



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.

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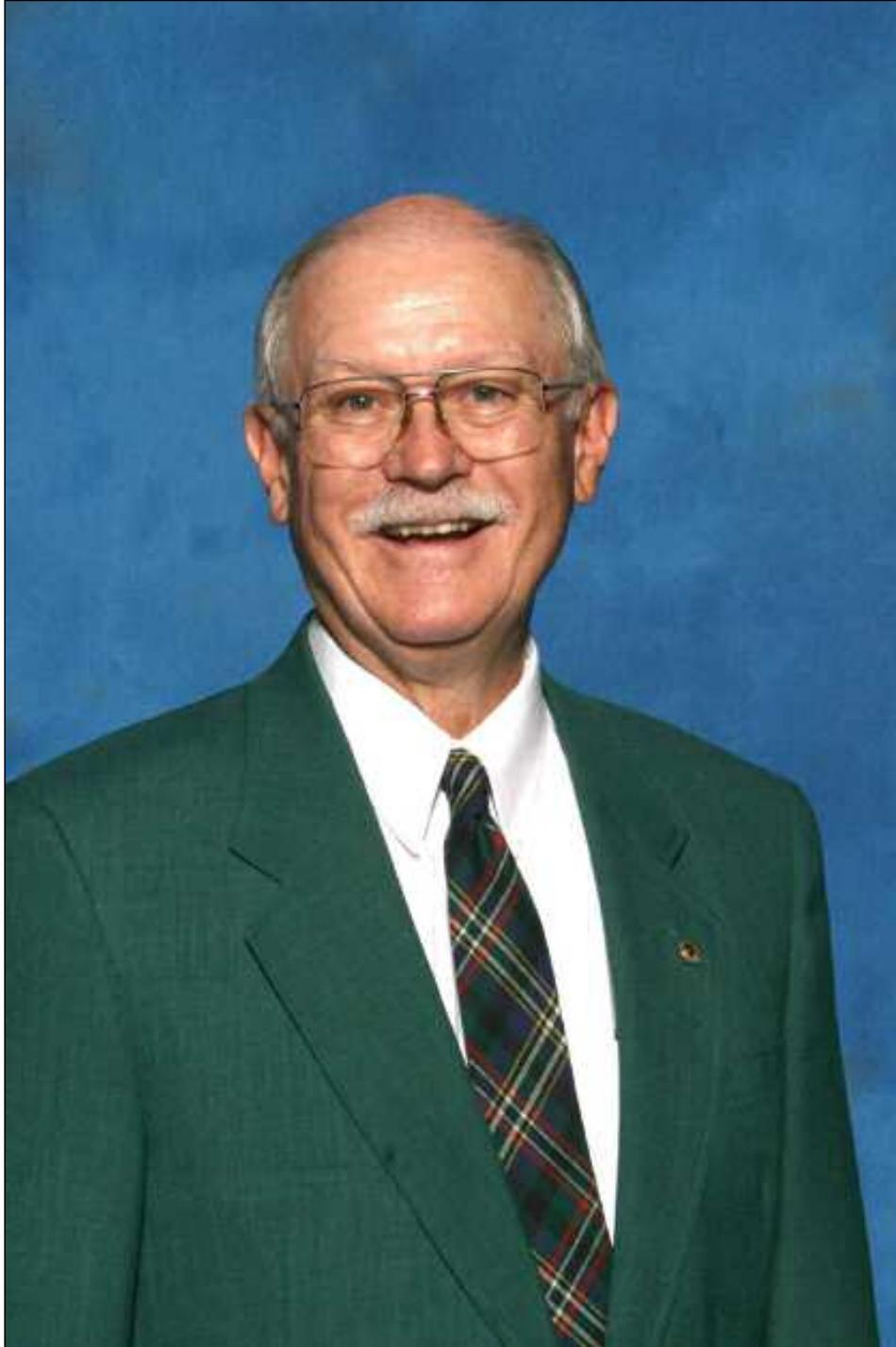


2005 FWD Quartet Champion Hi-Fidelity



2005 FWD Chorus Champion Westminster

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



**2006 FWD President
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 - Photographs: use high resolution JPEG.
- Please identify people in photos clearly.

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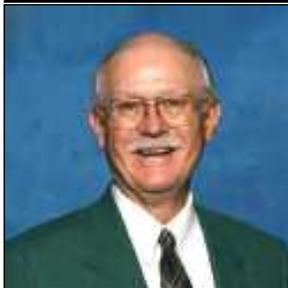
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Nominating	John Krizek

What a wonderful convention in Pasadena; beautiful city, good weather, great facility, top notch talent and well run. Congratulations to Hi-Fidelity and Westminster, our quartet and chorus champions, respectively. I cannot describe adequately the emotion that overtook me when the curtain went up and the risers were filled with those young men in black. Then Grandpa Royce led them on a musical journey that lifted all of us to new heights.

This convention was really different for me. I moved back down from the Evergreen District in 1968 and have competed in nearly every FWD convention since then, usually in both quartet and chorus contests. In those few years of not competing, I was probably back stage. My quartet qualified this year but we found it expedient to withdraw, thus making it the first FWD contest in quite a while where I attended strictly as a member of the audience. I got to see the whole thing and really enjoyed it; but, trust me, it's much more satisfying to participate on the other side of the mic in the lights.

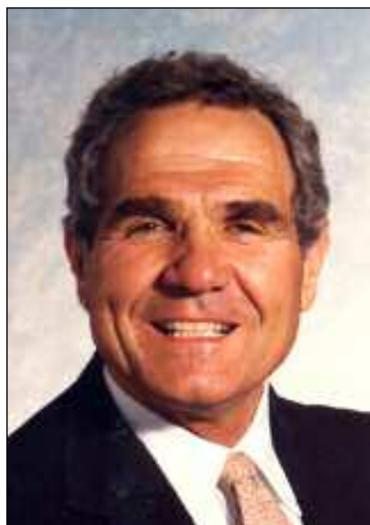
The fall convention is when election of district officers takes place in the House of Delegates. The names and positions are contained in the HOD minutes elsewhere in this issue and I must say how humble I feel and proud I am to be selected to head such a group of dedicated and competent men who will lead the best district in the Society in 2006. There are ten positions on the BOD and only three men will have the same Board positions they held in 2005. Two members are new and I want to welcome Gene Clements as DVP SoCal East and John Jones as DVP NorCal West. These men need little or no introduction to the men within their Divisions. At the same time my sincerest gratitude for several years of dedicated service goes to the two men who are giving up their positions on the board; Clark Abrahamson and John Krizek.

One of my responsibilities is to work with the Nominating Committee to identify and appoint the committee chairman who will oversee the implementation of activities and programs in the FWD. I'm excited about the men who have stepped forward and accepted the following positions:

CSLT	Ollie Brillhante
CDDDev	Steve Sammonds
C&J	Terry Aramian
Events	Chuck Leavitt

Please give them your enthusiastic support., as the only reason for their being in these positions is to make your barbershopping experience the very best it can be. Ask one of them how you can be helpful to them in your chapter or division.

2006 is going to be a wonderful year in the Far Western District. Start out by turning out in record numbers to attend the Society Mid-winter convention in January in Sacramento. The current top five Society quartets will be in concert and two of them are from our very own FWD. You don't want to miss it.



BOB BISIO 1925-2005

by Alexander B. Aikman

In our singing Society, there are many unsung heroes; the Society and barbershop harmony have benefited enormously from the contributions of all these heroes. My nominee for one of the greatest of these is Bob Bisio, who passed away on September 5, 2005.

Bob was my friend. He was a dear friend of and extraordinary mentor to my wife, Ruth. He introduced me to Ruth, which elevates him even higher in my world of heroes. Beyond our special, personal love for Bob, he was a special friend of barbershopping, as well.

In barbershopping, many take pride in knowing little about our singing colleagues' personal and business lives. That personal anonymity has merit, but we miss a lot, too. Bob Bisio had a doctorate in Education from the University of California -- Berkeley and two Masters from San Jose State University, one in Education and one in Business. Bob did not boast of or even cite his academic credentials. Few knew that he spent his entire

[Continues on page 5]



A Word of Explanation

By Jim Labor, Secretary, South Bay Chapter

Maybe an explanation is needed. It seems as though some people who saw the Chorus Contest in Pasadena wondered what the **South Bay Chapter** was doing while on stage. Even some of the judges didn't know, although they liked it enough to put South Bay in sixth place out of the 25 entries.

Someone asked, "Why did you have your chorus standing all over the stage in small groups, and all dressed in different costumes, with everyone doing different moves?"

Well, those "small groups" all had four men in each one, like a quartet.

"You mean it was staged to look like individual quartets?"

Not exactly. You see, each of those 16 groups was a quartet – one tenor, one lead, one bass, and, yes, even one baritone.

"Do you mean to say there were 16 tenors in the chorus?"

That's right, and 16 of every other part.

"But that's way too many tenors for a chorus that size. How can you expect to get any balance?"

Each quartet was balanced within itself – each was singing as a quartet, following the lead in the quartet, and balancing their sound. Only the lead was watching the director for tempo and dynamics.

"What a unique idea! Whose idea was that?"

The chorus director, **Pete Neushul**, of course. Who else could come up with such a clever concept to make the point that the "Q" in SPEBSQSA stands for "Quartet"! Pete wanted to sing with his quartet, **139th Street**, so **Caroline McLean** directed, and did an excellent job.

"Who were those guys in the front in the white suits?"

That was barbershop history revisited – They were the **Saints**, the quartet that was the District champ in 1959, and went on to place fifth at International in '60 and '61. They, and several other well-known quartets joined (or re-joined) South Bay to sing in the contest. In addition to the **Saints** and **139th Street**, there were **The Perfect Gentlemen**, **Sands of Time**, **The Stage Hogs**, and eleven other quartets from the Chapter.

"Is South Bay a "Quartet Only" Chapter, then?"

No, the **Coastliners** is still the Chapter Chorus. But Quartet singing is encouraged.

"How did you prepare for this kind of contest format?"

First, several members switched parts so each quartet could have all four parts. Only a few regular members did not put a quartet together. Each quartet practiced alone, perfecting the songs. We had four special Saturday rehearsals for the entire group, but, except for the last two weeks, regular rehearsals were not devoted to the contest songs.

Each quartet was responsible for its own stage presence and costumes, and each quartet had to qualify by performing the contest numbers in front of the Chapter. Everyone who had a quartet was qualified to sing at contest

For many it was their first real quartet experience, and some of the quartets are staying together. We had coaches available for any quartets that wanted help.

As a result of this plan, we picked up several new members and involved many who had not been active. Our general membership spiked, and South Bay is now a century chapter (100 members.)

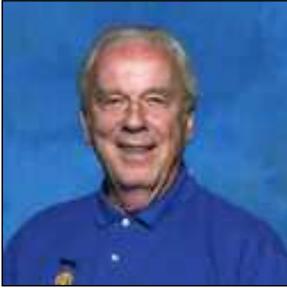
Singing in a quartet in the chorus is great fun. You can hear your own quartet and ring chords with them, but in the background there is a nice, warm sound to help you along.

We had a terrific time and it was a big boost for the whole Chapter.

"Thanks for the clarification."

You're welcome.

District Executive Vice President



Also
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It's a New Year, and a new Board of Directors. To be sure there are some familiar faces, but most of them are serving in new capacities, and I'm one of those. I'm honored to have been elected as Executive Vice President of the Far Western District and have already started on that job. I will be assisting President Bill Cale in many matters and helping to coordinate the efforts of our Functional Committee Heads as they work to make your barber-shop life a better one.

Almost all of us on the board recently returned from the Society's Leadership Forum in Racine, Wisconsin, and we're charged up with new ideas and methods to help your chapter and mine have the best musical experience possible. You'll no doubt be hearing about much of this in the coming months, but in the meantime, as you formulate your chapter's plans for the year, call on any of us for help or ideas. If you're uncertain who to contact, give your Chapter Counselor a call. He's loaded with resources and will see that you get to the right person for assistance. Remember, we work for you, so let us know how we can help.

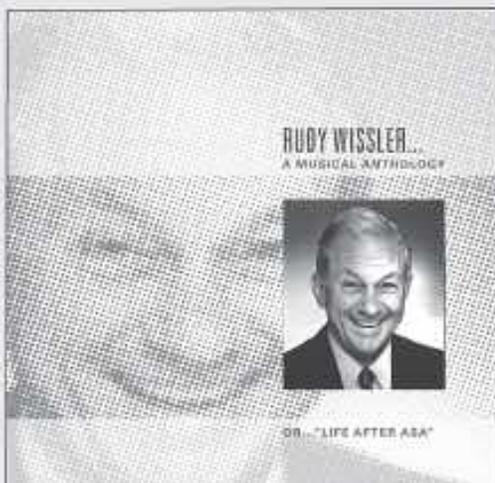
There are also several ways you can help yourself to have a better time at your weekly meetings and rehearsals. To start with, how about each one of you bringing someone new to a Chapter meeting? Introduce him to all of your singing brothers, and let him experience the joy of being surrounded by ringing chords. Remember how that felt the first time it happened to you? My guess is that you'll be making a new friend for life as well as enriching the membership of your own group.

Next on your list should be taking advantage of some of the many opportunities our Society offers by way of training and programs that will add to your enjoyment of our wonderful hobby. There are schools and coaches and workshops and music all designed to help your chorus, your quartet and you as an individual to make YOUR musical experience the best it can possibly be. Not sure where to start? Get in touch with your Chapter Counselor and ask him for help. Believe it or not, he's dying to connect you with the resources and people that will give you the materials to increase your singing adventure to the max!

Finally take a look outward to see where YOUR help and support might be needed. Is there a chapter nearby or down the road having problems? Maybe they're having trouble attracting new members; or they need a new music director; or they could use some help staging a show. Give them a call and see what you can do to give a hand. Set up a Chapter visitation or a joint social event. I assure you it will be a win/win situation.

So, have a great year full of music and song. We'll be talking from time to time, and if you ever have any questions, feel free to drop me a line.

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Join Rudy Wissler on a nostalgic musical journey through some of the 20th century's greatest tunes...including exclusive material from the soundtrack of "The Jolson Story!" Rudy provided the endearing singing voice for young Asa Yoelson and his vocals in the film have been treasured by Jolson fans for many decades.

But that was just the start. Rudy appeared on countless radio and television programs throughout the years and has starred in musical reviews and shows all over the country. Many of these performances including the barber-shop sets with The Pacificaires are included on this wonderful new CD!

He has never stopped singing the great old standards. The 24 tracks on this CD reflect the highlights of his fabulous career and include some tunes recently recorded just for this special release!

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[Bob Bisio, from page 2]

twelfth year in a body cast in a hospital bed with a viral infection that nearly killed him, and that his shortened leg and limp were the result. He never discussed his almost constant discomfort and he never allowed it to slow him down.

Bob was a remarkable elementary school teacher for decades, as was his beloved wife of 41 years who died of cancer 18 years ago. He had such enthusiasm for learning and knowledge that he made his students believe and share that enthusiasm. Many students remembered him fondly and stayed in touch with him for decades. He taught his students California's state song--a horrid song that only Bob's students, maybe a few thousand other Californians, and longer-term members of the San Francisco Chapter (because of Bob) know. He also taught barbershop songs to each of his fifth grade classes and proudly had them sing those songs for visitors. Bob was not the music teacher, but he taught barbershop harmony singing, anyway. One of his students now is a successful Hollywood producer; he made a special place in a movie for Bob perhaps 30 years after Bob had been his teacher because Bob always encouraged his artistic interest. Another student is a concert cellist; she has kept in touch with Bob throughout her career. When Bob retired, he was such a gifted teacher that his school district used him for over a decade to tutor its most difficult and hard-to-reach students. He touched every one of those students and turned many around. He also taught classes for adults for whom English often was a second language over those same years. He shared that same love and caring with his many friends in and out of barbershopping, as well.

Bob loved barbershop harmony. He loved singing. He loved his San Francisco Chapter. He loved all the great singers who were his friends over the years, starting with the pioneering quartets he knew and coached in his early years in the Society (the '50s) through the 139th Street Quartet. He worked tirelessly for all of these, but especially for barbershop harmony. Bob was never the strongest singer in the Society, so he found countless other ways to contribute. Not enough barbershoppers know of those contributions, because Bob shunned the spotlight, whether on stage, in the Harmonizer and Westunes, or when "leaders" handed out thanks to all those who had helped make an event a success. He was appreciative if people recognized him at conventions, but normally was content if people he cared about knew and acknowledged--privately--what he had done and contributed, if entertainers he helped appreciated that help in private, and if an idea succeeded and an event was a success. So many at Internationals and district events only knew of "that man with the cane." He could not hide completely, though, and was awarded the Far Western District's President's Award by Chuck Hunter, a friend who knew of all his behind-the-scenes contributions.

Let's review some of what Bob contributed, without fanfare:

- He was a judge in the '50s and '60s, when important ground-work was laid for the judging program. (He was named "Judge Emeritus" by the International judging program in 1986.)

- He played a key role in the formation and early development of Heritage Hall and served on its oversight committee for years.
- He was the FWD's first historian and wrote for several years the first history column in Westunes. It was a long-running ode to the Society's and Far Western District's pioneers and early events.
- He conceived the International Convention's World Harmony Jamboree and produced that show for 10 years.
- He conceived and hosted for three years an "oral history" session at International, during which early pioneers would reminisce about the quartets, chorus leaders, and characters who were so important to the establishment and growth of the Society in the '40s and '50s. These events were sparsely attended, but magical.
- He helped our British barbershoppers during the founding years of BABS and went to England every year (uncompensated) to provide further assistance.
- He was an integral part of the Society's External Affairs Committee for many years, the committee that worked so hard to expand barbershopping abroad.
- He was an essential member of the planning committee of the 1990 International Convention in San Francisco and my "major domo" (I chaired that convention) throughout convention week. He almost single-handedly was responsible for bringing Russia's first quartet, the Quiet Don Quartet, to that International.
- He stage-managed all district-wide contests in Northern California for most of the '70s and '80s, most of the San Francisco "Spectaculars" (a NorCal event to raise money for Logopedics), and the San Francisco Chapter shows written and directed by our friend Tom Shipp during the 1980s.

Perhaps one of Bob's last lucid times was late last year when the San Francisco Chapter visited his nursing home and sang his beloved barbershop harmony for him. He loved it! Bob Bisio was and should remain a beacon for those who love barbershop harmony. He evidenced that love throughout his barbershop career as one of the greatest "unsung heroes" we've had.

FWD Sunshine Chairman George McCay

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Let's All Participate

Well another year has gone by and my how time flies when you're having fun, so the saying goes.

About twenty Chapter Counselors met in Pasadena at the FWD Convention to share ideas, thoughts and mainly to just keep in touch with each other. There were a lot of great stories that were shared as well. Following are just some of the great ideas that were discussed:

- Teleconferencing can be a good way to communicate with chapters
- Needs to be some kind of incentive for non competing choruses to send representation to HOD
- Chapters need to budget for Delegate(s) to attend HOD
- Needs to be a better way to make HOD meetings more meaningful
- CCs need to do better job of encouraging chapters to attend HOD
- CCs need to encourage recruitment in their chapters
- Use the YMIH program as a possible means
- Get into local high schools and put on benefits to help raise money for the HS music program
- CCs are encouraged to "visit" chapters on a regular basis
- Every CC needs to contact their chapters to encourage participation in FWD activities (i.e. COTS, Spring convention etc)
- Instigate inter-chapter meetings with your chapters
- Encourage chapters to sponsor a high school quartet for the Spring convention in Reno in 2006
- CCs need to be better salesmen; never take "no" for an answer
- Become a "good friend" with each of your chapters
- Chapters need to "elect" a HOD representative and that electee should be made aware of his job responsibilities
- Encourage Chapter Presidents to share information with other chapter Presidents
- Recognize "dying" chapters in a positive way and offer suggestions to help them survive

In Summary, better communication and better participation is the key to our success. It's been a great year for me. I hope it has for you.

Stay tuned.

FWD Spring Convention in Reno
March 16-19, 2006
Let's Get Our Conventions Singing Again
Come Join in the FUN!

Chorus Director Development: Programs and Training for Lifelong Learning

After serving several years on the FWD Long Range Planning Committee, including the past two years as chairman, I am delighted to step up into Jim Turnmire's shoes and take on the chairmanship role of the Chorus Director Development Committee. I ask you all to send a big thank you to Jim for his many years of service as the CDD chair for our district. And for those who weren't aware, Jim WAS the CDD committee for our very large district; a committee of ONE.

I had the pleasure of attending my first Society Leadership Forum in Racine during the last week of October. It was informative, thought-provoking and energizing. I hope I can take some of that energy and get it out to my brother directors around the district. An important part of my job is to be a resource to directors and their chapters. To help me better identify the many varied needs, directors should expect to receive an online survey in the next few weeks.

The Society has a number of programs available for chorus directors, assistants, and other members of the chapter music team. A summary of each program follows.

Director of the Future (DoF)

The Director of the Future Day is a one-day workshop for section leaders, warm-up leaders, chorus vocal coaches, assistant directors and directors who want to improve basic directing, leadership and teaching skills. Anyone who aspires to be a director or a member of their chapter's music team should also participate in this workshop.

Directors College

The directing track of the new Harmony University, this week long experience for all directors will enhance their learning in directing skills, vocal production, performance, teaching skills, rehearsal techniques and music theory. Active assistant and associate directors have also found Directors College to be useful in improving their skills, especially if they aspire to become a front-line director some day.

Scholarships to Directors College

- Each District has been awarded scholarships by the Society Board and Harmony Foundation for Director's College scheduled for 2006. The number of scholarships available will be determined at the Mid-Winter Convention in January. FWD expects to receive eight to ten scholarships.
- Top priority for these scholarships will be given to front-

- line directors who have not yet attended Directors College.
- Frontline directors who have attended previously and assistants who have not attended may now be eligible.
- The demand for these scholarships around the Society is quite significant so contact me immediately to apply. I need to receive applications no later than March 1, 2006.
- For further information contact Bill Rashleigh: BRashleigh@barbershop.org.

Certification Program

For directors who are interested in monitoring their lifelong learning as they become more competent and trained directors. The program was revised last year to recognize six different levels of certification. More information can be found on the Society web site and will also be featured in a future Westunes article.

Chorus Director Workshop Intensive (CDWI I and II)

These are one day workshops for five frontline directors coached by two certified trainers. The day is designed to meet the needs of the individual director. The training is flexible, dynamic and a valuable opportunity for directors to enhance their frontline teaching and conducting skills. Participating directors have rated over 150 workshops a success average of 95%.

CDWI the Next Level

This is a one-on-one coaching opportunity for the director and the entire administrative, musical and leadership team with a certified trainer. Prior to the coaching session the trainer views and comments on a video of an earlier chapter meeting and summarizes questionnaires received from the director and chorus members. The trainer meets early with the director, executive and music team to review the written comments. Together they prioritize the areas for growth and the specific areas are addressed by the trainer during coaching the regular rehearsal. A second video is recorded 4-6 weeks later and chapter members are surveyed in a follow-up questionnaire. The Next Level program requires that the director has attended a CDWI I workshop.



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Late Tuesday afternoon, October 25, Terry was at his office when he suffered a massive stroke that paralyzed his left side from his shoulder to his foot. As Westunes was being prepared, Terry is able to swallow and talk, and his sense of humor is still intact.

We would ask that cards and letters be sent to him and would be greatly appreciated. He could read them during the days and enjoy your warm wishes. Please mail cards and letters to his home and not the hospital. Mail to: Sandi Aramian, 29854 Corte Castille, Temecula CA 92591



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The District Spring Convention will be here before we know it and there are lots of classes planned for Friday, March 17.

But come up a day early so you can be part of the Jump Start Barbershop Quartet Contest. This is the impromptu contest where you choose the singers on the spot, then compete for the medals. The contest is a bit unusual in that breaking the normal rules is part of the fun. You can be in up to four quartets if you change parts each time. That and singing barbershop are 'bout the only rules we hold you to.

By arriving Thursday you'll be ready for the classes starting Friday morning. There will be Vocal Coaching, Tag Singing, Chorus Du Jour (you are it), and more. I'm still working on the details. Watch for the FWDNotes email about a month before the convention. And the district website will have all the details to at www.spebsqsafwd.org.

I'm also working on a plan to make sure that lots of hallway singing takes place, so make your reservation now for Reno. Forms are on the FWD website as well as in Westunes.



Chair: Events
Chuck Leavitt
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 Danville, CA 94506
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 E: ChuckLeav@aol.com

You have read elsewhere all about our great Fall Convention and contest in Pasadena. The nuts and bolts success is mainly due to Chairman Bill Rosica and the team from Masters of Harmony. Great job everyone! Our super FWD Events team also did a bang up job. Sam Barger, outgoing Events Committee Chairman, managed the event. The skills of other members of the committee are also appreciated: Bob Cathaway handled the registrations, Doug Maddox directed the stage activities for the contest and shows, Bill Stephens ran the sound and video with the house crew and Carl Truman managed the contestant flow from planning to execution.

I am proud to be stepping into some pretty big shoes. Sam Barger has been the FWD Events Chairman for more years than he cares to think about. Our District Events committee is among the best – I think THE best. As a member of the Society Events Committee for the past six years, I've seen what other districts are doing. Sam and his team have put on some of the most successful conventions and special events in the society. They have also put together an outstanding "how to" book that captures les-

sons learned and provides new convention and events chairmen with a roadmap to success. I want to say THANKS to the entire team. I hope we can continue the good work together.

The first step in planning any event is finding an affordable venue that meets our needs. This is especially true of division contests. You can help! Does your town or school have a performing arts center that will seat 500 to 800 people? Are there hotels, motels and restaurants nearby? Are you reasonably close to a major airport? (a big plus). If you know of a place that might work for a division contest, e-mail the venue name to me along with a contact person if you know one. With all the new growth throughout our district, I'm sure there are MANY new suitable venues – we just have to find them.

District Conventions require the same things only more. The venue needs to hold 2000 to 3000 people with convention capable hotels and plenty of motels and restaurants nearby. Again, please email me if you have a good venue candidate.

I'm looking forward to 2006. I hope to see you March 16 – 19 at the FWD Spring Convention and NorCal East Division contest in Reno.

In harmony,



Chair : Marketing & Public Relations
Michael S. Frazer, MBA
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IS YOUR CHAPTER READY TO GROW?

As we come to the close of another fantastic year, even with all of our assorted holiday programs in the works, we should be looking at the state of our chapters, as we look to the New Year. Is your chapter ready to grow? You may respond yes, and wonder why I would ask such a question? At the recently completed Leadership Forum with Management Teams from each district and our Society leaders, we began to address this question, in the various ways that each team member could make a difference in their own districts.

If you are the chapter Marketing and/or Public Relations Officer, are you playing a part in creating an environment that makes your guests feel welcome? Do you work with your Membership Officer to co-ordinate contact information, and perform an effective follow-up to the guest appearance at your rehearsal night, so that the guest feels that they are truly noticed, and that their presence means something to someone? Do you have a buddy system in place that matches a member with a guest, so that the guest doesn't feel alone, and have to try and sing without any help? If you are the Director, are you working in co-ordination with your chapter Membership Officer, in order to know who the

guest is, to make the guest feel welcome, and to provide a formal welcome in front of the membership of your chapter? Do you sing something like "You're As Welcome As The Flowers In May" for your guests so that they might be able to stand in front of the members and hear how great four-part Barbershop Harmony really sounds?

As we get ready to unveil a new membership program for the Society, which will benefit all in the Society in the next year, take a minute to sit down with your chapter leadership team and make sure that you have a system in place to help your chapter grow in the New Year. If you don't already have a program in place and want help doing this, please contact me @ Field_Auditor@prodigy.net as we have a team of leaders at your district level who can help you get ready to grow, by making your chapter meeting a place that guests will want to come back to again and again.

Let's get ready to grow, and make the Far Western District a leader again.



Chair : Member Services
Clark Abrahamson
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Howdy – from a new perspective!

I'm changing hats again – harder to pin me down that way, don'tcha know...this time around, in 2006, I'll be your Membership Services Chairman.

Lots of ideas for the coming year – like, fer instance:

Working with ChorusDirectors to encourage them to take on a persona as "userfriendly" as possible – the desired results being: Guests who feel more welcome

New (and old) members who feel more appreciated

Working with ChapterLeaders to make sure they have an effective orientation plan for new members.

Working with ChapterMarketing/PR guys to explore new and better ways to Market membership.

Extend the "UCANSING2" and other Society membership programs into the coming year, taking advantage of what we learned this year.

I'll be looking for help – lots of it, in the form of committees, task forces, focus groups – whatever. Can you help? Got ideas? Wanna be involved? I'll be all ears! Drop me an email (c.abrahamson@comcast.net), call me (916-983-1141), or send me a note (186 Big Valley Road, Folsom, CA 95630).

In the meantime, this bit of doggerel – with apologies to Satchmo:

My Membership Vision (sing it , if you like, to the tune, "What a Wonderful World")

I see chapters sing, have fun, and thrive
They're growing too - they're so alive
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world!

I see happy guys – they love it here
They come to join from far and near
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world!

Chorus:

All chapters of all sizes, filling everybody's needs
The colors of the rainbow – all races, ages, creeds
I see friends greeting friends, ringing chords all around
All celebrating our glorious sound
I see all of us as brothers soon
All harmonizing our favorite tune
And I think to myself, what a wonderful world!

- see 'ya around -



Chair: Music & Performance
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Review HCW 2005 Preview HCW 2006

From all reports, Harmony College West 2005 was an outstanding success. We had over 200 registrations, the largest number ever. Keith Eckhardt, the FWD Webmaster, emailed evaluations to every one registered who had an email address. He got a 44% response! There were eleven questions, each followed by a space for comments. The questions asked about transportation, classes, coaching, dorm facilities, quality of staff, etc. The final question asked them to rate HCW 2005 over all. There were five possible answers: 1. Very Satisfied 2. Satisfied 3. Neutral 4. Unsatisfied 5. Very Unsatisfied. 97% responded Very Satisfied or Satisfied! And of those, 80% replied they were Very Satisfied.

Not only that, but there were a multitude of comments and suggestions from more than half of those who responded. Already many of them have been put into place in planning for HCW 2006.

Next year Harmony College West will be held on the campus of the University of Redlands. The dates, [and put these in your date book] are July 21,22, and 23, 2006. In response to your comments last year about the lack of air conditioning in some rooms, we will be housed in two different dorms, both of which have been recently remodeled, refurbished and all rooms have air conditioning. Many of the rooms have new furnishings. Also, in response to your requests, the Saturday night show will not be held in the hot Memorial Chapel. We will have it in a air conditioned theater, Clock Auditorium, on the campus of Redlands

High School, less than five minutes from the UofR campus. The staff is already being assembled, and you can bet it will be as good or better than 2005!!! More later on classes which will be offered.

A New Quartet Workshop Format

This past July 23rd the San Clemente Chapter hosted a quartet workshop in Mission Viejo, which was based entirely on teaching and coaching basic quartet skills. It was limited to eight quartets and eight coaches. Each coach worked on a different skill. After the first 40 minute coaching/teaching session the coach left and each quartet member filled out an evaluation as to how well the coach accomplished certain goals. Two more sessions on different skills were followed by another session with a different coach reviewing the first three skills. Evaluations were filled out after each coaching session. Lunch was followed by three more skills coached/taught by three different coaches and the final session of reviewing the last three skills.

Each individual quartet member handed in his evaluation before leaving. Each coach filled out an evaluation of the entire workshop before he left. The response was absolutely overwhelming! The quartets rated the coaches of five different areas and all the coaches received scores of between 9.25 and 9.91! The coaches evaluations of seven aspects of the workshop ranged, on a scale of 1 to 10, 10 being the best, from 8.3 to 9.9!

Based on the incredibly positive responses of both quartets and coaches, it has been decided to hold quartet workshops in each of the five Divisions of the FWD, following, as closely as possible, the Guidelines For Conduction a Quartet Workshop. The cost per quartet for the Mission Viejo Workshop was \$75 per quartet. The budget is shown in the Guidelines. Costs may vary, but should center around \$20 per quartet member. What a bargain!

If your quartet would like to participate in one of these workshops, contact your Division Vice President. If your chapter would like to host a workshop, please contact me. Copies of the Guidelines For Conducting A Quartet Workshop can be obtained by contacting me at my email address: jerryfairchild@verizon.net



Chair : Young Men In Harmony
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Support the High School Quartet Contest

A flagship of the Far Western District youth outreach program is the annual high school quartet contest, held as part of the Spring convention in March. This event, which began 15 years ago, has

provided hundreds of young men with their first taste of barber-shopping. More than a handful of FWD barbershoppers – including some wearing chorus and quartet medals – got their start as HSQ competitors, including the founders of the Westminster Chorus, our current FWD champs.

The HSQ became a key event at our Spring convention, with usually a dozen or so quartets – one year 21 quartets – participating. We've even had guest entries from other districts, where they had no such competition. But in the last couple years, the number has fallen to as few as five quartet entries. Conflicts with other school events is one factor, but another reason seems to be the cost of travel to the convention.

Providing transportation for a high school quartet to the District convention may be one of the best investments any chapter can make in the future of our Society.

The District Youth Education Fund provides cash awards – on the order of a few hundred dollars each – to the music programs of the schools the boys represent. But this hardly covers the cost of the trip, with travel, rooms and meals included.

Two years ago the Aloha Chapter had a high school quartet contest. First prize was a trip to the mainland for the District finals. The boys from Aloha won! (Which created some interesting challenges re transporting the trophy to Hawaii and back, but that's another story.) The point is, if the Aloha Chapter can send a quartet 2,000 miles, why can't more of our nearby chapters do it?

The young men not only get to perform for the most appreciative audience in the world, they get coached and critiqued by some of the best quartet talent in the world – the judging panel the last two years has included Gotcha and Metropolis – they get to see the regular quartet competition, hang out and sing tags with each other and the top quartets, and consume copious amounts of pizza and coke in their own hospitality suite.

Years ago our chapters demonstrated a phenomenal ability to raise funds for another youth-related cause. The high school quartet contest is about as worthy a cause as there is. It's time now to make your plans for the 2006 round. Send a quartet to one of the novice contests, or organize your own chapter contest – like the Santa Clarita Valley Chapter each January -- to encourage participation. Exposure – certainly not membership – is the goal. Help young men take that first step to the mic, taste those chords -- and then go for it at District. You'll enjoy it as much as they will.

NOTE: FWD high school quartet contest chairman is Bruce Sellnow. See the District web site for details.

FWD Spring Convention in Reno
March 16-19, 2006
Let's Get Our Conventions Singing Again
Come Join in the FUN!

Ron Murray, Placerville Chapter YMIH VP. reports

Janet Matranga [FWD 2004 Music Educator Of The Year] commented that she has 35 young men in her 2005 Baritone chorus, which exceeds all the years that she has taught at Ponderosa High School in Shingle Springs. When asked if she thought it was because of the **Placerville Chapter** school programs, she responded with a resounding **YES!** The Barbershop style of singing has been an unbelievable recruitment tool and that all the students, male and female, love it.



VP - Financial Development
Harmony Foundation

Robb Ollett

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Giving to something that supports YOU

I know so many charities send mailings at the end of the year, drives you nuts doesn't it? But isn't it nice to know that you can CHOOSE your favorite charity? And wouldn't it be great to give to one that supports the future of your singing hobby??

Well, give to Harmony Foundation!! There are so many ways:

Ambassadors in Song – the recent Harmonizer announced this new program offering monthly payments toward overarching Society programs (e.g. scholarships for directors, marketing the Society, youth camps and seminars).

Donor Choice – regardless of the gift, a percentage can be allocated back to the district or your chapter.

Presidents Council – an annual giving program beginning at \$1000 per year (payment by credit card monthly). Benefits include preferred seating and Gala Celebration at the International Convention and free contest recordings.

Founders Club – the original program started in the 1980s to create an endowment. Those involved provided either an outright gift (minimum \$1000) or a planned gift (e.g. bequest, life insurance, charitable trust, estate portion).

Tributes (Keep a Melody Ringing Fund) – remembering fellow Barbershoppers who have “joined the chorus in the sky” or family member to celebrate the wonderful occasions of their friendship through our barbershop life.

All of these provide YOU options to give at a level that is appropriate at any given time. And it supports the hobby you love the most. Isn't that what you want to do?? I already have!

So let's B# - Best wishes for the holidays and see you in the New Year!!



2005 FWD Quartet Champions Hi-Fidelity

by Craig, Tom, Gregg and Martin

There are no words to describe how thrilled and honored the members of Hi<Fidelity are to be your 2005-2006 Far Western District Quartet Champions! It has been a long, interesting and rewarding road!

It would be impossible to thank everyone who played a part in our success so far but we must publicly recognize just a few of our family and friends who have been there since the beginning!

First we must say an enormous, affectionate thanks to our amazing wives! Marie, Dee Dee, Anna and Tresa, you are THE BEST! Without your encouragement, patience and tolerance, we would have never made it to this point. We love you!

Also, we must thank our core group of coaches who have worked with us over the last few years. Mark Hale, Brett Littlefield, Gary Bowles, Kim Hulbert, Sandy Robinson, Gary Steinkamp and Dawn (DC) Castiglione. To all of you, (and the others we haven't mentioned) we are proud to be your friends and humbled by your willingness to share your time and talent with us. Your commitment and desire to help us be the best we can be are rare gifts. THANK YOU!

Finally, a huge thank you to both the Masters Of Harmony and the Fullerton Chapter for their never-ending, never-failing, never-wavering support of our quartet. Both of these choruses are filled with fine men and great leaders who have afforded us many opportunities to perform and learn.

Early on, Hi<Fidelity made a commitment to ourselves that we would be a quartet that was focused on the journey, not just the destination. Naturally we all wanted to win District someday, but that was definitely not our only goal! We knew that it is not enough just to sing well, but we must stand the test of time as well. This has as much to do with luck and good timing as talent and dedication. We decided that the sheer fun of singing,

ringing chords, and performing together would be our primary reward.

We wanted to be known as an entertaining quartet that wasn't afraid to take some risks, and represented our chapters, District and Society in the finest way possible. We wanted to make new friends around the country and sing tags until dawn in exotic places. Mostly, we wanted to do lots of shows and stay busy bringing our special brand of barbershop to new audiences. How busy you ask?

A quick review of our schedule reminds us that in a little over 4 years Hi<Fidelity has performed in 9 different states and 2 countries on 53 shows, 8 educational events, 16 contests and 2 television commercials. In our spare time we produced our first CD, ALMOST LIVE! and won gold medals with the Masters of Harmony. Yes, we've stayed busy!

Early on, one of coaches told us to start thinking about who we were and how we did things because someday, someone would ask. She was right. We get LOTS of questions. Here are just a few of the common questions, along with the real answers. (Not the joke answers we give you in person!)

Q: Aren't you the guys who did the Munster's Package?

A: No, but we did do the Addams Family package. We used it to get our first medal at District and win Grand Champion's at the Buckeye Invitational!

Q: Does Gregg get hot under the Cousin Itt hair?

A: Yes. It's like a rainforest under there. Not a pretty site.

Q: How many key changes are in that "Blackbird" song?

A: We have identified 24. Sometimes we actually get them all! It starts and ends in the same key. ("A" for those of you who were wondering)

Q: Who does your arrangements?

A: Most of our more clever arrangements have come from Tom Gentry. He is the genius behind "Blackbird", "I'll Never Say Never Again, Again" and our Metropolis parody, "The Love-Eye's Mess". Recently we've also added Clay Hine of FRED fame to our "favorites" list!

Q: Who writes your funny lyrics?

A: It's a group effort. Martin and Craig do most of the "heavy lifting", although Tom and Gregg have put in their fair share of zingers too (well, not really Tom). Recently we had a lot of help from our friend Rich Hasty who did a fantastic job of taking Martin's idea for "Old Quartet Of Mine" and turning into the masterpiece parody we just did at District.

Q: Who's the funny one in the quartet?

A: It depends on who you ask. Each of us has our moments (well, not really Tom). One thing we have learned is that only

[Continues on page 12]

[From page 11]

about 1 idea out of 20 is still funny the day after you think of it. Also, it's MUCH harder to be funny than just stand there and sing.

Q: Is Martin really from Buffalo?

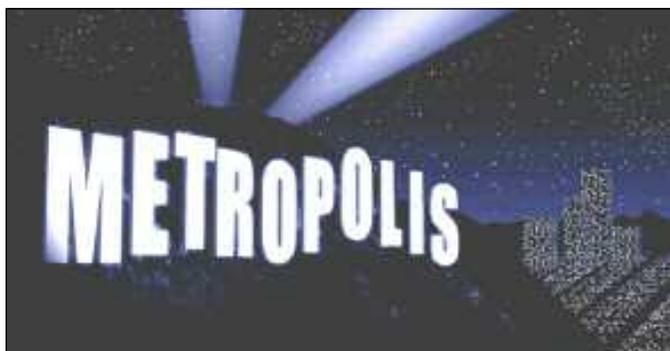
A: No, that's just part of the act. Martin was born in Van Nuys.

In future articles, we'll tell you more about the guys of Hi-Fidelity and the amazing road that got each of us where we are today. In the meantime, please visit our website at www.hifi-fidelityquartet.com. You can check our schedule for upcoming appearances, see some cool photos, sign our guestbook, ask a question, or even book us for a show! (There are a few dates in 2006 which are still open!)

We love you!



Dave Gryvnak, President, Orange Quartet Chapter, presents \$2,000 check to John Krizek, FWD YMIH Chairman to support the Far Western District Young Men in Harmony Program.



• c/o 2206 Rockefeller Lane, #3 - Redondo Beach, CA 90278
Metropolis@harmonize.com <http://www.harmonize.com/metropolis>

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2005 FWD Chorus Champions Westminster

Russ Squires – VP Operations

On October 15, 2005 The Westminster Chorus achieved a dream by winning the Far Western District Chorus Competition in Pasadena, California and thus earning the right to represent the Far Western District at the International Competition in Indianapolis next summer. We would like to extend our deepest thanks to all of our supporters and take a brief moment and share with you a little bit of the journey this chorus has been on since we were last your champions.

At the Far Western District Competition in October of 2004, The Westminster Chorus was honored to sing away the trophy. The performance capped off an incredible year highlighted by a 9th place finish at the International Competition in Louisville. This chorus, with its unique approach to the Barbershop style, had accomplished something none of its founders could have ever dreamed of. The 29 guys who were honored to perform in Louisville had created memories that will truly last a lifetime. The chorus had chosen to sit out this current contest cycle for several reasons, the first of which was the commitment of the chorus founders to our big brother chorus, the Masters of Harmony. All of the original five founding members had sang with the MOH at one point in their lives and many of the other young men in the chorus wanted the opportunity to win an International title, and just as importantly spend a year learning from one of the greatest barbershop talents today, Mark Hale. The Westminster Chorus always has, and always will strive to differentiate ourselves from any other chorus, but the support the Masters have shown us has been instrumental to our success at every level.

Perhaps the biggest reason though was we were at a musical crossroads. Terry Ghiselli, our Director and more importantly, the guy who really kept this chorus together through thick and thin, found himself at a personal crossroad. He had a growing family including young twin boys and an opportunity to strengthen his career by making a move to Houston, Texas. It was with great regret that he made the announcement to the audience that night in Bakersfield, but with the hope that the chorus leadership would push on and try to grow the chorus to even greater heights.

Although many names were mentioned as possible successors, the name that instantly rose to the top was none other than Royce Ferguson, Tenor of the 1998 International Quartet Champions Revival, and close friend to many in the chorus. Although Royce was a few years older than the average member, his amazing musicianship, along with the respect he had earned from the chorus leadership made him a natural fit. Royce was asked to come on board and help remold this chorus from a novelty into a serious contender in the competitive Barbershop world. He stepped up to the challenge with vigor and found himself in control of a very unique musical instrument.

In May of 2005, Royce took a chorus of 30 guys to the divisional competition and with but a few rehearsals this chorus learned a rather difficult new uptune including a choreography package that was taught only two weeks before. In typical Westminster tradition the young guys stepped up to the task and we barely lost a beat winning the So-Cal East competition and qualifying second overall for the upcoming District competition. Now, the real work would begin!

For what seemed like the first time, this chorus was going into a competition as a clear underdog. Although the Masters of Harmony would be sitting out due to their recent International Championship performance in Salt Lake City, Phoenix was coming in having placed 8th and posting incredible scores. The reality set in on our guys that we were going to have to really work hard to pull this thing off. The typical Westminster attendance policy of show up when you feel like it wouldn't really work anymore. We also knew we had a great opportunity to build and took on the challenge of continuing to grow this chorus by adding more singers from our demographic. By adding almost 20 brand new Society members to the roster, a more regular schedule, and believe it or not, riser discipline, this chorus was able to step up the challenge.

That Saturday in October will remain in all of our hearts for a long, long time. The overwhelming support that the chorus received from the audience is a testament to the fact that the Far Western District is truly the greatest District in this Society. What we gave to you with our performance was only a spec of dust compared to the emotion you poured back on us through your applause. This chorus is more determined than ever to take that next step. We are going into International ranked third overall behind only the Vocal Majority and the Toronto Northern Lights! How crazy is that? We promise that if you continue to support us the way you have, we will put all our efforts into finishing strong on in Indianapolis!

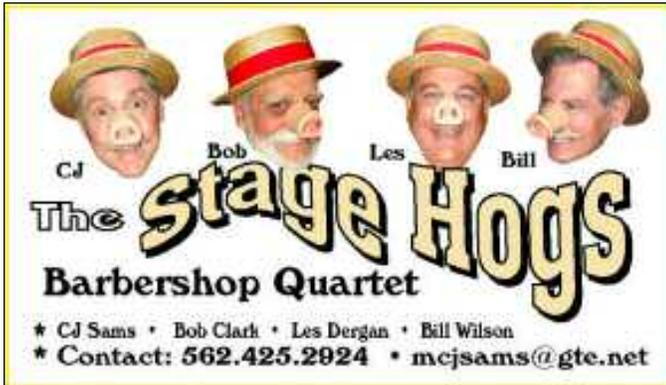
(stay in touch with The Westminster Chorus online at www.harmonize.com/westminster)

**FWD Spring Convention in Reno
March 16-19, 2006
Let's Get Our Conventions Singing Again
Come Join in the FUN!**

PAL-PAC HOT AUGUST NITE!

by Bill Nielsen

**FWD Spring Convention in Reno
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Come Join in the FUN!**



August 30, 2005, was the fifth Tuesday in the month, and a PAL-PAC in Escondido, that means novice quartet contest time. And what a time it was!

Ramroded by President **Al Leuthe**, our second annual novice quartet contest was opened by **Marv Ewing** who introduced our guest quartet **Who Invited Them** to a hot popping mike. The quartet made up of various San Diego county chapter members did a bang-up job.

Terry Aramian then took over the MC job. The honoree of the night was **Pete Monzo**, long time barbershopper (1958) and multi-quartet lead. Most notably from the **Upside-Downeys** of some years back. His wife and daughter helped with some personal stories.

Five quartets competed. Judges were members of **Singers Limited**, with everybody's favorite sound man, **Emmet Bossing** subbing for mc Terry.

While the judges completed their scoring sheets, last years winning quartet, **Sound Design** did a nice set, sounding very good.

A fun thing was the judging comments, particularly those of **Jim McKee**, lead of **Singers Ltd**. Wish I had it taped. **Exact Change** came out the winners in an exciting contest.

Singers Ltd closed out the night with a four song set. Those fellows are sounding real solid and entertaining and should be making a name for themselves in competition soon.

The meeting was closed with some very hopped-up singing by the whole crowd, directed by **Lloyd Steinkamp**. Can't wait til next year.

Operation Revival

by Bruce K. Campbell

Sept. 27, 2005 Our rehearsal hall was filled with members, former barbershoppers, guests and several top flight quartets, including the **Sands of Time** to celebrate our "kickoff" to bring our chapter back up to full strength. The **Apple Valley Chapter** and we will be working together in presenting our respective Christmas shows. Our director of Chapter Development, **John Ihlenfeldt**, masterminded this event and with the help of other members produced advertising brochures, Xmas flyers, business cards as well as a program for the evening. The forty plus in attendance were serenaded by several quartets along with some audience participation and, of course, woodshedding. We were then treated to many wonderful desserts, punch and coffee. This was a wonderful way to see some old buddies and to develop great enthusiasm for rejuvenating our chapter. Call John 818-842-7030 for info on creating a fun night for your chapter.



2005 International Chorus Champions Santa Fe Springs [Masters of Harmony]

by Dane Hutchins

“Dedicated to Musical Excellence”

During conversations with members from other BHS chapters, many have expressed that they naturally expect us to currently be in a slow cycle, since we’re out of the contest rotation until 2007. In fact, the Masters of Harmony has been even more active than usual, with a growing number of organizational and performance events and activities, including:

- Our Guest Night, September 14th, in support of the Society’s UCanSing2 program
- Another CD recording session, September 17th
- Our first performance in what we hope will become an annual event, at the Bakersfield Community Concert Association, September 25th
- Hosting the FWD Fall Convention in Pasadena, October 13-16

To truly live up to our statement of purpose, “Dedicated to Musical Excellence”, under the guidance of Music Director, Mr. Mark Hale, along with the Music Team and the Board of Directors, the Masters are redoubling efforts to “ramp up” on all aspects of performance quality now, instead of relaxing a bit during the non-contest cycles, then working extra hard as we begin preparing for the next competition. Our goal, after all, is not to win a contest every few years, but to become the best performers we can be. Toward that end, in addition to ever-increasing attention to performance detail during regular rehearsals, our organizational teams are developing exciting plans and programs to boost our chapter’s and our society’s involvement and public recognition within the world of professional entertainment.

FWD Preview

Just prior to the FWD Convention, Masters was very pleased to have several competitors show up at our October 12th rehearsal to present their contest sets to a live (and very appreciative) audience. Joining us were choruses - Rincon Beach and The Westminster Chorus, as well as quartets - Entourage, The Club and Hi-Fidelity, confirming that the FWD will continue to be one of the most competitive districts in the BHS for years to come.

Convention Hosting Team

Hosting a convention to accommodate the personnel and activities of the FWD requires high-order pre-planning and smooth execution by a considerable number of people. Our man in charge of the event was our own Mr. Bill Rosica, who did a superb job of coordinating the efforts of over fifty MOH members and their spouses, resulting in a thoroughly enjoyable convention and contest. The MOH were particularly pleased to “strut our stuff” for visiting dignitaries, including FWD President, Peter Feeney and the new BHS CEO, Ed Watson, both of whom expressed their appreciation to the convention team for producing such an excellent event for all the attending FWD members, friends and families.

2006 Officers Elected

The officers listed below were elected in the general elections held September 28th:

President	Ken Custer
Immediate Past Pres	Bernard Priceman
VP Public Relations	John Francis
Secretary	Ron Van Winkle
Treasurer	Mark Matonic
VP Chapter Development	Kirt Thiesmeyer
VP Communications	Frank Ortega
VP Marketing	Gary DePew
VP Music & Performance	Marlin Fors
VP Operations	Bruce Oldham
Board Members At Large	Les Dergan, Scott Hansen, Justin Miller, Jack Peters, Rich Owen, Jay Friedman

Red Letter Day – Our 20th Anniversary

Happy anniversary to us! The Foothill Cities Chapter (now the Santa Fe Springs chapter) was chartered on October 1, 1985.

The founding members who started it all:

Gary Ahlfeldt, Gregg Bernhard, Terry Blumenthal, Joe D’Amore, John Dandrea, Jeff Ebner, Terry Engels, Jay Friedman, Don Frost, Bob Hagelbarger, John Hannah, Rich Hasty, Ron Hillary, Jim Holder, John Hyke, Jon Jessop, J. Nils Lindstrom, Neil Maiers, Mark McKenzie, Wayne Mendes, Marlin Niesley, Joe Palmieri, Kenny Rios, Sr., Bill Roth, Woody Sinclair, Rich Stanford, Gene Taylor, Ron Taylor, Garry Texeira, Carl Walters and Kevin Wood.

Membership Changes

Several new members have joined the MOH ranks. Since our last report, Mark Samuels, Tom Schleier and Bobby Martinez are officially on the rolls. Several additional applicants are in the pipeline and we’ll be welcoming them as we prepare for the busy season ahead. New emeritus members include Terry Blumenthal and Bob Cossentine.

Masters Online Events

Our website continues to expand, both technically and in the tracking of upcoming events. Browse our complete schedule at www.mastersofharmony.org. (If you haven’t seen our website recently, you’ll be pleased by the improvements.)

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Pasadena Hilton, October 13, 2005

Terry Aramian 1986-87
Lloyd Steinkamp 1990-91
Don Gubbins 1994-95
Deane Scoville 2000-01

Chuck Hunter 1988-89
Dick Girvin 1992-93
Carl Truman 1998-99
John Krizek 2002-2003

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by President Feeney at 7:05 p.m., Thursday, October 14, 2005. Present were:

Peter Feeney, FWD President
Bill Cale, Executive Vice President
John Krizek, Immediate Past President
Dick Whitten, DVP NorCal West/Hawaii
Clark Abrahamson, DVP NorCal East/Northern Nevada
Bob Lally, DVP SoCal West
Bernard Priceman, DVP SoCal East
Ivan Jensen, DVP Arizona/So. Nevada/So. Utah
Jim Sherman, Treasurer
Dick Girvin, Secretary
Mike Lanctot, Paired SBM (Non-Voting)

Supplementing the reports in the Delegates' Brochure, the following motions were presented to the board.

Motion 1: (MSP) To approve the minutes of the previous (Summer) meeting.

Motion 2: (MSP) To approve the agenda for the meeting

Motion 3: (MSP) To approve the change of name and location of the *San Juan Capistrano Chapter* to the *San Clemente Chapter* in the town of the same name.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:57 p.m

Respectfully submitted, Dick Girvin, FWD Secretary

Far Western District Fall House of Delegates Meeting

Pasadena, California, 2 p.m. Friday, October 14, 2005

MINUTES

President Feeney called the Fall FWD House of Delegates to order at 2 p.m. Friday, October 14, 2005. Present were:

Board Members (10)

Peter Feeney, President
Bill Cale, Executive Vice President
Dick Girvin, Secretary
Jim Sherman, Treasurer
Bob Lally, Div. 1--DVP SoCal West
Bernard Priceman, Div. 2- DVP -SoCal East
Dick Whitten, Div 3-- DVP NorCal West/Hawaii
Ivan Jensen, Div. 5-- DVP Arizona, So. Nevada So Utah
John Krizek, Immediate Past President
Clark Abrahamson, Div. 4--NorCal East NorNev

Past Presidents (12)

Sam Aramian 1968-69 Lynn Brittan 1970-71
Fred Koch 1980-82 Sam Barger 1984-85

Chapters Present (36)

Bay Area Metro	Prescott	Santa Barbara
Central California	Reno	Santa Fe Springs
Coachella Valley	Rincon Beach	Santa Maria
Conejo Valley	Riverside	Santa Rosa
Fullerton	Rohnert Park	South Bay
Greater Phoenix	Sacramento	Stockton
Irvine	San Diego	Sun Cities
Mesa	San Fernando Valley	Tucson
Orange (Quartet)	San Francisco Bay Cities	Walnut Creek
Palo Alto-Mountain View	San Jose	Westminster
Palomar Pacific	San Juan Capistrano	White Mountains
Placerville	San Luis Obispo	Whittier

Distinguished Guests (Non voting)

Ed Watson, CEO BHS
Mike Lanctot, SBM
Clarke Caldwell, President and CEO, Harmony Foundation

The following actions were taken by the FWD House of Delegates:

Motion 1. MSP Approval of the recommendation of the Chairman of the C&J Committee to continue the qualifying scores for 2006: Choruses 60%; quartets 65%.

Motion 2. MSP Approve the agenda.

Motion 3. MSP Approve the minutes of the Spring HOD meeting.

Motion 4. MSP To receive the reports as published in the current Delegates' Brochure.

Motion 5. MSP To approve the budget as published in the current Delegates' Brochure.

Motion 6. MSP To accept for implementation the new Plateau System as published in the current Delegates' Brochure.

Motion 7. MSF To table motion 6.

Motion 8. MSP To approve the increase of district convention registration fees from \$30 to \$40

Motion 9. MSP To approve the increase of divisional convention registration fees from \$25 to \$30.

Motion 10. MSP To approve the changes in the current SOP as published in the current Delegates' Brochure.

Motion 11. MSP To recommend to International that the Society goes back to the old logo.

Motion 12. MSP To accept the slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Committee for FWB BOD for 2006.

Motion 13. To adjourn

President Feeney identified the next HOD meeting to be in Reno, Nevada on March 17, 2006

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted, Dick Girvin, Secretary

FIRST (AND LAST) CALL FOR FWD BULLETINS

By Dick Girvin, FWD District Bulletin Coordinator

Here is the call for bulletins for the **2006** Far Western District Bulletin Contest. All FWD Bulletin Editors who have published **six** or more *monthly* issues (or **six** months of *weekly or bi-weekly* bulletins) during 2005 are eligible to enter.

Two classes of bulletins will be accepted for contest: **Large Bulletins** (more than 6 pages) and **Small Bulletins** (6 or fewer pages). Editors should submit three copies of three successive month's issues (monthly) or nine consecutive issues (weekly) or six consecutive issues (bi-weekly). One of the copies of each issue should be as printed and delivered to subscribers; the balance can be photocopied. (The Layout and Reproduction judges must see the actual issue --not the paste-up-- that went to their readers.)

The bulletins will be judged by certified PROBE Bulletin judges on the following: (actual score sheets available on request)

Content: (267 points maximum per issue), judged on how well the editor:

- Informs on coming events
- Records recent events
- Reflects views of chapter members
- Recognize efforts of chapter members
- Promote barbershopping
- Recruitment
- Encourage pride and participation.

Layout and Reproduction: (200 points maximum per issue), judged on how well the editor displays:

- The "stage presence" of the bulletin
- The layout of the Nameplate, Masthead and all printed material
- Readability, headlines, illustrations and reproduction.

Grammar and Style (200 points maximum per issue), judged on:

- Punctuation
 - Grammar
 - Style.
- (Normalized by dividing by "judgeable pages")

Entries should be mailed to the below address to **arrive on or before February 1, 2006**. The contest results will be announced with trophies for the top **Large** and top **Small** bulletins at the Spring Prelim Contest in Reno on March 20—at the House of Delegates meeting. The top two scoring bulletins (regardless of size) will be entered in the International Bulletin Contest.

International Online Bulletin Contest (online bulletins of **2006**).

- No pre-qualification by district. Open to all editors publishing 6 or more per year.
- Online bulletin contest information available on request.

FWD Bulletin Coordinator
57 "F" Calle Cadiz
Laguna Woods, CA 92637-3941
Dickgirvin@juno.com

FWD Spring Convention in Reno
March 16-19, 2006
Let's Get Our Conventions Singing Again
Come Join in the FUN!

William P. Pearson	
VOCAL TEACHER & CLINICIAN VOICE THERAPY	
Student of Joseph J. Klein Member of Placerville CA Gold Rush Chorus	
Telephone: 530-626-0556	561 Shady Oak Lane
	Diamond Springs, CA 95619
E-mail: pmusic66@hotmail.com	





15 Eastsiders

16 Four Fifteen

17 Sound Heritage

19 Somethin' Cool

21 Stage Hogs

18 Shenannigans

20 Music Box

21 Tucson

22 Early Vintage

22 Mesa

24 Stockton

23 San Luis Obispo

25 Rancho Bernardo



11 San Jose



12 San Fernando Valley



13 Palo Alto - Mountain View



14 Whittier



15 Fresno



16 North Valley



17 Fullerton



18 Las Vegas Metro



19 Central California



20 Sacramento

October 2005 FWD Final Contest Choruses 11-20



2005 FWD Senior Quartet Champions Vintage Gold



2 Stage Hogs - Senior



3 Early Vintage - Senior

All Quartet, Senior Quartet and Chorus Contest Photographs

Taken by:

Warren Wong Photography
2232 South Nellis Blvd. #165
Las Vegas, NV 89104

<http://www.warrenwong.photorelect.com/>

Telephone:

Work: 702-431-5503

Mobile: 808-295-4839

E-mail: warrenwong2@cox.net



Rumbleseat Daze Performs

by Ed Cotton

Friday, August 12, 2005, Rumbleseat Daze, a senior quartet from Las Vegas Metro City of Lights Chorus, entertained approximately 100 senior citizens while waiting for Sec of Health Mike Leavitt to speak on the new Medicare Prescription Program. The quartet consists of John Lenox (T), Roger Andersen (L), Dick Morrison (B), and Ed Cotton (Br).

Later Sec Leavitt joined them in singing Happy 70th Birthday to Social Security.

We are very excited about this chance to introduce barbershop harmony to a new audience, and would like to share the news.

The quartets above were eligible to compete in the Far Western District Senior Quartet Contest. The order of finish is indicated.

Sands of Time are past Senior Quartet Champions and competed for score to participate in the 2006 International Senior Quartet Contest to be held at the MidWinter Convention in Sacramento

FWD Spring Convention in Reno
March 16-19, 2006
Let's Get Our Conventions Singing Again
Come Join in the FUN!

District Immediate Past President



Peter Feeney

5320 Coral Gables Drive
Las Vegas, NV 89130
702-655-9064

E: Peter@FeeneyUSA.Com

FWD Convention

What a wonderful convention and contest we had in Pasadena! We owe our host chapter, the Masters of Harmony and convention chairman Bill Rosica a great big thank you for a job well done! Thanks also to District Chairman Sam Barger and his events team for all the prior planning that goes into making these conventions so successful, and to the judges and other Society members who so willingly give of their time.

Congratulations to our new Quartet Champ, **Hi-Fidelity**, and our new Chorus Champ the **Westminster Chorus**! A number of other Far Western District choruses will be traveling to Indianapolis next summer. **Phoenix**, **La Jolla**, and **Rincon Beach** have each received invitations to appear as wild card entrants, but Phoenix has declined. It was their decision that opened the door for Rincon Beach, the thirteenth wild card chorus. When you consider that the Masters of Harmony will be there as retiring champions, the FWD will have a total of four choruses singing in Indianapolis!

Congratulations to our new Seniors Champion **Vintage Gold**. I also want to congratulate our Super Senior Champs **Still Kids at Heart**, our H.S. Champs **Overtones** and our College Quartet Champs **Men-So-Forte**!

Finally, congratulations and a great big thank you to **GOTCHA!** who represented our district so well as retiring Quartet Champs in Salt Lake City, and congratulations again to our current International Chorus Champions, the **Masters of Harmony**!

Leadership Forum

I, along with a number of your other district leaders, just returned from a very productive meeting in Racine, Wisconsin. Ed Watson, our Society's new Executive Director, and the Society staff produced a very informative and interesting Leadership Forum to assist us in our efforts to enhance the barbershop experience for all our members. This Forum was one of the best I have attended. Please read the reports of our Committee Chairmen and take full advantage of the many programs the Society has developed to help us enjoy our hobby.

I am very happy that many of us had the opportunity to meet Ed Watson at our convention in Pasadena. We have already seen good things from our new leader and based on the time I spent with him at the Forum I can say with confidence that this is only the beginning.

Society Logo

At the House of Delegates meeting in Pasadena the House passed a resolution to ask the Society to discard the present logo and return to the old one. I sent a letter to the Society board informing them of this. While in Racine I discussed it with the Society board. After much discussion it was decided that the Society just cannot agree to do this. It would simply be too financially damaging to our Society. No motion was acted upon, but we will receive a letter from the Society addressing our motion, and when we do we'll publish it on the website (www.speb-sqsafwd.org).

I understand why this is a hot issue for many of us and I would like to remind us all that the Society has grandfathered the use of our district logo. The district logo is a beautiful recreation of the old Society logo with the words Far Western District encircling it. You are free to use it, but please use it properly, and not as replacement for the official Society logo.

"Building a Better World through Singing"

The Society is built on fundamental principles that drive our mission: that singing brings joy to our lives and world.

To this end the Society has adopted the following strategic aims for 2006:

1. Increase membership
2. Improve director effectiveness
3. Enhance performance quality
4. Expand leadership capabilities
5. Enrich vocal arts education
6. Develop a positive public awareness
7. Expand financial capabilities

Your district leadership will be working closely with each chapter in 2006 to do our part to achieve these worthy goals. The number one priority is to increase membership. Let's do all we can to make it happen! Showing strong support for our own chapter is a good way to start because it all begins there.

New Leadership

This is my final column as your District president. I will be turning over the tools of the office to our District President for 2006, Bill Cale, before the end of the year. I would like to congratulate Bill and all the board members who you elected at the HOD meeting in October, and I would like to thank you for the very meaningful and constant support you have given me over the past two years. I have enjoyed the office of president very much. It is a special honor to be the president of the greatest district in the Society and I can't tell you how much fun I have had. Thank you!

I am joining the Society board in January as a member-at-large, and will continue on the FWD board as Immediate Past President. Thank you again for all you do to help perpetuate our very special Society!

Barbershop Pioneers Western Convention

by Tom Neal

January 12-14 (one week before the BHS Midwinter Convention in Sacramento) Hacienda Hotel, Boulder City, Nevada. Rooms \$39.95 (and they are nice). You must identify yourself as a Barbershop Pioneer! Call 702 293 5000 for reservations.

We are totally self-contained at the Hotel; food on site for incredibly low prices. To get there: south from Las Vegas to Boulder City; proceed on US 93 to hotel 3 miles from Hoover Dam. Sorry, no airport shuttle to Boulder City from Las Vegas Airport.

Woodshedding around the clock in private ballroom. Adult beverages available, as well as gaming.

Friday night quartet contest. Names drawn from a list (by part) gathered when signing in will be announced by 5:00 Friday evening, allowing 3 hours to find your guys, put together a song, and come up with a clever name. It's a lot of fun with bribable judges. Contest starts at 8:00 PM.

Saturday evening Parade of Quartets Show is at Boulder City High School Auditorium at 8:00 PM. Admission free with \$25 registration fee.

NOW FOR SOME VERY GOOD NEWS !

We continue to have discussions regarding a merger between our Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association (BQPA) and the BHS.

I hopefully will meet with the BHS Board of Directors at the Sacramento Midwinter Convention to explore ways that we can greatly expand barbershopping by keeping an option open for men who prefer traditional barbershop quartet singing to the contemporary styles and intense competition prevalent today.

We will ask to have an annual traditional barbershop International Contest at the Midwinter Convention starting in 2006, using the five category judging system that served SPEBSQSA so well for over 35 years. Competitors will be required to sing appropriate numbers, to the exclusion of contemporary songs. All past BHS (SPEBSQSA) Champs will be eligible.

I hope that everyone who sees the good in what we attempting to do will contact their BHS Board members and encourage them to seriously consider the benefits that could be realized in giving members a choice in their barbershopping experience.

Come to Boulder City and have a ball !

FWD Spring Convention in Reno
March 16-19, 2006
Let's Get Our Conventions Singing Again
Come Join in the FUN!



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2004 INTERNATIONAL QUARTET CHAMPIONS

The Reno Silver Dollar Chorus presents

INTERNATIONAL QUARTET PRELIMS and NCE/NN DIVISION CONTEST

March 16-19, 2006

JOHN ASCUAGA'S NUGGET – Rose Ballroom

Contests & Meetings

- ✓ International Quartet Prelims
- ✓ NCE/NN Chorus & Quartet Contest
- ✓ High School Quartet Contest
- ✓ District Board Meeting
- ✓ House of Delegates Meeting
- ✓ AH-SOW
- ✓ Youth Afterglow

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John Ascuaga's Nugget
 1100 Nugget Avenue
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 (775) 356-3300

\$91 per night – single or double.
 Indicate you are with the Barbershop
 Harmony Society.

RV Parking available in West parking
 lot at no charge (no hook-ups)

***** All contestants must buy an 'All Events' Registration *****



FWD SPRING INTERNATIONAL QUARTET PRELIM & NCE/NNCONVENTION/CONTESTS

March 16-19, 2006

Please type or print clearly.

Name(s) _____

 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Phone Res. () _____ Bus. () _____
 E-mail address _____

VIP Status

- District Officer _____
- Past-FWD President _____
- Delegate HOD _____
- AFWDC Member _____
- Other _____

Chapter/Chorus _____

Quartet Name _____



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

Full Early Bird Registration Type	Full Late Registration Type	Total Registrations Requested:	Official Use Only
Full \$40.00 Child/Student \$20.00 (non-member) EARLY BIRD CUT OFF February 14, 2006	Full \$50.00 Child/Student \$25.00 (non-member) POSTMARKED AFTER February 14, 2006	___ Adult Early ___ Adult Late ___ Student Early ___ Student Late	Date Rec'd _____ Check # _____ Seat # _____

Return completed form with payment to:

2006 Spring Convention
 c/o Dick Whitten
 7022 Cinnamon Drive
 Sparks, NV 89436

Please make check payable to: **Reno Chapter, 2006 Convention**

Total Enclosed \$ _____
 (fees are non-refundable)

Questions? Email dickwhit@sonic.net

2006 NORCAL WEST/HAWAII DIVISION CONVENTION
 Far Western District Quartet and Chorus Qualification Event

Spring into Harmony

Another Celebration of the Barbershop Community

April 8, 2006

Heritage Theater, 1 West Campbell Ave, Campbell, California 95008

Hosted by

**THE BAY AREA METRO AND WALNUT CREEK CHAPTERS
 OF THE
 BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY**

Please type or print clearly

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone Home (____) _____ Bus. (____) _____
 Email _____

Quartet Name _____
 Chapter/Chorus _____

Singing Part

Lead Tenor Baritone Bass

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

Registration confirmation will be sent by Email.

All registrations shall be held for pickup at convention site.

Full Early Bird Registration Type (X One)	Full Late/On Site Registration Type (X One)	Single Events WILL BE SOLD ON SITE ONLY	Official Use Only
<input type="checkbox"/> Full \$30.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Child/Student \$12.50 (non-member) Postmarked on or before 3/8/2006	<input type="checkbox"/> Full \$35.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Child/Student \$15.00 (non-member) Postmarked after 3/8/2006	<input type="checkbox"/> Sat. Quartet Contest \$25.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Sat. Chorus Contests/Show \$25.00 Contestants MUST have Full Registration	Date Recd. _____ Order # _____

Request additional tickets for guests on this same form by using the section below.

Guest Name	City	Child/ Student?	Fee	Official Use

SUB TOTAL REGISTRATION FEES \$ _____

ADD \$1.00 THEATER PRESERVATION FEE PER PERSON \$ _____

TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED (Fees are non-refundable.) \$ _____

Check made payable to: "NCWH 2006"

Visa Mastercard Cardholder Name _____

Card Number _____ Exp Date (month/year) _____

Return completed form with payment to: Lynn Leavitt, 2315 Tree Creek Place, Danville, CA 94506

Questions? Call 925-837-5817 or e-mail NCWH2006@aol.com



FWD DVP for Division 1 SCW
Bernard Priceman
 5150 Avenida Hacienda
 Tarzana, CA 91356
 818-345-4125
 E: bernard@thepricemanteam.com

Is everyone settled in? Are all your chapter officers in place? Have you had a planning meeting after COTS? I trust that's a yes a yes and a yes. We're ready for a new barbershop year and an exciting one, too, I hope. For me, it will be a case of looking after chapters closer to my home in the San Fernando Valley now. I have enjoyed two years getting to know the SoCal East chapters and what a fine bunch they are. I managed to visit most of them during my time as VP, but now it's time to hand over to my good friend Gene Clements. Look out SoCal West, here I come!

The past year has seen big changes on the surface of our hobby, especially in our appearance to the outside world. I know some barbershoppers would have preferred that we kept our traditional look, but I'm one of those who relishes change. When I look at a chorus like Westminster and I see how much hope they offer for the future of our Society, I know that a younger look is the right thing. Youngsters are the lifeblood of our hobby and we need to do everything we can to attract them. Our new logo and our more appropriate name will definitely help.

Talking of youth, I wonder how many chapters are actively trying to attract the younger generation to their own chapters. Many chapters benefit from putting on or taking part in youth camps and youth festivals, or just sending quartets to entertain at local high schools. The kids may not be ready to commit to full membership immediately, but we can help plant seeds. And we can also help instill a love of music.

The Society's UCanSing2 Campaign may not have been hugely successful in some ways (the jury is still out), but it sure taught us a lot. Many chapters around the FWD had wonderful guest nights, yet most guests knew nothing of the campaign. The guests came because the chapters made great P.R. efforts, placing ads in newspapers or getting themselves on local TV programs. Individual members also spent time inviting their own guests. They saw it as a one-off opportunity to tell friends about our hobby. But should we just wait for another UCanSing2 week before promoting our chapters again? Heck no! I see no reason why not to plan right now for two or three heavily promoted guest nights in 2006. Most chapters got new members from their efforts. Isn't that what we strive for? OK, let's do it. SoCal West leaders, be prepared for me to bug you.

During 2006, I will be making an effort to visit as many SoCal West chapters as possible. Chapter leaders, please let me know when you have special events coming up – guest nights, visitations, special rehearsals or performances. Those would be ideal times for a visit. I look forward to hearing from you.

I hope 2006 is the best barbershop year ever, for each of you, for each chapter and for our great Society. We're the ones who can make it happen with our enthusiasm, hard work and (most important of all) FUN. I'm going to do my part. Will you do yours?



Division 1 SCW Editor
Mike Martin
 2262 Bagley Ave
 Los Angeles, CA 90034-1109
 310-558-4949
 E: martinmt@aol.com

SAN LUIS OBISPO

PETER BENNETT

The Gold Coast Chorus has been without the services of our director, **Rick Marshall**, for several months while he was sidelined with an illness. We're pleased to report that he's on the mend and will be back on the arm-waving job in a few weeks. In his absence we have been ably led by our assistant directors, **Don Poole** and **Thomas Bourne**. Don is the tenor of the 1966 FWD Champs the **Thermalaires**, and is serving us well. Thomas is a transplant from the Boston area, and we are fortunate to have him share his talents with us. It was a challenge to go to the FWD contest without our front-line director, but we enjoyed presenting our new contest set to the Fall Convention audience. We had fun and were proud of our performance.

A six-man quartet (?) from *Paso Robles High School* visited the chapter last week and performed a couple of songs for us, then stayed to sing with us and later allowed us to serenade them with a few of our favorites. We're encouraged that another of our local HS choral directors is exposing his young men to barbershop harmony. We sent them on their way with a tag, some music, and a promise of more to feed their enthusiasm.

SANTA MONICA – (Oceanaires)

JERRY WALKER

Bruce Schroffel participated in the sixth International Choral Festival of Barbershop Harmony in St. Petersburg, Russia. Bruce was an ambassador for America, for Santa Monica, and for barbershop music. He joined the Brothers of Harmony Chorus of Easton, PA and the Verdugo Hills Showtime Chorus (Sweet Adelines) for a week-long event, including eight performances.

Aaron Mood sang lead in the quartet performing in *The Music Man* in Glendale during the weekend of September 23-25.

We are barbershoppers who happily sing "*Heart of My Heart*" to one young lover at a time each year on Valentine's Day, and we proudly appear before a full-house of 300 at our annual Ice Cream Socials. We sing the National Anthem in a 27,000 seat arena annually for the LA Galaxy professional soccer team, directed by our newest member, **Todd Kolberg**.

Dick Keagy arranged for about 16 members of the Oceanaires to sing at the semi-annual formal gala banquet of the *Priory of the Pacific*, a military knighthood in which Dick is known as Colonel Richard Keagy, with the rank of Grand Officer. The

Priory of the Pacific is a branch of the NATO Grand Priory of the Sovereign Military Order of the Temple of Jerusalem.

The Oceanaires Second Annual Barbecue was held in August at Jerry and Lora Walker's house.

SANTA MARIA - (Central City Chordsmen)

GENE KAI

The Chapter has just completed performing their annual show under the direction of new director, **Robert McGee**. The head line quartet was 7th place college finalists **Men-So Forte**. Also appearing were the quartet **FourGive** who's lead is **Gordon Lees**, the former baritone of the 1962 international champion **Gala Lads**, local chapter quartets, and the Dunlap grade school choir under the direction of **Dona Kintzi**.

The chapter mourns the loss of a very fine lead singing, **Bill Nolls**. Bill was an active quartet man and was idolized for his melodic Irish lead voice and wonderful sense of humor. The Chapter newest member **Johnathon McKee** and first time barbershoper is already performing in a quartet **The Back Porch Four**. He's having a great time and enjoying singing lead in the quartet. The Chapter is presently polishing up their Christmas repertoire in preparation for a 13 December show.

SOUTH BAY - (Coastliners) MIKE MARTIN

The major focus over the past few months has been preparation for the FWD Contest in Pasadena. The **Coastliner's** Chorus presentation this year was, to my knowledge, a first for the Society. South Bay has probably more quartets than most choruses with a current count of seventeen. For this contest, sixty four men comprising 16 quartets were each cupped in their own unit on stage and in their own distinctive garb and each doing their own routines, all under the direction of the fabulous **Caroline McLean** (who also directs the Los Angeles South Towns Sweet Adeline Chorus,) Caroline was standing in for **Pete Neushul** who sang with his quartet for this occasion.

Some of the chapter's quartets on stage included such legend and medaled groups as **The Saints** (FWD Champions 1959) and **The 139th Street Quartet**, as well as **The Perfect Gentlemen**, **The Stage Hogs**, FWD Senior champs **The Sands of Time**, the **Somethin' Cool Quartet**, **Docs on the Rocks**, **Sound Union**, **Swizzlestick**, **The Offshore Four**, **Clooles**, **Babbling Idiots**, **Hoi Polloi**, **The White Spots**, **The Sons of the Beach**, and **Event Staff**. The enjoyment shared by all singing (in this latest of **Pete Neushul's** capers) with such a great group of guys was memorable. All were surprised to have actually scored in 6th place. The chapter members were all proud to see their director **Pete Neushul** being honored by the Far West District who dedicated the 2005 convention to him.

Congratulations also to dual member **Robert Clark** and the **Westminster Chorus** where he is also a member for an outstanding winning performance. Membership Chairman **John Saffery** reports that South Bay Chapter membership has now

grown to a total of 100 (up from 82 in 2004). The chapter awarded a scholarship for **Michael Thorpe** to Harmony College in Ohio for his many efforts with and for the chapter.

Chapter Quartet activity included performances by **The Perfect Gentlemen** and **Ready Willing and Mable**, both of whom appear regularly at the Baked Potato in Studio City. **Docs on the Rocks**, **Sound Union**, **The White Spots**, **The Rusty Hinges** and **The Mellow Fellows** also were active.

South Bay welcomes new and old members **Dean Grover**, **Sean Clark**, **Jim Gallagher**, **Joe Palmquist** and **Stan Krom**.

PASADENA (Crown City Chorus) BARC TUCKER

WE'RE BACK! The Pasadena Crown City Chorus has increased its membership by 58% since January, 2005, and is definitely back! On September 17, 2005, the Chorus, under the superb direction of **John Minsker**, presented its second show in a decade. The enthusiastic audience appreciated the wide variety of selections delivered in an outstanding fashion.

Their own quartet, **THE ANACHRONISTIX**, and guest quartets, **THE STAGE HOGS** from Masters of Harmony fame in addition to **BRISTOL FASHION**, Sweet Adelines, quartet from the Verdugo Hills Chorus ably supplemented their performance. The Chorus, now celebrating its 60th anniversary, has recently performed for many diverse organizations and events, and is looking forward to continuing successes.

WHITTIER - (Choralaires) PATRICK BOYLE

The Choralaires had an interesting summer that filled our cup with musical camaraderie and culinary delights. The camaraderie was felt when our Chapter visited the Brea Chapter and many old friends got together musically and socially. The always-pleasant Brea's Director, **Phil Ordaz**, and members of the Chapter brought back some of the old fun activities such as tag quarteting while singing Barberpole Cat songs. Phil also taught a "new" song. Break time was very lively with many reminiscing friends telling of the "good old days stories." According to Whittier's President, **Floyd Thaller**, some of the stories seemed to have the essence of embellishment.

The Chapter picnic, in September, brought out the culinary expertise of **Fred Vera**. "Chef" Fred cooked the best hamburgers and hotdogs that anyone would want, and a great big thank you to **Steve** and **Cherie Nering** for the use of their back yard.

On September 7, the Chapter celebrated our 55 birthday (1950) with a birthday cake, thanks to **Jeri Haines** and **Libby Thaller**. This Chapter has a lot to be proud of once being the largest in the Society (over 200), performing great annual shows to filled auditoriums, developing fine singers and quartets, and the distinction of having the legendary Earl Moon as a director for 25 years.

Again on September on the 17, the Chorus had its annual skills workshop in preparation for the FWD competition. Director

Stan Sharpe, and his associate **Dave Gunther** with coaching from **Gotcha's Alan Gordon**, presented many skills activities to enhance the Chapter's performance. Congratulations to **Larry Ray** a new member to the Society, and a welcomed addition to the lead section.



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Congrats to the WESTMINSTER Chorus for winning District!! Congrats, also, to HI-FIDELITY for winning the District's Quartet Championship!! And, while I'm at it, Congrats to the La Jolla guys for also qualifying for Indianapolis! Way to go, all y'all.

This is my first submission to the Westunes as VP (elect) for SCE. I am not yet familiar with all of the goings on for the division, but over the next year, that will change. I hope to be able to visit all SCE chapters in 2006, with my wife's understanding. Actually, she's already agreed. Isn't it great to have one that fully supports you in this wonderful 'hobby' of ours.

I always reread the *HARMONIZER*, 'cause there's always so much in it that I may not see the first time through. I'd like each of you to do the same, and pay particular attention to two articles in the July/August issue: page 2, "Planning for success in your chapter," by our Society President, Rob Hopkins, and page 4, "The Best of Barbershop," by our new Executive Director, Ed Watson. Either or both of these articles may set you or you new boards on new paths, especially as to growing our chapters

In closing, I am and will continue to be a Chapter Counselor. I very much enjoyed working for and receiving the guidance given by your out-going VP-SCE, Bernard Priceman. I can only be his successor, never his replacement. Thank you, Sire :-).



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COACHELLA VALLEY

TERRY MANN

Their first gig of the new "winter" season, was on the last Sunday of October. It was for the City of Palm Desert, one of a regularly scheduled series of entertainments put on by the City at the Library of the College of the Desert. They were delighted to have had 10 or 12 members and quartets of their neighbor chapter, **The New Gang on the Corner**, from Riverside, the new 10th place chorus in the FWD, to augment their re-gathering chorus.

The new officers, for 2006 are: President **Al Paolini**, VP-Programs & Quartets, **Milt Rhea**, VP-Music **Jim Bonacci**, VP-Membership, **Jim Haggarty**, VP-Marketing/ & PR, **Chancy Lott**, Secretary, **Dick Reed**, Treasurer **Dave Ware**, and IPP **Chancy Lott**. The new Director is **Alan Harrell**, a long time member who has been the Lead Section leader and VP-Music.

Based upon the successful experience of 2005's (their first) valentine project they are expecting to: "...double our revenue and quadruple our fun in 2006."

In early November a chapter quartet, **In A Chord** (not registered & non competing) is scheduled to sing a 15 minute gig for the National Convention of the U. S. Croquette Association in the city of Rancho Mirage at Mission Hills. The members of the quartet are: L Earl Gauger, Bari Jim Bonacci, Bass Doug Afflack, and Tenor Terry Mann.

EL CAJON

MIKE DORMAN

How successful was "The Fall Show", put on by the **Music Masters Chorus**, Sunday Sept. 25 afternoon? Very successful, in fact, every member of the chapter is absolutely on cloud nine! Just add it all up: a full house of 500 wildly appreciative good citizens, superbly styled music washing over 1,000 ears, non-stop entertainment from the visiting quartets, great MC-ing with **Lloyd Steinkamp**, all climaxing with a *Standing O!* Wow!

President **Jim James** feels that it was well worth the big effort put forth by his dozen-strong show committee! Chairman **Gary Mathews** displayed great leadership. Chorus Director **Tom Anderson** gleamed with pride about the chorus' sound..."When you sing a song well, especially WITH FEELING, it doesn't get any better!" Quartets singing were: **Especially Four You, Four a Good Time, The Fog Nozzle Four, Harmonically Correct** and **Rollin Tones**.

FULLERTON

DICK COTE

A chapter on the move—punctuated by the third consecutive first place finish in the International Bulletin Contest of the Barbershop Clippin's. It has been noted that there appears to be a mirroring of wins: i.e. each time the Masters of Harmony (which includes Fullerton's director **Craig Ewing**) win their gold, the Clippin's comes home with the top international bulletin spot. Congratulations again to Editor **Dick Cote**.

Fullerton's Octogenarian Club has a new member: **Elton Carey** attained his entrance age (80) June 24. The Party-time was filled with chapter and family members - with **Russ Ball** officiating.

The *Cote Pool Party*, one of the summer's gala events, was well attended and almost everyone showed up on the picture spread of the most recent Clippin's. Food, song and fun prevailed.

HEMET

BRUCE SMITH

The chapter has been "out amongst 'em:" A Presbyterian Church service, A "Four Seasons Ice Cream Social", the presentation to

the Hemet Assisted Living folk, The Hemet Rotary Club and the Retired Teacher's Association. That's keeping barbershop before the community—good going!

Jim Bunten's Member Profile this time featured **Jim Hilgenberg**, a tenor who joined the Society in 1991 and especially remembers when he sang with **Applause (Frazer Brown, Russ Young, Rick Wells and Raymond Davis)**. After singing *Sweet Roses of Morn* with them **Raymond Davis** handed him his 1993 5th place International medal saying "You deserve this as much as I do..." Of course Jim handed it back but fondly recalls the special honor of holding that insignia of international prowess.

INLAND CITIES

DAVE COVEY

The newly formed **Inland Empire Chapter** (Pomona Valley and Inland Cities) has been busy...busy...busy.

Anticipating the merger, we started meeting together in May. The first edition of the new newsletter appeared in June, followed swiftly by a performance by the "Harmony Carousel" at the "Starlight Theater," a "Steak 'n' Beans" night, and a mystery bus trip that ended up in Fullerton, where we were graciously received.

Visits from the **Fullerton Chapter** and the "New Gang" followed soon after, as well as another singout and two week-end stints of ushering at the California Speedway in Fontana.

So far, our "*Ucansing2*" open house has netted two new members, another on the way in, and one regular attender "Just to listen." We believe there may soon be more.

IRVINE

JEFF YOUNG

Irvine is looking ahead and preparing for a busy winter with shows and sing-outs planned. Directors **Nick Gaspar** and Associate Director **Justin Martin**, fresh out of the Society's Director's School, are doing wonders with the ever increasing group that climbs up on the risers every Tuesday.

New officers include: **Bob Cossentine**, VP Music & Performance, scribe **Jeff Young**, VP of Marketing and Public Relations, **Tim Bradley** and **Jerry Herling** as BMAL.

ORANGE

STANLEY TINKLE

Their new officers who will be taking over the reins on 1 Jan are:

President: **Mike Werner**

Secretary: **Rich Spencer**

Treasurer: **Don Engel**

VP Marketing: **Gary Phillips**

VP Music: **Paul Gutierrez**

VP Membership: **Wes Reed**

VP Programs: **Phil Roth**

Member at Large: **Ken Tillmanns**

Editor: **Dorothy Acton**

The chapter joined with the rest of the Southern California chapters in mourning the loss of **Marilyn Lewis**, wife of member **Rich Lewis**. More than fifty Barbershoppers from **Orange**

chapter, Fullerton, Irvine, San Juan Capo and **Dana Point** sang *Hello Mary Lou* in her memory because Marilyn picked that out months ago. Also *Precious Lord* because of the occasion, and *Girl of My Dreams* because Rich Lewis wanted it. **Pat Claypool**, a Lewis grandson, directed two of the songs and **Nick Gaspar** directed the "Gorilla" song. Pat then sang *What A Wonderful World* with **O.C. Times**.

PALOMAR PACIFIC

BILL NIELSEN

The chapter had bang-up time with novice quartet night the last week in August. Also, had an Interchapter meeting with Rancho Bernardo chapter coupled with an open house. Always a fun time. PAL-PAC visited Rancho the following week.

Paul Bloom, in charge of "*U Can Sing2*", is doing a great job and keeping pressure on to bring in guests. **Marv Ewing** is keeping "Polecat" program going every week with pre-meeting and break sessions, and pick-up quartets opening second half of meeting with a different song each week.

Chapter quartets keeping busy singing locally: **S'Wonderful** at VA hospital, **Premium Blend** at Valley Hospice, and **Baker's Dozen** are always out there somewhere.

Bill Getty doing them proud with his work for the "Youth in Harmony" program, visiting schools and chambers of commerce with quartets; distributing "Get America Singing" booklets; and donating some cash gifts to music programs.

PAL-PAC was saddened by the resignation of our long time friend and director **Lloyd Steinkamp**. While looking for a new director, some guests are filling in: **Pat Elledge**, **Steve Payne** of San Diego, and **Gene Clements** of Santa Fe Springs.



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Our esteemed editor, Ray Rhymer recently reminded the 2006 District Officers that we have a responsibility to provide some input for the upcoming 2005 winter issue of Westunes. He suggested a focus on our "vision" for 2006.

It turns out that Ray provides the 1st of three visions I have for 2006 and beyond. I attended a Chapter President's meeting last spring and met Ray formally for the first time. At the end of a long meeting just before the NorCal novice contest, Ray stopped three of us, still chatting about chapter business, and said, "I've been here for three hours and I haven't heard one single chord, we gotta sing!" My first vision is to get each of us to answer "yes" to the question "Did you sing today?"

A second vision is from Paul Eastman, who is barbershop personified in my view of our hobby. Paul spoke at the installation dinner for the Peninsulaires a year or so ago and provided the best advice I have heard about how to enjoy barbershopping at its most personal. Paul's recommendation is prepare your attitude, just as you prepare your voice for an evening of rehearsal. Remind yourself that you are doing this because you really enjoy singing. Each of us needs to say, "This evening will be fun!!!!!"

"Share the Joy!" This simple value, drawn from the Palo Alto – Mountain View chapter, can provide an underpinning for our hobby and shape how we learn, grow, develop and enjoy barbershop harmony. To be personally enjoyed, barbershopping demands sharing with friends, family, and fellow barbershoppers. To be widely enjoyed, barbershop harmony requires sharing with our audiences, our communities, and other musical forms. Celebrate barbershop by Sharing!!!!

Oh, and yes, the NorCalWest/Hi Convention will again be at the wonderful Heritage Theater in Campbell, Ca on April 8, 2006. Come, "Share the Joy" !!!!!



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ALOHA

JACK Y HASHIMOTO

August saw 11 of us fly to Columbus, Ohio where the Ohio State University hosted Harmony College 2005. We guess that with 11 of us there, we had, if not the largest representation of any chorus, at least the largest percentage of any chorus. Of the 11 that attended 7 were first timers (no beanies any more).

On Sept. 2, the **Sounds of Aloha** sang at the 60th Anniversary of the World War II surrender of the Japanese aboard the battleship USS Missouri, now docked at Pearl Harbor. It was a moving tribute to those who fought and died at Pearl Harbor.

On Sept 11, we had the pleasure of singing with the Royal Hawaiian Band. We look forward to more performances with them.

The week of Sept 12-16 was the Society-wide *UCANSING2* recruiting drive. Our guest night on Sept 15 will have helped keep our chapter in the Far Western District lead in member recruitment this year. Thanks to Membership Development VP **Jonathan Spangler** for a great job.

October 20 - 23 saw the visit of Music Specialist/Chorus Development expert **Bill Rashleigh** all the way from SPEB-SQSA headquarters in Wisconsin. Bill coached us at our regular Thursday rehearsal and conducted our Retreat at Camp Erdman. Bill shared his love of song with us and helped us become better. He was funny, inspirational and very knowledgeable. Bill, if

you're reading this, Mahalo from the guys. Kudos also go to the chairman of the retreat **Bob Tellander** for a super job.

Lastly, thanks to **Bob Sypowicz** for chairing the Foodland Gives Aloha fund raising drive that netted the chorus \$2,600.

FREMONT/HAYWARD

RAY SPINOSA

New Dimension Chorus lead singer **Ted McCall** performed in a local production of *'Music Man'*, recently, which was thoroughly enjoyed by a large contingent of chapter members. Congratulations to Ted on a fine performance - 'Whattaya Talk!'

This past August, the chorus, performed at the annual Fremont Festival of the Arts. The chorus again also had a booth at this large outdoor festival, and for two days taught tags to any willing passers by, and sang barbershop songs from the booth.

In September, the chapter had a month long series of guest nights tied to the *You Can Sing Too* campaign. This attracted more than 20 guests. Some of the attendees were those who had heard about the program from the Fremont festival booth, others were former members or were invited by chapter members; still others were those who saw flyers posted at the community college where the chorus rehearses. All were treated to a special program designed to expose them to the joys of barbershop singing.

Following warm-ups, they took part in a regular chorus rehearsal. The evenings also featured plenty of tag singing which gave guests a chance to experience quartetting. The 4 week program ended with a performance for family and friends where participants could show off what they had learned.

MARIN COUNTY

RALPH KLING

On October 30th, the **Marin Chapter** presented its 51st annual show at the Showcase Theatre in the Marin Civic Center. Titled *'There Is Nothing Like a Dame'* the show featured the **Golden Gate Chorus** along with the **Upscale, Buskers, Harmony Express** and **Directors** chapter quartets. Headlining the show was the sensational young **Playback** quartet who recently finished 4th in the Far Western District contest. Playing to a packed house at both the 2:00pm and 7:30pm performances, our choristers wowed the audience with a combination of great songs, excellent execution and a number of humorous and entertaining skits that accompanied each song.

MONTERREY PENINSULA

HOWARD STRAUS

The Monterey Cypressaires have been building strength and musical skill over the past year under the able direction of **Kristen Thompson**.

We just presented our annual show "*Remember Radio*," a script many know, with our own special touches. The venue was the newly-renovated Golden State Theater in Monterey, brought back to its glory days of the 1940s. **The Stage Hogs** from Long Beach, CA added their special comedic touch as well. What a great bunch of guys! We got lots of applause, lots of laughs.

Both our chorus and our individual quartets have been active this quarter, singing gigs at banquets, corporate functions, birthdays, and other events, helping to support the chapter financially.

PALO ALTO/MOUNTAIN VIEW

PATRICK HERLIHY

The **Peninsulaires** chorus was honored to be asked to perform the national anthem and other ballgame songs at the San Jose Giants home game on September 11. It was a thrill we won't soon forget and hope to repeat many times next summer.

The chorus returned from the FWD contest in Pasadena pleased to have maintained our record of continual improvement. The skills our music team has given us put us in great position to continue to improve into the future.

The chapter welcomes two new members: **Paul Eastman**, a former Peninsulaire, returns to the chapter and **Dave Velleman** brings his talents to our bari section. Paul steps immediately into the VP Music and Performance role; our thanks go to **Dale Biggs** for his leadership in this role this year.

SAN FRANCISCO

DON KINGTON

The **Cable Car Chorus** within a few short weeks lost two of its stalwart members: **Bob Bisio** and **Dr. Henry "Hank" Goldberg**.

Bob hadn't been an active singer in years (see the tribute to Bob by Alex Aikman elsewhere in this issue) but until a few years ago was active in Society and FWD activities. Even though he lived too far away to attend meetings he continued his membership in the San Francisco Chapter – having joined more than 50 years ago.

Hank Goldberg was an active, loyal and enthusiastic member of the Chapter for more than 25 years. He was a dedicated chorus and quartet baritone, loving barbershop and Baroque music with equal passion. Shortly before he died he learned that the University of California, San Francisco was naming the section of the University's radiology department where he worked and taught "The Henry J. Goldberg Center for Advanced Imaging Education"

SAN JOSE

DEAN JAMES

Once again, and for the thirteenth consecutive year, the San Jose Chapter will bring Christmas joy to the hearts and souls of many who are unable to get out into the holiday scene. On December 18th, about 25 barbershoppers, dressed in tuxes and red bow ties and topped with Santa hats and ably directed by **Jack Steck**, will sing nine songs at a hospital and three or four nearby nursing homes. Each year it is a real joy for the singers to see some of the elderly folks, otherwise unable to communicate, recall the past as they mouth the words of old favorites such as "Silent Night" and "O, Come All Ye Faithful." For some of us it can be difficult to look into their faces and still get the words out. What must be going on in those minds as they hear the old words? Can they recall childhood's and family life? We wonder.

SANTA ROSA

JIM ESTRELLA

After coming down from Barbershop Heaven for finishing 9th in the District Chorus competition in Pasadena, we're now preparing for our Holiday season performances. This starts with a performance at the Oakmont Retirement community in Santa Rosa, with performances at the Simi Winery, Santa Rosa Plaza, and culminating at Our Christmas Cabaret at St. Eugene's Catholic Church on 12/17. Ho, Ho, Ho, Christmas is the most musical time of the year.

WALNUT CREEK

DICK JOHNSTON

In September, for the 28th consecutive year, the **Devil Mountain Chorus** sold beer, lemonade, and (as in more recent years) water, at Walnut Creek's annual Walnut Festival. Seven and one-half kegs of beer served almost 1,000 customers. **Ron Leiker**, ably assisted by **Don Nelson**, supervised the entire operation.

On October 2 an ad hoc quartet composed of T **Norm Reynolds**, L **Jim Stenson**, Br **Bob Dunn**, and Bs **Dick Johnston**, sang to approximately 1,000 bikers as they raced up Mt. Diablo in the 24'h annual Mt. Diablo Challenge. The event was sponsored by Save Mt. Diablo, a San Francisco Bay Area citizens non-profit organization. This is the third year the Devil Mountain Chorus has provided a quartet for the race.

Before this issue of Westunes appears in print, the chorus will have presented its second annual cabaret show at Shadelands in Walnut Creek. In addition to the chorus, the show will feature two chapter quartets, **The Creeksiders** and **The Incredibles**; two guest quartets, **Velocity**, from the San Jose Chapter, and **Infusion**, a Sweet Adelines quartet; as well as **Spinning Wheel**, a blue grass group featuring our own **Bob Dunn**.



FWD DVP for Division 4 NCENN

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I have been fortunate enough to be elected to serve as the DVP of NorCal East and Northern Nevada for 2006. I look forward to serving you all, and welcome any input you might have about changes for the future. My goals for 2006 are as follows:

1. To visit as many chapters in this division as possible through the year.
2. To represent the Division as a spokesman for the chapters at all District functions and meetings.
3. Help any chapter to meet their goals for the year when asked.
4. To be a communication link between the District officers and chairmen, and the chapters of this division.
5. I will be available for any chapter when asked to visit or be a part of its functions.

With these goals in mind please feel free to call on me to help in any way you believe would aid your chapter.

I will be hosting a Chapter Presidents' Meeting at the Spring Prelim/NorCal East NN Convention in March. Plan now to attend.

I look forward to being your District officer and your Barbershop friend.

“CHORD”ially,



Division 4 NCENN Editor

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CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

MILES SUTTER

Sunday, July 31st, the **Stockton Portsman** held their annual picnic at Micke Grove Park. **Bill Legg**, et al really went all out to insure us of a grand old barbershop harmony experience! The barbecues were all fired up just wait'n for our fixin's. KFC was the choice of many, as were the buns and roasted wieners! Even though the temperature was “warm” (who expected that!) the hamburgers and steaks were sizzling on the grill. If the aroma of all that delicious food didn't intoxicate you, then the singing did! Impromptu quartets were everywhere. If you didn't partake, you only had yourself to blame. “Tags” were always the popular choice. After all, this is what we do... and we love every minute of it! Many other activities were also available for the youngsters. There was the always-popular zoo, horseshoes, mini amusement park and swimming. And if you wanted to walk-off your full stomach you could always take your kids and help them find a few crayfish in the canal. Mothers really love that! All had a fantastic time.

FRESNO

JERRY JONES

Phil McShann, director of the **Texas Millionaires Chorus** from Fort Worth, Texas, joined the **Gold Note Chorus** for a weekend coaching during our ECCO retreat. Phil also sings in the front row of the Vocal Majority. Our thanks to T.W. Scott for arranging the session. Our multi-talented **Bill Holden** made DVD's for those who were unable to attend.

Mike Alfaro was a former member who recently rejoined the Chorus after more recently singing bass with California Forte.

Erwin Sue and **David Reitzel** recently joined the chapter just in time to participate in the beginning of our fall activities. Erwin started with the Chorus as a baritone, then switched to tenor. That change provided the part needed for him and his brothers-in-law (I'm one of them) to form a quartet that practices regularly and sings at family gatherings. David was invited to the Chorus in early summer and joined soon thereafter. Singing

bass, David brings a love of singing that hasn't been exercised for about 39 years because of career and family. His musical background includes high school band (clarinet, saxophone), high school choir, and some church choir singing before and during law school.

Our new director **Leslie Knudsen** returned from Directors' College filled with new ideas and enthusiasm. Joining Leslie as assistant director is returning member **Wes Jackson** of **A Tonic Explosion**. Completing the directing team as our choreographer is **John Hays**. With this team, we're looking forward to a fun fall filled with music and dancing.

NEVADA PLACER

ROGER PERKINS

The Sierranaders did their annual performances at the Nevada County Fair in Grass Valley on August 14 with 23 members singing. It was followed by the annual quartet contest sponsored by the Fair. A quartet called **Double Billed**, consisting of **Bill Garwood**, **Bill Beck**, **Roger Fox** and **Elmer Fairbanks** took first place.

Our annual Cabaret Shows held on Oct. 28 – 29 were a resounding success. We put out a program for the first time and sold advertising making a nice little profit for us, thanks to **Barry Gray**. **Fred Carrington** took care of food items, **Bill Beck** handled the bar with help from our barmaids, **Phyllis Fox** and **Jeanne Drouin**. We got much invaluable help from several wives including **Marty Carrington**, **Corinne Schrader** and **Charlotte Rice**. The theme of the show that the Great Perko came up with was “*Name that Tune*”. The chorus sang unknown verses to well known songs to see if anybody in the audience could name the song. Barbershop CDs were given as prizes. However we had to disqualify **Jack McPhillips** from the **Sacramento Chapter** who knows every song ever written. The Sierranaders Chorus plus chapter quartets **Essential Harmony**, **Double Billed**, **Chord Miners**, and **Stampede** performed for a packed house. Our featured quartet was **The Ambassadors** from Sacramento and Stockton. We had an “extra” on the Friday night show when a Ragtime Era trio dropped by to scout one of the quartets and ended up playing a Scott Joplin piece for the audience. One customer leaving the show was heard to say, “We really got our money's worth tonight!”

PLACERVILLE

KEITH ECKHARDT

The Gold Rush Chorus lost long-time member **Thomas Yowell** on August 10. He succumbed to cancer after a long battle. Tom was a retired USAF Major. He first started singing with the Sacramento Chapter several years ago and a few years later transferred to Placerville. Tom was a dedicated barbershopper singing in chorus and quartets. He will be missed by all.

RENO

DAVE RAMER

Well the dust has settled somewhat and we are glad the roller coaster has come to a momentary stop. The Chorus has performed at the Reno Air races, for the better part of a week as well as the Reno Balloon Races.

The Chorus is home from District Competition in Pasadena, an incredible experience as always. We send a personal thanks to the **Masters of Harmony**, our host Chorus. Our Chorus placed 8th, better than last time but we will keep coming back until the chorus is worthy of performing to the degree of our capabilities.

SACRAMENTO

FRANK KINNISON

The bulletin editor awards were presented at the PROBE meeting at the Int'l Convention in SLC. We are proud to say the *Sacramento Swipes and Tags* took sixth place overall. **Alan Swanson** has done a great job with our publication.

During the chapter meeting of June 28, the **Capitolaire**s were treated to a quartet of young boys from the town of Clarksburg. The name of the "quartet" is **One Too Many**, appropriate since there are five. They say people often remind them that a quartet is four people. They don't care, they just have fun singing together.

The Sacramento Area Quartet Workshop VI was held in August with great success. Coaches included **Eric Brickson, Jordan Litz, Gabe Caretto** and **Mark Davidson** of **Playback**. Three coaches came from outside the area, **Dan Warschauer, Jason Warschauer** and **Jim Crowley**. Local talents included **Bill Borah, Don Gubbins, Robert Lenoil, Alan LeVezu, Ray Rhymer** and **Bruce Sellnow**. **Keith Slater** kept everything running smoothly as administrator, and 44 quartetters had an incredible experience.

The cabaret show on Sept 17 was Barbershop on Bourbon Street with a Mardi Gras theme including costumes. **Jim Newlove, Gib Hertler, Bill Borah, Win** and **Jon Char** all contributed. Entertainment was provided by the Capitolaire's Chorus plus chapter quartets **River City Music Co., Ambassadors**, and **Potluck**. Headlining was **A Tonic Explosion** from Fresno.

Vern Bagby was BOTM for July and **Dave Jones** for August.

VISALIA

DEE BAUGHMAN

The **Mighty Oak Chapter** had a very good recruiting period the last three months. We had two transfer members, **Richard Parker** from the **San Luis Obispo Chapter** and **Frank Walters** from the **Marin County Chapter**. In addition we have two young high school men that have joined us. They were part of the YMIH program that we've had in place the last three years in their schools. Two other new members are returning chapter members **Steve Williams** and **Mark Mitchell**. We also have four other new members, two of which have joined since our Guest Night in September. The Chorus spent over a \$1,500 advertising on radio and newspapers resulting in ten guests that evening. Several guests have returned and we're optimistic that they also will join.

The slate of officers for 2005-2006 was elected with Gary Smith remaining for another term as President of the Chapter.



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What a great weekend in Pasadena. Not only did we get a lot accomplished, we also had a lot of fun. For those present we had an opportunity to meet face to face with our new Barbershop Harmony Society CEO, Ed Watson. Ed is a wonderful individual who has been barber shopping for over 30 years. Ed has already become a real asset to us as member as well as the Society. We also had another special guest Mr. Clarke Caldwell, president and CEO of Harmony Foundation who passed on some good information on the direction of the Foundation and how we as members of the Society can help them and ourselves preserve this great hobby we enjoy.

For the last two years we have been working to make our Divisions operate more like a small district and in doing so we are suppose to be finding good people to fill positions on the Division Management Team. As you have heard me say before we are not there yet but we are getting much closer. We now have five Chapter Counselors and every chapter is covered with one of the counselors. We have a Chairman of Youth in Harmony, previously known as Young Men in Harmony, and we have our very own CSLT Liaison. That leaves two or three more positions to fill so I will be asking "not what the division can do for you but what can you do for your division". In a few short weeks, we will be heading off to LA for COTS and again this year it promises to be a very rewarding experience for those who attend. I wish we could get more of our people from Arizona to venture out of town for such events, I think they would find it very worth while. In April, Tucson will host the Div 5 Contest in the Tempe area as it looks right now; we will be using the Grace Inn and the Clarion Hotel on Elliott and I-10 for housing and meeting space. The actual contest venue has not been confirmed but it will be in the same area of town and only a few minutes from the hotels. Start making your plans now to attend it will be a fun filled weekend. Lets not forget membership Division 5 has had a real good year in this department but this last month we saw our numbers drop from more positive growth chapters to more negative chapters. The month of September saw ten chapters with a negative number in the chapter growth and only six in the positive growth. I hope that was just a busy time and we failed to get out and invite our friends and neighbors to come sing with us. Good luck in the next two months bringing those numbers back into the positive range so we have more chapters with pluses than negatives. There are many other activities and news items to keep up on but this column is too short. Please log on to the District and Division Web Pages for all of the latest happening. Have a great Holiday Season, and Keep the Whole World Singing



Division 5 ASNSU Editor

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ARIZONA QUARTET CHAPTER

JIM MILNER

Our September kickoff meeting was a rousing success. We had a quartet invitational with three performing quartets and several others represented. Our own host quartet, **Hospitality** (L Lee **Bourgeois**, Bs **Bob McColl**, T **Rudy Sikler**, and Br **Jim Milner**) sang several times with most of their repertoire. From the **West Valley** was **Lilac Crazy** (L **Mary Ellen Stepanich**, Bs **Claudia Plotnick**, T **Kay Rudorf**, and Br **Connie Sherman**), a Sweet Adelines quartet, who gave us their comedy routines with great sound as well. Also from the **West Valley** was **Surprise Party** (L **Marsha Shaw**, Bs **Joanna Moyer**, T **Cathie Sturm**, and Br **Cheri Seith**), another SA quartet with great sound. The ladies specialized in '40s music with nice renditions of Andrews Sisters and Chordettes favorites. Everyone got to sing in a quartet, with some surprising chords from pickup quartet combinations. It just proves that if everyone has quartet skills, the chords can ring with random combinations of singers. Kudos go to **Dave Lyman** for planning, setup and snacks.

GREATER PHOENIX

BILL KANE and PHIL SMITH

The Spirit of Phoenix wishes to congratulate the **Westminster Chorus** for its outstanding performance in the Far Western District contest, finishing with the third-highest score among 242 choruses in 16 districts. We wish them and the FWD's two wild card choruses, **La Jolla** and **Rincon Beach**, nothing but the best. Many of us will be there pulling for you.

After much discussion, the **Greater Phoenix Chapter** decided to decline a wild card invitation. The 18 months that we have been together as a merged chorus have been a real whirlwind, and our Music Team asked for, and was given, some time to evaluate our progress and come up with a plan that will move us forward.

Be sure that the chorus will have a busy year, what with several Christmas shows, a Cole Porter annual show (headlining **Metropolis**) and starting production on our first CD. And we'll be entering the competition cycle again in less than five months with a goal of being onstage in Denver in 2007 performing at even a higher level.

The chapter has elected an outstanding slate of officers to lead us in the new year: **Wes Stahler**, President; **Bill Kane**, Immediate Past President; **Keith Kelly**, Secretary; **Mark House**, Treasurer; **Allen Baum**, VP Marketing; **Gordon Berghold**, VP Music; **George Couch**, VP Membership; **Collin McKinney**, VP Program; and **Jack Mauney** and **Bob Robinson**, Directors-at-large.

LAS VEGAS GAMBLE-AIRES

ROGER BUEHRER

Rich Coon is stepping down as president of the Gamble-Aires

after five consecutive years, and president-elect is **Dennis Johnson**. Coon was elected as Vice President of Chapter Development. Other officers include: Music Vice President, **Rick Ives**; Program Vice President, **Gary Bishop**; Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations, **Roger Buehrer**; Chapter Secretary, **Dave Larson**; Chapter Treasurer, **Phil (Flip) Sonneman**; Members at Large, **John Waugh**, **Walter McDonald** and **Bill Lutz**. Serving as co-directors are **John Waugh** and **Albert Weiss**.

The chapter inducted two new members **Gary Bishop** and **Norm Bennis**. Sadly we report the passing of **Harry Berkowitz**.

A busy summer ended with a series of performances in Big Bear, Calif., which culminated on the evening of July 30 with a repeat of the chapter show last spring. Coordinating the event was Big Bear resident and former Gamble-Aire **Richard Rosborough**. Other performances included a singout at Lamb of God Lutheran Church and a special performance at the Cimarron Memorial High School Homecoming.

MESA

PHIL SMITH

The East Valley Lamplighters are pleased with their showing in the Far Western District Chorus Contest in Pasadena. The chorus came in with lowest division score among the chapters invited, but finished ahead of three choruses. We are grateful to our director, **Jim Brown**, who has taken us a long way in 18 months with his patient, low-key approach.

2005 President and Treasurer **Lloyd Unfred** is moving to Colorado. **Dick Murphy**, a veteran barbershopper who transferred in during the year from the East Coast, will head the chapter in 2006.

Another new development in 2005 was the formation of an auxiliary, the **Hi-Lites**. They were a big help at our recent annual show, handling box office and ushering duties and collecting items for a raffle.

PARADISE VALLEY

LEN LEVINE

The Cactus Chordsmen have recruited some fine new voices, and we are looking forward to upcoming singouts to showcase these and the rest of the membership.

A new slate of officers was elected: President **Charlie DeFir**, Treasurer **Bob Hoge**, Membership VP **Corbin Beu**, Program VP **Paul Bridgeman**, Music VP **Carl Eckhardt** and Members at Large **Ken Nartker** and **Dan Goforth**.

A gala event at the Church of the Valley, where the chorus rehearses, was held to celebrate Pastor **Larry Fultz's** retirement. Larry, who has sung with the chorus and provided spiritual guidance to the membership, will now have more time to pursue personal goals and sing with the **Cactus Chordsmen**.

ST. GEORGE

KEN SUNDMAN

Merrill Hardy was elected president of the **Color Country Chorus** for the coming year. Other 2006 officers are: **Jim Duncan**, VP Music and Performance; **Tony Bodell**, VP Chorus Development, assisted by **Kevin Holt**; **Ray Ritche**, Secretary; **David Stucki**, Treasurer; and **Hal Birkeland**, Member-at-Large.

SIERRA VISTA

ED RAYMOND

The Cochise Chordsmen are pleased to announce the results of officer elections for the coming year: President, **Ed Keene**; VP Programming **Fred Whitley**; VP Chapter Development **Ed Raymond**; Treasurer **Bernie Martus**; and Secretary **John Graminski**.

We are working hard on our Spring Show, which will be in the form of a Parade of Quartets. It will feature such top groups as Hi-Fidelity, Dazzle! and Eastsiders.

Our own quartet **Watering Hole #3**, composed of **Fred Whitley**, **Bernie Martus**, **Dave Germain** and **Paul Godwin**, captured first place in the comedy quartet contest at the Division 5 Summer Bash in Phoenix. This group does youth outreach work at grade schools and high schools in the Sierra Vista area. They also performed at a recent fund-raiser for Forgach House, a facility for battered women and children.

Bass **Mark Day** is relocating from our city.

SUN CITIES

BOB MCGOWAN

The Desert Aires Chorus held an open house on the evening of Sept. 26 and had a great turnout of more than 200. Membership VP **Bud Lowry**, assisted by Program VP **Joe Salz** and our director **Rich Thompson**, hosted the event. Bud gave a brief summary of barbershop music, and our own **Vintage Voices** quartet and **Sweet Spirit** gospel quartet sang several old favorites. We also hosted **Surprise Party**, a quartet from the International Champion Scottsdale Sweet Adelines Chapter. The chorus also sang several numbers for the guests.

With the fall season upon us, the chorus has performed its "*Under The Big Top*" show for several retirement homes, commencing on Oct. 6. With 11 more performances on the calendar before our Annual Show, the chorus promises to keep members busy entertaining in the West Valley.

Joe Salz, our District delegate, reports that the chapter is one of the top contributors to the 2005 Harmony Camp. This is dear to the hearts of our members, who seek to further the barbershop experience for young people.

TUCSON

FRED KOCH

The Tucson Chapter will host the Division 5 Convention in Phoenix on April 21 and 22. We hosted this event just two years ago and set a new record for registrations and income and look forward to doing it again. **Hap Haggard** will again be chairman. The goal of Division V.P **Ivan Jensen** for 2006 was to relocate

this event to a school and hotel with reasonable costs and their understanding that we are a non-profit organization. Both have been secured, but at this time we are waiting the final approval by the school board. When all contracts are "signed, sealed and delivered," all Division 5 chapter presidents will receive the details by both e-mail and first-class mail.

WHITE MOUNTAINS CHAPTER

DOC DOCKENDORF

The High Country Chorus was very active over the past few months. In August, three members of the chorus, **Everett Peterson**, **Keith Gore** and **Doc Dockendorf**, attended the Harmony/Directors College In Columbus, Ohio. The chorus performed our semiannual road cleanup, followed by an Octoberfest party in September. The chorus also performed at the Annual Fall Festival Talent Show to an appreciative audience. We warmed up in front of a mixed chorus of nearly 100 junior high kids, who were fascinated by barbershop and applauded even our warm-up exercise.

In response to the terrific devastation in the South, the chapter donated \$1,000 to the hurricane relief effort through the United Methodist Disaster Organization. Additionally, Crooks Trail quartet spent the day singing at the Fall Festival site and raised nearly \$300 for the same organization. Both efforts were recognized in our local newspaper, the White Mountain Independent. In October, the chorus performed our Western cowboy package at the Love Kitchen for their annual fund-raiser.

Joel Empie had to return to Tucson to live. Unfortunately, his wife could not tolerate our 7,000-foot altitude due to breathing problems. We were pleased to welcome four new members: **Norm Ehmke**, **Denny Shankland**, **Bill Sachak** and **Mick Mitchke**. We also had a regular guest, **Charlie Merrill**, bass, who we believe will become a member.

Our leaders for 2006 will be President **Bob Koons**, Membership VP **Dan Lewis**, Performance VP **Alan Johnson**, Music VP **Alan Beste**, PR VP **Steve Taylor**, Secretary **Jim Murphy**, Treasurer **Dean Basely**, IPP **Bob Cutlipp**, and BMAL **Jerry Schrunk**, **Bill Sachak** and **Phil Rioux**.

YUMA

ROB BAILEY

The Yuma Territorial Prisonaires are working hard at getting this year's show ready. Look for an all-new lineup of songs and some new faces. Director **Frank Durham** was busy both as musical leader and head recruiter with much success. President **Tony Hoffman** handed out new membership cards to three new members over the past two months, and has also been very active in the recruiting effort. With the return of our winter-visitor members, the chorus has resumed its full, rich sound and sparkling stage presence. Thanks to all the guys who work so hard. Yuma's favorite barbershop quartet, **UnFourGettable**, is appearing throughout the area. **The Territorial Prisonaires** invite you to come sing with us when you're in Yuma. We meet every Tuesday in the Kofa High School Choir Room. Call 928-344-5930 or 928-502-2652 for information and directions.

DIVISION 5 SUMMER BASH WAS A SUCCESS!

The Summer Bash has become a popular and profitable weekend event for Division 5. This year the two-day event (Aug. 26-27) raised more than \$1,000 for the Division's project to aid local high school music programs.

Fifteen quartets (including two mixed quartets and two Sweet Adelines quartets) performed on the Friday night Parade of Quartets. The highlight was the first public performance of the sixth edition of the Western Continentals, the 1968 International champions. Gordie Bergthold, their new bass, has been accepted as an associate member of the Association of International Champions. The quartet will be accepting singing engagements once lead Ted Bradshaw recovers from voice problems.

Fourteen quartets competed Saturday in the Luck of the Draw Contest. Paul Ludwig of Tucson sang bass in both the first- and second-place quartets.

Sierra Vista's Watering Hole #3 repeated as champions of the comedy contest, breaking up the audience with a hilarious rendition of Sushi (to the tune of If you Knew Susie) followed by a costume change and Frog Kissin'.

Nineteen hardy folks braved the elements for the eighth annual Desert Knights Golf Tournament. Dick Moore of the Mesa Chapter kept the highly coveted green jacket in his quartet (2 under Par – Charlie Nardin won last year) by having low score. Joe Salz was honored for his many years of running the golf tournament. He also was emcee Saturday night.

The dates for the 2006 Bash are Aug. 25 and 26 at the same location, the Grace Inn. Why not reserve those dates and join in for a fun time? There is a good chance that the 1956 FWD quartet champions, the Desert Knights, will celebrate 50 years as champions by performing.

DIVISION 5 CONVENTION SET FOR APRIL 21-22

As this is written, everything except the school at which it will be held is nailed down for the 2006 Division 5 Convention, set for April 21 and 22. Tucson is the host chapter, but the contest site will be in the Phoenix area. Tucson hosted the contest in Phoenix two years ago and set records for both registrations and income. Division 5 VP Ivan Jensen has accomplished his goal of obtaining a contest site and lodging at reasonable cost. But the details cannot be announced until the site is officially approved by the school board. As soon as this occurs, Division 5 presidents will receive all the details and forms by both e-mail and first-class mail.

**FWD Spring Convention in Reno
March 16-19, 2006
Let's Get Our Conventions Singing Again
Come Join in the FUN!**

Chorus Directors Needed

Crescenta Valley Chapter

Bruce Campbell 626 - 299 - 0892

Fremont/Hayward Chapter, New Dimension Chorus

Demaster Survine 510 - 780 - 0613

Palomar Pacific Music Men Chapter

Al Leuthe 760-839-6518 gancho36@cox.net.

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2 Greater Phoenix



3 LaJolla



4 Rincon Beach



5 Bay Area Metro



6 South Bay



7 Brea



8 Reno



9 Santa Rosa



10 Riverside

October 2005 FWD Final Contest Choruses 2-10

CONVENTIONS, SHOWS, EVENTS

2005 _____

December

- 4 Bay Area Metro Show
- 4 Sacramento Shows
- 4 Greater Phoenix Show
- 10 Greater Phoenix Show
- 10,11 Hemet Shows
- 10,11 Aloha Shows
- 15 Prescott Show
- 16-18 Whittier Shows
- 17 Santa Rosa Shows
- 18 Irvine Show

2006 _____

January

16-22 INTERNATIONAL MIDWINTER CONVENTION Sacramento, CA

February

- 11 Tucson Shows
- 18 Santa Fe Springs Show
- 24-25 Greater Phoenix Shows
- 26 Sun Cities Shows

March

- 4 Coachella Valley Shows
- 4 San Fernando Valley Show
- 16-19 FWD Spring Convention & NCENN Division Contest, Reno

April

- 1 Palomar Pacific Show
- 7-8 NCWH Division Contest Campbell, CA
- 21-22 Az/SN/SU Division Contest Phoenix, AZ
- 21-22 Whittier Shows
- 22 Fullerton Show
- 22 Placerville Show
- 22 San Luis Obispo Shows
- 22 Visalia Shows
- 29 Santa Fe Springs Shows

May

- 6 SCW Division Contest NoSite yet
- 13 SCE Division Contest No Site yet
- 20 Yosemite Shows
- 21 Palo Alto-Mountain View Show

June

- 10 Santa Rosa Show

July

2-9 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION Indianapolis, IN

October

- 5-8 FWD Fall Convention San Jose [Corrected Date]

November

- 11-12 NC COTS, 2nd weekend
- 18-19 SC COTS, 3rd weekend

December

- 15, 16, 17 Whittier Shows

2007 _____

March

- 15-18 FWD Spring Convention & NCENN Division Contest, Reno

April

- 13-14 NCWH Division Contest No Site yet
- 20-21 Az/SN/SU Division Contest No Site yet
- 20-21 Whittier Shows

May

- 5 SCW Division Contest NoSite yet
- 12 SCE Division Contest No Site yet

July

1-8 **INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION Denver, CO**

September

27-30 FWD Fall Convention Phoenix
[Note date is moved to September]

November

10-11 NC COTS, 2nd weekend
 17-18 SC COTS, 3rd weekend

2008 _____

Jun29 -Jul 6 **INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION Nashville, TN**

November

8-9 NC COTS, 2nd weekend
 15-16 SC COTS, 3rd weekend

2009 _____

Jun28 -Jul 5 **INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION Anaheim, CA**

2010 _____

Jun27 -Jul 4 **INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION Philadelphia, PA**

Clear all show dates with FWD Secretary, Dick Girvin

WESTUNES

Magazine

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