



WESTUNES

Magazine

WESTUNES, established in 1951, is the official publication of the Far Western District Association of Chapters in the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

Volume 53

May/June 2003

Number 3



1 GOTCHA!



2 Metropolis



3 Finale



4 Broadway



5 Q



HSQ Champions Da Isle Tones

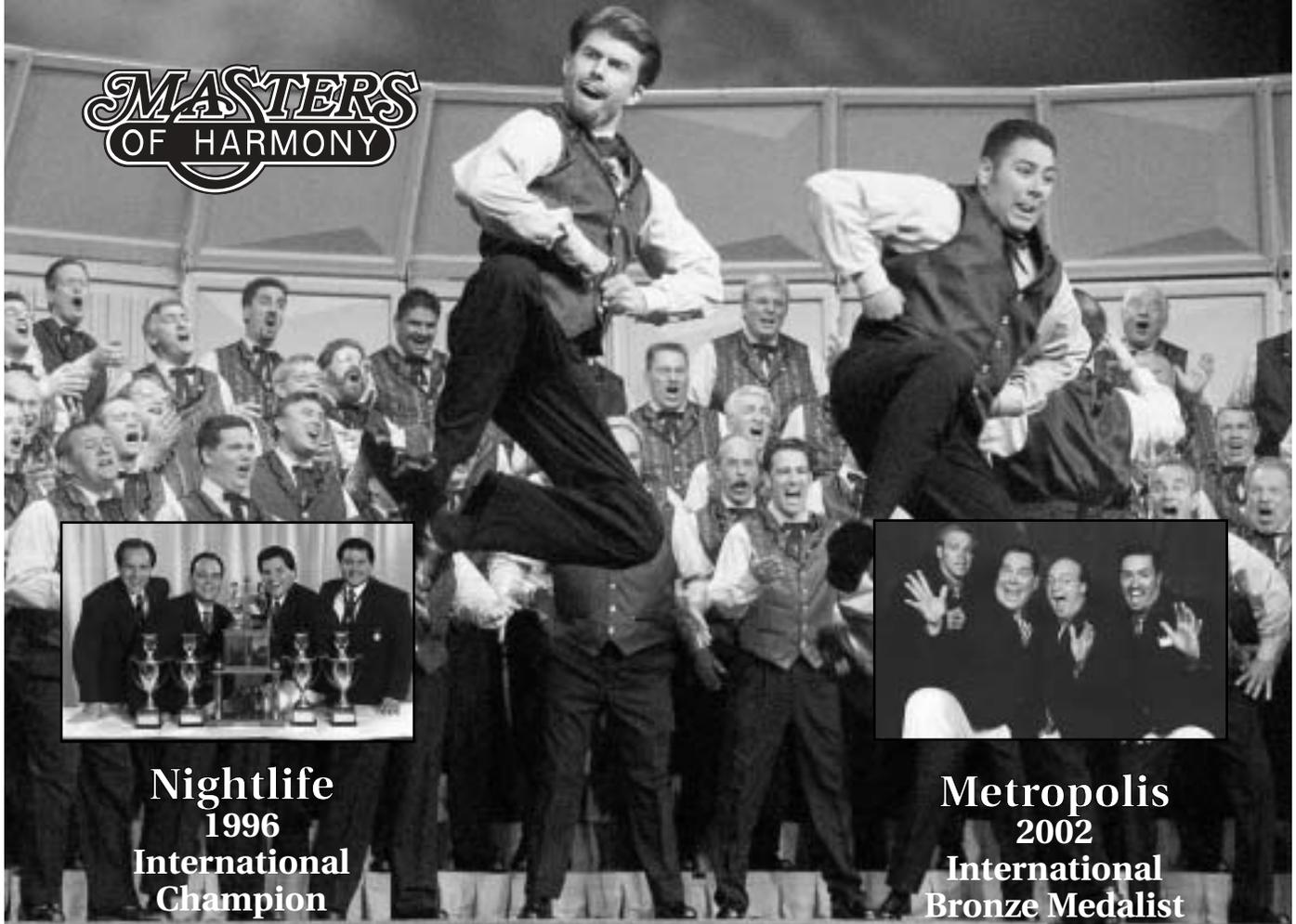
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WESTUNES and FWD data continuously updated.

Subscriptions:

Domestic
\$15/yr. First Class Postage
\$10/yr. Third Class Postage
Foreign
\$20/yr. First Class Postage

Advertising rates:

1/8 page \$25/issue
1/4 page \$50/issue
1/2 page \$100/issue
Full page \$150/issue
Full page [inside front or back cover] \$200/issue
Center spread, 2 pages \$400/issue
Business Card \$200/yr

All articles, ads, and photographs must be sent to WESTUNES electronically or camera ready. If electronic, use MS Word 98 or earlier, high resolution JPEG, or .pdf files. Please identify people in photos clearly. Make checks for ads out to WESTUNES and mail to the WESTUNES Editor.

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Submission
Issue Deadline

Jan/Feb 1 Dec
Mar/Apr 1 Feb
May/June 1 Apr
Jul/Aug 1 Jun
Sep/Oct 1 Aug
Nov/Dec 1 Oct

Send change of address to:
WESTUNES Editor
[Please include old and new addresses]

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District President

John Krizek



Reno Prelims: Another FWD Musical Bonanza

Wow! At the Spring convention and International Prelims in Reno March 21/22, the District qualified five quartets for the international finals this summer in Montreal. Hats off to: **Gotcha!**, **Metropolis**, and **Finale**, all of whom were in the top 10 last year and will

return for a shot at the gold; plus international veteran **Broadway**; and making the cut in their very first competition, **Q**. At this writing, four more FWD quartets, unable to be in Reno due to health, work, and other conflicts, are slated to compete for the necessary points in other districts: **Freestyle**, who finished 12th last year; current District champions **Sam's Club** who missed the cut last year by one point; **Late Night Barbershop**, who've been there before; and **Hi Fidelity**. Watch the FWD web site for news on how they did. The FWD could wind up with a record number of quartets in the "big show."

The small chapter chorus contest was won by the **Santa Monica Oceanaires**. Ironically, the **Oceanaires** won the very first small chapter chorus title in 1980, as well as the last (see below).

The quality of the high school quartet competition continues to "ramp up" to amazing levels. For the first time, a quartet sponsored by the **Aloha Chapter, Da Isle Tones**, took the championship trophy. A highlight of the week-end had to be the review and coaching session provided for all the high school quartets by the judging panel, consisting of **Gotcha!**, **Metropolis**, and **Lloyd Steinkamp**. We are truly blessed, not only with the talent of these men amongst us, but their dedication and skill at sharing that talent with the next generation of barbershop singers.

Convention, Governance Changes

Administratively, a number of important issues were dealt with by the District Board, and a lively House of Delegates meeting.

- The small chapter chorus contest has been cancelled. Launched in 1980 to encourage participation by small choruses, this event used to attract as many as a dozen participants, but interest has dwindled to the point where only three choruses were entered in each of the last two years.

- Partly to take up the slack with attendance at the Spring conventions, the event will henceforth be combined with the host division's Spring contest. That means the NorCal East division competition will be combined with the International Prelims in Reno next March.
- The Plateau Review Task Force, chaired by past president **Don Gubbins**, presented its findings to the Board. Many good ideas to improve that part of our competition system are being considered.
- The HOD unanimously approved a change in the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) which will affect the District board makeup starting next year. In addition to five divisional VPs, the board will include an executive vice president. Both the EVP and the immediate past president will chair two of the eight functional committees; all other functional committee chairmen will be appointed, and all will go through the same training and reporting procedures with their Society counterparts. The new officers will be elected at the Fall HOD meeting.
- Due to the high cost to the District of operating two Chapter Officer Training Seminars, there will be only one COTS next November, and it will be in the Southern California area.
- As a means of reducing the cost of **Westunes**, without reducing its frequency, members will be encouraged to opt to receive it electronically, thereby saving printing and mailing costs.

Motto:

"to reach the
unreachable
star"

Several deserving awards and "thank you's" were bestowed:

- Long-time contributor, director, coach, judge emeritus, and member of the FWD Hall of Fame **Howard Mesecher** was honored as the Convention Dedicatee.
- The Hall of Fame welcomed a surprised **Joe Salz** as its newest honoree. Joe is another long-time contributor to the District, as a quartet champion, inventor of the "Pay-As-You-Go-Joe" program in the '60's, former District treasurer, and current Harmony Foundation chairman.
- Another surprised honoree was **Keith Eckhardt** of **Placerville**, who received a President's Award for promoting spontaneous quartetting and ushering the District into the computer age as Webmaster.
- **Dick Cote** of **Fullerton** was once again named Bulletin Editor of the Year.

Our Chorus Champions

When it comes to representatives we'll be proud of in Montreal in July, we must not overlook our District chorus champions, the **San Jose Garden City Chorus**. The San Jose chapter is one of the oldest, and justifiably proudest, chapters in this District. Founded in 1948, San Jose has provided a steady stream of District leaders including two presidents, Society board mem-

bers, certified judges including category specialists, Harmony College instructors, and umpteen committee chairmen. The chapter is a perennial font of quartets and has hosted probably about a dozen District conventions and Spring prelims. The **Garden City Chorus** has been divisional champions at least a dozen times, and finished in the top three in the District at least eight times since 1987; they have traveled to New Zealand, to Hawaii, and to the Buckeye competition in Ohio, spreading the barbershop gospel. These guys have paid their dues.

I remember how exciting it was when **Peninsula** first earned a trip to the international in 1974 (finished 2nd) and when **San Fernando Valley** earned the trip in 1987 (finished 9th). I remember how important it was to have the support of all our District barbershop brethren as we carried their banner on that stage. There is nobody more deserving of our cheers and support than the **San Jose Garden City Chorus!**

We'll also be represented by the outgoing international champion chorus, the **Masters of Harmony**, who will be performing at several venues in Montreal.

It may be a long way from the West Coast to the other end of Canada, but that won't stop the Far Western District from being well represented, and adding a few more stars to the galaxy of barbershop heaven.

Far Western District Fall Convention won't be "just a Contest"

Keith Eckhardt

Plans are underway to add new activities to the Fall District Convention in Bakersfield. Four hundred of you responded to the online survey about conventions a while back and we listened. The next Westunes will have a lot more information, but so far plans include the Harmony For Lunch Bunch which will start the convention off again Friday at 11:30 and there will be:

- Tag Singing and New Music Sing-through sessions on Friday afternoon.
- There are a couple of interesting tours being investigated for Friday afternoon also.
- On Saturday night after contest there will be a "Gnarly Tag" Singing event.

Other activities under consideration:

- Friday Eat and Sing Dinner Buffet right after the HOD and the tours, perfect timing for last minute arrivals
- Mass sing Saturday afternoon on the convention center steps
- Barbershopper train from Oakland to Bakersfield with lots of stops along the way
- More options for Saturday night singing after contest
- Sunday morning Gospel Sing-a-long
- Craft classes

The FWD website will have more details too. If you want to help make our conventions more fun or have some sparkling convention ideas, please let me know.

FWD Sunshine Chairman George McCay

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VP: CDD

Jim Turnmire



Many thanks to the Pasadena for hosting a Chorus Directors Workshop Intensive on March 8. And, many thanks to Steve Peacock for all his work in handling all the details of hosting the workshop. We were very fortunate to have a chorus of about 30 guys, including about 8 of the young, talented singers from the Westminster Chapter, to They were a tremendous

help to us! The directors in attendance were: Terry Ghiselli (Crescenta Valley and Westminster choruses), Larry Nixon (Conejo Hills), John Minsker (Pasadena) and Duane Ashby (Ventura). A big thank you to Royce Ferguson for his contribution as the other trainer.

I have received inquiries from other interested directors. If you are interested, please let me know, and I will schedule these workshops as needed.

In Reno, I had the privilege of presenting a certificate and lapel pin to Allan Webb from San Diego for his attaining the status of Certified Director. This is the 3rd time I've had the pleasure of presenting these to a director. The other two were Melany Huston (Santa Rosa), and Steve Sammonds (Palo Alto-Mt. View). We now have a total of 5 certified directors in the Far Western District. It would be great if could get more. If you contact me, I would be delighted to let you know how you can achieve this goal.



Keith Eckhardt Receives FWD President's Award

Keith Eckhardt, FWD Webmaster and 2002-3 President of the Placerville Chapter, has been a grass roots activist in Far Western District affairs.

He brought the "I will sing with you" Quartet activity buttons to our FWD Conventions singlehandedly, and brought the "IQ" stickers [acronym for "I Quartet"] to the convention in Sparks, all to promote impromptu Quaret singing in and around the convention. It worked. More people are singing at our conventions. Many of us gladly wear the buttons and stickers and sing.

You may have noticed the Harmony For Lunch Bunch on Fridays at the last conventions, thanks to Keith promoting the activity.

He also has submitted to the FWD Board of Directors a lengthy list of ideas to improve FWD conventions. Look for new events this fall in Bakersfield [see page 3] that will create a convention atmosphere rather than simply the contest marathon environment of recent years.

Additionally, he has contibuted a lot of behind the scenes effort to improve and enhance the FWD Website. More information is available at a mouse click than ever before in the history of the FWD. Most of us don't have a clue about how much time and effort it takes to create and administrate a website. But we can know that Keith does so willingly and cheerfully. If you have ideas about improvements, he is a ready listener and will implement if possible and appropriate.

Keith reminds us that we are a singing organization and that Barbershop is not a spectator sport. Thank you Keith for your efforts and congratulations. The President's Award is well deserved.

A BARBERSHOP QUARTET
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Paul Schmidt 282-9561
4157 Fairmount Ave. Business: 283-1900
San Diego, CA 92105

And the winner is.....DICK COTE (again---for the 6th time!)

By Dick Girvin, FWD DBC Bulletin Contest Coordinator

The Far Western District annual bulletin contest scores are in, covering the eight fine chapter bulletins submitted for 2002, and the top honors go to **Dick Cote**, Editor of *Fullerton's Barbershop Clippin's*—FWD's perennial top-bulletin for the last six years—every time he has entered.



Dick Cote

Dick has won:

IBE First Place 1999, 2002, Third Place 1998

FWD Bulletin Contest: First Place 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001 and 2002

FWD bulletins submitted by their editors for the District Bulletin Contest included:

Barbershop Clippin's, **Dick Cote**, Fullerton,
Hey Hey Herald, **Mike Martin**, South Bay,
Swipes And Tags, **Alan Swanson**, Sacramento,
Sun Harbor Light, **Greg Michaels**, San Diego
The Chord Trimmings, **Scott Douglas**, Santa Rosa
Seabreeze, **Keith Bogost**, Ventura
What's Up, **Dave Melville**, Phoenix Saguaro,
Upbeat, **Bruce Smith**, Hemet.

PROBE rules covering the IBC include the requirement that the winner of the coveted award stand down for two years before becoming eligible to enter IBC again. In the current contest, **Dick Cote**, having won IBC last year (for the second time!) will not be eligible for IBC until 2005—however, FWD does not recognize the “lay out” rule and, for the sixth year, his bulletin has been awarded top honors in the district—and he has the *George D. Raymond* plaque donated by the **Ventura Chapter** to FWD to prove it.

So, the two editors in FWD that are eligible for this year's IBC are **Mike Martin** of South Bay (*Hey Hey Herald*) and **Alan Swanson** of Sacramento (*Swipes And Tags*). Congratulations and good luck in IBC!

Further, as FWD recognizes both “large” and “small” bulletins (more than/fewer than six pages), the top “Small” bulletin for 2002 was **Scott Douglas's** *The Chord Trimmings* of Santa Rosa. Congratulations, perpetual and take-home plaques have been forwarded.

Bulletins are judged in three categories for a total of 2000 points: Layout and Reproduction (600 points), Grammar and Style (600 points) and Content (800 points).

Society-certified bulletin judges in each of the categories review the three consecutive issues of the previous year submitted by the editors and assign scores based on the guidelines provided by **PROBE** (the association of PR Officers and Bulletin Editors of the Society). Note: Editors wishing to maximize their offerings can review the score sheets for the categories at the PROBE website (www.harmonize.com/probe) and make sure they include items that will add to their scores.

District Bulletin Contests are conducted throughout the sixteen districts of the Society in the Spring of each year, with the top two scoring bulletins from each of the districts being eligible to be submitted for judging in the Society's International Bulletin Contest (IBC). A maximum of 32 bulletins are provided to the Category Specialists in the judging categories for adjudication, with the winners and runners-up annually announced at the PROBE meeting during the Summer Convention.

VP: CS/LT

Bernard Priceman

"And then there was one"



Our November 2002 Chapter Officer Training Seminars were a great success. We held one in Pleasanton, in the Bay Area and the other in San Bernardino in the Greater Los Angeles area. My sense was that everyone who attended got a great deal out of them. The faculties were very professional, their classes

covered lots of new material and the venues were both excellent. Unfortunately, the cost to the District of holding two seminars was very high and so I was asked by the District Board to present 2003 cost projections based on one or two events. The projections showed that we could save a large amount of money by holding just one seminar and so the Board decided to do just that in 2003, to be held in Southern California. At the HOD, I was questioned by delegates as to the wisdom of this change, but I believe they understood the necessity for it, especially after they realized that the Board would re-evaluate its decision before COTS 2004 is scheduled.

As VP for Chapter Support and Leadership Training, the setting up and running of the COTS weekends falls on my shoulders. My predecessors did a great job choosing venues for previous seminars but I may need to make a change this year, in order to be considerate of the fact that many attendees will be flying in for the weekend along with the faculty, who arrive from all over the United States and Canada. My aim, therefore, is to find a venue close to a major airport. I want to do everything I can to make it easy for everyone to get to COTS and take advantage of the best training possible for their new jobs. Stay tuned for details, but in the meantime start planning to have the leaders of your chapters be there. It will be November 15th and 16th. I promise it will be worthwhile, just like last year.

And now, yet another plug for your Chapter Counselor. You should be well aware that whichever chapter you belong to, you have a Chapter Counselor assigned to you. I have just implemented a new and very simple quarterly reporting system for my CC's. It will help the FWD Board understand how chapters are doing. I'm asking each Counselor to let us know how often he has been in contact with his chapters and also to note any comments or recommendations. We're here to help you and we can't do that if we know nothing about you. The Society says that Counselors need not impose themselves on their chapters but I have asked my Counselors to be in contact with each chapter from time to time. So much can come out of a visit, whether to a rehearsal night or to a Board meeting. The Counselors are there

to help you and I hope you will continue to make use of them.

Finally, I wonder if you chapter leaders are reviewing the plans that I hope you made at the beginning of the year. It's one thing to make plans but it's another to follow them and then to revise them if necessary. The running of a chapter is an ever changing thing and a Board has to be prepared to be flexible and take new courses if necessary. We're all striving to be the best we can be, I'm sure, but if things don't go according to plan, we need to re-energize ourselves, hold our heads up and make progress in other directions. If I can be of any help to you along the way, I hope you'll take the opportunity and contact me.

Have fun. That's what it's all about.



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VP: Events

Sam Barger



Sparks and Changes in Future Conventions

'and so another Spring Convention is history. Those of you who didn't make it to Reno missed a great musical weekend. The host Reno Chapter was well prepared to handle everything that came along. More chapters should step forward

and volunteer to host a convention.

It was disappointing that more people didn't take advantage of this musical experience. For the 2nd year in a row we only had 3 small chapters take advantage of the chance to sing and qualify for the Fall district contest. Congratulation to **Santa Monica** and **Placerville** for qualifying to go to Bakersfield.

During the district board meeting the lack of participation by small chapters for this contest was discussed at great length. The end result was that the Small Chapter Chorus Contest would be discontinued. At the present time a committee, headed by **Don Gubbins**, is working on a new program to give the chorus plateau system better meaning.

Different ways of increasing attendance at the Spring convention was also discussed by the board. Starting next year the division contest, of the division where the Spring Preliminary convention is to be held, will be held along with the Spring contest. That means that next year the Nor Cal East division contest will be held in Reno along with the International Preliminary Quartet Contest. More information on this will be coming in future months.

For everyone's information about the Fall convention in Bakersfield October 2-5, the registration forms and the hotel reservation forms appear elsewhere in this issue of Westunes [pages 20 & 21]. They also can be found on the FWD WEB site. The earlier you register the better your seats will be.

SoCal Novice Contest Report

A great night was had in Huntington beach last night with the SoCal Novice hopefuls, and topped with the *Westminster* chorus and **Sam's Club** performing.

MC, **Charlie Brown** ran the show with a deft hand for an enthusiastic audience and **Phil Ridout** and his committee did it again (this was No. 42!) Congratulations *Westminster*--for continuing this great "season's opener."

The top five SoCal Novices were:

5. Sunkist (Orange Chapter)
4. Fourth Row (Santa Fe Springs)
3. Caught In the Act (San Luis Obispo)
2. California Blend (Orange and Whittier)

The new 2003 SOCAL NOVICE CHAMP:

4H Club (Westminster and Santa Fe Springs)

Tenor: Robert Gonzales

Lead: Russ Squires

Bari: Justin Miller

Bass: Jason Halliday

NorCal Novice Contest Report

Congratulations to **Bob Dunn** and the *Walnut Creek* chapter for producing this annual event, now in it's third decade. This year's event had the participation of eight quartets, including a High School quartet from Ripon, the "**CHORD FLAKES**".

Master of Ceremony was **Bill Cale** (Tenor of Potluck). Chapters represented were *Walnut Creek*, *SF Bay Cities Quartet*, *Palo Alto (Peninsula)*, *Fremon-Hayward*, *Bay Area Metro*, but the most supportive was *Central California* who captured two of the high scores.

The Top 5 NorCal Novices were:

5. DIMENSION CONNECrION
4. BOOMERANG
3. COLLABORATION [Central California]
2. SPYN [Central California]

The new 2003 NORCAL NOVICE CHAMP:

WESTERN ALLIANCE [Bay Area Metro]

Tenor: Ollie Brillhante

Lead: Jeff Albright

Bari: John Hazen

Bass: Greg Titus

The real winners in both contests were all the men who appeared on stage and sang their two songs. [They outranked all quartets who stayed home.]

VP: M&PR

Clark Abrahamson



Membership from a Marketing Perspective

Noodlin'...

- We all want our Chapter to be known in our community – right? Right!
- We all want to promote performance opportunities for our Chapter - right? Right!
- We all take every opportunity to promote and talk about our Chapter – right?

Huh?

Seems like a lot of us (me included) talk the talk, but when it comes to walkin' the walk, we somehow frequently miss golden opportunities.

Why is that? Y'know, it's not all that surprising, for a number of reasons:

- We have other things on our minds.
- We're can't find the right opportunity.
- We feel foolish, or we're too shy to mention it.
- We don't have the proper information with us all the time.
- We don't think that others would be interested.
- We think that others may think of us as old-fashioned, or un-hip.
- ...Etcetera, etcetera, etcetera.

...All valid reasons, by the way. However (here it comes – the big pitch) I think there may be a way for us to get it done while circumventing most, if not all, of the above hang-ups.

It's kind of a three-step process:

1. Wear something with the letters "S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A" on it – just one day per week. It could be a shirt, a cap, a lapel pin, a button or badge – doesn't really matter, as long as it has S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A prominently emblazoned on it. I find, that when I wear such garb – in my case it's a shirt with S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A in red over the left pocket – someone (the bank teller, the grocery clerk, the postal clerk, the dry cleaner - asks what those letters mean.

2. When the question is asked "What's that?" – answer them. Something as simple as telling them what the letters stand for, or "I'm a barbershop singer", or "Glad you asked – let me give you my card!" will do just fine.

3. Give them your Chapter business card, with your name and phone number filled in. Be sure the business card contains your name, phone number, address, meeting day and time, and directions or a map to your meeting place .

That's it – what happens next depends on circumstance and your comfort level – you may wish to provide them with more info, expound on the Barbershop experience, ask them if they sing, tell them more about yourself, offer to pick them up on meeting night - or not. The important thing is that you've now made a contact that wouldn't otherwise have been made.

Here's the math:

Assuming your chapter has just **20** active participants in the above exercise, each following the above drill **just one day** per week, getting just **one contact** on that day:

•**20** participants, times **1** contact per week, times **52** weeks per year = **1,040** contacts per year.

•And, by the way, assuming you get just **1** percent of those **1,040** contacts to join your Chapter, we will have attracted **10.4** new members per year – or a **50%** growth.

Do your own math...(If we apply the above logic to the District, it would mean **68,640 contacts and 686 members**).

Simple? Piece o' cake. Can you do it? I'd bet on it.

To Market, to market...



FWD Board of Directors and Past Presidents Table in HoD

VP: MemDev

Peter Feeney



Back From Convention

I just returned from the Far Western District Spring Convention in Reno, and what a time it was. As you have read elsewhere in this issue, the convention and competition were just great. If you weren't there, you missed a very good time. Reno was a lot of fun. The hotel could not have been more accommodating and the convention team, led by Nevada Sam, did a bang-up job! I'm sure anybody attending a Barbershop Harmony convention for the first time was very impressed. That's the way to get 'em back for more!

Board Meeting

At the board meeting we spent some time discussing our district's membership status. Our membership numbers are down from last year and I'm sure you agree that we all would like to see that trend reversed. Why is membership declining and is there anything you and I can do about it?

The answer, of course, is yes. If not us, then who? But how? It all starts with your participation in your chapter. It is the vitality of the chapter that attracts new members. If your chapter is participating in the community, and having a good time doing it, you stand a very good chance of attracting new members. The key to recruiting success is sharing your enjoyment of the hobby with others.

Americans Work Hard

For many hard working people relaxation after a day's effort comes from the TV, perhaps a movie, or falling asleep reading the paper. Introduce these men to barbershop harmony, however, and something exciting enters their lives. Am I overstating it? I don't think so. Singing is not only fun, it is healthy. You might not consciously recognize the benefits of participating in barbershop singing, but don't you feel better after you have been to a chapter meeting? I know I do.

Family Affair

How many activities can a man participate in that give him satisfaction and entertains his family as well? How many wives do you think want to watch their husbands while they bowl? Sure, they are supportive of their husband's hobbies, but there is something about seeing your spouse having fun entertaining others that can't be matched.

Ours is the type of activity that can be enjoyed by all members of the family. When I tell people that I sing barbershop harmony in a chorus they are invariably intrigued. Sometimes I run into someone who tells me their brother or father sings barbershop, and they always speak fondly of the experience. They smile and relate how much their loved one enjoys the hobby.

Share It!

So, how do we share it? Make Barbershop Harmony available to as many people as you can. Have more family nights at your chapter meetings. Guest nights are great ways to introduce men to our Society, but don't forget about the wives and children of your members and their friends. Invite them to your chapter meetings frequently and have some refreshments during the break or social time. How about a cabaret night where you combine a causal meal with some Barbershop Harmony? I know of more than a few men who became interested in our hobby after having a good time eating and being entertained by quartets and choruses. Don't hide your light under a bushel. Share it!



Sound Judgment
A Barbershop Quartet
www.soundjudgment.org

Bass -- Gary Scalice	Baritone -- Dave Stone
Lead -- Tom Adzube	Tenor -- Jim Daly
Lead -- Far Goulding	Baritone -- Pete Waeger
Coach/Bass -- Owen Doyle	
Contact Person -- Jim Daly	650-634-9993
daly@soundjudgment.org	



METROPOLIS

c/o 2206 Rockefeller Lane, #3 - Redondo Beach, CA 90270 • (310) 706-3336



2002-3 FWD Quartet Champions Sam's Club

Ken Potter

(Mar 8, 2003) Big news from Sam's Club

Your 2002 Far Western District Champs, "Sam's Club" would like to announce the following:

First of all, our lead, **Sean Devine**, who is the tenor of the popular doo-wop group "The Alley Cats" has asked to step down from his duties in the quartet due to his work schedule. We hate to see Sean depart, but we know that changes do happen. We are grateful to Sean for all the time and effort he has put into the quartet. "Sam's Club" would not be where we are without his hard work.

Second, the life of the Club continues, and we are pleased to say that **Nick Papageorge**, father of Sammy, has graciously agreed to lead the quartet through Montreal.

Third, and last, we are unable to compete in our own Far Western Prelims, because Sammy's college choir will be on tour. We have been granted permission to compete and will be traveling to Denver for the Rocky Mountain Prelims on April 25-26.

Once again thanks to Sean, welcome to Nick, and we will see you in Denver.

Sincerely, Sam's Club
Ken Potter, Kelly Shepard, Sam Papageorge, and Nick!!!



Alan Webb receives Chorus Director Certification from Vice President for Chorus Director Development **Jim Turnmire**. Alan joins the growing ranks of certified directors in the FWD. Congratulations, Alan.

Joe Salz Inducted into the FWD Hall of Fame



Fred Koch, 2001 recipient, at the podium: "The objective of the Far Western District Hall Of Fame Award is to honor the all-time greats of the District, the individuals who have unselfishly, and with dedication and devotion, performed through the years the highest degree of service to the District."

Past Recipients of the Far Western District Hall of Fame Award who were in attendance at this convention offered these words:

- Our Hall of Fame winner has been singing all his life...and that's a very long time!
- He could be considered one of the early Young Men in Harmony since he sang in a Barbershop Quartet in high school.
- He joined the Society back in the 40's and formed a Quartet at his very first meeting.
- Our Hall of Famer has been an active member for more than 50 years in both Quartets and Chorus.
- He has held membership in 7 chapters throughout the United States and he has held every chapter office...and some several times.
- He continues to serve his current chapter whenever needed and he remains active because he stays involved.
- He has served the Far Western District as an elected board member for many years and as chairman of several committees.
- He has also served on the chapter officer training school faculty for many years teaching Program Vice Presidents.
- He is a proud recipient of the Far Western District President's Award for his many contributions.
- Hall-of-Famer has won the Far Western District Quartet Championship twice and competed at International 5 times, ranking as high as 11th place.
- His Quartet experiences have taken him all over the country, to Canada...and to Cuba with a USO tour.
- He has even performed on the stage of Carnegie Hall in a Mid-Atlantic District Quartet Contest.
- He has been named Barbershopper of the Year in 2 different chapters.
- Currently, he is serving our district as the Chairman of Harmony Foundation.
- Professionally, he is semiretired and sells specialty advertising, following a long career as a credit union manager and treasurer.
- Our Hall of Fame winner and his bride just celebrated their 50th anniversary with their 8 children and their families and friends.
- At last count, they have 45 grandchildren and great-grandchildren, so the odds of continuing to sing Barbershop harmony is that family are extremely high!

Fred Koch then announced: "Ladies and Gentlemen...our Hall of Fame winner for 2002.....**Mr. Joe Salz!**"

Opportunities Abound



Many thanks to **Sam Barger** and the **Reno Chapter** for the superb job they did in hosting the Far Western District Spring Convention March 20-23. The Far Western District continues to produce the best in quartet talent, and the Small Chorus contest showcased the backbone of our society--our small choruses.

Congratulations to the **Oceanaires** (Santa Monica Chapter), our small chorus champs, and "Q", "**Broadway**", "**Metropolis**", "**Gotcha!**" and "**Finale**", our quartet representatives at the International contest. With other FWD quartets competing in upcoming "out-of-district" contests, we may be sending more than five quartets to Montreal in July! The Harmony for Lunch Bunch gathering on Friday was a great time...thanks to **Stan French** and all who attended. Congratulations also to Mr. **Howard Mesecher**, our convention dedicatee and to Mr. **Keith Eckhardt** (our FWD Webmaster and doer of all tasks), the recipient of the FWD President's Award.

The Society Staff visit by **Rick Spencer** to Arizona had to be cancelled, but **Ed Bejarana** (our hard-working DVP for Young Men in Harmony) has just completed a tour of selected schools in Arizona to further the youth harmony program.

Harmony College West will be held at California State University Hayward (Oakland, CA area) on August 22-24, 2003. The Saturday evening show will feature "**Nightlife**", "**Gotcha!**" and our student quartets. More information will be up soon on the FWD website.

Stan Sharpe continues to head up the *Champs Assistance Program* (CAP), where you can get a FREE coaching session from a current/past District quartet champion. Be sure to take advantage of this great opportunity! Contact Stan at <vocal-teacher@earthlink.net>. His address is 14814 E. Gale Ave. #B6, Hacienda Heights CA 91745-1301. Telephone (626) 961-7280.

Remember that if you want to do a *Chapter* (craft) *coaching session*, the FWD will reimburse the Chapter for 50% of the coach's EXPENSES (up to \$150 per session) with a Chapter cap of \$300 per year. Download and fill out the chorus coaching reimbursement form from the FWD web site at <http://spebsqsafwd.org/programs/reimburse.html>. The cost is low, the benefit is high, AND your Chapter members will thank you for it! If you need the names of possible coaches, let me know.

Standing Ovation Program: We have a cadre of qualified

Reviewers, all of whom have earned and are still earning Standing Ovarions on their own with their Quartets and Choruses. These members and fellow-barbershoppers have gone through a thorough screening and indoctrination and have volunteered their talents and services to assist your Chapter or quartet to earn standing ovations each and every time you perform. It's working well, but the only problem we have is scheduling a review on very short notice. At the same time your Chapter Secretary writes to the FWD Secretary for show clearance and ASCAP approval, contact **Lloyd Steinkamp** at <unkalloyd@juno.com> or (858) 268-4841 to schedule a Reviewer. There is no fee; we ask only that you provide the assigned Reviewer with a pair of complimentary tickets to the show and the afterglow, preferably in the first row of the balcony (if you have one) or in the center of the 8th or 10th row of the auditorium. His view of the entire stage is of the utmost importance. Also, cover his mileage and, if he has to stay overnight, his out-of-pocket expenses. The Reviewer will meet with your Music Committee, Show Committee (and those creative decision makers you feel necessary) to hear his comments immediately after the final curtain. Share 30 minutes of your time with him to highlight some of his observations, and when he gets home he will write and send a complete report of his review to you to share with your entire chapter. Finally, since several of the chapters are now requesting reviews of their shows, suggest that you schedule one of our guys BEFORE the actual performance. That being the case, we strongly recommend that you invite your families and friends so that there is a "live" audience for which your group can perform. In this way, a lot of the little cosmetic problems can be eliminated BEFORE the actual show(s). Lloyd and the reviewers stand ready to serve; just let Lloyd hear from you with a reasonable amount of lead-time, PLEASE! You deserve the best reaction from the audience for your efforts...let us help you get that.

Dr. **Dan Wilson** [dan.wilson@asu.edu] will be happy to work with you aspiring *song writers*! Why not get in touch with Dan and nurture your writing and arranging skills?

Finally, support your Chapter and especially your Chapter Board of Directors...offer your assistance and be a part of the Chapter decision-making process. Sing in the community and offer to assist local school directors with their vocal music program. Be sure to attend your Divisional contests: SoCal West--May 3; SoCal East--May 10 so you can really enjoy the family, fellowship and camaraderie that is such an important part of the barbershop experience!

"What can we do for you?"

In harmony,



2002-3 FWD Chorus Champions SAN JOSE

Chuck Hunter, Sr.

What has 150 green legs and a FWD District Chorus Champion trophy? Easy - that's the San Jose **Garden City Chorus**. Known for their innovative and enjoyable performances, in 1996 their light-hearted Robin Hood-themed show entitled "Men in Tights" featured the chorus in green panty hose singing and performing the adventures of Robin and his band of merry men to standing ovation performances in San Jose, Wellington New Zealand, and Honolulu. Lest you think that the 2002 FWD Chorus Champions fall into the two-song category alleged for some highly ranked groups, consider that on their recent annual show the chorus performed eleven new songs, nine of which were introduced following the October convention.

What kind of shows does San Jose put on? In a word, enjoyable ones! This year it was a take-off on game shows, and utilizing some of the technology employed on the TV programs the audience was treated to segments of Survivor, Jeopardy, Wheel of Fortune, and Who Wants to Be a Millionaire. In previous years there has been a circus in which a member was fired from a cannon into the balcony, pirates, a melodrama, a magic show, Christopher Columbus, and even one in which a quartet sang while doing stage flying.

And while having a good time is a hallmark of both the annual shows and the chapter meetings, there is also a very different side to San Jose, one that has provided leadership to both the Far Western District and the Society for more than fifty years. Currently **Jim Sherman** is well into his second decade of serving as FWD Treasurer. **Ed Bejarana** is the current FWD Vice President of Youth Outreach. **Jim Clarke** served as FWD President in 1954-55 as did **Chuck Hunter Sr.** in 1988-89. Both subsequently served terms as members of the Society Board of Directors. During his membership in the chapter **Terry Aramian**, also a past FWD President and Society Board member, served as President of the Society. San Jose has four certified judges; **Paul Engel** in Music, **Chris Hebert** in Singing, and **Ed Bejarana** and **Chuck Hunter**, both Contest Administrators. In a rather unique first San Jose is the only chapter in the history of the Society to have had two Category Specialists in the Contest and Judging system serving simultaneously, **Chris Hebert** and **Chuck Hunter**. Two members of the FWD Hall of

Fame are from San Jose, **Chuck Hunter** and **Jerry Orloff**. As you might know, **Jerry Orloff** is the Society's leader in recruiting new members, with 160 gold notes to his name. **Chuck Hunter** has 61, so between the two of them they have sponsored two 110 men chapters! **Rich Remmers** has been a member of the FWD Audit Committee for four years, and **Eliot Wirt** was the district Historian who produced the wonderful written history that was published a few years ago.

At the Society level **Ed Bejarana** currently serves on the Membership Development Committee. **Jim Sherman** is a Treasurer instructor in the COTS program. **Chuck Hunter Sr.** is a COTS dean, chairs the Hall of Fame task force, and is a member of the Ethics Committee.

But back at the chapter level, what do you find when you look closely at San Jose? For over a decade the **Garden City Chorus** has claimed a membership of over 100 men, with an active group ranging from 60 to 80. The anticipated head count in Montreal is 80 extremely excited guys, and they have been working very hard at mastering a package that will represent the Far Western District in the style to which they have been accustomed. Coaches that have been called in include **Ron Black**, **Cindy Hansen**, and **Jay Giallombardo**, and while progress to date has been impressive each member is aware that there will be an ongoing effort to constantly upgrade and polish the package. At a recent gathering of Bay Area Chapters sponsored by the **Bay Area Metro** Chapter, San Jose was thrilled by the warm reception and applause from the nearly 200 who attended. A bit of frosting on the cake was the \$1200 generously donated by the individuals present to go towards augmenting the travel fund for the chorus. Many thanks to members who participated from Marin, Sacramento, Walnut Creek, BAM, Bay Area Quartet Chapter, Fremont-Hayward, and San Francisco.

And while we were thrilled to have such a wonderful reception from our fellow barbershoppers, we are equally delighted to have three members who are commuting from great distances in order to participate with the chorus in Montreal. **John Staley** is coming up almost every week from Arroyo Grande, **Brian Gordon** from Phoenix, and **David Bittrich** from Madison, Wisconsin is able to attend all of the special coaching sessions, appeared on the show, and will proudly stand on the risers with San Jose at the International contest in July.

San Jose is a chapter in which quartets are admired and respected, and at the present time there are a total of nine representing the chapter. The only chapter quartet in history to compete at the International level was the **Travelaires** back in the mid-50's, but in the same manner as the chorus the emphasis has always been on having fun and singing well, not striving for gold medals. And so it is that San Jose, a chapter that stresses the notion of performing from the heart, will represent the Far Western District for the first time on the International contest stage. After 54 years of not having qualified this is a real thrill for the members. Who knows, it might even become habit forming!



VP: C&J

Dick Girvin



**1 down...and
7 to go !**

**So, you
wanna be a
judge?**

**Fwd's Contest
Schedule Started**

The completion of the FWD International Preliminary Quartet Contest and the FWD Small Chapter Chorus Contest in Reno in March, marks the first of the 2003

Contest season with seven more contests scheduled for the balance of the year.

The next scheduled event is the NorCal West Contest that will be conducted in Santa Rosa on April 13, which will be followed by the NorCal East and Arizona/Southern Nevada/Southern Utah contests in Vacaville and Phoenix respectively on April 26.

SoCal West will hit the boards on May 3, and SoCal East will return to the Servite School in Anaheim on May 10.

The International Convention at Montreal, the week of July 6 will feature FWD's San Jose **Garden City Chorus** as well as at least the five quartets that qualified in Reno mid-March of this year: **Gotcha!, Broadway, Metropolis, Finale** and **Q**. (The final qualification scores for the Society are not in as of this writing thus, it isn't known whether any or all of the four FWD quartets who had to qualify out of district (**Late Night Barbershop, Hi-Fidelity, Sam's Club** and **Freestyle**) will be seen on the Montreal boards).

FWD's Fall Convention/Contest as the final contest of the year will be held in Bakersfield on October 2-5 and will feature qualifying choruses and quartets vying for district championship honors. The top scoring Small chapter Choruses from the Spring Contest, **Santa Monica** and **Placerville**, were automatically seeded to the Fall event—however, this is the last time. A recent FWD BOD action removed the Small Chapter Chorus contest from the Spring line-up for 2004 and beyond and in its place has determined that the Spring Prelims will be combined with the host division's divisional contest for both quartets and choruses.

May 3, 2003

SoCal West

at Pacifica HS in Oxnard [see page 18]

Rincon Beach hosting

May 10, 2003

SoCal East

at Servite HS in Anaheim [see page 19]

Santa Fe Springs hosting

C&J Applicants Wanted

So, you think you'd like to be a judge? Is it the front row seat, the accolades of the crowd and the obvious admiration of the contestants that entices you? These may very well be your motives, however, there's much more to be considered, which includes long weekends away from home, study of training tapes and/or contest software, continual practice to keep abreast of the Barbershop Style and a sincere desire to improve the performance of our choruses and quartets.

Still interested?

If so, the application cycle will be starting this year for applicants with certification testing in the summer of 2004. Each category, *Music, Presentation Singing and Administration*, all have specialized requirements and are best reviewed by obtaining the application form. The forms, CJ-1 for scoring judges and CJ-2 for Contest Administrators, ask for information on your years in the Society, competition experience, and five references that may be asked to give an appraisal of your abilities. This later requirement specifies Society members that know your abilities and who can comment on your suitability for the judging program. Further information is requested on your musical background, theatrical background, quartet experience, chorus directing experience, coaching experience, arranging experience, special abilities that pertain to the choice of category, why you want to be a judge and what you think would be your greatest challenge.

When completed the form should be forwarded to the FWD DVP C&J. Letters to your references will be posted and the answers obtained will be included by the with the DVPC&J's recommendation to the Category Specialist for admission as an applicant.

Following applicant status, the applicant is invited to attend (at his own expense) the Category School held at Missouri Western State University (the Harmony College site). Inasmuch as there is a limit to the number of certified judges in each category, not all applicants become candidates and not all candidates become certified.

Still Interested? Contact Dick Girvin, FWD DVP C&J at **dickgirvin@juno.com** for the forms or download the Society Contest and Judging Handbook from the Society website which contains full descriptions of every category and provides the forms needed.

 **4 Old Times Sake**



*Jerry Fairchild**
Jim McKee
Bruce Maxey
Ron Criswell

Senior Quartet Champs
Far Western District 2001

Contact: (909) 792-8618*
E-mail: mjfair@empirenet.com



Quartet Corner

(written and edited by Allen Fossenkemper –
OK Chorale Quartet)

Verticalizing your Quartet Show Package

Over the last forty years or so most of the chapters and their choruses, have abandoned the old “parade of quartets” concept and turned to “theme” shows. With the abundance of arrangements now available it is possible to stage an entire show built around one subject. Themes about composers, entertainers, eras, nationalities and many more have become the very popular. The chapters have found that their audiences and members relate to the theme concept better than they do to a concert format, built around a dozen unrelated songs.

So why not consider the vertical theme for your quartet show package. It gives you powerful costume, scripting and music options and it separates you from the hundreds of quartets that build their package around 6 or 8 unrelated songs and stale introductions. If you’re not already famous, you could even change your quartet name to reflect the vertical nature of your package. The keys to a successful vertical package are the script and song selection. To make the package really work the quartet must stay in the theme character during the performance.

Let’s say you’ve selected WWI as your vertical theme. The first place to start your planning is the SPEBSQSA Music Catalog, which you can get by calling 800-876-SING or at www.spebsqsa.org/arrangements. The Internet and/or public library will be all you need to do your research on WWI and the music you have selected. (See my Westunes article on script writing in the Jan/Feb 2003 issue.) Once your research is done your script will be easy and lots of fun to construct. Make it a quartet project.

Maybe your city, state or region is famous for something you can use as a theme. The following is a list of a few ideas that might stimulate your thoughts.

WW I or II	Irving Berlin
Patriotic	Airplane Pilots
Vaudeville	George Gershwin
Irish	Railroads
Big Band Era	Frank Sinatra
Doctors	Movies
Tin Pan Alley	Harry Woods
Lawyers	Radio Era
Show Boat Era	Cole Porter
Cowboys	College
Roaring Twenties	George M Cohan
Depression Era	The 1950’s

The vertical theme is a way for the average quartet to improve its chances for shows and singouts. It offers great marketing potential, contest uniqueness and a way to differentiate yourself.

Good luck and good quarteting.

Sparks, Nevada, March 22, 2003

FWD International Quartet Preliminaries Results

Rank	Quartet	Avg
1	Gotcha!	88.9
2	Metropolis	88.5
3	Finale	82.3
4	Broadway	76.6
4	Q	76.6

Quartets scoring 76.0 or greater qualify for International

6	Lucky Streak	74.5
7	Heirloom	73.1
8	KaBLaM!	67.1
9	TopCats	64.5
10	Curtain Call	64.2
11	Fastrac	63.9
12	Time Honored	63.7
13	Potluck	63.3
14	Eastsiders	62.5
15	Top-Notch	61.3
16	Western Alliance	61.0
17	Somethin' Cool	60.8
18	Vinatage Sound	55.8

FWD Small Chapter Chorus Contest

Rank	Chorus	Avg
1	Santa Monica	56.6
2	Placerville	55.6
3	Nevada-Placer	53.8

Top 2 scoring choruses qualify for Fall Finals Contest

FWD High School Quartet Contest

The scoring system is different from above for the HS Quartets.

Rank	Quartet	Points
1	Da Isle Tones	385
2	Whirlwind	359
3	Gator-Aides	349
4	The Accidentals	324
5	Chord Flakes	322
6	The Crackerjacks	284
7	Really Sharp	267
8	Hold Your Applause	255



6 Lucky Streak



7 Heirloom



8 KaBLaM!



9 TopCats



10 Curtain Call



11 Fastrac



12 Tme Honored



13 Potluck



14 Eastsiders



15 Top-Notch



16 Western Alliance



17 Somethin' Cool



18 Vintage Sound

Far Western District

Spring Preliminaries Quartet Contest:

5 Qualify for Montreal
and their pictures are on the front cover

6-18 & the MT appear on this page

We thank them all for sharing their
harmony with us.

It could be said that all who participate
win; those who don't are the losers.



Mike Testers - Sierra Chord Express



SOCAL WEST

2003 FAR WESTERN DISTRICT SPEBSQSA DIVISION CONVENTION/REGISTRATION

QUARTET AND CHORUS CONTEST

May 3, 2003

Hosted by Pacifica High School
Rincon Beach Chapter 600 E. Gonzales Road, Oxnard, CA

To register, complete the form below (or a copy of it), attach your check made out to Rincon Beach – SOCALWEST, and mail to Rick Davis, 229 Hillview Dr., Goleta, CA 93117-1106 (805) 685-3363 or eMail rickmdavis@hotmail.com

Use a separate form for each name. Badges will be available for pickup at the contest

✂ Cut here -----

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT SPEBSQSA SOCALWEST DIVISION CONVENTION/CONTESTS

Pacifica High School, Oxnard, CA May 3, 2003

Mail completed form to Rick Davis, 229 Hillview Dr., Goleta, CA 9311706

Call (805) 6853363 or eMail rickmdavis@hotmail.com for assistance.

Name _____ Chorus Contestant Quartet
 Address _____ Non-Competing Member Guest
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Chapter/Chorus _____
 Phone: Home _____ Work _____ Quartet Name _____
 EMail _____ FAX _____ Singing Part: Lead Tenor Bari Bass

Check here if you have a disability and may require accommodation in order to fully participate in the convention. You will be contacted by phone or email to clarify your needs.

Full Early Bird Registration Type (Check One)	Full Late/On Site Registration Type (Check One)	Single Events Registration Type (Check One)	Official Use
<input type="checkbox"/> Full/Competitor \$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Child/Student\$10.00 EARLY BIRD CUTOFF Postmark by April 5, 2003	<input type="checkbox"/> Full/Competitor \$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Child/Student.....\$12.50	<input type="checkbox"/> Quartet Contest...\$15.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Chorus Contest...\$15.00	Date Rcvd: _____ Check # _____ Badge Code _____

2003 FAR WESTERN DISTRICT SPEBSQSA
SOCAL EAST

DIVISION CONVENTION
 QUARTET AND CHORUS CONTESTS
 May 10, 2003

Servite High School
 1952 West La Palma Avenue, Anaheim, CA

Hosted by the
 Santa Fe Springs Chapter



Headquarters Hotel: Radisson Fullerton 714-992-1700
 222 W. Houston Ave., Fullerton, CA 92832 (only 2 mi. from venue)

To register, complete the form below (or a copy of it), attach your check made out to MOH-SCE, and send them to Bill Boeck, 949 Longwood Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 323-939-0822, {HYPERLINK mailto:wcboeck@aol.com} Use a separate form for each name. Badges will be available for pickup at the contest.

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT SPEBSQSA SOCAL EAST DIVISION CONVENTION/CONTESTS

Servite High School, Anaheim, CA – May 10, 2003

Please type or print clearly.

Competition Status (check all that apply)

Name _____ Chorus Contestant Quartet Contestant
 Address _____ Non-Competitive Member Guest
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Chapter / Chorus _____
 Phone Res. (____) _____ Bus. (____) _____ Quartet Name _____
 E-mail _____ FAX (____) _____ Singing Part: Lead Tenor Bari Bass



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

Full Early Bird Registration Type (Check One)	Full Late/On Site Registration Type (Check One)	Single Events Registration Type (Check One)	Official Use Only
<input type="radio"/> Full.....\$20.00 <input type="radio"/> Child/Student.....\$10.00 (non-competitor) EARLY BIRD CUT OFF Postmark by April 11, 2003	<input type="radio"/> Full.....\$25.00 <input type="radio"/> Child/Student.....\$12.50 (non-competitor)	<input type="radio"/> Sat. Quartet Contest.....\$15.00 <input type="radio"/> Sat. Chorus Contests/Show...\$15.00	Date Rec'd _____ Check # _____ Badge Code _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____ Please make check payable to MOH-SCE. (Fees are non-refundable.)
 Return form with payment to: Bill Boeck, 949 Longwood Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 323-939-0822, wcboeck@aol.com

Far Western District SPEBSQSA, Inc

2003

**FWD FALL CONVENTION & CONTESTS
BAKERSFIELD OCTOBER 2-5**



Contests and Shows
International Chorus Prelims
Overall and 4 Plateaus
Most Improved Chorus
FWD Quartet Championship
FWD Sr. Quartet Contest
Show Of Champions

THEATER
Bakersfield Convention Center
1001 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, California
Bakersfield, California

HEADQUARTERS HOTEL
Holiday Inn Select - Hotel & Conference Center
801 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, California

Meetings and Events
Board Of Directors
House Of Delegates
PROBE - AHSOW
Hall of Fame Luncheon
Chorus Directors Guild
YMIH

FWD Events Managed Assisting Chapter - Palomar Pacific

REGISTRATION FORM

**FAR WESTERN DISTRICT SPEBSQSA 2003 FALL CONVENTION/CONTESTS
October 2-5, Bakersfield, California**

Please type or print clearly.

Name _____

Competition Status (check one)

Address _____

Chorus Contestant Quartet Contestant
 Non-Competitive Member Guest

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

VIP Status (check one)

Phone Res. (____) _____ Bus. (____) _____

District Officer Delegate HOD
 AFWDC Member Past-FWD President
 Comm. Chairman Other

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



Quartet Name _____
Singing Part: Lead Tenor Bari Bass
Chapter / Chorus _____

FEES ARE NON-REFUNDABLE

Full Early Bird Registration Type (Check One)	Full Late/On Site Registration Type (Check One)	Single Events Registration Type (Check One)	Official Use Only
<input type="checkbox"/> Full.....\$30.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Child/Student.....\$15.00 EARLY BIRD CUT OFF Sept. 4, 2003	<input type="checkbox"/> Full.....\$40.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Child/Student.....\$20.00 All Competitors Must have FULL Reg.	<input type="checkbox"/> Fri Evening Qt. Semi Finals..\$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Sat Chorus Contests.....\$20.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Sat. Quartet Finals/Show.....\$20.00 (SOLD ON SITE ONLY)	Date Recd. _____ Check # _____ Seat # _____ Badge Code _____ Cash \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____ Please make check payable to FWD FALL CONVENTION 2003

Return completed forms
**FWD FALL CONVENTION
2395 BELLA VISTA DRIVE**



with payment to:
**C/O BOB CATHAWAY.....
SANTA BARBARA, CA 93108**

Questions? Call (805) 969-3696 - Email: rwcathaway@COX.NET



**2003
FWD FALL CONVENTION & CONTESTS
BAKERSFIELD OCTOBER 2-5**

**HEADQUARTERS HOTEL
Holiday Inn Select - Hotel & Conference Center
801 Truxtun Avenue Bakersfield, California**

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**FAR WESTERN DISTRICT SPEBSQSA 2003 FALL CONVENTION/CONTESTS
October 2-5, Bakersfield, California**

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Cancellations will not be accepted unless 48 hour notice is received.



JOIN PACIFIC SOUND AND REVIVAL IN RUSSIA THIS SUMMER

By Brent Anderson
Public Relations, Rincon Beach Chapter

FWD Friends: Come join **Pacific Sound** and **Revival** in St. Petersburg, Russia this Summer.

You may not know the history of **Pacific Sound** - the Rincon Beach Chapter. I'll tell you a little of that recent past, and also share an invite to be with us in our immediate future.

Mike McGee, baritone of **Metropolis** and lifelong resident of the Santa Barbara area, got about 14 of us together just to have fun, to harmonize and make high quality music. The original group were from all over the Tri-County area, and our thought was just to put together a holiday show in 1999, for our own amusement and amazement. Well, that show never happened, but we had such a good time, such good feelings of the tight harmony and beautiful music we were making, that we decided to form a new chapter with the very talented **Mike McGee** as the director, so we could get that kind of thrill every week. Thus was formed the Rincon Beach Chapter, and the **Pacific Sound Chorus**.

Our members are auditioned for vocal quality, visual presence and most importantly, a commitment to work to make the chapter better, and a dedication to vocally improve. We've grown from 14 to about 30 and are beginning to attract a crowd.

Last year, we were selected by **Greg Lyne**, the head of choral music for SPEBSQSA, to be the chorus that represents the Society and America, at the 4th annual Russian Barbershop Harmony Festival. That Festival is coming up this summer, August 16 - 25th, 2003.

Yes, strange as it may seem, the Russians LOVE barbershop harmony. We are joined by **Millstone Valley Chorus**, a Sweet Adeline chorus from the East Coast, and **Revival**, the 1998 International quartet champs. Mike, with **Metropolis**, has been the guest quartet there for two previous Festivals, and he tells us it's the thrill of a lifetime.

So not only will it be a great experience for all of us and for those family members who can also make it, but there is a serious purpose to the trip. It's an important part of American-Russian cultural exchange, and also we conduct Master Classes to instruct the Russian choral instructors on how to sing Barbershop Harmony. We are "teaching the children to sing" while representing America and sharing our unique musical style. Wow!

One Russian choral director commented after last year's Festival, "*We love this American musical style because it is so "free." Our great, Russian choral tradition, like our people, has been repressed for decades. This music is life!*"

While in St. Petersburg we will give concerts in many locations, but probably most special will be in Kapella Hall, which is supposedly one of the most acoustically perfect halls in the world. They tell us the crowds are the most appreciative you'll ever find, and they applaud and throw flowers and ask for autographs. We're going to feel like "Rock Stars."

We'll tour fabulous restored palaces, and cruise the Neva River, and visit the incredible Hermitage Museum. It's the *300th Anniversary of St. Petersburg* so the city will be clean and painted and incredibly beautiful. We're all convinced this will be the trip of a lifetime.

In case you didn't know, the trip is open to anyone and the Society has put together a very reasonably priced trip. We're flying from LA direct to St. Petersburg, and I know this seems crazy, but ...how about coming along with us to Russia and being a part of this once-in-a-lifetime experience? You might even get to do some singing!

Again, the date is August 16, 2003 and the group to contact is 1-414-352-1917, or email rgordon@attglobal.net

We're making history in Russia and in our small way, helping the country to evolve from it's repressed past. What a thrill, to not only sing every week with my brothers in **Pacific Sound**, but to be so fortunate that our musical passions take us to such a special place to perform and share our barbershop harmony hobby. Come join us!

Fourth International Russian Barbershop Harmony Festival

August 16 – 25, 2003

&

300th Anniversary of the founding of St. Petersburg

Join the many other Barbershoppers sharing this history making event, sponsored by the International Fine Arts Institute, Russian Ministry of Culture, SPEBSQSA, and the World Harmony Council, to enjoy the "electrifying performances and Barbershopping experience of a lifetime!"

Pacific Sound

Rincon Beach Chapter



REVIVAL
1998 SPEBSQSA
International Champions



Dr. Greg Lyne
**SPEBSQSA Director of Music
Education and Services**
Guest Conductor and Clinician



COST: Approximately \$2,750 from Los Angeles, CA (LA

INCLUDES: Round trip air fare, 3 Star Hotel Accommodations, three meals per day, all ground transportation, and tickets to festival performances at St Petersburg Philharmonic Concert Hall, Conservatory Opera Theater, Capella Concert Hall, Hermitage Museum Private Concert Hall and cultural programs.

For Information or Reservations Call (414) 352-1917 or email rgordon@attglobal.net



**FULLERTON
WINS FWD
BULLETIN
CONTEST**

Fullerton's "Barbershop Clippin's" was again awarded first place in the FWD Bulletin Contest. This is the sixth consecutive win for Editor **Dick Cote**. He also won first place in the International Bulletin Contest the last two times he was eligible to enter the competition.

Dick is the kind of a guy that gives a lot of credit to the people who submit articles to him for publication, and this certainly is a large contribution to his success in winning awards. However, the fact remains that he, along with the expertise, encouragement and proof reading talent of his wife Kay, are the real deciding factors in making "Barbershop Clippin's" a continuing super-successful chapter bulletin. He has set a standard that will be very hard to exceed.

Congratulations to both Dick and Kay for their outstanding work! It was very fitting that they were at the Far Western District House of Delegates meeting at the District Convention when the award was presented. Keep up the good work, Dick!

Sing well, sing barbershop and have fun!

2802 West 145th Street
Gardena, California 90249
Phone: (310) 327-3788
Email: mmenaker@ix.netcom.com
www.harmonize.com/Nightlife

SPEBSQSA International Quartet Champions
Rob Menaker/Tenor John Sasine/Lead Jeff Baker/Baritone Brett Littlefield/Bass

continued from right-hand column
in 1988. In 1990, he started a new chapter in Hemet, California, and is, not surprisingly, serving as its musical director. Howard is in a quartet names ACE [A Chord Explosion], which has been ringing chords for the past seven years.

The Far Western District is fortunate to have Howard among its talented musical and administrative leadership and recognizes his tremendous contributions during this 2003 Spring Convention!

**2003 FWD
Spring
Convention
Dedicated
to Howard
Mesecher**



Howard & Ethyl Mesecher

The Far Western District proudly dedicated the 2003 Spring convention to **Howard Mesecher**.

Howard started his music career in Davenport, Iowa, where he played french horn in the band and orchestra. while serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, he had the opportunity to tour throughout England as a member of the Shrivengham College Orchestra.

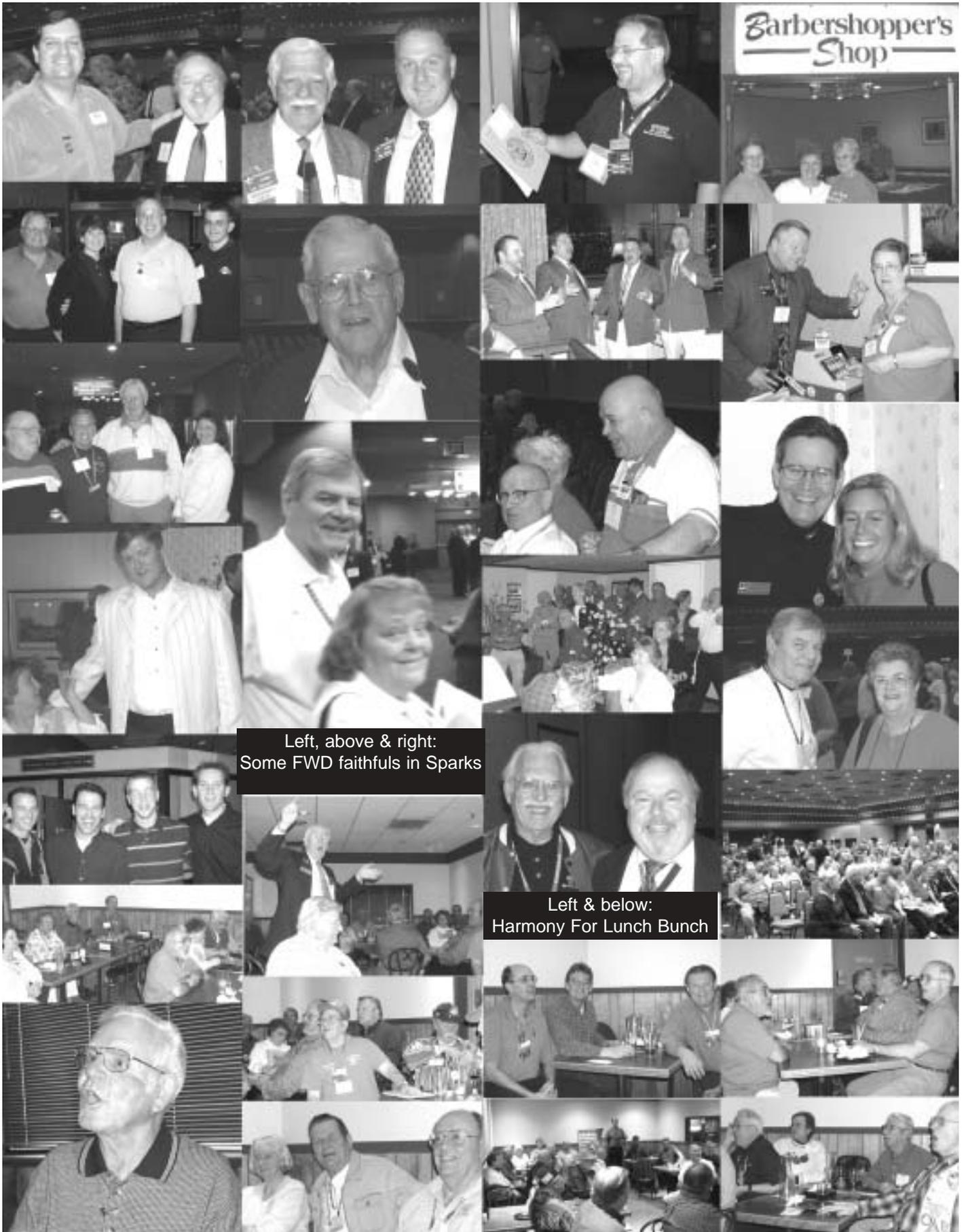
In 1951, Howard attended his first Barbershop chapter meeting in Rock island, Illinois, where he had the pleasure of listening to the Vikings quartet rehearsing for the International Competition. The Vikings not only won the coveted gold medal in 1953, but also convinced Howard that Barbershop had to be a part of his life!

In 1952, Howard became a charter member of the New Davenport Chapter and subsequently took over the reins as chorus director. The chorus competed in two International Competitions, placing eighth in Atlantic City and sixth in New Orleans. While in the Central States District, Howard served as District Vice President, established the first chorus directors' school and was inducted into the Hall of Fame. He and his family moved to Fresno in 1972 where he served as Chapter President and Chorus Director.

Howard's contest and judging career began when he was certified in voice expression and went on to adjudicate his first International Contest in 1964. Coincidentally, his good friend, **Lou Laurel**, was the International President and Director of the Border Chorders Chorus of El Paso, Texas, that won the chorus contest that same year. Two years later, then-International President, **Wes Meier**, appointed Howard International Contest and Judging Chairman.

Howard became deeply involved in FWD music education programs while serving as District Contest and Judging Chairman, creating chorus director seminars, which greatly improved the quality of directors throughout the District. An offshoot of these seminars resulted in Howard establishing the first chorus director seminar for Australian Barbershoppers. After serving for 34 years in the contest and judging program, Howard retired in 1997.

Howard was inducted into the Far Western District Hall of Fame
continued in left-hand column



Left, above & right:
Some FWD faithfuls in Sparks

Left & below:
Harmony For Lunch Bunch



2002 International Champions SANTA FE SPRINGS

KIRT THIESMEYER

It has been a productive two months since the Far Western District last heard from the **Masters of Harmony**. A major highlight was a magnificent February 15th spent with over 130 high schoolers from all over the Southland at a daylong barbershop clinic at Orange Coast College. Hosting Young Men In Harmony with the Southern California Vocal Association brought us great satisfaction, to see our own future and to enhance the present, with tag singing in the corridors and a masterful joint performance in the evening for parents and friends, conducted by our Director **Mark Hale**. Our own **Mark Freedkin** ably distilled the enthusiasm and talent of the youngsters.

We are not known as a quartet chapter, but we have over twenty active quartets from among our membership. **4-H Club** won the Novice Contest on February 8. And we are proud to say that three of the five qualifiers in March at the Reno Preliminaries hang (some of) their hats in Santa Fe Springs: **Metropolis**, **Gotcha!** and **Finale**. Two more MOH-nurtured barbershop quartets are competing in other divisionals: **Hi-Fidelity** and **Sam's Club** (2002-2003 FWD Champs). Stay tuned for BIG results anticipated in the FWD.

The **Masters of Harmony** hosts the SoCal East Divisional Convention & Contest at Anaheim on May 8-10. More MOH barbershoppers will be competing, from **Fourth Row**, **Hi-Fidelity**, **Quantum**, **Time Honored** (2002-2003 FWD Senior Champions), **Top-Notch** and **West Coast Edition** so far.

And on the further subject of quartets, we did the **Masters of Harmony** proud with our Singing Valentines Program. Some eight quartets fielded 92 requests and spent a wonderful Friday singing for shut ins, retired barbershoppers, convalescent homes, embarrassed secretaries, housewives and other professionals, and more than one weeping sweetheart of both genders some of them even in the quartets! It was a two-way street of joy for us, and an experience to be treasured.

Two skilled singers have joined MOH to help the baritone section. We welcome **Matt Dzmura** and **Dan Seymour**. (Some say that baritones always need help.)

Barbershop Oddity: **Art Taylor**, who needs a wheelbarrow to schlep his chorus gold medals around (**Phoenicians**, 72 and 76;

five with the **Masters of Harmony**), plus assorted hardware of lesser note, commutes from Carpinteria to MOH rehearsals in Santa Fe Springs and has just returned from a respectable showing at the Spring Preliminaries with his senior quartet **Top-Notch**. Insufficiently sated, Art recently added the **Pacific Sound Chorus** of the Rincon Beach Chapter to his activities (our gain is their gain) and he has formed another singing foursome, temporarily named **Quartet Du Jour**. And he still keeps his day job! We don't know what Art has, but we're going to bottle it and sell it to chapter development officers.

We are studying hard for our final appearance as 2002 Chorus Champions at the Montreal International Convention in July, including four long sessions of choreography with premier coach **Erin Howden** of the Sweet Adelines North Metro Chorus in Toronto. One of the pieces we're rehearsing prompted a parody from a creative fellow on our communications link. It was challenged by every Longfellow wannabe getting into the spirit and resulted, according to one wag, in some of the worst poetry this side of Tiny Tim. But we learned the song.

In Montreal we will also be cheering loudly for our FWD brothers in the **Garden City Chorus**, San Jose Chapter, as they press for the medals. We're hoping they will confound and enchant the judges with the same sweet sounds we heard in Bakersfield last fall.

The **Masters of Harmony** has two big shows approaching that we work on in our spare time: The Long Beach Community Concert Series at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center on May 18; and our Annual Spring Show at the Terrace Theater in Long Beach on June 7, A Cappella Showcase, which will feature the wildly popular **Metropolis** (2002 International Bronze Medalists) and the 1996 International Quartet Champions (and MOHers) **Nightlife**. Tickets are still available.

Gary Steinkamp
Dean Waters
Scott Kidder
Joe D'Amore*
* Contact:
626.963.8604
409 Greenfield Ct
Glendora, CA 91740
jpdamore@earthlink.net



1 Santa Monica - Todd Benton, CD



2 Placerville - Ray Rhymer, CD



3 Nevada-Placer - Roger Perkins, CD



Mike Testers - Reno - Bill Weiser, CD

**Small Chorus Contest
Participants with ranking**

**At right:
A few Quartets singing for the
Small Chorus hospitality room**



**Keith Eckhardt with 2002
President's Award
in hospitality room**

**Apologies to those Quartets
who came by and sang but
were not photographed**



Metropolis



Q



TopCats



Vintage Sound



Eastsiders



Heirloom

Division 1 SCal West

Editor Mike Martin



CONEJO VALLEY

RED EHRENBACH

Dick Van Dyke and the "Vantastix" sang and danced up a storm in two back-to-back High School Choral Benefit Shows in February. The net proceeds of the shows will go to the eleven area High Schools that participated to support their choral programs. **The Channelaire Chorus (SAI), Channel Islands Clippers** and **Pacific Sound** hosted the Saturday, February 22, show in Ventura. **Agoura Hills Harmony (SAI)** and **Harmony Oaks Chorus** hosted the Sunday Show in Thousand Oaks. Both shows were a smashing success. This is the sixth year that Barbershop Choruses have been supporting the choral programs in the schools in this area. With Singing Valentines and the High School Benefit Show for this year now behind them, the Conejo Valley **Harmony Oaks** Chorus is readying for their spring show, "Heritage of Harmony", headlining **Finale**, current Far Western District Champions. A matinee and evening performance will be held at the Scherr Forum Theatre, Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza on April 12. The Chorus is also looking forward to the SOCAL WEST Contest May 3.

Since last summer, the Chapter has gained five new members. They are **Bob Homkes**, Bass: **Don Rosen**, Lead: **Zach Noonan**, Tenor: **Eric Eckles**, Tenor: and **Andrew McDougal**: Bari.. Three new applications are pending, with **Gary Wetzell**, Tenor: **Dan Culver**, Lead: and **Matt Rojas**, Lead. If all join us, our Chapter is blessed, indeed. Visit our Website at www.harmonyoakschorus.com.

RINCON BEACH

BOB LALLY

The highlight for **Pacific Sound** in February was their participation in a Concert Benefit for high school music programs in the Ventura area. Under the able coordination of **Ken Day** and **Jim Serdahely** the Chorus began the evening along with the **Channel Island Clippers** of Ventura and the **Channelaire Chorus** of Sweet Adelines, Inc. Also appearing on the program was the **Curtain Call** quartet from **Pacific Sound** featuring **Max Frickey, Don Kileen, Bob Cathaway** and **Jim Serdahely**.

The balance of the evening was given to performing groups from five area high schools, and **Dick Van Dyke** exceeded the entire program. The evening was a great success generating over \$7000 for the schools' music programs. **Larry Krause** added his expertise with PR and tickets.

Excitement is starting to build for SoCal West Division contest in May to be held at Pacifica High School in Oxnard and hosted by the **Rincon Beach Chapter** with Convention Chairman **Bob Cathaway**. The chorus received music for a new contest ballad and almost immediately spent an evening coaching session with

Cindy Hansen who made her usual positive impact on the group.

The Chapter's newest member is **Art Taylor**, a veteran of the **Masters of Harmony** and the **Phabulous Phoenicians**, who joins the **Pacific Sound** tenor section. Art has recently moved to Carpinteria and brings a wealth of experience to the group.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEYAIRES

JEFF BARSKY

Congratulations to **Jeff Barsky** who takes over the duties of editor from **Don Heist** who has admirably held the position for the past 15 years. Jeff's first two editions show he has some ideas of his own and the Chapter newsletter Vocalizer clearly remains in very good hands. His first plea is to encourage all chapter members write articles. Good luck Jeff. New Chapter president **Mike Cohen** thanked everyone involved in producing this year's installation dinner with particular thanks to **Bernard Priceman** for coming to install the new officers, **Tom Mayfield** for planning the event and **Lew Weitsman** for a great job of emceeing.

Several important awards handed out as **Gary Bailer** was presented with the BOTY. **Ed Schackman** received triple awards, which were ROTY, the "Overture Award" for new members and "The Order of the Broken Donkey Award" for work and participation above the normal. Other award winners were **Tom Singer, Don Heist** and **Bob Karlin**.

Director **Tom Raffety** was excited about the **Valleyaires** visit to **South Bay** as they shared a joint meeting in February to the mutual joy of both chapters. He also encouraged members to get out and sell tickets for the Chapter's March 8 show "Let's Get Away from It All". Rumor has it that an unnamed chapter member offered an additional incentive of \$5,000 if the Chapter sold out the house. What a tremendous incentive.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

BRUCE MILLER

Chapter president **Rick Snodey** indicates that there are many things being considered in the direction of the Gold Coast Chorus. They are in an enviable financial position through their successful past operations. The big concern, as shared by most chapters, is keeping the membership up. Congratulations to barbershopper of the year **John Staley**. Other awards passed out at the installation dinner went to **George Loose** and **Gil Brown** for attendance, Work Horse award to **Brian Davin** and Unsung Hero award to **Lloyd Oksen**. Hall of Fame award to **Jim Hawkins**.

SANTA CLARITA VALLEY

BOB LANG

February has been very busy indeed. Not only was the chapter we getting ready for the upcoming annual show, we held our annual high school quartet workshop, and then the high school contest early in the month. We had a total of five participating quartets; three junior high and two high schools. And the girls were the winners again! Congratulations to "Short Stuff" from Canyon High School. Note a comment from a music teacher: "Barbershoppers are the nicest guys in the world."

Three of our four chapter quartets performed at Second Sunday

Serenade at IHOP in Pasadena. On Valentines Day, **Blue Plate Special** and **Gentleman's Chord'ally** quartets delivered a total of 28 Singing Valentines (not counting numerous 'freebees'!). Although the income was nice, the best part was the response and tears of the recipients.

Our 30th Annual Show 'Magic of Music' on March 1st came off without a hitch. The Matinee was sold out, and evening performance well attended, and best of all, everyone seemed to enjoy it. A wonderful job was done by the headliners 'Angel City' (Sweet Adeline Regional Champs) and the magic of **Dan Jordan**, among others, from The Magic Castle of Hollywood. Our hats off and hearty thanks to our new Director **Dr. David Kilpatrick** for gently getting us into shape in such a short period of time. Now we can really look forward to some new music, fun, contest, and ideas for next years show!

SANTA MARIA

LU HINTZ

The **Central City Chordsmen** enjoyed a successful Valentine's Day program. "The Silver Notes", the "Noteworthy Four"; "Just Passing Through" and "Just Called Four" were the active quartets of the day. Big thanks to **Bill Leas, George Crosby, Dean** and **Barbara Ubben** for working out all the logistics. Congratulations to **Dick Mininger** and **Don Ward**, recipients of Barbershopper of the Month Awards for February and March respectively. **Lewis Law** took the big award of Barbershopper of the Year. Lew also directs the Sweet Adeline Chorus in Lompoc and is coaching a high school quartet for contest.

SANTA MONICA OCEANAIRE'S

TOM LASKEY

As someone once said, "It was deja vu all over again." The **Oceanaires** were awarded Small Chapter Chorus Champion at the Reno Convention on March 22, 2003. Why "deja vu"? Well, 23 years ago, the **Oceanaires** competed and won the very first Far Western District event for small chapters. That contest, 1980, was also held in Reno. Our director then was **Allan Katz**, who was in the Convention audience this year and watched as **Todd Benton** directed us to the top. On the day before, the FWD board announced that this would be the last Small Chapter Chorus contest. Your reporter had the privilege of addressing the Convention at the award presentation to point out that three of the men on stage sang with the Oceanaires both then and now. They are **Earl Gauger, Terry O'Shaughnessy, and Tom Laskey**, who thanked "the FWD, the Reno chapter hosts, the Oceanaires' special coach **Stan Sharpe**, and the Convention audience for their generous support."

This year's Oceanaire Show, on April 12, featured an old time radio show format. Created and produced by Immediate Past President **Bruce** (The Magnificent El Moldo) **Schroffel**. Again, it was in the Stivelman Theatre at University High School in West L.A. The staging included witty parodies of commercials, plus a performance by the District Senior Champion quartet, **Time Honored**, featuring our own Asst. Director **Bob Heron** and our Director's dad, **Tom Benton**, along with Orange Chapter's **Stan Haymaker** (a former Oceanaire) and **David Livingston** of

the Valleyaires. The Oceanaires' next big event will be the 23rd Annual Ice Cream Social and Performance on August 16.

SOUTH BAY

MIKE MARTIN

There are lots of things on the front burner since the last report from the **Coastliners**. Singing Valentine's were a big success under the management of **Rick Llewelyn** who has handled the job the past few years. **George Jackson**, who will take over the job next year, acted as valuable right hand man to Rick this year. The **Valleyaires** Chapter with director **Tom Raffety** came to join **South Bay** in a joint meeting in mid February and each showed off their wares as choruses and quartets for a fabulous evening of fun, song and mischief. The 19th Annual Harmony Sweepstakes, again sponsored by the South Bay Chapter, has come and gone and with the special attraction of **Dick Van Dyke** and the **Vantastix**, and the always perfect **Perfect Gentlemen** as performing hosts, was an overwhelming financial success completely sold out before the box office opened. Many thanks to our own **Will Hamblet** for making this night happen as it did. Standing room only was the word.

Program VP **Damian Curran** assisted by **Joe Nagle** put on a grand St. Patrick's night quartet program with several quartets from around the Southland joining the festivities. This was the 43rd year South Bay hosted this event and as always it was an evening of great fun and prizes. Judges for the night's event were **Bill Furlong, Peter Neushul** and **James Labor**.

President **Denny Lawrence** has announced the level of commitment to do well in the upcoming SoCal West contest is high as Chorus sectionals are being held on several special Saturday practice sessions. **Bob Griffiths** has been doing a terrific job managing preparations for the May 3 contest. **Karl Jacobs** announces that the O.C. Cash Fellows is off to an incredible start. Proceeds go to the Chapter coffers for special needs or grants as the Chapter Board pleases.

Under the encouragement of director **Pete Neushul**, it looks like the **Coastliners** are considering packing their suitcases as we again plan a "down under" trip to the garden of Eden known as New Zealand to participate in the Pan Pacific Association Contest in 2004. Good news on the membership front as the Chapter welcomes **Pat Johnson** and **Craig Bailing**. The Board according to secretary **Jim Labor** has also approved two additional men, **Dave Barnes** and **Michael Borrett**.

Mike Martin took 2nd place in the FWD District Bulletin Contest as editor of the **South Bay Coastliner Hey Hey Herald** and is eligible to proceed to the International Bulletin Contest.

Bernie Baron, Show Chairman, announced the name of the annual show for 2003 will be "The King Of Barbershop" featuring the worlds largest Elvis Presley barbershop chorus. The chorus has made good progress on all the show songs as well as the special presentation and stage presence for the two contest songs. No time for a breather for at least another two months.

VENTURA

KEITH BOGOST

The Singing Valentines program was a great success under the chairmanship of **Gary Rice**. **Tom Leese** helped with the coordination of quartets. Quartets performing this year were **Harmony Channel, Ancient Mariners, Take Four** and **Ventura Boulevard**. Good job all. **Sam Ballinger**, along with **Bart** and **Michelle Bleuel** announce that the new Chapter shirts have arrived. The **Channel Island Clippers** participated with the **Conejo, Rincon** and **Channelaire** Chapters along with the **Agoura Hills Sweet Adelines** Chorus in the 6th Annual High School Choral Benefit Show, which help high school students enjoy music. **Dick Van Dyke** and his quartet the **Vantastix** performed and were a huge contribution to the success of this event. **Jim Sumstine** has been appointed Chorus Manager and will also be chairman of the 50th anniversary show planned for September 20. **Joel Rogosin, Keith Bogost, Wayne Rear, Art Janssen** and **Sam Ballinger** have been enlisted to help out with show duties. In the meantime, plans are underway for the Ice Cream Sociable to be held at Wilson Park April 12 with **Sam Ballinger** as show chairman. Several of the Chapter quartets will be entertaining. Another ice cream sociable is planned in the late fall. Ventura Chapter has made a firm commitment to participate in the SoCal West Division Contest in Oxnard May 3 and in encouraging every Chapter member to register for it.

Division 2 SCal East

Editor Gene Hartzler

EL CAJON

MIKE DORMAN

The chapter was saddened when Director **Gene Rague** announced that he was leaving the chapter. A search team headed by President **Jim Reid** is seeking applications for his replacement. Chapter quartets delivered 31 Valentines, despite the inclement weather.

FULLERTON

DICK COTE

At the annual installation and awards gala several chapter stalwarts were honored and feted for "exemplary contributions" to the Fullerton Chapter. **Ron Soderquist** as BOTY, **Art Clayton, Gary Stone,** and **Don Reimann** received the Director's Awards, and **Al Bell** and **Elton Carey** for other outstanding contributions. November's BSOM were **Howard Wood** and **Bill Bowring**.

The chapter gets a big "Oh Yeah" for their outstanding charitable support for city of Fullerton and surrounding areas during 2002.

The chapter's youngest member, **Aaron Schwartz** did the chapter proud when he played the part of Tevye in the Fullerton Children's Repertory Theatre production of "Fiddler On The Roof."

Kent Fossum's timely and excellent review of the chapter's two most vital documents, the Mission Statement and Society's Code of Ethics, and as he says, they may at times "drift a bit" but it's good to "review and practice the precepts that make us what we are."

As it must be true in chapters throughout the world, the heart warming experiences and stories the recent Valentine quartets relate, are colorfully told by **Art Clayton** in his March issue article. (Ed. Note: Some brought a tear to my eye as I read them).

The chapter chorus calendar for 2003 is certainly a busy one that should keep every member involved and in good voice.

HEMET

BRUCE SMITH

Clay Panlaqui, Music VP penned a timely and helpful article on Unit Sound for Better Singing that as he says is not for killing time before the director takes over, but is designed to challenge each member to be critically aware of his duty to follow the precepts of posture, breath management, and all the other goodies that any vocal coach would teach.

Howard Mesecher's review of the chapter's upcoming show challenges each man to seriously review his music and any speaking parts he may have during the week, between rehearsals. A new script and all the music has been chosen, he reports.

President **Lee Krause** plans to increase the chapter's community service performances this year that will help to expose the chorus to more local residents which in turn will sell more show tickets. Inter-chapter visitations is also one other item for serious consideration.

LAGUNA HILLS

JIM KAY

The Laguna Hills Chapter held their inaugural show on March 8 when they played to a sold-out audience. The show was a traditional parade of quartets including the chapter groups. Quartets from adjoining chapters in Irving, Orange and Dana Point. The featured quartet was **A Touch of Class** past FWD Senior Champs.

The chapter has experienced a dramatic increase in membership over the past 12 months and provides a quartet workshop as a vital part of the weekly meetings, where special coaching is offered twice monthly.

PALOMAR-PACIFIC

KEITH MULFINGER

YMIH **Bill Scofield**, penned a nice article about a member, **Bud Lark**, who is a chaplain and visits the S.D. County jail weekly to pray for and with inmates. Bill's article tells of Bud's experiences during his Christmas visits and several comments and observations when he took a chapter quartet with him and sang carols in several areas of the building.

A new feature "Getting to Know Your Board" introduces new board member **Al Leuthe**.

Editor Keith was the unanimous choice for BOTM for December.

RANCHO BERNARDO

E. ROMMEL

The **Troubadours** will compete in the SoCal East Prelims in May, under the direction of **John Hulbert** who is introducing new techniques to encourage the chorus to sing better.

On a recent guest night in early March the local gospel quartet, **For Heaven's Sake** entertained the audience.

The chapter is pleased to announce that they are now connected to the World Wide Web, and encourages barbershoppers to visit their site (harmonize.com/troubadours.) At the annual installation event in January **Erwin Castillo** was named BOTY.

THURSDAY SONGSTERS

GENE RAGUE

The Thursday Songssters will sing for the Military Order of the World Wars on April 25, 2003, a contact that was made last October when the chorus sang for a function that was attended by an Admiral who was impressed by what he heard. The April performance will be the fifth so far this year. In 2002 the chorus had 14 performances!

A little history of the Thursday group. Several years back **Joe White** and **Bob Brown** were the first directors until 1995 when **Gene Rague** became their leader and they joined the Veterans Memorial Center in Balboa Park where they rehearse each week with 15 men—all are SPEBSQSA members. They have a repertoire of 20 songs, but can tailor a program to the personality of the audience. Eight men are currently in organized quartets, and two Songster quartets perform on sing-outs. Gene concludes by "if you were born before 1950 you know our songs."

WHITTIER

DAVID GUNTHER

On April 26, 2003 at the La Mirada Theatre for the Performing Arts the Whittier Choralaires will present their spring show. They have chosen George M. Cohan's *You're A Grand Old Flag* as the theme. A special added attraction, the FWD High School Quartet Champs will be the guest quartet. Also, in one of their last performances, **Variety** will appear along with **HI-Fidelity**.

Division 3 NCal West

Editor Don Kington

HONOLULU (ALOHA CHAPTER)

ED REID

The **Sounds of Aloha** Chorus recently sang the National Anthem at an University of Hawaii basketball game, had a performance on the beach at Waikiki in the Kapiolani Bandstand and prepared for the Spring Show in May, "Barbershop on Broadway."

The Chorus will present that show at the Hawaii Theatre May 2 & 3. For more information go to <http://www.infotools.bizland.com/spebsqsa/show2003>.

FREMONT/HAYWARD

RAY SPINOSA

The Chapter has the great regret to report the death of **Steve McManus** on February 19, 2003. The Fremont-Hayward Chapter has lost its Vice President of Music and Performance; its Treasurer; its webmaster; its bulletin writer; its quartet-activities chairman; and a wonderful lead singer with the ability to sing any part. He will be remembered as being one of those people whom brightened a room when he entered. He constantly encouraged members to participate in quartet activities when

they were uncertain about their ability to do so. He could honestly be said to be Mr. Barbershop for the Chapter. In fact Steve was the recipient of the 2001 Barbershopper of the Year award.

It was the privilege of the New Dimension Chorus to sing at the memorial service for Steve. Director **James Hall** designed a formation with a large gap where Steve would have been. The chorus sang two of Steve's favorite songs in the spirit of a celebration of his life, rather than a mournful looking back.

At this writing the chorus now looks forward and is in preparation for the NCal West competition in Santa Rosa in April and local appearances in May.

PALO ALTO/MOUNTAIN VIEW CHAPTER

JOHN HEATHER

Catching up: For some unknown reason Installation Dinner details never made their way to this space until just now. Veteran barbershopper **Paul Engel** installed the following officers, who, all but two, return for another year: **Chuck Thompson**, President; **Paul Johannes**, Secretary; **Dave Morely**, Treasurer; **John Jones**, Chapter Development VP; **Rob Sequeira**, newly elected Music and Program VP; **Terry Barlow**, Immediate Past President; and **Dan Curtis**, **Bert Laurence** and **Bill Nelson** (newly elected), Directors-at-Large.

Honorees were: **Max Lanfranconi**, Rookie of the Year; **Steve Sammonds**, Barbershopper of the Year; **Dale Biggs**, Hall of Fame Inductee; **Jack Metz** and **John Jones**, President's Awards; and **Thomas Atwood** and **Bob Morrison**, Board Awards.

S.F. BAY CITIES QUARTET CHAPTER CASEY PARKER

Casey reports another successful Singing Valentines outing, putting the Ncal West's only quartet chapter in the black.

March was the first month with the new inverted hours: sing in the banquet room 5-7 PM, dine in the main room 7-8 PM.

SAN FRANCISCO

DMK

Thanks to the energy and organizational skill of Chapter Secretary **Thomas Lubrano** -- honcho of this year's Singing Valentine project -- the effort was a popular and financial success; successful enough that the profits will pay the rent for the rest of the year.

Speaking of the rent, the Chapter has relocated to new digs. After more than 20 years of meeting at Christ Church Lutheran the **Cable Car Chorus** members now gather just two block west at Ner Tamid Temple, 1250 Quintara at 22 Ave. Meeting night is still Wednesday.

Members of the S.F. Chapter share Fremont/Hayward members' sorrow on the untimely death of **Steve McManus**. The Cable Car Chorus provided his first organized barbershop harmony experience. In his short stay with the Chapter he was a delightful and productive member.

SAN MATEO COUNTY

DAVID JUNGROTH

Don the Digester gives a warm welcome to new contributor David and offers his contribution "as writ.")

At a well attended installation dinner on January 3rd. the **GOLDEN CHORDSMEN** installed their '03 slate of officers. They are **David McCann**-President (one more term), **Dick Boyd**-Secretary & Immediate Past President (how many terms?), **Arnie Miller**- Treasurer, **Tom Addison**-VP Music Development, **Tom Dickerman**- VP Chapter Development, **Jack Lewellan**, **Burt Press**, **Dave Jungroth** - Directors at Large, **Gary Moulin** - Marketing Director, and **Alice Bollard** - Director.

Since **Jim Bryant**, our director of the past several years, retired to the Sierra mountain country, we are now singing under the guidance of **Alice Bollard** who has strong experience with Sweet-Ads choruses, sung with several polished quartets and has been a valuable coach for our chapter and chapter quartets for a many years. **Tom Dickerman** and **Alice Bollard** represented our chapter at the recent convention in Reno.

Our annual spring show is (at this writing) scheduled for March 29 and is an original old fashioned melodrama, "HOW YA GONNA KEEP 'EM DOWN ON THE FARM?" written by **Tom Addison** leading a team of enthusiastic would-be thespians/writers.

With an influx of several new members to our chapter, a new quartet has been formed called "**JIM & TONIC**". This quartet is a great example of the age range we can enjoy with our hobby. The combined ages of three new members, **John Brown** (really!) -Lead, **Mike Divitt**-Bass and **Josh Ryan**-Tenor, is less than that of Baritone **Jim Saunders** at a very young/active 81 years!!

Again a great time was had with Singing Valentines. That Friday, quartets shared Valentine messages with songs and flowers to 48 individuals. They also had occasion to "stroll & sing" for one hour each for two local businesses.

SANTA ROSA

SCOTT DOUGLAS

The March edition of The Chord Trimmings, the Chapter's bulletin, contains detailed paragraphs from four of the Chapter quartets that delivered dozens of Singing Valentines. **Dan Schell** kept the whole effort moving from "Valentine Central."

WALNUT CREEK

DICK JOHNSTON

Once again **Al Eames** organized the sale and delivery of Singing Valentines, which occurred over a three-day period including the Day itself. Members of the Chapter are unanimous in feeling that this activity actually touches the hearts of both the recipients and the singers in a way that is truly unique.

Continuing a practice initiated by the Board of Directors last year, in every month that includes five Tuesdays the Devil Mountain Chorus devotes the fifth Tuesday entirely to quartet singing. In the course of the evening every member present participates in singing as a member of a quartet. With help from Music Director **Jim**

Stenson and enthusiastic ASOW member **Earle Holte**, some members experience the pleasure of woodshedding.

Before this is printed students at Stanley School, a middle school in Lafayette, will have staged two presentations of "The Music Man," using two complete casts. At the suggestion of a parent acting as co-producer of the show, tenor **Al Eames**, lead **Neal Higgins**, bari **Bob Dunn** and bass **Dick Johnston** visited a rehearsal and demonstrated the fine art of barbershop quartet singing to the assembled casts.

Division 4 NCal East

Editor Bill Crocker



CARSON CITY

JOHN NICOSIA

The singing valentines program was a rousing success. The chapter benefited from some great publicity via the local newspaper and local television's channel eight. Three quartets sang to 65 sweet-hearts and the chapter received more than \$1,300 for the effort.

Plans for the annual show are moving along. Chorus director, **John Metcalfe**, has decided that some of the old songs should be included along with some new ones. **Ted Nagel** will be the show chairman.

The chapter members wish to acknowledge the passing of **Virgil Millard**. Virgil was 70 years of age and was born in Alva, OK. He was an ordained minister in the Assemblies Of God and pastored churches in Iowa, California and Nevada. He was active in church building missions in three South American countries.

One of Virgil's greatest joys was singing barbershop harmony. He sung tenor and later baritone in several quartets, the most recent being **Partners in Harmony**. He was a loved and respected member and chapter officer. **Paul Muller** was appointed to fill the rest of Virgil's term as secretary.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

MILES SUTTER

Oakdale, nationally known for its rodeos and Hershey's chocolate, was the place to be on March 15. **Golden Valley Chorus** agreed to headline the Oakdale concert series. The event was a great success for the series as well as for the chapter.

Collaboration, **Common Bond** and the chapter's high school quartet, **Chord Flakes**, performed in the concert series. Blossom Valley Sweet Adelines Chorus with its quartets as well as the Oakdale High School Jazz Choir contributed significantly.

Howard Barber, **Bruce Sellnow**, **Lowell Oldenberg** and **Dain Goad** received many thanks for their contributions to the success of the series. Dain was sick but sucked it up and did his usual fantastic job.

A barbershopping icon passed away recently. Chapter member, **Don McLaren**, was a barbershopper for forty of his seventy-six years. While with the Modesto Melody Makers, Don was secretary, treasurer, president, assistant director, co-director and director. He held some of these positions more than once. He was a recipient of the Central California chapter's first lifetime achievement award.

Collaboration took time out from its busy singing valentines program to visit Don in the hospital. The quartet sang several songs and Don wouldn't let the guys leave, even though he was experiencing serious breathing difficulties. Quartet members poured their hearts into "Irish Blessing" as their visit ended.

CHICO

LEE ATKINS

The chapter's singing valentines program continues to be a successful, year after year. This year, three quartets were involved. Two were mixed quartets with **Shirl Rivas** and **Leola Riedel** singing tenor. Shirl and Leola are Hec and Bob's wives. They are ex-Sweet Adelines members who were the tenor and lead, respectively, in the 1971 regional champion quartet, **The Premiers**. Shirl is also the coach of the third quartet, **Vintage Sound**. Seventy-five valentines were delivered during a three-day period with net earnings of \$1,800.

Bidwell Generals Chorus has an interim music director. **Elmer Fairbanks** has agreed to serve as director through the annual show on April 26. He has been a barbershopper for over fifty years and is currently a member of the Nevada-Placer chapter. He was a member of the **Travel Aires** quartet, which made the international finals several years ago.

Don Corrie, Bidwell Generals past chorus director, is recovering from cancer surgery. Chapter members wish to acknowledge Don's contribution to the chorus's development and pray for a speedy recovery.

Bob Heckinger is recovering from recent coronary bypass surgery. He is doing well and the chapter members look forward to his return.

A high school harmony jamboree has been organized for September. **Duke Andrus** has been involved in this endeavor. All of the surrounding high schools will be invited to participate. More will be published later.

DAVIS-VACAVILLE

DAVID ROY

West Valley Chorale experienced a full day of coaching earlier this month with **Mel Knight**. Mel worked on the chorus's problems with the goal of raising the group from a "C" to an "A" chorus. Several of the chapter's quartets took advantage of Mel's visit and gained some important assistance.

A show was presented at the end of the day of coaching, which included quartets and the chorus performing a few songs for friends, families and guests.

A sing-out is scheduled for the Dixon area. Chapter members hope that this performance will lead to more involvement in community activities. The possibilities include local student musical groups, involvement in a youth camp and discovering a high school quartet or two in need of a venue.

FRESNO

JIM WARNER

Rich Hasty is on the road to recovery. At the time of the last Westunes publication, the Fresno chapter was rehabilitating with its director. Today, members are working toward the No Cal East divisional contest and learning new songs for the June 7 annual show. Rich is directing from a wheelchair and **Eric Essayan** is ably assisting.

The chapter's quartet, **Sierra Chord Express**, was the mike tester at the recent international preliminary contest in Reno.

BOB, **Atonic Explosion** and **Sierra Chord Express** have been active in chapter shows, public performances and other activities involving music throughout the area. In addition, **BOB** and **Sierra Chord Express** have sung the national anthem at various sporting events during the past months.

Fresno quartets and the chapter membership committee are planning to work with local schools to introduce barbershop harmony and assist music teachers. By encouraging participation in this wonderful art, it is hoped that school music budget cuts and other pressures can be offset.

The Fresno chapter now meets on Monday evenings at the Trinity Lutheran Church, 3973 North Cedar, just north of Dakota. Visitors to the area are encouraged to stop in and participate in chapter meetings.

NEVADA PLACER

ROGER PERKINS

The chapter has a new website. **Roger Perkins** is the webmaster. However, the great **Keith Eckhardt**, Far Western District webmaster, is credited with getting it up and running. Check out www.nccn.net/~sing/.

Sierranaders placed third in the small chorus competition in Reno. Competition was a new experience for roughly one-third of the chorus members and everyone enjoyed the weekend.

PLACERVILLE

FRANK MARTIN

The chapter fielded four, count 'em, four quartets for the first time in a singing valentines program. Tears and other great responses were experienced. **Tom** and **Margie Yowell** stepped in at the last minute to handle the telephones. **David McCartney** did double duty by singing in two quartets. Seventy-six valentines were delivered with more than half of the active membership participating with a net take of \$2,000. That's dedication!

The quartets that participated in the delivery of valentines were: **Older Than Dirt**, **Cupid's Bow**, **Grape Nuts** and **Got Music?**.

The **Gold Rush Chorus** placed second in the small chorus competition in Reno and gained a place in this year's Far Western District competition for the first time in its twenty-year history.

The annual chapter show is scheduled for the weekend of April 26. The headliner quartet will be **Metropolis**, the 2002 international fifth place bronze medallist. This is a top quality quartet that, obviously, sings well but is also very funny.

Division 5 AZ/SoVNV/SoUT

Editor Phil Smith

GREATER PHOENIX

BILL KANE

The **Pride of Phoenix** Chorus made its first public performance at the end of February with 33 men on stage, doing three songs for our rehearsal host's church service. An "unnamed" quartet also sang the Lord's Prayer as part of the service, consisting of **Russ Young, Rick Wells, Fraser Brown** and **Gary Steinkamp**. The audience responded very well to these barbershop performances. **Ron Olson** and his wife, **Evelyn**, hosted a major yard sale that same February weekend, which gave a much relieved Treasurer **Wes Stahler** some funds to bank on.

POP is busy learning enough songs to begin a show schedule. Tentative start date is a Charter Show on Sept. 6. We are hoping to have "chapter" quartets **Finale** and **Broadway** join us for that show. A committee headed by Board Member at Large **Bob Sampson** is preparing a grant request for the Scottsdale Arts Council, which would help fund a series of free public concerts this coming winter. Another committee, headed by **Charles Oelfke**, is developing logo designs for chapter badges. With the spring contest season upon us, we've enjoyed a parade of quartets visiting rehearsals to try their material on our warm and responsive audience. We'll be hosting a Hospitality Room at Division Contest to help celebrate their successes in that event. Chapter members are active quartet men, participating in six registered quartets and that many more which are in formation stages. Several did Singing Valentines, with the usual tears and grateful appreciation. The most unique response was a note attached to the check mailed a few days after Feb. 14. It said: "Nancy raved about how wonderful you all were. . . then she broke up with me that night." Amazingly he did still send the check.

LAS VEGAS METRO

JOHN KINDE

The Green Valley High School quartet **Gator-ades** placed third in the Spring Convention High School Quartet Contest in Reno, and were co-sponsored by the Las Vegas and Las Vegas Metro chapters. Lead Dave is a senior and bound for a vocal music scholarship. The other three are sophomores that we hope to guide to other contests next year. They were very good, and we hope to feature them on our upcoming shows. Thanks to **John Mackey** and **Greg Dreyer**, who provided support and transportation for the quartet.

Our chorus has scheduled a minishow in June and a big show on

Aug. 23 at the Community College of Southern Nevada. Our meeting location has changed. We're not sure if this will be our permanent home. Visit our Web site, www.lasvegasmetro.org, for meeting and show information.

MESA/EAST VALLEY ROD CARDON and JERRY FOX

The Mesa / East Valley **Lamplighter** Chorus had many wonderful Valentine singing experiences this year. One of our quartets sang to **Bob Balcomb** and his dear wife. Now they both come to enjoy the camaraderie every Thursday night and are excited just to be a part of the group.

The fourth annual Harmony Explosion youth benefit show was by far the best ever, featuring the 1990 International quartet champions **Acoustix**. Proceeds from the show will fund a \$1,000 Harmony Foundation scholarship, a \$300 Division scholarship and a \$200 Chapter scholarship for "Outstanding Vocal Musician."

It is fun to say to local youth choir directors, "Our chapter has scholarship money to give an outstanding vocal musician. Could you help us find a worthy recipient?" We challenge other chapters, big and small, to do the same thing. It helps open doors to personal relationships with the schools' choir directors. Our chapter will also be competing in the Division Contest. Recently our director **Jerry Fox** had a great time at the Small Chorus Competition. We won't win, he says, but we encourage other small choruses that don't stress competition to join with us and share the good times. Also our chapter has a lot of fun at chorus rehearsals. We do singouts on an average of once or twice a month -- more during the special seasons of the year. We are a small group compared to some but do good work and do singouts often and are true to our charitable mission. When in Arizona, we invite all to come and visit us and we'll help you fit into a quartet if you would like that. We hope to light up your life and become part of the **East Valley Lamplighters!**

PARADISE VALLEY

PHIL SMITH

Some well-placed newspaper publicity has helped the **Cactus Chordsmen** gain six new members (with three others set to join in April) since the first of the year: basses **Bob Bue, Ralph Williamson** and **John Van Westrienen**; lead **Corbin Beu**; tenor **Alan Landru**; and bari **Joe Lupica**. Four of them (the two **Beus, Landru** and **Lupica**) happened to be in a Singing Valentines quartet that was overheard by a reporter for the Business Journal, who was impressed enough to write an excellent feature story (with photo) about them and barbershopping in Arizona.

Longtime barbershopper **Charlie DeFir** is on the mend (well enough to visit the chapter meeting on March 31) after suffering complications following heart surgery. The chorus sang The Irish Blessing at the wedding of our director, **Dan Ryan**, on Feb. 15 to climax a very busy week. In the previous three days, six quartets had performed 114 Singing Valentines!

PHOENIX SAGUARO

TED SAYLE

The **Phoenicians** have completed a very successful Christmas

Concert series and Singing Valentines program. Our annual show was one of the best in recent history. An audience favorite was the Armed Forces Medley, where present and past armed forces members were asked to stand when the chorus sang their service's song.

Now it's full speed ahead as we re-enter the contest cycle in April with two exciting new songs. A big plus has been several new quartets rising up, who will also enter the spring contest cycle. The sound coming off the risers is improving each week, very much aided by the addition of enthusiastic singers. The **Phoenicians** have been mainly working the past few years on singing, and are now focusing our energy toward our stage performance package. We are being coached by **Dr. Greg Lyne** and choreographers **Cindy Hansen** and **Janice Blake** (choreographer for the Scottsdale Sweet Adelines Chorus).

Guest night was a big success, and many more new singers loom large in our plans as a result. (Auditions are in progress.) Our new board features **Mike Goodrich** as president and longtime Phoenician **Greg Dodge** as Music VP. These two men, along with a talented cast of officers, are doing a superior job of extending our vision while building the infrastructure needed to achieve that vision. Funny thing, working hard at singing well does not seem like hard work at all when we hear the sound getting better and better each week. Who was the golfer who said, "The more I practice, the luckier I get" ? Hmmm. And congratulations to chapter quartet **Broadway**, which qualified for the International Quartet Contest in Montreal at the FWD Spring Convention in Reno.

PRESCOTT

SAM STIMPLE

Music Director **Rich Ludwigson** is stepping back from arm-waving duties for health reasons, although he will continue to assist and advise, and will add his voice to the lead section. **Sam Stimple** has taken over as interim director, assisted by **Jim Davis**, and will lead the chorus at the Division Contest.

No less than 13 **High Mountain Chordsmen** participated in Singing Valentines on Feb. 13 and 14, coordinated by **Clint Langston**. There were 17 paid performances and several "just for the fun of it." One special visit was made to former member **Jack Rogers**, 92, in the VA Hospital, just a few weeks before he passed away on March 21. Services were in Colorado. Jack had served as chapter treasurer for many years and sang in the **Granite Mountain Men** quartet.

The chapter welcomes **Charlie Babb**, who joined in late February, bringing membership to 33. The average age of chapter members is 69.875.

Our own **High Country 4** will be one of 30 quartets to receive intense coaching at Harmony College this summer: tenor **Bob Steele**, lead **Rich Ludwigson**, bari **Sam Stimple** and bass **Clint Langston**. Break a lip, guys!

ST. GEORGE

KEN SUNDWALL

The **Color Country Chorus** held its 20th annual Spring Show in the local college auditorium on March 14 and 15. The show was both an artistic and financial success. Several of the chorus songs were arrangements by our own **Val Hicks**. Far Western District's own **Finale** was the feature guest quartet for the show, and they did a great job.

A week after the show the chapter hosted its annual Guest Night, putting into action many of the things taught by **Ivan Jensen** at last winter's COTS in San Bernardino. They all worked, and we had a very good Guest Night and look forward to adding some new singers to the chorus. Even a tenor!!

SIERRA VISTA

ED RAYMOND

The expanded and much improved **Cochise Chordsmen Chorus** has been busier than a one-armed paperhanger -- between intensive practices for our April 12 Annual Show (featuring none other than **OK Chorale**) and preparing to perform at the Divisional meeting in Phoenix. Director **Linda Gilbert** has been doubling as choreographer for both events; **Paul Godwin** has been leading pre-practice warm-up sessions, as well as giving vocal tips.

Dave (Germ) Germain's son Nick has assembled a quartet from his schoolmates at Bisbee High School. The foursome is named Sweet Harmony and has auditioned and won a spot on our annual show -- the boys have a terrific sound and blend!

Members of the board had the opportunity to meet recently with **Ed Bejarana**, V.P. Youth Activities for the FWD. Many ideas of value were presented during the discussion. We appreciate the assistance offered by the various interests of the FWD, and hope to entertain some coaching help in the near future.

SUN CITIES

BOB MCGOWAN

The **Desert Aires** presented their 2003 Annual Show, "What a Country," at the Sun Dial Auditorium in Sun City on Feb. 16, and it was well received by about 1,200 attendees for the two performances.

The Music Committee has selected the theme and music for our 2004 annual show, and rehearsal of the first six numbers is under way. Although about half of our members will depart for summer homes soon, they will have the music and learning tapes when available so they can practice their singing while enjoying those dog days of summer.

Our annual awards dinner master of ceremonies, **Bud Hesterman**, brought levity to the podium. And some newer faces were recognized. Awards went to: **Don Rubertus**, who received the Director's Award from **Rich Thompson**, Director; **Bob McGowan**, who received the President's Award from Past President **Dean Woeller**; **Bob Apple**, who received the Board Award from current President **Ralph Brooks**; and **Bob Rich**, who received the Barbershopper of The Year Award from **Bill Rockafellow**, Secretary in 2002. In addition, **Lorraine**

Rubertus received a Special Award for supervising the Usherette program for the past six years. Also, Certificates of Appreciation were given to **Phil Wachtel** and **Ken Brown** for their stage roles in the show, as well as to **Charlie Cunningham** for his stagehand duties. And one was given to **Memorie Rich** for the six travel posters she painted as props for the show. This exceptional artwork was auctioned off at the dinner, and the proceeds of \$259 will be donated to the Harmony Foundation by our District Representative, **Joe Salz**. Joe was inducted into the Far Western District Hall of Fame, the 33rd inductee in the 56-year history of the FWD.

TUCSON FRED KOCH and RON HAYES

The Tucson **Sunshine Chorus'** 2003 Annual Show turned out to be a huge success from the standpoint of the actors, the stagehands and the audience. The "Barbershop Pirates" theme was hatched up by **Jay Ayres, Roy Ireland, Rich Kates** and others while returning from COTS in 2001. Jay's script and story line led to natural acting, which became fun. Kates impeccably fit the role of the Captain, and **Ron Hayes** was hilarious as the parrot. Chapter quartets **Eastsiders, Chordinary Guys, Can You Hear us Now?** and **Mem'ries** all played vital roles. **Broadway** came down from Phoenix to be the headliner. The show allowed chorus members latitude in individual costuming; not only did they look the part, they acted the part, and it was reflected in the reactions of the audience.

The chapter is proud to welcome the following recent new members: **Richard Earl, Elliott Flash, Tom Worrel** and **James Neal**.

WHITE MOUNTAINS ARIZONA CHAPTER 'DOC' DOCKENDORF

The **High Country Chorus** has an active spring schedule. On March 11 we sang for the Seventh Day Adventist Church. In preparation for the upcoming Division Convention on April 26, the chorus held an all-day workshop on March 29, with coaching from **Dan Ryan**, director of the Paradise Valley Cactus Chordsmen. On April 17, we will perform the Lord's Prayer at the Show Low Methodist Church as part of their celebration of the Last Supper. In May, we will perform at the Show Low 50th year of incorporation celebration, and we will appear on the spring Northland Pioneer College show, with the NPC choirs and jazz band, to be held in Snowflake. The chorus welcomes new member, tenor **Bob Lawson**, and the return of tenor **Dan Lewis**, who had been working in Phoenix. The February BOTM was awarded to **Dan Neeley**, who has created our new Web site. We invite all our fellow FWD members to visit our site at www.spebsqsfwd.org/wmac to learn more about our small, but growing, chapter.

YUMA BOB BAILEY

As the winter visitor season draws to a close, the **Desert Sunset Chorus** has enjoyed a busy season, with several paid sing-outs and social events. Since the beginning of the year, the chapter meeting format has changed, and now includes a variety of assistant directors, a new lineup of songs, and some really goofy humor. Listen to new President **Frank Durham's** gags, and

you'll end up laughing and rolling on the floor. No less than five new men have been attending, and having a blast. Sadly, most of the chorus will be heading north before contest, but be sure to listen for the chapter's quartet, **UnFourGettable Arizona Sun Dried Water Company**, at the spring ASNSU Division Contest. Meantime, if you're passing through Yuma on a Tuesday night, stop in and sing with us at the Kofa High School choir room (behind the auditorium), 32d Street and Avenue A.

2003 FWD Directory Corrections

- Pg Change
 2 John Ford email to j.fwdsec@verizon.net
 9 Carson City: Paul Muller - Secretary/Treasurer
 15 Fresno: meeting - Trinity Lutheran Church, Monday
 15 Greater Phoenix: Secretary Don Leggat - 8045 N. 11th Place Phoenix, AZ 85020
 16 Inland Cities: Dave Covey - Secretary
 17 Steve Bates - 4246 Tambor Court
 23 Pomona Valley: Bob Patterson - President
 25 Riverside: SoCal East
 29 Santa Barbara: SoCal West
 42 Lawrence, Denny email to dolawrnce@aol.com
-

HELP WANTED

WESTUNES Electronic Distribution

You now have the option to suspend mailing of your copy of WESTUNES, and opt for electronic distribution only, via the Far West Website. The advantages of doing so:

- WESTUNES on the WEB is dynamic in nature – the ability be updated frequently – today's news TODAY!
- WESTUNES on the WEB offers capability of future enhancements – such as full color, video, sound clips...
- WESTUNES on the WEB has virtually no size limitations – which means we could offer more content – feature articles, pictures, ads, chapter news – whatever.
- WESTUNES on the WEB is fully downloadable and printable – you can print any pages you wish.
- WESTUNES on the WEB is a much more economical method of distribution, which means that opting for this method would save the District significant money in production and mailing costs.

Sound good? It is!

If you'd like to opt for electronic distribution only, please contact your WESTUNES editor, Ray Rhymer at westuneseditor@surewest.net.

Be sure to clearly state your name, address and membership number. We're also working on a method for you to exercise this option on the FWD Website.



1 Da Isle Tones



2 Whirlwind



3 Gator-Ades



4 The Accidentals



5 Chord Flakes



6 The Crackerjacks



7 Really Sharp



8 Hold Your Applause

FWD High School Quartet Contest Competitors

CONVENTIONS, SHOWS, EVENTS

2003 _____

May 2-3 Aloha Show
 3 SoCal West Div Contest
 Rincon Beach [pg 18]
 10 SoCal East Div Contest
 Masters Of Harmony [pg 19]
 10 Napa Valley Show
 15 ALERT - MISTAKE
 NOT Santa Rosa Show
 17 Central California Show
 18 Los Angeles Show
 30-31 South Bay Show
 31 Central California Show

Jun 1 South Bay Show
 7 Masters Of Harmony Show
 7 Fresno Show
 21 Irvine Show

Jun 29-Jul 6 INTERNATIONAL
 CONVENTION
 Montreal

Jul 12 White Mountains Show

Aug 17 Palo Alto Show

Sep 13 Irvine Show
 20 Truckee-Tahoe Show (T)

Oct 2-5 FWD Fall Convention
 Bakersfield [District Run]
 11 Stockton Show

Nov 1 Placerville Show

2004 _____

Jan 25-Feb 1 INTERNATIONAL
 MIDWINTER
 Biloxi, MS
 Feb 28-29 Rincon & Conejo Valley V.S.
 Benefit (T)

Mar 18-21
FWD Spring Convention
 & NCE Division Contest
 Reno

Jun 27-Jul 4 INTERNATIONAL
 CONVENTION
 Louisville

Sep 30-Oct 3
 FWD Fall Convention
 Bakersfield [District run]

2005 _____

Mar 3-6 FWD Spring Convention
 & NCE Division Contest
 Reno

Jul 3-10 INTERNATIONAL
 CONVENTION
 Salt Lake City

Oct 13-16 FWD Fall Convention
Pasadena

2006 _____

Mar 16-19 FWD Spring Convention
 & NCE Division Contest
 Reno

Jul 2-9 INTERNATIONAL
 CONVENTION
 Indianapolis

Oct 12-15 FWD Fall Convention
 San Jose

2007 _____

Jul 1-8 INTERNATIONAL
 CONVENTION
 Denver

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FAR WESTERN DISTRICT
 Association of Chapters
 S.P.E.B.S.Q.S.A., Inc.
 Ray Rhymer, Editor
 4339 Whispering Oaks Circle
 Granite Bay, CA 95746

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