



WESTUNES

Magazine

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

Volume 56

Summer 2006

Number 2



OC Times



Metropolis



Stardust



Late Show



VocalEase



Hi-Fidelity



Dazzle!



Men-So Forte

FWD Quartets
Qualified for
2006 International
Quartet Contest in
Indianapolis

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



OC Times



Metropolis



Late Show



VocalEase



Men-So Forte



Expedia



Equinox



Uncalled Four



Harmony 101



Good Time Harmony



Twilight Time



Shades of Blue



Highway 49



Wild Cards



Tune Struck



The Lucky Four

FWD International Preliminary & NCENN Quartet Contest Results

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- Please identify people in photos clearly.

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*We do not remember days,
We remember moments.*
Cesare Pavese

And already this year we've had many memorable moments. As if the Society Mid-winter in Sacramento in January didn't produce enough magical memories, the Far Western District got our 2006 regular contest year off to a flying start in Reno/Sparks in March with our combined International Quartet Preliminary, NorCal/NNv quartet chorus and quartet, and high school quartet contests. Not only did we qualify our current International Quartet medal holders, Metropolis and O.C.Times to move on to Indianapolis, but we saw two new quartets, Late Show and VocalEase qualify along with last year's FWD collegiate representative, Men-So-Forte. Since then, current FWD District Champ Hi-Fidelity travelled to Evergreen and made the grade to compete in Indianapolis. As of this writing we are waiting to hear how our other three candidates, Stardust, Dazzle and Entourage do in pre-lims in other districts. By the time you read this, you will already know how they did, because I know you check the FWD Web-site regularly.

If the anticipation of having at least six and possibly nine quartets competing in Indianapolis (more than any other district) doesn't get you lined up for airline tickets, think about our chorus situation. The Far Western District will be the first district to have four choruses officially participating at International. The MOH will put on a masters class and give a performance as out-going champion and Westminster, La Jolla and Rincon Beach will be competing.

You say you haven't bought registrations for the convention yet? You want good seats? Call Ev Nau and tell him you want to join the Presidents Council. He might be able to help you.

Motto:
**"Thanks for
the
Memories"**

**FWD Fall Convention in San Jose
October 5-8, 2006
Let's Get Our Conventions Singing Again
Come Join in the FUN!**

I mentioned two new quartets above. Looking to the future, we have an exciting new chorus functioning in NorCal West: the Bay Area Chapter, Voices In Harmony, directed by Dr Greg Lyne. This new chorus, along with the Phoenix Chorus, which was reconstructed and rejuvenated last year, bodes well for our future. With these two choruses and the four mentioned above, we could soon be the first district to win multiple chorus medals just as we've done several times with quartets.

Also in Reno, we had our spring Board of Directors and House of Delegates meetings. I want to thank all of you who made the effort to attend the HOD meeting. One very important item that received approval at the HOD meeting was the change in our SOP to allow choruses and quartets to participate as "performers" at as many division contests as they want as long as they can be accommodated. They can only "compete" for score in one division, and, with choruses, that must be its home division. All need to "apply" to participate outside the division. These changes were spelled out in the HOD Brochure, which was made available on the FWD Web-site to all members.

We need more chapters to send delegates to the HOD. We need your input. In Reno, only 28 chapters were represented, so that means 57 chapters were not heard. The president of each chapter is automatically the chapter delegate unless he appoints someone or a delegate is chosen by some other method. Every chapter has an obligation to have someone represent it at the House of Delegates. This fall, Sept 29th at 2PM in San Jose, let's see if we can't get at least 60 chapters represented. Let me know by August 1st what you would like to be discussed. We need to have the agenda set and published at least 30 days before the meeting. Thanks for helping.

See you in Indy.

FWD Sunshine Chairman George McCay

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Hi-Fidelity Sweeps the Sweeps!

In the finest tradition of **Metropolis** and **The Perfect Gentlemen**, your FWD quartet champions **Hi-Fidelity** brought home the trophy as the **2006 Harmony Sweepstakes National A Cappella Champions**. Hi-Fi is only the third Barbershop quartet in the history of the contest to win it's highest honors! (All three quartets were from the FWD!)

Sponsored by our friends at *Primarily A Cappella*, the Harmony Sweepstakes A Cappella Festival has become the premier showcase for vocal harmony music in America. Over the last 22 years, the national competition has drawn hundreds of vocal groups from around the country, hosting regional competitions in eight cities. Each year the winning group from the regional festivals are invited to compete in front of celebrity judges and a sold out house of enthusiastic a cappella fans at the National Finals in San Francisco.

This year's competition was an amazing night of music featuring groups of four to seven members each performing vocal jazz, doo-wop, gospel and of course, barbershop! In what has become known as "the most exciting 12 minutes of a cappella

music anywhere" each group brings their best show package to the stage with the hopes of thrilling the audience and impressing the judges.

Reprising their original "Addam's Family" routine turned out to be just the ticket to take top-honor's in this year's contest. Hi-Fi won the crowd and the judges with their big sound and hilarious characterization of the four Addam's family men (oh, sorry Thing), FIVE Addam's family men in their pursuit for love. When the votes were in, Hi-Fidelity had won both the Audience Favorite and the National Championship! A sweep!

Taking 2nd place honors this year was **Regency**, a superb Doo-wop group from Baltimore and vocal jazz quintet, **Clockwork** from the bay area placed 3rd. Also appearing this year was another fantastic Barbershop quartet named **'Round Midnight** from the Mid-Atlantic District. They are the New York regional Harmony Sweepstakes champions, and were seen with the guys from Hi-Fi singing tags until 2:30 AM. No surprise there!

Congratulations Hi-Fidelity!

For more information visit www.hifidelityquartet.com

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Normally when I write one of these articles I'm addressing it to everyone in the District, but this time I'm taking the opportunity to talk to you personally. I haven't heard from you in a long time and wondered how things are going in your barbershop life. Mostly, are you having some fun with it? We all know that there are a lot of pluses in belonging to a barbershop group. You can get a musical education, you can take pride in knowing you're helping to preserve a whole style of music, you can even have a sense of providing entertainment and a service to your community. But, all these things are made a lot more enjoyable if you're also having some fun for yourself at the same time.

So, are you having fun? Do you still look forward to your weekly get-togethers with your friends to do some singing? Are you anticipating events like your annual show and your conventions as fun happenings? I sure hope so because that's what's always kept me coming back for more.

You know, if things at your chapter are not quite what you would like them to be, you're really in luck. I've been a Society member for 33 years now, and there has never been so much help and so many materials to aid improvement as there are now. I can't believe all the programs, manuals, music and educational opportunities that are available, and there are even trained people to help us use them. I'll bet if you ask your Chapter President, he'll contact your Chapter Counselor, and that's the guy who can steer you to all that good stuff.

The other thing is that some of us seem to have lost some really good habits. You remember when we used to pack up and go visit another chapter on a meeting night? Or when we used to have friendly rivalries with a neighboring chapter that would result in all of us getting together for some singing and a barbecue? Now those were fun things to do and a great way to widen our fellowship. As a matter of fact it occurs to me that my own chapter hasn't done that for a while. Maybe I should volunteer to help set up one of those events... how about you?

Well, I hope this finds you in good health, and that you're still having a ball as a happy, singing member of our Society. I know I am. However, if you feel that your "fun" factor has slipped a little, why not suggest some new ideas to your chapter board or remind them about some lost event or program that you'd like to see restored. That way you'll have more fun, and so will they.

Well, it's been great talking to you, and be sure and give me a call or drop me a line if you want to discuss anything. Now, I have to write a little bit more to everyone else, but you can read it too if you like.

In June I'll be getting together in San Jose with all the Committee Chairmen that form the District's Operations Team. It's a meeting that will discuss all potential projects and problems in each of their special areas and also set operating budgets for next year. You can read their names and comments elsewhere in this issue, so if you have ideas or special areas of concern, now is the time to make them known. Remember, it's your ideas and your involvement that help set the course for your District's progress, and we thank you for it.

John Larry

Jest for phun?

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* 1992 Senior Quartet Champs *



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Rob Menaker • John Sasine • Jeff Baker • Brett Littlefield



2005 FWD Hall of Fame

Read by HoF Members

Jim Sherman

Our Hall of Fame honoree joined the Society in 1964 and became active in quartet singing almost immediately...and hasn't stopped!

Prior to joining the Society, he served in the United States Army from

1961 to 1964, serving in Korea and San Francisco as an accounting specialist.

He was employed for 25 years as an accounts payable supervisor for United Artists Theatres and today, is employed by E.D.O. Reconnaissance and Surveillance Systems of Morgan Hill.

Who can ever forget any of the quartets with whom our honoree performed...? How about The San Franciscans... The Gateway Four... Tribute... or The Ford Foundation?

And let's not forget... High Caliber... The Late Show... Pacific Prided... and Executive Privilege who were division champions three years in a row... 1987... '88... and '89.

How about the quartet with the longest business card... The San Francisco Storm Door and Whale Oil Company... 1975 Far Western District Champions and District representatives to the International contests six times!

Wait!... There's still more!... Sentimental Favorites... 1994 District Senior Quartet Champions and 1995 4th Place International Senior Medalists... and... remember When The Doors Sang... 1996 District Senior Champs and 1997 3rd Place International Senior Medalists!

Plus... Potluck... 1999 District Senior Quartet Champs... and, most recently... Vintage Gold... 2005 District Senior Champs and 2006 2nd Place International Silver Medalists!

Our Hall of Famer has served on the Far Western District Board of Directors a total of 19 years, with 2 years as Vice President and 17 as Treasurer and Financial Advisor.

He has served as a faculty member for the Society's COTS Program since 1944... training chapter Treasurers from all over the Barbershop Harmony Society the principles of accounting... and the values of quarteting!

Our Honoree and his childhood sweetheart are celebrating 44 years of marriage together this year and they share their love with two daughters, two sons, two grandsons and one granddaughter.

Finally... a little known fact... our Hall of Famer is the great grandson of a former Vice President of the United States... serving under President William Howard Taft!

The successes of our honoree over these many years, aided by his attention to detail and devotion to the basic principles of harmony, have made him the obvious selection for the Far Western District Hall of Fame.

Ladies and gentlemen... our Hall of Fame inductee for 2005 - Mr. Jim Sherman!

**FWD Youth Harmony Camp
September 22-24, 2006
Sly Park Educational Center
Pollock Pines, CA
Contact Richard Lund at 530-621-1904 or
rlund@innercite.com
Get Our Youth Out to Join in the FUN!**



Roger Perkins the "Great Perko"

was the convention dedicatee at the FWD Spring Convention in Reno, March 16-19, 2006.

Over many years Roger has worked tirelessly as quartet singer, chorus director, bulletin editor [he

calls himself the "Bulletin Editor for Life", Area Counselor, and is presently the Division 4 NCENN Digest Editor for Westunes. That's in his spare time when he's not directing the Nevada-Placer Chorus or singing in his quartets.

Roger also happens to be the "chef" for the Nevada-Placer Bean Feed and Somewhat Serious Quartet Contest held in Auburn, CA every June. Come to this event if you want a good time. Of course, if you don't like a good time, then.....



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Chorus Director Development: Directors of the Future

Where do chorus directors come from? Are they born with all the skills necessary to stand in front of chorus and cause wonderful things to happen? Although there may be a small handful of such prodigies, most directors need training and development. In the Barbershop Harmony Society, many of these directors rise up from the ranks of "Joe Barbershopper." I should know because I am one of those guys.

During the first few months of taking on the job of Chairman of Chorus Director Development, I have received several requests for help from chapters that have recently found themselves without a director. My first question is usually to ask if there is an assistant director capable of stepping in either on a permanent or interim basis. Sadly, the answer to that question is frequently "no."

As with any other position in the chapter, or in any other venture, organizations must always be prepared for the inevitable departure of a leader. We all hope that when the time comes to find a replacement that we will receive 6-12 months notice and have plenty of time to run a thorough director search. But we know that circumstances rarely provide the benefit of that much time. There are really only two solutions: don't ever lose your director or develop at least one assistant director who can step in at a moment's notice to either fill the gap during a full-blown search or, in the best-case scenario, step into the director role permanently.

Back to the original question: Where do chorus directors come from? In many cases, your next director may be the guy standing next to you on the risers. You never know who might be interested but too shy or modest or scared to even make the attempt.

The long journey to become an accomplished director, as with any journey, begins with the first step. Fortunately, the Society has developed a new program called Director of the Future, and

it just so happens that this eight-hour course will be offered this year at Harmony College West. Wouldn't it be great if every chapter in the district sent on member to take this class! I'm not sure Jim Turnmire could handle that many students, but I'll challenge you all to overwhelm him with your enthusiastic response to this class being offered. The Director of the Future class is specifically designed for anyone interested in chorus conducting but doesn't quite know where to start.

If your chapter does not have at least one assistant director, please encourage your Music Team and your chorus director to start now on developing someone for this very important position.

Our Newest Certified Director: I had the pleasure of presenting Kristen Thompson her chorus director certification at the NorCal West Convention in Campbell. Kristen has been the director of the Monterey Bay Chapter for several years and completes her Masters in Choral Conducting at San Jose State this Spring.

2006 Directors College Scholarship Recipients: Once again the Harmony Foundation awarded our district with ten scholarships to the week-long Directors College in St. Joseph, MO. This year's recipients are **James Brown III (Mesa)**, **Jim Davis (Santa Cruz)**, **Charles Feltman (San Francisco)**, **Alan Harrell (Coachella Valley)**, **Jason James (La Jolla)**, **Phil Ordaz (Brea)**, **Harvey Raider (Eureka)**, **Judaline Ryan (San Mateo County)**, **David Tautkus (San Fernando Valley)**, and **Ted Williamson (Sutter Creek)**.



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The spring contest season is over! Now what?

FWD had a very successful International Quartet preliminary contest and five super division contests this spring. We are sending a great group of quartets to Indy this summer. We have a terrific slate of competitors for the district contest in San Jose this fall. Everyone who competed or attended a division contest had a great time. So what's the beef?

Two things:

1. Although we had a good quartet turnout around the district, fewer choruses chose to compete. The host chapters didn't sell as many registrations as they forecast and they made less money. It is obvious we have to find a way to get more people to attend and enjoy the contest. I have a couple of suggestions later, but the fact is -- if we can't get the registrations up we have no choice but to cut expenses.

Since all our labor is "free", the only thing we can reduce is the size of the judging panel. We will go to a single panel for division contests next year (except NCENN and Int'l Quartet Preliminaries). We will add judges if the pre-registration numbers permit the expense. The biggest impact of having a single panel is that evaluations after the contest will be much shorter -- especially for quartets. We will have half the judges to cover the same number of competitors.

2. Except for the combined NCENN and Int'l quartet prelims in Reno next year, we STILL don't have locations or host chapters for our division contests next year. I hear some chapters are talking about joining up and splitting up the effort. What a good idea! Get with your Division VP and find a way to make it happen. Your regional convention planning manager will also help.

The division contest is very competitor friendly and can be one of the most enjoyable Barbershop experiences. We have changed the rules starting next year to allow quartets and choruses to sing for evaluation at ANY Division contest except they must qualify for District at their own Division contest.

I have heard rumblings that some chapters think they are too small to compete. Well then, plan on singing for evaluation only. The evaluation you get will help you sing better and singing better is the BEST recruitment tool we have in our box.

I have also heard a suggestion that two chapters who don't compete could join forces for a contest to sing for evaluation. What a great chapter visitation opportunity! I always enjoyed chapter visitations where one chapter traveled to another's rehearsal. The chapters sing to each other and then get together on the risers for a polecat or two. Why don't you plan on doing the same thing next spring? Then entertain your friends in the division by singing at the contest for evaluation with your "buddy" chapter. You can sing anything you want. You aren't singing for score it doesn't have to be competition qualified.

I really believe that the health of the society is directly tied to the chapter. Make your society better by making your chapter better. Then, participate in next year's Division contest and get an objective measure of your progress.



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How Much Outreach Are You Doing?

As we are completing our division contests, I find myself wondering just how many of us who profess to love this hobby of ours, have taken a minute to ask a friend, old buddy, new acquaintance, or family member to come see us perform in competition. Are you one of those who thought to ask that person who might have never experienced our unique style of music, to come and hear a real treat? If so, I commend you for your efforts! If not, why not? We are at a perfect point to put forth our very best performance for the uninitiated amongst us, and to possibly gain another member, audience member, or supporter. We do work hard leading up to our contests, in order to be the best in our divisions, and to hopefully gain a chance to show off again at district contest, should we accomplish all that it takes to be asked to come to the district contest. Are you using this opportunity to invite others, or even better, to put on a show, using your polished talents to possibly attract new members?

While contemplating the ideas above, have you taken the time to read the most recent edition of the Harmonizer? The article regarding membership and our current campaign to increase our numbers should have practically jumped off of the page at you, to say nothing of the excitement that it should have generated for you. If you're wondering what I am referring to, take a moment to see how you can reduce the amount of dues that you'll have to pay for 2007, just by asking a few new guests to join you in our hobby.

For every new member that you bring in during the 2006 year, you will see your dues reduced by 20% for 2007. If you just brought in 5 new members during the current year, your dues would be \$0 in 2007. Could you (or your spouse) find something unique to do with the money that you would have spent on dues next year? Maybe be able to pay for your International tickets for 2007, get some new stuff at the Harmony Marketplace, or even buy roses for your spouse to say thanks for all of her support of your hobby?

I don't know about you, but I see those guys I've never gotten around to talking to, in a totally different light, especially because it will help my chapter and our district grow. How about you?

Don't forget about the upcoming Harmony College this July! Many great things happening, with some awesome chances to learn, create great harmony with someone you've never sung with before, and to hear some of the great new and/or rising tal-

ent that our district is known for. If I can be of any help, as you seek to grow your chapter, please feel free to e-mail me and say so! I can be reached at Field_Auditor@prodigy.net .



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Enthusiasm – the magic bullet for member retention

Y'know, successful, growing chapters I run across all seem to have several traits in common – and in my opinion they all boil down to one word – **enthusiasm!**

For example:

- **They simply don't allow negativism.** If there are problems, they air them quickly, come to an understanding, arrive at solution, and enthusiastically move forward. Conversely, they enthusiastically exploit positives and successes and celebrate them.
- **They support and "cheerlead" their fellow members** – their director, their leadership team, and their fellow members. They encourage involvement by all members (some chapters mandate that each member have a specific job/position in the chapter), and enthusiastically recognize achievements – at every opportunity, and always publicly in front of the membership.
- **They treasure their members** – guests, new members, or long-standing "veterans". All members make it their business to enthusiastically make sure that the meeting night experience is the best it can be for each and every attendee, and that there's always a compelling reason for guys to return the next week, and the week after that, and the week after that...
- **They exhibit personal pride and responsibility** – by enthusiastically learning notes, words, moves and other performance aspects quickly and accurately – and likewise in perfecting them.
- **They approach riser time as an opportunity** to enthusiastically improve over the last time they sang the song – notes, words, moves, tuning, synchronization – whatever the director's focus happens to be. And, guess what? They respect and revere their director for his/her talent and hard work, and reward him/her by paying attention and helping him/her make the product better! Likewise, they approach each performance as an opportunity to be the best they can be, and to let the world at large know how much they enjoy performing and sharing this great hobby.

Make sense? I promise you, if each and every member concentrates on being enthusiastic (read: positive, supportive and involved), it'll go a long ways toward unifying the chapter and retaining membership and growth!

- see 'ya around -



Chair: Music & Performance
Jerry Fairchild
 671 W Cypress Ave
 Redlands, CA 92373-5817
 909-792-8618
 E: jerryfairchild@verizon.net

As you probably already know, there are several programs available from the Far Western District which can help with the improvement of your chapter's musical program as well as help your chapter's quartets have more fun while singing better.

The most fun, the most instructive and the most valuable, of course, is the **Harmony College West** coming up. It will be held on the beautiful campus of the University of Redlands. The dates are **July 21, 22, and 23, 2006.**

You may not realize it, but this the last edition of Westunes before HARMONY COLLEGE WEST. I won't be here again to nag you to get your reservations in before the deadline,

June 21st.

This year there will be the widest variety of classes ever! Just check out the list of classes and instructors and sign up now!

- Professional Show Production – Doug Maddox – 8 hours
- Music Educators Learn Barbershop – Jim DeBusman – 8 hours
- Sight-reading – Beginning – Phil Ordaz – 4 hours
- Sight-reading – Intermediate – Phil Ordaz – 4 hours
- New Blood – Youth In Harmony – Mark Freedkin – 4 hours, two sections
- Director Of The Future – Jim Turnmire – 8 hours
- Arranging – Dave Briner – 8 hours
- Vocal Production – Royce Ferguson – 4 hours, two sections
- Individual Voice Coaching – Jim DeBusman – 4 Sections – 2 hours each
- Discovery Singing/Woodshedding – Steve Shannon – 2 hours – 2 sections
- Quartet Singing To Entertain Your Audiences – Steve Shannon – 2 hours
- How To Have The Chapter You Really Want – Steve Shannon – 2 hours
- So You Want To Coach A Quartet – Lloyd Steinkamp – 8 hours
- Leading Your Quartet Or Chorus – John Rae-Grant – 2 hours
- Singing Rhythm Tunes Successfully – John Rae-Grant – 2 hours
- Teamwork Within A Quartet Or Chorus – John Rae-Grant – 2 hours

Quartet Rehearsal Techniques – John Rae-Grant – 2 hours
Total class hours must add up to 8 hours.

If that doesn't make you want to jump up right now, run to your computer and register online, I don't know what will!

Quartets, if you really want to improve the quality of your singing and performance, HCW is the place you need to attend! For those quartets who are not competing quartets but want to get help with specific things your quartet needs, there will be top coaches who can address your specific needs.

For quartets who are looking for the keys to improving your performance for both contests and shows there will be a different approach this year. Coaching will be done in PODS. Pods are something different in the FWD. Four quartets work with four coaches, one coach at a time. Each quartet will get to work with each coach twice on each of these categories: Singing, Music, Performance and Presentation.

To get the maximum benefit from your time with these great coaches, be SURE to bring whatever type of recording equipment you have or prefer. If you can, video is best. Bring enough tape for 8 hours of recording. Your memories are better than mine, but there is no way to remember all the good stuff you will get at this year's Harmony College West!

See the Far Western District website at www.spebsqsafwd.org <<http://www.spebsqsafwd.org>> for additional information.



**Chair : Young Men In Harmony
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A Change in Plans

When most of us signed up for this barbershop thing several years ago we did so simply out of self-interest, for the fun and self-satisfaction of singing and ringing chords and entertaining audiences, and the fellowship and friends that ensued. For many of us, that's still the sum total of what we're in it for.

But for us as an organization, things have changed. Our underlying goal now is self-preservation.

We have taken on the task of educating a whole new generation about the joys and benefits of what we do. We have taken on the job of "Leading the cause" for vocal music education in our schools and communities. Because if we don't, what we enjoy so much today will expire with us.

We have found out that our involvement in the Youth In Harmony cause over the last 15 years is not only educational and helping a whole new generation discover what we discovered years ago, it's adding a whole new level to our joy, simply by sharing. We've added value to our own experience simply by witnessing the joy of young people discovering and experiencing barbershop.

So it's a whole new game. It's not just our own self-satisfaction. It's living up to that first item in the code of ethics on the back of our membership card that says, "I will do everything in my power to perpetuate the Society." We're still in it for the fun, of course. But our first role, and the primary duty of each chapter, is to support vocal music in our schools and communities. Of course we can't do that well if we aren't strong musically, if we don't have good programs and strong chapters, and members enjoying what they do. But we've become, in some respects, like a service club for the cause. A cause that benefits our kids, our communities, and the future of our world.

Harmony Foundation is a vehicle for doing that. So are all the programs, the youth harmony festivals and camps, the high school and college quartet contests, and the other efforts we support at the district and chapter levels.

So it's a different paradigm. We know it takes time to affect serious change. But the numbers are plain before us. We know what we have to do. And doing what we have to do, by getting involved in youth outreach, turns out to be one of the most fun and rewarding things we can possibly do.

Just watch the faces of a bunch of youngsters experiencing their first barbershop song. Just watch me cry the next time Westminster hits one of those thunderous overtones and a crowd of young people reacts.



**VP - Financial Development
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Is Harmony Foundation part of your member orientation??

Most chapters have an engrained cycle of recruiting new members, renewing members, and orientation sessions to explain the Society, the district, the chapter, our programs and activities, right?

And, of course, there is a presentation about Harmony Foundation?? NO?? Well, try these few paragraphs:

Harmony Foundation was founded in 1959 as a charitable subsidiary of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Its mission of “preserving the musical legacy of the Society through support of vocal music education in our schools and communities” is summed up in a single slogan – SING for life!

The philosophy practiced is that Harmony Foundation, the District and Chapters are all on the same team to generate funds to further the barbershop harmony art form.

The Foundation (now numbering three staff people) possesses the fund raising expertise that is a resource to all levels of the Society. Their responsibility is to develop a volunteer cadre of Barbershoppers trained in assisting district and chapters in raising more money for self-support.

The Foundation currently offers many ways to invest, but here is a quartet” of the most popular:

Ambassadors of Song – a monthly sponsor program where any level gift can be deducted from your bank account or charged to a credit card to provide funds over time.

Presidents Council – an annual giving program beginning at \$1000 per year can also be paid monthly on a credit card. Benefits include preferred seating and gala celebration at International and MidWinter conventions, plus free summer contest recording.

Donor Choice – in either of the programs just mentioned, you can designate up to 30% of your gift BACK to your district or chapter. What a great way to assist in underwriting a program of your choice!

Founders Club – the initial program started in the mid-1980s to create an endowment. Those involved either provided an outright gift (minimum \$1000) or a planned gift (e.g. bequest, life insurance, charitable trust, beneficiary in a will, etc.) You can always make Harmony Foundation part of your estate planning.

And as a chapter, we support Harmony Foundation as well as constantly seeking sources of community-minded, performing arts and music supporters to help us through grants and scholarships.

How easy is that?? You could even use photocopy this article and use it as a handout for the orientation session! Thanks for making your chapter members aware of this important funding source for the hobby they adore.

**FWD Fall Convention in San Jose
October 5-8, 2006
Let's Get Our Conventions Singing Again
Come Join in the FUN!**



2005 FWD Hall of Fame

Read by Chuck Hunter, Sr.

Bob Bisio [Posthumous]

There is something bitter-sweet about inducting a man into the Hall of Fame after he has passed away, because receiving this program credit would have given him an enormous

dose of satisfaction along with his modest but earnest protests that he really didn't deserve the honor.

A fifty-plus year member of the Society, he was a judge back in the 50's and 60's and was honored with the title "Judge Emeritus" by the International C&J Committee in 1986. A teacher by profession with a love for history, he was a key player in the formation and development of the Society's museum, serving on its' oversight committee for years. He was the first historian in the FWD, and for a number of years wrote a history column for Westunes. For a period of years at the international conventions he hosted a session for men he called the Golden Eagles, during which early pioneers and quartet champions would gather and reminisce about the growth of the Society during the 40's and 50's.

He was the guiding force that created the World Harmony Jamboree, one of the highlights of every International Convention. His enthusiasm for expanding the Society outside of the boundaries of North America included working with and traveling to England every year at his own expense as the British Association of Barbershop Singers was conceived and grew. He participated as a faculty member at the New Zealand Harmony College in 1996.

For four years he was a member of the Society's External Affairs Committee, and during this time worked tirelessly to strengthen and expand our efforts to make barbershop a more global society. A major force behind the scenes, he was an invaluable assistant backstage at the 1990 International Convention in San Francisco, in most of the FWD Conventions in Northern California during the 70's, 80's, and early 90's.

This man was a perfect example of someone who loved barbershop music even though he wasn't much of a singer himself. The Far Western District, the International Barbershop Harmony Society, and our overseas affiliates are all the stronger because of his efforts.

I take enormous pride and pleasure in naming Bob Bisio as a member of the Far Western District Hall of Fame.



2005 FWD Quartet Champions Hi-Fidelity

by Craig, Tom, Gregg and Martin

Hi-Fidelity continues to be as busy as ever! In March we appeared on three wonderful shows where we met new fans and had chance to catch up with some old friends. We performed on the Casa Grande, Phoenix and Sierra Vista shows. (Hey, they like us in Arizona!) In April we competed in (and won) the L.A. Regional Harmony Sweepstakes! The "Addam's Family" made a rare appearance, and the audience was one of the most appreciative we have ever seen!

The next week we competed out of district at the Evergreen International Prelims. We were pleased to qualify for Indy, but really missed singing for you in Reno, especially as your current FWD champions! We did have a great time in Canada though, and met some great barbershoppers including the guys from Flipside. What a class act!

By the time you read this, we will have competed at the Harmony Sweepstakes National Finals in San Francisco – We hope to make you proud!

In the near future you can catch us on the Yosemite chapter show on May 20, White Mountains, Arizona on July 15th or the Vegas show on Aug. 26th. And of course, don't miss the Go for the Gold show in Fullerton on June 17!

This month, we thought we give you a little background about two of our members.

Martin Fredstrom

Martin heard his first barbershop chorus back in 1985 and was ready to join right then and there. Unfortunately, he was at Sweet Adeline's chorus rehearsal and didn't quite fit the membership criteria. (He was too tall.)

Martin soon found the Scottsdale Copperstatesmen men's chorus where Lloyd Steinkamp was directing. Previous to meeting Lloyd, Martin had no sense of humor. Actually, he had very lit-

tle personality period. Unka Lloyd did not make Martin funny, but at least he did have a positive influence.

A couple of years later, a quartet called "The Barbershop Bones" from California performed on the Scottsdale show where Martin met Hi-Fi Baritone, Gregg Bernhard (who IS funny). They would eventually sing together in Vocal Union, with future Sam's Club champ Ken Potter. Martin was not funny in that quartet.

Then a whole bunch of really uninteresting stuff happened, leading up to Martin joining Hi-Fidelity in early 2002. They sang their first show together 10 days later, which proves Martin is a fast-learner, but not funny. The Addam's Family package debuted that year and Martin played the part of stoic Lurch which was the only time he was actually funny.

In October of that year Martin was THRILLED to win a Silver Medal with Hi-F- at the FWD Quartet contest. A year later he was pleased with a repeat second place finish. By year three, it was just annoying. Fortunately, the quartet finally won in 2005 and he went back to THRILLED again. However, he is still not funny.

Martin lives in Tustin with his gorgeous wife Tresa and their two cats, George and Gracie. The cats are very funny.

Tom Moore

Tom became involved in music at an early age. His mother took him to the music store and said "Pick an instrument, your gonna learn to play it." He chose the trumpet because it only had three keys to push. This was a good choice because the trumpet is not a funny instrument, and Tom is not funny either.

Tom discovered his love for singing his senior year of high school and has been active in choirs, musicals and community theater ever since. He first heard barbershop when his then future wife Dee Dee took him to a concert where the Masters Of Harmony were performing. Tom recalls, "I was on the edge of my seat for the whole performance, mostly because there was this big guy in front of me and I couldn't see over him." He would later join the Masters' and win four international chorus gold medals, none of them while being funny.

Tom has belonged to four quartets since joining the Society in 1993. He began as a Tenor in Kaleidoscope from Pomona Valley. His second quartet was Countdown who achieved second place at District three times. (Sound familiar?) His third quartet was a short-lived experiment called Batteries Not Included where Tom sang Lead. He learned that Lead is a lot harder than it looks but remained there when forming Hi-Fidelity, proving he's up for a challenge, but not funny.

Tom works for Vertis Inc. as a computer programmer and lives in Fontana with his wonderful wife Dee Dee and their two dogs, Roxie and Little Bit.

Visit Hi-Fidelity on the web at www.hifidelityquartet.com

Five Quartet Singing Talents

Some truths are unchanging. This 1963 piece by the legendary Lou Perry outlines the fundamental skills every quartet singer ought to possess.

We are all amateurs, which means we are doing something we love. We love to sing barbershop harmony. As Bob Johnson has stated on numerous occasions, most of us are not singers, but because we love to sing, we constantly strive to sing better so that eventually we may be able to sing for the pleasure of other people. Very often efforts toward this end result in men finally becoming singers. There is no better basis for the success of your quartet than this "best of all reasons for singing."

There are other elements, however, which have an important part in determining how far your quartet can go. They are commonly referred to as talents, some of which we all have in varying degrees. They are discussed below in the order of their importance.

1. A musical ear

This talent involves the ability to mentally hear pitches, intervals and related musical sounds accurately. It does not imply any knowledge of musical theory or the ability to read music (visual identification). Like all talents, this one improves with practice so that reaction to pitch patterns is quickened. Unfortunately, a sensitive musical ear cannot be created. If you do not have one, you had better take up golf or some like pastime. You do not belong in a singing society - unless of course you have remarkable administrative talents which might be used to implement the efforts of the singers.

2. Intelligence

Singing is primarily an exercise of the mind, not the body. Explaining singing in anatomical terms makes you think of anatomy instead of singing. Physical difficulties in singing are ones you put there yourself, such as strain, poor posture and abuse of the apparatus, etc. The only muscle not relaxed is the brain muscle. We use our innate intelligence to remove hurdles and to fortify our unique and individual strong points. Here is where intelligence is needed to concentrate on the job requirements of the various voice parts. We have to think about the sound being produced, and how this sound can best be made to come to the aid of the other three parties in this joint effort.

We are called upon to weigh, balance, and make judgments in split seconds; to create ideas on the spur of the moment in order to keep a song alive; and to maintain the various tools we use under stricter discipline than in any other form of singing. We need to use our brains, gentlemen, every minute we are singing. As a lagniappe, the more we use them, the better they get, and we get, and singing gets.

Singing without thought is mere sound, and even though generating sound is one of the most distinctive characteristics of our musical form, it is meaningless unless it is applied with conscious mental effort to the end of developing the idea of a song and making that idea great enough to share with an audience.

3. Vocal Equipment

Except for the lead, who should have some characteristics of what is usually referred to as a "voice," with strength, lyricism, and controlled vibrato for added color, the first two talents are more important. A good mind and ear can improve an average voice, but a voice with no guiding intelligence very often deteriorates.

Voices in general are not fully formed until about age twenty-four. Young voices can be ruined for life by forcing them into a form they are not yet fitted for, especially in the lower registers. We should be most careful, then, to encourage interest in young people by letting them sing only material adapted to their capacities.

A good musical tone begins with the controlled expiration of breath in a balanced and relaxed body. The kind and quality of tone depends on what you mentally want to hear. Try singing a note at a comfortable pitch. Sing the same note another way. Which do you like better? With practice, you can learn to make any kind of tone you want until, at will, you can furnish the sound that suits the current need of the quartet. In short, you set the standard of what you want to hear. The sound is you. By coincidence, the more you concentrate on the sound image, the more relaxed you become and the better you sing.

Very little of music was written to show off voices. What we can bring to music to better present the idea of the composer is the important thing, and because we love to sing, we will try to bring a well-disciplined tone, guided by intelligence.

4. A Sense of Rhythm

Because of the limited number of notes in the diatonic scale, there are only about a dozen basic melodies possible. (See "Sigmund Spaeth, Tune Detective.") These few melodies are made to sound like many different ones by stretching or compressing them over a variety of rhythmic patterns. In short, 'rhythm' gives the melody both form and motion. It may demand that we stay in one place, like soldiers marking time; or that we ride it forward on the melody, making the melody walk, dance, stroll, run, fly, and even fall down.

The rhythmic pattern is named in the time signature. It tells what the basic pulsation will be. To a large degree, the bass in your quartet will decide when the pulsation must be pronounced or implied, regular or free, accelerated or retarded, according to the motion requirements of the song. The lack of rhythmic talent in a quartet makes for pedestrian songs. Coupled with a lack of talent number five below, a song can be stopped stone-cold dead.

5. Word Sense

Singing on vowels produces sound. Singing on words makes sound with meaning. Song lyrics are words put on notes to express an idea or tell a story. Barbershoppers sing songs, especially ones that tell stories. Might we not then more properly sing even exercises like scales and warm-up vocalizing on words as they are sung. The very least it could do would be to help loosen our tongues and relax our jaw muscles.

The song lyric should be studied, analyzed, and learned to the point where we can visualize and describe the idea of it as a unit. We will thereby gain a better understanding of what attitude to take toward the notes themselves, no matter how low or high.

The interpretation of a song is affected by the ability to read and understand the lyric. This "word-sense" cannot be taught as such. And, well it shouldn't for this is the area where individual personality has widest scope. A song is arranged according to the mental attitude toward the words. Phrasing, shading and emphasis, together with all other elements of interpretation, depend on this talent. The written arrangement is only the vehicle you use to make the song your own. When you succeed, the result is a great arrangement.

Conclusions

Find three other guys and get going! With the continued development and discipline of the above talents, a true barbershop quartet emerges, with a Style all its own.

It will have a distinctive Sound, and will nurture an image reflecting the collective Taste inherent in its members.

Few quartets are fortunate enough to possess all the above talents to a high degree, which opens the door for outside help. The help might come from a voice teacher, a coach, a category judge-coach, a HEP team member or someone of goodwill who is knowledgeable enough to give you what you need without destroying what you have.

In closing, may I offer one other opportunity to quartets who decide to sing for the pleasure of other people. Listen for the effect on your audience while you are singing...for attention, receptivity and empathy — instead of what they say or do after you have sung.

Applause is not always the criterion of a good performance, but how sweet it is!

[Note: Wally Cluett recently shared this piece. "This is the fifth article of a series on the quartet voice parts done for the District Newsletter "The Nor'easter" in 1963," Wally writes. "Lou Perry, Bob Dunning and I attended the first Society HEP School in 1962 in Winona, Minn. and the NED/HEP was formed when we returned. This effort began an active identifying of men in the

District who wanted to achieve musical excellence through quartetting and the Four Statesmen were just one culmination of our efforts to get the men to look beyond their own chapters when forming a quartet.

"This article from Lou kicked off the series and Burt Szabo suggested that I send it on to you as a possible inclusion in the Harmonizer. Lou and I kept an active correspondence over the years and in reading what he wrote, it seemed to me that his words still ring as true today as they did so many years ago when he first penned them...

"I miss him dearly, "]



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Widow Kathy Edwards with award

2005 FWD Hall of Fame

Read by Ray Rhymer

Owen Edwards [Posthumous]

Owen Edwards was born in Bartlesville, Oklahoma, in 1921. Of course we all know that the Bartlesville Barflies became the first quartet champion of the Society in 1939. But — Owen was not a part of that quartet.

Owen grew up mostly in western Kansas, attended 17 grade schools and graduated from high school in Ashland, Kansas. He joined the Navy in 1941 and was on the battleship West Virginia at Pearl Harbor. Also in the Navy during the Korean War, the ship he was on got sunk. Think about that!

After the wars, Owen went to Washington, D.C. to work for the Department of the Army. During that time he joined the Washington Chapter of the SPEBSQSA in 1960 and later the Prince George's County Chapter in Maryland.

One of Owen's proudest moments was the Society's Midwinter Convention which was held in Washington as part of our nation's 1976 Bicentennial. Owen was an organizer of the "Salute to America" program, which was held at the Kennedy Center and featured 225 barbershoppers from the Washington, D.C. area as the "Chorus of the Potomac." Freddy King and Bob Johnson led the chorus, and were most grateful to Owen.

He retired in 1980 and headed to Carlsbad, New Mexico. While visiting family in Texas, his wife became ill and passed away. Owen stayed in Texas with his daughter and son and soon joined the Arlington Chapter.

But — retirement wasn't suitable. He went to Kenosha and met with then Executive Director Hugh Ingraham. That meeting resulted in a volunteer corps of membership ambassadors for the Society and Owen became the first international membership counselor. A man of action, he visited over 100 chapters in 42 states and five provinces of Canada in three years. It is a matter of record that the Society reached its all-time high in membership during those years.

While visiting the San Luis Obispo Chapter in 1984, Owen met legendary barbershopper Howard Scanlon and his daughter Kathie. That led to marriage in April, and from then on they were together essentially "24/7". They settled in Reseda in the San Fernando Valley. After directing the Santa Clarita Valley

Chapter for a while, he joined the Valleyaires and stayed. He continued to be active with Society COTS faculties, teaching membership classes through the late '80's.

District President Lloyd Steinkamp appointed Owen Westunes Editor in 1990 and with Kathie as office manager, they produced and mailed Westunes for over a decade. Few know just how big that task is.

Owen and Kathie are famous for the Howard Scanlon Afterglow Without A Show and Woodshed Contest. Following Owen's death, Kathie established the Chapter of the Year Award from the Owen Edwards family.

As Chairman of the Hall of Fame Committee, it is my honor to induct Owen Edwards into the FWD Hall of Fame.



William P. Pearson

VOCAL TEACHER & CLINICIAN
VOICE THERAPY

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Get Our Youth Out to Join in the FUN!



2005 BHS International Champions Masters of Harmony

by Dane Hutchins

In February, the Masters of Harmony hosted our 6th Annual Young Men's Harmony Festival at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa. About 30 MOH men and sweethearts were on hand to take care of registration, serve lunch and supper, and coordinate logistics for over 200 young men from 26 high schools, junior high and middle schools throughout Southern California. The all-day festival was facilitated by our own **Mark Freedkin** and eagerly supported by FWD Champion **Westminster Chorus** and several talented quartets to demonstrate the art form: **Afternoon Delight**, **OC Times** and **Metropolis**. We all performed together in the evening for proud parents and guests. Read all the details at www.mastersofharmony.org.

Over the past several months, the Masters of Harmony has added several exciting new songs to our repertoire; some of them debuted at our recent spring "Medal Madness" show in Long Beach, and others will be presented at the International Convention in Indianapolis this July.

We were pleased to share our stage in April with the 2005 Sweet Adelines International Chorus Champion **Harborlites**, as well as the 2005 Barbershop Harmony Society Quartet Champion **Realtime**. With the Westminster Chorus and **Hi-Fidelity**, both District champions, and OC Times, 5th place International medalists, there is a load of talent in the FWD!

Our chapter quartets did several singing visitations to other SoCal chapters in recent weeks, to publicize the spring show, and just for the fun and the warm welcomes we always receive.

Although we won't be competing in Indy, we'll be singing our farewell set as Society champs and performing in a few other programs during convention week, namely, a Master Class and the World Harmony Jamboree. In keeping with our music leadership's intention to be the best we can be, we're scheduling the usual exhausting extra rehearsals and a weekend retreat just before the Indy trip, to polish our singing and presentation skills. You may have read in the Harmonet that The Vocal Majority, Masters of Harmony and other noted choruses are mostly average singers – with the will to work hard for excellence (and a director who is rarely satisfied).

The chapter continues to grow. We're very pleased to welcome new baritone **Ronan Hill** into the fold and there are seven more applicants. We look forward to singing tags with you in Indy!



HCW '06 Course Descriptions

Professional Show Production for Amateurs – Doug Maddox – 8 Hrs

Let's see, upstage is, er...or is it downstage? Learn the essence of backstage preparation along with other key elements of show production and administration.

Music Educators Learn Barbershop – Jim DeBusman Hosting – 8 Hrs

In the classroom, chorus directors are voice teachers too. Review vocal fundamentals that will work with your singers. Deal with issues we face in the classroom such as the value of warm-ups, working with problem voices, the unchanged and changing voice and pedagogical concepts that will benefit your singers

Sight-reading – Beginning and Intermediate – Phil Ordaz – 4 Hrs and 4 Hrs

Unlock the mystery of those little black dots, lines and circles. Learning to sight-read is not as hard as you think. Take the class and get your foot in the sight-reading door...if not your whole leg!

New Blood – Youth In Harmony – Mark Freedkin – 4 Hrs

Learn how your chapter can begin building a Youth In Harmony program that can introduce young men and their choral teachers to the joys of “ringing a chord”.

Director Of The Future – Jim Turnmire – 8 Hrs

The Director Of The Future class is for those who are interested in choral conducting, but aren't quite sure where to begin. This class includes the basics of conducting, including patterns, warm-up techniques and teaching techniques.

Arranging – Dave Briner – 8 Hrs

Here is your opportunity to learn the basics of arranging, from how to make sure it is Barbershop, the steps from “I'd like to try to arrange a song!” to making sure your arrangement is not only contestable but sing-able.

Vocal Production – Royce Ferguson – 8 Hrs

Your voice is your instrument – treat it with care and it will give you a lifetime of fun and satisfaction. The secrets of how to get more from your voice with less effort without hurting it. Warm-ups, breathing – how to breathe and more.

Individual Voice Coaching – Jim DeBusman – 2 Hrs, 3 sections

Don't miss this opportunity to get personal help for your voice. How to use your voice, how not to abuse it, how to produce a beautiful, clear tone with less effort and all sorts of other secrets of singing.

Discovery Singing/Woodshedding – Steve Shannon – 2 Hrs, 2 sections

Also called “Ear singing”. That is really what true “woodshedding” is. Learn how to get back to the roots of Barbershopping. Learn how to fit your part into a great chord – create a different and often better chord or swipe. Be a participant, not an onlooker.

HCW '06 Course Descriptions Continued

How To Have The Chapter You Really Want – Steve Shannon – 2 Hrs

Learn the secrets of influencing what happens in your chapter. Discover how you can help establish and accomplish chapter goals. Discover what things can make a chapter be the only place your members want to go on chapter night.

Quartet Singing To Entertain Your Audiences – Steve Shannon – 2 Hrs

What does it take to entertain an audience? Part of it is what you sing. Part, how you sing it. How do you really get across to the people? What happens between songs? Learn about your audience. What to do to get them to ask you back.

Leading Your Quartet Or Chorus – John Rae-Grant – 2 Hrs

You've heard of group dynamics. The future of a quartet or chorus depends on how the members interact with other. Singing is fine, but there have to be goals and a shared responsibility for making sure they are met. You can be leader. Learn how.

Teamwork With-in A Quartet Or Chorus – John Rae-Grant – 2 Hrs

The word "team" has, in its meaning, what needs to be done in either a quartet or a chorus. How does a team work? Learn the steps and techniques to build teamwork. It doesn't happen by accident.

So You Want To Coach A Quartet – Lloyd Steinkamp – 8 Hrs

Classroom work on the "theory" of what a quartet coach should do. "Field" work observing quartets being coached and discussion of the interaction between coach and quartet. The attitudes which must be communicated to the quartet being coached.

Quartet Rehearsal Techniques – John Rae-Grant – 2 Hrs

How to get the most out of your rehearsal time. Make sure you all agree on what your goals are. Then set your rehearsal schedule accordingly. Time savers. Voice savers. How to learn faster and better. How to avoid arguments.

Singing Rhythm Tunes Successfully – John Rae-Grant – 2Hrs

You can't sing "current" barbershop arrangements the way you sang "Down Our Way" or "Alexander's Ragtime Band". Rhythm tunes require an understanding of how to anticipate the beat, how to sing triplets – "three against two", and many other techniques which will get the listener "in sync" with your presentation.

Quartet Registration - Harmony College West

July 21-23, 2006

Fees: \$150 per person, tuition, with five meals and lodging in school dorms
\$ 95 per person, tuition, with five meals, no lodging, daily commuting

Please write legibly below.

Quartet Name:					
Quartet Type	Novice	Adult	Senior	Super Senior	Teen/College
Quartet Level	Novice	Intermediate	Advanced	Placed ____ at district	Placed ____ at International

Tenor

Lodging		
____ I will stay in the Dorms (\$150) ____ I will commute each day (\$95)		
Full Name		
Chapter Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip
Telephone	Email (optional)	
Special dietary needs: please describe		
Special physical needs: please describe		

Lead

Lodging		
____ I will stay in the Dorms (\$150) ____ I will commute each day (\$95)		
Full Name		
Chapter Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip
Telephone	Email (optional)	
Special dietary needs: please describe		
Special physical needs: please describe		

Quartet Registration - Harmony College West

July 21-23, 2006

Baritone		
Lodging <input type="checkbox"/> I will stay in the Dorms (\$150) <input type="checkbox"/> I will commute each day (\$95)		
Full Name		
Chapter Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip
Telephone	Email (optional)	
Special dietary needs: please describe		
Special physical needs: please describe		

Bass		
Lodging <input type="checkbox"/> I will stay in the Dorms (\$150) <input type="checkbox"/> I will commute each day (\$95)		
Full Name		
Chapter Name		
Mailing Address		
City	State	Zip
Telephone	Email (optional)	
Special dietary needs: please describe		
Special physical needs: please describe		

Coaching will be in the dorm rooms and at least one quartet member must have a room	<input type="text"/> # with lodging at \$150 =	\$ <input type="text"/>
	<input type="text"/> # commuting at \$95 =	\$ <input type="text"/> Total \$

Send \$150 (includes lodging) or \$95 (commuting) and this form to:

Derick Sturke
1514 East G Street
Oakdale, CA 95361

Make checks payable to "Far Western District HCW". All forms and fees must be received by Wednesday, June 21, 2006.

Individual Registration - Harmony College West

July 21-23, 2006

Lodging <input type="checkbox"/> I will stay in the Dorms (\$150) Includes instruction, lodging and five meals <input type="checkbox"/> I will commute each day (\$95) Includes instruction and five meals	
Full Name	
Voice Part	
Tenor	Lead
Baritone	Bass
Chapter Name	
Mailing Address	
City	State
Zip	
Telephone	Email (optional)
Special dietary needs: please describe	
Special physical needs: please describe	

In the spaces below, type the number **1** next to your first choice classes, making sure that you have selected 8 hours of instruction. Then type a **2** next to 8 hours of classes that would be your second choice(s). We will do our best to place you in your first choice class(es).

- ☐ **Vocal Production:** Royce Ferguson - 4 hours - 2 sections
- ☐ **Individual Voice Coaching:** Jim DeBusman - 2 hours - 3 sections (Limit 6 students per section)
- ☐ **Beginning Sight Reading:** Phil Ordaz - 4 hours - 1 section
- ☐ **Intermediate Sight Reading:** Phil Ordaz - 4 hours - 1 section
- ☐ **Discovery Singing/Woodshedding:** Steve Shannon - 2 hours - 2 Sections
- ☐ **How To Have The Chapter You Really Want:** Steve Shannon - 2 hours - 1 Section
- ☐ **Quartet Singing To Entertain Your Audience:** Steve Shannon - 2 hours - 1 Section
- ☐ **Singing Rhythm Songs Successfully:** John Rae-Grant - 2 hours - 1 Section
- ☐ **Quartet Rehearsal Techniques:** John Rae-Grant - 2 hours - 1 Section
- ☐ **Leadership in Your Quartet Or Chorus:** John Rae-Grant - 2 hours - 1 Section
- ☐ **Teamwork Within A Quartet Or Chorus:** John Rae-Grant - 2 hours - 1 Section
- ☐ **Director of the Future:** Jim Turnmire - 8 hours - 1 Section
- ☐ **So You Want To Coach A Quartet:** Lloyd Steinkamp - 8 hours - 1 Section
- ☐ **Arranging:** Dave Briner: 8 hours: 1 Section (Limit - 10 Students)
- ☐ **Professional Show Production For Amateurs:** Doug Maddox - 8 hours - 1 Section
- ☐ **New Blood - Youth In Harmony:** Mark Freedkin - 4 hours - 1 Section
- ☐ **Music Educators Learn Barbershop:** Jim DeBusman Hosting - 8 Hrs - 1 Section

Send \$150 (includes lodging) or \$95 (commuting), payable to "Far Western District HCW", and this form to:

Derick Sturke
1514 East G Street
Oakdale, CA 95361

All forms and fees must be received by Wednesday, June 21, 2006.

Far Western District - Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America



FWD High School Contest Results

Rank	Quartet	High School	Sponsoring Chapter
1	Stay Tuned	Green Valley	Las Vegas
2	Barber Que Sauce	Edison	Santa Fe Springs
3	Pacific Avenue	Lodi	Stockton
4	MV4	Monte Vista	Santa Cruz
5	JAG	Liberty	Bay Area
6	Fatso	Ponderosa	Placerville
7	We Might Be Somebody	Upland	Santa Fe Springs



2005 FWD President's Award Richard Lund

Richard Lund, Director of the FWD Youth Harmony Camp for several years and President of the Placerville Chapter, was awarded the 2005 President's Award primarily for his outstanding effort in the Youth In Harmony Program. The district had cancelled the FWD Harmony Camp, but Richard refused to let it go out of existence because of his intense belief in the good the camp does for the boys. He restored the vitality to the FWD camp several years ago and the camp now thrives at the Sly Park Educational Center in Pollock Pines. Richard will tell you that if we can get the high school boys to this camp, we will get "Barbershoppers For Life", and Harmony Camp is a way to "hot dip" the boys in Barbershop harmony.

Santa Cruz Youth In Harmony Visit

by Lawrence Stern

The Gold Standard Chorus [GSC] visited Alice Hughes's chorus class at Pacific Collegiate School (7th through 12) and it was a textbook example of how well a school visit can go. Pacific Collegiate of Santa Cruz, CA, is a charter school, recently ranked as one of the top ten in the United States. It was GSC's first visit to PC.

A pick-up quartet consisting of Tenor **Bev Wesley**, Lead **John Hazen**, Bass **Dwight Herr**, and Bari **Duane King**. All four had made visits to schools for GSC previously, but this was the first time these four had sung together. They rehearsed for two hours last Monday night. (I need to point out that John lives in San Jose, Duane lives in Salinas, and Bev lives in Aptos. So on top of the three hours they spent in the school, there was major driving involved. And for the rehearsal as well.)

The quartet credentials are:

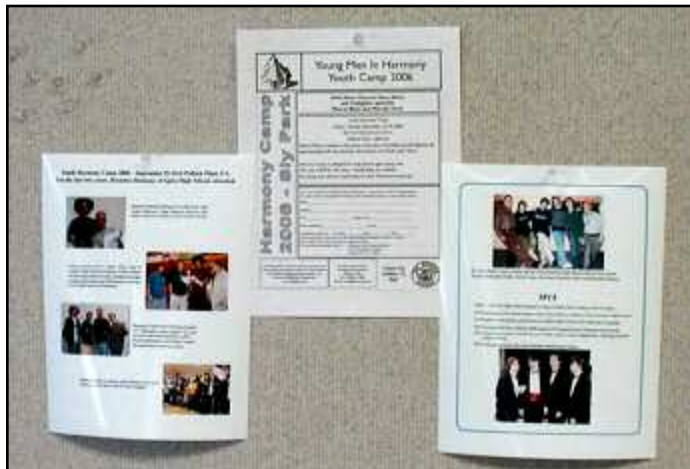
John Hazen, former director of Gold Standard, is currently singing baritone with Harmony 101, novice champs of Nor Cal West.

Duane King, former director of Gold Standard, is currently singing lead with a mixed quartet, Vocal Gentry.

Bev Wesley was a member of Mixed Metafour in which she sang with Kim and Jerry Orloff for many years.

Dwight Herr, is a former member of Gold Standard, and possibly the best bass voice ever to have sung with GSC; he only wants to sing in quartets now.

Together they have a good sound. They are entertaining. They give good face. They look as if they are enjoying themselves and it's infectious, overcoming age barrier. Beyond the fact that each brings years of singing experience to any pick-up quartet, John and Duane are born, talented teachers. They are both personable and have great senses of humor. They get instant rapport with youngsters when explaining the musical mechanics of BBS and teaching tags. They are effective in sharing their love of BBS with youngsters. I would be proud to lead them into any classroom anywhere.



The quartet arrived at 8:50 a.m, warmed up in the parking lot, and walked to Alice Hughes's classroom, just in time to sing one song to her first period chorus class which was on the way out. It was nice to see that Alice had posted flyers (2006 YHC application form that I had sent weeks in advance + camp pictures + pictures of MV4, HS quartet from Monte Vista Christian School). So she had a BBS area on her wall {Photo above}.

Second period was a "rotation" class which was combined with the drama class -- about 70 squirrely 7th graders. With the presence of three teachers -- who occasionally froze a student in place with an evil eye, the quartet gained and held their attention. The quartet sang Down Our Way, My Wild Irish Rose (demonstrating each part and singing two parts, three parts and all four parts), Bye, Bye Blues, Hello MaryLou, and Darkness on the Delta. Between songs they demonstrated two tags, In Dixieland Where I Was Born, and When It's Sleepy Time Down South, getting students to sing tags with them. [Photo below l to r: John Hazen, Dwight Herr, Duane King, Bev Wesley] The class sang a song to the quartet. Just a few questions from students, including the one we get at every school -- is there a camp for girls?



Between second and fourth periods, the quartet went out for coffee and upon return, sang two songs to the office staff. Well received.

The class starting at 11:15 was the advanced chorus of about 24 students. There were 30 students in the room. In addition to the second period program, after teaching each tag, students were brought up to sing as a quartet. It's out of focus, but photo below shows four students doing a gesture that Duane gave them to go with the last notes of the tag. This class was very attentive; sang two songs to us. Before the bell rang, one student was already up at the display taking notes on dates of YHC.

Toward the end of each session, I showed three video clips: (1) Ladies First, female high school chorus from Concord CA, singing one song in order to demonstrate that BBS is taught in some HS classrooms, after which I invited Pacific Collegiate to perform in our next youth outreach show on Nov. 4, 2006. Ladies First sang on the 2005 show, and that's where the video



Youth Harmony Camp

by Richard Lund

The Far Western District Youth Harmony Camp is a weekend retreat coordinated by the Placerville Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society, for the purpose of introducing barbershop harmony to high school aged young men. The Camp utilizes the services of high level educators in the Society from all around the country to teach the young men the intricacies of barbershop harmony. The weekend retreat format provides a total immersion that allows the young men to experience Barbershopping in a way that nothing else can.

As a first time volunteer at Harmony Camp in 2002, and one who only recently discovered the hobby, I was awe struck by the power and emotion of this weekend experience. My reaction now is how can we get as many young men as possible to these camps?

It is also clear that this weekend Harmony Camp creates "*Barbershoppers For Life*". While it may be nice to say that Harmony Camp creates barbershoppers for life, equally important is that these young men 1) experience a healthy group environment in which they can grow and flourish, 2) learn not only a number of barbershop harmony and vocal production skills, but also many life lessons as well, 3) hear, experience, and interact with some of the very best barbershoppers in the country who are able to inculcate their craft and life experiences as shaped by Barbershopping into real life messages for these boys. As we say in our private moments: Harmony Camp is a way to "hot dip" the boys in Barbershop harmony.

Harmony Camp 2006 will be held at the Sly Park Educational Center September 22-24, 2006 and will feature **Gary Bolles** as Music Director, **Conrad Keil** from Tucson, **Mark Freedkin** from Southern California, **Gabe Caretto** from the Central Valley, **Men In Black**, the 2005 International Collegiate champions, and **Men-So Forte** as two of the best barbershop quartets in the country.

For information and registration forms contact Richard Lund at 530-621-1904 or rlund@innercite.com

was taken. (2) MV4, high school quartet from Monte Vista Christian School, in order to demonstrate that local high school boys enjoy singing BBS, after which I invited students to form quartets, boys, girls or mixed and assured them that GSC would support any effort with music, arrangements, learning tapes and possibly a coach if they requested. (3) First few seconds of YHC video after which I invited all males to attend camp and told all females that as soon as there was information on an SA camp or FWD festival, I would let them know. Just a few questions from students. I left a copy of YHC video with Alice Hughes. Alice expressed her appreciation for the visit individually to quartet members and to me.

We cleared campus by 12:05, and when I turned in our visitor's badge, the office staff again thanked me profusely.

GSC has been doing school visits for three years. Our youth outreach show grows each year. 2003: Aptos High; 2004 Soquel High and Monte Vista Christian; 2005 Aptos, Soquel, Harbor, and Monte Vista; remainder of 2006 is TBD. Last November, the first high school quartet to sing in Santa Cruz County in over 10 years, made its debut. On March 18, they placed fourth in Reno. As much as I feel that our school visit program has been effective and rewarding, there's a voice in our chorus that says our time and efforts would be much better spent on recruiting adults.

[Editor note: Involvement with Youth In Harmony is altruistic. The results will be seen in the outyears, longer than a few weeks or months. Once the Barbershop sound grabs the ear and heart, we remember. We can attest to that! Never fear, we'll see the product of these visits in the future.]

FWD Youth Harmony Camp

September 22-24, 2006

Sly Park Educational Center

Pollock Pines, CA

**Contact Richard Lund at 530-621-1904 or
rlund@innercite.com**

Get Our Youth Out to Join in the FUN!



AUDIENCES ACCLAIM “SPIRITED” SPIRIT OF PHOENIX ANNUAL SHOW

*Article written by Jerry McElfresh, photos by Allen Baum
Appeared in major Phoenix newspaper*

There were dancers, clowns, soloists, a band and a singing, dancing MC. Staged in a grand and gilded old theater built in the 1920s, the show included a repertoire of many of the great Cole Porter’s best songs.

The script, the music, the cast and venue all gave it the look, the sound and the feel of an off-Broadway musical review. But it also had several top-notch quartets and a great-sounding 90-member chorus that identified it as a Barbershop chapter’s annual show.



The Spirit of Phoenix Chorus’s second annual show...”Anything Goes...a Tribute to Cole Porter”, staged in three performances at the Orpheum Theater in downtown Phoenix on Feb. 24 and 25, proved to be a crowd pleaser for the 2,500 fans, many of whom waited in the lobby to congratulate the chorus and cast on a great night (and matinee) of entertainment.

Act One opened with the only song not written entirely by Cole Porter, “Bright Lights on Broadway” (affectionately referred to by the chorus as BLOB), composed by chorus member Dan Wilson. Chorus and quartet performances of a dozen Porter songs filled the act, including a lively “Anything Goes” complete with tap dancers, “Night and Day,” “Be a Clown” and the rousing first-half closer, “Blow, Gabriel, Blow,” all directed by Russ Young and Fraser Brown.

The Porter tunes continued with renditions of “It’s D’Lovely” and “Just One of Those Things” by International competition quartet Dazzle; “Begin the Beguine” by a chorus ensemble backed by a Latin rhythm section and MC Brian Runbeck dancing with two lovely ladies; and a guitar-accompanied duet of “So In Love” by two-time Sweet Adeline Queen Gerry Papageorge and chorus director Russ Young. Chapter quartets Music Box, Ovation, Dry Heat and Rat Pack added several more Porter tunes to the lineup.

A four-piece combo of professional musicians accompanied many of the Porter songs and six tap dancers and a troupe of clowns added to the visual and rhythmic presentation throughout Act One.

Act Two was devoted to a rollicking performance by third-place International champions, "Metropolis," followed in Act Three by the chorus in a crowd-pleasing tribute to the men and women in the Armed Forces, "American Armed Forces Medley" and "God Bless the U.S.A."



The chorus wrapped up the show with presentation of a half-dozen other numbers including its eighth-place International songs, "If I Loved You" and a stirring medley of "I Love a Parade" and "Seventy-Six Trombones."

Chorus members working with the theater's professional crew included Director Allen Fossenkemper, lighting and sound directors David Melville and Pierre de Prez and staging director Jack Mauney.

The success of the show may have been summed up best by Brad Zinn, a professional comedian and entertainment personality in the audience who wrote to one of our members:

"Well, we were both absolutely blown away by the high-energy dazzling display we witnessed. The opening few numbers really set the pace and captured our full attention! The music, the dancers, the master of ceremonies, the clowns, and the sets, lights and props were worthy of any touring show going. Very classy all the way.

"I can truly appreciate the amount of effort that went into this event, having produced a few shows myself, and all of that effort really showed up across the footlights. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience from start to finish."

FWD Fall Convention in San Jose
October 5-8, 2006
Let's Get Our Conventions Singing Again
Come Join in the FUN!

Order of Appearance at Indy

1--SNOBS Representative

2--Dazzle!

3--Vocal Spectrum

4--Vantage Point

5--Fermata Nowhere

6--Quest

7--Four Aces

8--Men In Black

9--Sterling

10--12th Street Rag

11--Flipside

12--VocalEase

13--Premiere

14--Saturday Evening Post

15--Last Call

16--Keep 'Em Guessin'

17--Rhythmix

18--Allies, The

19--HotShots!

20--My Three Sons

21--Storm Front

22--Late Show

23--Impulse

24--Harmonix

25--Voices Only

26--The Works

27--NeXus

28--Wheelhouse

29--The Great Nashville Singout

30--Max Q

31--Reveille

32--3 Men & A Melody

33--The Fixx

34--State Line Grocery

35--Hi-Fidelity 284041

36--Stardust 301505

37--Flashpoint

38--Odds On

39--You Bet!

40--OC Times

41--Metropolis

42--Men-So Forte

43--Ignition!

44--Alchemy

45--Hot Air Buffoons

46--club.406

47--MatriX 285027



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No remarks this issue.



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**SANTA CLARITA (Harmony Hills) CAL ERICKSON
 AND BILL SWOPE**

We've had three very successful events since our last report. Our Singing Valentines project was the biggest money maker for us, our Annual Show drew our biggest crowd, and our Young Men in Harmony quartet contest produced the biggest surprise! John Krizek attended the contest, and brought with him the quartet "Entourage" from the Westminster Chapter. They wowed the audience and we're sure we will hear a lot more from them soon.

Our Chapter has a new director. Her name is **Janice Kueppers**. Every year Janice brings at least 3 quartets from the Walter Reed Jr. High School to our YMIH contest. She is the music director at Walter Reed where she teaches a class in "Barbershop" and directs a barbershop chorus. This is at the Middle School level, and there is a waiting list to enroll! Janice is also a member of the *Sweet Adelines*. Do you think we are excited to have this talented lady as our director?! You bet!!

SAN FERNANDO - (Valleyaires) BRUCE POEHLMAN
The Valleyaires started the season off with their annual Spring Show - it was a great success! **The Valleyaires** shared the stage with the *Sweet Adelines RiverOaks Chorus*, with some great combo numbers. Amazing performances were also seen with the chapter quartets, including San Fernando's **60 Something**, **Bill's Bari Pie**, **Oddly Enuf**, **Priority Male**, and **The Usual Suspects**, and **RiverOaks Happy Hour**, and **The Section Leaders**. Special thanks to **Bob Karlin** who wrote and directed the show, and produced the tickets and program!

The Valleyaires will have hosted and competed in the SoCal West Division Contest—thanks to all who competed and everyone else who attended—and are currently preparing for the District Contest under the direction of **Dave Tautkus**, with help from **Duncan Gilman** and **Lew Weitzman**. The chorus is raring to go, and expect to put in our best performance yet!

SANTA MONICA – (Oceanaires) MARTY MITNICK
 The year is passing so quickly, especially when you are having

fun. **The Oceanaires** Valentines schedule this year was the busiest ever. With over 65 individual quartet performances during a very long day, many happy lovers were left smiling.

A very special learning experience was provided by our own **Aaron Mood**, (Tenor) Music VP, who made arrangements for **Hannibal Mean**, renowned singer and voice coach, to bring his expertise in voice training to our regular Tuesday nite rehearsal in February.

The **Barnacles**, one of our quartets, with Lead **Bruce Schroffel**, Bass **Tom Laskey**, Bari **Carl Rogers** and Tenor **Aaron Mood** performed during St Paticks Day for a fund raiser at the Santa Monica First United Methodist Church. Our newest member, Bass **Gale Williams** joined the quartet in his debut performance. Also on hand were Lead **Bob Lipson** and **Nishan Mood**, son of Aaron, learning the ropes at a young age.

SOUTH BAY – (Coastliners) MIKE MARTIN

The Coastliners along with many from the *South Town Sweet Adelines* chartered a bus to attend a special benefit performance for **Terry Aramian** in Fallbrook as did a large number of his friends from the FWD. **Jim McKee** and **Gary Steinkamp** organized the event. We are pleased to note that Terry's recovery is progressing well.

Results in from the El Segundo Christmas Parade officials named **The South Bay Coastliners** as best performance by an adult group. Valentine's Day was another huge success for the chapter as the quartets **Docs on the Rocks**, **Sound Union**, **SwizzleStick**, **Event Staff** and the **White Spots** all held forth in their singing adventures around the South Bay. As always, there were many touching stories and tears that go with this annual event.

St Patrick's Day brought in quartets from all around the southland to the annual March 17th bash hosted by South Bay. This has been a South Bay tradition for over 40 years. Big winners of the evening's contest were **The Orange Town Four** consisting of **Phil Wortman**, **Paul Kelly**, **Don Engel** and **Virgil Fletcher** from the Orange Quartet Chapter. Congratulations guys.

WHITTIER – (Choralaires) PATRICK BOYLE

A very appreciative audience enthusiastically expressed their enjoyment of the Choralaires Spring Show. **Jim Ilten** wrote and directed a show that stirred respectful pride that comes when inner emotions are stimulated by stories behind songs such as the *Star Spangle Banner*, *God Bless America*, *Battle Hymn of the Republic*, and other historical impact music. We even had a true first. **Bill Niemand**, **Juvet Dakay**, **Larry Ray**, and **Rich Hinojosa** of the quartet **Just 4 Fun** performed with each having their first quartet singing experience on stage. Accolades are in order for the artful emcee presentation by **Marshall Detoro** and **Carol Ilten**, and the musical direction of **Stan Sharpe**. A good show has many people to thank, but some were notably instrumental: **Dale Hardin** for stage managing, and along with **Dick Stemen**, developing and printing the program; yeoman efforts

for the ticket printing and sales by **Bill and Medea Niemand**; the unforgettably beautiful sets by **Norm Bernier**; the rehearsal directing by **Fred Vera**; and the behind-the-scenes efforts of Show Chairman **Dick Manis**. Many others put in time and effort and may not have been recognized in this article, but the joy of the many audience members expressing "wow" in the lobby after the show should appease my faux pas. This coming summer the Chapter will be working on a program to enhance its membership and starting to work on our Christmas Show. A hearty welcome to our new Bass **Jerry Fuca**.



FWD DVP for Division 2 SCE
Gene Clements

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Phone: 949-581-5544
E: GRClements@aol.com

G'Day fellow barbershoppers.

By the time you read this, the SCE Division Contests will be over. Did your predictions come true? Some chapters have had their spring/annual shows to the delight of the audiences, and more shows are in the offing.

In the last couple of months, another chapter has put up a web-site.. Inland Empire!! Check it out. There are still several chapters in SCE without a web site. How come? FWD Webmaster, Keith Eckhardt, will be happy to help you set it up. Just ask him.

The Marketing Director for the BHS, Todd Wilson, will be visiting in our SCE division in late June. Your Chapter Presidents have been notified and asked to attend a meeting with Todd to discuss things that will be "for the good of the chapter." As of this writing, the date is not yet set.

One of my goals this year is to get better communications between our SCE chapters. Its starting, but we need to do more.

As you know, we were very late in getting a venue for this year's division contests, but thanks to the unyielding efforts of one man, Fritz Grunenwald, the Alta Loma High School venue was secured. Publicly, I want to say, from all of us, "thanks, Fritz!" However, guys, your chapters need to do a better job of participating in our contest activity and registering earlier.

Hoping not to be caught in a similar contest venue bind next year, Pal-Pac and La Jolla are investigating the possibility of working together to secure next year's venue this year. So stay tuned.

In Harmony



Division 2 SCE Editor

Dick Girvin

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BREA

JOHN GASTON

The first few months of 2006 have been good ones for the **Gaslight Chorus**, with three men have joined their ranks. The new inductees are: **John Phipps** (bass), **Mark Stokes** (lead) and **Sam Papageorge** (baritone). Each man brings with him qualities that will certainly add to the chorus' singing skills.

The Gaslight Chorus has scheduled their inaugural Spring/Summer show for Sunday June 25th at the Muckenthaler Amphitheater in Fullerton. The chorus is in the process of solidifying a very robust and varied selection of songs as well as lining up a major headliner quartet. With such limited seating available they're hoping for a ticket sell out.

COACHELLA VALLEY

TERRY MANN

As this is being written, the theme for this report is, "...and the days dwindle down, to a precious few..." Their last remaining "*Snow Bird*" was with them for the last time April 19, marking the end of their Winter Season. With the "*Snow Bird*" and two first time visitors, they were fourteen. Both of the visitors are full-time residents; one a Lead the other a Bass. One reads music and the other is returning to Barbershop after a 40 year gap.

For the next nine weeks (they are dark for July and August) they are relaxing with a nice mixture of chorus songs re visited, tags, woodshedding and quarteting (every one is in at least one quartet). They will be singing the National Anthem for the local Minor League Baseball team in June. And, they will be back in fall issue, however their Winter Season does not begin until the second half of October when their first Snow Birds begin to trickle in.

EL CAJON

CLAIR DORMAN

Something noteworthy happened to **The El Cajon Music Masters Chorus** during the Singing Valentine Event last February. Not only was the ad campaign a success, but repeat-business from the previous year resulted in more requests than the quartets could handle in the two days. This was solved by farming out the extra gigs to nearby chapters, so all went well. Everyone was happy, as apparently *Romance* was riding high!

One quartet will long remember this: right after the first song, the recipient stood up and announced that she wanted to give the singers a kiss ... which she proceeded to do! (She even kissed the Bari!) Yes, folks, singing does have so many rewards!

FULLERTON

DICK COTE

Winning the gold for the tenth time in the past decade, Editor **Dick Cote** was named *FWD Bulletin Editor of the Year* at the FWD March House of Delegates meeting in Reno. His 9th win, last year, netted him the opportunity to enter the 2005 Society BETY contest—which he won, handily for the 4th time. (A winner has to lay out from International competition two years after winning the Society Gold).

His latest issue hints that he may be handing up the visor and handing the blue pencil to another journalist in his chapter.

At their annual A&R banquet, **Bill Bowring** was crowned *BOTY* for 2005. Other awards were: **Dave Parks**, Rookie of the Year; **Bob Calderwood**, Shooting Star Award; **Hugh Collins**, Rupert Hall Award; **Mosaic**, Quartet of the Year and the Director's Award to **Ray Ashcroft**.

Hawaii anyone? Their New Year's Eve in London, which was cancelled may be replaced with a chapter trip to the Pan-Pacific Convention. The Chapter visited Maastricht, Holland in 2000.

HEMET

BRUCE SMITH

VP Chapter Development **Ed Youngs**, reporting on the chapter's ever-improving chorus sound, has invited any and all male inhabitants and/or visitors in Hemet and surrounding areas to join the **Hemet Harmonizers** in four-part harmony. All have been welcomed; A report on the success of his efforts is expected in the next issue.

Editor **Bruce Smith** received the accolades for the best "small Bulletin" (fewer than six pages) at the House of Delegates meeting in March. The chapter bulletin *UPBEAT* thereby qualified and has been entered into the Society's bulletin contest. (Results to be announced in Indianapolis in July)

Larry Hull, chapter VP of Music and Performance named the following as "Unsung Singers:" **Don Freely**, **Jim Hilgenberg**, **Lee Krause**, **Bill Redmon**, **Jim Bunten** and Director **Howard Mesecher**. His rationale includes their dedication, willingness, preparation, and "getting it done." A tip of the old fedora, gents.

IRVINE

JEFF YOUNG

A charter show, as sponsors for the new **Laguna Hills Chapter**, was on May 6th before an enthusiastic crowd.

The chapter has been working in preparation for the SoCal East Contest with such notables as **Royce Ferguson** and the chapter sweetheart, **Dawn Castiglione**.

Wayne Jones provides weekly (or more often) e-mails to the CPC members with uplifting thoughts and supportive observations.

LA JOLLA

JOHN FORREST

The **Pacific Coast Harmony Chorus** has just finished having a fling with the ladies of the **San Diego Chorus** of *Sweet Adelines*.

A "Spring Fling" that is. Their combined show held on April 22 was enjoyed by all and thanks was offered to the SDCSA for their hard work and for making the show as exciting for the chapter as for the audience. Also a special thanks to **Terry Aramian** who emceed their matinee show.

Making their stage debut were several new chapter quartets. They were in order of their appearance: **HIT**, **Splash**, **CHP**, and **Barber Cue Sauce**. All four quartets will be competing at the upcoming SoCal East Division contest.

Under the internationally known and talented director, **Kim Hulbert**, (soon to be Dr. Kim), PCH is moving into its International Contest Phase. They are justifiably very proud of having qualified two years in a row to compete at the International Convention. While averaging only from 35 to 60 guys, they have dedicated themselves to bringing forth the best that they can and still "having the fun that makes barbershop music such a great hobby".

PCH was please to welcome members **Mike French**, **Dave Foti**, **Ken Baker**, **Alex Bolenger** and **Bill Barker** to their risers.

ORANGE

STANLEY TINKLE

The **Orange Quartet Chapter** capped off a successful Valentines Week when **Orange Town Four** sang to *Squeezin's* Editor **Dorothy Acton**, who captured the happy event on film and printed it in the March issue, along with another photo of **Easy Street** with a happy young lady. Valentine Chair **Dave Gryvnak** directed the Valentine drive in the absence of their late mentor **Rich Lewis**.

The OQC sent a large contingent to the annual Saint Patrick's Day Bash at South Bay. Again this year, the **Orange Town Four** won the contest for the best rendition of an Irish song, beating by a large margin a pickup quartet led by **Jeff Parmer** which competed without rehearsing. **Paul Kelley** wrote a "lead article" about the **Orange Town Four**, which is the Chapter's busiest gig and Valentine quartet: Paul is lead, **Paul Wortman** is tenor, **Don Engel** is bass and **Virgil Pletcher** is bari.

President **Michael Werner** and a number of OQC members joined **Lloyd** and **Gary Steinkamp** on February 5 in Fallbrook, celebrating **Terry Aramian's** recuperation from a stroke. Terry was able to sing baritone at the afterglow!

Dave Lowerre, who has been lead singer with a band, and **Sean Devine**, who sings lead with **OC Times**, joined the OQC in April, as did Dave's brother **Jim Lowerre**, a baritone who is also a sumo wrestler. The chapter is pleased that all three would rather sing than eat cookies.

RANCHO BERNARDO

JIM LARKIN

Things in **Rancho Bernardo** took a turn for the worse last February when director **John Hulbert**, went into Palomar Hospital for a triple bypass operation. However, they just regrouped, postponed their annual show at the Poway

Performing Arts Center until next October, and have continued to polish their show and contest numbers. Yes, indeed, John is recovering very nicely two months later, and Rancho Bernardo will be competing in this year's SOCAL East chorus contest once again. When you love to sing barbershop music this much, nothing gets in the way!

RIVERSIDE

TERRY HANSON

The New Gang On the Corner is preparing to host the Southern California East Contests at Alta Loma on May 13. General Chairman Fritz Grunewald, despite a recent bout with the orthopedic surgeons, is tidily holding all the string and the plans are proceeding in fine order. Currently 6 choruses and 16 quartets are entered.

SAN CLEMENTE

DON THOMAS

Their May 20th Barbershop Harmony and More show featured the **Stage Hogs Quartet** with **CJ & Katie**. They also had the **Beach Cities Harmonizers Chorus**, the **San Clemente High School Madrigal Singers**, the **Harmony Partners**, **Harbormasters** and **South County Sound** barbershop quartets. It was held at the Heritage Christian Fellowship in San Clemente.



FWD DVP for Division 3 NCWH John Jones

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The NorCalWest/Hi Division celebrated "Spring into Harmony" with the 2006 Convention in Campbell. The convention was smoothly handled by the Bay Area Chapter under the direction of convention chairman, Chuck Leavitt. Out of eleven quartets competing; Velocity, Checkmate, Uncalled Four, Harmony 101 and It's About Time will be representing the division for the 2006 Far Western District Contest.

Velocity capped top place for the second year, Harmony 101 captured novice champ, and It's About Time the seniors champ. Bay Area, Santa Rosa, Palo Alto-Mountain View, Fremont-Hayward, San Francisco, Walnut Creek and Marin Chapters all had choruses performing on the risers. Bay Area, Santa Rosa and Palo Alto-Mountain View look forward to competing in San Jose this fall. It was exciting to see a chorus of 80 plus men on the risers in NorCalWest again. We are expecting Voices in Harmony under the direction of Greg Lyon to do great things at the district convention. Also to be congratulated is the New Dimension Chorus, directed by Demaster Survine, the resurging Fremont-Hayward chapter, for achieving most improved chapter. Filling out the list of on stage participants this year, and bringing the spirit of convention and fellowship to the event, was the Marin Golden Gate Chorus who did a performance only package. Thanks to Chapter President, Paul Goldsmith, for his leadership. Kristen Thompson, director of the Monterey Cypressaires, was

recognized as a certified Society director. She says that the chorus is planning to be on the rises at the 2007 convention

It is always enjoyable to meet, chat, and sing with fellow barber-shoppers and their families from all the NorCalWest/Hi chapters. After many years in this hobby, the convention atmosphere takes on the aura of a family reunion with the added attraction of singing tags in the hallways and parking lots. Again thanks to the Bay Area Chapter for their sponsorship. Mark your calendars now for the 2006 FWD Convention to be held in San Jose Oct. 5 through Oct. 8, 2006. Check it out at <http://www.vihchorus.org/> or at our FWD website.

While a number of chapters are engaged in productive recruiting efforts, the overall statistics indicate a continuation of attrition. Chapter efforts need to continue to focus on membership growth. We continue to need volunteers to help coordinate efforts across chapters in NorCalWest, in particular in the area of youth outreach and web site development. Contact me at johnkathyjones@aol.com.



Division 3 NCWH Editor

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ALOHA

JACK HASHIMOTO

February started with our annual quartets contest, held on February 2 at our regular rehearsal hall. Winning quartet for 2006 was a pick-up quartet calling themselves **Johnny and the Trades**. Quartet members were **Dr. John Char** (L), **Phillip Wee** (Bs), **Ken Foreman** (Br.), and **Bobby Ing** (T). Thanks to Quartets Development chairman **Rod Schultz** for putting on a great show.

February 11-14 saw our annual Singing Valentines project in action. This year we had 16 different quartets performing to the delight, and with the heartfelt appreciation, of the sweethearts of Barbershop fans in Honolulu. We netted around \$5000, and in turn, spread the joy of Barbershop singing to all corners of this island. Many thanks to Co-chairs **Hank Drayton** and **Dan Tom**.

February also saw the retirement of our long time premier quartet **The Tropicchords**. We bid **Mark Conching** (Br.), **John Higgins** (L), **Rob Hartley** (Bs.) and **Noel Mau** (T) a fond adieu, and thank them for their years of harmony together.

On March 11, we participated in the annual Honolulu Choral Festival, sponsored by the Honolulu Chorale. Just to show you the divergence of music in Hawaii, the other participants included Kawaiolaonapukanileo, a group devoted to the preservation of Hawaiian a cappella music; the Silangan Singers, delighting the audience with traditional Filipino songs, and the host Honolulu Chorale, who did a Phantom of the Opera medley.

On April 17 we performed for the residents of Arcadia, a seniors community who really love our type of singing and the songs we sing. We gave them a preview of some of the songs that we are singing in our annual show, and did some promoting for the show.

We had the honor of being coached by **Ron Black** at our regular rehearsal on April 13, and again at our Special Rehearsal on April 15. Thanks Ron, for taking the time to help us.

BAY AREA CHAPTER

DAVID HAEDTLER

It's been an exciting time for the new **Voices in Harmony** chorus and it is safe to say that we are all hanging on for what promises to be a wild ride!

On April 8th we sponsored the NorCal West Convention and Contest in Campbell, California and we were very pleased to see the great participation (and singing) as evidenced by the number of choruses and quartets that participated in the days events. After spending ten weeks with **Dr. Greg Lyne** we took the best that we had to offer to the stage and we are all happy to have won the chorus competition and for the chance to compete against the best next October. For us, it was the first step in a long journey, but we at least were given the green light to work even harder in the coming months. We're also proud to have 5 of our chapter quartets qualified to sing at the district contest being held in San Jose in October. (If you haven't yet registered, you can do so through our web site: www.vihchorus.org)

Our annual shows on April 23 and May 6th provided us our first chance for a public performance for our patrons and we entertained over 1100 fans with "*The Magic of Music*". There's nothing quite like a "*Standing O*" to bring smiles to our members, and we learned that with 189 men in the chapter we are now the 5th largest chorus in the Society! We were honored to have **Cindy Hanson** join us recently for the first of what will surely be many sessions, and many of us are still recovering from the 4 hour workout (with no break!) that she ran us through...she is truly amazing. The coming months hold lots of hard work, fun and challenges for us. If there's a new motto it might read "This ain't just a hobby anymore!"

FREMONT/HAYWARD

RAY SPINOSA

The annual installation of officers dinner for the Fremont-Hayward chapter was held in January. Chapter counselor **Larry Weiss** presided over the ceremonies in which **Kevin Smith**, president; **Gordon Keeney**, Immediate Past President; **Ed Ocampo**, Vice President Chapter Development; **Bill Sandau**, Vice President Music and Performance; **Ray Spinosa**, Secretary-Treasurer and **Ted McCall**, Board Member at Large formally assumed their offices.

In February **The New Dimension Chorus** participated in a program at Chabot College where the chorus rehearses. It featured performances by members of the classes taught under the Community Education program including a stand up comedian, a magician, belly dancers and of course barbershop harmony.

Later that month, chorus members once again performed Singing Valentines.

Following this, the chorus began preparations for the NorCal West contest. Included were two all day rehearsal sessions, and a trip to Reno to perform as microphone testers at the NorCal East contest. All of this work paid off as the chorus won the plateau A championship and also was named the most improved chorus.

MARIN COUNTY

RALPH KLING

In April the **Golden Gate Chorus** made another appearance at the FWDH convention in Campbell, CA. Dressed in striking contrast to the other glitter, starch and ruffles outfits, our blazer-clad lads offered a welcome relief from the awful sameness of the other entrants. Completely spurning contest rules and showing little regard for the judges, our lads performed an unabashedly red, white & blue patriotic program, to the delight of the audience. The lowlight of this outing occurred backstage when Professor Northup's suspender-less pants fell down to his ankles as he demonstrated his plans to reveal his star-spangled vest at the final bow.

Also of note this Spring, our **Harmony Express** quartet performed at the 1906 Great Earthquake & Fire Exposition on Pier 48 in San Francisco. Sponsored by the San Francisco Fire Department Historical Society, this Expo provided a unique opportunity for the public to view a vast array of historical exhibits of vintage fire apparatus, artifacts and memorabilia; rare photos of the City after the earthquake and fire; fireboat tours; earthquake and fire safety exhibits; two stages of entertainment; and food & beverage booths. Highlight of this gig was singing the 1906 tune, Frisco Bay, for San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsome and Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White!

MONTEREY PENINSULA

DENIS VAN DAM

The Monterey Cypressaires have been busy! We sang at Pacific Grove's Good Old Days on April 9, a local annual fair. We also performed recently at Carmel Valley Manor and the Park Lane, both senior residences. Next comes our performance at the Naval Postgraduate School on May 29 as part of its Memorial Day festivities. We will precede the Monterey County Symphony on this program. Lastly, we are working on our fall show for November which will have a "Golden Oldies" theme, as this year is our 50th anniversary as a chapter."

PALO ALTO/MOUNTAIN VIEW

BUTCH LOGAN

Our chapter qualified for the district for something like the 12th straight year, utilizing two songs that entertained the audience on April 8th.

We are looking forward to our annual show entitled The Ladies of Our Lives scheduled for May 21st, with the featured quartet being **OC Times!** We know our audience will again be entertained!

S.F. BAY CITY QUARTET

CASEY PARKER

San Francisco Bay Cities Quartet Chapter is celebrating its Ten Year Anniversary. The Chapter was licensed by the **Century Notes** quartet in 1996: Tenor **Bruce Beauchamp**, Lead **Casey Parker**, Bari **Orv Hanel** and Bass **Earl Osborne**. SFBCQC Preserves and Encourages Barber Shop Quartet Singing. Many of our members are dual members with chorus chapters, but enjoy carrying their own part solo with three other singers. You do not need to be in an organized quartet to attend our dinner meetings at HomeTown Buffet, Santa Clara, on the second and fourth Wednesdays. Last night [4/26] chapter coach **Steve Bishop** brought Jackie's quartet "**Glitter**" who sang their contest package of songs they will sing at the Sweet Adeline International competition in Sacramento. SFBCQC has no chapter dues. Ladies are welcome. "Live A Little, Sing In A Quartet" [AIC]

SAN FRANCISCO

DON KINGTON

Twenty-one **Cable Car Chorus** singers under the direction of **Angela Suraci** had the pleasure of opening the chorus competition at the NorCal West/Hawaii Division competition on Saturday, April 8. The lads and lady came away believing they had entertained and warmed up the audience in a fine manner. Disappointed with the Chorus's ranking, the singers and Angela were happy with their performance and the crowd's response.

SANTA CRUZ

LAURANCE STERN

MV4, a high school quartet from Monte Vista Christian School in Watsonville sponsored by **Gold Standard Chorus**, came in fourth at Reno. Past President **Pat Lanphier** has taken on the challenge of being show chair for the upcoming Cabaret on June 24 at SCO on Market Street in Santa Cruz. Recent new members **Tom Steinhaus** and **Kimm Fudge** should be ready to perform in the show.

SANTA ROSA

RAY CROWDER

The Redwood Chordsmen were saddened by the death of our good friend and long-time chapter member **Al Rice** in March. A hard worker, staunch barbershop supporter, and all around great guy, Al will be missed by all.

We were proud to take 2nd place at the norcal west contest held in Canby, this was particularly memorable since we only had 18 men on stage, and **Gary Smith** hosted a "victory" party for the Reswood Chordsmen. The Chordsmen will also be performing on Memorial Day for the annual "Avenue of The Flags" at the Santa Rosa Memorial Park. As always, this is an event we really look forward to.

The Chordsmen performed on April 2nd for the Santa Rosa Concert Association at the Wells Fargo Center (formerly known as the Luther Burbank Center For The Performing Arts.) It's always a pleasure to perform in front of a large audience, and this outstanding venue garners a lot of favorable publicity.

As we go to press **Delain Dechaine**, President Jim's wife, is calling together a group of chapter wives to create a new ladies aux-

iliary. It's been awhile since the chapter has had an active ladies group, and we're looking forward to some positive feedback.

SAN MATEO

THOMAS ADDISON

The Golden Chordsmen welcomed new director **Judeline Ryan** as we started our preparation for Christmas singouts. Judeline came to us from the *San Francisco Girls Chorus* with a wealth of experience in choral music. She was referred by chorus member and husband **Josh Ryan** when their baby Adeline was old enough to permit mothers escape for an evening of ringing chords and sharing her musical skills with a thirsty group of San Mateo singers. Her debut as a director was successful as we performed in front of sell out crowds for our Spring Show Vaudeville 2006. Veteran barbershopper **Jack Posnick** was the master of ceremonies for a show which included visits from Elvis, WC Fields and Tex Ritter the singing cowboy as well as the usual chorus songs. We thank **A New Wrinkle** and **Orpheum Circuit** for joining us and making the evening so pleasant.

In addition to all of the activity around the show, the chorus was pleased to host **Kjell Lindberg** and his quartet **Top Hat** from *Stockholm Sweden*. They marveled at how well these four gentlemen did singing barbershop harmony in their non native tongue. **Top Hat** competed at the senior competition at the mid-winter convention in Sacramento.

We are now hard at work on our 2006-2007 repertoire and planning for our Halloween Cabaret in October.

The usual contingent is also planning on their annual pilgrimage to St Josephs Mo where we annually have the largest proportion of chorus members attending Harmony College.

WALNUT CREEK

DICK JOHNSTON

On February 5th the **Devil Mountain Chorus** and the **Bay Area Metro Chapter** co-hosted the annual Norcal West Novice Contest at Shadelands in Walnut Creek. **Good Time Harmony**, a **Central California Chapter** quartet placed first, making the third consecutive year a quartet from that chapter has won the contest.

Also in February, the **Walnut Creek Chapter** deployed quartets singing valentines, in celebration of Valentines Day. As in the past years, the activity was organized and directed by our Assistant Music Director **Al Eames**.



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One of the things we as Barbershoppers can do is enjoy the brotherhood we all share in the love of our music. For several months now I have been writing articles and have always includ-

ed some mention of inter-chapter events. Visiting other chapters and helping our brothers in Barbershop to experience the joys of singing together while enjoying the sound of a chorus that is bigger than the individual chapters is worth the effort of organizing and traveling some distance. When two or more chapters come together the sum is greater than the parts. We all try to expand our sound through some of the techniques being taught at conventions and schools, but we rarely get the opportunity to share our music with one another other than at conventions.

When I first became a Barbershopper we visited our nearby chapters. We set a goal for our chapter to do this quarterly. We seldom achieved quarterly but we did try, and consequently it occurred more than if we hadn't set the goal in the first place. I can't tell you how much fun we had, but I can say that the chapters we visited always sent a thank you card or returned a visit at some later date.

This past quarter I had an opportunity to experience this once again. The Visalia Chapter celebrated their 25th Anniversary and they did it in grand style. It was one of the most enjoyable evenings I have experienced in awhile. Their Anniversary was the theme of their chapter show. The show was laid out around the 25 previous shows, and they sang one or two songs from each of the shows. They featured individual performers in some of the music and the mix of music was incredible. Between the matinee and evening show they asked me, as a District representative, to present a plaque in recognition of their 25 years. I was very happy to do that, and I have to tell you it was a pleasure for me to see that the chapter really has it all together. They had many of their original members there and recognized them with certificates of appreciation. They had their sponsoring chapter on the show in a segment and ended the show with the combined chorus. WOW! I hope that if you are ever in the Visalia area you will make an effort to visit this chapter and observe the work they do with and for their community. This was indeed a pleasure I would like to repeat in the future.



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CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

MILES SUTTER

138 Valengrams were delivered on February 14th, more than twice the number delivered a year ago. Considerable credit for our success goes to **Ron Russell** and **Howard Barber** who handled all of the phone calls. **Dick Compton** & Ron arranged all the time slots. Thanks to **His Story IV** (Perry, Phil, Bob, Phil) for making themselves available and to **Mark Swass**, who stepped in for **Bill Compton** later in the day. **Grady Williams** was able to arrange for ads to appear in both the Merced and Modesto newspapers and radio stations. Twenty-six orders were called in

due to the individual efforts of **Dick Compton**, **Bob Chapman**, **Juan Quijano**, **Herb Andrew**, **Leo Van Vliet** and **Perry Sedoo**, and 17 were called in by individuals who saw the posters placed by **Ron Russell**. **Ray Baker** provided business cards, displays and posters.

March 14th was our first family night of the year. It gave us the opportunity to run our show package for family, friends and guests prior to the NCE/NN chorus contest in Reno. **Herb Andrew** was our MC for the evening. The refreshments were due to the efforts of **Joe Gornick**. Entertainment was provided by **Good Time Harmony** and **Twilight Time**.

The chorus placed 4th in the contest and qualified to go to the FWD convention in San Jose in October. We were also Plateau A champions. **Good Time Harmony** sang on the Show of Champions that evening. NCENN Senior Quartet Champions are our own **Twilight Time**.

April 22nd dinner show was a big success. We thank **Stu McElwain** and crew for the food preparation. Those of us who weren't part of the kitchen crew did the serving. Prior to dinner, **Bob Chapman** entertained with a piano interlude. **Collaboration** and our 2006 Novice Quartet Champs, **Good Time Harmony** provided the quartet portion of the program. **Howard Barber** on banjo and **Ray Baker** on guitar handled the audience participation portion of the program. Special thanks to **Ralph Harris** for acquiring the location, and **Grady Williams** for the posters and tickets. **Nancy McElwain** handled the ticket table. **Bruce Sellnow** was our MC and also scripted the show.

DAVIS-VACAVILLE

TOM POWERS

The West Valley Chorale said goodbye in March to our director, **Lynn Sedgley**, who has moved to Hanford. Our loss will be the **Mighty Oak Chorus'** gain. He is a great guy and a fine director. Happily, we have recruited an able replacement in **Ollie Brillhante**. Ollie is currently the Chairman for Chapter Support and Leadership Training on the Far Western District's Management Team. He will continue as an active member and Tenor Section Leader of the new Voices in Harmony Chorus. He brings a new set of ideas and energy to our chorus. We are fortunate to have him.

In February, we had three performances of our annual show, two in Vacaville and one in Davis. Our theme was "Reflections in Harmony." The show was divided into three distinct segments including traditional barbershop, western barbershop, and modern barbershop. The "modern" segment wasn't really all that modern, but we did sing three songs from the 1960s! Our headline quartet was **Stardust**. We had a chance to present our first show in the new Davis High School Performing Arts Theater.

FOLSOM

HERSH ROBY

Munson Hinman, a 50+ year Society member, died on January 29. He was a talented arranger, singer and musician and had more than half a dozen arrangements published by the BHS. He

was a Frank Thorne member, but had previously been a member of this chapter.

NEVADA PLACER

ROGER PERKINS

The **Sierranaders** had a successful Valentines Day with about 75 performances.

The chorus competed at the NCE/NN contest in Reno. Our placement was not the best, but it puts us in line to be Most Improved Chorus next year. The Spring Convention was dedicated to **Roger Perkins** (he said proudly). His wife, Sally, was proud to appear on stage with him after the quartet finals on Saturday night.

PLACERVILLE

KEITH ECKHARDT

The chapter Singing Valentines program was supported by four quartets over two days with around 60 deliveries. One delivery was to a Valentines banquet that required 23 roses.

At the District Spring Convention at Sparks **Richard Lund** was presented with the **2005 District President's Award** for his work with Youth Harmony Camp. In April **Ron Murray**, YIH VP, took High School and chapter quartets to several Jr. High schools and promoted barbershop harmony to 400 students.

Our spring show featured **OC Times**, which brought tenor **Shawn York** to home country. Shawn started his barbershop adventure as a high school student with the **Gold Rush Chorus**. Chapter PR man, **Keith Eckhardt**, was able to get a fine article in the Mountain Democrat newspaper prior to the show.

The BOD voted to pay the tuition of up to four first-timers to attend Harmony University this summer and one member has accepted so far.

RENO

DAVE RAMER

February found 4 quartets out performing about 80 valentines. This function while a lot of fun sure helps the Chapter coffers. We were also able to perform for the University of Nevada vs. San Jose State Basketball game. The referees praised the National Anthem and stated, "*That's the way it should be sung*".

Another Nor Cal East Division contest behind us and we can breathe easy until 2007. We had a wonderful time hosting the NCE/NN Division.

Wednesday, April 12th found the chorus at Reno's City Hall, performing for the Mayor and City Council as they proclaimed Harmony week.

Our newest transfer, **Jim Crowley**, is currently heading up a quartetting program, which starts one hour prior to chorus rehearsal.

SACRAMENTO

FRANK KINNISON

The **Capitolaires** annual banquet was held on Jan. 10 at Casa Garden Restaurant with 63 members and guests in attendance. A

great slide show was prepared by **Rosye Salz** and presented during cocktail hour. The show recreated many memories of the participants and many Capitolaire events during 2005. During dinner they were treated to the wonderful sounds of a cello trio, Cello Sounds with Capitolaire **Chuck Kenny**, with **Beverly Rodgers** and **Margo Scandella**.

BOTY for 2005 was **Norm Smith** for his outstanding assistance to the chapter during the past year. President's award went to **Frank Kinnison**, chapter secretary. The Bill Donnell Distinguished Service Award was presented to **Gib Hertler**. Installation was performed by FWD President **Bill Cale**.

The **Capitolaires** hosted a Youth Harmony Workshop during the Midwinter Convention headed up by **Norm Smith**. Clinicians included **Mark Freedkin** and **Rick Spenser** and the talents of **Metropolis**, **OC Times**, **Late Show** and **Good time Harmony**. The **Westminster Chorus** rehearsed a song with the boys that they performed at the Saturday night show.

BOTM for December 2005 was **Gary Heal**. He played the part of Marvin the Elf in the Christmas show at Towe Auto Museum.

BOTM for February was **Jim Minoudis** who has always been available to create scenery for performances and is a part of the music team.

The **Capitolaires** held their annual retreat near Foresthill with fine coaching by **Royce Ferguson** and **Gabe Caretto**. Music VP **Keith Slater** did a fine job making the arrangements.

At the FWD Spring Convention the Sacramento bulletin, *Swipes & Tags*, received second place in the bulletin contest. First place went to the Whittier Chapter. Both bulletins will be entered in the International Bulletin Contest. Congratulations to **Alan Swanson**, editor.

VISALIA

DEE BAUGHMAN

Two months prior to our annual show **Tank Waldrum** moved to the coast and had to step down as Chorus Director. Fortunately **Jim Turnmire** was able to step in as the interim Director and got the chorus through the show on April 22nd. Thanks to Jim, the show was highly successful. This was the **Mighty Oak Chorus's** twenty-fifth anniversary, which was the theme of the show "*25 years of Harmony*". A special lunch was held in between the matinee show and the evening show. Many of the charter members of the chorus were in attendance, including **Ron Dial**, the Chapter's first President who now lives in Walnut Creek. The chapter's first quartet consisting of **Jim Moore**, **Stan Livesay**, **John Staba** and **Jeff Seaward** sang a number on the show. Stan is still a member of the chapter. The show highlighted **The Perfect Gentleman**, who brought down the house. A combined men's chorus from four Visalia High Schools sang two numbers. Show chairman **Bob Peden** did a superior job of organizing the show, along with **Lee Smith**, **Don Livesay**, **Lance Jepsen** and **Pat Harrison**. The Mayor of the City of Visalia presented the

Chorus with a City proclamation, recognizing the Chorus's twenty-five years of existence and service.

YOSEMITE

JAMES CRAIG

Yosemite Chapter is busy getting ready for our annual show. This year we will be in Yosemite High School's beautiful new theater with a state-of-the-art sound system. If that isn't good enough, we have headlining our show, the Far West Champs, **Hi Fidelity**. Also in the cast is **Potluck**, **Tortilla Flats**, **Starlights**, and our own **The Coordinators**. Sounds like a terrific show. To get tickets send check and SSE to Yosemite Chapter, PO Box 1182, Oakhurst, 93644. Two shows, matinee at 2pm and evening show at 8pm. Afterglow to follow. Reserved seats are \$15. and General admission is \$10. We hope to see you on May 20th.



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No remarks this issue.



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CASA GRANDE

ROGERS HORNSBY

The 2-year old **Casa Grande Chapter** held its first "advance/retreat/happening" on the weekend of Jan. 27-28. The training session were supervised by our great friends **Russ Young** and **Ray Estes** of the Spirit of Phoenix.

The chapter did more than three dozen Singing Valentines and helped give our treasury a shot in the arm. If we can just add a few more voices in each part out of our fast-growing population, we'll be able to please more folks next year.

Recruiting is high on our list of priorities. We made that clear to our audiences at both performances of our second annual Chapter Show on March 11. **Hi-Fidelity** was our headline quartet and did their usual outstanding job both on the show and at the Afterglow. The show was a musical and theatrical success. Too bad the same can't be said regarding the financial aspects. (After over 100 days of no rain, who'd a thunk we'd have a downpour THAT day and evening?)

Shortly before our show we learned that our director **Carroll Hulla** was going to be leaving Arizona for an employment opportunity within about 60-90 days. A search was begun to find a new director, and we found a good one -- **Jeff Dolan** of the

Spirit of Phoenix. His tenure necessitated a change in our meeting night from Thursday to Monday. Our first meeting with Jeff was May 1.

FLASH!!! At the Division 5 Chorus Contest in Phoenix on April 22, **Casa Grande** won the "*Most Improved Chorus*" award with 19 men on stage! NOT ONLY THAT, we also placed **THIRD** in the overall scoring! Can you imagine that we are happy? Come on by and visit us and see.

GREATER PHOENIX

PHIL SMITH

The Spirit of Phoenix Chorus was pleased with its performance in the Division Contest, especially with the judges' comments about our clean, technically accurate singing. On the Tuesday after the contest, our music leaders introduced the two new songs the chorus will perform in the District Contest, and the members are very excited about them.

Chapter quartets did extremely well in the contest, with no less than five – **Dazzle!**, **Xtreme**, **Music Box**, **Equinox** and **Oasis**, qualifying for District. **Music Box** was named the Seniors champion, and **Equinox** was the Novice champion.

At the contest show of champions, **Dr. Dan Wilson** was given a special award for his 30 years of service on the front row. Wilson is also an accomplished composer and arranger whose songs have been part of championship performances.

February was a busy month for the chapter. Thanks to Chairman **Paul Sullivan**, we had a very successful Singing Valentines program. And two weeks later, our Annual Show, "Anything Goes, A Tribute to Cole Porter," was both a financial and an artistic success. In **Allen Fossenkemper** this chapter has one of the finest show producers you could find anywhere, and this show must rank as among the finest produced by a Phoenix chapter.

LAS VEGAS

ROGER BUEHRER

It's show time for the **Gamble-Aires**. The chapter has been focusing its attending on preparing for its annual show May 6, "I Remember Papa." Written by the chapter's own **Rocque Pucci** and director **John Waugh**, the show takes a stroll down memory lane with some of the best songs out of the '30s, '40s, and '50s. The chapter is real excited about the return of its college quartet, **Let It Ride**, which will be featured during the show.

In other activities, the chapter held a guest night in April with nearly a dozen visitors. Quartets from the Las Vegas Metro Chapter performed. The challenge will be transforming visitors into members.

LAS VEGAS METRO

JOHN THOMPSON

The City Of Lights Chorus put 35 members on the risers April 22 (an increase of 84% vs. 2005), and were crowned Plateau A champions at the Division 5 Convention and Contests held in Phoenix. We are also proud to have received the Chorus Participation Award, presented to the chorus with the highest per-

centage of its registered members on stage. We also had four(4) quartets performing in Phoenix – **Stardust, From the Edge, Shenanigans** and **Rumble Seat Days**. **Stardust** won the Quartet Championship, so both they and our chorus qualified for District Contest, and will be off to San Jose in October.

As part of its Youth Outreach Program, the chapter recently sponsored a quartet **Stay Tuned** from Green Valley High School at the FWD Competition March 17-18 in Reno. Although only together for about four months, they took first place among several quartets from the tri-state area and were awarded a \$500 donation their school music department.

The chapter has moved to a new weekly rehearsal location, Mountain View Lutheran Church, 9950 W. Cheyenne Ave.

MESA

PHIL SMITH

The East Valley Lamplighters were pleased with their performance in the Division 5 Contest, even though it didn't do as well with the judges as expected. We were especially pleased with the audience reaction to our new novelty number, A Girl Whose Name Begins with "M". We plan to continue working on it and come back with an even more entertaining performance next year.

Chapter members were active in the quartet competition, with Mesa members in six quartets. Congratulations to **Bill Johnston** who did an outstanding job as bass of Old Routine in his first quartet competition.

Several quartets participated in Singing Valentines, and 68 were delivered. Thanks to **Dick Moore** for coordinating everything. Visitors have been frequent in recent months, and no less than four of them have become members: Bass **Steve Hagerdon**, Lead **Joe deVoss**, and father and son Bass **Larry** and Bari **Ricky Tice**. Welcome, guys!

PRESCOTT

DAVE SAMUELS

The High Mountain Chordsmen are working hard on a performance on June 9 at the historic Elks Opera House. Billed as a community effort, a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Elks Opera House Foundation. An extensive advertising program aimed at merchants is under way in addition to advertising the performance on local radio and newspapers. There will be two shows, with one targeting assisted-living residences in the area. Along with a guest quartet, the shows will have old and new songs and comedy, and will showcase three chapter quartets.

ST. GEORGE

KEN SUNDWALL

The spring season has been a very busy one for the **Color Country Chorus**. Our annual spring show in March was a hit. It was based on the "Music of the 40s," which was a decade of wonderful music. We were quick to notice that several of the choruses at the recent Division Contest in Phoenix used some of the very songs that were included in our show, a testament to the lasting quality of the music of that period.

With they cycle of Singing Valentines/Annual Show/Division Contest over, we can look forward to relaxing and enjoying our great hobby before the busy cycle starts again.

SIERRA VISTA

ED RAYMOND

We have both good and not so good news for this issue. The good news is about our Annual Show. This year we presented it as a "Parade of Quartets". In addition to the numbers done by our chapter chorus, we featured three imported quartets: **Hi-Fidelity** from California, **Dazzle!** from Phoenix and the **Eastsiders** from Tucson. These were supplemented by a ladies quartet **Desert Song** and our own **Watering Hole #3**. Former member **Larry Graham** did a great job as MC for the evening. The large audience was highly appreciative, and the show was flatteringly reported in the Sierra Vista News by entertainment reviewer **Richard Zoller**. The performers and many of the audience enjoyed a rousing Afterglow at the American Legion Hall.

The not so good news is that **Linda Gilbert** has resigned as musical director. Linda directed our chorus for four years with great enthusiasm and was responsible for much of our choreography. She has always been both determined and cheerful in her work, and is the reason for the great improvement in our vocal product. **Dave Germain** and **Paul Godwin** will share the directing chores in the immediate future.

SUN CITIES

BOB MCGOWAN

Now that the Division 5 Convention is history, the **Desert Aires** are back at the weekly meetings and debating what it will take to do better next year.

Despite eight of our best basses being sidelined due to illness, along with one of our tenors who is recovering from surgery, we fielded the second-largest chorus at the event. We wowed the audience with our two numbers and wild outfits, but didn't fare well with the judges in the singing area. It has given the membership a goal for the coming year. With an average age of 76 years, the chorus isn't as lively as many in our division, but the enthusiasm to put on a good show was evident. The goal then is to improve on our weak areas.

In competition for the first time, our own **Vintage Voices** quartet did a creditable job in the quartet competition and are looking forward to improving their standing next year.

The past year has been a very satisfying season for the chapter, and our membership gains have been heartening, but as happens in our age group, we have lost several from our ranks due to age-related situations. We will strive to keep up the recruitment of new members in the coming year.

TUCSON

FRED KOCH

The Tucson Sunshine Chapter was host for a very successful Division 5 Convention on April 22 at Moon Valley High School in Phoenix. No less than 23 quartets and nine choruses competed in an extremely busy day. **Hap Haggard** did an outstanding job as convention chairman, and he thanks everyone who helped

make the day go so well. Thanks to the *Kindred Spirits* support group for the Spirit of Phoenix, which once again operated a refreshment stand at the school with snacks, fruit, water and soft drinks. And thanks to our convention hotel, the Ramada Plaza, for offering a buffet dinner between contests that proved to be very popular. Tickets had to be limited to 150, and they were sold out quickly.

Only two quartets were available, but the chapter still managed to fulfill 52 requests for Singing Valentines. Chairman **Ron Schrubbs**'s quartet withdrew due to the death of his mother.

The Annual Show on Feb. 11 was one of the best performances by the chorus in recent history. There are too many people to thank to mention all of them, but special thanks go to Director **Rich Kates** for preparing the chorus so well and to **Jack Statler**, the show coordinator.

WHITE MOUNTAINS ARIZONA CHAPTER

DOC DOCKENDORF

In addition to preparing for the Division Convention, the **High Country Chorus** has been working hard on our annual show music for the presentation of the "College Days" package in July. We were very disappointed with our performance results at the convention, but learned a lot from the judges who gave us an excellent A&R. While we are at it, we would like to give special thanks to the judging community, who put in many hours of their personal time to support our hobby. Too often their efforts go unappreciated.

Congratulations to the **Spirit of Phoenix Chorus** and to the Las Vegas **City of Lights Chorus**, who showed us all how it should be done, and to the **Casa Grande Chapter** for winning the Most Improved Chorus award. We fully expect to recapture that trophy in 2007, guys, so keep it polished and display it proudly. Congratulations also to **Stardust** for their championship repeat, and to **Equinox** for winning the Novice Trophy and qualifying for District.

On the Sunday after the convention, the chorus appeared at Desert Cross Lutheran Church in Tempe, home to our chapter President **Bob Koon** when he is in Tempe.

We want to welcome our newest member Bass **Jim Vanderkolk**.

YUMA

ROB BAILEY

The Territorial Prisonaires Chorus presented a fun evening of barbershop harmony in March at the famous Ted's Cellar. Sharing the evening was the **Hi Jolly Chapter** of *Sweet Adelines International*. The audience enjoyed dinner before the show, the two choruses, two very fine quartets, including Yuma's own **UnFourGettable**, and a great afterglow. This venue has become very popular among local barbershoppers for its unique combination of good food, old cars and old music. Ted's Cellar is a former department store, now converted to an old-car museum, restaurant, gift shops and music emporium.

Chorus Directors Wanted

Crescenta Valley Chapter

Bruce Campbell 626 - 299 - 0892

Fremont/Hayward Chapter, New Dimension Chorus

Demaster Survine 510 - 780 - 0613

Santa Clarita Valley Chapter

Jim Thompson 661-250-7471

Sierra Vista Chapter

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Reno



Fresno



North Valley



Central California



Sacramento



Stockton



Nevada-Placer



Folsom



Fremont

NCENN Divison Chorus Contest Results

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Reno, NV | Qual for Fall, NCENN Champion |
| 2 Fresno, CA | Qual for Fall |
| 3 North Valley, CA | Qual for Fall |
| 4 Central California, CA | Qual for Fall |
| 5 Sacramento, CA | Qual for Fall |
| 6 Stockton, CA | |
| 7 Nevada-Placer, CA | |
| Folsom, CA | Performance Package |
| Fremont, CA | Mike Testers |

CONVENTIONS, SHOWS, EVENTS

2006

June

- 2-4 South Bay Shows
- 4 Santa Maria Show
- 9 Prescott Shows
- 10 Santa Rosa Show
- 17 "Go For The Gold" Show

July

- 2-9 **INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION Indianapolis, IN**
- 15 White Mountains Shows
- 21-23 Harmony College West

August

- 26 Las Vegas Metro Shows

September

- 9 Sacramento
- 16 Pasadena

October

- 5-8 *FWD Fall Convention*
San Jose [Corrected Date]
- 14 Eureka Show
- 21 Eureka Show
- 21 Walnut Creek Show

November

- 4 Placerville Show
- 11-12 *NC COTS, 2nd weekend*
- 18-19 *SC COTS, 3rd weekend*

December

- 3 Sacramento Show
- 15, 16, 17 Whittier Shows

2007

March

- 4 NCal Novice Contest
Shadelands in Walnut Creek
Sponsors: Walnut Creek and
The Bay Area Chapters
- 15-18 *FWD Spring Convention*
& NCENN Division Contest, Reno

April

- 13-14 *NCWH Division Contest*
No Site yet
- 14 Fullerton Shows
- 20-21 *Az/SN/SU Division Contest*
No Site yet
- 20-21 Whittier Shows
- 28 Placerville Show

May

- 5 *SCW Division Contest*
No Site 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

April

- 12 Fullerton Shows

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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