (Both featuring newly discovered singing star **Mike Werner**). Other outstanding performances noted over the two days were by **Mark and Cher McConnell**, and the food-serving gals as they dished up approximately 930 meals for our hungry guests, **Tommy Nichols** for heading up the setting up, serving, and cleanup for each of the three meals, and our high school helpers from La Habra high (some of our sponsored kids) helping in all directions. **Jeff Young** with the raffle, and **Ferdie** arranging the "saloon" all helped to make this year's production our best and most rewarding ever!

Fullerton: The yearly O.E.C. Christmas party. This year the location changed from **Lynn** and **Beth Abbott's** home in the hills of Yorba Linda to **Dave and Sheila Lowerre's** home in the hills of Fullerton. Approximately 70 of us descended thereupon to celebrate (Vic-Toe-Ree!) our outstanding Cabaret success and the forthcoming Christmas holidays. Beautiful house and hosts, bountiful F&F (food and fellowship), and lots of singing. It was fun sharing the evening with members of the **Orange Quartet Chapter** and we saw some faces we haven't seen in a while, namely **Stan Haymaker**, now moved back here from Bakersfield, and **Jeff Parmer** in from Redondo Beach. Jeff even joined in with his old quartet "**Shenanigans**", with Tommy subbing in as Tenor. Another fun evening.

Aliso Viejo: Annual command performance at *Covington Gardens*. Boy, do we like this one! The folks at this up-scale retirement home are always our most anticipated and receptive audience of the year (they PLEAD with us to come on down, and PAY us to do a show for 'em... and even FEED us when we're thru!) We did our abbreviated Christmas Cabaret package for them and received copious applause throughout, a "Standing O" at the finale and a request for a return engagement next year... as they hosted us with petite fours, champagne, cider, and wassail! (Betcha we'll be there again next year!)

BREA: *The Brea Mall*. Kinda hard spreading joy here. Intense noise level, moving audience, (they strolled, we didn't) and we really missed many of our too-busy-at-Christmas stalwart singers. However, some 15 or so did enjoy our afterglow at the Red Robin Café. Visit us at: www.oechoorus.org

La Jolla Chapter

By Dale Vaughn

Holiday performances kept **Pacific Coast Harmony** plenty busy in December starting with our annual performance at December Nights in Balboa Park. We have all surely heard the song *It Never Rains in Southern California* and typically that has been the case for us at December Nights, but not for PCH at our scheduled on-stage time this year. We had to make do with singing under the cover of the buildings along the Prado to an appreciative, yet slightly soggy crowd. Other outings included a first-time show at the San Diego Women's Club and our two Annual Holiday Shows at Torrey Pines Christian Church in La Jolla.

Our Installation and Awards Banquet installed the 2014 officers: IPP **Jerry Kent**; President **Lou Benedict**; VP Chapter Development **Michael Bauer**; VP Marketing & PR **Craig Monsell**; VP Music & Performance **Mark Whelan**; VP Membership **Bryan Thompson**; Secretary **Dale Vaughn**; Treasurer **Jim Schumacher**; Board Members-at-Large **Mike French**, **Pete Hensley**, **Jim Watt**. Award winners for 2013: **BOTY** – **Mark Whelan**; President's Award – **Dave Pfizenmeier**; Director's Award – **Jim Schumacher**; Dave Miller Award for Barbershop Excellence – **Lou Benedict**. Service Certificates: Board of Directors – **Ken Baker**; Youth in Harmony – **Paul Girard**; Rookie of the Year – **Craig Monsell**.

We hit the ground running to start the New Year off with another Ready, Set, Sing! Program. Our multi-talented Director **Kim Vaughn** continues to surprise and amaze us with yet another unique approach. Rather than taking our guests away from the regular chorus rehearsal to spend time working with them, she is taking the entire chorus through the lesson process each week. It is making us all very aware that we all can use a refresher course in the basics from time to time!

Along with the **Sun Harbor Chorus** and **San Diego Sweet Adeline Chorus**, we hosted Youth Harmony Day in San Diego. The current Sweet Adelines International Queens of Harmony Quartet **LoveNotes** headlined an evening show which also showcased the students who attended the all-day barbershop harmony workshop and our own San Diego Young Men's Honor Chorus, **Pacific Suns**.

We welcome new member Tenor **Steve Cowan** into our ranks. Visit us at: www.pacificcoastharmony.org

Las Vegas Chapter

By Larry Litchfield

YEAR-END SHOWS WOWED OUR AUDIENCES: We delivered three outstanding community Christmas performances (gauged by the loud applause). The shows were unique as all were presented in tandem with the marvelous SAI's **Celebrity City Chorus**. Renditions by combined and individual choruses (an estimated joint headcount of about 100), plus quartets from each ensemble, were before large, wildly applauding audiences. Both groups offered up traditional Christmas carols along with two new pieces.

The Silver Statesmen had a very short time window to memorize words and spots to the two tricky dual chorus arrangements of *Go Tell It On The Mountain* and a more difficult rendition (a lotta

words!) of *Baby It's Cold Outside*. The risers were filled with guys on one half and gals on the other when singing together. An interesting factoid: *Go Tell It...* was arranged in the usual SATB style; but *Baby...* (made famous in the '40's by Bing Crosby/Doris Day, Dean Martin and Frank Sinatra) was arranged in eight different parts: four for each chorus.

A favorite annual community performance for us and Las Vegas was repeated on a chilly evening's harmonic *stroll in the park* at the beautiful Ethel M Cactus Garden. About 30 or so choristers donned heavy jackets, woolen scarves, gloves and Santa Claus-tasseled hats and offered strolling carols.

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

INSTALLATION BANQUET: President Steve ran the show. Installing Officer was **Don Salz**, FWD Chairman of Chapter Support and Leadership Training. Officers for 2014 were installed and awards were distributed to: **Dallas Halvorson** - Rookie of the Year; **Wes White** - Director's Award; **Jim Halvorson** - President's Award; and **Randy Preston** - **BOTY**. Always smiling **Dallas Halvorson** [13] is the youngest son of past FWD Champion **95 North** lead **Larry Halvorson**. Dallas is the first Silver Statesman to earn a Man-of-Note award for recruiting fellow tenor/friend **Xavier Pierce**.

Recently *retired* bass **Jerry Alvarez** was honored for his 38 years of service to three BHS choruses: the Canton, OH *Hall of Fame*, the Las Vegas Chapter's *Gamble-Aires* and, most recently, the *Silver Statesmen*.

NEW MEMBERS: **Xavier Pierce** – tenor; **John Peck** – lead; **Don Salz** –transfer bass. Our total chorus headcount now stands at **82**.

Visit us at: www.silverstatesmen.com

Palomar Pacific Chapter

By Keith Bogost & Patrick Fairchild

The **MusicMen** named **Charlie Wendt** as "Special Barbershopper of the Year," for his outstanding special services for Pal-Pac in 2013. Besides his duties as chapter librarian, Charlie organized several enjoyable year-end concerts, which helped put the chorus on a firmer financial position.

The new Board was installed under President **William Scofield**. The new officers embraced sweeping new policies, which will include new AND existing member auditions/training. There are new concepts for member retention and acquisition, and improving Pal-Pac's finances. A new musical director, soon to be on board, is attending rehearsals now.

Many thanks for all the hard work put in by the outgoing Board, under past President **Norm Shute**.

Visit us at: www.musicmenchorus.org

Riverside Chapter
By Gaylord Spence

The **Riverside Chapter** is pleased with the enthusiasm shown by all members in the conclusion of a very busy December and are poised to put all of our efforts into what we hope will be a successful second year of involvement with Singing Valentines.

We are pleased to announce the addition of new Tenor **Marshall Hankin**, formerly a long-time member of the **Whittier Chapter**. He recently moved to the City of Redlands (where we now hold our meetings).

We are extremely pleased to have **Mark Faber** accept the positions of Chapter Librarian and Chapter Webmaster. Mark is already hard at work bringing our Guest books and our website up to speed. Please visit our website and take a peek at his handiwork at: <http://newgangchorus.org/>.

We owe a debt of gratitude to a neighboring chapter, The **Inland Empire Chapter**, for "gifting" us with enough legal copies of *California Here I Come*. We had not been able to purchase this song from the Society, but the IE Chapter solved our dilemma by gifting this music that they have purchased eight years ago. Visit us at: www.newgangchorus.org

San Diego Chapter
By Ducrot Pepys

End of the year activity for the **Sun Harbor Chorus** included: Leadership Academy, 36th Annual Christmas Show, December Nights in Balboa Park, and community Sing-Outs with some Quarteting sprinkled in.

2014 opened with our Installation of Officers. Two new members, **Bill White** and **Frank Artzer**, bring new energy and perspective to the returning 2013 Board. **Allan Webb**, FWD President, administered the oath to our new Team at a banquet coordinated by **Paul Schmidt**, dual member and 2014 President of the **El Cajon Chapter**. We received an inspirational challenge from returning President **Louis Regas**.

Our annual awards went to: **Eric Adams** - Rookie of the Year, **Louis Regas** - Joe White Memorial Scholarship to Harmony University, **Maurice Souza** - Buck Jones Good Fellowship Award, **Sam Alexander** - *BOTY*.

Kathleen Hansen and the Music Team are prepping us for our first performance on February 7 followed by Singing Valentines, and Division Contest in March. Our first-year members get to file away the Holiday Songs and learn our current rep of 20 plus songs. What a great opportunity! The rest of us get to fix all the bad habits and learn a couple of new ones – songs not habits. We improve weekly under Kathleen's patient direction with the help of **Neal Palmer**, our Assistant Director.

On **San Diego Youth Harmony Day**, we joined the men of **Pacific Coast Harmony** and the ladies of **The San Diego Chorus** to present a day of coaching and performance for the young men and women of San Diego.

The featured quartet was **Love Notes**, the 2014 Sweet Adelines International Champion Queens of Harmony.

Visit us at: www.sunharbor.org

South Orange County Chapter
By Irv Engel

South County Sound here in south Orange County, CA continues to hone our singing skills every rehearsal and have added some fun programming. A unique thing that we're doing is to not have a set time for such things as quarteting and tags, but rather to change the timing every week so that the men never know when we'll be doing it. As we are committed to a quality sound, the program activities are also designed as teaching devices so that we can continue to learn even while not rehearsing.

Our Christmas show featured several new acts. We fielded three homegrown quartets and four quartets from the music department of one of our local high schools. We had two boy quartets and two girl quartets and they were a sensation. We also added a little musical accompaniment with a fine cellist who joined us in a carol.

We had excellent attendance at the contest in Ontario and the convention in Bakersfield, where we got to meet many of our fellow barbershoppers and engage in some friendly competition. Visit us at: www.scsound.org



Division 3 NW Chapters
John Heather, Editor

Marin County
By E. Bond Francisco

We're filled with hope and enthusiasm for the coming year. While we savor the last few months with our Northwest Division Most Improved Chorus trophy - and believe me, we've displayed it proudly at every chapter meeting! - we're planning to make 2014 even better.

We were very active singing at various locations throughout December, some of them even paid! Several quartets were active in outreach and private gigs, including a Wednesday morning whirlwind tour of four middle schools. We were honored by the Marin County Board of Supervisors for our contributions to the community. Which is really what it's all about - a community of singers, of neighbors, of friends and acquaintances and friends of friends - we're all connected. That seems to be the spirit of the chorus.

Visit us at: www.marinbarbershopchorus.org

Palo Alto/Mountain View
By David Weatherford

The Good Old Days was the theme of our 2013 Cabaret show. The **Peninsulaire** chorus and quartets, along with special guest quartet "**First Strike**," entertained near-capacity crowds at an afternoon ice cream social and an evening dinner show with musical selections spanning the 20th century.

The Holiday Chorus welcomed several new members who had recently attended our Singer's Voice Clinic. The Holiday Chorus sang Christmas carols, Hanukkah songs, and other holiday favorites at Life's Garden Retirement Community in Sunnyvale,

the CalTrain Holiday Train in Sunnyvale, the Mountain View Tree Lighting celebration, and the Palo Alto farmers' market.

Chuck Leavitt swore in the 2014 chapter officers at our annual Installation Dinner. The officers are President **Jim Sherman**; VP Chapter Development **Andy Mauer**; VP Marketing **Nigel Endersby**; VP Program **Bert Laurence**; VP Music **Terry Moore**; Treasurer **Dave Morley**; Secretary **Bill Faught**; Board Members-at-Large **Jeff Harris** and **John Hinkle**; and IPP **Dave Kocharhook**. The following awards were presented: **Leslie Torrance**, Barbershopper of the Quarter; **Jerry Wong**, Rookie of the Year; **Paul Freudenthal**, Board Award; **Jim Sherman**, President's Award; **Jim Turner**, President's Award; **Dave Kocharhook**, *BOTY* and Peninsulaires' *Hall of Fame*. Visit us at: www.barbershop-harmony.org

San Francisco By Charles Feltman

We had a successful show with the chorus singing 16 (count 'em) songs. Acting help on this presentation came from a prior member just back from New York. The theme involved songs with unfamiliar verses, many originally from films. To avoid date interferences with other chapters our next show will be in March 2015. Our focus right now is learning to be better quartet singers on our Singing Valentines.

Our two Basque Leads **Greg Goyhenetche** and **Leon Sorhondo** have good local connections. They arranged a very enjoyable Board Installation Sunday Lunch at the Basque Cultural Center. Our Assistant Director and now Webmaster **Jason Poyner** was honored there as the *BOTY*. **Gerry Costanzo** demonstrated unsuspected skills as an MC with a humorous streak.

Charles Feltman replaced **Don Kington**, who retired as "digester". Visit us at: www.sfcablecarchorus.org

San Mateo By Thomas Addison

The annual planning committee meeting was held with President **Tom Addison**, Vice President of Music and Performance **Ed Sternbenc**, VP Membership and Chapter Development **Jeff Cleary**, Treasurer **Pete Wanger**, Members-at-Large **Dave McCann** and **Fred Moraga**, and new members **Peter** and **Mathiu Mills**.

We will again host two shows, a theater style show entitled *Beach, Beebop and Barbershop* in the spring and our Halloween Cabaret in the fall. Singing Valentines will be our third singing fund raiser which should keep us solvent for another year.

Several interesting ideas were advanced to promote younger membership including a name change from the "Golden Chordsmen Chorus" which seems to imply Golden Agers, or "Older" Chordsmen. It seems that although we want to preserve the art of four-part "close" harmony, we should be able to generate more interest in this era of acapella singing revival, and perhaps a name change might be a step to modernize our brand and help to promote younger interest. More to come later. Visit us at: www.goldenchordsmen.org

Santa Cruz By Allen Takahashi

Santa Cruz Gold Standard Chorus put on a Western-themed fall show, did Christmas caroling, had our annual installation dinner, and once again sponsored the *Sing For Your Life* benefit show that raises money for the music programs of seven local high schools. We got effusive praise and thanks from both the music educators while on stage, and from the audience afterwards for our efforts. In addition to the choirs of the seven schools and **GSC**, all three chapter quartets participated in the event - **Redwood 4**, (**Jordan Johnson** filling in for **Larry Hardison**, **Bob Folker**, **Marty Dolciamore**, **Glenn Davis**), **Coastal Blend** (**Dan Jett**, **Nancie Barker**, **Ian Blackwood**, **Dale Summer**), and **Constellation** (**Jordan Johnson**, **Allen Takahashi**, **Bill McCain**, **Mark Torrence (VIH)**). Our guest quartet for *SFYL* this year was **The Newfangled Four**, which was a smash hit with the high schoolers. Visit us at: www.scbarbershop.org

Santa Rosa By Ray Crowder

The **Redwood Chordsmen** moved to a new facility in January, the New Vintage Church, 3300 Sonoma Avenue, in Santa Rosa, a little over a mile southwest of our former location. We're still meeting on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM.

The guys are still buzzing with excitement over the success of our annual Christmas show, *It's A Wonderful Christmas Carol*, featuring the fine young quartet, **First Strike**. Hats off to show chairman, **Kelly McConnell**, and his hard working team.

We're thrilled over the photos and great article about our chapter written by **Chris Smith**, popular columnist for the Santa Rosa Press Democrat. He and photographer, **Alvin Jornada**, have greatly increased our barbershop image in the community.

The **Chordsmen** made their annual appearance at the Altamont Senior Complex, in Rohnert Park, and at the annual Pearl Harbor Day breakfast at the Santa Rosa Vet's Building. One of our chapter quartets, **Rare Form**, performed for the Vintage Apartment seniors, the Vineyard Commons adult community, and the Singing Tree Neighborhood dinner in Oakmont.

Our 2014 chapter President and former *BOTY*, **Shelly Albaum**, hosted an outstanding Installation Dinner and Awards Banquet. Congratulations to all of our awards recipients: *BOTY* - **Neal Rogers**, Unsung Hero - **John Hayes**, Most Improved Singer - **Eldon Guinn**, Rookie Of The Year - **Joe McCarty**, Spirit Of The Afterglow - **James Morgan**, President's Award - **Ray Crowder**, Espirit De Corps - **Elliott Smeds**, Ray Crowder Community Service And Youth Outreach Award - **Andrew Cook**, Hall Of Fame (Multiple Awards) - **Dr. Val Hicks**, **Phil Debar**, **Ed Thompson**, **Jeremy Donley**, **Lynn Brittan**, **Ray Crowder**.

We welcome our newest members: **Chase Ferrante**, **Alex Randolph**, **Austin Robinson**, **James Johnson**, **Jon Friedman**, and **Lenny Cook**. Our youth movement must be catching on because three of these new members are under 20 years of age, and a fourth member is under 28. Visit us at: chordsmen.groupanizer.com

SF Bay Cities Quartet

By Jordan Makower

We spotlight a few of the men in our chapter who exemplify our philosophy of life; to seek happiness, do good, and cause no harm. Their actions move us forward and give us a comfortable place to sing. Our President, **Steve Gummarsall**, Tenor. He knows a vast repertoire of songs, and helps every voice sing their part better. **Paul Goldstein**, Lead. He is an enthusiastic singer and a conscientious person, who also actively participates in aiding his community with his good works. **David Laubscher**, Lead and (part-time) Bass. Dave is an indefatigable singer-artist, mechanic, engineer, and is the driving force behind his quartet, **Four Gents in Accord**. **Mike Irvin**, Baritone. He is affable, with a radiant charm that elicits smiles from our audience during each song. Perhaps you'll want to join us for lunch the first Wednesday of the month, and the second and fourth Wednesday for dinner at Harry's Hofbrau "to be in that number".

Visit us at: www.sfbayquartets.org

Walnut Creek

By Mike Cating

The Devil Mountain Chorus has hit the ground running in 2014! Through tireless efforts of our new Youth Harmony Chairman **Bob Horwitz**, chapter quartets have visited four local high school choirs so far this year, and the chorus has been invited to perform on three high school shows. Generous donations in December and January also established a chapter Youth Harmony Fund dedicated to supporting and encouraging young singers and their teachers in the pursuit of singing excellence.

Singing Valentines were a smash hit as usual. This year was a banner year, with a net increase in number delivered of over 50% from last year, thanks primarily to the dedication of chairman **Dwight Lang**. Deliveries to the city halls of Walnut Creek, Pleasant Hill, and Danville, as well as to the Contra Costa Times main office, extended the event from a fundraiser into a significant marketing and publicity effort.

DMC is also happy to announce we are resuming the almost-tradition of the annual NW Division Summer BBQ and Harmony Brigade get-together. This year's event will take place in Walnut Creek and will occur on Saturday, Aug 9. We'll have all the details hammered out in time for the NE/NW division convention in Stockton - please save the date!

For the latest happenings, photos and videos, like us on Facebook at <http://www.devilmountainchorus.org>



Division 4 NE Chapters
Roger Perkins, Editor

California Delta Chapter
By Rich Brunner

VoCal had a very busy and fun fall season. After our exciting run as a kitchen full of chefs at the District, we earned a spot on the stage to represent the FWD at International in Las Vegas. As we hung up our chef's coats, planning began almost immediately for the new set we'll bring to the stage in July. Starting just a few weeks later, our 4th Annual Singing Clinic welcomed new

singers from the community, who gained singing skills at the hands of our talented cadre of instructors. This year's crop of eager students had a particularly young slant to it and resulted in a few new members and lot of new friends.

As part of our community outreach efforts, we performed a show as part of a local church's annual concert series, where they try to expose their congregation and local community to a wide variety of music and performers. They were stunned by the beauty of barbershop delivered by a large ensemble with such commitment.

It was very fun for us as performers to perform for an unsuspecting audience that was so receptive, and the church is already making plans to have us back for future events.

For the holiday season, our big annual community show featured a nationally recognized jazz high school choir, a 20-person avant garde mixed voice ensemble, and a very lively all-female community ensemble that entertained the audience both musically and through their humor. Together with the Voices of California and our own Artistic License, both of whom unveiled lots of beautiful and exciting new holiday tunes, the audience was treated to a marvelously diverse afternoon of music.

In addition to all of that, the chorus also performed at the California State Capitol and did several outdoor concerts in the community.

Central California Chapter

By Miles Sutter

The **Golden Valley Chorus** conducted a **Youth Barbershop Work Shop** in October. **Mark Jantzen** was the work shop coordinator for this marvelous event. A first time undertaking by the chapter, it had well over 100 students, both male and female, coming from Oakdale, Escalon, Ripon, Merced, Stockton, Manteca. Students received the music for their learning sessions, name tags and time schedules for the day. Teaching quartets for the day were **Artistic License**, 2011 FWD Champions, and the Sweet Adelines quartet **Anticipation**, Region 12 5th Place medalist.

The Saturday night show saw ticket sales of over 400 people in the seats. **The Crush** was the featured Quartet and the Master of Ceremonies was **Dan Warschauer**, who also scripted the show. **The Crush** sang the overlay of *America The Beautiful* with the voices of the Youth Chorus to close the show.

The **Golden Valley Chorus** sang for the Modesto Kingdom Hall LDS church for their annual Nativity Festival. **Herb Andrew** supplied the lead-in narrative for some of our songs. Soloists for the evening were **Chuck Roots**, **Terrell Chambers**, **Bob Clark** and **Leo Van Vliet**, together with the "Echo Quartet" [**Derick Sturke**, **Greg DeMers**, **Leo Van Vliet**, **Bob Clark**]. The GVC repeated the show at the Casa De Modesto Retirement Center, for 250-300 guests.

The GVC held our 17th annual installation and awards ceremony. **Herb Andrew** gave the invocation and served as MC. Our installing officer was **Jason Dyer**, assisted by his wife, **Elizabeth**. The awards recipients were: President's Award - **Scott Hutchinson**, Director's Award - **Greg Kramp**, and **BOTY** - **Stratt Riggs**.

Your editor was honored to be recognized for his 50 years of Barbershop Harmony Society membership.

The Don Goad Memorial Quartet Jamboree and Quartet Awards contest was won by the **Fish Head Four [Jason Dyer, Bruce Sellnow, Chuck Roots, Bob Clark]**.

Davis-Vacaville Chapter

By Tom Powers

We sponsored our 25th Annual *Harmony in Our Lives Show* in Davis, which had 11 elementary, junior high and high school choruses perform 15-minute programs to two large audiences. We raised over \$5,000 to help finance choral singing in the Davis schools. We also hosted this year's well-attended Leadership Academy at McGeorge Law School in Sacramento.

We presented three holiday performances in December with a mixture of religious and popular Christmas songs – all without sheet music. We partnered with two churches in Woodland and Vacaville charging a modest donation ticket price and cans of food for needy persons in the community. We had guest performers at each show with a mixed chorus from Vacaville High School adding a youthful flavor for that audience. To the delight of the participants, we had the audience perform “The Twelve Days of Christmas” in sections with impromptu choreography.

At our annual Initiation Banquet, **Claude Rohwer** swore in the new officers: President **Steve Rollins**; Secretary **Wit Ashbrook**; Treasurer **Steve Calapp**; Membership VP **Rich Potts**; Music VP **Bob Hansen**; Program VP **Bob Benson**; Public Relations VP **Dave Roy**; and Board Member-at-Large **Tom Powers**.

Our perpetual *BOTY* trophy went to **Steve Holcomb**. Director **Ollie Brilhante** presented his special annual award to **Bob Benson**. President **Steve Rollins** gave special thanks to **Dave Roy** for his efforts on behalf of the chapter in 2013.

Folsom Chapter

By Dennis Stohl

The **FHX Annual Recital *Happy Trails*** was held with a Western theme. A bunch of cowboys entertained the largest crowd we have had in a few years. **Kevin Petrik** was the emcee. Chapter quartets **Above C Level (Roger Santiago, Kent Borrowdale, Ken Potter, Bob Roberts)** and **B-BLT (Stan Trumbull, Ken Potter, Kent Borrowdale, Roger Santiago)** entertained the audience with their finest numbers. The headliner quartet was **The Great Perkoss [Roger Perkins, son, Mark (bari), grandson Tyler (tenor) Sean (lead)]**. Roger also accompanied the chorus on guitar and entertained the crowd with his famous rope tricks. Much appreciation goes to Roger for “saving the day”.

The Chorus sang at the Veterans Day ceremonies, at a Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony, and enjoyed a Christmas Party at **Les Cudworth's** home, which included some caroling to his neighbors.

Roger Perkins installed the 2014 officers Western style. Since our fall recital was a cowboy show we wore our Western shirts and hats. **Doug Vestal** will be riding the range as “Trail Boss” (president) for his sixth term, thus the term: President-for-life. **Les Lorenzen**, 2012 *BOTY* presented the 2013 *BOTY* to bass singer, **Bob Roberts**.

Nevada Placer Chapter

By Roger Perkins

The **Sierranaders** made their annual appearance at the Victorian Christmas in Nevada City on two December evenings when the temperatures were in the 20s. We sang 10 Christmas songs and a couple of barbershop songs, including *Hello, Mary Lou* and *Coney Island Baby*. Most of the audience that stopped to listen enjoyed hearing a couple of non-Christmas songs. We have performed at the Victorian Christmas for close to 25 years.

At our Installation Dinner, Northeastern District Vice President **Richard Lund** from Placerville installed the officers one at a time as part of an automobile until the whole vehicle was assembled. 2012 *BOTY* **Steve Mathews** presented the *BOTY* 2013 to **Trent Bass**. Despite his last name, he sings Lead. He is our uniform chairman, helps make the coffee every week, has good attendance and actually works on his music at home. The program ended with Director **Roger Perkins** leading the chorus in four songs. We then moved into the main part of the restaurant and sang happy birthday to a woman named Carol, who attends all of our shows and happened to be there with her family for the celebration.

Reno Chapter

By Steve Shurtliff

Our Christmas show played to packed houses for two shows, and the audience gave us standing ovations at each. We had two fine high school groups – **Vocal Motion** from Reno High (led by our own **Dave Gaunt**) and **Vocal Ensemble** from Reed High. For the afternoon show we also had **Bella Voce**, a wonderful women's singing group from Reno. For the evening show we had **High Sierra Harmony**, Reno's Sweet Adeline chorus.

The Harrah's hotel/casino did follow through, and we had a quartet there every Saturday night through New Year's. One long-standing Reno quartet, **Loose Change**, did so well they were invited to a nearby venue called the Knitting Factory, where they opened for one of the rock bands there that night. One might think four guys in tuxedos singing a cappella would be a little out of place in a venue that caters to hard rock music, but the response of the crowd certainly proved otherwise!

Sacramento Chapter

By Joe Samora

A VLQ (very large quartet) entertained residents of the Empire Ranch Alzheimer's Special Care Center in Folsom. About seventy patients, staff and guests attended the event. Twenty **Capitolaires** sang the National Anthem during a State Agency Recognition Breakfast held in the Citrus Heights Community Center. Several hundred administrators and employees attended.

Alan Stroppini chaired the Capitolaires holiday show held at the California State Automobile Museum. The theme was *A Few of My Favorite Things* referring to classic cars and barbershop singing. Several hundred people attended two performances.

Several chapter officers attended the annual Leadership Academy held at McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento, including Treasurer **Larry Womac** and Secretary **Alan Stroppini**.

During December, Capitolaire quartets sang three days a week for the annual **Polar Express** at the State Railroad Museum. **Steve Allison** coordinated the quartet schedule. Hundreds of children and some parents dressed in pajamas for the train ride to meet Santa Claus. The quartets entertained before the trains departed and when they returned.

Nearly two dozen Capitolaire sang Christmas carols in the rotunda of the State Capitol under the direction of **Ray Rhymer** and **Randy Finger**. The Capitolaire also sang holiday songs during Woodland's annual Christmas Festival.

The Capitolaire annual Award and Installation Banquet had 40 members and guests attend. President **Clark Abrahamson** served as MC. **Blair Reynolds** installed the officers. The *BOTY* for 2013 is **Steve Allison**. **Ray Rhymer** and **Randy Finger** led the chorus in singing a couple love songs.



Division 5 AZ Chapters
Frank Ortega, Editor

Greater Phoenix Chapter
By Bob Szabo

In preparation for the Far Western District Contest in October 2013, the **Spirit of Phoenix** (SOP) held a "Go for the Gold" show that featured qualified quartets **Vocal Edition**, **Frequency**, **Speakeasy** and **Heatwave**. SOP happily placed 3rd and will be competing at the 2014 International Chorus Contest in Las Vegas. Our quartets finished 2nd, 3rd, 6th and 14th in the order presented above.

The SOP sang at the Phoenix City Hall for the City of Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture to help celebrate their local arts and humanity groups.

The chorus participated in the annual "Boys to Men" concert, featuring local men's and high school boy's choruses. This event helps to provide young men with a variety of singing options after high school. SOP also sponsored the "Pizza-Tag Singing Afterglow" to help draw potential new members into the barbershop world.

Two Christmas shows featured a comedic spoof on Scrooge and the various SOP "Spirits" that change his life. Guest artists **Vocal Edition**, the Skyline High School Glee Club, **C'est Le Vie** (a new, young Sweet Adelines quartet) and **Affinity** (a Chandler High School young men's quartet) embellished the shows. Audiences showed their enjoyment and appreciation with two standing ovations!

At the SOP's final Christmas performance, although encumbered by a limited stage, the "Scrooge" spoof once again brought a standing ovation. **Vocal Edition** and **C'est Le Vie** entertained the audience with their special performances.

To help celebrate the various SOP achievements in 2013, our final rehearsal of the year included a "White Elephant" gift exchange and a serenading by Seniors Quartet Champion **Audacity**.

Dante Campana and **Andrew Roman**, two young men who love the barbershop art form, became active quartet members.

Mesa Chapter By Rich Carey

The **Lamplighters** chorus celebrated Oktoberfest at the home of **Vic Bowen** in Mesa while simultaneously celebrating the Mesa Chapter's 20th Anniversary.

Thirty-six men registered for the Leadership Academy hosted by the Mesa Chapter, and again, the event was a resounding success!

Bob Shaffer developed "The Lighter Side" Newsletter (Volume 1, Issue 1) for members without computers who cannot access the chapter website.

We reinstated **Ron Carpenter** and **David Tague** was approved for membership.

The chorus sang at the Tumbleweed Christmas Tree Lighting (Santa's House) in Chandler. Chapter quartets, **2 Under Par** (**Charlie Nardin**, **Dick Moore**, **Bernie Esberner**, **Barney Griffin**), **Mostly Vintage** (**Jim Brown**, **Rich Carey**, **Roger Morrow**, **Jim McClelland**), **Back Spin** (**Bob Shaffer**, **Dale Weatherford**, **Jerry Fox**, **Andy Harry**), and **TILT** (**Rich Carey**, **Bernie Esberner**, **Ray Stasko**, **Ron Steen**) also sang sets. That same day, everyone went to Mercy General Hospital in Gilbert and sang Christmas songs in their lobby.

The chapter is accruing more members as the sound and music selections continue to improve under the direction of **Dick Naas** and **Jim Brown**. **Russ Young** has been an invaluable aide in developing better vocal techniques for the chorus and quartets.

Prescott Chapter By Sam Stimple

The music and show teams and the **High Mountain Chordsmen** (HMC) devoted scores of hours preparing for our annual November show *Up, Up, Up and Away*, a magical hot air balloon ride across our beautiful nation. Our four chapter quartets and guest quartet **Arizona Chord Company** added to the variety of pleasing and familiar tunes. A special guest night (House Party!) held a week later drew Sedona singers as well as local family members.

December traditionally is our busiest time of the year for chorus performances. The HMC and quartets donned black chorus outfits (complete with red neck scarves) and entertained hundreds in holiday style. We visited care centers, church potlucks, homeowner's association parties, and other venues during the first three weeks of the month. The season's apex was our three-hour entertainment package for Prescott's downtown Acker Musical Showcase. We have been invited to perform at the showcase for the past 25 years and have dispelled the rumors that barbershop harmony is the best-kept secret in town.

Barbershoppers (both genders) and friends continue to meet the fourth Friday morning of the month at Golden Corral Buffet in Prescott for the Harmony for Lunch Bunch meeting. If you are in the area, we'd love to have you visit, eat, and sing with us. We meet from 11:00 a.m. until we get thrown out!

FWD IPP **Russ Young** installed our 2014 officers. Senior mover-and-shaker **Rich Ludwigson** was named 2013 *BOTY*, who continues as program vice president and sings tenor with **Antique Parts**.

Sedona Chapter
By Michael McCaffrey

The **Beauty and the Beasts** quartet from **Harmony on the Rocks** chorus provided the evening's entertainment at The Enchantment Resort near Sedona. The occasion was the Spirit of Sedona 2013 Awards Celebration, honoring those whose efforts and generosity support nonprofit organizations in the Greater Sedona area.

The chorus had performances at the Sedona Heritage Museum, Verde Valley Senior Apartments, and Rotary Club (Christmas party), plus the Sedona Arts Center (Loving Bowls fundraiser for arts and education) and Wrap It at the "Y" (gift wrapping fundraiser for local charities).

This should be a banner year for the **Harmony of the Rocks** chorus. Director **John McDougald** challenged us to (a) learn the new music, (b) learn how to find your starting pitch, (c) qualify on all the Barberpole Cat songs, and (d) learn new songs for 2014 so that you're able to sing them in a quartet.

Tucson Sunshine Chapter
By Jack Statler

A hearty group of chorus members with dedicated and inspired Director **Dayle Ann Cook** competed at the Far Western District Chorus Contest in Bakersfield, finishing a respectable 13th place. Congratulations to **Joint Venture** on winning the FWD's Seniors Quartet Championship and to **Ron Hayes** for his honor as the Fall Convention Dedicatee.

Tucson Barbershop eXperience (TBX) opened the city's 5th Annual Classic Car Show with an inspiring *Star-Spangled Banner*, then gathered at Todd's Restaurant for a gala Fall Barbershop Party. Owner, chef and talented bass **Todd Scott** and his staff put on a great spread. Congratulations to **John Devitt** on becoming our 2013 TSC Chili Champion.

TBX presented a well-received concert honoring our armed services veterans. Special thanks to Show Chairman **Bob Topp**, along with **Mike Elbert** and **Tony Spar**, and MC **Jim Rapp** for the script, **Gerry Swank** for the Army Air Corps uniform, quartets **Touch of Grey** and **Joint Venture**, and Assistant Directors **Rich Kates** and **Ken Sylvia**.

TBX joined the **Green Valleyaires** for their annual concert. **Touch of Grey**, **Joint Venture**, and **Sonoran Sound** were also featured.

TBX had several singing engagements featuring songs of Christmas and Chanukah at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Pantano Baptist Church, in the lobby in front of the fireplace at the plush Loews Ventana Canyon Resort, and as the opening act for The Nutcracker ballet in the lobby of the Vail Theatre of the Arts.

Switching terms of office from July-June to a calendar year (January-December), the recently installed board members were reinstalled by AZ Division VP **John Bloomquist**. Retiring quartet **Sonoran Sound** received well-deserved thanks for their contributions to barbershop music in Tucson. FWD IPP **Russ Young** was honored for his contributions to the District and TSC. **Mike Elbert** was named 2013 *BOTY*. The highlight of the

evening was the take-off on Johnny Carson's Carnac the Magnificent routine by Bloomquist/Young—complete with the oversized headpiece and envelopes with insightful questions lampooning selected chapter members.

White Mountain Chapter
By Rich Hall

The **High Country Chorus** presented its Second Annual Christmas Show *A White Mountain Christmas*. Choirs from Blue Ridge High and Show Low High participated, and we had an excellent turnout. Proceeds from the show were donated to the schools' choral programs.

Small groups from HCC spread Christmas cheer at the local Walmart, strolling around and entertaining the shoppers. The store and the customers always love this caroling activity, and it serves to promote and draw attendance to our shows.

We held our officer installation dinner at the home of **Ron & Marty LaMar**. New officers are President **John Graham**, VP Membership and Music **Rich Hall**, VP Marketing **Dan Lewis**, and Treasurer **Don Murrow**. Thanks to Ron and Marty for their hospitality.

The chorus is seeking a new director. If anyone would like to work with a great group of guys in a resort community in the cool mountains of Arizona, contact **Dan Lewis** at (928) 919-0092.

Notices

2014 Conventions and Contests

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

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

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

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

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

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

May 17, 2014 NE & NW Division Contests, Lodi, CA - contests include Quartet and Chorus

Host is Stockton Chapter

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

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

Host is Fresno Chapter

Calendar

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

Chapters Looking For Directors

Sun Cities Chapter, Sun Cities, AZ

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

White Mountain Chapter, Show Low, AZ

Contact Dan Lewis at (928) 919-0092

March 20-23, 2014 FWD Spring Conv Reg



FAR WESTERN DISTRICT 2014 SPRING CONVENTION & CONTESTS



HEADQUARTERS HOTEL
HYATT PLACE RIVERSIDE/DOWNTOWN
3500 MARKET STREET
RIVERSIDE, CA 92507
ALL ROOMS: \$99 PER NIGHT, INCLUDES BREAKFAST
CALL (951) 321-3500 OR USE FWD WEBSITE LINK

Contests and Show

International Quartet Prelims
SE and SW Division Choruses
SE and SW Division Quartets
District High School Quartets
Show of Champions

HOSTED BY THE
GASLIGHT CHORUS
MARCH 20-23, 2014
Fox Performing Arts Center
3801 Mission Inn Avenue
Riverside, CA 92501

Meetings and Events

District Board Meeting
House of Delegates Meeting
Past District Presidents Meeting
Classes
AH-SOW



REGISTRATION FORM

Please print clearly

Competition Status

Name: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Chorus Contestant	<input type="checkbox"/> Quartet Contestant
Address: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Competitive Member	<input type="checkbox"/> Guest
City: _____ State _____ Zip _____	Part: <input type="checkbox"/> Tenor <input type="checkbox"/> Lead <input type="checkbox"/> Bari <input type="checkbox"/> Bass	
Phone: () _____	Chapter/Chorus: _____	
eMail: _____	Quartet Name: _____	

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

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____. Please make check payable to **Brea Gaslight Chorus** (fees are non-refundable). Return form(s) with payment to: Larry Carlson, 1126 Baseline Road, La Verne, CA 91750. If you have questions or would like a group form please contact Larry at springconv2014@gaslightchorus.org or (714) 494-6632.

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

May 2-3, 2014 AZ Division Registration



2014 ARIZONA DIVISION CONVENTION & CONTESTS

HOSTED BY THE MESA CHAPTER

REGISTRATION FORM

Contest Location

Skyline High School Quartet Contest: 12:00 Noon
845 S. Crismon Rd Chorus Contest: 7:00 PM
Mesa, AZ 85208

Headquarters Hotel

Country Inn & Suites (480) 641-8000
6650 E Superstition Springs Blvd
Mesa, AZ 85206

*\$89 Room Rate / Available thru April 12
(Complimentary Hot Breakfast included)*

Mail Registrations and Check to:

Rich Carey, Registrar
11363 E Milagro Ave
Mesa, AZ 85209-1452
Phone: (480) 361-7196 Email: rclc675@sbcglobal.net
Make checks payable to: Mesa Lamplighters

All Badges will be available at Skyline High School
on Saturday, May 3, 2014 at 9:00 AM

☐ Competitors: Check here if you have a disability that may require accommodation in order for you to fully participate in the convention.



REGISTRATION PRICES

ALL EVENTS				SINGLE EVENT	
EARLY (Postmarked by April 5, 2014)		Late or On Site (after April 5, 2014)		Adult, Quartet Contest	\$25.00
Adult	\$35.00	Adult	\$45.00	Student, Quartet Contest	\$12.50
Student (under 26)	\$17.50	Student (under 26)	\$22.50	Adult, Chorus Contest	\$25.00
Under 12	Free (non-member)	Under 12	Free (non-member)	Student, Chorus Contest	\$12.50

(Single event registrations will be sold at the door, non-singers only. All Competitors **must** have All Events registration)

List Names of everyone being registered and paid for – Use additional sheets if necessary

Bass	Bari	Lead	Tenor	Name	Chapter	Chorus Competitor	Quartet Competitor	Non-Competing Member	Child / Student	Spouse / Guest	District Officer	Judge / Contest Admin.	\$ Amount Due
Total \$ Enclosed:													0.00

Contact Information for the individual completing this form:

Name: _____ Phone (____) _____ Email: _____

May 17, 2014 NW/NE Divisions Registration



FAR WESTERN DISTRICT 2014 NE/NW DIVISION CONVENTION AND CONTESTS



Contests and Show
NE and NW Division Quartets
NE and NW Division Choruses
Show of Champions

HOSTED BY THE
STOCKTON CHAPTER
May 17, 2014

Hutchins Street Square
Community & Conference Center
125 South Hutchins Street, Lodi, CA

REGISTRATION PRICES		<div>Headquarters hotel is the Holiday Inn Express 1337 East Kettleman Lane Lodi, CA 209-210-0150 Hotel is about 3 miles from the Hutchins Square Center See the convention page at FarWesternDistrict.org for all hotel information.</div>
ALL CONTESTANTS MUST PURCHASE AN ALL EVENTS REGISTRATION FOR THE APPLICABLE AGE GROUP		
EARLY BIRD (Postmarked by April 19th)	LATE/ON SITE (Postmarked after April 19th)	
All Events: Adult.....\$35.00 Young adult (under 26) ...\$17.50 Child under 13..... Free	All Events: Adult..... \$45.00 Young adult (under 26) \$22.50 Child under 13 Free Single Event(on site only): Adult..... \$25.00 Young adult (under 26) \$12.50 Child under 13 Free	

You may order your registrations online. Go to <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/582138>

2014 FAR WESTERN DISTRICT NE/NW Division Convention and Contests REGISTRATION FORM				Member	Guest	Young Adult	Child<13	Handicapped		Amount Due
Name(s)		Chapter or City								
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Address				Total Amount Due						
City		State		ZIP		Make checks payable to: SPEBSQSA, Stockton Chapter				
Email		Phone								
Competing with:										

Mail one form for your party (up to eight names per sheet) and a check covering all registrations to:

Carol Clark – NE/NW Registrations
1135 Sheridan Way, Stockton, CA 95207
 Questions? Call 209 474-3141-,
 or e-mail events@stocktonportsmen.org

☐ Check here if you have a disability that may require accommodation in order for you to fully participate in this convention.

2014 Youth Harmony Camp

HARMONY CAMP 2014

September 19th – 21st

Pollock Pines, CA

Teaching Quartets: LUNCH BREAK AND NEWFANGLED FOUR

Our goal is to expose at least 100 young men to Barbershop Harmony. Now is the time for Barbershop members to begin talking to music educators, church groups, friends and neighbors about Youth Harmony Camp. We will be sending a "Save the Date" email to former attendees and music educators within the next week. A tri-fold brochure will be available mid-March for you to share with music educators.

In addition to our promotion of Camp, above, I am offering a detailed Financial Report of Camp (below) for your information.

Richard Lund

rlund@innercite.com

530-621-1904

YIH.farwesterndistrict.org/youth-harmony-camp

Financial Report for Youth Harmony Camp - 2013

This Summary of the financing of Harmony Camp is presented as our Financial Report.

<u>Cost of Camp</u>		<u>2013 Camp</u>	<u>10yr Avg</u>
Sly Park Educational Center	@ \$100.50 per person	\$12,562	\$10,528
Travel expense (quartets and clinicians)		1,701	2,150
Other expense (music, ice cream, etc)		<u>1,566</u>	<u>1,562</u>
	Total Expense	\$15,829	14,241
82 boys attended Camp - 2013		\$15,830/82 = \$193/boy	\$191/boy

Revenue for Camp

There are currently three main sources of funding:

Funding for Harmony Camp - 2013

I.	Chapters, Groups and Individuals	<u>2013 Camp</u>	<u>10yr Avg</u>	
	Ten chapters' contributions:	\$4,886		
	Groups: High Sierra Harmony Brigade and a quartet	2,800		
	Individuals	<u>1,172</u>		
		\$8,858	\$8,023	(48%)
II.	Harmony Foundation			
	\$750 plus \$50 per boy With 82 boys $750 + 82 \times 50 =$	\$4,850	\$3,919	(28%)
	This formula no longer applies in 2014.			
III.	Fees from the boys			
	\$80 x 69 = \$5,520 (13 scholarships were awarded)	<u>\$5,520</u>	<u>\$4,717</u>	(24%)
	Total Revenue	\$19,228	\$15,590	

This year's revenue for 2013 was pretty close to average. However, the Group contributions provided the extra "umph" that made the "contribution" category so successful. This also makes the point that contributions outside of Harmony Foundation are our major revenue source and determine our financial health each year. Harmony Foundation has provided 24% (ten year average) of our overall revenue.

As noted above, the funding from Harmony Foundation has changed for 2014. The old "formula" from the Harmony Foundation is gone; we now write a full-fledged grant for the amount that our camp requires to "make it work". Our grant application for 2014 requested \$6,550 in anticipation of a large (unknown) increase in cost from Sly Park. The Foundation awarded us \$4,000, likely because the Sly Park increase is currently unknown. The finances of our Camp are healthy, with a cumulative surplus buildup from over the years in excess of \$13,000. Therefore, if the anticipated increase in cost from Sly Park becomes a reality, this potential gap in funding can be met. Our surplus allows us to weather "impacts" like this. In the past we have had one or two.

Another very important point to make is that our real costs per boy range from about \$169 in 2005 to a high of \$214 in 2006 with an average of about \$191. This is calculated by simply dividing the total cost of each Camp by the number of boys attending.

It is therefore instructive to realize that the \$80 registration fee charged to each boy is intentionally held low for the benefit of the boys and their families.

In fact, the real work of getting boys to Camp is to get them to "see" the value of Camp through their payment of the \$80 fee.

A practice that has become all too common is for chapters to take on the role of sponsorship and pay all or part of the \$80 fee for boys coming to Camp. This defeats the purpose of holding the fee at a low level and it also decreases the overall chapter contributions. A fee of \$80 for a full weekend of Harmony Camp, including meals and lodging is very affordable (intentionally) and provides an incentive for the boys and their families to perceive "value" in the Camp experience. For chapters to pay this fee for the boys takes away the opportunity for the boys and their families to see the value of Camp on their own. It also decreases the overall pool of chapter contributions.

When I was at Harmony University last year, I had a sit down meeting with Marty Monson that lasted for easily an hour or more. An incredible man! One of the points that Marty made after hearing of the success of our FWD Camp was to suggest in somewhat forceful terms that we need to start thinking about building an Endowment for the Camp that will “live” past my tenure as Director. In effect, Marty challenged me to raise an Endowment Fund for Camp.

My ultimate goal is to have such an Endowment fund reside with the Harmony Foundation (HF) and be administered by HF. At this point it appears that the HF is willing to do this, and we are currently in the planning stages of how to carry out a fund raising campaign for this rather incredible goal.

My purpose for mentioning this idea at this early stage is not for you to jump in and start sending money, but to give me your feedback as to a) whether you think it’s a good idea, b) offer any suggestions as to policies that could help govern such a fund and c) provide feedback as to whether you think such a fund should be specific to the Camp or District wide Youth In Harmony funding.

One last note: it is anticipated that a portion of our surplus will be used to “kick off” the campaign to raise funds for the Endowment Fund.

Respectfully,

Richard Lund