



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 BarberShop Quartet Singing in America, Inc.

Volume 53

July/August 2003

Number 4



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**9 FWD Quartets qualify for International in Montreal
[presented in order of appearance]**

**The FAR WESTERN DISTRICT includes
Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada and Southern Utah**

YOUR MEMBERSHIP ADVANTAGE — ADVERTISING THAT REACHES YOUR TARGET

Dear Barbershopper, FWD Member and *Westunes* Advertiser:

Westunes is pleased to announce a **NEW AD POLICY** for the *Westunes Magazine* to serve the marketing needs of our members and barbershop harmony enthusiasts. Very favorable advertising rates [see page 1] coupled with a dedication to excellence will make *Westunes* the best advertising buy available to reach the audience that will respond best to your ads.

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We are sure you'll find advertising in *Westunes* the most cost-effective way to reach the barbershop harmony and singing enthusiasts you want to reach.

Sincerely,

Philip Pettus

Advertising Director, *Westunes*

Ray Rhymer

Editor, *Westunes*

Clark Abrahamson

VP Marketing and Public Relations

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Send all: articles to WESTUNES Editor electronically using MS Word 98 [or earlier] and/or .pdf files; photographs using high resolution JPEG. Please identify people in photos clearly.

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[Please include old and new addresses]

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District President

John Krizek



Who's Gonna Do It?

"We shall do everything in our power to perpetuate the Society." So says that card we carry in our pockets.

Are we?

The numbers recently, and in fact over the last several years, suggest we're not.

If barbershopping is such a great thing, and we're so wonderful, how come we're not the "ever-growing" fraternity we envision?

Your District Board spent some time trying to answer this question recently and we narrowed it down to two factors:

1) Complacency. The tendency to accept the status quo. Don't bother us, we're happy the way we are. Most of our chapters are losing one guy here, two there, and they add up. Where lack of recruiting is the norm and staying even is an acceptable goal, we lose. Guys move away, retire, die. We lose one percent of our membership a year just to the Great Chorus in the Sky. We may be happy with our buddies in our little cell until one day we look around and—no tenor. No quartet. Pretty soon, no chapter. There are all sorts of clichés that apply here but they all say the same thing: move it or lose it.

2) Lack of agreement on chapter goals. Where directors, chapter boards and chapter members, all agree on what kind of chapter they want to be, and work toward a common goal, we have successful chapters. At whatever level. Too often there is a disconnect, and chapters struggle. A common problem is when a chapter says it wants to improve musically, and brings in a director to make that happen, only to discover what the director wants and the members really want, or how hard they are willing to work, are two different things. It takes work to find that "same page" awareness and willingness to make it happen, but the rewards can be smiles on many faces, and many guests in the chairs.

You'd like your chapter to grow, right? The District has a great team of chapter counselors and other resources available to help. Call on them.

Counting Our Blessings

This is an exciting time for the FWD. We're looking at a major revision in the way we do business, with a renewed emphasis on our divisions. We saw in the meetings of chapter presidents and counselors at the division contests this Spring some very positive enthusiasm about inter-chapter activities and events, and working together as families of chapters to reinforce each other in our respective areas.

We're seeing constant improvement in our communications, our *Westunes*, web sites, and other electronic media. And there's a fresh new emphasis on **SINGING** and "fun" activities at our District conventions.

And of course musically we are off to another international with our heads held high, and a record-tying number of quartet finalists. One of the reasons for this continuing success is the willingness of those top quartets to "share the wealth" at our schools and workshops. We are truly blessed to have such talented and sharing people amongst us. The next time you see any of these champion quartet guys, be sure to thank them for all they do.

We have much to be proud of. Let's be a little more eager to share it.

Have you shown the *Singing Is Life* video at your chapter yet?

Motto:

**"to reach the
unreachable
star"**



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a barbershop quartet
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Stan Sharpe Receives President's Award

A surprised **Stan Sharpe** was the recipient of a special President's Award from District President **John Krizek** at the SoCal East Show of Champions on May 10th.

Currently quartet promotion chairman for the FWD and director of the Whittier Choralaires, Stan is a 55-year barbershopper, with most of that in the FWD. A veteran quartet competitor at the international level, Stan won chorus gold medals decades apart: with **Pekin, IL**; the **Phoenicians**; and the **Masters of Harmony**. He has directed many choruses including the **San Fernando Valley Valleyaires** who finished ninth at international in 1987. But Stan is most renowned as a vocal coach of quartets and barbershoppers at all levels.

"Stan is a continual contributor to the music of our District," said President John. "A couple years ago I saw him coming out of a chorus directors class at COTS which was being taught by a guy less than half his age, and he said, 'Boy I'm learning a lot from this guy!'"

"Last year Stan took it upon himself to encourage more quartet singing in the FWD. He organized the CAP program--Champs Assistance Program--where-in he got our past District champion quartet guys to donate their time as coaches. As quartet promotion coordinator on the District Music & Performance team, he organized a series of quartet workshops throughout the District. Because of his leadership and his efforts, almost 300 members of the District participated in those workshops and received valuable coaching and a great boost to their quartet experience."

The President's Award is presented annually at the Spring convention to someone who made a significant contribution during the prior year. Stan wasn't at the Reno convention to receive the award. At the Reno convention, **Keith Eckhardt** of Placerville received a President's Award for his contributions as District Webmaster.

“Partners in Harmony”

A Tiger By the Tail
Laguna Hills Quartet Chapter

A grass roots program called “*Partners in Harmony*”, an idea conceived last fall, was put into motion this year by **Warren Willard**, a 19 year Society member and a current member of the Laguna Hills Quartet Chapter. In his own words, Warren tells us why, how and what’s happening with “*Partners in Harmony*”.

I have been a Society member for 19 years and a member of the Irvine Spectrum Rotary Club for 12 years. I have often considered ways to use both organizations to accomplish something beneficial to all concerned. Several years ago as a member of the Irvine Chapter I organized a concert featuring young vocal music talent from a local high school (Irvine High School) and our Chapter and a guest quartet, **GOTCHA!** The local Rotary Club helped by donating the money to rent the concert hall at a local university. They also bought tickets and attended the concert. We were able to present a check for \$1,000 to the Irvine High School Vocal Music Boosters Club as a result of combining those resources.

I remembered what a win - win - win thing that event was for everyone involved and I dreamed of doing it again. It seemed that dealing with the schedules of high school student events and the demands on the student’s time made it really difficult and it didn’t happen again. However, the idea of partnering with a civic club lasted and became the foundation of the “*Partners in Harmony*” idea. I asked the guys in our quartet (**Don Thomas, Jim Gaskill and George Strom**) what they thought of the idea of offering to visit local Rotary Clubs and be their “program”. They didn’t hesitate in saying yes. My own club, the Irvine Spectrum Rotary Club became our beta test. The program chair gladly accepted our offer and after hearing several songs and a brief description of how we would use any money that the club donated to provide resources for a local high school vocal music department, they made a generous donation and we were on our way.

We contacted the Rotary District and asked if they would allow us to make a presentation at an upcoming District Presidents meeting that would be attended by the Presidents of 50 Rotary Clubs. They invited us and we made a presentation, sang a few songs and asked to be considered as guest program speakers/singers at their clubs weekly meetings. Shortly after that offer and presentation my phone started ringing and it hasn’t stopped yet. It’s reached the point where we now need to get other quartets and Chapters involved. We are actually hesitant to invite other civic clubs to have us a speakers/singers at their meetings. I think we could be doing this five days a week if we really worked at it. Come to think about it, that would be working at it.

Here’s the plan. You are welcome to use it but I caution you that certain elements are critical for it’s success, so be careful about making any radical changes without careful consideration. We are still refining the program and I’m sure that you will also.

[cont’d on page 9]

VP: CDD

Jim Turnmire



WHAT IS DIRECTOR CERTIFICATION?

WHY DO I NEED IT?

It has long been acknowledged by the leaders of the Barbershop Harmony Society that the most important problem we face when it comes to recruitment and retention of members is the short-

age of qualified chorus directors. Having a qualified director is central to the health of every chapter. So many things, the quality of the music, the fun of the rehearsal, the challenges and rewards of the musical program on all levels, depend, to a very large degree, on the skill, energy, motivational techniques, and commitment of the director. And although almost every chapter has someone who stands in front every week and waves his/her arms, too many of them were chosen not because of their musical knowledge or directing skills, but because they were simply willing to do it. The big question then remains: how do we train and nurture our directors?

A few years ago, a select group of knowledgeable chorus directors was appointed to discuss ways of solving this difficult problem. One suggestion was that the Society should have a list of things every good chorus director should know or be able to do. This led to the development and revision of the curriculum at Harmony College/Director College and the concept of "Director Certification". The general idea calls for directors to take a planned sequence of classes that would allow them to progress toward greater proficiency as musical leaders. Once a director satisfies the requirements, he or she would receive a pin and certificate of achievement and would be celebrated in both his/her chapter and at an appropriate District Event. *(I have had the honor of presenting 3 of these in the last couple of years to Steve Sammonds, Melany Huston, and Allan Webb)*

The goal of the Director Certification Program is to encourage chorus directors; frontline, assistant or associate directors, and "directors-in-waiting", to develop a common and essential set of directorial skills, as well as the habit of life-long learning. To provide a means to this end, the Directors College, as well as schools sponsored by home districts, have been established.

To sign up for this program, simply let me know, and I will send you all the information you need. You may contact me at: 559-432-8778, or email jtmire@attbi.com

Many thanks to Chuck Koerner from the LOL District for the above information!

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Gardena, California 90249
Phone: (310) 327-3788
Email: rmenaker@ix.netcom.com
www.harmonize.com/Nightlife

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

Lloyd Erickson -- Houston Tidelanders, Insiders

Nightlife sang the National Anthem at the Houston Astro's game May 4, 2003. Interestingly, the crowd actually listened attentively, and were very receptive.

The occasion was a party celebrating the marriage of **Patty Cobb** (long-time Houston SAI-er) and **Jeff Baker** (baritone of **Nightlife**). They tied the knot in February in Hawaii, so this was a gathering of some of their Houston friends. The party was in one of the executive suites at Minute Maid park. Having **Nightlife** there was frosting on the cake.

After the game they sang several songs for us diehard fans, till the park folks ran us out.

ANDY RICH BRUCE TODD

916 372 1434
3050 INDUSTRIAL BLVD.
WEST SACRAMENTO, CA 95691

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SPEBSQSA

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Hi-Fidelity

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Total \$ _____

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**Enclosed is my check or
money order for a total
donation of \$ _____**

*Detach and send this form along with self-addressed stamped envelope
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*Mail to: **Jerry Marks, 1736 N. Clear Creek Drive, Fullerton CA 92833 • 714-447-4350***

Or bring this flier to the gate and get the same great rates

VP: CS/LT

Bernard Priceman



a look at each of these functions.

There are currently 26 Chapter Counselors and they cover every chapter in the District. I believe there are still some chapters who don't know who their CC is, maybe because no-one in the chapter ever checked out **Keith Eckhardt's** wonderful FWD web site to see the name of their CC or maybe because the chapter has not yet felt that they need the services of a CC.

Hardly a month goes by when I don't hear of one success story or another involving a Chapter Counselor. One chapter needs help with selling show tickets, another needs help getting back some of its absent members, another needs to find a good vocal coach and yet another needs to know how to run a Board meeting more effectively. Your CC's are the men with the answers. They are there to help you. Use them. Call for advice on recruitment or inter chapter visitations or setting up a program to raise money for Harmony Foundation. They will not push themselves on you. They will only wait for your call. Make it soon.

And now for my other main function – co-ordinating our FWD COTS event. The cost of running two training seminars became horrific recently and far more than the District could carry and so it was decided that we'd hold just one COTS this year, in Southern California. In searching for suitable venues, I wanted to make it as easy as possible for our distant FWD brothers and the far flung faculty to attend. I therefore chose the **Hilton Hotel at LAX**. It's just 1/4 of a mile from the airport, with a free shuttle every 10 minutes and only 1/2 mile from the freeway. It should turn out to be one of the best COTS ever. The hotel is of the highest quality, with excellent amenities and parking and a perfect area for all of our classes.

You'll get almost no exercise that weekend because everything in the hotel is close by. But it is a location that may attract you to bring your significant others. The hotel is minutes away from Marina del Rey, Manhattan Beach, Venice Beach, Santa Monica and many other fun places. I'll get you a \$79.00 room rate if you want to stay Friday or Sunday, so think seriously about having

Your Counselor; Your COTS

It seems like in every article I write, I remind you of two of my main functions as your VP for Chapter Support and Leadership Training. The reason is that both functions are important. They are a) to manage the FWD Chapter Counselors and b) to set up and coordinate COTS. Lets take

family and friends join you. Make it a fun vacation weekend.

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at COTS on November 15th and 16th. Mark your calendars right now. Stay tuned for more details and web based registration forms. And call your Chapter Counselor. He's ready, willing and able to help you.



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

[from page 7]

Saturday will include a Joe Barbershopper mic tester chorus and we plan to announce the two songs soon so you can "practice up" on them.

At 4pm Saturday **Jim Turnmire** will lead us in a mass sing on the front steps of the convention center. Then off we go to another (tentative) singing buffet at the hotel.

The Quartet Finals and the Show of Champions can't be missed. Somewhere in there our President **John Krizek** will make sure the whole audience sings a song. What a sound we make with over a thousand people singing.

The afterglow time will provide lots of options. There will be another new music sing through, a Gnarly Tag Singing time with **Jim Crowley**, several hospitality rooms, and lots of hallway singing.

Is that it? Nope! Sunday morning we are planning a Gospel Music sing and of course the train heads off again with lots of singers.

So, what are you waiting for? Fill out your registration forms right now so you can get in on all the fun. Go to the FWD web-site at www.spebsqsafwd.org and choose Fall District Convention in the top left corner. You will find the new Online Registration Assistant as well as forms you can print and manually fill in.

More activities than these are being planned and we'll let you know the details as soon as possible. At Bakersfield you'll be the one that Can't Stop Singing.

VP: Events

Sam Barger



Conventions: More Than You Might Suspect

Let's have a convention! Grab a convention hall, a few microphones, some great quartets and choruses and "Voila! – You have a convention". Uhhh, not exactly. Simple as it seems, there are many loose ends that need to be sewn together before a convention is an assemblage.

First, the attendance is essential – those who go to enjoy, compete and/or perform. These patrons need comfortable accommodations at reasonable prices. But pricing for the entire conventions needs to be taken into consideration. Smaller hotel/motel chains can offer better prices; but, most often, cannot offer additional rooms for meetings, rehearsals, adequate dining accommodations or parking availability. So... that leads us to the larger hotel/motel chains that can accommodate the entire package, but proposes a little higher rate for rooms. With space for meetings (i.e. board, judges and HOD), contracting with them saves money.

Now....where should conventions be held. The majority of convention-goers feel that a good competition is one that is close, convenient and inexpensive. Albeit, there are many contestants and attendees that dwell in the southern part of the district, there are venues throughout the district that meet the qualifications for a successful convention. The best contractual situation for each contest would be to have the venues located throughout the district. But.....it takes formulation from local choruses to execute and accomplish what it takes to "deliver the goods". At this point, we (the Events Team) are open to any and all suggestions for contest sites that you can help with. Let us know if you know of any venue that might meet our needs, e-mail me at Nevadasam1@aol.com.



Keith Eckhardt

Chairman: *Get Our Conventions Singing Again Task Force*

You asked for it and we listened!

In two different surveys about convention attendance, you said that unless you were competing there was not enough to do. Well, the "Contest Only" convention is now history and at Bakersfield you will have more than enough to do. Our theme is **Can't Stop Singing** and here's why.

If you are in Northern California on October 3, we are planning to start the convention at 10am, in Oakland, on the train. We are working to setup a special car for barbershoppers at a discount rate. It will stop many times along the San Joaquin Valley and the *Chorus in Training* will grow and grow. You will have a front line director to take you through some tags and new music now and then along the way. In-between you will have impromptu quartetting and gang singing. You can wander the train and invite non-barbers-hoppers to the singing car and sing with them too. You'll arrive in Bakersfield just after 4pm. The details will be distributed when the plans are complete.

In Bakersfield the action gets going Friday at 11:30am with a Harmony For Lunch Bunch at a local Pizza Parlor. Sing and Eat? Sounds like barbershop to me.

Then rush back to the convention center and either attend the House of Delegates, or a class with **Dan McQuigg** on tag singing, followed immediately with a new music read-through with **Dr. Val Hicks**.

Dinner follows these events in the (tentative) Singing Buffet room at the hotel at 4:30. The buffet is just-in-time for everyone that needs dinner before the quartet semi-finals.

Then finish the evening off by attending the AFWDC show. Or if you need to sing more, I'm sure you will find plenty of willing singers wandering the halls.

And that's just the Friday plan.

[cont'd on page 6]



Sound Judgment
A Barber Shop Quartet
www.soundjudgment.org

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



Hot Times for Harmony

July. August. Summer. Hot. Time to sit back and take it easy...nothin' much goin' on...

Maybe so – then again, maybe not. In fact – **NOT!**

Nope. Too much goin' on – the ball game's just getting interesting. We're rounding second, headed for third. Time to dig in the cleats, slide in safe, and get ready to head for home.

(For those who don't like the baseball allegory, please substitute golf, horse racing, boxing, football, tiddlywinks - or whatever turns you on).

Point is – there are any number of things in which we can be involved to heighten our image, make ourselves known in the community, and quite possibly increase our membership rolls – and summer is a perfect time to get them rolling. Like for instance:

You've been hearing and reading about the upcoming September 11th **"BarbershopTribute"** – a **United We Sing** project designed to get out into the community with our patriotic music, which, I submit, we do better than anyone on the face of the earth. Now is the time to forge the alliances with local community groups – Boy Scouts, VFW, American Legion, Community Clubs, Chambers of Commerce, civic and fraternal organizations, government (city, state, county) leaders, etc. For more info, go to the Society Website www.spebsqsa.org.

Warren Willard, the dynamo from Laguna Hills, is launching a program called **"Partners in Harmony"**. The program entails partnering with a fraternal organization – in Warren's case, **Rotary Clubs** – to support Youth Outreach efforts in the schools. Warren's been successful in attaining participation from several Rotary Clubs in his area. Turns out it's a natural, since Rotary International has a keen interest in youth outreach programs. Read Willard's article on page 3, continued on page 9. Talk about **WIN-WIN!**

My own little project – **Wear Your Logo Day** is meeting with some success – and it's sooooo easy. Just wear an article of clothing or a lapel button with SPEBSQSA prominently displayed one day per week, and give a business card to anyone who asks about it. Contact me if you need more skinny on the process.

FWD FallConvention in Bakersfield is fast approaching. This year, it's gonna be a "can't miss it" event. That's because **Sam**

Barger's FWD Events Team – specifically **Keith Eckhardt** – is putting together a program called, appropriately, **"Can't Stop Singing"**, which promises to live up to it's name – to get the "Convene" back in "Convention", and offer wall-to-wall singing for every attendee. Now's the time to get registered, and get your chapter members fired up to do the same. For more info on what's planned, contact **Keith Eckhardt**. (keith@eckhardts.com, or 530-644-4151).

One more thing – we've moved to the implementation phase of the promised new **WESTUNES Advertising** program. **WESTUNES** Editor Ray Rhymer has named **Phillip Pettus** as **WESTUNES Advertising Director**. Please join me in welcoming Phillip, who has a broad and successful background in publishing and advertising to this important new post. Look for program details inside the front cover in this issue, and/or contact Phillip Pettus, Ray Rhymer or me for further information on this exiting new marketing program [contact information on page 1].

...to market, to market...

[from page 3]

“Partners in Harmony”

Goal: To provide needed resources to local high school music educators

Source of resources: SPEBSQSA Harmony Marketplace, local chapter assistance with workshops and coaching, YMIH summer camps, Music festivals.

Funding: Local service clubs. Specifically, at this time, local Rotary Clubs. Can easily include other service clubs and fraternal organizations like the Elks, Moose American Legion and many others..

Procedure: Offer to provide the "program" at the clubs weekly meeting.

The Presentation: A quartet (**Harmony Partners**) attends the breakfast or luncheon meeting and presents a program of songs and tells the Rotarians what we plan to provide for the school of their choice. We then ask for financial support at a level of a minimum of \$250 for each school designated. We obtain the club presidents signature on a certificate that says that *“Partners in Harmony”, a partnership between the local SPEBSQSA Chapter and the service club (by name) presents to (name of school) this certificate of appreciation and support entitling the bearer to teaching aids and other valuable resources from SPEBSQSA Harmony Marketplace and the local Barbershop Chapter (by name).*

The Follow-up: After obtaining the service clubs donation we contact the music educator and tell them that they have \$xx.xx of credit that he can use to acquire teaching aids, music, etc from the Society. We send him a catalog and ask him to make his selections and return them to us for ordering.

The Presentation at the school: If possible, we personally deliver the selected items and present them in front of a choral music class. Our quartet (**Harmony Partners**) provides a demo of our music style and a workshop (if invited to by the music educator). One local (Mission Viejo, CA) music educator turned over three classes to our quartet for a harmony workshop.

It's working well: We have made six presentations thus far and have three more scheduled. We have received **\$2,000** in cash and pledges with more coming. We are hesitant to push for additional service club presentations until we have a few more quartets participating in the program. We could easily burnout a single quartet. As an example, our quartet did three presentations during one recent week alone. Every presentation doesn't yield a donation but even so we feel that we have been ambassadors of Harmony in our communities.

Additional plans: We are currently advising the Rotary Clubs that about 80% of the money donated will directly benefit their

designated school and that 20% is being set aside for local area Youth Harmony activities such as to help fund the production of a High School Harmony Festival in 2004 or 2005. The plan for the festival is to showcase male, female and mixed ensemble a Capella groups. 100% of the money being donated is going towards youth harmony. No money is being spent on administrative or travel expenses.

What's lacking: The female vocal music students are kind of left out of the program. Of course we encourage the music educator to select whatever resources they want and some will be useful for female vocal music students.

Frosting on the cake: Rotary Club members are exposed to Barbershop harmony and become candidates for membership and show attendees. The quartet has received performance opportunities, both paid and unpaid. Community awareness of our wonderful hobby is enhanced. Young singers are exposed to Barbershop Harmony and realize that singing can be the source of a lifetime of enjoyment. Music educators come away with a greater appreciation of our style of music and our civic coconsciousness.

Last November our quartet was invited to be part of an on campus production of *“Whistlestop Barbershop”* at a local high school. We sang 6 or 8 songs, taking the pressure off the students to learn so much music in such a short time frame. It was a great experience for the students and us.

Okay, now what: I am refining this whole process and our quartet is dedicating time to see it thrive. Our Chapter, **The Laguna Hills Quartet Chapter** is solidly behind us. Chapter President, **Jim Kay**, is our biggest cheerleader. I recognize the void of not having SAI involvement and I propose to offer our experience and knowledge of the process with our sisters in harmony. I would like to see SAI become an integral part of our *“Partners in Harmony”* initiative.

Interested? We would be happy to share our experience. Feel free to contact me by email at willard@cox.net or by mail at:

Warren Willard
22093 Pheasant St.
Lake Forest CA 92630

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Revival

Barbershop Quartet

E-mail: revival@cts.com

Mike Lawton	Mike Spencer	Royce Ferguson	Bill Myers
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14353 Sandhill Rd • Poway, CA 92064			www.harmonize.com/revival



Our Singing Fraternity Membership Has A “Leak”

Can’t Stop Singing!

This year’s fall convention should be one of the best ever. **Keith Eckhardt** has been hard at work leading a team working with the district’s events team to bring more fun to our conventions. This fall, as I write this, we will have 27 choruses and quartets

competing, including the Aloha chapter! It should be quite a weekend. Remember, this year the convention is earlier. The Convention starts with the Board meeting on Thursday night, October 2, 2003.

This is a great opportunity for new members of our Society to see what our wonderful hobby is all about. Please make a special effort to encourage them to attend and have a good time. And while we are on the subject of encouraging people, allow me to encourage you to attend the House of Delegates meeting on Friday afternoon, October 3, 2003. Each chapter should be represented by one voting delegate, but please encourage all members to attend. It is only a couple of hours of your time, and there are many benefits to the district that can come from a well-attended HOD meeting. Take an interest in the business of your district—you’ll be glad you did.

Our Slip is Showing

Yes, our membership numbers continue to slip. Your district board spent some time discussing this at the recent summer board meeting held in Burbank and we plan on enlisting your support of some new initiatives to increase our numbers.

When you look at our results chapter by chapter only a few cases stand out as serious problems. The overall picture is not good, however. One member lost here, two members lost there—nothing overwhelming on a case-by-case basis, but when you add them up, the district is down quite a bit.

The Report Card

During the first four months of this year we gained 111 new or reinstated members. Good job, everyone. The division with the largest gain in new members was Arizona/Southern Nevada/Southern Utah with a gain of 32, or 4.7%. Next in line was Socal East with 23 new member or 2.1%. The remaining three divisions each gained 16 new members, plus or minus one, for a combined increase of 2.5%. The Frank Thorne members in our district increased by 8 reinstated members.

In net gains or losses since the beginning of the year, however, we are down. We lost 264 members, so our net loss, after counting the new and reinstated members was a negative 153 or a loss of 4.4%. Results = not good.

One Out of Eighty-Eight

While our district suffered a membership loss of 153 since the beginning of the year, on average each of our 88 chapters lost only 1.7 men. Now that doesn’t sound so bad, but averages only mask the problem. While some chapters hardly noticed the decline, in total the decline is, well, alarming.

Gentlemen, our goal is to Grow, not minimize losses. It’s obvious we need to do something different, so we that’s what we plan to do.

Something to Try

We have formed a task group to take a look at developing strategies to attract more men to our hobby by bringing our music to them. Here is one of the ideas we are looking at:

There are many communities in our district that are directed toward seniors and their life styles. Many of these have clubhouses that are available for chorus rehearsals. We are investigating the idea of brining a chorus to such a community for three or four weeks at a time and inviting residents to come on down and be entertained, or take part if they want. After a month we will move to another chapter meeting site. Our hope is that we will have kindled some interest in our style of music and our fraternity. Will membership gains result from such an effort? We don’t know, but it can’t hurt.

Keep Those Cards and Letters Coming

Our Society is to be an ever-growing fraternity of men who love harmony. We have all agreed to do everything in our power to perpetuate the Society. That requires growth. How about your ideas? Let us know what you think. We need some positive strategies to help us grow. The task group will be considering many different ideas in addition to the one mentioned above, so fire away.

A Final Word

We really do appreciate the hard work being done in the field by chapter members in spreading the good news of barbershop harmony. We know there are many factors that contribute to the net loss of members. That is all the more reason why we need new and imaginative ideas, such as the Wear The Logo idea contained in **Clark Abrahamson’s** column last month. What’s your idea? Share it with us. What do you have to lose?



2002-3 FWD Quartet Champions Sam's Club

Ken Potter

Greeting **Sam's Club** Fans and fellow barbershoppers!

Sam's Club is very happy to announce that our new lead, **Nick Papageorge**, is on board, up to speed, and leading us to Montreal and beyond. And we are currently accepting show bids for the foreseeable future.

We were successful in our recent trek to the Rocky Mountain Prelims in Denver where we qualified for the Montreal International. It was a thrill to meet so many great barbershoppers from my "old" district back home in Colorado. We were also the very last people still up in the lobby of the Omni hotel at 3:30 in the morning!! We had a great time learning tags from **Toby Balsley**, former lead of **Bank Street**, who was at the Prelims for judging practice. Our thanks to all the people of the Rocky Mountain District for letting us sing at their Prelims, especially, **John Coffin**, RMD Contest and Judging chairman; **George Davidson**, convention manager; and **Tony Pranaitis**, RMD President, and others for facilitating the necessary logistics. We also want to thank the fantastic panel of judges at the RMD contest. Their comments were invaluable to us, particularly, **Ric Johnson**, **Gary Bolles**, and **Steve Janes**. Thanks guys!! You have made us a better quartet. Our thanks also to **Dick Girvin** for his help here in the FWD.

Sam's Club had the opportunity to take the stage at the recent So Cal East Divisional Contest as mic testers, and we also appeared with the **Masters of Harmony** on their Long Beach Community Concert series show at the Carpenter Center at CSULB, May 18th.

We will also be appearing on the "Go for the Gold" show at Plummer Auditorium in Fullerton on June 21st. The show will also feature eight other Montreal qualifiers. Get your tickets now. It will probably be the best quartet show the Los Angeles area has seen this year!! And you may even get to hear the next International Champions!! Who knows.... We are absolutely thrilled to be one of the NINE quartets that have qualified to represent the FWD this year in Montreal!!!!

What else can we say, other than we are delighted to be the current champions of the Far Western District, and we thank you for your continued support and encouragement. We will see you all in Montreal..... Our website will be up and running very shortly. It is currently under construction. The address will be www.samsclubquartet.com. Look for it soon.

Ken Potter,
For Sam's Club

Nick, Sammy, and Kelly



Vacaville Mayor Conducts NCE Contest Order of Appearance Draw

The NorCal East Convention and Contest was conducted April 26, 2003. The persons in the picture are **Don Kidder**, **Mayor Len Augustine**, and **Chuck Rogers**. Kidder and Rogers are the co-chairmen of the convention.

Mayor Augustine is the mayor of Vacaville and a long time friend of Chuck. The Mayor agreed to do the draw as a neutral party and is quite supportive of our chorus and organization.



VP: Mu&P

Jim Crowley



Sing, Sing and Sing Some More

It was a pleasure for me to attend the SoCal Division contests in May. The "song fest" after the quartet finals was awesome to hear from the stage! Our emphasis at conventions this year is on more singing activity for non-competitors...I hope that you approve.

HARMONY COLLEGE WEST 2003

Harmony College West will be held at California State University Hayward (CSUH) on the weekend of August 22-24. The quartet coaching staff includes "Nightlife", our 1996 International Quartet Champions, and "Gotcha!", our 2002 International sixth place Finalist Quartet. Both of these fine quartets will appear on the Saturday evening show along with our tuned and polished student quartets. The deadline for quartet and individual PAID registrations is July 25th, so act now by sending in your registration form and check to me right away. All the detailed information and registration forms are in this issue and online at <http://www.spebsqsafwd.org/hcw/>. Don't miss the best annual music education event in the Far Western District!

INTERNATIONAL STAFF VISIT

Many thanks to Mr. **Jim DeBusman** (one of our Kenosha Headquarters staff Music Specialists) for visiting Arizona area schools in May. The feedback from the high schools visited was extremely positive! Many thanks to **Ed Bejarana**, **Jerry Fox** and **Ivan Jensen** for their hard work in making all the arrangements.

FALL CONVENTION Oct 2-5 at BAKERSFIELD

Make it a point to submit your registrations early for the Fall District Contest at Bakersfield. Your continued attendance and support is critical to the success of our conventions.

CHAMPS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

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.

CHAPTER COACHING REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM

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>.

STANDING OVATION PROGRAM

We have a cadre of qualified Reviewers, all of whom have earned and are still earning Standing Ovations 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 call him at (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.

SONGWRITER'S GUILD

Dr. **Dan Wilson** will be happy to work with you aspiring song writers! Why not nurture your writing and arranging skills? Contact Dan at <dan.wilson@asu.edu> for all the details.

I look forward to your continuing participation and support for the remainder of the year; together we are making 2003 the best year yet for the Barbershop Experience!

"What can we do for you?"

In harmony,



A BARBERSHOP QUARTET
Especially FOUR You!

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



2002-3 FWD Chorus Champions SAN JOSE

Chuck Hunter, Sr.

Takin' almost all to Montreal

Until you actually have to do the planning it is amazing how much is taken for granted when a qualifying chorus prepares to travel to an International Convention. Obviously at the top of everyone's list is the cost to the individual members, many of whom have never previously attended the annual July celebration. We in the Far Western District are so fortunate to be blessed with a legacy of financial support for both the choruses and quartets that represent us so well each year. Far Western District Treasurer **Jim Sherman** presented a check for \$8,353 to the San Jose Chapter at their meeting on June 3rd, and the members of the chorus were overwhelmed by this generous display. This sum, coupled with the generous donations from Northern California chapters at a recent get-together as well as a \$2500 profit from a sold-out cabaret show will go a long way toward making the Montreal experience more affordable for each of our members.

One long-time member of the chorus will not be making the journey with us. For over 40 years **Dave Kable** has been a familiar sight on the risers with the Garden City Chorus. Approximately 30 years ago his gradually declining health necessitated a motorized wheel chair, and since that time audiences have been treated to our mega-tenor sometimes wheeling across the stage as part of our choreography. Unfortunately a short time ago a car struck Dave as he crossed a busy street near his home. Although his injuries were not too severe the fact that he has limited mobility resulted in the development of some bedsores that simply have not healed. Although he was able to come home from the hospital it soon became apparent that it would be necessary to place him in a skilled nursing facility, and so he will not be able to be with us in what would surely have been the high point of Dave's barbershop career. Each of us hopes that he has a speedy recovery, and we anticipate that he will once again be with us on stage for the Fall contest.

In the few weeks remaining before we depart for Montreal the chorus is working extremely hard. It was most gratifying to have sold out our cabaret show nearly a month before the event, and the extremely supportive audience provided us all with a major boost. At the same time we are all aware that in order to more fully maximize our potential it is necessary to schedule a few extra rehearsals and review all of the pointers our coaches have given us. The exciting thing is that it doesn't really feel like work, even though we are expending more energy and concentration than any of us thought was possible.

Perhaps that is the biggest single lesson each of us is learning from this experience. It is FUN to sing well, and the better we do it the more enjoyable it becomes. This is so obvious, and yet for many it is an unfathomable contradiction. There's a lot of enjoyment that can be taken from simply woodshedding an old tune, and there's probably not a person reading this article that hasn't stood around with three other people and given forth with a less than perfect rendition of some barbershop classic. The reality is that when you wince because the chords aren't there or someone forgets the words it really isn't a wonderful experience. On the other hand when you add your note to a chord and hear it lock in solidly there is a visceral pleasure that is hard to describe to anyone who hasn't also experienced it. And once you learn how to do it consistently it no longer is pleasurable to sing the old way.

Over the years many members have been heard to state that they just want to go to a chapter meeting to have fun; that working at improving singing simply takes too much effort. I have to wonder whether these individuals would enjoy a game of bowling if they threw nothing but gutter balls, or a golf game that consisted of consistently muffed shots. My guess is that the level of frustration they would experience would quickly lead to either quitting the game or taking some lessons.

It probably sounds preachy to some and is as obvious as the nose on one's face to others, but the reality is that it is more fun to do something well than to simply go through the motions. And for this reason each member of the **Garden City Chorus** is feeling stronger and more confident as we approach our first time on stage at an International competition. I believe it's safe to say that the appreciation we have gained for those choruses who have preceded us has been an inspiration, and we are confident that with the newly found faith we have in ourselves we don't intend that this will be our only foray into this level of competition.

San Jose will be staying at the Sheraton Hotel in Montreal, and we will be sharing both a practice room and hospitality venue there with the **Southern Gateway Chorus** from Cincinnati. It is gratifying to have already felt the fellowship that binds competitors together, and we hope to see many members of the FWD stop by.

VP: YMIH

Ed Bejarana



Go Get 'em Boys.

Young Men In Harmony is a long-term membership program. So far this year, chapters in the Far Western District have introduced our art form to over 3000 students. This means that we have already exceed our goal of reaching 2003 students in '03. Outstanding! Bravo! Great Work!

Ready to take the next step? We are to be an ever growing fraternity of barbershop style singers, *leading the cause of encouraging vocal music in our schools and communities.*

It is time to find those boys who are NOT receiving a music education and invite them to join our chapters. One way to "lead the cause" is to develop interest among those who don't have any music education in singing as a life long activity. It will not be hard to find schools that **DO NOT** have a choir or band program; approximately 50% of our schools fall into this category. Therefore:

You are encouraged to seek out those schools with no music program and recruit as many boys from that school (and others like it) into your chapter; *provided your chapter is ready for the challenge.*

Charter schools, home schooled students, and schools in rural and middle class communities all lack (in most cases) a choir program. Very large schools and very small schools, schools around performing arts magnet schools, schools with inactive school boards, schools with VERY successful football teams are susceptible to cutting music programs in favor of a more popular sports program.

I don't know the exact number, but there are about two thousand High Schools in the Far Western District. Assume half of them don't offer a music program. Now assume that we could recruit just one boy from each of the schools that don't have a music program per year. The Far Western District would gain about 1000 new members every year. Sure these boys would only stay members for a few years, then they'll go off to college, but now they are converted. They will like barbershop enough to come back when finances permit. Ok, so realistically we can probably only reach 25% of those schools without a music program. We are a quartet society, we will promote quartetting, we will most likely gain four boys from every one of those schools we work with which still puts us at a 1000 new members.

My challenge to you is to gain 250 new High School aged barbershop members from schools that don't offer a music program in the next eighteen months. Put another way, I am asking every chapter to recruit about 4 boys.

If your chapter is interested in taking up this challenge, then send someone to the YMIH class offered this year at Harmony College West. Stay tuned to the new and improved YMIH website for chapter guidelines for working with teenaged boys. Call me if you have any questions.

Does money grow on trees?

By Michael S. Frazer, MBA
FWD Grant Program Chairman

"Do you think that money grows on trees?" How many of us can remember our parents asking us that when we were younger, or how many of us ask our kids that when asked for money? I'm sure that all of us have wishes and dreams of seeing money sprouting on our favorite trees out in the back yard.

Well, there is a way to make it almost seem as though money is sprouting on trees around us. Come join us at **Harmony College West 2003 on August 22-24**, to learn the basics about **Grant Writing**, and how you can begin to make money grow on trees for your chapter. All puns and catchy sayings aside, we can teach you how to begin the process of applying for your chunk of literally millions of dollars available through granting organizations all around us, and the beauty of the matter is that they are just waiting for groups and organizations to come up with reasonable projects and needs so that they can provide the money to help in the completion of your dream or plan.

We will teach you how to become more directed in your approach to writing, how to begin your research for the granting organizations in your area, how to create your plan in an eye-catching way, and some of the finer points of making your proposal just seem to jump to the head of the line for funding. We will also provide you with a manual that can only be obtained through attendance at this class.

If this seems like something that will help you in your quest for the ever-elusive answer to "Do you think that money grows on trees?" question, contact Jim Crowley at 3586 Mission Mesa Way, San Diego, Ca. 92120 or at jimcrowley1@worldnet.att.net as there are only a limited number of slots available. You may also contact me at Field_Auditor@prodigy.net with any other questions regarding course content. See you in Hayward!



Montreal Looms!

**Spring Contest Schedule
Completed**

The completion of the six FWD Spring Contest was celebrated on the completion of the SoCal East contests in Anaheim on May 10, 2002. During the 2003 contest period a total of

1496 FWD barbershoppers trod the boards with **42** chapters staging their choruses, and **80** quartets appeared in the divisionals. The statistics look like this:

2003 Spring Contests

Division	Choruses		Quartets	
	Entered	Qualified	Entered	Qualified
1 (SCW)	7	4	12	4
2 (SCE)	11	8	22	5
3 (NCW)	9	3	17	3
4 (NCE)	5	5	7	3
5 (AZ)	8	4	22	4
Sm. Chap	3	2	--	--
Seniors	---	----	(20)	7
TOTAL	43	26	80	26

The six (a tie for 5th place) highest-scoring Seniors in the divisional contests have qualified to compete in Bakersfield for the FWD Senior Championship are:

- SCW *Curtain Call **
- AZ *Dry Heat*
- NCE *Older Than Dirt*
- NCW *Preservation*
- NCW *The Good Guys*
- SCE *Top Notch*

*Qualified to compete in the Regular as well as the Senior Contest

In addition, POTLUCK and Time Honored (previous FWD Senior Champs) will be singing for score—the highest to be named the FWD Senior Representative to the International Senior Contest in Biloxi, in January 2004.

Three Super Seniors quartets competed and were included in the above totals. *Older Than Dirt* The highest scoring Super Senior has been invited to sing at the Show Of Champions in Bakersfield. However, inasmuch as they were listed and competed as Seniors—they will also vie for the FWD Senior District Championship.

The Super Seniors are:

- NCE *Older Than Dirt*
- AZ *PASTENSE*
- AZ *Osteo Chordosis*

As everyone knows, in accordance with the FWD SOP, whenever the Aloha Chapter wishes to come to the mainland and compete in the Fall Contests, they may do so without pre-qualifying in a divisional contest. This year they are going to do it! We will see the *Sounds Of Aloha* in Bakersfield rounding out the chorus slate at a **stout 27!**

And in the same vein, under the same aegis of the FWD SOP, the Hawaiian Quartet, Tropicords, will be joining the quartets identified earlier making a total of 27 in the semifinals (including Seniors).

Elsewhere in this issue can be found the qualifying scores and the names of the choruses and quartets that will be appearing in Bakersfield. The Order of Appearance drawing is conducted at the FWD Summer Board Meeting and results are published in a timely manner. The chorus OOA announcement is held until after the International Convention.

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.

NINE to Montreal!

The International Convention at Montreal, the week of June 30-July 5 will feature FWD's San Jose *Garden City Chorus*, the five quartets that qualified in Reno mid-March of this year, *Gotcha!*, *Broadway*, *Metropolis*, *Finale* and *Q* and they will be accompanied by out-of-district qualifiers: *Late Night Barbershop*, *Hi-Fidelity*, *Sam's Club* and *Freestyle*. **A total of nine, a new record for FWD.**

The Barbershop world waits and speculates (at home and on the *Harmonet*) on just how many medals these stalwart nine will bring home. *Gotcha* and *Metropolis* are leading the field according to many seasoned estimators who have published their prognostications --however amid caveats. So, the world must wait for July 5th! "Break a leg" FWD!



Quartet Corner

Allen Fossenkemper
OK Chorale Quartet

**“We are pretty boring guys
except when we get on stage.”**

Boring is not a word that comes to mind when I think of **Late Night Barbershop (LNB)**. This crazy foursome started way back in 1988 as a “straight” quartet but considering the members, it is not surprising that they would end up as one of the funniest combos now blessing the stages of the society.

The change began when they conceived the “Martian” contest package and put **Greg Lapp** on rollerskates. Since that decision the quartet has rolled along to International four times, placing in the top twenty on one of those trips.

Doyle Pope, (Tenor) and **Matt McKee** (Bari) began their barbershop adventure in high school (Yes they did graduate). Both are rapidly approaching their 25th year in the society. (Do the math.)



Bass-Greg Lapp



Lead-Rich Hasty

Certainly the most active and talented member of LNB would be the lead **Rich Hasty**. He is a Certified Judge and the Musical Director for both the Men’s and Sweet Adeline Chapters of Fresno. Rich represents the latest change to the ever changing roster of LNB.

LNB has enjoyed the talents of some of the best singers in the district, during their fifteen years in existence. **Earl Moon, Ken Potter, Mark Feiner, Terry Engels, Steve Pence, Gregg Bernhard, James Pepper** and **Kevin Soto** have all added their voices and ideas to the development of the quartet.

Bass **Greg Lapp** is the “smartest” member of the quartet and a high school choir teacher in Bakersfield. (Woah!) No, it’s not true that Doyle and Matt were former students of Greg.



Bari-Matt McKee

When I asked LNB what was their most memorable experience they told me a story that would send other quartets into cardiac arrest. It seems that a gig on the Lompoc show required the quartet to travel from Anaheim to Lompoc in two separate cars. Rich and (then lead) **Mark Feiner** got lost and ended up in Fresno. The chapter tried to re-arrange the show order but when no time was left Greg and **Ken Potter** (Tenor) went on stage in their tuxes and began leading the audience in a sing along. Finally one hour after their scheduled appearance, Rich and Mark came running on stage in

their tee shirts and walking shorts, to finish the show. (If you’ve ever seen Mark’s legs in shorts you know how scary that must have been for the Lompoc audience.)

Well **Late Night Barbershop** seems to be here to stay and we are the lucky ones for the opportunity to enjoy their unique humor and fine singing. If you haven’t caught them on a show then try to make it to the Palo Alto show on August 17th or the Fresno Sweet Ads show on September 13th. Better yet give them a call and book them on your show. (559)432-3560



Tenor-Doyle Pope



KRIZEK DISCOVERS ORIGINS OF YOUTH OUTREACH!

FWD President **John Krizek** recently found evidence of the origins of the Youth Outreach movement in a museum in Florence, Italy. The marble relief illustrating young people singing was from the balcony of a medieval cathedral no longer in existence. Unfortunately Krizek couldn’t read the Latin inscription or the Italian museum guide, so no more details are known. But it sure pre-dates any of us!



[I thought it looked better like this. WT Ed.]

Harmony College West 2003

August 22 - 24

California State University Hayward (CSUH)

The primary objectives of HCW are to:

- Experience top notch quartet coaching at all skill levels
- Learn individual barbershop singing and music skills
- Work and sing with our top quartet champions

Registration deadline is Friday, July 25 so sign up now to be sure you get the class you want. Cost for the entire weekend is only \$135 per person or \$540 per quartet, which includes 5 meals and two nights lodging. If you plan to commute and do **NOT** need a room, the cost is \$85 per person or \$340 per quartet. See the registration forms on the following pages.

We have two exciting quartets this year. **Nightlife**, 1996 International Champs and **Gotcha!** our 2002 International sixth place finalist quartet. These two quartets bring substantial talent and coaching ability to Harmony College West, and "they know what the judges are looking for" as some would say.

The Cal State Hayward campus is located on the eastern side of San Francisco bay approximately half way between Oakland and San Jose (see map). Your destination airport is Oakland International (OAK), and we are providing free shuttle service to the campus on Friday afternoon. Amtrak has a station in Oakland if you like to take the train. For you commuters, the campus is a short distance from Interstate 580 and Interstate 880.

There are two class tracks: Track 1 is for quartets and you sign up as a quartet for a full weekend of coaching. Track 2 is for individuals, and you select **ONE** class for the weekend.

Lodging is on campus in the student dorms, double occupancy, and four to a unit. Meals are provided in the campus cafeteria, a short walk from the housing units. If you have special dietary requirements, please indicate in the registration form.

There will be an afterglow on Saturday night and rumor has it that pizza will be served. This would be a great time to bring some music you would like to sing through. Bring four to eight copies of legal stuff and let's sing up a storm.

HCW 2003 Class Descriptions

Note: All classes are tentative until eight or more are signed up. Deadline for registration is July 25, 2003 with fees paid.

Quartet Coaching (quartets only)

A number of our championship quartet members, chorus directors, judges and music coaches will be on hand to get you "tuned up" to a level you never thought you could achieve! You will sing better, look better, and come away all charged up with new ideas, new skills and renewed vigor! So get your quartet together and come to HCW for the singing thrill of your life!

Vocal Production Seminar

Dr. Rene Torres, an accomplished musician and vocal coach, will help you with proper voice production techniques, warm-up exercises, physical and mental preparation, and lots of useful singing techniques. Your chapter and quartets will benefit by singing better, tuning better, and having more fun in rehearsal and on stage. Individual voice coaching of this quality would cost you a ton on the outside...get it here for a bargain and have a ball besides!!

Music Reading and Performance Workshop

Jim Crowley, District Vice President for Music and Performance returns with this comprehensive course at the beginning and intermediate level. You will be able to read and rehearse your voice part using the piano keyboard and you will learn how to perform on stage in a quartet setting. Lots of vocal drills and tuning demonstrations will keep you ready for more. All class materials are included, along with some great exercises and techniques for quartets in Mac Huff's Quartet Coaching Manual. What are you waiting for?

Barbershop Arranging Workshop (beginning and intermediate)

Conducted by **Mr. Russ Adkisson**, an accomplished musician, quartet man, quartet coach, certified judge and talented barbershop arranger, this promises to be a wonderful way to express yourself in the barbershop style. Space is limited, so sign up right away!!

Prerequisite: You must have a good command of music theory, including knowledge of chord construction and harmonic progressions using the circle of fifths.

Woodshedding and Tag Singing

These are the basic skills on which our society was founded. Your instructors are **Casey Parker** and **Earl Holt**, so you don't want to miss this one! You will learn how to woodshed on Friday and Saturday, and tons of tags will be available to sing during the Sunday morning session with **Dan McQuigg**. This course is a blast and you will come away with a new appreciation and command of tuning and harmonization skills.

Master of Ceremonies Workshop

If you haven't had an opportunity to spend a weekend with **Mr. Terry Aramian**, FWD master contest and show emcee, you are in for a real treat! Students will get to try out their newly acquired skills by introducing quartet talent on the Saturday evening show, so sign up right away!

Grant Writing and Community Relations Seminar

Mr. Michael Frazer has agreed to instruct this class especially for Harmony College West. Michael has a solid background and current contacts so that you will come away with the skills and documentation (a two-inch book!!) you need, along with the methodology to nail down big bucks from a host of financial sources. This is a high-demand class and will fill up fast, so act now!

Harmony College West 2003

Class Schedule

<i>Fri. AUG 22</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>
3:00- 6:30pm	Check-in	El Dorado Hall
5:00- 6:15pm	Dinner	Univ. Union
6:30- 7:15pm	General Session	MB 1055
7:30- 9:00pm	1st Class	Classrooms
<i>Sat. AUG 23</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>
7:30 - 8:30am	Breakfast	Univ. Union
8:45 -11:15am	2nd Class	Classrooms
11:30 - Noon	Sing with the Champs	MB 1055
Noon - 1:00pm	Lunch	Univ. Union
1:15 - 4:30pm	3rd Class	Classrooms
5:00 - 6:00pm	Dinner	Univ. Union
6:15 - 7:30pm	4th Class (Quartets--Free Time)	Classrooms
8:00 - 10:15pm	Sat night Show	MB 1055
10:30 - 1:00am	Afterglow	Dorm Common Area
<i>Sun. AUG 24</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Location</i>
7:30- 8:30am	Breakfast	Univ. Union
8:45-11:00am	5th Class	Classrooms
11:15-11:45am	Review Session	MB 1055
11:45am	Check out	El Dorado Hall

Harmony College West 2003

Quartet Registration Form

Quartet Name:		Type: Champs Novice Senior Super Senior Youth	
Tenor Name		Chapter	
Home Street Address		Addr line 2 (opt)	
City	State	Zip	Phone
Email address		Commuter? ® I will NOT require lodging	
Special Dietary or Physical Needs			
<i>Lead Name</i>		<i>Chapter</i>	
<i>Home Street Address</i>		<i>Addr line 2 (opt)</i>	
<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Zip</i>	<i>Phone</i>
<i>Email address</i>		<i>Commuter?</i> ® I will NOT require lodging	
<i>Special Dietary or Physical Needs</i>			
Baritone Name		Chapter	
Home Street Address		Addr line 2 (opt)	
City	State	Zip	Phone
Email address		Commuter? ® I will NOT require lodging	
Special Dietary or Physical Needs			
<i>Bass Name</i>		<i>Chapter</i>	
<i>Home Street Address</i>		<i>Addr line 2 (opt)</i>	
<i>City</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Zip</i>	<i>Phone</i>
<i>Email address</i>		<i>Commuter?</i> ® I will NOT require lodging	
<i>Special Dietary or Physical Needs</i>			

Mail form and check to:
 Jim Crowley
 3586 Mission Mesa Way
 San Diego CA 92120

Payment:
 With Lodging: _____ members at \$135 = _____
 No Lodging: _____ members at \$85 = _____

Harmony College West 2003 - Individual Class Registration Form

Choose one class:

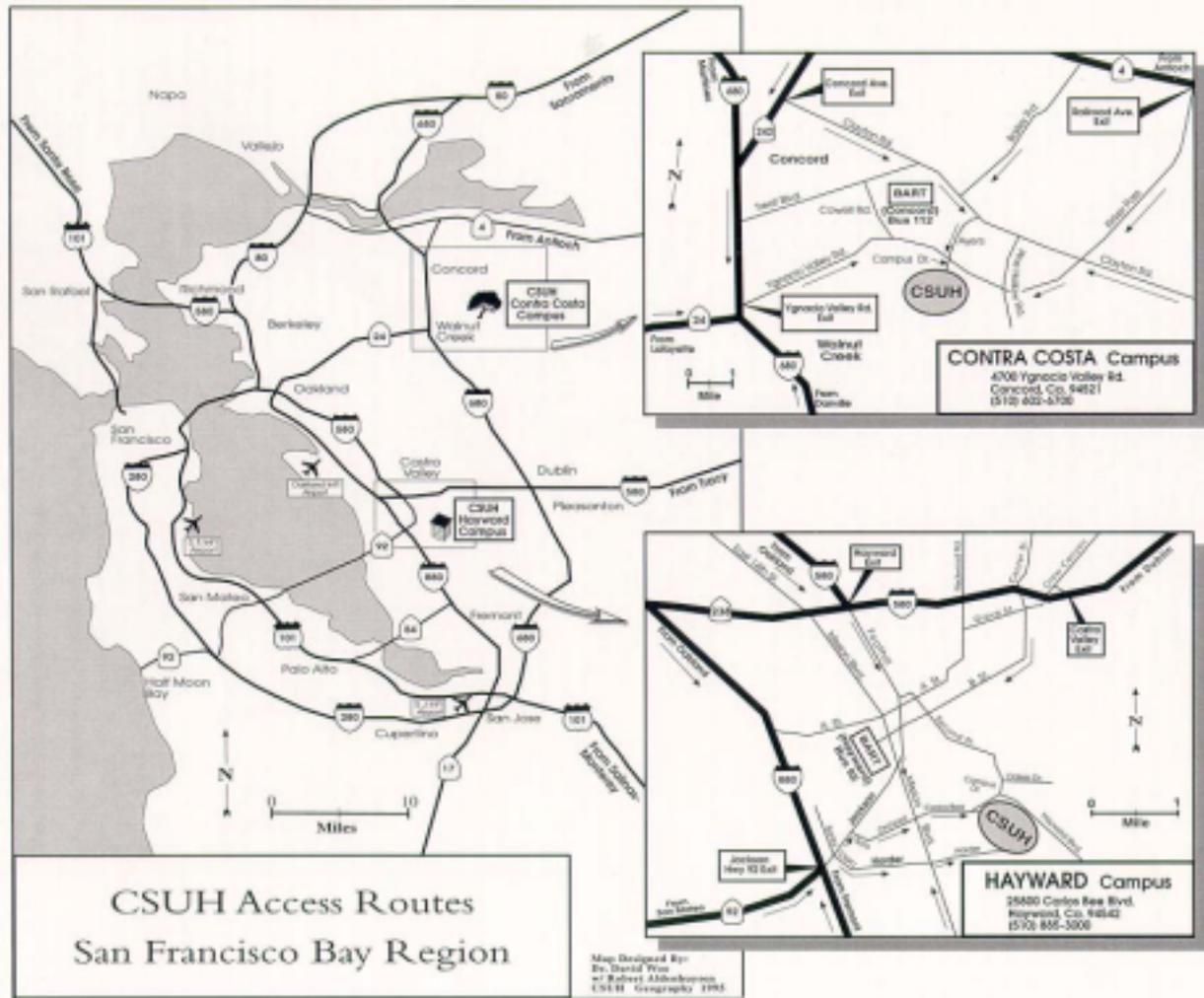
- Ⓡ Vocal Production Seminar
- Ⓡ Grant Writing Community Relations
- Ⓡ Music Reading and Performance Workshop
- Ⓡ Woodshedding and Tag Singing
- Ⓡ Barbershop Arranging Workshop
- Ⓡ Emcee Seminar

Name		Chapter	
Home Street Address		Addr line 2 (opt)	
City	State	Zip	Phone
Email address		Commuter? Ⓡ I will NOT require lodging	
Special Dietary or Physical Needs			

Mail this form and check to:
 Jim Crowley
 3586 Mission Mesa Way
 San Diego CA 92120

Payment:
With Lodging: \$135
No Lodging: \$85

Make checks payable to: Far Western District HCW





Young Men In Harmony Youth Camp 2003

**Harmony Camp
2003 - Sly Park**

**With Music Director Gary Bolles
and Metropolis**

Youth Harmony Camp
Friday—Sunday, September 26 - 28, 2003
Sly Park Educational Center
Pollock Pines, California

Pollock Pines is nestled in the pines of the Sierra Foothills just off Highway 50 approximately half way between Sacramento and South Lake Tahoe.

Harmony Camp is designed for high school aged young men.
The cost is \$60 for the camp. Scholarships are available.
No young man will be turned away for lack of financial resources.

Yes, I am interested. Send me more information.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State & Zip _____

Phone (optional) _____ Email _____

Experience (optional) HS Choir _____ Band _____ Other _____

Fill out this form and hand it to the nearest Barbershopper or Music Teacher.

This Camp fills up fast, so get your name in early.

Or, send the completed form to Richard Lund, Camp Director
6164 Windlestraw Road
Placerville, CA 95667

The Gold Rush Chorus and The Sacramento Capitolaire are sponsoring the camp under the auspices of the Far West District of The Society For The Preservation And Encouragement Of Barber Shop Quartet Singing In America, Inc. "SPEBSQSA". Website: www.spebsqsa.org

For More Information,
Contact Richard Lund
530-621-1904
Fax: 530-621-4438
Email: rlund@innercite.com

**"Teach The
Children To
Sing"**





Far Western District SPEBSQSA, Inc. 2003 FWD Convention & Contests Bakersfield, October 2 - 5

Register online at: www.spebsqsafwd.org/form/Convention1.cfm

CONTESTS AND SHOWS

International Chorus Prelims
Overall and 4 Plateaus
Most Improved Chorus
FWD Quartet Championship
Show of Champions

FWD Events
Assisting Chapter
Palomar Pacific

THEATER

Bakersfield Convention Center
1001 Truxton Avenue
Bakersfield, California

Headquarters Hotel Holiday Inn Select

Hotel and Conference Center
801 Truxton Avenue
Bakersfield, California

MEETINGS AND EVENTS

Special Singing Activities
Board of Directors
House of Delegates
PROBE • ASHOW
Hall of Fame Luncheon
Chorus Directors Guild
YMIH

REGISTRATION FORM

2003 Fall Convention and Contests • Oct. 2-5, Bakersfield, California

Please type or print clearly

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

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

Chapter Name (required) _____

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

REGISTRATION FEES (Nonrefundable) *Please check one*

EARLY BIRD Due by Sept. 4

- Full (includes all events)\$30
- Child/Student \$15

REGULAR and ON SITE

Received after Sept. 4, 2003

- Full (includes all events)\$40
- Child/Student \$20

All Competitors Must Have Full Registration

SINGLE EVENTS

Sold On Site only in lieu of Full Registration

- Fri. Eve. Qt. Semi-Finals \$20
- Sat. Chorus Contests \$20
- Sat. Qt. Finals/Show \$20

Official Use Only

Date Rec'd. _____

Check # _____

Seat # _____

Badge Code _____

Cash \$ _____

COMPETITION STATUS

- Chorus contestant
- Quartet Contestant
- Non-competing member
- Guest

QUARTET NAME _____

Lead Tenor Bari Bass

CHORUS NAME _____

VIP Status

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

Return this form with payment to:

FWD Fall Convention
C/O Bob Cathaway
2395 Bella Vista Drive
Santa Barbara, CA 93108

Questions? Phone 805-969-3696
email: rwathaway@cox.net

Make Checks Payable to **FWD Fall Convention 2003**

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

2003 FWD Convention & Contests

Bakersfield, CA • October 2 - 5, 2003

Hotel Registration Information & Form

Register online at: www.spebsqsafwd.org/form/Convention1.cfm

HEADQUARTERS HOTEL

Holiday Inn Select Hotel and Conference Center

801 Truxton Avenue • Bakersfield, California

HOTEL REGISTRATION FORM

<u>ID#</u>	<u>HOTEL</u>	<u>SINGLE</u>	<u>DOUBLE</u>	<u>DBL/DBL</u>
A.	Holiday Inn Select (Hdqtrs. Hotel)	\$78	\$78	\$78 Suites \$99
B.	Best Western Crystal Palace	\$89	\$89	\$89
C.	Best Western Hill House	\$84	\$84	\$84
D.	Four Points Sheraton	\$94	\$94	\$94
E.	Rio Bravo Resort	\$85	\$85	\$85
F.	Doubletree	\$89	\$89	\$89
G.	Hampton Inn	\$70	\$70	\$70
H.	Day's Inn	\$79	\$79	\$79

Rates do not include 12% Sales Tax

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone Res.(____) _____ Fax: (____) _____

email _____

CREDIT CARD (One Night's Deposit)

Name on Card: _____

Type Card: _____

Card # _____

Expiration date: _____

ARRIVAL DATE

October _____, 2003

DEPARTURE DATE

October _____, 2003

HOTEL CHOICE (A, B, C, etc.)

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

TYPE OF ROOM

- Single (1 bed 1 person)
- Double (1 bed 2 persons)
- Dbl/Dbf (2 beds 2 persons)
- Other

Cancellations:

Cancellations require advance notice of forty-eight (48) hours

PLEASE COMPLETE FORM AND MAIL OR FAX TO:
The Greater Bakersfield Convention and Visitors Bureau
P.O. Box 192
Bakersfield, California 93302-0192
Phone: 661-325-5051 Fax: 661-325-7074
Only Mailed or Faxed Registrations Accepted



**INTERNATIONAL
QUARTET AND
CHORUS CONTEST**

**(Old News, But
Worthwhile)**

In recent years the Far Western District has usually qualified as many quartets, or more, than any other district in the Society. This year, however, we have outdone ourselves, in a big way.

Read on!

Currently, there are forty-four quartets scheduled to be in the International Quartet Contest, which will be held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada in early July of this year. The Far Western District Quartets will be even more visible than usual this year because of the fact that nine, yes nine of our district quartets scored high enough in the preliminary contests to qualify for the International Contest. As far as I can recall, we have never qualified nine quartets prior to this year.

That's only part of the story. The two highest scoring quartets in the Society during the prelims are both from the Far Western District. **GOTCHA** placed first and **METROPOLIS** was second. What a great accomplishment that is for the FWD. Wouldn't it be great if this high standard would hold over through the contest in July?

Here is a list of our district quartets going to Montreal, followed by their score (for a triple panel) in the prelims, then followed by their singing order at the July contest. (1) **GOTCHA**, 3201, #29; (2) **METROPOLIS**, 3185, #25; (3) **FINALE**, 2964, #4; (4) **HIFIDELITY**, 2814, #30; (5) **FREESTYLE**, 2810, #13; (6) **SAM'S CLUB**, 2775, #18; (7T) **BROADWAY**, 2759, #28; (7T) **Q**, 2759, #5; (9) **LATE NIGHT BARBERSHOP**, 2736, #38.

Statistics shape up as follows: FWD has nine quartets in the contest, which is 20.45% of the contestants. The Mid-Atlantic District has five quartets (11.36%) and, of the other 14 districts, the highest number of quartets representing a single district is three. We should be very proud of the fact that there is such a high quality of quartets in our home district.

Congratulations and good luck to all of our quartets. More news and the final results should be available in the evening on July 5, 2003 via the Internet. Stay tuned!

In addition we certainly wish the best of luck to our district chorus representative, the **San Jose Garden City Chorus**. **Chuck Hunter** wrote a marvelous article, which was published in the May/June 2003 issue of WESTUNES about the activities of the San Jose chapter. If you did not read it last month, take the time to look at page 13 of your previous WESTUNES. Way to go, Chuck!

Sing well, sing barbershop and have fun!

It Really Is Not an Option

Larry Nixon
Conejo Valley Chapter

Choruses and quartets need to compete. It is vital for survival.

Last year I was approached by **Owen Edwards**, God love him, and he asked if Conejo was competing. That was at a SAI Region 11 competition in late February, 2002. We had just finished the first benefit show with **Dick Van Dyke** and we were wrung out. I hemmed and hawed. Mind you, the chorus was demoralized by our poor showing in 2001. We placed seventh and did not make the cut for district. Our director had resigned and the directing was left to **George Dallas** and me. What chance did we have? The one thing that came out of our poor showing the year before was to get serious about our music policy. We had established a performance standard but had not given it teeth. By February 2002, we had started to apply it. The chorus was getting a little better. Now back to Owen. Owen said if we did not want to compete, we could at least come for evaluation. If we were to come, we would probably come to be scored. I took the notion back to the chorus and asked the chorus if they would like to compete? If they answered yes, would they be willing to adhere to the policy? They said yes. Words and actions are two different things, though. Not too long into the process, we had some fall out. Some members quit over the policy. As we have learned since, the ones mostly opposed to the performance standard have been problem members. One thing I should add. The music policy, like a coin, was created with two sides. One side says that the member has to meet the standard; the other side says that the musical leadership, i.e. the music team, has to provide the wherewithal to help the member meet the standard. We kept on and last year in division, we were Most Improved, and made the cut for district. We tightened the standard and moved up in rank overall at district.

We have had no illusions about competing. We were very thrilled with our achievements. The chorus turned a corner. After suffering the affects of good members leaving for better places over the past several years and having one director after another come and go, we were able to stop the bleeding and mend. This year we tightened our standard and raised our scores. We qualified once again for district. It has not been all roses. The Saturday before competition, we had to ask four members to step down from the risers. We went from 26 to 22. It sounds late in the game, but we had given several opportunities to pass. Over the months, we have provided midis, CD learning tapes, sectionals, crafting sessions, and some personal vocal instruction. I was disappointed that some members could not be on the stage with us, but we all knew that if the chorus made the grade they had a better chance of singing in district. The guys who did sing were doing it also for the guys who were out in the audience rooting.

Back to my point about competing and survival -- with Owen's encouragement, we thought what the heck and if we were going

through the motions we might as well make it pay. If we had not competed, I would hate to say where the chorus would be now. It is not speculation that the best singers would have gone elsewhere. Most of the leadership would be gone and those holding down the fort could not really expect the cavalry to rescue them. We would not be attracting new members. There would not be the nine young men that are members of who are of college age and younger. (BTW: our new membership, for the most part, has not been transfers. Seven of the nine young men have new SPEBSQSA numbers. One joined years ago with his father and has become active again. The other is a transfer from Lompoc who is VP of music and an AD for our chorus.)

Our chorus has hope. I fact it may be on fire. The competition that slammed us in 2001 made us examine ourselves. We had to make some hard choices to affect change. Change came by the music policy that was fair and allowed for growth. The 2002 division competition breathed new life into the chorus. The 2002 district competition brought us closer. We recognized we had the talent from within to fix our problems and put in place an effective policy for improvement. This 2003 competition has been a reaffirmation of our efforts. We are not looking to district with dread but with anticipation of having a great time. We don't expect to bring home trophies. We expect to bring home great and fond memories that we don't have to give up the next year.

I wish I could get out the message to other chapters to compete. It may be the best thing they can do for themselves.



Karl Jacobs, Sound Union

Thought you might like this picture of **SOUND UNION** (from the **South Bay Chapter**). We had the opportunity to present the National Anthem at Dodger Stadium prior to the May 12th Dodgers-Astros baseball game.

Picture ID left to right -

Keith Klein (tenor), **Denny Lawrence** (lead), **Rick Llewelyn** (bass) and **Karl Jacobs** (bari)



2002 International Champions SANTA FE SPRINGS

Kirt Thiesmeyer

By the time this issue of *Westunes* reaches you, the Montreal Convention will be behind us and new international chorus and quartet champions will have been crowned. With so many wonderful competitors from the Far Western District, dare I predict that at least one of those honors will remain in the west? We are cheering for all of them.

And lest you thought that a year with no contest means a rest for the **Masters of Harmony**, let me disabuse you. The rehearsals for our swan song performance in Montreal were as intense as for the contest in Portland last year, starting with a warm-up show on May 18 at the Carpenter Center for the Long Beach Community Concert Association, followed by our "A Cappella Showcase" annual show at the Terrace Theater on June 7. All of this culminated at the World Harmony Jamboree on July 4 in a combined show with the **Toronto North Metro Chorus**, current **Sweet Adelines International Champions**, and our own final performance as 2002 SPEBSQSA champions at the Bell Centre in Montreal on July 5. The afterglow that same midnight at the Hilton Bonaventure Hotel featured an historic first: **The Masters of Harmony and Dallas' Vocal Majority** (nine- and possibly ten-time international champions) on stage together!

Our preparations for convention week, led by our reserved and taciturn director, **Mark Hale**, have been both exhausting and thrilling. In an informal survey, Mr. Hale was gratified to learn that 100 percent of the men on the risers know all of the notes and words to our performance pieces (though not necessarily in the correct order).

Without stopping for breath, we also hosted the SoCal East Divisional Contest on May 10, overseen with unruffled aplomb by our **Dr. Bill Boeck** (who garnered the monthly President's Award for his efforts). Twenty-three quartets and eleven choruses new and old stepped to the microphones and delighted us proud sponsors with their audacity and charm. We contributed three more MOH-derived quartets to the honors round: **Hi-Fidelity**, already qualified to compete in Montreal, won the divisional contest. The new **O.C. Times** quartet clinched the novice championship (and came in second overall), and perennial favorites **Top-Notch** were the senior champions. Not to be outdone, chorus competitors with current and former MOHers – **Westminster's Harmony Showcase Chorus** and **La Jolla's**

Pacific Coast Harmony – handily captured the first and second spots, respectively. On the time-tested theory that barbershop quartetting should be experienced first-hand to be properly appreciated, this writer's quartet put on a game face and achieved brilliant anonymity in the indeterminate middle third of the competitors. Wait till next year.

Let no one fear that the **Masters of Harmony** will be resting on our laurels after Montreal. Au contraire, the march to Salt Lake City 2005 has already begun! Go FWD!



FWD Standing Ovation Program Feedback

Brent Anderson, a veteran barbershopper and a member of the FWD's Standing Ovation review team, attended the Conejo Valley show for the purposes of a "SOP" review. The following letter was sent in appreciation.

Dear Brent,

On behalf of the Conejo Valley chapter, I would like to thank you for your review and constructive comments on our Spring Show (Heritage of Harmony, 2003) as part of the **Standing Ovation Program**. I have emailed an electronic copy of this letter and our article in the bulletin to 'Uncle Lloyd' so that he is also aware of the positive impact that this program had on our show and our chapter.

Thanks again for taking the time and effort to help us improve our 'product'.

Best Regards,
signed/Jack Casey
Secretary, Harmony Oaks Chorus and
Co-Chairman, Spring Show



3rd- Capital City

2nd- Prime Time

1st- HUMDINGERS

Chefs Perko & son

Oh Boy! Franks & beans

BBS span- 55 years to 3 weeks

Many years of BBS here

"Q" - The JUDGES

MC Clark Abrahamson

Bob Allen sings with "Q"

Roger Perkins sings with "Q"

Roger Fox sings with "Q"

KTWWS

Chapters represented: Chico, Davis-Vacaville, Folsom, Frank Thorne, Nevada-Placer, North Valley, Placerville, Reno, Sacramento, San Jose, Santa Rosa, Sun City DesertAirs, and "significant others". Well over 100 attending. Try it in your chapter, you'll like it!

Division 1 SCal West

Editor Mike Martin



CONEJO VALLEY

GEE GEE BRINKMAN & RED EHRENBACH

Current director and IPP **Larry Nixon** was delighted with the chapter's performance in their recent show and noted that it had also encouraged some attendees to come to the next chorus rehearsal meeting. That's the way to build membership. Chapter president **Neil Pennywitt** has been sharing his time between Chapter duties and performing in the Conejo Players Theater production of HMS Pinafore. **John Brockman**, one of the chapter's two Music VP's, was involved in the premier performance of the Pepperdine New Music Ensemble at the Rait Recital Hall. John had one of his own compositions performed.

Barbequing, Yakking, Swimming, Singing, Eating, Drinking, Listening, Watching and Retrieving were some of the ING'S that were going on at **Bob & Winnie Josephson's** home Saturday, May 17th for a pot luck dinner. Most of our Chapter members were there, along with family members, significant others, etc. Retrieving was done mostly by the tennis players, particularly by **Dan Cardin** and **Dan Cardin**, (you figure out which is father and which is son), when they had to rappel down a steep hill to find one of their green tennis balls under a lot of greenery at the bottom of said hill.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEYAIRES

JEFF BARSKY

IPP **Tom Mayfield** announced two major fundraisers are underway which are the performance of Music Man at the Glendale Centre Theater June 26 and a "donation" scratch card program to help support the Valleyaires Concert Tour of Ireland. A recently completed raffle chaired by **Cliff Jacobs** raised over \$2,300. These **Valleyaires** sure have a talent for raising money.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

BRUCE MILLER

Great show effort of the part of the **Gold Coast Chorus**. The Chorus Performance Chairman **Jim Hawkins** really performed in the selling of ads for the show program, which was well over a third of the total sold. While a bit late, Barbershopper of the Month Award for January was finally given to member **Glenn Geissinger** who had been away for a while. Membership Chairman **George Loose** is pleased to welcome new member **Kirk Smith** to the chapter's bass section. He was sponsored by **Chuck Wilbur**. Belated special thanks were also given to members **Bob Gandy** for several projects including Singing Valentines and show programs, **Dick Parker** for chairing Toys for Tots and **Larry Griffen** who has done a phenomenal job with coffee and refreshments at rehearsal breaks. The Chapter delivered about 160 Singing Valentines over two days last February.

SANTA MARIA

LU HINTZ

Show Chairman **Ed Gutierrez**, while appreciative of all those who gave generously of their time and efforts putting on the recent and successful show gave special thanks to **Dick Mininger** for his assistance in developing posters, flyers and tickets for the event as well as **Don Ward** who took on the job as master of ceremonies with great style and humor. President **Gene Kai** presented Barbershopper of the Month awards for March and April went to **Dan Daniels** who is always ready with craft training and **Wayne Buwalda** for his diligent work in providing refreshments for rehearsal breaks. Membership Chairman **Gordon McGuire** presented **Bill Young** with his barbershop renewal certificate for 51 years of barbershopping.

SANTA MONICA

TOM LASKEY

PLAY BALL !! Following the Santa Monica **Oceanaires** taking home the winner's plaque in March from the final "Far West District Small Chapter Contest", they performed in their annual show and in four other exciting venues during the next few weeks. For starters, in the Century City Hotel Ballroom, they sang for ex- LA Dodger manager **Tommy Lasorda**, who was the featured guest at the Century City Chamber of Commerce luncheon. Informally, Tommy sang with the Oceanaires thru "Wild Irish Rose". We offered to sign him up!

At the famous Beverly Hills Hotel, the **Oceanaires** performed for a Rotary Club luncheon that featured former L.A. Laker star **Jamaal Wilkes** as keynote speaker.

At the well-known Riviera Country Club, the chapter entertained another Rotary Club, Santa Monica. It is a big plus for our chapter to have Rotarian **Richard Keagy** as their Music VP. He is helping mightily to spread 4-part harmony! Besides which, since he is also a member of Retired Military Officers Knights Templar Order, the Oceanaires performed at the beautiful Calabasas Inn for that group's formal banquet. We presented a mini-version of our recent show, "Wonderful World", written by our immediate past president **Bruce Schroffel**. This is a really good way to produce a 30 to 40 minute performance. This show is set in "old time radio" and featured a quartet singing for the "sponsor", Oshkosh-by-gosh Overalls with "extra strength knees and seat". (To the tune of "Nellie") The quartet consisted of **Earl Gauger, Sammy Lai, Jack Fry, and Harry Stasney**.

The **Oceanaires** have added their first new member for this year, **Dennis Larkin**, a fine young singer with musical theater experience. He plans to be performing in the chorus on August 16th at the 22nd annual Ice Cream Social and Concert.

VENTURA

KEITH BOGOST

The **Clippers** held the annual Ice Cream Sociable in April and was a total success. **Jim Sumstine** performed as emcee for the event. Special thanks thanks to **Sam Ballinger** for making sure that everything went well. The chorus was under the direction of **Duane Ashby** followed by the quartets **Ancient Mariners** (**Wayne Rear, Ron Derrico, Chuck Killen and Keith Bogost**),

Take Four (Jim Sumstine, Bill Butala, Tom Leese and Gary Rice), Ventura Boulevard (Bob Haines, Don Hansen, Bill Minea and Dan Love) and Harmony Channel (Duane Ashby, Bruce Hunter, Doug Van Bogelen and Brent Burningham). Rincon Beach's **FASTRAC** quartet was also there to participate in the festivities. The chapter welcomes its newest members **Dick Schaller. Doug Dow** is doing a great job having taken over the responsibilities of the Chapter's website. As the Chapter prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary, it has also set a goal of having 50 men on the risers. Good luck guys,

Division 2 SCal East

Editor Gene Hartzler

FULLERTON

The chapter is extremely proud of the newly acquired riser trailer. Members **Lynn Abbott** and **Maynard Allard** were responsible for the procurement and decorative paint job that is so prominent. The back end of the trailer is principally patriotic and they couldn't have done a better job of advertising the chapter with Uncle Sam pointing at following autos.

Editor **Dick Cote** and the chapter is relishing his sixth straight award as the FWD's first place bulletin winner announced at the H-O-D in Reno. **Deane Scoville** and **Stan French** have been present all six years that Dick was announced as the District's Large bulletin contest winner.

Stan Tinkle's cute analogy on Frank Sinatra to **Craig Ewing** as he has the men snapping their fingers to the "back beat" and they are smiling more and singing better. No wonder they're called the "Number Fun" Chorus. **Al Bell's** tribute to **Joe Palmquist** "A Memory Landmark" and **VARIETY** is especially timely since they appeared on the PALOMAR May show in Escondido.

Ray Crutcher has determined that SPEBSQSA is not a "cult" even though we have some strange cult-like behaviors as we sing and perform. The May/June CLOPPIN'S gets us in deeper in this "cult" thing and now Ray has conjured up in his weird late night consciousness to the point that he is even promising additional segments with names such as SZABO, CRAIG, and TOM NICHOLS. (Ed. Note: Where do we go from here?)

HEMET

What a fitting tribute to a wonderful musician and barbershopper when **Howard Mesecher** was selected as the honoree at the Spring Convention in Reno. His stellar career was colorfully treated in the May issue of *UPBEAT*.

Chorus Manager **Bill Leader** is "revving up" the men with cute cartoons and encouraging words while Music VP **Clay Panlaqui** is exhorting them to manage their breathing as professionals do; to be ready for the May 31 and June 1 show dates.

IRVINE

May 24 saw the **California Promise Chorus** performing their

unique version of the Armed Forces Medley at the Life's Church in Mission Viejo. The piece was arranged by Music Director **Russ Adkisson**.

The chapter was honored to be a part of the five hour Memorial Day celebration and fund raiser to support families of service members in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Eight new members have joined the ranks since January and are already immersed in barbershop harmony. Two previously inactive members have rejoined the chorus making a fuller sound to the joy of all!

The chapter announces that the great quartet **FRED** has been confirmed and will be the featured quartet on the Saturday 21 September show at the Irvine Barclay Theatre. It will be the quartet's only West Coast appearance this year.

ORANGE

The May *ORANGE SQUEEZIN'S* is full of newsy and excellent articles and announcements; here are some:

As usual The Pitch From Rich column on quartet performances is setting new standards for any chapter quartet to meet or better. March and April saw six appearances most of which were community service sing outs.

Two Orange quartets competed in Anaheim at the Spring Prelims: **RETRO** and **FERMATA THE BLUE**

Rich Lewis after finding some antique photos, plans to do a series of articles covering such memorables as: **Orange Town Four Quartet**, the old **Plaza City Serenaders**, **Santa Ana Golden City Chapter**, "Twi-Liters", **Smog Cutters**, **Beach Nuts**, **Sweet and Sour Goodtime Harmony Four**, **Rusty Roosters**, and more.

In a follow-on article Rich will list Novice Quartets that competed when the Orange and Santa Ana Chapters sponsored the Novice Contest that made it to the top of the FWD and some even to the International Level, such as the **GRAND TRADITION**. Stay tuned!

Eavesdropping on an E-Mail column by **Rich Lewis** on **Casey Parker's** note to the chapter, brings back many memories about **THE CAVITY FOUR** quartet when they were on the FWD "circuit" with **Rang Hansen**, **John Currin**, **Larry Lloyd** and **Jim Lafferty**. They were a "blast."

LA JOLLA

Pacific Coast Harmony has had a very productive few months.

On May 10th, **Pacific Coast Harmony**, in their first year of existence qualified for the District Competition in Bakersfield by receiving of of the highest scores presented in Divisional competition, 940 points, only 23 points behind the highest score

JIM POWELL

received in the District. PCH is looking forward to competing in our first District competition in October. PCH would like to thank our World Class Director and coaches, **Kim Hulbert, Royce Ferguson, Bill Meyers, Cindy Hanson, Wayne Mendes,** and others for their support and expertise. PCH also qualified our first quartet for District competition, "**The Pacific Coast Quartet**".

On May 24th, PCH staged a successful Harmony Cabaret Show in La Jolla, CA. featuring 2001 International Quartet Champions- "**A capella Gold**", as well as our soon to be famous Octet, "**Royce's Voices**", "**Added Attraction**", and International Senior Quartet Finalist "**A Touch of Class**". The food was prepared by our own former chef, **Jerry Kudrick** and **Jim Lee**. PCH entertained guests coming from as far away as Iowa.

On May 31st, PCH was invited to sing with The International Sweet Adelines Champions, The San Diego Chorus, at Symphony Hall in San Diego. The audience was treated to Male/Female 8-part Chorus duets of *Lida Rose*, *A Sin to Tell a Lie*, and *Dream Lover*. The arranger of *Dream Lover*, **Ken Potter** was in attendance to enjoy his excellent work.

PALOMAR-PACIFIC

Keith Mulfinger

Terry Aramian's treatise on the Division contest judging panel will be a great help to the chorus in preparation for Bakersfield. He was impressed with the quality of each evaluators' comments, suggestions and encouragement for future competition.

Vince Kater was profiled in the May *CLEF NOTES*, and he is enjoying singing in the bass section, and the friendly atmosphere that abounds each Tuesday at rehearsals.

Jerry Mills has taken over the Quartet Corner column and it's nice to see our quartets busy each month. They do get around the county!

The chapter membership was introduced to the initial duties and responsibilities of being selected to "produce" the Fall District Convention in Bakersfield. A big responsibility but an honor and a wonderful chance for the chapter to make its mark for all to see.

RANCHO BERNARDO

Larry Taylor

The **TROUBADOURS** competed in the recent Divisional Contest in Anaheim and were pleased with their 9th place finish out of 11 SoCal choruses. Thanks to Music Director **John Hulbert** this was their first competition in five years and with attendance improving each month, members are looking forward to competing in 2004!

(Ed.Note: Welcome to new editor **Larry Taylor!**)

SAN DIEGO

John Inlow

The Chapter will stage their Spring Show on Flag Day Saturday June 14, 2003 in the new Ray and Joan Kroc Performing Arts Center in North Park San Diego. This outstandingly beautiful venue will have the distinction of staging the very first barber-shop show since its recent opening. The edifice is located at 6845

University Avenue in San Diego. The theme of the show is "A Catchy Tune, But will it sell?"

Featured quartet will be **THE PERFECT GENTLEMEN** out of Los Angeles where they have been a favorite group with all who have seen and heard them. Naturally, the show is "G" rated and will appeal to all ages. All seats are unreserved.

WHITTIER

David Gunther

The current issue of *SHOWCASE* features a passel of new members that have joined the Choralaires. **Theo Spratt** sings bass, **Nick Grandolfo** is a lead, **Al Middleton** sings baritone, **Chuck Governale** is a bass, **Frank Salazar** is also a bass, **Bill Niemand** can be found in the baritone section.

How nice that Music Director **Stan Sharpe** so graciously shares his wealth of vocal "health" to the chapter. His current pieces are: Here's to your vocal health!; Humming for Health and Remedies for a Healthy Voice.

Dave Gunther's On the road with California Blend and **Larry Gassman's** Four Fifteen were interesting little vignettes for *SHOWCASE* readers.

The back page has a nice invitation to "Come Visit Us" complete with a well-marked, block street map.

Division 3 NCal West

Editor Don Kingston



EUREKA

AL STROM

Welcome to **Al Strom**, the new Chapter bulletin editor. A single envelope brought us copies of his monthly *Redwood Resonance* from January through April. He is off to a great start with four neat, well-edited editions.

So let's try to catch up with the Eureka Chapter: At the January 6 Installation Dinner the Chapter was honored to have **Eureka Mayor Peter LaVallee** present to install the 2003 Chapter Board (how many chapter's can get the town's top person to an event?). See your January/February *Westunes* for the names of officers and Board members. **Mac Gardner** was named Barbershopper of the Year for 2002.

The **Humbolt Harmonaires** performed for Friends of the Library in Fortuna on March 12 and sang at the 13th Annual Redwood Coast Jazz Festival on March 30. The **Harmonaires** Spring Show, called "The Magic of Harmony," was held on Saturday, April 26. No word yet on how that went -- but smashingly we'd guess.

FREMONT/HAYWARD

RAY SPINOSA

The NCal West competition in Santa Rosa, proved to be an exciting time for the **New Dimension Chorus**. Winning the most improved chorus award was a wonderful culmination after all the hard work preparing for the contest.

Also, congratulations to **Mike Barkley** and the other members of **KaBlam** for qualifying for the FWD Quartet Contest.

On May 18 the chorus took part in a benefit concert for the San Lorenzo library. After performing a set in both the first and second half of the show, the Chorus provided backup for headliner, pop pianist **Lanny Quidley**. A couple of days later a local newspaper printed a picture of the Chorus performing in this benefit.

A guest night was held May 22. **Demaster Survine** filled in for Director **James Hall**, and ably directed the chorus in several activities including teaching the guests a song, while Tag Master **Matt Fellows** taught an easy but entertaining tag. Hearty congratulations to Matt and his college quartet in qualifying for Internationals and best of luck as they compete in Montreal.

Upcoming events include appearances at a program sponsored by the Hayward Area Recreation District in June, and the Fremont Festival in July.

PALO ALTO/MOUNTAIN VIEW CHAPTER

JOHN HEATHER

Congratulations to the men of the **Peninsulaires** who have again qualified for the FWD Contest in Bakersfield in October. But before that the Chapter will present its Annual Show on Sunday, August 17. Featured quartet will be **Late Night Barbershop**.

S.F. BAY CITIES QUARTET CHAPTER CASEY PARKER

If members and guests of the SFBCQC aren't exactly singing FOR their supper, they are certainly now singing BEFORE it. In April the Chapter inverted its hours by scheduling singing in the banquet room from 5 to 7 p.m. and dining in the main room from 7 to 8 p.m.

SAN FRANCISCO

DMK

The **Cable Car Chorus** won the Plateau A Championship at the Ncal West Contest in Santa Roas in April. This was the first contest experience for several new members and the first SPEB-SQSA contest for new director **Angela Suraci**. It was a fun and rewarding experience for all concerned.

It isn't a bit too early to mention the Chapter's upcoming annual show. The date is Saturday, October 11, 2003; the place is the Presentation Theater located in the former Presentation High School Building, now a part of the University of San Francisco; the featured quartet is **Finale**, 2001 FWD Champions, and 10th place finishers at International in 2002. Co-chairmen for the show are Bob Horwitz and Jorge Portugal. Make your plans now to attend!

SAN JOSE

NEAL CAVANAUGH

Under the capable hands (and ears) of **Dan Heckerman** the **Garden City Chorus** has revived the Barberpole Cat program. Every Tuesday beginning at 6:30 p.m. Dan gathers the guys to learn the songs and be certified as Barberpole Catters.

SAN MATEO COUNTY

DAVID JUNGROTH

The men of the **Golden Chordsman** were pleased with the pleasant venue provided by **Santa Rosa Chapter** at the Jackson Theater, Sonoma County Day School for the April NCal West Contest. The Chorus placed it's highest ever at fifth out of nine competing choruses, close behind **San Francisco Cable Car Chorus**.

The Chorus presented its "Hot Dogs & Harmony" concession booth for the second time at the annual Half Moon Bay airport "Dream Machine" celebration. At least 10,000 people came to see the airplanes and automobiles, and vintage machines on display. The men of the **Golden Chordsman** spent the day singing, selling and recruiting.

On a recent regular meeting night, **San Francisco Cable Car Chorus** members came visiting, as their venue was dark that week. What fun that is, essentially doubling the size of the Chorus, singing with friends we have known for years. San Francisco's **Top of the Mark** quartet performed to the delight of all. A quartet-tagging using the Polecat songs was started and continued until everyone, who was inclined, had a chance to participate. Some 20 quartets were formed before the break. Many members tagged into more than one part! Another guest, **Bert Press's** grandson **Jeremy Ragent** also participated. Jeremy is 16 and has trained with the Peninsula boy's chorus Ragazzi. Armed with a copy of the Polecat songs, he took his turn at tag baritone like a veteran! The Chapter would love to have more guests like that!

SANTA CRUZ

LAWRENCE STERN

John Hazen led a quartet into five Santa Cruz County high schools during the past semester -- Soquel High, Aptos High, Harbor High, Monte Vista Christian and Watsonville High. The quartet was warmly received by both students and teachers. As a result, members of a newly formed student quartet from Aptos High attended three consecutive rehearsals of the chorus. It is hoped that even more students will respond to those visits by attending the *Youth Harmony Camp* at Sly Park in September. On May 21, the Chorus taped a half-hour program for Musicians Weekly on Community Television, Channel 27, Santa Cruz. It was scheduled to be aired four times in May and June. The annual show has been set for October 11, at First Congregational Church.

SANTA ROSA

RAY CROSDER

The **Redwood Chordsmen's** bulletin editor **Scott Douglas** was honored at the Spring Prelims in Reno/Sparks, as winner of the FWD small bulletin award. Congratulations to Scott!

The Chapter hosted this year's NCal West division contest in April, one of the best and most successful in years, and the **Redwood Chordsmen** took second place to qualify for the FWD

contest in Bakersfield next October. Each of the 43 singers came offstage knowing that Director **Melany Huston** had worked her heart out to create a better chorus

The Chorus performed at Santa Rosa Memorial Park on Memorial Day. It has performed at this colorful event, which draws over 2,000 people, for nearly a decade. As usual the performance was followed by the annual Memorial Day Chapter picnic at Spring Lake Park. Once again, **Bill** and **Elsie Smith** did their usual great job of putting this picnic together.

On Wednesday, May 28, the Chorus sang at the popular Barclay Concert at Santa Rosa High School. This concert features choral groups from all the local area high schools. The Chapter's members have had a high profile in the community working in the Young Men in Harmony (YMIH) area with individuals such as **Ray Crowder, Dick Whitten, Tom Ennis, Rex Huston** and **Phil Debar** coaching many high school quartets over the years. This event draws over 1,000 people including the performers.

Chapter quartet, **Sound Committee**, was honored to be mike testers at the NCal East contest, in Vacaville, on April 26. The quartet will be losing its tenor, **Dick Whitten**, at the end of the summer -- a loss to the quartet and the Chorus, but not to Barbershopping. Dick and wife Sandy are moving to Reno.

Terry Johnson and **Jim Dechaine** will co-chair the annual Christmas Cabaret, to be held at Saint Rose Church, on December 13.

WALNUT CREEK **DICK JOHNSTON**

In May the Chapter held its first visitors' night in some time. It was well attended and a number of the visitors have returned to singing with the Chorus.

The Chapter has obtained a block of tickets for July production of "Kiss Me Kate" at the Woodminster Amphitheater in Oakland. Members and their guest will enjoy a picnic supper (and some singing) on the adjacent grounds before settling in for the show.

Continuing a tradition of many years, members of the Chorus will replace the chorus at a number of local churches for one Sunday each week during the summer months. The congregations always receive the group with enthusiasm, although some pastors express doubt about the propriety of featuring the **Devil Mountain Chorus** at a Sunday service.

Division 4 NCal East

Editor Bill Crocker

[**Roger Perkins** will become the Div 4 NCal East Editor starting with the Sep/Oct issue.
E: gr8perko@foothill.net]



A BIG THANKS to Bill for his excellent and timely service during my tenure as Westunes Editor. May his new book be successful

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA **MILES SUTTER**

Golden Valley Chorus competed in the NCal East divisional contest in Vacaville, however, not before the biggest barbecue ever. The feed took place at the R.V. site in Vacaville. Several items from every food group on the planet were served. The chorus members stuffed themselves. Many thanks go out to **Howard and Betty Barber**.

Oh, yes, there was also a chorus contest in which the chorus did well and qualified for district competition in Bakersfield. **Top Cats** are going too!

The chapter's annual show was the scripted one called K.O.R.D. Radio. The show was a great success with chapter members taking the many character parts. The Merced and Oakdale chapters performed K.O.R.D. Radio in the mid 1990s, before the merger of Merced, Oakdale and Modesto chapters into the Central California chapter. This was **Bill Crocker's** first show. Bill was a dual member of the Merced and Oakdale chapters, singing bass under the tutelage the fabled **Roy Anderson**.

CHICO **LEE ATKINS**

The chapter's annual show was fabulous. It was held at a new facility and everyone agreed that the sound system and theater were excellent. **Bidwell Generals**, under the guidance of fifty-year plus barbershopper **Elmer Fairbanks**, sang its best. **Vintage Sound** did a great job along with Chico State's FTL. **Saturday Evening Post** brought the house down with its superb harmony and comedy. **Bob Riedel**, show chairman, deserves molto kudos!

Elmer fulfilled his commitment to direct **Bidwell Generals** through the annual show. The chapter is now auditioning candidates for permanent director.

Vintage Sound senior quartet performed for the last time with baritone **Bill Crocker** on May 3. The occasion was a western style wedding. "Don't Fence Me In," "Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up To Be Cowboys" and the wedding march, all in barbershop style, broke up the wedding attendees.

Coincidentally, May 3 was the quartet's third anniversary with **Leeds Lacy** singing bass. Bill has decided to spend more time with his other endeavors. **Bill Stenzel** has taken Bill's place. Prior to **Bill Crocker's** departure, the quartet boasted of 123 years of barbershopping experience. With the appearance of **Bill Stenzel**, the total rises to 165 years. The quartet now has super senior status.

FOLSOM **HERSH ROBY**

The Folsom **Harmony Express** performed at the State Capitol for the planting of roses at the Veteran's Memorial in Capitol Park on April 23rd. The presentation was well received and certificates of appreciation were received from the Director of Veteran's Affairs. Thanks to member **Ron Tiche** for arranging this.

Patriotic songs were also sung during a Memorial Day performance at the Sylvan Cemetery in Sacramento. We have sung at this ceremony for the last two years thanks to cemetery board member **John Seekins**.

A "performance" package was well received when the **Harmony Express** sang at the Nor Cal East Contest in Vacaville. Although not judged, we were given many valuable thoughts for improvement by the judges. Much of our success is due to our newly appointed chorus director, **Kent Borrowdale**. **Jim Campbell** is now Director Emeritus and is doing a good job in the baritone section.

Folsom hosts an ongoing program call Quartet Knights. We were fortunate to have **Mel Knight**, formerly on the SPEBSQSA staff, to give advice to the quartets in attendance at the last meeting. For more information on this program visit our website www.harmonyexpress.net <<http://www.harmonyexpress.net/>> or www.spebsqsafwd.org/quartetknights/ <<http://www.spebsqsafwd.org/quartetknights/>> .

FRESNO

GORDON BERGTHOLD

Gold Note Chorus did very well in Vacaville, qualifying for the district competition in Bakersfield. Chapter members have now turned their attention to the June 7 annual show at the Tower Theater in Fresno. The show will feature **Late Night Barbershop**, who recently qualified for the Montreal International Contest in July; **BOB**, who qualified for the fall FWD contest; **Atonic Explosion**, who leads the nation in show performances and **Sierra Chord Express**, the perennial International Preliminary Contest mike tester.

BOB has been the most active quartet in the chapter. The baritone, **Ken Wenger**, married Marlene on April 5 and the quartet sang at the reception. On April 29, it sang at the Dry Creek Elementary Red, White and Blue Carnival. It is scheduled to perform at the Southerland School graduation and **Harold** and **Rachel Fast's** fiftieth wedding anniversary.

Sierra Chord Express sang for the Rotary District 5230 convention in San Jose on May 17 and at the Concourse de Elegance Car Show on May 18.

NEVADA PLACER

ROGER PERKINS

"Airport 2003," Nevada Placer's annual show, was held on Friday, May 16 in Auburn and Saturday May 17 in Grass Valley. The show story took place in an airport waiting room with passengers heading for the International Convention in Montreal and going through the security scanner. Five chapter quartets participated along with **The Sierranaders**.

The show's featured quartet was **Heirloom**, the NCal West champions. When the quartet arrived, the bass, **Don Norcross**, was suffering from stomach cramps. Friday's performance went fine, however, Don was admitted to Auburn Faith Hospital in Auburn at 3:30 A.M. the following morning where it was discovered that Don's cramps were caused by a twisted colon.

Saturday morning surgery corrected the condition.

Heirloom was now left without a bass, which left the quartet and yours truly, **Roger Perkins**, show chairman, with a major problem for Saturday's show in Grass Valley. A substitute quartet could not be found, so the hunt was on for a substitute bass. **Alan LeVezu**, bass of **Top Cats**, came to the rescue. Alan knew several of Heirloom's songs so, after a brief rehearsal, five songs were chosen. A sixth song, "There's A New Gang On The Corner" was performed with yet another substitute bass, **Roger Perkins**. Now, Don is 6'8". Roger is not quite that tall. Roger was forced to wear Don's jacket in the show. His hands disappeared as did his knees, but it was good for a few laughs. **Al Drouin** performed with the quartet at the afterglow. It was good to have Al back after surgery.

Roger visited Don at the hospital on Monday. Don's wife was with him. He was groggy and was going to remain at Auburn Faith for a few days before returning home [it became a week].

PLACERVILLE

FRANK MARTIN

The **Gold Rush Chorus** presented its best contest performance ever in Sparks, NV, good enough to qualified for the chorus final contest in Bakersfield. The chorus sang in the halls, dined and sang Saturday afternoon at the buffet across the street. The chapter was privileged to have the top quartets stop by the hospitality room for up-close performances.

The chapter lost **Jon Ehlers** in April. He had been a barber-shopper for about six years and was in failing health for most of the time that he was a member of the Placerville chapter. Yet, he participated as much as was possible. In fact, he sang "Down Our Way" a week before he died. **Older Than Dirt** sang "Down Our Way" and "Irish Blessing" at Jon's memorial service.

SACRAMENTO

FRANK KINNISON

Capitolaires did very well at the NCal East Vacaville competition. In fact, the chorus garnered the most improved chorus distinction and qualified for Bakersfield.

Chapter quartets **Chordzilla**, **Top Cats** and **Potluck** also competed. **Top Cats** with **Eric Brickson**, tenor; **Tim Huntsinger**, lead; **Bruce Sellnow**, baritone and **Alan LeVezu**, bass qualified for Bakersfield. **Potluck** with **Bill Cale**, tenor; **John Gilliland**, lead; **Bill Borah** of the Sacramento chapter, baritone and **Jim Sherman**, bass was the senior champion and will compete in the senior division in Bakersfield.

Capitolaires and chapter quartets presented their usual sterling performances at the annual Sacramento Jazz Jubilee on Memorial Day weekend. This series of performances is always a special kick and the members are fortunate to have this opportunity each year.

Capitolaires presented its annual gospel and patriotic program to over one thousand Jazz Jubilee attendees at The Cove venue at Cal Expo on Sunday. Air Force Master Sergeant **Randy**

Division 5 AZ/SoVNV/SoUT

Editor Phil Smith

Parsons, bass with Capitolaires, stationed at Beale AFB and recently returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom, gave a "talk over," recognizing and commemorating all veterans during the second verse of "American The Beautiful."

Another performance of patriotic music was presented at the Sacramento Convention Center Exhibit Hall on Sunday. **Capitolaires** were also a part of the closing ceremony on Memorial Day with the singing of "God Bless America."

Sacramento chapter members wish to acknowledge the passing of **Virginia Cook**. Virginia was a part of barbershop harmony for a long time. She sang in Sacramento Valley Chorus under the direction of **Mary Alice Meyers**. The chorus was an international finalist during that time. Virginia was a great supporter of the chapter and will surely be missed.

STOCKTON **KEP KEPLINGER**

KaBLaM! represented the Stockton chapter at the NCal West competition in Santa Rosa in fine manner, taking first place novice and second place overall. **Jordan Litz**, tenor in **KaBLaM!** is also a part of the high school quartet **Whirlwind** from Santa Rosa. This wonderful quartet placed third overall.

Bill Legg conducted youth night on May 15 at the First Presbyterian Church, ably assisted by several chapter members. Thirteen young men participated.

The chapter boasts of several new members from various sources. They are **Robert Ryan**, **Greg Belland**, **Bill McCarty**, **Greg Hedges** and **John Aron**.

TRUCKEE-TAHOE **LARRY COLBORN**

Sierra Mountaineers just completed a two-day gig at the "Windows on History" weekend in Truckee. The chorus will also sing three songs in the Truckee Community Chorus Spring Concert the last week in May.

The summer will be busy with performances at six different elder hostel groups; Plumus/Sierra County Fair in Quincy; Truckee Fourth of July parade and the chapter's seventh annual show at Truckee High School auditorium.

VISALIA **DEE BAUGHMAN**

The show was a smash. There was great audience reaction to "Here Come Da Judge" and to the guest quartet **Metropolis**. The chorus performed at the annual Antique Farm Equipment Show in Tulare and the Farmers' Market in Hanford.

Mighty Oak Chorus is scheduled to perform in Three Rivers in June, so the members are getting out to the neighboring communities. Also, a chapter picnic is planned for this summer with a novice quartet competition judged by the wives and guests.

The chapter has signed on three new members as a result of the annual show and has fielded several other inquiries.

EAST VALLEY **ROD CARDON & JERRY FOX**

We are enjoying our half-anniversary at our new location -- six months! We are convinced that our new location, friendly atmosphere, quartetting and improved singing have helped us to grow substantially. We enjoyed competing at the divisional contest for the first time in a couple years. The A/R sessions were upbeat and useful. We enjoyed sharing time on stage with other small choruses of our division. We raised over \$4,000 in scholarships and grants at our fourth annual youth benefit show featuring **ACOUSTIX**. **Jerry Fox** was pretty busy as chorus director, youth show chairman and Arizona YMIH rep. Thanks to **Jim Debusman** from Kenosha for visiting our Arizona schools. He thrilled A LOT of youth singers! The teachers, kids and us -- we all want him back -- SOON! We love visitors. Come visit us! It's a dry heat! Check out our Web site at <www.evbarbershop.com>

GREATER PHOENIX **BILL KANE**

The Pride of Phoenix Chorus is proud to represent the fastest-growing chapter in the Far Western District this year, with 25 new members so far. Our music team has been working their considerable skill to achieve a similar growth in quality of singing.

Although the POP chorus is planning its competition debut for the Division contest next year, its members were quite visible this year with our chapter Secretary **Don Leggat** serving as chairman for host Paradise Valley, and many of us working to support his efforts, particularly in registration (headed by our own **Randy Bingle**). POP Assistant Director **Cary Burns** was in charge of the Mike Testing Chorus, with many of our guys joining in. Our Hospitality Room seemed to be the most popular game in town, as the entire convention appeared to be in attendance. It spilled out around the pool for an old-fashioned afterglow with lots of woodshedding till the wee hours. With five of our six board members in the quartet competition (perhaps a record?), we all shared in the glory of **BROADWAY's** win of the Division title and **DRY HEAT** being crowned Senior Champs.

The chapter will be well represented at International this summer with Music VP **Ray Estes'** **BROADWAY** and Co-Director **Gary Steinkamp's FINALE** on the competition stage and Co-Director **Russ Young** on the judging panel (he is Singing Category specialist). We'll even have someone in the chorus contest, as San Jose member **Brian Gordon** recently moved to Phoenix and became a dual member of the Greater Phoenix Chapter. (Can we also claim a part of **GOTCHA** since Brian's son Alan sings bari with them. . .hmmmm. . .probably not?) **FINALE** survived a 10-day tour in May of Japan (including an earthquake), where Gary enjoyed making eye contact with people for a change.

LAS VEGAS METRO **JOHN KINDE**

We're looking forward to our tri-chapter get-together planned for Aug. 2. The event will include the **St. George Chapter**, the

Gamble-Aires and the **Las Vegas Metro** Chapter. Congratulations to **FASCINATING RHYTHM** for qualifying for the district quartet competition in Bakersfield. The quartet is almost a family affair, three Halvorsons and Buzz Bossard. Our public show in June included the **GATOR-ADES**, our terrific high school quartet.

PARADISE VALLEY

PHIL SMITH

The **Cactus Chordsmen's** experiment of holding our annual show on the Friday night of Division Contest weekend was a huge success. A good crowd turned out to enjoy the fine performance of the guest quartet, **THE PERFECT GENTLEMEN**. But we found that it's a lot of hard work to put on an annual show and host a Division Convention in the same weekend. Kudos to director **Dan Ryan** for his efforts in making the show a success and to **Don Leggat** for his leadership as convention chairman. The chorus will be scheduled to sing at an Arizona Diamondbacks game this summer, but as of this writing we haven't received a date.

PHOENIX SAGUARO

TED SAYLE.

The **Phoenicians** competed in division contest on April 26 and look forward to a trip to Bakersfield in October for the FWD convention and contest. Both the quartet and chorus contests were well administered by **Don Leggat**, and hosted by the Paradise Valley Chapter. Kudos to all for a job well done!

On Sunday May 4, the **Phoenicians** hosted a day at the race track. Weather was beautiful, with flowers, Canada Geese and infield lakes all showing off for the attendees, who included members from the Paradise Valley, Prescott, Greater Phoenix and Phoenix Saguaro chapters. Once again, the horses outfoxed the bettors, except for **Linda Nelis**, who won a set of special collector edition Kentucky Derby glasses. The weekend of singing telegrams for Mother's Day went well, with the usual number of moms in grateful tears. Next up is a day at the Diamondbacks ballpark (warning to the hotdog vendors, STOCK UP NOW!).

On May 13, the **Phoenicians** said farewell to **Jim Casey**, who is retiring and moving back to his home state (Texas). Jim was awarded Director Emeritus status by a grateful chapter. Both Jim and Glenda were given handsome plaques, and received a standing ovation for their 3.5 years of service with the Phoenician Family. They will be missed.

PRESCOTT

SAM STIMPLE

The **High Mountain Chordsmen** enjoy being hosts to other chapters. On May 29 the new Sedona Chapter came to Prescott for an interchapter visitation. It was a fun evening of singing by both choruses and quartets, and the combined group learned a new song, "Bye Bye Blues". Then on June 21, the guests were the members of the **Sun Cities** Chapter at the annual summer family picnic at Watson Lake Park in Prescott.

On April 12 it was spring cleaning day on the 5,280 feet between Mileposts 325 and 326 on Highway 89A. Thanks to a legion of

brave soldiers who fought off wind, traffic and other ferocious enemies, our highway mile is once again spruced up!

The chorus tries to schedule at least one singing performance each month. In April it was at the VA Hospital, and in May we sang for the ladies of Prescott's First Congregational Church.

To help the chorus achieve its musical goals, it has arranged for **Dan Ryan**, director of the Paradise Valley Cactus Chordsmen, to visit once a month or so for a coaching session.

ST. GEORGE

KEN SUNDWALL

The St. George, Utah, chapter is well into planning and rehearsal for an extravaganza of patriotic music on "9-11." Chorus Music Director **John Scott** has contacted the vocal music educators at five local high schools as well as the professor of vocal music at Dixie State College. All responded with "that's a great idea!" Choral groups from each of the schools will perform at least two patriotic songs. The **Color Country Chorus** is planning to perform two songs and then join the high school and college choruses in a mass choral presentation. It is expected that at least 400 students will take part. The event will take place on Sept. 11 at Cox Auditorium on the Dixie State College Campus.

SIERRA VISTA

ED RAYMOND

Sierra Vista's **Cochise Chordsmen** have been experiencing an upsurge in interest from both local and remote Cochise County areas. We have had more visitors from Bisbee High School (25 miles distant), due to the efforts of bari **Nick Germain**, as well as from Benson (30 miles distant) due to the work of bass **Mark Day**. Adding to this our increasing efforts for recruiting Sierra Vistans, we expect to have at least a 25% increase in membership by the end of this year.

In what may be the highlight of our year, our entire chapter went to the Divisional Convention in Phoenix. Because so many years had elapsed since the chapter had competed, we had decided to go as "presenters" rather than as competitors. We were accorded a spot in the schedule of competing choruses and were advised that we would receive both judging and critiquing.

Our director, **Linda Gilbert**, worked us rigorously in the weeks prior to the event. Finally, the big moment arrived -- we did our two numbers in front of a large and appreciative audience. The judges' scores showed that, if we had been competitors, we would have finished fifth, just above the median. After the contest, three of the judges reviewed our performance and gave us an extended session of compliments, criticisms, and a number of suggestions for improving our presentations. This was invaluable advice, and we intend to follow it carefully so that next year -- We will be there as competitors.

Early in May, four of our officers traveled to Tucson to take part in the instructional evening presented by **Jim DeBusman**, the Music Specialist from Society headquarters. Jim demonstrated a unique (to most of us) aspect of chorus and individual singing and made it well worth the time spent.

The following day, Jim visited Sierra Vista, and with the cooperation of **Bernie Martus, Dave Germain** and **Paul Godwin**, he visited our local Buena High School and Bisbee High School, where he gave both instruction and encouragement to the respective male student choruses. If anything could plant the "barbershop" seed in young minds, this would do it.

Our two established quartets, **THREE DADS & A DUDE** and **FOLLICALLY CHALLENGED**, expect to be kept busy through the summer with individual gigs, while the chapter chorus will be fulfilling its own busy schedule.

SUN CITIES

BOB MCGOWAN

With summer fast approaching, our participation at chapter meetings has been adversely affected by the flight of our snowbird songsters. They of course will grace the meetings of chapters in their home states and Canada during the summer months. Some will rejoin quartet members of past years, such as our longtime member **Cecil Rhodes**, who joined with his old quartet buddies, **Art Duerst, Dean Taylor** and **Don Nelson**, in a revival of the **AGRICULTURALISTS**. They took the stage last year in Fargo, N.D., 50 years after they took top honors in a barbershop competition. We trust they will be back together this summer, providing some audience the pleasure of their harmony.

The summer schedule will allow us to restart our Barber Polecat program and qualify our newer members for recognition, as well as focus on learning and refining the new music for our 2004 show, "Girls, Girls, Girls." Our own **Bud Hesterman** is off to Harmony College, where he has the assignment of collaborating on the script with **Syl Wetle**, who is experienced in the field.

TUCSON

FRED KOCH

The words of one judge after the Division Contest made the day for the members of the Tucson Sunshine Chorus: "You accomplished your goal." The goal was to qualify for District and surpass last year's score, and that was done by finishing fourth, 20 points above the cutoff score for qualifying.

One of the judges commented to Director **Rich Kates**: "When that curtain opens you're like a cop directing traffic." Rich almost fell off his chair laughing. He is a Tucson police officer. The **EASTSIDERS** quartet also finished fourth and qualified for District, scoring 75 points higher than they had scored a month earlier at the International Prelims in Reno.

The chorus has a new location for its Feb. 7, 2004, annual show, the Sahuarita High School auditorium. The Tucson Convention Center Music Hall, the site of our annual shows since its opening, had no open dates in January or February.

The chapter lost a man with a passion for music on April 1 when bass **Donald Perkins** went to join the heavenly choir. The memorial and graveside services on April 4 were a musical tribute to him.

WHITE MOUNTAINS ARIZONA CHAPTER

DOC DOCKENDORF

This has been a busy spring for the **High Country Chorus**. We were very delighted to earn the "Most Improved Chorus" award at the Az/SoNev/SoUtah Divisional convention on April 26, finishing in sixth place. On May 3 the chorus sang at the 50th year celebration for the city of Show Low. On May 8 we sang on the Northland Pioneer College Spring Fling Show, with the NPC Jazz Band and Jazz Choir. Both performances were televised on the local TV stations. On May 17 we performed our civic duty by continuing to clean up our adopted mile of city streets. The chapter welcomes baritones **Raun Wahl** and **Dave Sharp** as new members.

HELP WANTED

CHORUS DIRECTOR WANTED

If you are interested in being a part of a wonderful chapter and developing chorus, the San Diego Sun Harbor Chorus is looking for a qualified chorus director who is ready to take the chorus to the highest level of singing and performing possible. If you are interested, contact Lou Benedict by telephone at (760) 747-3736 or via e-mail at lbenedict@cox.net. We are hoping to fill this position as quickly as possible.

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.
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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.

Just go to the FWD Webpage <http://spebsqsafwd.org>, click on the Westunes/Westags name in the left hand column, click on the issue in the new screen, and it downloads. The new issue is usually available by the 15th of the month preceding publication.

9/11: A Barbershop Tribute – Questions and Answers

What's this all about?

in tribute to the victims and families of the September 11, 2001 tragedies, our Society has created a special United We Sing national event, in which Barbershoppers in communities across North America will gather at city halls, state capitols, and community centers to pay vocal tribute to those who died and to those men and women in uniform who protect our land.

When will this event take place?

This year, we'll be focusing on the September 11th time frame. You may wish to plan your event for the previous or subsequent weekend. The Barbershop Tribute will be an ongoing annual event. Next year, include it in your planning for Memorial Day.

Who's involved?

Your chapter will want to be a part of this massive show of support and commitment. You will join with other vocal music groups in your community to sponsor a large chorus of a cappella singers. In addition, your Society team has contacted several patriotic groups to partner with the Barbershoppers to make for a thrilling event. So far, we have a commitment from the Boy Scouts, the American Legion and the VFW to work with us on a local basis to provide color guards and flag ceremonies to create a memorable scene.

Why should my chapter do this?

Ask yourself these questions:

- Who is better than Barbershoppers at presenting patriotic music? Answer: No one!
- Don't we owe it to our community to share our talent and love for this music?
Answer: Of course we do! Sharing is a huge part of what we're all about.
- How better to get noticed in our community?
Answer: Can't think of anything – at least that's legal.
- Could we gain some members by participating in this event?
Answer: Well – that's not the purpose of this event – this is strictly community outreach. However, now that you mention it...

How does it work?

- First, contact your local community leaders (mayor, councilman, town manager, etc.) to set the date in the calendar and enlist their support. You might have to try several different people.
- Second, contact other vocal groups in your area to recruit for the ensemble. Also, contact your local chapters of the American Legion the VFW to gain their support for color guards and other items.
- Order music and United We Sing materials from www.harmonymarketplace.com
- Hold rehearsals for the ensemble in August and early September.
- Notify the local press at least two weeks prior to 9/11. Stage the event at a time best suited for the community and the singers.
- Call your District Vice-President for Marketing and PR if you have questions. He will be happy to help.

Where do we start?

- Talk it up in your chapter. See who else is interested.
- Make sure you Chapter Board of Directors knows you support the idea.
- Visit the Society Website for more ideas and information:
www.spebsqsa.org and/or <http://unitedwesing.org>

To borrow from a famous Society motto: "it's easy - It's fun – and you can do it!"

CONVENTIONS, SHOWS, EVENTS

2003 _____

Jul 12 White Mountains Show
 Aug 13-17 Harmony Inc HITSchool
 Toronto, ON
 17 Palo Alto Show
 Sep 13 Irvine Show
 13 Santa Maria Show
 20 Truckee-Tahoe Show (T)
Oct 2-5 FWD Fall Convention
 Bakersfield [District Run]
 11 Stockton Show
 11 Santa Cruz Show (T)
 18 Sutter Creek Show (T)
 Nov 1 Placerville Show
 12-16 Harmony Inc Int'l
 Convention, Nova Scotia
 15-16 COTS, LAX Hilton
 22 Monterrey Peninsula Show
 (T)
 Dec 13 Walnut Creek Show
 19-20 Whittier Show

2004 _____

Jan 25-Feb 1 INTERNATIONAL
 MIDWINTER
 Biloxi, MS
 Feb 21-22 Rincon & Conejo Valley V.S.
 Benefit (T)
Mar 18-21
FWD Spring Convention
 & NCE Division Contest
 Reno
 Apr 10 Fullerton Show
 24 Placerville Show
 24 Whittier
 May 1 Santa Fe Springs Show
 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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