



WESTUNES

Magazine

WESTUNES, established in 1951, is the official publication of the Far Western District Association of Chapters in the Barbershop Harmony Society, Inc.

Volume 57

Winter 2007

Number 4



2007 FWD Champion Quartet VocalEase



2007 FWD Champion Chorus Masters of Harmony

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



**2008 Far Western District President
Bob Lally**



WESTUNES

Magazine

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Far Western District Association of Chapters in the Barbershop Harmony Society, Inc.

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- Photographs: use high resolution JPEG.
- Please identify people in photos clearly.

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Issue	Deadline	Chapter News Submittal to Div Editor Deadline
Winter	1 Nov	25 Oct
Spring	1 Feb	25 Jan
Summer	1 May	25 Apr
Fall	1 Aug	25 Jul

These are new dates for the new
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Send change of address to:

SPEBSQSA, Inc
7930 Sheridan Road
Kenosha, WI 53143

or use the secure Society website login
<https://secure.spebsqsa.org/members/login.asp>

District President



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Having been a member of the Far Western District since the beginning of my Barbershop life 35 years ago I've continually heard that this District is the finest in the Barbershop Harmony Society and has not only been home to many World Champions but also been responsible for many innovative ideas for a better Society. Of course I know that there are other Districts that feel the same way, but if you look at the record I think we have every right to make that claim.

At the recent convention in Phoenix there were several moments when I found myself almost overwhelmed by the amount of talent and brotherhood that was present. Certainly the contest sessions were of the usual high quality with extremely warm and receptive audiences. Then there was a most remarkable FWD Champs show in the middle of the night dedicated to the memory of Lloyd Steinkamp, one of the most remarkable FWD and Society members in history. Somewhere during all of this it flashed on me... I had just been elected as President of this amazing District full of talented, warm individuals, and I was almost overwhelmed. Let me say that I feel privileged to have this opportunity, and I know that with your help, we can not only continue the legend of the Far Western District, but carry it to new heights.

During the next year or two my hope is that together we will make the barbershop experience of every one of our members a fulfilling one; that it will not only be a musically successful one but one filled with the kind of fun that keeps you coming back every week for a fresh dose.

I think that the key to that is tending to the health of our chapters. Barbershop is not a solo sport like golf; it requires collaboration with others and a team effort to be rewarding. It requires at least three other men and an environment that encourages the music. How do we achieve that? By making sure that our chapters are well run with meetings that meet the needs of their members. In doing so, it's important to understand that needs and fun are not the same for everyone. For some it's constantly exploring new music, for others it's refining performance to the highest level. It may be gathering in small groups for an ever-changing quartet experience, or it may be singing in a chorus. It could be work-

ing with local youth groups, or it could be by staging frequent shows for the public. Which one of these is the right approach? All of them! Get together with your chapter membership and decide which appeals to you, and then go for it. Maybe you'll incorporate more than one for a little variety. The important thing is to have a goal in mind and then work together to make it the best that it can be. Then share the fun with a friend who likes to sing.

To help you achieve this the District management team along with the Society staff offer many of the resources and tools needed for success. I like to think of it as a buffet rather than a set menu. Let your Chapter Counselor or Division VP know what you have in mind, and they'll bring you up to date on what ideas and materials are available. Then you can choose for yourself what might work the best for you and for your chapter. Next send your leaders to school for training and exposure to the latest ideas. There are many opportunities from localized Chapter Leadership Training to Chorus Director Workshops, and from Harmony College West to Harmony University. They'll come back full of information to help you get even better, and for a full experience, go to one of the schools yourself.

By the way, I started this by talking about a wonderful convention experience. I want to say that you, too, can have that great feeling by attending one of our terrific conventions and hanging out with the best group of barbershoppers on the planet. Start making your plans now for attending Spring Prelims in March and the Division contests that follow. You'll come home with a smile on your face that will last a long time.

My desire for the next year or two is that you and I will have more fun than we've ever had before singing those wonderful close harmonies with each other and watching the smiles of those who hear them. Is this a great hobby or what! I'll be getting around to see as many of you as possible, but in the meantime if there's anything on your mind drop me a line. And, when we see each other at a convention or school, let's sing a tag or two.

In Harmony,

FWD Sunshine Chairman Jim Holder

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JOIN IN THE FUN!!

at the

Westminster

47th Annual

Novice Quartet Contest

for Southern California,
Arizona, and Nevada

Saturday
January 19, 2008
7:30 PM



Servite High School
1952 West La Palma Avenue, Anaheim, CA 92801

**For information and registration materials,
contact the President or Quartet Chairman of
your own chapter, the FWD Website, or:**

Contest Chairman: Sean Devine
419 Main Street #261 (714) 271-4506
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District Executive Vice President




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[Ed: see Ivan's Division 5 DVP article]

Late breaking news:

The Central California Chapter (Golden Valley Chorus) will be hosting the annual Nor-Cal Novice Contest on Saturday, February 23rd 2008 in the Modesto area. For more information, go to <http://www.gvc.org/novice>

The
SIDEWINDERS
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The Sidewinders 671 W. Cypress Ave. Redlands, CA 92373

**REMEMBER THE FWD
YOUTH EDUCATION FUND**

[From page 5]

Yet, in other parts of the ship, many first time visitors to this great military vessel visited the lower deck museum and took tours of the ship offered by the SS Lane Victory operators. This ship saw duty during World War II, the Korean and Vietnam conflicts and has a great history. While the ship remained at her berth during these festivities, the Lane Victory is fully operational with WWII-Cruises off Catalina during the summer months. It is one of Los Angeles' great points of interest.



Over 500 Guests Attended the Celebration

The singing throughout the ship represented only a part of the day's enjoyment. Everywhere in little clusters could be seen groups of people who hadn't seen one another in years. Many of South Bay's alumni showed up to participate in the festivities while wives of long-deceased members were drawn to the event on the chance of seeing old friends and faces that were so much a part of their earlier social lives. And they were not disappointed.

As the celebration came to a close at evening time, the beautiful weather continued and we were treated with a lovely sunset and clear starlit skies. South Bay took to the risers once more and offered a few closing selections and a thank you to all those who had taken the time to join them on this extraordinary day. Many came from quite long distances and had the return trip home to look forward to. Without a doubt, everyone in attendance knew that something very special had happened this day and that it was another memory event which will be recounted over again many times.

Guests, far beyond the original ticket sales, had gathered for this experience, pressing the food and drink preparations, but all the challenges were happily met. It would be difficult to name all the Chapter members, wives and friends who came together to make this an impressive event. The South Bay Chorus is truly humbled by the remarkable turnout of fellow barbershop choruses and quartets and other a cappella performers for this special affair. Thanks for the memories.

South Bay Chapter 60th Anniversary

by Mike Martin

Detroit - June 7, 1947, officers of the SPEBSQSA affixed signatures to a charter for a new chapter in Inglewood, California. The chapter started with 45 names and it was predicted that this chapter would be one of the outstanding chapters in the Society. In May of 1954, officers of the Inglewood and Torrance chapters agreed to merge their chapters and in 1957 moved to Manhattan Beach and became known as South Bay. In the 1960's, the Coastliner name became synonymous with South Bay and by January 1965, South Bay was the largest chapter in the Far West District.

It is now 60 years later and on a Saturday in Los Angeles it is raining cats and dogs. It's the first respectable rain we have had in a long while but as nice as that may be, in 24 hours the South Bay Coastliners are going to be celebrating their 60th Birthday out in the open, topside on the United States ship SS Lane Victory in San Pedro, California.



The Lane Victory at the Dock in San Pedro

Advance ticket sales suggest the party will be successful with an unknown additional amount to show up on Sunday, the day of the celebration. Many top quartets and a cappella groups along with several men's and women's choruses have signed up to be present but if Sunday's weather is anything like Saturday's, it will be a very quiet event.

Sunday arrived in beautiful fashion with clear blue skies, comfortable temperatures and gentle breezes to make the perfect day for such a party. A brigade of chapter volunteers arrived prior to the event to prepare by setting up risers, tables, cooking areas, and refreshment stations. By three o'clock, guests started queuing up for ship boarding as they purchased tickets and passed through the newly-required anti-terrorist need to present picture identification to board the ship. Once that was out of the way, the event swiftly proceeded smoothly and wonderfully into the perfect day.



The Coastliners Open the Festivities

A schedule was set up for performances in ten- and fifteen- minute increments starting at 3:00 pm, and going nonstop till 7:00 pm. Appearing on stage were many outstanding barbershop quartets such as The 139th Street Quartet, Hi-Fidelity, Ready Willing & Mabel, Stage Hogs, and dozens of other quartets from around the southland including South Bays Docs on the Rocks and Sound Union.

The Coastliner Chorus under the direction of Pete Neushul opened and closed the show, but in between many fine men's and women's choruses appeared, such as the Santa Monica Oceanaires with their new director Todd Kolberg, The Apple Valley Chorus, (Kristin Taylor directing) the LA SouthTowns, (Caroline McLean directing) the Long Beach Sweet Adelines, (Lynn Smith directing) and the Fullerton Chapter Chorus (Craig Ewing directing).



The crowd Watching Action on the Hatch Cover Stage

But this was truly a multitasking event. While all the upper deck performances proceeded, other venues aboard ship were also in session. On the lower deck in the main museum/dining area, quartets, both formal and pickup, gathered for private performances in nooks and crannies around the ship. In other areas, lines of hungry guests formed to enjoy the great foods being prepared which offered tantalizing fragrances throughout the ship, while still others formed lines for their favorite beverages. On the forward part of the upper deck, tag contests were being held and trophies awarded.

[Continues on page 4]



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At this writing final details for the two California COTS programs, both scheduled for November 17, have been solidified; and final details for the two AZSNSU COTS programs, scheduled for January 12 in Las Vegas and January 19 in Phoenix, are in the process of being solidified. We are very hopeful that all chapters will send a significant number of Board members and officers to the COTS events this year. Members at Large are welcome to register for any of the officer classes in which they may have an interest, as are officers for which a specific class is not offered this year.

Please note that five class sessions are being offered this year: President, Secretary, Treasurer, Music and Performance V-P and Program V-P. This is a somewhat more limited curriculum than usual, inasmuch as it is totally District-run this year. As a reminder, all of the COTS programs this year are one day, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and closing at 5:00 p.m. Cost is only \$30 per participant. You may register for COTS on the Far Western District website.

Plans are being made to offer a combined Membership/Chapter Development and Marketing/PR course at Harmony College West next August. Stay tuned for details on that program.

Chapter Counselors continue to be involved in assisting chapters who need assistance of one kind or another, and staying out of the way of chapters who don't need assistance. Continued study is underway on the role and function of the Chapter Counselors, and any input will be gratefully received.

Happy Barbershopping, and Keep Singing!



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[Ed: A CDWI is being worked on, but not yet finalized.]

FWD Spring Convention in Bakersfield

March 13-16, 2008

**Let's Get Our Conventions Singing Again
 Come Join in the FUN!**

FALL DISTRICT CONTEST

Our recent Fall District Contest is behind us now. Once again, the FWD demonstrated just what a great district we are by qualifying 2 wildcard choruses to next year's International Contest in Nashville. In addition to the great performance by District Chorus Champions and International representative for the district, The Masters of Harmony, both the Voices in Harmony (Bay Area) and Spirit of Phoenix (Phoenix) choruses also earned the right to compete as wildcards. The quartets also shined as VocalEase took top honors in the Quartet Competition and California Crossroads won the district Senior Championship. Audacity is the official FWD representative to the Senior Contest in San Antonio next January. Congratulations to all competitors.

SO, YOU WANNA BE A JUDGE?

Have you ever thought about becoming a judge? If you think you have what it takes, then now's the time to consider entering the program. Applications are being accepted through December 31st, 2007 for anyone wishing to become a judge. Instructions on how to complete the application process are on the application form, available on the FWD website.

CONTEST RULE CHANGES IN EFFECT

There have been some changes in the FWD SOP for Contest & Judging. Beginning with the next contest cycle, all competitors must register no later than 28 days prior to the contest in which they wish to compete. The reasons this rule was added are mostly due to travel considerations for judging panels. Registrations that came in at the very end of the prior 14-day limit sometimes became so numerous that additional panel members needed to be invited. Unfortunately, the costs of bringing these judges in (if they're available) is extensive and easily puts the operating budget of these events far over the predicted amounts. Since it has been determined that evaluations are an important part of the contest experience, having enough judges to provide evaluations in the amount of time available is necessary.

Another change pertains to the senior quartets. As of now, the age requirement for senior eligibility must be effective on the day of the International Senior Quartet Contest at the Mid-Winter Convention. Previously, the age limit was to have been met at the time of the division contest that qualifies quartets to the Fall District Contest.

Anyone with questions on these or any other rules can call or email me for clarification.

REGISTRATIONS ARE BACK ONLINE FOR SPRING CONTESTS

Finally, competitors can look to once again complete their registrations online for next spring. Although the Society website continues to have minor glitches, quartet contest entries should be working. Watch for updates early next year.



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DID YOU MISS SOME FUN AT PHOENIX?

If you were at Phoenix you know how good the contests were. But you may have missed out on some of the convention. On Thursday night the Jump Start Barbershop Quartet Contest was a lively time and you probably saw the winners proudly wearing their medals all weekend. The First Place winners pictured below are Three Hits and a Miss with Marty Trudell (Tenor), Bill Freck (Lead), Jim Milner (Bass), and Casey Parker (Bari). Everyone in the audience was a judge in this not overly serious contest.



At 11am on Friday a crowd of folks walked two blocks to a local restaurant for a Harmony For Lunch Bunch where we did some crowd singing and several quartets entertained us as we dined. Then back to the hotel for three tracks of classes from 1pm to 4pm. Our outgoing FWD quartet champs Late Show led a popular class where they answered lots of questions, sang up a storm, and sang a couple with a member of the audience taking a part. Other classes included Tag Singing, Woodshedding, Group singing, Vocal Production, and Vowel Matching.

Both the Spring and Fall District Conventions always have a variety of classes and they are included with your convention registration. When you come to the contests, don't miss out on the convention



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FALL 2007 CONVENTION IN PHOENIX

I hope you were among the 1800 or so folks who attended the Fall convention in Phoenix. The high caliber of singing and the well-organized convention team made this one of the more memorable conventions in recent memory. The Greater Phoenix Chapter has set the bar a bit higher for running a convention.

SPRING 2008 CONVENTION

By now, most of you are aware that we had some problems with the Spring 2008 convention. Happily, we have those problems solved. The convention has been reconfigured to include the International quartet prelims and the SoCal West division contest. (Recall that this was originally to be SoCal East). The contest has been relocated to Bakersfield. The venue will be the Harvey Auditorium at Bakersfield High School, located six blocks west and two blocks south of the Civic Auditorium that we all know so well. The convention will be hosted by the Valleyaires. The registration and hotel forms can be found in this issue of Westunes, and online in the FWD web site.

FUTURE CONVENTIONS

Spring

2008	Mar 13-16	Bakersfield, CA	host - Valleyaires
2009	Mar 19-22	Las Vegas, NV	host - City of Lights Chorus
2010	Mar 18-20	Accepting bids	
2011	Mar 17-20	Accepting bids	

Fall

2008	Oct 9-12	Bakersfield, CA	host - Masters of Harmony
2009	Oct 8-11	Sacramento, CA	host - Capitolairens
2010	Oct 7-10	Bakersfield, CA	host - Gold Coast Chorus, SLO
2011	Oct 13-16	Accepting bids	

International

2009	Jun 28-Jul 5	Anaheim, CA	host - Masters of Harmony
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I hope you plan to attend all of these. Please note the conventions that are not yet hosted. This may be a good opportunity for your chapter. There are division contests to host as well. For those chapters thinking about hosting a spring or fall convention, keep in mind that you can do this in one of two ways: you can provide the manpower for the days of the contest (chapter for hire) for a fixed fee, or you can run the whole thing for a percent of the profits. Keep in mind that if a suitable venue is not available near your chapter, the events team can help you find a venue in another city and you can host it there. Please consider doing this - this is how we get some variety in our convention locations.



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Let's talk about the Blood drive for a moment! From some of the comments and e-mails that I have received, there is definitely some misunderstanding about our involvement in this great event! Believe it or not, a large number of folks think that we are suppose to go en-masse, as members of the FWD, and give blo0d on the designated day! Hmmm... always gets me how these rumors get started!

Folks, that is not it at all! Quoting from the letter from J. Noah Funderburg to all Chapter Presidents (Dated, Oct 1, 2007):

"The hope is that chapters will host a blood drive, and share the message of the need for blood donations while also singing barbershop music for audiences. Both choruses and quartets should have opportunities to perform in connection with the blood drive."

This is a collaborative effort with the various Blood Donation Services throughout the U.S. and Canada. It is our opportunity to directly impact our communities with the gift of song at each Blood Drive site! Do you need to give blood? Only if you want, although that is not the purpose of this event; and, I for one want to be full of energy for a day of singing anyway!

As this is a Society event, and it is intended to be executed Nationwide, we need your help and support! What do you need to do? First, commit your Chapters, Choruses, and Quartets to this event. Second, Appoint (volunteers are good!) a Chapter representative, who signs up to be the area coordinator (website sign-up at www.singingforlife.org), And send me via e-mail the name of the rep who signs up!

Gentlemen, in the last year I have continually brought up the idea of "face time" to you in numerous communiqués, this is what it is all about! What a marvelous opportunity for getting out in our communities, and being a part of something really great. If nothing more, folks will remember you for the work you are doing in your communities!

Opportunity!? Gee, I wonder? Hey, have a ton of Marketing material ready to hand out... Nuff said!

After we identify everyone who will be involved I'll work with you to iron out particulars. Remember, marketing for this is to be done by the local Blood Drive sponsors! Yes, we can market as well, but the idea is that the Blood Dive is Marketed and Sponsored by the various centers!

Keep smilin', Keep Singin'

Howdy...

The numbers:

Still no numbers posted on the Society website - since April. Sorry 'bout that. Some indications are that we have a little gain - but I'm not holding my breath until I can see the numbers - hopefully soon.

But - in the meantime...

We're in the midst of the winter holiday season - some of the richest membership opportunities lie dead ahead.

For instance:

- Holiday Chorus - is your chapter doing this? Invite community members to join you in holiday performances. Haven't heard yet of a chapter doing it that hasn't met with success.
- Membership planning - now's the time to participate in your chapter's plans for growth in 2008. Little if anything of value occurs without planning. A good plan relies on input from the members.
- Valentine's Day - Huh? Already? Yup - time to organize and rehearse quartets for this all-time success story for most chapters - and a great opportunity to recruit!
- Auditions for Admission - (for you veterans, out there, "singouts") - basically, performances in public places (i.e. malls) designed to attract potential members. Why not plan one for early in the year - or even during the holiday season?
- Membership surveys - I know, I know - you're already surveyed to death. But how else to gauge what your guys are looking for - what they like, don't like, etc.?

And - since you asked (ok - so you didn't ask) - the FWD Website www.bhsfwd.org is a great resource for tips, templates, to-dos, etc. on all the above subjects - look under "membership documents".

See 'ya around...



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CHORUS COACHING

The Far Western District has a very flexible program your chapter can use to help improve your annual show, a cabaret show, or your next contest package. You can get a coach to come to your chapter on your meeting night. Or better yet, you can arrange to have him come on a weekend for an all-day rehearsal. The District will pick up half of his expenses, including mileage @ \$.30/mile, not to exceed \$150 per visit. There are lots of excellent coaches who are happy to help your chorus have more fun and sing better.

SKILLS-BASED AND OTHER QUARTET WORKSHOPS

The backbone of a strong chapter is its quartets. And the best place in our Barbershop World for quartets to improve is at a Skills-Based quartet Workshop. They work so well because the step-by-step program has been put down in a complete Workshop Guide. You can download it from the FWD website. It is in the „Forms and Files% link on the left side of the FWD Home page. It will give you step by step instructions as to how to organize and hold a workshop. The quartets which have participated in one of these workshops have had nothing but positive comments about their value. They are just a one-day workshop and lots of help is available. Call me to help you get started!

JULY 18 - 20, 2008!
HARMONY COLLEGE WEST
UNIVERSITY OF REDLANDS

Check the new date. Two weeks after International. It will be here before you know it. Begin to put money away for your registration. Once again HCW will make some changes in order to implement some of the suggestions given in your evaluations.

The response from the quartets about the POD coaching was 100% positive! 95% were "Very Satisfied" and 5% were "Satisfied" with the overall value of their time at HCW. Once again, Connie Keil will be in charge of the logistics and scheduling of coaches and quartets. And once again, we will have the same level of top coaches. So mark the dates on your calendar and plan to get in on the opportunity to move your quartet up to the next level of entertainment proficiency.

There will again be a variety of great classes, all of which will be designed to help you become a better Barbershopper, and that will lead to more fun! The evaluations of the 2007 HCW classes showed that 96% were "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied" with the instruction in the various classes!

We guarantee that there will be much less walking at Redlands. The dorms and classroom buildings will be close together, and of course we will be close to the marvelous food in the cafeteria!

STANDING OVATION? WHY NOT? HERE,S HOW!

The Standing Ovation Program was designed to assist chapters and quartets in earning standing ovations each and every time they perform.

I will send an email to chapter presidents et al about three months before the show date, asking them if they would like to have one of the FWD,s trained Reviewers to come and review their show. There is no fee for their services. The only requirement is that the chapter provide the assigned Reviewer with a pair of complimentary tickets to the show and afterglowΣpreferably in the first row of the balcony (if available) or in the center of the 8th or 10th row of the auditorium. His view of the entire stage is of the utmost importance. Also his mileage should be covered and, if he has to stay overnight, his out-of-pocket expenses.

Since all cleared show dates, from a sing-in-the-park, to a cabaret show or annual shows appear on the FWD Show Dates Calendar, I will send letters offering a trained SOP Reviewer for each show. The annual show will yield the most valuable help for guaranteeing a Standing Ovation. The chapter can have more than one SOP review. „Have one this year, follow the recommendations and then have one next year. Notice the improvement.



Chair : Young Men In Harmony
John Krizek
1190 Tanglewood Rd.
Prescott, AZ 86303
928- 277- 4347
El: jkrizek@aol.com

HOW TO CREATE A YIH PROGRAM— BY ACCIDENT

The bad news is, there were no YIH classes at COTS this year.

The good news is, youth outreach is becoming such a standard part of every chapter's life (well, most every chapter's life) that chapters, quartets and individuals are doing things that count as YIH, whether they have an officer assigned to the function or not. It's every officer's responsibility.

If you'd like to see something happen, but aren't sure where to start, here, thanks to the Placerville chapter, are some suggestions for starting a YIH program—by accident.

1. Get in front of your chapter and tell them you can't possibly meet with every music educator in your area. Besides, they are so busy it's hard to find a time in their schedule. Tell your members you need them to be spies. Ask everyone to call the high school nearest their home, and find out when is the next concert with their choir per-

forming. Take your wife to the concert. Report back on how good the choir is, and how many male singers it has.

2. Choose a choir with lots of students in it, and hopefully at least 10 young men. Call the music educator, tell him/her how much you enjoyed the show, and you want them to be on your next show. Offer money (e.g. \$250 or more?) for 10-15 minutes of music. Explain they can sing their normal repertoire, but you'd like them to learn at least one barbershop song (God Bless America, or Keep the Whole World Singing?) so they can join the rest of the singers in a mass finale. Tell them you'll provide the music and a director to teach them the song.

3. Don't be surprised if the students account for a significant increase in show ticket sales to their families and friends.

4. Plan the show so the school choir sings early and then must sit through the rest of the performances in order to join in the grand finale. (Don't make them buy tickets.) Make sure you have a good headliner quartet, so the students get immersed in the best barbershop sound you can provide.

5. Before the show, make sure that headliner quartet (I know it can't always be O.C. Times, but the younger the better) is asked to look for student singers after the show, and engage them in singing tags.

6. Be prepared to get a call from the music educator a week or two later, wanting help because some students in his/her choir want to start a quartet. Be prepared to offer free music and coaching help.

Voila, you have a YIH program! Start planning for a different school choir to be on your show next year.

There is TONS of help available in this District—if you don't know who your division YIH coordinator is, ask your division VP—or me. Manuals, films, tapes, money for festivals, a web site, a roster of resources, etc. Not to mention an on-fire group of young barbershoppers called the Westminster Chorus.

We owe it to the future. It's keeping America singing.
Do something.

REMEMBER THE FWD YOUTH EDUCATION FUND

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA YOUNG MEN'S HARMONY FESTIVAL

by Mark Freedkin

The Masters of Harmony and the Southern California Vocal Association (SCVA) will be hosting our 8th Annual "Young Men's Harmony Festival" on Saturday, February 23, 2008 at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, Calif. The event is open to all young men who like to sing, with no limitations on the number of singers that can participate from a school. The cost is only \$25 per singer, and it includes sheet music, two meals and a commemorative t-shirt. All choral music teachers are welcome to attend at no cost.

Application forms are available in Adobe Acrobat (.PDF) format from the SCVA website at <http://www.scva-choral.org>. This event fills up quickly, so please get your applications in as soon as possible. This is an excellent opportunity for your chapter to sponsor several young men from high schools in your area as a legitimate chapter expense.

For more information, please visit the Masters of Harmony website at <http://www.mastersofharmony.org>, or contact Mark Freedkin at (714) 357-1187 or mfreedkin@yahoo.com



**VP - Financial Development
Harmony Foundation
David Haedtler**

210 Ada Ave
Mountain View, CA 94043-4907
650-965-3305 E: davidhaedtler@hotmail.com

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October 30th-November 2nd, 2008

www.panpacificharmony.org
info@panpacificharmony.org



2007 FWD Quartet Champions VocalEase

By Joe D'Amore, Bass

2007-2008 Far Western District Quartet Champions

2007-2008 Lloyd B. Steinkamp Standing "O" Award Recipients

Hello, Far Western District!!!

Wow! Try as we might, we just can't describe what a thrill it is for VocalEase to represent you as your 2007-2008 Far Western District Quartet Champions. Trust us when we say the competition was fierce and formidable at Symphony Hall in Phoenix, Arizona. We sang early on Saturday evening which allowed us to be in the audience to enjoy the rest of the contest. It was very clear to us based on watching the performances of our esteemed colleagues that the championship could have gone to a number of quartets this year. As usual, the Far Western District is home for some of the greatest quartets in the Society. We were fortunate to come out on top.

And, if you think winning the contest wasn't enough of a thrill for us, we were then honored by being named the first recipients of the Lloyd B. Steinkamp Standing "O" Award! Doing well in contests is a wonderful goal. However, nothing is more important to us than knowing our audience enjoyed our overall performance to the degree that they would acknowledge us with this significant and meaningful award. We will cherish this honor forever and we are committed to doing everything in our power to continue being as entertaining a quartet as we possibly can.

We have been invited to write an article for each edition of Westunes to update you on our journey as your quartet champs through 2007-2008. We'll follow this initial article with biographical information on each member in the

quartet as well as our upcoming show dates and other goings on.

Speaking about show dates...HEY!!!! We'd LOVE to perform on your chapter shows!!! We have a dynamite show package that is fun and entertaining from start to finish. Please contact us for more information.

Before we sign off for this edition, we'd like to take a moment to say some special "thank you's."

First and foremost, we thank Almighty God for blessing us with the gift of music and for enabling us to sing together and to share this wonderful gift with so many people.

Next, we want to thank the people who have made a significant impact on our success as our coaches and mentors; Mark Hale, David Harrington, Greg Lyne, Dawn Castiglione, Cindy Hansen, Rik Johnson, and Jeff Baker. Without your consistent affirmations, honesty, and advise, we would not be where we are today.

We want to thank YOU...our Far Western District brothers and sisters...our chapters, our administrative and musical leadership...for your support and encouragement. Barbershopping for all of us has always been a family affair. It's nice to belong to such a wonderful family.

Last, but not least, we want to pay special tribute to four of the most important, encouraging, supportive ...PATIENT... women on earth; our wives - Diane, Pattie, Marcia, and Cindy. Thank you for your love and ongoing support. The quartet experience would not be the same if we did not have you by our side as we travel on this journey together. We love you.

Thank you, Far Western District. We are honored to serve as your quartet champions for 2007-2008. We look forward to singing with you soon.

In Love and Harmony...

Joe, Rich, Todd and Scott



FIRST (AND LAST) CALL FOR FWD BULLETINS

By Dick Girvin, FWD District Bulletin Coordinator

Here is the call for bulletins for the **2007** Far Western District Bulletin Contest. All FWD Bulletin Editors who have published **six or more *monthly*** printed issues (or **six months of *weekly or bi-weekly*** printed bulletins) during 2007 are eligible to enter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Entries should be mailed to the below address to **arrive on or before February 1, 2008** The contest results will be announced with trophies for the top **Large** and top **Small** bulletins at the Spring Prelim Contest in Reno on March 16—at the House of Delegates meeting. The top two scoring bulletins (regardless of size) will be entered in the International Bulletin Contest.

International Online Bulletin Contest (online bulletins of **2007**).

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

FWD Bulletin Coordinator
34888 Lyn Ave
Hemet, CA 92545
Dickgirvin@juno.com



2007 FWD Chorus Champions Masters of Harmony

The Road to Phoenix

By Ron Larson

The last time the Masters of Harmony sang in Phoenix was 1998. Late in 1997, Jeff Oxley of The Vocal Majority had accepted the daunting challenge of following a competition trail blazed by Dr. Greg Lyne, who had led the Masters of Harmony to three consecutive gold medals. While some in the Society doubted it could be done, Jeff successfully clinched the chorus victory in the 1998 Phoenix Far Western District contest. After the Masters repeated their winning performance on the evening show, Jeff called his girlfriend, Susan Brunettin, up to the stage . . . and proposed to her! Susan proudly said, "Yes," to thunderous applause from the capacity audience. At Anaheim in 1999, Jeff became the second director to lead the Masters to a gold medal. The Masters' winning package that year included an uptune appropriate for the many flights Jeff had to take from Dallas to Los Angeles - "California, Here I Come."

The 2007 road to Phoenix began with Dr. Jim Henry's keynote address at the Masters' 2007 Awards & Installation Banquet, probably the most moving and inspirational ever delivered at this event. Jim reminded the audience that our music can be a ministry to others, that we are privileged to be able to give gold medal moments to the people for whom we sing, and that our music can change lives and feed souls. This inspiring speech was the perfect way to start what promises to be an exciting and very challenging part of the contest cycle.

The journey included some very demanding choreography sessions with Erin Howden, a choreography genius from Toronto who designed a package that worked beautifully with the arranging genius of Aaron Dale, who gave the Masters of Harmony the uptune used in the Phoenix contest, "Yona From Arizona." Coupled with the interpretive genius of Masters Director Mark Hale, the seldom-performed song helped the Masters win a Far Western District Championship in Phoenix for a second time.

An especially interesting moment for Masters members in this year's Phoenix Convention was the chance to see and hear, many for the first time, Dr. Greg Lyne's Voices in Harmony, a chorus that didn't exist two years ago. Their performance package marks the VIH as not only one of the premier choruses in that contest, but a definite medal contender for next year. Additional congratulations go to the newly merged Spirit of Phoenix chorus whose performance showed them as a powerhouse of the future.

All in all, the Greater Phoenix Chapter hosted one of the finest district conventions in years. It featured some fabulous presentations, many much-improved performances, and the appearance of some choruses competing for the first time in many years. As Jim Henry said in that banquet speech, "The better we perform the more gold medals we give to our audiences." In addition, the convention demonstrated the interconnectedness of our Society. Ten current or former Masters of Harmony members were on stage with other choruses, and current member Craig Ewing directed the Fullerton Orange Empire Chorus. Another demonstration of our mutual bonds as singing brothers took place when the Masters sang to accompany a big screen photo tribute to Lloyd Steinkamp, a beloved barbershop brother who touched many lives throughout our Society "For Good."

Recent stops for the Masters on the road to Phoenix and beyond included a performance at the Sun Lakes Country Club, a show skillfully and tirelessly arranged by Club resident and MOH member, Gary Ewald. This concert series was a unique opportunity to present quality barbershop music to a non-barbershop audience. It gave OC Times and The Crush the chance to present the dynamic sound that has made both quartets favorites of Masters audiences. The Masters of Harmony sang for another non-barbershop audience as part of the Long Beach Community Concert Series. The chorus has performed five times in this series, most recently in 2003, and is one of that Series' most requested groups.

This summer, a representative of the Pride of the Ozarks chorus, a small chapter in Bentonville, Arkansas, came to a Masters rehearsal to express their gratitude for making

[Continues on page 25]

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT
Board of Directors Meeting
Phoenix, Arizona, Thursday, September 27, 2007

MINUTES

1. The meeting was called to order at 2 PM. by President Cale

OFFICERS PRESENT

Bill Cale, President; Bob Lally, EVP; Peter Feeney, IPP
Bernard Priceman DVP, Division 1, SoCal West.
Gene Clements DVP, Division 2, SoCal East
Steve Sammonds, DVP, Division 3, NorCal West/Hawaii
Dick Whitten DVP, Division 4, NorCal East/No.Nev
Ivan Jensen DVP, Division 5, ArizSo.Nev/So Utah
Jim Sherman, Treasurer; Dick Girvin, Secretary

INVITED CHAIRMEN PRESENT

- a. David Updegraff Chair, CSLT Comm.
- b. Chuck Hunter COTS Coordinator
- c. Deane Scoville Chair, Awards Committee
- d. Kevin Smith Chair, Marketing & PR Comm.
- e. Ray Rhymer Westunes Editor
- f. Chuck Leavitt Chair, Events Committee

GUESTS

Lou Benedict Paired SBM (FWD/EVG)

VISITORS

Jack Mauney, FWD Fall Convention Chairman; Terry Aramian, Past FWD President, Past International President; Sam Aramian, Past FWD President, Past International President; Keith Eckhart, Chair, Convention Activities; Bill Johnson (Jack Mauney's representative); Sam Barger, Past FWD President; Carl Truman, Past FWD President; Russ Young, DDC&J; John Jones, Past DVP NCW; Bob Cathaway

2. The following motions were presented. To:

- 1: Approve the agenda as amended. (W/O Obj)).
- 2: Approve the minutes of the Summer 2007 Board Meeting (MSP).
- 3: Increase the FWD mileage reimbursement to \$.30 per mile effective January 1, 2008 (MSP).
- 4: Remove from the table Motion 10 from the Summer BOD meeting. (MSP).
- 5: Suspend the print version of the WESTUNES effective immediately with the stipulation that the electronic version continues to be published in accordance with the SOP. (MSFailed)
- 6: Transfer \$1000 from the 2007 Budget, Leadership Forum Item, to Marketing & PR for 2007 Web Design costs. (MSP).
- 7: Increase the 2008 budget for Westunes from \$2000 to \$5000. (MSP).
- 8: Establish a reserve from 2008 Westunes expense not to exceed \$5000. (MSP)
- 9: Accept the recommendation of the DDC&J Chairman for qualifying scores for District competition, effective January 1, 2008. (reduce Chorus Target score from 60% to 58%) (MSP).
- 10: Remove part of the Administrative Changes to the SOP concerning the Standing "O" award. (SOP Art XIV 14.11) (MSP).
- 11: Name Nick Papageorge as the dedicatee for the 2008 FWD Spring Convention (MSP)
- 12: Recommend to the HOD that the qualifying age for the Senior Quartets be as of the date of the International Senior Contest. (SOP Art VII, 8.3.1.1) (MSP).
- 13: Approve by acclamation, the 2008 Officer slate provided by the nominating Committee (MSP) (Bob Lally, President; Ivan

Jensen, EVP; Jim Turnmire, DVP Division 4 (NorCalEastNN); Gordon Berghold, DVP Div 4 (ASNSU) (The balance of the slate are incumbents.) (MSP).

3. Actions items established during the meeting were:

- 1: President Cale established a Task Force to study Grants. (Personnel to be assigned)
- 2: President Cale appointed Kevin Smith to head an AD HOC Committee to study and provide recommendations regarding the current district print bulletin. The report and plan is due 30 days prior to the Summer Board.

4. SOP Changes

A review of the changes to the SOP recommended to the HOD resulted in the following:

- a. The removal of Item (4)
(4). 8.3.2.5 Fall Chorus Contest Policy (Alternate wording)
- b. The removal of the description of the Standing "O" Award from the SOP (See Motion 10 above)
- c. Misc Administrative Changes.

5. Special Reports

Reports not carried in the Fall Delegate's Brochure included:

a. CSLT David Updegraff:

A review of the Chapter Counselor program is in progress. The study is expected to contact chapter presidents and current chapter counselor to determine if restructuring of the roles is needed. One approach offered is to provide "specialists" to the chapters as needed vice a "general practitioner" to every chapter.

b. COTS Chuck Hunter:

The 2007 FWD COTS activities will encompass four venues.
Nov 17—SoCal (Pico Riviera School)
Nov 17—NorCal (Delta College, Stockton)
Jan 12—Las Vegas
Jan 19--Phoenix

FWD instructors are assigned to the one-day classes and curriculum is being prepared.

c. Marketing & PR Kevin Smith:

- (1) The National Blood Drive is scheduled for May 10, 2008 BHS has been invited to support the national effort by providing entertainment (quartets, choruses) at the blood collection centers. The primary motive and opportunity is to "shake hands with the community" on a national issue. Kevin Smith needs input from every chapter by December 1 to identify a chapter member as local coordinators.

(2) Marketing Data Base

The new FWD public website has been established and is a work in progress. Phase 1 can be viewed at. www.FWDbarbershop.org It is designed to attract the general public and provide information on the Society, local chapter shows, and events. Feeds from BHS, MENC and CMENA are expected.

[Continues on page 23]



2007 International Chorus Champions Westminster

Capping off the dream that has been this year could not have been more fun for us; we can hardly believe it's all coming to a close. From capturing our third district chorus championship, to returning home as the International Chorus Champions, we could not have imagined a more picture perfect year—it has been a year that none of us will soon forget. The support from this district has been incredible. We couldn't have achieved all we have without all of you cheering us on. It truly is our privilege to represent the great Far Western District in every performance we give.

If you weren't in Phoenix for District this year, you really missed a great weekend. (Thanks to Greater Phoenix for hosting a great convention!) The chorus contest was fantastic, the quartet contest came right down to the wire (again!), the AFWDC tribute to Lloyd Steinkamp was filled with lots of memories, singing, and laughter, and the Saturday night Show of Champions was a star-studded event! Congratulations to each and every competitor who crossed the stage in Phoenix. The FWD is the proving ground of champions, and although the competition is fierce, we are all better singers and performers for it. Not to mention, it's just plain FUN!

Congratulations also to Vocal Ease for capturing a well deserved district championship. Your music and artistry are stunning and captivating. Thank you for two excellent performances. We're also extremely proud of The Crush for winning third place. All four members are active leaders in our chorus and we're proud to call them our brothers! Seeing our other chapter quartet, OC Times, hand off the third place pins gives us a great indication of what is in the near future for The Crush.

We'd also like to extend a hearty congratulations to the new district chorus champions, The Masters of Harmony.

It was a surreal experience to hand the championship trophy to our good friends and mentors. We can't wait to hear and see your performance as you represent the FWD in Nashville next summer. It's going to be a great contest. We hope to hand you a familiar piece of hardware to add to your collection.

Although it's going to be difficult to top this past year, we have quite a few new and exciting adventures ahead. To kick off the year, on January 19th, we will be hosting the 47th Annual Novice Quartet Contest at Servite High School in Anaheim, CA. It's always a thrill to see new quarteters gain their experience in a contest that is all about the joy of singing.

We're also extremely excited about our annual show next April. We will be introducing a new and exciting twist: you decide who should be in the greatest quartet of all time, and we'll have them on our show! For the first time ever, a world-wide vote will take place from November 1st to December 1st (thanks to Quartetbuilder.com!) where anybody interested can vote for their favorite singers from any international quartet champion. Be sure to mark your calendar once the winners are announced as these four men will combine in what will likely be their only performance as a quartet! Imagine your favorite tenor of all time singing with your favorite lead of all time...the possibilities are endless. We hope this new and exciting idea will be greeted with enthusiasm throughout the society. Visit www.WestminsterChorus.org/vote for more information.

As we close 2007, we hope that 2008 will bring great success to all of you. May your chapter meetings be challenging and fun, your shows be full of endless standing ovations, and afterglows be long and full of laughter, friendship, and of course, tags. Thanks for a great year... until we meet again.

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DISK 1

1. Bowery Medley
2. Walk 'til The Sun Shines, Nellie
3. Bach's Fugue (in D Minor)
4. Down By The Old Mill Stream
5. 1927
6. Don't Put A Tax On The Beautiful Girls
7. Jean
8. I'm Just Wild About Harry
9. A Girlfriend of A Boyfriend
10. Luke's Back In Town
11. My Mother's Eyes
12. My Dear Old Irish Ma
13. Good Old Zenith
14. Blackbird
15. I Get Around
16. It's Better To Leave Them Alone
17. Didn't We
18. I Got Rhythm
19. Kid's Song (Coney Island)
20. My Alabama
21. French Medley
22. Daddy, You've Been A Mother To Me
23. You're Shakin' Right Off For Hours

DISK 3

1. Sing An Old Barber's Song
2. Jump Into My Mommy's Arms
3. I've Got The World On A String
4. Crazy Woods, Crazy Tune
5. The Best Times I Ever Had
6. Money Makes The World Go 'round
7. My Romance
8. Soukko Medley
9. I Wish I Was Eighteen Again
10. Don't Take Me Home
11. The Wild, Wild Women
12. God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen
13. Now Here You Are Back Again
14. Maple Leaf Rag
15. Old Bailey Fugue
16. Grandpa's Spots
17. Chaps
18. A Lovely Way To Spend An Evening
19. Someone Intro with Hot Party
20. Someone
21. Breaking Up Is Hard To Do

DISK 9

1. Parade—Medley
2. Can You Take Wild Women?
3. Where Did You Get That Girl?
4. I've Grown Accustomed To Her Face
5. Army Rag
6. Forty-Five Minutes From Broadway
7. Kid's Song (Arch Visions)
8. You Tell Her, I Shout
9. Old Folks
10. Take Her Down To Coney Island
11. Puttin' On The Ritz
12. Portrait Of My Love—Medley
13. A Cup Of Coffee, A Sandwich & You
14. Moonlight Nights
15. If I Were You I'd Fall In Love With Me
16. I'd Rather Be A Bachelor Than A Wife
17. Guy
18. Through The Years
19. One Note Samba
20. Theme Song From "Cheese"
21. A Salute To The 20th Century
22. Ragtime Quartette



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Quartet Scores, 2007 FWD Fall Contest

Regular Quartets

	%
1 VocalEase	80.9
2 Stardust	79.3
3 The Crush	79.3
4 Audacity	75.3
5 Chords Gone Wild	73.5
6 Expedia	73.3
7 Oasis	72.5
8 Rebound	72.5
9 Tahoe Blue	71.8
10 Four Fifteen	71.1
11 Uncalled Four	67.3
12 California Crossroads	66.7
13 BLING!	64.4
14 Eastsiders	64.1
15 Uproar!	63.2
16 Four Of Hearts	63.1
17 Sonoran Sound	62.7
18 Gone South	62.6
19 Preferred Blend	61.4

International Prelim Senior Quartets

	%
1 Audacity	76.5
2 Vintage Gold	72.4
3 California Crossroads	66.7
4 Music Box	64.3
5 Four Of Hearts	63.1
6 The Fourtune Hunters	60.6
7 Dry Heat	59.6

FWD Senior Quartets [not Int'l Prelim]

	%
1 California Crossroads	66.7
2 Four Of Hearts	63.1
3 The Fourtune Hunters	60.6
4 Dry Heat	59.6

[Ed note: The Seim-Finals OSS depicts a somewhat different ranking in the "Regular" Quartet contest due to a mix of regular and senior quartets being included in the list. Some senior quartets entered all three contests while others did not. It can be confusing.]





Chorus Scores, 2007 FWD Fall Contest

		& # on stage
1	Santa Fe Springs, CA	92.9 100
2	Bay Area, CA	89.7 83
3	Greater Phoenix, AZ	85.7 75
4	LaJolla, CA	77.7 30
5	Brea, CA	71.3 19
6	Fresno, CA	70.9 52
7	Tucson, AZ	66.6 41
8	Pasadena, CA	65.7 32
9	Las Vegas Metro, NV	65.6 27
10	Riverside, CA	65.5 18
11	San Fernando Valley, CA	64.2 50
12	Paradise Valley, AZ	61.8 18
13	San Diego, CA	58.8 25
14	Fullerton, CA	58.7 41
15	Inland Empire, CA	57.3 27
16	Fremont-Hayward, CA	57.1 19
17	Mesa, AZ	56.9 17
18	Sedona, AZ	54.3 23



Convention honoree Terry Aramian sang "Old Bones" during Show of Champions. Greater Phoenix Chapter provided background.

Immediate Past President



Bill Cale

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*The secret of joy in work is contained in one word—
excellence.*

*To know how to do something well is to enjoy it.
Pearl S. Buck*

Well, the Far Western District has more quartets and choruses that measure up to the level of excellence than most other districts think is fair. For the past two years I've had the distinct pleasure of being FWD President and representing you at conventions and meetings across this great land. The Masters were holding the International chorus gold medal when I came into office and Westminster holds it as I leave. In between, we were represented on the International stage by Bay Area, Phoenix, La Jolla and Rincon Beach, all to the envy of the rest of the Barbershop Harmony Society. Our currently active International level competing quartets, O C Times, Metropolis, Late Show, VocalEase, Stardust, Hi-Fidelity, The Crush, Vintage Gold and Audacity, are admired everywhere for their excellence. Does anyone think these men do not thoroughly enjoy their hobby? Or as Dr. Jim Henry says, their calling.

I wish I could take even a little teeny, tiny bit of credit for their successes; but,... Now if each of you will work a little more on your craft with resulting improvement in your performing, I could be convinced to take some credit. You don't have to work harder, necessarily, just smarter. Attend conventions and the instructional sessions that are held there. Go to COTS. Enroll in Harmony College West and the BHS Harmony University. And bring in coaches. The FWD helps chapters financially with coaching expenses. Enlist the help of people with the expertise to help you. Your Chapter Counselor can assist you in doing this. When your group sings better and performs better, your members are more likely to become members for life, and those on the outside are more likely to be interested in joining the enjoyment of busting those chords.

Motto:
**“Thanks for
the
Memories”**

As I leave office I want to thank you all for having bestowed upon me the honor of being your President. In particular I want to thank all of you who served in leadership rolls, the Members of the Board of Directors, the chairmen of committees, our Webmaster and our WEST-UNES Editor. I especially want to thank one person, Terry Mann, Chairman of the Long-range Planning Committee. If you'll look at the Fall House of Delegates brochure, you'll see the most comprehensive report from him. Your BOD and DMT had the report in hand for our Summer meetings in Oakland and it was thoroughly reviewed. Terry stretched our thinking process so that we had to consider some things in a different light than we had before, and reminded us of things we had let slide as well as pointing us in some new directions. Challenging! Review of the report goes on. There are some things we may never do, but Terry forced us to think about them seriously.

It has been a full and wonderful two years for me. Thanks For The Memories.

NEW AHSOW MEMBERS AT PHOENIX AZ

by Casey Parker

Seven Quality AHSOW members were certified at Phoenix AZ by the FWD AHSOW team including Casey Parker, Kent Shepherd, Mike Werner, and Charlie Bauder. Listed below. All were issued the Discovery Singing Booklet. Certifier Forms were mailed to AHSOW. Check was mailed to the Treasurer. .

An introductory Woodshedding class was presented, Casey Parker introduced the instructor team Kent, Mike & Charlie. Kent led off the presentation followed by Mike, with Charlie presenting a lead sheet which the class harmonized in quartets. The the 20 attendees were invited to the AHSOW room

Signatures were obtained of those interested in the Discovery Singing CD now in process. The MC announced the AHSOW Room at the contest. Casey Parker was in the First Place JumpStart quartet Three Hits & A Miss.

New AHSOW Members Phoenix AZ

Terry Buchanan 4Part
Patrick Dyke L T Bs
Kyle LaFollette 4Part
Charles LaRue L T Br
Peter Nichols 4Part
Bob Standfast Br Bs
Sam Warfel L T Bs

That's Entertainment?

by Dennis Woodson,
Associate Director, Fullerton Chapter
Bachelor of Harmony

Anybody who has been a member of this organization for more than ten years can probably remember the sales pitch that went with the last change in our judging system: "It will give an edge to the groups that entertain." Boy, was that a load of snake oil!

The lack of entertainment is evident at every contest I attend these days. Choruses and quartets, for the most part, just stand there and sing. Sure there are a few choreographed moves but for the most part you could get as much out enjoyment out of their performance with your eyes closed, maybe more.

The current emphasis in contest is in precision singing. Don't get me wrong, I am all for better singing, but how about a category for entertainment? True, grading pitch, tone production and singing techniques are easier and a more exact science. But the very best of us only compete in contests three or four times a year, that's all. The rest of the time they, and the rest of us, should be entertaining audiences. It probably wouldn't hurt to entertain contests audiences too. If we did, maybe more people would attend the contests. (Wow, what a thought. A proactive way to get more people to attend contests.)

I am a second generation barbershopper and I have seen three different judging systems over the last 60 years. I have to say that the current one is the most boring! Most of the people that make up the audience of our shows are not musically trained or educated. They are capable, however, telling good singing from bad singing, but they won't come to next year's show unless this year's show entertains them. Selling tickets to our shows is what helps us pay for our hobby. The more we can get from the outside public the less we have to take out of our own pockets.

A couple of years back I had a judge tell me that the judging system now guarantees that we won't have to put up with any more champions like FRED or Freestyle. My shocked response was, "Why, don't you like entertaining acts?" Attitudes like his will ensure that only music elitists will be members of this Society in years to come. There will be little to attract the average singer or listener.

I don't mean that we need to develop and train comedians. But we can still do a lot more to make our performances entertaining. There are a lot of superior singers and performers waiting tables, just watch "American Idol" and you'll see proof of that. What separates the "wannabe" singers from success is the level of entertainment they achieve. It is a trait that could be learned and utilized by all of us.

In a recent editorial in The Harmonizer, Ed Watson wrote, in part, that is a member is not having fun in this hobby, he is not doing it right. We might extend that thought to our contests and say if our contest audience is not having fun, the performers are not doing it right.

I might point out that some of our quartets have already discovered this fact. Look at the success of some of our quartets at the Buckeye Invitational and other a cappella contests. And yet these same groups have not had the same level of success at our contests. Wake up folks, why do you suppose this is? Entertainment sells! While I wholeheartedly subscribe to the mantra "Good singing attracts good singers" I would also add the "Entertainment attracts performers". These two philosophies can and do coexist quite nicely. What we need in our ranks is more performers. We need a new generation of guys like Dave Stevens, Dave La Bar, Lloyd Steinkamp, et al.

So let's give it a try. We really don't have anything to lose and it just might have a positive effect in attracting more people to our performances and contests and that could also help add to our membership rolls. Who knows, some of those potential members could be budding performers that have only a modicum of musical knowledge but a lot of other talents that we could use.

[From page 14]

d. Events Chuck Leavitt:

Announced that the Spring Prelim (including the SCW Divisional) will be in Bakersfield on March 13-16, hosted by San Fernando Valley.

6. The balance of the reports provided to the BOD and HOD meeting can be found in the Fall 2007 Delegates' Brochure

7. The next meeting of the FWD Board of Directors will be March 13, 2008 in Bakersfield

8. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 PM

Respectfully submitted
Dick Girvin
Secretary

REMEMBER THE FWD YOUTH EDUCATION FUND

**FWD Spring Convention in Bakersfield
March 13-16, 2008
Let's Get Our Conventions Singing Again
Come Join in the FUN!**



Audacity is the "Official" Senior Quartet representing the FWD in the 2008 International Senior Quartet Contest at the BHS Mid-Winter Convention and Contest in San Antonio.



LLOYD B. STEINKAMP STANDING "O" AWARD

The Lloyd B. Steinkamp Standing "O" Award [trophy pictured above] was awarded for the time this year in Phoenix. Past FWD Champion and A Cappella Champion Quartets Metropolis, The Perfect Gentlemen and Hi-Fidelity determined this would be an appropriate and perpetual way to preserve Lloyd's memory and his determination that Quartets should be entertaining in addition singing well.

Dan Jordan of The Perfect Gentlemen presented the trophy to VocalEase, who were voted to be the most entertaining Quartet in the contest by members of the audience.

Lloyd Steinkamp was inducted to the Barbershop Harmony Society Hall of Fame posthumously this past summer at the International Convention in Denver. A member of the Society for over 60 years, Lloyd arranged, sang in quartets, directed choruses, held high positions of responsibility such as International Society Representative and Past FWD President, and lead the way for Youth in Harmony in the FWD and Society. He presented a "Keynote" address at the Society Harmony College - his subject - Standing Ovation. We miss you, Lloyd.



California Crossroads is the 2007 FWD Senior Quartet Champion and might be a "wild card" to San Antonio.



Harmony.com is the 2007 FWD Super Senior Quartet Champion.

PHIL SMITH, Division 5 Editor Retires

by Westunes Editor with other contributors

Phil has been compiling and reporting on the news for Westunes from Arizona and Southern Nevada Division 5 for over 20 years. During that time he's seen a number of chapters formed or renewed and at present he is keeping track of at least 10 chapters.

Phil is now stepping down from the Arizona/Southern Nevada/Southern Utah Division 5 Digester responsibilities. It has been an enjoyable experience working with Phil these last six years, and former editors told me the same thing early in my tenure. I have been able to count on Phil delivering the Division 5 Digest in a timely manner, usually with more news than can be published reasonably [space available, you know] and he often added a special news article. Phil made my editorial task easier, and I want to thank him publicly for his help and years of service to the FWD.

As recently as two years ago, Phil was staying reasonably active in three barbershop choruses plus a quartet, working part time after retiring from his full-time job and traveling with wife, Fran, with trips to England, Scotland and Ireland. Unfortunately, some health issues have caused Phil to step off the risers, even with his primary chorus, the Spirit of Phoenix. Recovery from neck surgery this summer prevented him from attending the Denver convention.

Phil, a bass, got started in barbershopping in 1978 in Battle Creek, Mich., when he answered a newspaper ad. He'd been interested in barbershop singing for some time but had not gotten involved because of his work schedule.

When he moved to Phoenix in 1983 (two weeks after the Phoenixians had won the International championship in Seattle), Phil immediately looked up the Phoenixians, whom he had heard sing at the 1981 International in Detroit. He sang with the Phoenixians until 2000, when standing on the risers became too much. He started visiting the Paradise Valley Chapter and became a dual member.

When the Pride of Phoenix Chorus was organized in 2002, Phil decided to try again on the risers and felt honored when he was accepted as a member. He visited the Mesa Chapter in early 2004 to sell tickets for the POP show with the Boston Common. He had been trying for some time to get a quartet going, and in Mesa he found what he was looking for, The Desert Valley Four.

Phil served as chapter secretary in Battle Creek and for years (off and on) served as bulletin editor for the Phoenixians. After joining POP he was asked to take over the "POP Star," and when the merger with the

Phoenixians came about he became co-editor of "Upbeat" for the new Spirit of Phoenix chorus. Phil also has been division editor for Westunes for over 20 years.

Phil has been involved in newspaper writing and editing since 1962, when he was hired with no experience to be a sportswriter in Lake Charles, La., while on his way home after serving in the Army in Germany. He also worked for newspapers in California and Michigan before settling down as a copy editor in Battle Creek. He was hired in 1983 by the "Phoenix Gazette" as a copy editor and later moved to the "Arizona Republic" before retiring in 2000. He then began working two days a week at the paper as a copy editor until finally retiring "full time" this spring.

Phil has been married to Fran for almost 29 years and he has a daughter from a previous marriage in Michigan. He also has two stepdaughters and five step-grandchildren. He is active in his church choir and tries to walk two to three miles (or more) just about every day.

The Far Western District thanks Phil for his many years of commitment and service.

[From page 13]

available at very nominal cost 50 of the white tuxes that used to be the trademark of the Masters. The chorus debuted the "new" uniforms after intermission at their annual spring show to the surprise and delight of their audience.

Also this summer, the Masters were honored to receive a Harmony Foundation Award, indicating that the chapter had contributed over \$50 per member to the Foundation, helping to fund the music education efforts that promote and expand the impact of this wonderful hobby.

In May, Mark Freedkin received the prestigious Far Western District President's Award for his ongoing work with the Young Men In Harmony program. In September, Mark continued to show why his work with YMIH is so highly regarded throughout the Society. He and his music team helped 50 high school young men and two choral music educators from the Northern California area hone their vocal skills at the NorCal Youth Harmony Camp.

Mark Hale has already directed the Masters of Harmony to two gold medals. He knows that the Masters will face probably their toughest competitive challenge ever in Nashville next July. However, great challenges also offer great opportunities, and Mark looks forward to meeting the challenges that await the Masters. Stay tuned!

The Masters recently welcomed new members David Feiner (lead) and Dale Mattis (bari).



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We're almost there, with about one month to go to 2008. Chapter Officers have all been elected and hopefully most of them will have just been trained at COTS. Xmas shows will be in full swing and we're ready for a super year ahead. Or are we? Chapter Leaders, have you sat down with your Board yet to map out 2008? There's so much fun to be had, but it won't happen unless you plan it. So I encourage you to meet at least once before the year gets going, to chat about all of the great ideas you have to keep your chapter strong and happy and to improve artistically as you go.

In SoCal West, we already have a couple of great plans for 2008. First, I have invited Jim Crowley to come down from Carson City to conduct a Chorus Directors Workshop Intensive (CDWI). It's been a while since we've had one down South and I'm hoping for a great turnout. It sure will improve the skills of the directors who attend. The likely date will be Saturday February 16th and the host chorus will be San Fernando Valley. It will, of course, be open to our brothers in SoCal East and it should be a wonderful event for all participants. I will be letting you know the venue as soon as we have it finalized.

The other exciting event already planned for SoCal West is the Conejo Valley Chapter's (hopefully first annual) "High School Barbershop Harmony Workshop", set for Saturday February 9th. This will be a joint venture with the ladies of the Agoura Hills Harmony Chapter. We've been trying for some time to get an event like this going in North L.A. County and so we're grateful to both choruses for making this happen. The Masters of Harmony have run a very successful Youth Festival in Orange County for eight years and now this new event will offer a different set of youths the chance to take part in their own fun day. The Harmony Oaks Chorus has sponsored a very successful High School benefit show for years, of course, and their experience pretty well guarantees success for this new venture. I hope you will be doing your best to recruit boys and girls in your area. Boy, are they going to have a great time!

Finally, I want to let you know how proud I am of the performances by representatives of SoCal West in the Fall District Contests in Phoenix. Six of the top ten quartets included SCW members, including first place VocalEase and third place The Crush. The Santa Fe Springs Chapter won the chorus contest and qualifies for the 2008 International Contest in Nashville (with perhaps two or three more FWD choruses to follow as wild cards).

Wow! So much to tell you, so much more to come and so much to be proud of. SoCal West – we're the best!

CONEJO VALLEY

RAY EDEN

On October 20th we had our Ice Cream Social with six new chapter quartets singing in the show. For some of the members it was the first time of quartet singing in public for people to hear and enjoy. **Tom Leese** was chairman of quartet development and did a great job. One tenor had to sing in four quartets in addition to leaving a wedding party to attend ours.

Bob Homkes will be our chapter president for 2008. The chapter distributed funds to the high schools from the spring show. All schools were present except one whose dog became very ill forcing the choir director to miss at the last minute. The dog sings baritone.

Christmas activities will begin with singouts on December 8. We hope all members and "wannabe" members will join us. Contact our music VP **Rich Chatterton** at (805) 405-4374 for details.

PASADENA

TIM SINGER

The 2005 Far Western District Chorus of the Year has excitedly returned from Phoenix, happily placing 8th in what is unquestionably the most competitive District in the Society, after only two years back in competition.

On September 15th, we staged our annual program at the Wilson Middle School in Pasadena before an enthusiastic audience. This year's show, titled "Back in the Old Routine," featured **The Crown City Chorus**, our two chorus quartets, Division novice champion **Enterprise**, and **Impact**. The headliners were an up-and-coming group called **Metropolis**. These guys were really great, extremely professional, truly friendly, and, if you can believe this, funny. And, they were the last to leave the afterglow. Seriously, they were absolutely the best, and we cannot thank them enough for their generosity and contribution to the success of our show.

On September 28th, we hosted 15 guests at our quarterly Membership Night. All professed to having a good time—we'll keep you apprised of how many become eventual choristers.

Our new slate of officers has been elected. We welcome the following men:

President—**John Hursey**, IPP—**Randy Thorpe**, Sec—**Jose Ochoa**, Treas—**Dick Winger**, Music VP—**Steve Peacock**, Membership VP—**Phil Aydon**, Marketing & PR VP—**Jay Marcott**, Operations VP—**Leonard Jensen**, and Members-at-Large—**John Lyons**, **Barc Tucker**, **Sean Chasworth**, and **Clyde Yocum**. We thank them for their commitment and wish them well. We also thank the outgoing Board for their hard work and dedication, and for keeping the fires stoked.

We honored our auxiliary members—the wives and significant others who donate their time, talents, and support to keeping the chorus running smoothly—with lovely T-shirts. You may have seen some pulchritudinous ladies in Phoenix, sporting glittery Crown City Chorus apparel.

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

BOB KARLIN

San Fernando Valley had an amazing time in Phoenix. Our contest package consisted of an old favorite and a new comedy number, a successful first for the Valleyaires thanks to our musical director **Dave Tautkus**, and our coach, **Laura Pallas**. Thanks also goes to **Jeffery Bunch** who ran an incredible hospitality suite that was open well into the morning and featured almost all of the top ten quartets among other favorites.

We closed our fall season with our annual concert at the Hall of Liberty in Burbank. We celebrated American heritage and gospel with special guests The Pacoima Singers Musical Theatre Group from the Pacoima Middle School Television, Theatre & Performing Arts Magnet School; the senior quartet **Four of Hearts**; the Sweet Adelines quartet **Leading Ladies**; and the 50s Doo Wop group the **Daddios**; in addition to our chapter quartets **Priority Male**, **Oddly Enuf**, **Ransom Notes**, **Sixty Something**, and **The Usual Suspects**.

The Valleyaires are also privileged to have been invited back to perform in the 48th annual LA Holiday Celebration at the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion on Christmas Eve. Not only is this six-hour free event a fun end to another busy year, it is broadcast locally in its entirety, and it is edited into a one-hour special for national PBS. Be sure to check your local listing.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

PETE BENNETT

Our performance at the Atascadero Lake Park Summer Sunday Concert Series was well-received, and the traditional family picnic that followed was arguably the best yet. New member **Rich Brownell** brought his whole family; brothers, sisters, aunts, etc., especially Rich's participation in a long-running and enthusiastic tag quartet. The following Saturday we enjoyed our third and best-attended chorus coaching session with **Late Show** bari **Gabe Caretto**.

We took two vans and ten men to HCW 2007, including chapter quartet **Rendition** and first-timers **Wes Buchanan**, **Blaine Hamilton**, **Harvey Hunt**, **Ray Johnson**, **Dan Ross** and **Kurt Walker**. We also made a bunch of friends with our Saturday night "hospitality suite," where the last singers held out until after 4 am. We welcomed new members **Max Dishen**, **Paul Stoltey** and Cal Poly Student **Josue Urrutia**.

You have an open invitation to visit our Chapter Meeting on Monday night from 7 to 10; see our website www.slogold.org.

SANTA CLARITA

BILL WOLF

The recent "Buckweed" fire was our biggest threat and some of our members did have to evacuate their homes as the fires got

within a few blocks of their residence. . Happily, however, we can report that none of our members suffered any damage to our homes or health.

We wish to thank the **Crown City** chorus for the good time and good camaraderie we experienced as a result of their invitation to attend one of their rehearsals during October in Pasadena.

SANTA MONICA

MARTY MITNICK

As was written in the Santa Monica Mirror: "Serve them ice cream and they will come. Throw in some incredible barbershop harmony and they will come in droves". Over 350 happy people of all ages showed up at **The Oceanaires** 20th annual Ice Cream Social presented at the First United Methodist Church.

Under the dynamic direction of **Todd Kolberg** and **Bob Heron** the group presented some old favorites of barbershop lovers as well as a special presentation celebrating the 50th anniversary of *Meredith Willson's The Music Man*, with some of the favorite tunes from that show. How could we present a show without the great magician El Moldo, otherwise known as **Bruce Schroffell**, astounding all who love his type of magic with a touch of humor.

The Oceanaires were very happy to be able to participate in celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the **South Bay Coastliners** chorus. Our congratulations to you all.

SOUTH BAY MIKE MARTIN

Please turn to page 5 of this edition of Westunes for special report of South Bays 60th Anniversary activities.

RINCON BEACH

KEN DAY

We performed as part of the Ventura Arts Council, at the Ventura City Hall on June 23rd. We again performed in Chase Palm Park on July 9th, in Santa Barbara, as part of the series of concerts in the park put on by the Santa Barbara Arts Council.

The remainder of July and August were spent preparing for our Fall Show that we held on September 23rd at the Marjorie Luke Theater, in Santa Barbara. Appearing with the **Pacific Sound Chorus** were **Ready, Willing and Mabel**, who were outstanding. **The Claddagh Irish Dancers** from Ventura and the **Foggy Dew Irish Band** brought the spirit of Ireland to our show which was entitled "From Rincon Beach To The Emerald Isle". The afterglow was held at Dargan's Irish Pub.

You probably get the idea that this was an Irish themed show, and it was. We were preparing for a 12 day tour in Ireland, as a chorus, with participation in the IABS International Convention and Contest. What a complete blast it was. We had to poll the membership to see if we could get a reasonable representation of all voice parts and the decision was made by the Chapter Board of Directors to pass on the Far Western District Fall Convention and Contest, so that we could focus solely on Ireland. We feel that the result was well worth the effort.



FWD DVP for Division 2 SCE
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Well, the District's HOD elected me to a third term as your Division V.P.. I don't really know why, but since there wasn't another candidate, you are now stuck with me for another year!! All y'all (that's plural, you know) may regret it, but I hope not.

I've learned a lot over the last two years, and only now feel really comfortable in the job. I send a lot of emails to your Chapter Presidents, but in my view, they are important and need to be passed along to the chapters' membership, when appropriate. In years past, the cry from "Joe Barbershopper" always seemed to be along the lines of 'nobody tells us anything.' I hope you don't have the same feelings, now. However, if you Do, please tell me. My email address will be at the end.

Great chapter visitation and open house activity this year, but more is needed, so keep it up, especially you outlying chapters in our own out backs! You are a part of us, remember?

By the time you read this, we will have had a combined SCE-SCW one day COTS with talented instructors, and every chapter officer, BOD member and major chapter chairmen invited. The main goal was to get down to the nitty-gritty of chapter operations and chapter challenges faced. Successful? Hope so!

I am here to serve YOU members, but in some respects you also first have to serve yourselves. Do you have a hard copy or electronic Chapter Bulletin? If not, hound your Board until you get one! Do you have a chapter web site? if not, ditto to your Board. Have you ever visited the SCE section of the FWD web site? If not, here it is: <http://spebsqsafwd.org/div2/Chapters.htm>. Check it out! Learn more about what's going on within the division. Ditto for our Far Western District: <http://spebsqsafwd.org/> Check it out, too!

I want to thank all of you chapter officers and Board members who so ably served your chapters this year and who are not continuing in said office. I also want to thank those new to and continuing in their offices for standing up and saying, I'll do it." THANK YOU, GUYS!! It takes a lot of grit to serve, so remember what these guys did and are doing for YOU when you are asked to serve in some capacity for YOUR chapter. Show your grit and say, "I'll do it" !!



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APPLE VALLEY

The Hi-Country Harmonaiers continue to be very active in their area preparing for a Christmas Parade and their many activities. All members are kept current through their pro-active inputs to their e-mail listserv that features (among many other things) everyone's birthday notification. (Even their Chapter Counselor is included and just recently he received a beautiful, signed-by-all birthday card celebrating his 86th birthday).

JIM DUGDALE

EL CAJON

The members of the **Music Masters** chorus are still relishing the success of the Fall Gala show of last September and rightly so. But there is one who has moved on ... the intrepid chapter director, **Tom Anderson** ...no laurel resting there! Instead, he has been busy searching for one or two new songs to add to their Christmas song repertoire. That kind of news always gets the attention of the members, because they enjoy the challenge of learning a new song, especially if the song happens to have the potential of having a good deal of "feeling"! One feature of the El Cajon chorus is: "Singing with Feeling"! "The more we sing with feeling, the better we sound!"

MIKE DORMAN

So they look forward to joining voices ... to listening to the other voices ...to raise their voices and to do justice to a song that carries the meaning ... Yes, that is the true essence of the wonderful Season of Christmas.

FULLERTON

The annual Pearson Park event was a "Hot show on a hot night,," featuring the **Orange Empire Chorus, The Hemet Harmonizers Chorus, Westminster All Stars**, and quartets **Ready, Willing and Mabel**, the **139th Street Quartet** and the new silver medalist international college quartet, **Crush**. The show even included the stars overhead: the Anaheim police department helicopter and the Disneyland fireworks. Now what else could one want on a beautiful summer evening? (78 degrees F)

DICK COTE

Where to eat in Waikiki? The second in a series by Fullerton BMAL, **Russ Panter**, takes everyone to the best of Waikiki.

Editor Dick offers a tip of the old fedora to one of the 80-20 group (where 20% of the members do 80% of the work) to the "Mad Hatter" **Fred Robirds** for his continuing outstanding support to the chapter.

HEMET

Hemet's Editor **Bruce Smith** (also the SCE Webmaster) spent the day recently along with **Bill McNaughton, Fritz Grunenwald** and **Dick Girvin**, with FWD's Number 1 WEB Guru, **Keith Eckhardt**, sharpening their collective understanding and implementation of web design. A good example of the ongoing learning is the Hemet **UPBEAT**, now on-line with color pictures and current information.

BRUCE SMITH

The chapter is mourning the loss of long time member, **Leroy Ankenman**, who passed away in October. The newest member is **John Chandler**, who transferred into the chapter.

INLAND EMPIRE

DAVE COVEY

The Inland Empire Harmony Carousel has been more of a roller coaster (emotionally) this past quarter. First, there was the long, hard uphill pull of preparing for the district contest without developing the “two-song syndrome.” Then came the “plunge,” as their spirits fell on hearing of the tragic accident of **George Lee**, which led to his death on September 20th. George was a strong lead in their chorus, and did a multitude of things for the chapter. His passing left a significant vacancy that is taking several men to fill. At the contest they dedicated their performance to George, and scored better than they had in the regional—bittersweet, but uplifting overall.

The past few weeks have been the twisty part of the track, as they have elected new officers and prepared their Christmas show, with seven quartets scheduled to perform. The breathtaking part is that they have three performances, in three separate venues, within the space of less than 48 hours. And during the prep time, another new member has hopped on for the ride. What a ride!

Their Harmony For Lunch Bunch has been growing, with guys joining from other chapters. On October 26th, they became the subject of an article which will appear in the local magazine, *Mad About Redlands*. If you plan to be in Redlands on a Friday noon, give one of them a call, and they'll give you directions.

IRVINE

BOB COSSENTINE

The California Promise Chorus hosted an evening of four part harmony and fellowship for guests representing 13 Chapters from Los Angeles, Riverside and Orange Counties plus other friends. Four choruses and various quartets provided the entertainment ending with all singers on the risers. What a sound! For those who hadn't had enough singing and food, an afterglow was held at a local pizza parlor.

They're proud to announce that they have a new director, **Rich Hasty**, member of the 2007 5th place District quartet winner **Chords Gone Wild**, accomplished music arranger and Society music judge. He is also a member of **Singers Elite** who performed at their Holiday show in November along with the **Ally Cats** and the Concert Handbells of Concordia University, Irvine.

LA JOLLA

JOHN FORREST

Like many chapters, they will be presenting an annual holiday show. Plans will be made to entertain friends new and old and give them the gift they love so much: the gift of four part harmony. New music will be learned, new show scripts will be rehearsed, and new voices will be welcomed to share their stage, all as wonderfully exciting and special as the season deserves. There will be one special light missing from their stage this year, brother **Dave Miller**, a consummate Barbershopper, woodshedder, and showman, left them to join a greater chorus in heaven. Dave was the key individual in their last holiday show and his contributions to the chorus and the craft are innumerable. His light will be missed.

PCH is especially proud to congratulate **Larry Thorpe, Pete Hensley, Buddy Yarnell** and **Les Weiser** of **California Crossroads** as the FWD Senior Quartet Champions.

In a district with some of the best choruses in the entire Society and PCH recognizes that it faces many challenges that a small chorus must face. They intend to work diligently to grow their ranks and perform to an ever growing audience.. “We won't always be an underdog and we won't always be small.” Thus, if you've been looking for a place where you can put forth your best and are not afraid of hard work, they might be the place for you. Feel free to come by for a visit or just check out their website at www.pacificcoastharmony.org.

ORANGE QUARTET CHAPTER

MARK SHELDON

Orange's social event of the year was the End-of-Summer Sing hosted by **Phil** and **Phyllis Roth**.

They also celebrated **Bill Snyder's** 90th birthday in September [wife Ina providing cake] and Bill (Bs) singing again with **Dick Nuttelman** (Ld) and **Stan Tinkle** (Br) from Across The Years, with **Don Thomas** (Tn) substituting for the late **Paul Jockinsen**.

They welcomed guest individuals and quartets including **Sound Union, Gaslight Revue**, and **Expedia**. In July an MOH-based temporary quartet (also representing OC Times, The Crush, Westminster, and Orange) with **Matt Gray** (T), **Sean Devine** (L), **Pat Claypool** (Br), and **J. Friedman** (Bs) dropped in, preparing for an August performance tour in Finland.

California Blend performed gigs at several venues including a Disney Hotel, the Claremont Fourth of July and Centennial celebrations, and the Magic Castle (the latter with **Jeff Parmer** subbing at Lead).

As Good As New is a new Senior Quartet with **Dan Durfey** (T), **Paul Gutierrez** (L), **Bob Cathaway** (Br), and **Lee Anderson** (Bs); all with Orange except Bob who is commuting from Bakersfield to participate! Welcome **Don Derler** as a dual member [Fullerton], and the Bass of **Gaslight Revue**.

Chapter officers for 2008 will be: President **Steve Moore**, VP Music **Paul Gutierrez**, VP Dev **Paul Sandorff**, VP Prog **Ken Tillmanns**, Sec **Rich Spencer**, Treas **Dave Lowerre**, PR & BE **Mark Sheldon**, MAL **Virgil Pletcher**, Valentines Chair **Dave Gryvnak**, YIH Chair **Bob Calderwood**, and IPP **Mike Werner**.

PALOMAR PACIFIC

CHUCK YOUDE

The Music Men Chorus is pleased to welcome four new members: **Ken Burns, Steve Hinkle, Byron Lawson**, and **Dick Schulze**.

The Music Men performed their sixth “911 Observance Show” at the San Marcos Civic Center to a very appreciative audience.

RIVERSIDE

BILL SHOVA

Monthly “Guest Nights” as honchoed by **BLING's** tenor, **John**

Hawes, is bringing old, new and potential members to the chapter. His masterful planning and implementation has provided a fast-moving, eye-opening introduction to Barbershop for the newbie and an opportunity for the “old timers” to again enjoy four part harmony.

The chapter was dark mid-October as a result of the Southland’s fires and road closures preventing many from attending. As of this report, no losses have been reported by members.

SAN CLEMENTE

DON THOMAS

The Beach Cities Harmonizers of the San Clemente Chapter will have **Hi Fidelity** as headliners on their Christmas show along with several chapter quartets. It will be held at the Heritage Christian Center in San Clemente [same venue as the May show] **John McCallum** is directing the chorus.

SAN DIEGO

DON RENZ

The weekly Flicker, a two-page wealth of information crammed with news items and good pictures, is a welcome sight in the incoming mail box. Headlines of “What Happened Last Tuesday?” and “For Next Tuesday” provide the members reminders of the many ongoing activities the San Diego Chapter.

Stan Christman, long-time member pleasantly surprised everyone by opening their last meeting directing the Old Songs. **Jeff Ebner**, past Sound Judge, and one of the eight founders of the group that became the Foothill Cities Chapter (now Santa Fe Springs) vitiating the chapter recently.

Late Fire news:

Wayne Coulon’s home in Poway was completely destroyed. Wayne is a longtime Barbershopper, former Director of the Rancho Bernardo Chapter, and Assistant Director with San Diego in the early days of Ron Black’s tenure. **Ron Benito’s** home was completely destroyed. **Ross Pyle** returned home for a holiday on Monday to discover that he was subject to an evacuation order. He was able to return to his home on Wednesday. **Don Schooler** was evacuated on Monday but is now back home.



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[Ed note: Steve is allowing work to be a higher priority than Barbershop, so no article this time. Hard to understand.]



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ALOHA

JACK Y HASHIMOTO

We Retreated to the homey confines of Camp Erdman, in Mokuleia, on the island of Oahu, a beach get-away administered by the local YMCA. Cabins, playing fields, a pool, a camp fire, hiking, a full service kitchen and an air conditioned rehearsal hall was made available. Director **Mark Conching** and the music committee mapped out rehearsals to learn more about our craft, while bonding with one another and becoming a closer group. In all about 30 of us attended this annual gathering. Thanks to chairman **Jeff LeFebvre**, who was assisted by **Ed Reid** and **Larry Paterson**.

Dan Tom supplied the following.

Approximately 100 people gathered at the Banyan Tree Showroom on the Hale Koa Hotel for the Aloha Chapter's 60th Anniversary bash. Out of town guests and former members included **Woody & Anita Woodbury, Ivan & Kay Jensen, Jim Wigdel**, and **John & Jeanie Stowe**. A surprise appearance was made by **Hank Hammer**, who kept his attendance a secret. Chapter President **Glenn Crowder** read a Commendation from Governor **Linda Lingle** and Lt. Governor **Duke Aiona** and a Proclamation by Mayor **Mufi Hannemann**. A letter from BHS Executive Director **Ed Watson** and Proclamation by Society President **Noah Funderburg** were also read. Far Western District made a contribution of a 60th Anniversary Certificate by **Ivan Jensen**, representing FWD President Cale. Chapter members to be credited for their contributions to this event are **Dan Tom**, chairman, **Rich and Alyse Cordeiro, Rod Schultz, Phillip Wee, John Higgins, Mark Conching**, and **Ed Reid**.

BAY AREA CHAPTER

MAX BATES

There is no such thing as summer time off at **Voices in Harmony (VIH)**. Upon returning from International, we immediately were challenged with “new” music including a new ballad for the FWD contest and a Walter Latzko medley from West Side Story.

With the goal of recording VIH music, **Randy Haykin** has been named as Executive Producer of the CD project, along with **Dr. Lyne**, members of the music team and others selected for their expertise in the production and merchandising of this venture.

Chuck Hunter has accepted the chairmanship of the Grants program, which seeks financial grants from both corporate and arts communities in the San Jose area.

What a great FWD contest. The Phoenix chapters are to be congratulated for a first rate contest and convention. Hearty congratulations to the **Masters of Harmony** and **VocalEase** for their district championships.

To further support music education in both high school and college, VIH appeared November 4th with the Liberty High School, in Brentwood, CA to support their music program and travel fund. In addition, VIH was asked to perform at the CSU East Bay Honor Chorus on November 12th. Both were great opportunities to support music in the schools and to demonstrate how singing can continue to be rewarding beyond school years.

The 2008 VIH Board of Directors has now been named.

President: **David Binetti**, IPP: **David Haedtler**, VP Music: **John Rae-Grant**, VP Marketing: **Fred Walkover**, VP Membership: **Ben Miller**, VP Operations: **Ollie Brilhante**, Sec: **Jay Breen**, Treas: **Dave Sutton**, CIO: **Jack Steck**, Members at Large: **Chuck Hunter**, **Bruce Lechner**, **Thomas Lubrano**.

EUREKA

MAC GARDNER

We presented two cabaret shows (locally called 'Beer-and-Peanuts Shows') in early October, one in Fortuna and one in Arcata. Songs ranged from "Don't We Have Fun" and "Rubber Ducky" to a more sedate "I Believe." **Comedians Mirth First** quartet laid them in the aisles, while the **Outstanding Bills** maintained their usual quality tunes.

For umpteen years, our fall Stale Hot Dog Roast has been hosted by **Don** and **Nancy Setterlund**. That duo was traveling this year, so **Harvey Raider** and his lady **Ann** filled the breach.

As part of National Harmony Month, the **Banana Bunch** sang the "Star-Spangled Banner" at the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors and at city council meetings, and accepted official Citations in return.

After a long absence, **Bob Bauer** retired from work and moved back to Redwood County (and Humboldt Harmonaires Chorus). Bob was a charter member of our chorus beginning in 1961

FREMONT/HAYWARD

RAY SPINOSA

The New Dimension Chorus performed for the second time this year at Chabot College in Hayward for a college open house event. The chorus entertained at a local retirement center. A large group of seniors were in attendance. The chorus performed at the San Leandro Cherry Festival. This turned out to be quite a challenge because the performance location was well within earshot of a very enthusiastic jazz ensemble.

Many thanks are due to the members of the quartet, **Tonic**, who spent an evening coaching the chorus in preparation for the Far West District Competition in Phoenix. Besides offering tons of enthusiasm, helpful vocal and directing tips, quartet members **Rob Sequeira**, **Dave Binetti**, **John Rae-Grant** and **Rex Huston** introduced a choreography package.

MONTEREY PENINSULA

DENIS VAN DAM

The Cypressaires put on a highly successful fall show, 'American Harmony Postcard' in Carmel Valley. Packed houses attended both performances. Total attendance was nearly 500 people. **The Bay Belles Women's Barbershop Chorus** and the **Stage Hogs** were also on the program. Now we're getting ready for our Nov. 18 appearance at the Lovejoy Concert Series of the Monterey Unitarian Universalist Church. After that comes our Christmas program at Del Monte Center in Monterey.

PALO ALTO/MOUNTAIN VIEW

DEAN JAMES

This article was submitted by Andrew Inenaga:

What better way to get to know your immediate singing com-

munity than singing with some of your local barbershoppers? It had always amazed us that the only time we see our fellow barbershoppers, outside of weekly rehearsals, is once or twice a year at the Division or District conventions. Why should we have groups singing sometimes only a few miles away, and yet we never see them or interact with them but twice a year? That was the impetus for the **Peninsulaires** to make it a point to reach out to the rest of the barbershopping world and sing with other local groups in our community.

Recently, we invited the **Golden Chordsmen**, from the San Mateo Chapter, down to sing with us at our Tuesday rehearsal; what a great time it was. We had a wonderful evening sharing and learning from each other. Their director, **Judaline Ryan**, started things off by showing us some icebreaker games and some new warm-up exercises. The Chordsmen are lucky to have such a dynamic leader in their organization. But the best part was having 50 guys on the risers while we enjoyed some of the classics like "Wait 'Till The Sun Shines, Nellie" and sang tags to more favorites. We ended the evening looking forward to more singing together in the future. Furthermore, we hope to be singing with others around the FWD. We might even be coming to your rehearsal, so don't be surprised if sometime, somewhere, when you least expect it

SAN FRANCISCO

DON KINGTON

The Cable Car Chorus membership and its Board of Directors agreed that the officers of 2007 had done such a magnificent job they deserved to be reelected for 2008. Therefore the following worthies will serve as: President – **Charles Feltman**; VP Music – **Greg Goyheneche**; VP Marketing – **Newt Harband**; Treas – **Fred Merrick**; Sec – **Shel Rosenthal**; and MaL – **Jerry Lester**. The only change is VP Chapter Development – **John Gomez**.

SANTA CRUZ

LAWRENCE STERN

SING FOR YOUR LIFE, annual youth outreach show of the **Gold Standard Chorus**, brought eight high school and one college chorus to sing. Four of the schools had quartets sing within their sets, and for the first time in the five year history of the show, Georgiana Bruce Kirby Preparatory School sent a faculty quartet to sing. Three headline guest quartets, all of high school/college-age, performed -- **UnderAge**, **And Then There Was Harmony**, and **Element**. Nothing sells BBS to teenagers better than seeing their peers doing it well.

The annual election of officers was a breeze this year with all elected officers remaining on the board for another year, including President **Dan Jett** and VP membership **Jerry Orloff**.

SANTA ROSA

RAY CROWDER

Gary and **Debra Smith** hosted the "Summer" social for chapter members and families with good food, fellowship, and singing. **Bill and Elsie Smith** were hosts of our "Fall" social. These frequent gatherings have become quite popular, and president **Jim Dechaine** is looking for volunteers to host future chapter family events.

The Redwood Chordsmen performed at Santa Rosa's spring lake village, and featured three chapter quartets **Sound Check**, **Just One More Song**, and **Redwood Rhapsody**.

The chorus got a "Standing O" from several hundred high school students at the annual Barclay concert held at Santa Rosa High. Choral groups from five local area high schools perform every year, and the Chordsmen, saluted for their work in youth outreach, are always the featured guest performers. There's nothing more rewarding than being cheered by hundreds of teenagers, their teachers, and parents.

Director **Phil Debar** has been flying the "Red Eye" in recent weeks to judge contests in the Mid Atlantic and Northeast Districts.

We also wish our great bass **Larry Wendt** a speedy recovery after a serious bicycle accident recently.

SF BAY CITIES QUARTET

CASEY PARKER

The SF Bay Cities Quartet Chapter continues to devote meetings to quartetting. We have a dinner meeting at Harry's Hofbrau in San Jose on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays.. Ladies welcome. Sing the 12 BarberPole Cat songs and selections from Harmony Classics with us Harmonize with notable members **Bob Bird**, [with his daughter Pamela, a good woodshedder], and **El Wirt**, Gold 1957. Pamela played selections from the Forte Niners, [62 Champs] CD with Bob singing Tenor. El Wirt's famous 50 Year History of the FWD was available at Phoenix **Casey Parker** ran the AHSOW room and **Roman Avila** helped his VIH Chapter. For more Chapter information see Dick Zunkel's web site: <http://www.sfbayquartets.org/>

WALNUT CREEK

DICK JOHNSTON

The Devil Mountain Chorus staged its third annual cabaret show to a full house at Shadelands Art Center, an outstanding success.

The Special Guest Quartet, **A Tonic Explosion**, with T **Lowell Reynolds**, L **Wes Jackson**, Br **Hugh Schaffer**, and Bs **George Western** was one of the best ever to appear on one of our shows, **Jim Stenson** directed the chorus, assisted by Assistant Directors **Brad Dewey** and **Al Eames**. Three other quartets completed the musical offering: **Time Be Four** (T **Charles Feltman**, L **Pete Miller**, Br **Bob Dunn** and Bs **Ed Frahm**); **The Incredibles** (T **John Moreno**, L **Jim Stenson**, Br **Bob Dunn**, and Bs **Ed Frahm**) and **The Creeksiders** (T **Bob Rosevear**, L **Jim Diggins**, Br **Al Eames** and Bs **Ron Leiker**).



FWD DVP for Division 4 NCENN

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My goals for 2007 were as follows:

1. To visit as many chapters in this division as possible through the year.

I actually did visit a number of you at various functions but only visited four chapters. I would have liked to visit some of the far reaching areas of the Division but time as always grew short or the weather prevented my travel.

2. To represent the Division as a spokesman for the chapters at all District functions and meetings.

I achieved a 90% attendance at all District and Division functions this year. The only meeting I missed was the Summer Board meeting in Oakland, CA. in June. Conflicts are always difficult and this one was a major family event.

3. Help any chapter to meet their goals for the year when asked. I wasn't asked for any help so this one was easy.

4. To be a communication link between the District officers and chairmen, and the chapters of this division.

I found this to be the most difficult to achieve. The best and most efficient way to communicate is Email but the addresses are ever-changing and hard to keep up with. When I sent something I didn't always know if it was received, and there wasn't a lot of feedback to some of the items.

5. I will be available for any chapter when asked to visit or be a part of its functions.

I was invited to attend the Sacramento and Carson City Chapter shows and enjoyed them very much. I was also invited to attend the Placerville Chapter show, but could not attend. I regret I was unable to attend more functions.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being your Division Vice President and District Officer as well as your barbershop friend. I look forward to future involvement in the division and hope to serve again.

"CHORD"ially,



Division 4 NCENN Editor

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CARSON CITY

RALPH QUOSIG

FUN abounds in the **Chorus of the Comstock**. **Jim Crowley** infuses our labors with tags, pickup quartets, round-robin quartets and other solid barbershop songs. From rather basic beginnings, under Jim's expert tutelage, we're progressing to journeyman stature. Most recently he introduced sectionals to provide concentrated effort for each respective part: **Ted Davey** (Basses), **Ralph Quosig** (Baris), and Jim works with the Leads.

Jim Crowley, **Howard Stevens**, **Rook Wetzel**, and newer member **Robert Lappin** attended Harmony College West. Each was impressed with the high quality of instruction, camaraderie, and harmonious singing. Jim, Rook, and Bob also helped out at the Youth Harmony Camp in Pollack Pines under the magnificent guidance of **Richard Lund**. Every barbershopper should help out YHC at least once. Working with the kids is an eye-opening and marvelous experience. **Vic Yen** raves about the Sacramento Area Quartet Workshop.

The Comstock Keynote honored Men of the Month **Bob Lappin**, **Ted Nagel** (our Prez), and veteran **Dave Ramer**. Welcome to new members **Norm LeBlanc** (bari), **Rhodin Scudder** (lead), and basses **John Schroeder**, **Dan Love**, and **Chris Funk**. The chorus sang God Bless America and I Believe at a 9-11 memorial service. The program, which honored both victims and rescuers, included a heart-wrenching video tribute compiled by the family of chorus member Lee Elliott.

Chapter quartet **Wild Card** welcomes new (but experienced) member **Dan Love**, and **Ralph Quosig** (bari); they join **Jim Crowley** and **Dave Ramer**.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA MILES SUTTER

The Bachelor of Harmony award, as described in the Fall issue of Westunes was the idea of "Uncle" Lloyd Steinkamp, to recognize barbershoppers who have held chapter or district offices, sung in several quartets, etc. **Golden Valley Chorus** is proud that **Bruce Sellnow**, **Dain Goad**, **Greg Kramp**, and **Howard Barber** are among the first recipients to achieve this honor.

Two chapter quartets attended Harmony College West, **Good Time Harmony** and **The Fourtune Hunters**.

The GVC had their annual "roundup" - "*How the West Was Nearly Lost!*" It was a spoof of the old time western and took place at the "Rockin' Horse Ranch". At Effie's Place, Miss Effie (**Florine Smith**) sang accompanied by **Howard Barber** on piano. **Grady Williams** played the jealous sheriff's wife. **Roy Anderson** was show chairman and **Bruce Sellnow** handled the job of Stage Manager. **Herb Andrew** did an admirable performance as MC and storyteller, as did **Cesar Mendoza** our sound effects man. **Stu McElwain** was responsible for the marvelous stage settings and props. Chapter quartets **Fourtune Hunters** and **Good Time Harmony** also performed and four youths from the recent FWD Youth Harmony Camp, tutored by chorus director **Dain Goad**, **The Baritones**. The featured quartet was none other than our 2006 FWD Champs **Late Show**.

CHICO LEE ATKINS

The Bidwell Generals will host their second annual Holiday Men's Chorus. They will sing songs of the season at various locations throughout the Chico area. These will include senior living facilities, care homes and more. Membership in the chapter or the Barbershop Harmony Society is not required.

DAVIS-VACAVILLE ROY BELLHORN

The West Valley Chorus was well represented at Harmony College West with 22 attendees out of 28 active chorus participants. 6 of our 7 baritones made it. The chorus learned considerable pointers from our enthusiastic and awesomely knowledgeable instructor **Steve Shannon**. Director **Ollie Brillhante** is continuing to hone our skills in preparation for our annual Harmony In Our Lives programs as fund raisers for three local school music systems, as well as our commitments for carol singing at local Christmas Festivals, and our upcoming annual shows followed by Singing Valentines.

FRESNO DAVID REITZEL

Goldnoter **Gale Smith** and his motorcycle collided with an SUV that pulled out in front of him after rehearsal. The motorcycle was totaled but Smitty wasn't. He did spend several days in the hospital with a variety of injuries. He was back on the risers in time for our Far Western District performance in Phoenix and has resumed his place in a number of quartet performances.

Visalia's Mighty Oaks Chorus member **Bob Peden** and member/director **Lynn Sedgley** visited the **Gold Note Chorus**.

At Phoenix, Director **Dede Nibler** led us to a substantial improvement over prior years. Four days later, a septet of Gold Noters sang gloriously at the Fresno County Fair's Senior Citizen Day. Next evening, the **Gold Note Chorus**, Madera South High School's Baroque Singers, Voices Unlimited's Great Dames, GNC's Second Hand Joes, and a Great Dames-Second Hand Joes octet wowed the crowd at the "*Baroque and Barbershop*" singout. To open our part of the program, the high school principal and several members of the Baroque Singers joined us for a rousing rendition of "*Hello, Mary Lou*."

Our Cabaret performance was a catered dinner, raffles, and silent auction, topped off with GNC quartets and chorus numbers.

NEVADA PLACER ROGER PERKINS

The Sierranaders presented their annual performance at the Nevada County Fair. We put 24 men on stage and the audience was quite enthusiastic. Later in the day four quartets entered the 13th annual quartet contest. **Pacific Standard Time** (**Tim Martin**, **Roger Perkins**, **Jack McPhillips**, **Al Drouin**) took home the blue ribbons this year. In second and third places were **Double Billed** (**Bill Garwood**, **Bill Beck**, **Roger Fox**, **Elmer Fairbanks**) and the **Chord Miners** (**Dean Rice**, **Bill**, **Roger**, and **Elmer**) Elmer was in a wheelchair due to a recent knee replacement.

Our Old Timers Night was highly successful with 15 chapter old timers attending plus five guests. Perko presented a special tribute for two chapter members, **Buck Hay** (62 year member) and **Bill Stenzel** (53 yrs.), who were in the **Mystics** in the early '60's. They were a perennial favorite and reached 12th place in International competition.

Roger Perkins was one among the first recipients of the Bachelor of Harmony award which was conceived by **Lloyd Steinkamp**.

Sept. 18 was a special evening dedicated to **Bill Vavruska**, a charter member of 24 years. Due to his age and health he is no longer able to participate in shows or contests and decided to drop his membership. Several members paid tribute to this fine man who was a music teacher for many years and a mainstay of the bass section.

PLACERVILLE BILL PECK

Seven members took advantage of Harmony College West in August. One of the most important attendees was **BOGG**, the high school quartet sponsored by the **Gold Rush Chorus**.

BOGG paid a visit to the chapter the following Tuesday and demonstrated their significant improvement from the HCW coaching and experience.

Placerville Youth In Harmony Program is active. Oak Ridge High girl's quartet **And Then There Was Harmony** won the Sacramento area Sweet Adeline under age 24 contest as well as earning 10th place in the Rising Star International Contest. The chapter helped with their finances. Also a Ponderosa High School girl's quartet sang the National Anthem at a Sacramento River Cats baseball game.

This year's Youth Harmony Camp was another success, thanks to **Richard Lund**, several other chapter members, an excellent teaching staff and two outstanding quartets (**Realtime** and **The Crush**). There were 68 young men in attendance and for the first time a male quartet from El Dorado H.S. attended camp thanks to **Bill Faulkner** and **Bill Pearson**. These young men were just blown away with the weekend of singing.

RENO

JAY CICCOTTI

The Reno Silver Dollar Chorus performed the National Anthem for four days at the Reno National Air Races. Reno draws pilots and their planes from all over the world to compete and show off their high speed and vintage aircraft

Tahoe Blue is really good and getting better. They placed 9th in the Far Western District Fall Competition in Phoenix. We are proud of the effort these four put into performing and competing.

Tony Kruk, tenor of the **Barbershop Express** quartet, asked which high school was performing *The Music Man*. When he heard it was North Valleys, he was surprised and explained he was a teacher there. Tony had actually been in a quartet that sang in *Music Man* many years earlier. He persuaded the rest of his current quartet to play the role of the barbershop quartet. Rehearsals began, and the quartet enjoyed a wonderful experience working with some very dedicated high school kids. They sang "Sincere", "It's You", "Lida Rose" and "Good Night Ladies" in the show with kids who were at least 40 years younger. The quartet members are T **Tony Kruk**, L **Chris Sciarrotta**, Br **Ralph Quosig** and Bs **Norm Howard**.

New chapter members are **Hal Carson**, **Paul & Owen Smith** and **Roger McEwan**.

SACRAMENTO

FRANK KINNISON

The Capitolaires held their annual show "*Rock & Roll Is Here to Stay*." with matinee and evening performances. The chorus, under the direction of **Bill Borah**, and quartets sang mainly songs from the 50's. Chapter quartets included **The River Tones**, **Gaslight**, **Illusion**, and **the Ambassadors**. A Sweet Adeline quartet **Gemtones** also performed songs of the era. The Granite Bay High School Baritone Choir under the direction of **Jennifer Leighton** sang very well and had the audience laughing. The featured quartet was fifth place International Medalists, **Flipside**.

VISALIA

DEE BAUGHMAN

The chorus sponsored two of our local high school music teachers to Harmony College and both reported back that it was a marvelous learning experience for them, and they will certainly incorporate more barbershop singing in their program.

Golden West High School in Visalia sent seven of their young men to the recent Youth in Harmony weekend held near Placerville. The chorus program for YMIH led by **Lance Jepsen** and **Lynn Sedgeley** is making great progress. The newest member of the chapter is a high school freshman

With the good growth that the Chapter has experienced this last year there are now close to 50 members with 30 to 35 at every practice. One former member and Chorus Director who visits us quite often from Paso Robles is **Tank Waldrum**.



FWD DVP for Division 5 ASNSU

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I cannot believe this year and my time as your Division Vice-President are nearly gone. I can tell you the last few years as the Division 5 VP have been some of the best years of my barbershop life because we have a great family in this division. For the most part, anything we needed, you were there to step forward and help out. At nearly every event we had good participation and at our latest District Contest hosted by The Greater Phoenix Chapter, we had more groups in the competition than any other Division. To all of you, my thanks for your help and support and I would ask that you continue that support for Gordon Bergthold as he hits the ground running as your new Division 5 VP. There are too many of you to thank individually but I must give a very special thank you to Alisa Bingel, Sheryl McKinney and their crew that worked the Barbershop Shop at the convention. You did a great job and we made some pretty good money for the District YIH Program. Thanks for volunteering to run the shop it was a job well done by all of you.

At the time I am writing this article, the Society has not completed the updates with Aptify so we are unable to update our membership numbers. My guess is we are pretty close to where we have been for the last couple of years, not a lot of growth and no great loss, just hanging around the same numbers. I know we can do better and I am sure we will once we see how some of the changes at Society are going to affect the District, Division and Chapters. I think you will be excited when the programs and plans are released.

Speaking of the Society, I had the opportunity this past weekend to visit the new facility in Nashville and I can tell you it is one nice place to visit. From the time you enter the front gate and sing a tag in the special "tag" entry to the barber pole staircase and the great office and meeting spaces inside, you will enjoy every

minute of your visit. I would recommend that each and every one of you plan to attend the "Homecoming" at the International Convention in Nashville in July 2008. Make your plans now as they are expecting a huge crowd for this convention.

As you have already heard, we will be having two COTS for 2008. We have elected our 2008 officers and we have until January when we will host the two one day COTS. On January 12th, Las Vegas will host COTS in Las Vegas for both Las Vegas Chapters, St. George, Utah and possibly a chapter or two from Rocky Mountain. On January 19th, Mesa will host the second event in Mesa, AZ for the remaining 13 chapters in the division. By the time you read this article, your chapter will have received all the specific information for registration and all.

My next to last item is a very special thank you to Phil Smith for all of his great work as Division 5 ASNSU Editor for Westunes for the past 23 years. Phil, on behalf of the District the Division and me thanks for a job very well done. As you step away to do other things, we look forward to working with Frank Ortega to fill your shoes. Thanks Phil and welcome Frank.

My last item is a request for each of you to enjoy your hobby more and start planning for the Division 5 Contest April 18 & 19 2008. Moon Valley High School has been reserved again as has the Ramada Plaza Hotel for the headquarters. We will again enjoy the same great room rates. Start making your plans now.



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CASA GRANDE

LOREN ENGLUND

The Desert Sounds Chorus is doing its part with the Grand Opening of the new Promenade Open Mall just off of Interstate 10 here. We will have a great time entertaining folks.

We are now getting our "winter visitors" back and preparing for the Combined Choruses Holiday Program again this year on Dec. 8 and 9. Concerts are on Saturday at Casa Grande and Tucson and also again at Tucson on Sunday.

New members to our chorus this year are **Weymouth Fogelberg**, **Bill Reinicke**, **Dick Livesay** and **Don Fick**. Rehearsals are on Monday evenings at the First Presbyterian Church, Room 16.

GREATER PHOENIX

PHIL SMITH

Kudos to Chairman **Jack Mauney** and his dozens of volunteers who put on an outstanding, well-run FWD Fall District Convention. And special mention to the **Kindred Spirits**, who provided a makeup team for the chorus and operated the Ladies Hospitality Room and the Barbershoppers Shop. Chorus members are extremely pleased that the hard work paid off with a contest score that ranked the sixth highest among all choruses

competing in the 16 districts. And congratulations to **Audacity** who placed fourth overall and will represent the FWD in the 2008 International Seniors Quartet Contest.

On Oct. 9 the chorus held a very successful guest night, with 21 guests in attendance. Several of the guests have accepted the invitation to learn two songs to sing on stage with the chorus in its Christmas shows on Dec. 1, 2 and 8.

Congratulations to Music VP **Gordon Bergthold**, who was elected Division 5 vice president at the FWD Convention.

Former chapter member **Dusty Schleier**, who cut his teeth on barbershopping as a preteen with the Phoenicians, has joined the Barbershop Harmony Society staff as its meetings manager.

LAS VEGAS

ROC PUCCI

The new home for the **Gamble-Aires** is in the Church of Scientology, 2751 Emerson, Las Vegas, NV 89121. We still meet every Thursday evening from 7 to 11 p.m.

The chorus has been working on songs for its Christmas show on Dec. 8 at the Summerlin Library and Performing Arts Center -- "*This WAS Your Life---Ebenezer Scrooge.*" It takes place in Heaven with a remote shot in a much warmer place. This show is a combination of video and live singing. It was co-written by **Roc Pucci** and **John Waugh** and directed by Waugh, assisted by **Rick Ives** and **Rich Coon**. The chorus will have three directors: **Albert Weiss**, **Waugh** and **Gary Bishop**. **SAI Wildfire** quartet and our own quartet **Broadcast** also will perform.

LAS VEGAS METRO

JOHN THOMPSON

The City of Lights Chorus held its annual summer show at Winchester Cultural Center. "*Experiencing Technical Difficulties*" was a comedy about all the zany things that can and might go wrong during rehearsal. In addition to the chorus and cast, our featured quartets were **Rumble Seat Daze** and **RING** from the Celebrity City Sweet Adelines Chorus. The show was taped in entirety and then edited down to a new promo DVD, which can be seen on YouTube.

The chorus met its goal in Phoenix of finishing in the top 10 by placing ninth and scored the highest ever under CD **Scott Fewell**.

PRESCOTT

DAVE SAMUELS

The High Mountain Chordsmen participated in a community choral concert, a first for the chorus. The Chordsmen also entertained at the annual dinner of the senior softball league, a big event in Prescott. Perhaps the highlight of the year was the excellent shows put on by the chorus on Nov. 3, "*Happy Birthday Harold Hill, a Celebration of Music Man at 50*". The chorus and its quartets sang selections from Music Man and used a script developed by **Joe LaBarge**. Our guests were **Music Box** from Phoenix.

2008 will see some new officers working away, planning, and preserving our great hobby: President **Joe LaBarge**, VP Music

Sam Stimple, VP Membership **Lynn Grubb**, VP Marketing and PR **Rich Ludwigson**, Sec **Ed Wolfe**, and Treas **Dale McDonald**.

SEDONA

JOHN McDOUGALD

Harmony on the Rocks completed another successful annual show at the Church of the Red Rocks in Sedona, which is also our rehearsal location. We had 24 on stage and a standing-room-only crowd of more than 200 in attendance. Our guest entertainment was the **Red RockAppella Chorus**, the newly chartered Sweet Adelines chorus in Sedona. We also had two guest quartets from that chapter, **Sedona Swing** and **Sedona Heat Wave**. Quartets from our own chapter included **We're 296 and Counting**, **The Notables** and **Beauty and the Beasts**. The show was a takeoff on "*Phantom of the Barbershop*", a show written at Harmony College about 20 years ago. The nicest compliment we received was from **John Krizek**, long-time FWD official and International committee member, who said that we "*restored my faith in small chorus shows*."

SIERRA VISTA

EDWARD RAYMOND

The Cochise Chordsmen demonstrated barbershop harmony to the detainees and staff at the Cochise County Juvenile Detention Center in Sierra Vista. There were more than 20 in attendance, and the response was quite positive, including requests for future performances. The presentation began with a demonstration of each of the four parts in the typical barbershop harmony structure, followed by typical physical and vocal warm-up exercises. The chorus finished by performing a varied selection of barbershop favorites.

The same presentation was more recently made to the junior and senior high school students at the Veritas Christian Community School in Sierra Vista. The students participated in the physical and vocal warm-ups. Again, the audience (more than 70) evidenced a most positive response. An offer was made to work with students to form a barbershop quartet in the school.

We are saying goodbye to Sec **John Graminski** who has taken a position in Illinois. **David Jones** agreed to take over that office.

SUN CITIES

BOB MCGOWAN

The Summer Bash was well received this year, and we had a number of quartets on stage as well as a good group of scratch quartets drawn from those attending.

The DesertAires completed five singouts this summer and fall to date, and have about six more performances of our "*At The Movies*" program scheduled before our annual show. This year, for the first time ever, we appeared at Beardsley Park in Sun City West to kick off their fall open-air entertainment schedule. We also performed at the Stardust Theater in Sun City West.

Our annual picnic in Sun City West was well attended with six members (and their spouses) from the Prescott Chapter as guests.

The chapter has gained several new members this quarter, and now has 71 members.

The slate of 2008 officers has been elected, and they are: President **Stuart Leck**, VP Chapter Development **Bob McGowan**, VP Music **Bill Shaw**, VP Programs **Campbell Titchener**, VP Publicity & Marketing **Jack McGill**, Sec **Everett Heer**, Treas **John Vincent**, and BMALs **Ken Singleton**, **Ed O'Connor** and **Jack Gomez**.

TUCSON SUNSHINE

RON HAYES

The chorus is quite proud of its motivated and enthusiastic director **Jeff Dolan**. The chorus placed seventh in the Far Western District Chorus Contest, and was the Plateau A chorus champion. Chapter quartets **The Eastsiders** and **Sonoran Sound** placed 16th and 19th, respectively, in the quartet contest.

The second annual Southern Arizona Youth in Harmony Festival held on Sept. 8 was highly successful, with 193 high school students participating. When asked if they would attend another workshop, 86 percent said yes.

The Tucson Sunshine Chapter will be 60 years old on Dec. 27 and will celebrate the anniversary at the Installation of Officers Banquet on Dec. 2. The chorus will join with choruses from Sierra Vista, Canada Del Oro and Casa Grande in a combined Holiday Chorus in three performances.

WHITE MOUNTAINS ARIZONA DOC DOCKENDORF

After our great "*Thanks For the Memory*" show featuring **OC Times**, the High Country Chorus focused on Harmony/Directors University at St. Joseph, Mo. where the entire Music team attended: the two assistant directors, **Alan Beste** and **Jim Murphy**, on Society scholarships; the director, **Doc Dockendorf**; lead section leader **Denny Shankland**; tenor section leader **Everett Peterson**; and bass section leader **Ron LaMar**. Alan sang in the Honors Chorus under the Direction of **Dr. Jim Henry**, and Doc sang in the Directors Chorus, under **Kirk Young**. Singing in these groups was awesome, but having the opportunity to watch these directors work to develop the ensemble sound, was an invaluable learning experience.

The chorus performed at the Pinetop/Lakeside Fall Festival Talent show at Blue Ridge High School. The chorus is honored to be invited for a seventh year.

A new Board was elected for 2008: President **Ron LaMar**, Chapter Development VP **Jim Dye**, Music and Performance VP **Denny Shankland**, Sec **John Graham**, Treas **John Welker**, IPP **Bob Koons**, and BMALs **Jerry Schrunk**, **Ron Monette**, and **Bill Hartzell**.

REMEMBER THE FWD YOUTH EDUCATION FUND

**FWD Spring Convention in Bakersfield
March 13-16, 2008
Let's Get Our Conventions Singing Again
Come Join in the FUN!**

Send Your Words, and CDs, Over There.

There are ten men and women from my church's congregation currently serving in the Armed Forces. My church, like many of yours, I'm sure, are sending care packages to those you know who are serving over-seas. But we learned that many military personnel do not receive mail from home. One of our members told us about AnySoldier.com

AnySoldier.com is a grassroots effort to provide letters from ordinary Americans, thanking the many Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, and Coastguards for their efforts. The website also takes requests from their military contacts "in-country" and tries to provide touches of home to those who are fighting for us.

One of the regular requests (along with magazines, batteries, and beef jerky) is for music compact discs. And it occurred to me, why not send these men and women some truly American music. Barbershop is one of the few musical styles that is uniquely American. Sadly, many of those who are fighting for our traditions and freedoms probably have not heard good barbershop.

But we have an opportunity to change that. What a great idea it would be if all of us, barbershoppers from all over the nation, were to send two or three Barbershop CDs to soldiers longing to hear from home. Just about every quartet or chorus, with more than one CD out, has either a patriotic album, or a religious collection. There certainly isn't anything wrong with good old-fashion standards either. I know I was hooked when a quartet (Four Fifteen) sang "Amazing Grace" at my church. Many of the recipients may return home and want to hear, or sing, more Barbershop tunes.

Letters from home are more important than stuff. Be sure to include a letter thanking the fighting man or woman for defending our freedom to sing about God and Country (not in competition, of course.) Don't bother asking them to pass around the CD to others, they will! Some even find time to send replies, "If it were not for good people like you, many of our soldiers would go without getting mail and packages from home. I wish I could express in words the bright smiles that mail brings to a soldiers face. - Shelia M. Ramsey, SFC, Task Force Talon"

Check out AnySoldier.com. Read the FAQs. Go to <http://www.anysoldier.com/WhereToSend> and you'll see a magnifying glass and SEARCH. In "Requests and e-mail contents" you can type in "CDs" and get a list of folks who have specifically requested music CDs. And if the website is too daunting, talk to the computer-savvy members of your chapter and see if you can be a part of a group effort. Or send me an e-mail and I will be glad to help you. If all else fails, I'll give you my church's mailing address and see that your CDs get overseas myself.

God Bless America,

John Phipps
FWD Brea Chapter
Gaslight Chorus
3rdBass@BarbershopHarmony.org

CONVENTIONS, SHOWS, EVENTS

2007

December

- 1 Carson City Show
- 1,2 Greater Phoenix Shows
- 2 Bay Area Show
- 2 Sacramento Shows
- 7,8 Fullerton Shows
- 8 Canada Del Oro Show
- 8 Casa Grande Show
- 8 Greater Phoenix Show
- 8 La Jolla Show
- 8 Reno Show
- 8 Whittier Show
- 8,9 Aloha Shows
- 8,9 Hemet Show
- 9 Fremont Hayward Show
- 9 PalPac Show
- 9 Tucson Combined Ares Shows
- 15 Brea Shows
- 15 San Clemente Show
- 16 Bay Area Show
- 16 PalPac Show

2008

January

- 12 COTS Las Vegas
- 19 COTS Phoenix

February

- 1,2 Davis Vacaville Shows
- 10 Sun Cities Show
- 23 Santa Fe Springs Show

March

- 1 Tucson Shows
- 13-16 FWD Spring Convention
Bakersfield Host: Valleyaires
Int'l Prelim & SCW Division Contests

April

- 3-6 SAI Region 12 Conv, Sacramento
- 5 Laguna Hills Show
- 12 Fullerton Shows
- 18,19 A/SN/SU Division Contest
- 26 Palo Alto Mt View Show
- 26 Palomar Pacific Show
- 26 Pasadena Show

May

- 3 Santa Cruz Show
- 3 SCE Division Contest [TBA]
- 10 Inland Empire Show
- 17 NCal Combined Contest
Stockton
- 17 Santa Fe Springs Show
- 31 Whittier Show

June

- 7 Bay Area Show
- 7 Santa Fe Springs Show
- 29-7/6 INT'L CONV Nashville, TN

July

- 17-18 Harmony College West
Univ of Redlands

September

- 13 Walnut Creek Show

October

- 9-12 FWD Fall Convention, Bakersfield
Host: Masters of Harmony
- 30-11/2 Great Pacific Harmony –
2008 Pan Pacific Convention
<http://panpacificharmony.org>

November

- 4-8 SAI Int'l Conv, Honolulu, HI
- 15 COTS 1 Day
- 22 COTS 1 Day

2009

January

- 10 COTS 1 Day
- 17 COTS 1 Day

March

- 10 South Bay Show
- 19-22 FWD Spring Convention
Las Vegas Host: City of Lights

April

- 2-5 SAI Region 12 Conv, Sacramento

**Clear all show dates with
FWD Secretary, Dick Girvin**

May

- 10 SCW Divisional (TBA))
- 17 SCE Divisional (TBA)

June

- 6/28-7/5 INT'L CONV Anaheim, CA
Host: Masters of Harmony

October

- 8-11 FWD Fall Convention
Sacramento Host: Capitolaire

November

- 3-7 SAI Int'l Conv, Nashville, TN
- 14 COTS 1 Day
- 21 COTS 1 Day

2010

March

- 18-21 FWD Spring Convention
Open for bid

- 6/27-7/4 INT'L CONV Philadelphia, PA

October

- 7-10 FWD Fall Convention, Bakersfield
Host: SLO Gold Coast
- 19-23 SAI Int'l Conv, Seattle, WA

2011

- 7/3-10 INT'L CONV Kansas City, MO
- 11/18-22 SAI Int'l Conv, Houston, TX

2012

- 7/1-8 INT'L CONV Portland, OR
- 10/30-11-3 SAI Int'l Conv, Denver, CO

2013

- 6/30-7/7 INT'L CONV Toronto, ON
- 11/5-9 SAI Int'l Conv, Honolulu, HI

2014

- 6/29-7/6 NT'L CONV Minneapolis, MN

2015

- 6/28-7/5 INT'L CONV Nashville, TN

WESTUNES

Magazine

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