



WESTUNES

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

Volume 58

Winter 2008

Number 4



Masterpiece 2008 FWD Quartet Champions



Voices in Harmony 2008 FWD Chorus Champions

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

2nd Annual International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival

January 31, 2009
Pasadena, CA

- Competitive and educational!
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- Financial assistance available!
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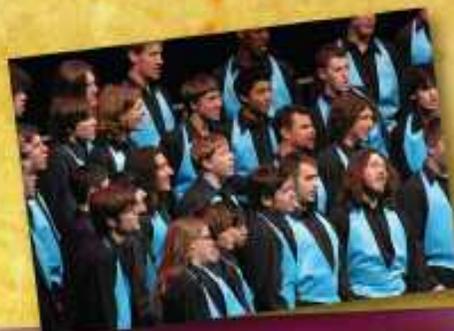
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www.barbershop.org/youthchorus

Contact Festival Coordinator James Estes
at jestes@barbershop.org for more info!





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Table of Contents

Feature Articles

- 3 Thanks From Iraq War Zone
- 11 FWD Quartet Champions - Masterpiece
12-15 FWD Bakersfield
Chorus & Quartet Pictures
- 16-17 Masters of Harmony Youth Festival
18-19 Tucson Youth Festival
- 20-21 FWD Youth Harmony Camp
- IBC Jim Holder - Fall Convention Dedicatee

2007 Board of Directors & Div Dig

- 2 President Bob Lally
- 4 EVP Bernard Priceman
- 6-9 District Management Team Articles
- 26-36 DVP Articles & Division Digests

Ads

- IFC Pasadena MidWinter Youth Festival
- 9 Bill Stevens Productions
9 A Tonic Explosion
- 10 The Perfect Gentlemen
23 Stardust
- 23 Mid States Four CDs
- 23 "Travel With The Stars"
Ron Black Cruise

District Notices

- 9 International MidWinter in Pasadena
- 22 FWD/RMD Spring Prelim Registration
24 Westags
BC FWD Calendar

Wanted - Chorus Directors

Paradise Valley Prescott Riverside
Visalia

Issue	Deadline	Chapter News	Submittal to Div Editor	Submittal Deadline
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For those of you who were in attendance at our Fall Convention in Bakersfield, I don't have to tell you what a great time it was. As usual the contests were closely competed, and the Show of Champions was truly a Show of Champions. It was opened by the Masters of Harmony with their outgoing swan song performance where they demonstrated why they won the International Chorus Championship last July in a real nail-biter. They also demonstrated their championship style throughout the weekend in their role as hosts for the Convention. All the quartets showed great skill and musicality with the new quartet Masterpiece setting the bar with their electrifying performance in winning the quartet title. And, finally, the evening was capped with a set from our new District Chorus Champs, Voices in Harmony, as they added to the legend of powerful choruses from the Far Western District. We know they will acquit themselves well next July in Anaheim. Congratulations to all of these, and to all the fine competitors who entertained us throughout the weekend.

While attendance at this convention was somewhat lower than recent years, the energy of the event seemed at quite a high level. I was especially happy to see all the hospitality rooms in full swing on Saturday night after the show. I confess to being a bit of an afterglow junkie, and there was certainly enough singing in the rooms and hallways to satisfy anyone! If for some reason you missed this convention, don't be surprised if someone who was there invites you to come along next time. They know that twice as many people in attendance makes for twice as much fun!

Motto:
Together
in
Harmony!

As I write this article, I'm sitting in a hotel room in Nashville preparing for a meeting with the other District Presidents and hearing the latest from CEO Ed Watson and the Society's Board of Directors. We'll be discussing issues that affect us all and hearing plans for the forthcoming year and beyond. One of these especially resonates with me and that's the dedication for next year being "It's Your Chapter." The fact is that despite all the effort of officers and administrators at both the Society and District levels, the real success of our hobby lies with the experience that each of us has at our very own chapter meetings week in and week out. If we're making good music and having fun doing it, then everything is just fine, and we'll prosper. If that's not the case, then we have to ask ourselves why and work to change and improve things. In the year to come it's the goal of both Society and

District to have a wide variety of resources available for your use, and trained men who want nothing more than to help you use them to succeed. So, if you think that your own chapter might benefit from a little sprucing up to give yourself and your other members a bit more fun, make this the time to do something positive about it. Give your Division VP a shout, and tell him your needs. He'll be happy to steer you in the right direction.

By the way, you may have noticed receiving various requests for surveys and feedback recently. That's because we really want to know how you're doing and what materials we can make available to give you a hand. I apologize if you receive them more than once, but please take a moment to help us help you. All of your responses are read carefully, and good ideas are always welcome.

FWD/RMD Spring Convention in Las Vegas
March 19-22, 2009
FWD & RMD Quartets Will Compete
Come Witness ALL the Competitors!

By Larry Litchfield
VP - Public Relations/Marketing
Las Vegas Chapter / Gamble-Aires Chorus

'THANKS' FROM IRAQ WAR ZONE

Small Las Vegas Gamble-Aires Chorus Earns PR Coup, Raves with Civic Show's Emotional Patriotic Overtones

Pulling off a made-in-heaven PR event that falls into your lap is still a crap shoot in Las Vegas.

For any small barbershop Chapter in the Far Western District -- or elsewhere across the country for that matter -- a project like ours might seem a daunting task, even with its international flavor. But hitting a PR jackpot can be attainable anywhere with thorough planning, hard work, coordination, attention to detail...and maybe a smile or two from Lady Luck.

So don't ever become discouraged. Optimism can work wonders...if not miracles!

The Las Vegas Chapter, founded in 1960, is the older of two FWD chapters in our exploding city, but among the smallest by Society standards. We have a current BHS published roster of 28 and consistently put 20 or so Gamble-Aires choristers on our performance risers. We expect to expand to more than 30 by January. Our future is bright!

We're one of many non-competing Chapters across the country and our philosophy is to have fun singing at our weekly rehearsals and giving shows throughout the Las Vegas area. We put on an annual Spring Gala and are preparing for our Christmas Show in mid December; both attract large local audiences.

Success Envisioned Early On

For us, success with this event seemed within reach early on. As the project kept mushrooming into a promising PR coup, it incorporated such core values as love, compassion, family, volunteerism, military service, patriotism, community and, of course, the magic of music in the good ol' barbershop style.

Our venue was Boulder City, small town home of massive Boulder Dam and its shrinking pond called Lake Mead, located 25 miles southeast of the din and glitter of the world's acknowledged entertainment capital -- Las Vegas.

The event's underlying potential sparked Chapter enthusiasm, pre-publicity and unsolicited support from Boulder City's staff and dedicated volunteer organizers.

And, of course, having some friendly local newspaper and radio/TV outlets, along with supportive Chapter members and an enthusiastic Board, didn't hurt either!

Booking The Gig Was Catalyst

The catalyst for us was booking the prestigious show in May, well in advance of the scheduled Saturday, Sept. 20 gig. It was to be an evening gala in the city's huge outdoor, illuminated amphitheater. And it would be free to the public!

The City was paying us a sizeable honorarium, the logistical setup was great and the sponsors predicted a large community turnout for the performance.

Preparation for the show took advantage of many unexpected twists and turns and its destined success was meticulously honed with thorough planning and attention to the most miniscule details. The caper was a resounding success by any PR professional's standards.

The Iraq Link Surfaces

In mid-June, Rich Coon, our immediate past president and current Membership VP, received a call from an airman (a master sergeant named "Rob") serving in the embattled Iraq war zone of Kirkuk -- some 7,500 miles from Las Vegas. His home station is nearby Nellis Air Force Base. (Nellis officials prohibited any identification of the family or its North Las Vegas home address for security reasons.)

Rob asked Rich if a barbershop quartet could be hired to sing surprise birthday wishes to his daughter on her upcoming fifth birthday. He also asked if the quartet could sing a love song to his wife.

"I'll see what I can pull off," Rich cautiously responded.

A few days later, Rich contacted the airman's sister in Las Vegas with news that the Chapter's featured quartet, Broadcast, had volunteered to appear at the family home on the daughter's birthday to sing at a large neighborhood party. He also said Broadcast had waived its normal performance fee in gratitude for Rob's and other Americans' service in the military and specifically in Iraq. The birthday gig was set in concrete.

Family, Friends, Kids Greet Broadcast

Early in the sweltering afternoon of July 19, Broadcast knocked on the family's front door. The guys, wearing spiffy red vests and string ties, were escorted into the living room amidst loud cheers and applause from family, neighborhood friends and a hoard of rambunctious kids.

After first singing Happy Birthday to a beaming daughter and then a love song (the barbershop favorite Sweet and Lovely) to a tearful wife, Broadcast offered up several other close harmony selections. Nearly an hour later, the quartet waved good-bye to its new fans for life.

Broadcast's members are veteran barbershoppers John Waugh, Rick Ives, J.D. Massa and Albert Weiss. John and Albert are the chorus' co-musical directors.

Airman Sends Letter of Gratitude

A few weeks later, the Gamble-Aires received a letter from the airman. It read:

"Please accept this letter and flag as a token of my appreciation for performing at my daughter's birthday party on July 19, 2008,

"Being deployed for long periods of time can be very difficult, especially when forced to miss special occasions such as holidays, birthdays and anniversaries. The time and distance can make it especially difficult to show the people I love that I miss them and think of them often.

"Your willingness to take the time and lend your talents to expressing those feelings on my behalf is something I will never forget. Your exceptional performance really meant a great deal to me and my family. Again, I thank you and wish all of you the best."



Broadcast singing Happy Birthday

Continued on page 5

District Executive Vice President



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I am delighted to be writing this article as your incoming FWD Executive Vice President for 2009. I can't write about what I've done so far, of course, since I won't be starting my work until January 1st, but I can tell you a little about my job and some of the plans I have for the future. But before I do that, I want to say a big thank you to my soon-to-be predecessor Ivan Jensen, who did such a great job as Executive VP for the past year.

The most important functions of the Executive VP are to oversee the District Management Team (also known as the Operations Team), to report to the District President and to preside at Board meetings in his absence. Like many Districts, our governance system has changed over the years. Currently, the District Board is made up of President, Immediate Past President, Executive VP, Secretary and Treasurer along with our five Division VPs. Previously the Board was made up of the same first five men along with functional managers (of Membership, Music & Performance, etc.), as opposed to regional managers. Now these functions are managed by chairmen who are no longer members of the Board but make up the District Management or Ops Team that I will be overseeing. They may no longer be on the Board, but these men are among the most important in the District.

The functions that these chairmen cover are Chapter Support & Leadership, Chorus Directors, Contests & Judging, Events, Marketing & P.R., Membership, Music & Performance and Youth in Harmony. Although each job is independent of the others, the team meets once a year and interacts with one another often at other times. One of the first things I intend

to do is for the team to meet, if only via conference calls, on a more frequent basis. I believe that when key men talk, they come up with ideas and then calls for action. There's lots to be done and talented men to do it, so I'm hoping that much will come out of these regular conversations.

The other thing I've learned over the years is that Joe Barbershopper doesn't always properly communicate with District leaders, or vice-versa. Getting out to meet the troops gives leaders a greater understanding of members' needs and members a greater understanding as to how the District is run and what opportunities they have to use District resources to improve their barbershop experience. As District leaders, we're committed to your success and we hope you will all take advantage of what we have to offer.

2009 is going to be an exciting year, with two International Conventions in our FWD back yard. I will strive to encourage every FWD member to attend one or both Conventions, as well as one or more of our local conventions. Many members still don't know how much fun these are, especially new members (who by the way are now entitled to a free registration the first time they attend a FWD convention). Our job is to educate them, encourage them to attend and watch them soak it all up. They'll thank us.

I am looking forward to serving you in 2009. Happy New Year to one and all.

FWD Sunshine Chairman Jim Holder

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From page 3

Rich soon received a package from Kirkuk containing two unique items: The first was an official certificate printed on colored parchment with a map of the Iraq war zone in background relief and emblazoned with the U.S. Air Force and Operation Iraqi Freedom logos along with the logo of the airman's unit. It read:



“Let it be known that this American flag was flown over the Republic of Iraq in all its glory during ‘Operation Iraqi Freedom’ in honor of The Las Vegas Gamble-Aires on the 4th day of July, 2008.”

Question: So What Do We Do Now?

The fact became obvious that the Chapter had been greatly honored for a gesture of kindness by the four members of Broadcast. So what do we do with it? Viola! The answer was obvious: tie it into the already-booked Sept. 20 Boulder City show with an elaborate presentation of some kind!

A news release, prepared by the Chapter, included mention that an “Iraq connection” would be part of the performance. We wanted to leak the ceremony, but still keep the details under wraps. Ongoing publicity heralding both the show and the Iraq connection raised awareness in Boulder City. The Chapter prepared colorful posters and flyers that were eagerly distributed to Main Street businesses that posted them in their storefront windows. A performance program listed the schedule and on the reverse side was a colorful flyer inviting Boulder City men/member prospects to our rehearsals.

The Chapter's other quartet, Older 'n' Dirt, appeared on a local Boulder City television station to promote the show. Garbed in their performance attire, this foursome offered several on-screen musical renditions of traditional four-part close harmony. Older 'n' Dirt tenor and long-time barbershopper Roger Buehrer, a career public relations professional, was interviewed by the program's anchor. (Other quartet members are David Kennedy, Bill Lusk and Coon).

We wanted to make a public event out of a formal presentation of the flag and certificate to the Chapter. It was generally known that Boulder City was one of those deeply patriotic communities in America, so the event there was very appropriate.

Venue Justification Reinforced

To reinforce justification for making the presentations in Boulder City, a script was written for the entire ceremony, which took place just before the chorus' final set of songs. The following opening comments in the delivered script sought to reinforce that justification:

“Boulder City has an outstanding reputation for unparalleled passion in defending ‘The American Way’ ...and what it stands for. Your community of patriots is steadfast in support of the military -- its active and retired personnel and fallen warriors alike. This is constantly demonstrated through dedicated work by your local American Legion and Veterans of Foreign

Wars organizations.

The beautiful Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery in your community is a landmark reflection of your heart-warming spirit of American patriotism. The Gamble-Aires congratulate Boulder City and its citizens for this exceptional fervor.

And this is exactly why we chose our performance here tonight as the venue to make two special presentations.”

The patriotic link between the presentations and the venue having thus been re-established, the ceremony quickly unfolded before a very attentive audience.

With appropriate pomp, Michael Barth, commander of Boulder City's Veterans of Foreign Wars post who served in the Coast Guard in the Middle East, was introduced. Wearing his dress blues (complete with white gloves), Cdr. Barth stepped forward and presented Chapter president Lusk with the framed certificate.



Then, in a moving climax to the ceremony, Cdr. Barth presented the actual American flag, enclosed in a glass display case, to our Chapter's 2009 president-elect -- Massa, the bass in Broadcast and a retired Air Force major.

An Electrifying, Emotional Musical Moment

The Gamble-Aires Chorus, which provided a dramatic on-risers backdrop to the ceremony, closed the 1 1/2-hour performance with the singing of *America the Beautiful* while enthusiastically waving small American flags. It was an emotional musical moment and the exploding applause intensified amid cheers from the audience.



A few days later, a large editorial layout appeared prominently in the *Boulder City View* with five color photos of the show and a nice write-up beneath a four column headline reading: **Gamble-Aires Share Sweet Harmonies.**

From a PR/community visibility standpoint, it doesn't get much sweeter than that for a small FWD Chapter trying to gain prestige and press coverage in glitzy Las Vegas...where both amateur not-for profit and professional entertainment venues along the Strip and elsewhere compete voraciously for finicky audiences and stingy publicity. But we did it! And it can be done by any small Chapter...in any community.

So start looking for a PR event from heaven and go do it!



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I want thank the District Officers and many other men, for their warm welcome at the spring convention in Bakersfield. As I assume the duties as CSLT, I realize that David Uppdegraff's shoes will be difficult to fill. I hope you all join me in thanking him for his service in this roll.

By way of introduction, I have been a Barbershopper since 1982 and after a few moves bringing me to seven different chapters, I settled in Mesa Arizona in 1999. My career in education prompted me to accept the appointment as CSLT where I hope to use that experience to serve the training needs of my brothers in harmony.

My first efforts in this position will be focusing on two projects, Leadership Academy (Formerly COTS,) and Chapter Counselors.

The leadership academy is for the most part set for this year under the capable hands of Chuck Hunter. By the time Westunes goes to press, some of the sessions will have been completed. I am anxious to see your feedback on the sessions many of you attended. One of my challenges, is to assess the needs of the Chapter Officers and help to identify resources for those needs. I hope you can all help me with that needs assessment. Feel free to contact me whether or not you were able to attend the Leadership Academy. Having filled several of the Chapter Officer positions over the past 25 years gives me some, albeit dated, perspective but nothing remains the same so your fresh view is important to me.

I have also been asked to consider the role of the Chapter Counselor/Chapter Service Representatives. As organizations evolve, so do their needs and it's time to look closer at these needs. Clearly, the "one size fits all" concept does not serve the chapters in this district. The needs of a 20-man chorus focusing on local performances are not the same as needs of a 100-man chorus with their eye on international competition.

In response, I have launched a study to define the roles and expectations of our chapter counselors. Chapter Counselors and Chapter Presidents are being contacted to help me with a survey. Other interested members are invited to contact me if they wish to participate.

The results will be used to help to redefine or reaffirm the Chapter Counselors' role.

With your support I can continue the fine work that David Uppdegraff has started.



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FWD/RMD Spring Prelims Convention

The Far Western and Rocky Mountain Districts have joined forces in 2009 to hold a combined Spring Contest in Las Vegas, NV, March 19-22, 2009. This is the first time this has been attempted in the history of our Society. While this is only a trial, it may pave the way for similar events in the future.

Quartets from both districts will compete to earn the right to qualify for the International Quartet Contest in Anaheim next July. As per each Districts' protocol, the FWD will advance 10 quartets and RMD will advance 8 (or more if scores dictate) to the finals round. There will be two mic testers for the finals: one from each district. The draw will be a mixed order of qualifiers from both districts. Individual score sheets for each district will be printed.

The RMD has traditionally held a VLQ Contest as part of their Spring Convention. This will continue as part of their contest weekend. The FWD will incorporate a variation of a small chorus contest as part of the VLQ round. Choruses from the FWD who meet the following requirements are eligible:

- Open to FWD choruses only
- Must have 35 or less singers on stage
- Has not competed in a Division Contest in the past two years

This contest may serve as an alternative to the Division Contest as a qualifying round for the Fall District Contest. Choruses who meet the qualification score OR whose score warrants a wildcard invitation will be eligible to compete in the 2009 FWD Fall District Contest. Choruses may also request to compete for score only. In this case, their score will not be considered for District Contest eligibility. Choruses may compete in their Division contest as well, but must declare which contest between the two should be considered for District qualification upon registering for the event. There will be a limit of 10 choruses for this contest. Priority will be given to those competing for District qualification over those competing for score only.



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Well, a good many of us and our families/friends attended the Fall District Convention last month in Bakersfield – 1,400 in all. This number is way down from previous years, but seems to be more a function of the economy that our shrinking district membership.

Many of you have told me that you had more fun at this convention than you've had in many years. We can thank our FWD President, Bob Lally, for most of that! Many of us remember how much fun it was in past years singing or listening after the contest in the various hospitality suites. Bob decided to try that format again, and I think most everyone had a great time.

I hope you all have answered Keith Eckhardt's on-line questionnaire. Even if you did not attend the convention there was a questionnaire for you, too. I'm guessing that Keith probably has the results tabulated in this issue of Westunes, and/or on the website. The FWD management team wants to know what you all like or dislike about the conventions, what you would like to see or see done differently, and what it would take to make those of you who don't come to start coming again!

Once again we had to contend with a hotel under construction. The hotel management bent over backwards to accommodate us and our needs, and I think the compromises we had to make were acceptable. The breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets worked out nicely, I think. We will have the same arrangement when we return in 2010.

We did have one problem, however. On Saturday evening, a few of our members took down the tape blocking the entrance to the Concierge Room on the 9th floor, which was obviously still undergoing construction. They helped themselves to the use of the room, brought in a microwave, food, drink, and proceeded to trash the room! New vinyl wallpaper was cut, trash everywhere, and someone threw up without cleaning up afterward. Had the FWD not had a good track record with the hotel, we would be looking for a new headquarters hotel for 2010 and beyond! I would hate to see this happen because of a dozen or so thoughtless members.

Our next convention is our first-ever combined Spring Prelims with the Rocky Mountain District in Las Vegas. The Registration Form is already on line (www.spebsqsafwd.org), along with hotel information. We make our hotel reservations directly with the hotel this time. I've already made plans to meet some of my buddies that have moved to the RMD.

Speaking of hotel reservations, how many of you are aware that even if you have hotel reservations guaranteed with a credit card, the room will be released at midnight unless you call to tell them you will be late. We had this happen in Bakersfield. Even some of the Convention Bureau staff were not aware of the midnight cutoff. Apparently this is a common policy. Be advised.

I hope you all have a great Holiday season. See you all next year!



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FWD/RMD Spring Convention in Las Vegas
March 19-22, 2009
FWD & RMD Quartets Will Compete
Come Witness ALL the Competitors!



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Howdy –

The numbers:

As of the end of September (latest data available as I write this), we have 2884 paid-up members – about 622 less than we had last year at this time.

Behind the numbers:

- These numbers include dual members at the chapter level – estimated at about 300.
- An additional 350 members show as late renewals – let’s hope they’ve all renewed by now.
- Of the 86 chapters reported (including FrankThorne), Only 3 chapters report a gain for the year – **Pasadena** (7), **Yuma** (1), and recently chartered **Temecula** (5). All other chapters showed no change or a loss.
- These numbers essentially reflect the reported numbers for all Districts – a 17 – 19 percent loss.

It’s not a sunny picture, is it? There are lots of reasons, as enumerated in my column last month, and the malaise is not confined to the Barbershop Harmony Society – all organizations, more or less, are feeling the same membership woes.

However, what we can do is to ensure that we keep pluggin’ away at it, and make sure we’re optimizing all the tools and energy we can muster to stem the flow – and maybe even grow!

In my Membership Workshops (have you attended one yet?), we talk about root causes and possible solutions – I like to call them the “4 P’s of membership recruitment and retention:

- **Planning** – Can anything effectively happen without a well-thought-out, written plan?
- **Product** – Why would someone join – or stay – if what they experience is less than what they would expect in exchange for their time and money?
- **Pride** – Wouldn’t members be more likely to recruit, be more likely to involve themselves in community awareness, seek performance opportunities, etc., if they were very proud to represent something special?

- **Pleasure** – Yeah – FUN! Better than bowling, better than TV watching, better than whatever the alternatives are. Doesn’t it make sense that if it ain’t fun, guys won’t do it?

The question: What are you doing, Mr. Member, to impart your talent and energy to ensure the 4 P’s exist in your chapter??? As the old Carley Simon song says, “Nobody Does It Better”!

See ‘ya around...



Chair: Music & Performance
Nick Papageorge
 1661 Brookdale Ave
 La Habra CA 90631
 562-691-4072
 E: n.papageorge@verizon.net

No article this issue.



Chair : Young Men In Harmony
John Krizek
 1190 Tanglewood Rd.
 Prescott, AZ 86303
 928- 277- 4347
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A Youth Outreach Bonanza

If ever there was a rare opportunity to bask in an overdose of massive youth outreach buzz, it will be landing on our front porch in January.

The Society’s second annual Youth Harmony Festival will be a highlight of the International Midwinter Convention, which will be in Pasadena in late January. Last year the first such festival featured 200 young men in six choruses, one of them from as far away as New Zealand. At this writing there are 14 choruses signed up for Pasadena— four of them from the FWD.

If you know a young man who might have a musical bug—whether he’s in a competing choral group or not—do him a favor. Get him to Pasadena January 30-31. Just to be around all that youthful energy, all those chords being rung by his peer age group—well, if that doesn’t blow his socks off, or set the stage for a future in barber-shopping, I don’t know what will.

Even if you—and he—can’t be there, this festival is going to create opportunities. There will be publicity. Several hundred young men singing barbershop has got to rattle

the news media. You can use that publicity, and that testimony of success, as part of your campaign wherever you are. So stand by.

A 20th Anniversary HSQ

The next FWD high school quartet contest in March will be another great opportunity. It will not only be at our Spring convention in Las Vegas, it will be a shared event with the Rocky Mountain District. Since RMD does not have a high school contest, we've invited them to participate in ours. Not only that, since our first HSQ was held in 1990, this will be our 20th annual high school quartet contest. So how about celebrating with 20 quartets?!?

Web Site Upgrade

As a result of my appeal for website help in the last issue, we have a new YIH webmaster! Jim Wiggins, who was secretary of the San Fernando Valley Chapter in the '80s, has volunteered to help out, and is working with District webmaster Keith Eckhardt to bring our YIH site up to snuff. Please send Jim any news or tidbits at jhwiggins@comcast.net.



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

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

No article this issue.

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Masterpiece 2008 FWD Quartet Champions

So we got home after an incredible FWD convention where we were able to win the quartet contest and had a chance to look at the trophy. There were the names of all of the past winners including The Gala Lads, the Sidewinders, The Far Westerners, The Golden Staters, The Grand Tradition; the list goes on and on. What an honor it is to have the name Masterpiece appear on that distinguished list where so many of our heroes and earliest influences reside.

It is with tremendous respect for our fellow competitors (most notably The Crush and Stardust who keep getting better and better) and for all of our friends in the Far Western District that we represent you as district champions for 2008-09. We look forward to the journey and appreciate the incredible district support. Just to get started, and because some of you may be wondering who the heck we are, here's our current biography.

Masterpiece... sometimes the work of one, sometimes a collaboration of many. In the world of vocal music, it is the marriage of multiple efforts to seamlessly become one. Rob, Mark, Alan, and Brett have enjoyed success in various groups over their varied musical histories, and have finally come together to share a unique sound and experience with their audience.

All of them hailing from the Masters of Harmony, 7-time World Champion Chorus, Masterpiece features:

Rob Menaker, Tenor... began his singing career more than 30 years ago in his hometown of Columbia, Maryland. After moving to California, Rob sang many musical styles with the UCLA Men's Glee Club, touring the U.S. and Far East while expanding his vocal abilities. After graduating,

his effortless tenor voice made him a valuable commodity to many groups, culminating in a 1996 International Quartet Championship with Nightlife. In the Masters of Harmony, his vocal consistency and color have served as a model for the tenor singers for all 7 chorus championships. Rob lives in Gardena, CA, with his wife, Pat.

Mark Hale, Lead... was introduced to a cappella singing at the age of 16 with his high school's production of the Music Man in Bowling Green, Kentucky. From there, he has spent a life developing an internal musicality and distinct vocal character rarely seen in the world of a cappella music. These skills were on display with the 2001 International Champion Quartet, Michigan Jake. Mark's talents keep him up front, as well. As music director of the Masters, Mark has taken them to their three most recent world championships. Also a highly skilled arranger and sought-after coach, Mark resides in Long Beach, CA.

Alan Gordon, Baritone... is a "barbershop brat," having been introduced to the avocation through the involvement of both parents in San Jose, CA. With music in the family room almost every night, it wasn't a surprise that he was harmonizing with his sister at age 5. After moving to Southern California, he joined the Masters, leading in various positions and ending up with the formation of Gotcha!, who became International Quartet Champions in 2004. Despite his move to Southern California, Alan still remains as active as possible with his original chorus in the Bay Area, the Voices in Harmony. Alan and his wife, Cyndi, live in Fullerton, CA, with their daughter, Molly.

Brett Littlefield, Bass... is the only native Southern Californian in the group. Hailing from Westminster, Brett started his barbershop singing straight out of high school, and the vocal world has been thankful. Demonstrating the depth of a gospel singer with the warmth of a crooner, Brett anchored the 1996 Champions with Rob in Nightlife. Brett has been active with the Masters for 20 years, serving as bass section leader, director, and assistant director. Brett and Rob share a distinction of being among few men who have won a chorus and quartet championship on the same day! Father to Johnathan, Cody, and Sara, Brett makes his home in Orange, CA, with his wife, Karen.

We hope you enjoyed getting to know or reacquainted with us. Please check back here again to catch up with us and our travels throughout the year as your current District Quartet Champs!

Hope to see you soon!
Rob, Mark, Alan, Brett



2 Greater Phoenix, AZ



3 La Holla, CA



4 Rincon Beach, CA



5 Fresno, CA



6 Reno, NV



7 Tucson, AZ



8 Fullerton, CA



9 Pasadena, CA



10 Las Vegas Metro, NV



11 Central California, CA



12 Riverside, CA



FWD Chorus Final Contest

FWD Quartet Final Contest

Rnk	Chapter	%
1	Bay Area, CA	88.4
2	Greater Phoenix, AZ	82.8
3	La Jolla, CA	77.0
4	Rincon Beach, CA	70.1
5	Fresno, CA	69.8
6	Reno, NV	67.7
7	Tucson, AZ	67.6
8	Fullerton, CA	67.5
9	Pasadena, CA	65.1
10	Las Vegas Metro, NV	63.2
11	Central California, CA	62.2
12	Riverside, CA	60.2
13	Sacramento, CA	59.6
14	San Fernando Valley, CA	56.4
15	Placerville, CA	55.8
	NE Mesa, AZ	

Rnk	Quartet	%
1	Masterpiece	86.1
2	The Crush	80.8
3	Stardust	78.1
4	Audacity	76.2
5	Oasis	72.4
6	Ready Or Not	70.8
7	Expedia	70.7
8	Equinox	70.0
9	Cali4nia	67.8
10	Sound Agreement	66.4
11	Motley Q	65.7
12	Uproar!	63.5
13	Silver & Gold	62.9
14	Memory Lane	62.1
15	Curtain Call	61.8
16	The Usual Suspects	59.8
17	Composition 4	58.6

**FWD/RMD Spring Convention in Las Vegas
 March 19-22, 2009
 FWD & RMD Quartets Will Compete
 Come Witness ALL the Competitors!**

FWD Senior Quartet Final Contest

1	Audacity	74.8
2	Motley Q	65.7
3	Silver & Gold	62.9
4	Curtain Call	61.8



2 The Crush



3 Stardust



4 Audacity



5 Oasis



6 Ready or Not



7 Expedia



8 Equinox



9 Cali4nia



10 Sound Agreement



11 Motley Q



12 Uproar!



13 Silver & Gold



14 Memory Lane



15 Curtain Call



16 The Usual Suspects



17 Composition 4



Masters of Harmony: Young Men's Harmony Festival

*By Mark Freedkin, YIH Chairman
Santa Fe Springs, CA Chapter*

Building upon the enormous success of the High School Honor Chorus that performed at the 1999 International Convention in Anaheim, the Masters of Harmony have organized and conducted an annual "Young Men's Harmony Festival", with an average attendance of over 200 young men from high schools and junior high schools through Southern California.

We have been privileged to have the endorsement and co-sponsorship of the Southern California Vocal Association (SCVA), which is a professional organization of choral music teachers that serves the SoCal area. Since we started this program, we have had more than 1,700 students attend our festivals.

Our festival is a concentrated day-long event in mid-February every year that is exclusively for young men. An equivalent festival organized by the Harborlites Chorus (2005 and 2008 Sweet Adeline International Chorus Champions) is available for young women. The overwhelming feedback that we receive from the choral music teachers is that these events need to stay separated, so that the young men have their own unique event.

Planning for our festival begins many months in advance, primarily to secure the venue and date before the end of the previous school year. This allows the choral music teachers to plan their calendars well in advance.

The cost for each singer is only \$20 if they submit their applications by mid-November, or \$25 per singer after the early registration deadline. This covers the cost of all sheet music, audio practice CD's,

commemorative t-shirts and two meals. We send out the sheet music and audio CD's about four weeks prior to the event, so the young men can become familiar with the songs. Although we don't expect the choral music teachers to spend any of their class time working on these songs, many of them choose to work with their singers during lunch hours or after school. In some cases, a choral director will bring all of their male singers, and he or she will stay for the entire day.

At our most recent festival in February 2008, we were fortunate to have Royce Ferguson, Ken Potter, Alan Gordon and Craig Ewing as guest directors, along with OC Times and Gotcha! as guest quartets. The festival begins at 10:00am with introductions and warm-ups, followed by a run through of six barbershop songs – four that will be performed by the young men, and two that will be sung by the young men and the Masters of Harmony. Most of the singers come very well prepared, but the songs are still very ragged during the morning session, which is to be expected.



For lunch, we bring in over 600 Arby's Roast Beef sandwiches, along with hundreds of bags of chips and cookies, all of which are gone in minutes.

After lunch, we break into sectional rehearsals, where the guest quartets magically transform the young men into a unified group of ensemble singers. I have never attended any of those sessions, so I have no

idea what happens there. But the results are incredible, so I don't mess with that success.



While the young men are in sectional rehearsals, we hold a separate meeting with the choral music teachers to discuss the barbershop style and rehearsal and coaching techniques. During that session, we also teach a couple of simple barbershop songs to the music teachers. We also give them some time to ask questions and share their experiences with barbershop music in their programs. The most frequent feedback is that all of the vocal production techniques and ear training that we provide transfers directly into all other styles of musical literature. In many cases, choral music programs have grown significantly because the music teacher brought several young men to one of our earlier festivals.

After the young men return from the sectional rehearsals, the choral music teachers perform the two songs that they learned for their singers. It's one of the highlights of the entire day. Then it's back to rehearsing and polishing during the rest of the day, including adding a few choreographed moves to a couple of songs.

For dinner, we bring in a truckload of pizzas from a local Pizza Hut restaurant for the students, while my wife Shellie brings a homemade pasta dish for the faculty, staff and the choral music teachers. After dinner, the young men change into their performance uniforms (long sleeve white shirt and dark trousers),

and the Masters of Harmony provides bow-ties and cummerbunds. Then it's time for a combined rehearsal on-stage with the young men and MOH, in preparation for the evening show, which is open to the public for only \$5 general admission.

The show consists of the young men's chorus, performances by our guest quartets and the Masters of Harmony, culminating with all singers on-stage for a combined finale with over 300 singers. It's a little cramped on the risers, but well worth the effort.



Our Harmony Festival program has continued to gain the recognition and respect of the choral music education community over the years. In the past few years, several additional harmony festivals have been established throughout the Far Western District, with equally successful results.

Most recently, the SCVA established the new position of "Vice President of Barbershop Harmony Festivals" as a voting member on their Executive Board, and appointed me to that post. It is an incredible honor for me to serve in that role (I have already been serving as their volunteer webmaster since 2000). It is also indicative of the outstanding support that barbershoppers through the Far Western District and the entire Society have unselfishly given their time and energy to help support choral music in our schools and our communities.

Plans are already well underway for our 2009 Festival, which will be held on Saturday, February 21 at Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, California. Applications are available on the SCVA website at <http://www.scvachoral.org>



3rd ANNUAL So. AZ YIH FESTIVAL

*By Ron Hayes
Festival Chairman*

The 3rd Annual Tucson and Southern Arizona Youth in Harmony Festival was held on September 6th of this year at Sahuaro High School in Tucson. Attending were 265 young men and women representing 15 local and regional high schools, a few traveling as far as 275 miles to attend.

The years festival committee consisted of 18 individuals representing the Tucson Sunshine Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society(BHS) and the Tucson Desert Harmony Chapter Sweet Adelines International(SAI). This group was led by Ron & Annie Hayes. Ron is the Youth in Harmony VP for the Tucson Sunshine Chapter, Annie the YWIH Coordinator for the Tucson Desert Harmony Chapter, and, Region 21, SAI, YWIH Program Manager. Members of both chapters assisted in various functions throughout the festival.

As in last year's festival, Connie Keil and Charla Esser, with the help of quartets Sonoran



Connie Keil

Sound, the Eastsiders, and Havin' a Blast, conducted the day-long workshops and performance. Tucson Barbershop eXperience Director, Jeff Dolan, as Program Chairman, was assigned the task of placing the 265 singers on stage in performance, a task not easily accomplished. It was very well executed as seen in the program finale. Tucson Desert Harmony Director, Dayle Ann Cook, and Assistane Director Karen Meade, were the choreographers, who aided in the students visual presentation.



Dayle Ann Cook

Even though the day had an early start (8am on a Saturday), everyone involved thoroughly enjoyed the activities of the next eight and one-half hours. Following receipt of registration materials, the students received an introduction to the day's activities, and were introduced to the coaching quartets who each performed one song from their repertoire. The young men and women then separated and began to learn the music of two songs for each group..





After a noonday lunch of pizza, which the students obviously enjoyed, they returned to work on an 8-part arrangement of “Lida Rose/Will I Ever Tell You” to be performed at the late afternoon show. They were also treated to videos of BHS and SAI youth quartet and choruses. During a mid-afternoon break the students received their commemorative t-shirts which served as their performance uniform. This was followed by their return to the stage for a dress rehearsal. Following the rehearsal they filled out evaluations and participated in a Q&A wrap-up session with the clinicians. Finally, it was on to the stage to perform to a packed audience of friends and family.

The three teaching quartets appeared on stage between the choruses, in order to facilitate move the young men and women on and off stage behind the curtain. The first chorus to appear was the young men, who performed “Crazy ‘Bout Ya Baby” and “Let There Be Peace on Earth”.



The young women’s chorus performed “In My Life” and “Orange Colored Sky”. With the opening of the curtain for the finale, the audience was overwhelmed by a chorus that encompassed the entire stage. This presentation was the mass chorus of the young men, and women, along with the teaching quartets. It was a magnificent performance, drawing a standing ovation.



Response from the evaluations indicated the student loved the music, singing, meeting new friends, singing in a large chorus, loved barbershop, had fun, and, want more! The teachers responses told us of: student increase in confidence, excitement, reinforced concepts of pitch, projection, diction, breath control, focus; a new style, excites kids about singing, and more. And, student interest in quarteting.

Do you have an active YIH program? Try it, it works.

[Ed Note: Credit to George Gerbi and Jim Anderson who provided pictures and editorial help.]

REMEMBER THE FWD YOUTH EDUCATION FUND

**FWD/RMD Spring Convention in Las Vegas
March 19-22, 2009
FWD & RMD Quartets Will Compete
Come Witness ALL the Competitors!**

Youth Harmony Camp

Richard Lund, FWD Camp Director

“Take 80 high school age boys, a top notch team of instructors, a dedicated group of counselors and support staff, a weekend at a camp site in the Sierra Foothills and throw them all together with the best music on the face of the earth, Barbershop Harmony, and stand back - it's late September and time for the Northern California Youth Harmony Camp!”

This introduction, written by the Dean of Harmony Camp, Gary Bolles, sets forth in a small way, the magic those attending Youth Harmony Camp experience. Gary's comments are completely true however - we



Lund & Bolles

we simply put all these ingredients together and with the combined talent of the dedicated guys who volunteer their time and energy truly magical things happen during the weekend.



Chow line volunteers

focus on fundamentals: the fundamentals of vocal singing, proper breathing, posture and basics. Over the weekend the boys experience living in the wonderful environment of barbershop harmony through their learning of four or five songs, learning and singing tags, and participation in the totally positive culture of barbershop.



Lovick in a breakout session

An increased emphasis in the Society on musical excellence is fine. We all enjoy and appreciate the fantastic performances of Westminster, Vocal

Majority, and Masters of Harmony. I however believe other things are important as well. There are ways of teaching, ways of performing, and ways of approaching barbershop (and the arts) that are not based on just that “gold medal” or “first place.” The philosophical underpinnings of the FWD Youth Harmony Camp are exhibit one for this kind of approach.

At the FWD Youth Harmony Camp we do not focus on the Sunday morning show. I'll say that again, we do not put a lot of our energies into preparation for the Sunday morning show. We do present a one-hour show Sunday morning for parents and friends. Costumes and props are not used. The boys simply sing and have fun showing parents and friends what they have experienced and learned in their intensive weekend experience of being “hot dipped” in barbershop.



Boys in focus during rehearsal

Gary keeps continues to emphasize that the FWD Youth Harmony Camp is different from all the other Camps around the country; but since I've only been involved with the FWD Camp, I cannot relay firsthand the excitement that he and others who have seen and experienced other Camps have told us. What I can tell you is our focus on the basics does lead to Barbershoppers for Life.” Our focus on the basics does provide the boys with tools to use in their school programs and in their life, and co-incidentally to an awesome Sunday morning show

The proof is in the pudding, as they say; and Marty Lovick, a presentation judge from Evergreen, and one of our top clinicians this year commented during one of



Clinician Freedkin in action

the last songs of the show that in his “professional judging” opinion, the boys' chorus just sang at a very

high level. My, my, imagine that: teaching fundamentals results in high level “fun” performances (smile).

Which brings me to Camp 2008 where Late Show just wowed the boys with their inimitable sound and interpretation of songs. All



Clinician Cabretto in action

four, Raymond, Jordan, Michael and Gabe each contributed to the tags, the teaching and the overall fun



Clinicians Late Show in breakout

of Camp with spectacular success in terms of getting the boys “hooked” on barbershop harmony! And to add even more to the barbershop way of life, there was our own Epic, the collegiate quartet from Sacramento State who sang in Nashville with a wonderful showing of thirteenth in a very strong field. The Epic guys really connected with the boys in ways that us old guys just can’t.



College Quartet EPIC in action

In going over the great “goings on” of

Late Show and Epic, I am reminded of the spectacular line up of quartets that we have been privileged to feature at Camp. Some of which are: Metropolis, Q, Men In Black, Men-So-Forte, The Crush, Realtime, Late Show and Epic. At least five District champion quartets and one International Champion! Wow!

A note regarding next year: Realtime, our headliner quartet in 2007 volunteered to return as our headliner quartet in 2009 and we readily accepted their offer.

The magic Realtime brought to Harmony Camp 2007 remains vivid in my memory and I am certain in the memories of those boys and volunteers who attended Camp that year.

Youth Harmony Camp creates Barbershoppers For Life. This is a positive fact that has been proven over and over. And what better way to guide our young men into a positive, fulfilling hobby (or more) that will remain with and provide a guidepost throughout their lives.

I welcome your inquiries and comments regarding Youth Harmony Camp. If you would like additional information or would like me to visit your chapter to discuss Harmony Camp you may reach me at 530-621-1904 or rlund@innercite.com.

The young men truly appreciate and benefit from the support provided by so many FWD Chapters and so many of you individually.



A move was learned for the show - “The Lean”

Far Western District and the Rocky Mountain District
 International Quartet Prelims
 Spring Convention
 March 19 - 22, 2009

Contests and Show
 International Quartet Prelims
 Small Chorus Competition
 High School Contest
 Show of Champions



Meetings and Events
 District Board Meetings
 House of Delegates Meetings
 AHSOW
 Youth Affair Show

<u>Registration Prices</u>		<u>Hotel and Contest Venue Information</u>
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All Events Early Bird (Postmarked by February 19, 2009)	All Events Late / On Site (Postmarked after February 19, 2009)	
All Events: Adult: \$40.00 Student (under 23): \$20.00	All Events: Adult: \$50.00 Student (under 23): \$25.00	
Single Events (on site only): \$25.00 High School Quartet Contest: No Charge		

2009 Far Western District and Rocky Mountain District International Prelims and Convention Registration Form		Member	Wife/Guest	Child/Student	Dist Officer	Delegate	VIP	Amount Due
Your Host: The Las Vegas Metro Chapter City of Lights Chorus								
Name (s)	District & Chapter (or City)							\$
1.								\$
2.								\$
3.								\$
4.								\$
5.								\$
6.								\$
7.								\$
8.								\$
Address								
City	State Zip							
Telephone/Email	Chapter							
Quartet or Chorus Name:								

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Marty Mendro Retires - Again

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Also available are four copies of my three hole punched album [minus cover] containing the history of the Mid States Four, including copious quantities of pictures, score sheets from our early contests and a complete set of 18 arrangements charted by Buzz Haeger, Walter Latzdo and me complete with a CD "As arranged and sung by the Mid States Four". Marked down to \$25 each.

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Ron is the director of the Heart of Texas Chorus in San Marcos, Texas - taking 9th place at the 2008 International contest. He has directed the Fresno Gold Note Chorus and Bay Area Metro Chorus. Jo is a 35-year member of Sweet Adeline's International. Cindy Hansen is a brilliant, innovative choreographer & motivator for the top Barbershop men's and women's choruses and quartets.

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After the International in Anaheim

July 5 - 12, 2009

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Witness Seattle's beautiful Puget Sound and the Strait of Juan de Fuca on your way to Alaska's forested isles, icy-blue glaciers and charming frontier ports.



Westags



The Far Western District Spring Convention in brief....
Bakersfield, California. October, 9-12, 2008

Masterpiece—the New FWD Champ! Bay Area to Anaheim in July Audacity to Mid-Winter in Pasadena in January

A great contest-weekend! Great competition and singing for all who attended. When the smoke cleared here were the results:

(Quartet Contest)

1. Masterpiece	3098 (86.1%)
2. The Crush	2910 (80.8%)
3. Stardust	2813 (78.1%)
4. Audacity	2743 (76.2%)
5. Oasis	2608 (72.4%)

(Chorus Contest)

1. Bay Area	1591 (88.4%)
2. Greater Phoenix	1491 (82.8%)
3. La Jolla	1386 (77.0%)
4. Rincon Beach	1262 (70.1%)
5. Fresno	1256 (69.8%)

(Seniors Contest)

1. Audacity	1347 (74.8%)
2. Motley Q	1182 (65.7%)
3. Silver & Gold	1132 (62.9%)
4. Curtain Call	1113 (61.8%)

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CONVENTION AWARDS

- The convention was dedicated to long-time Society member **Jim Holder (Santa Fe Springs)**.
- **Ray Ashcroft (Fullerton)** PROBE 1st Place PR Single Event for 2007
- Contribution to the Harmony Foundation was made by the **Fullerton Chapter**

BOD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

FWD President, **Bob Lally** opened his board of directors meeting on Thursday afternoon and it was concluded before midnight (recessing, of course, at a reasonable time for dinner) All but one of the elected officers were present (Gordon Bergthold, DVP Division 5 was excused). Reports and issues discussed and resolved included:

- Comments by **Peter Feeney** Society Representative and **Lou Benedict**, Paired SBM (EVG and FWD)
- The 2008 Spring FWD Convention will be dedicated to **Keith Eckhardt**.
- Realignment of the district: moving Las Vegas, Las Vegas Metro and St. George to Division 2 from Division 5)

- A "Division Naming" Contest is in progress to rename the five FWD Divisions. Your DVP will be in contact.
- Choruses of 33 members and less that have not competed in the past several years may have the opportunity to compete in March for district qualification. DACJC **Russ Young** to advise.
- New FWD members joining after January 1, 2009 will be given a free registration to a district convention.
- The new "Youth 1 Program," replacing the "student" classification of membership will be implemented in the district with no district dues for the first year and one half of regular dues every year thereafter until they reach the age of 26.
- The next meeting of the FWD BOD will be in Las Vegas Nevada on March 19, 2008.

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HOD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Delegates and officers attending the Spring meeting of the FWD House of Delegates were provided a review of the current status of the Society by Society Board Member **Peter Feeney**.

Other important issues were presented to the assembled delegates and included:

- 32 chapters had delegates at the HOD meeting.
- Reports of the District Officers and Committee Chairmen were received.
- The FWD SOP was updated in accordance with the document recently posted on the FWD Website and provided in the Delegate's Brochure.
- District dues increase of \$6 was approved.
- The budget as proposed and shown in the Fall Delegate's Brochure was approved
- The officer slate provided by the Nominating committee was elected and sworn in. (All were incumbents excepting EVP **Bernard Priceman**, and DVP **Bill Rosica**, Division 1)
- Convention Bids of **Greater Phoenix** and **Fresno** for Fall 2010 were presented to be determined at the next HOD meeting
- COTS for 2008 (Stockton California and Mesa Arizona) were announced for November 15. SoCal (Pico Rivera) November 22.
- **Ray Kahler** was introduced as the new CSLT Chairman
- 61 Brothers who had passed away during 2007-2008 were honored at the annual memorial

The next meeting of the House of Delegates will be in Las Vegas, Nevada on March 20, 2008.

Thanks Far West!

I question the wisdom of putting a city in the middle of a desert, but apart from that Realtime had a real great time working with the twelve quartets that attended the recent Harmony College West school in Redlands, CA. At least they were clever enough to put the college campus on the only place in town that had nice green grass! No district has so much depth of talent as the Far Western District, and so many men who are willing to give their time and energy for the betterment of Barbershop. It was an honor to work along side the best of the FWD in the coaching pods. The quartets themselves were all very open to new ideas, and seemed to get a lot out of the event. It was our pleasure to give up a weekend to fly the short flight to sunny California and try to give back just a little of what we have received over the years from our Barbershop brothers.

Rich Hasty's celebration of life was also unforgettable, and not only for all the great music that was sung. Those present know what I'm talking about. We wish our best to the unfortunate soloist, and his continued good health.

Congratulations also to OC Times and the Masters for the gold medals they won in Nashville. The honors could not have been given to a more deserving group of men. It was also great to see The Crush once more, whom we met when we were faculty up at the Youth camp in Pollock Pines last year. Even if they are *not* the college champs, as announced.

We're looking forward to our next trip to your beautiful area of the world!

In Harmony,
Tim, Doug, Mark and Tom
Realtime
<http://www.realtimequartet.com>

**IT IS OK TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE
FWD YOUTH EDUCATION FUND**

BQPA/PIONEERS Quartet Festival, Phoenix, AZ.

The Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association (BQPA), a subsidiary of the Barbershop Harmony Society, is an international group of individuals dedicated to the preservation and performance of traditional barbershop quartet singing. The BQPA/Pioneers has been holding two weekend long Barbershop Pioneers Festivals per year promoting quartet activity among all attendees since 1982. Our Festivals encourage woodshedding and the sharing of our singing talents with others from all over the world. More info on: www.bqpa.com <<http://www.bqpa.com/>>.

When: April 2-4, 2009
(Thursday, Friday, Saturday)

Where: Grace Inn Resort
10831 S. 51st Street
Phoenix, AZ 85044

Telephone for Reservations: 480-893-3000 or
1-800-843-6010.

- Tell them you are with the Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association
- Rooms are: \$ 91.00 with Free Hot Breakfast
- Restaurant in Hotel
- Shuttle is provided to/from Phoenix airport.
- Shuttle service to other restaurants when shuttle is available

There is a golf outing planned for Friday morning. Sing on every tee.

We have several new exciting activities for quartet singers.

Questions? Contact:

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FWD DVP for Division 1 SCW

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As your incoming Division Vice-President of SoCal West, I suppose the best way of beginning to get things rolling is to give you a little background on me. For some of you this may be the Department of Redundancy Department. For others, this will be an introduction.

My Barbershop "career" actually began some 24 years before I joined the Society. My dad, Joe found the Bakersfield Chapter in 1960 after hearing a quartet called the "Rebels" at a Shell Oil Company picnic. He joined shortly thereafter and from time to time I tagged along. (No pun intended) But in those days younger members were not encouraged to join. All during High School, I followed the Choruses and quartets of the day. I learned to listen to Barbershop by following the Thoroughbreds and the Sidewinders. Not a bad example of Barbershop music in the day. I actually still enjoy putting on a tape of both those groups.

In 1984 after completing college and raising two children with my then wife, Josie, I was contacted by one of the members of the Bakersfield Chapter. He asked me why I hadn't been down to a meeting. I told him no one ever asked. He asked and I went down, sang a few tags and was at the next Board Meeting. I have always been good at organizing after being the Editor-in-Chief of my College yearbook, so the Board Meeting was a natural for me to find out how things work. I joined in the spring of 1984 and am still a member of that chapter.

During the next 14 years, I was elected to every position on the board, chaired Show Committees and ran fall conventions. I was in several quartets and even placed second in the Comedy Quartet Contest that Pal-Pac used to host. How many of you remember the "Short-Man" routine? I tried my hand at directing and with another member sharing those duties; we place first in the small chorus contest in the early 90's.

In 1998 my life took on a few changes with my children and wife deciding to find out if the grass was actually greener on the other side. With time on my hands, I decided along with Bakersfield member, Rich Owen to make the drive over the hill and see if Jeff Oxley and the Masters of Harmony were for me. Apparently they were as I have now completed ten years with the Santa Fe Spring Chapter. During my years with MOH, I have served as VP of Chapter Development, Show Chairman and Convention General Chairman. Next year I will oversee the International Convention and Contest in Anaheim.

My predecessor, Bernard Priceman will be mentoring me for a time until I get my feet wet, but I would like to be able to spend time with all the chapters in SoCal West. I will be contacting each chapter to schedule a visit during a board meeting so I can

get as feel for how your chapter operates. Rehearsal nights can be fun too, but everything begins at the board level. I hope to be able to help the division grow in numbers as well as in achievement. I couldn't help but notice that we had a few chapters missing at the last House of Delegates meeting in Bakersfield. I would like to see more participation in the affairs of the District. After all, it's the small chapters that are the majority and each should have its opinion known.

So beginning in January, I'll assume the duties of DVP of SoCal West and try to fill the shoes of one Mr. Bernard Priceman. I welcome all ideas and opportunities which will help grow our division, district and society.

"Sing on the high side"



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RINCON BEACH

KEN DAY

The Pacific Sound Chorus sang at three Masses on August 30th for Our Lady of the Assumption Catholic Church in Ventura and joined in the 55th Anniversary celebration of the **Channel Island Clippers** with a fun Ice Cream Social. Then on to the Poinsettia Pavilion, then for a formal dinner honoring caregivers in Ventura County.

Dawn Castiglione came up and teach up stage presence moves for our uptune and member **Michael Murphy** videotaped and made DVD's available to the members.

We welcome new member **Jim Rodriguez** into our chorus as a much needed baritone and we have another prospect **Matt Burnham**, also a baritone. He is a past member of the Arlington, Texas Chapter and spent the last several years in Maui, Hawaii.

SAN LUIS OBISPO

PETE BENNETT

The Gold Coast Chorus is proud to announce that **Dani Avalos-Prigge**, champion quartet lead and Director of the Central Coast Celebration Chorus of SAI, has agreed to share her talents with us as our new Chorus Director. After a summer of encouragement and education under his competent guidance we bid a farewell to interim Director **Logan Patrick-Miernicki**.

Our brother chapter, the **Central City Chordsmen** of the Santa Maria Chapter, held their annual show "Friends, Faith, and Family." They of course needed friends and called on the **Gold Coast Chorus** to share billing, sell tickets, and pack the afterglow. We sang a set, our chapter quartet **Fascinatin' Rhythm** opened the second half, **Hi-Fidelity** headlined with their Star Trek package, and the combined choruses closed the show under the able direction of the Chordsmen's **Bob McGee**.

SANTA CLARITA

BILL WOLF

Standing on the corner watching all the girls go by... is what our local **Blue Plate Special** quartet has been doing recently. Blue Plate members bari **Bob Lang**, lead **Jack Matthews**, tenor **Duane Mooring** and bass **Cal Erikson** sang from a stand and strolled the streets to entertain the thousands of people attending the Santa Clarita City Newhall Street Art Festival and the separate Soroptomists Town Center event. As a member of the city's Art's Alliance our **Men of Harmony** chorus now perform with other local music groups and we will supply a quartet for an upcoming show put on by the local Big Band orchestra.

SANTA MONICA

JERRY WALKER

The Fourth of July was celebrated by the **Oceanaires** at the Galaxy's soccer stadium. A combined chorus, including members of **South Bay** and the **Valleyaires**, sang the National Anthem in front of more than 20,000 fans. **Jim Leedom** participated in the "Extreme Quarteting" program at Harmony University. Todd Kolberg, the Oceanaires' outstanding young director for the past 18 months, has asked to be replaced in December. Three candidates for the directorship expressed a genuine interest in replacing Todd, and they were interviewed over three successive weeks.

The chorus moved to the Westwood Hills Congregational Church on 1989 Westwood Boulevard in West Los Angeles. **Sound Stage** entertained the USC Staff Retirement Association at the Andrus Gerontology Center. **Jerry Walker** (Lead) started a new job as Director of the USC Emeriti College in August; and **Tom Laskey** (Bass), **Harry Stasney** (Tenor), and **David Zasloff** (Baritone) helped Jerry notify the staff retirees that he had arrived in style.

Todd Kolberg (Lead), **Bob Heron** (Baritone), **Vance Heron** (Bass), and **Aaron Mood** (Tenor) sang at Sharon Walker-Franklin Kline's wedding in Riverside. They entertained 250 guests in the receiving line and during the dinner that followed. **Jerry Walker** sang a duet of "Sunrise, Sunset" with the Cantor's wife to begin his daughter's wedding ceremony. **David Erickson** (Bass), **Robert Leeberg** (Tenor), **Jim Leedom** (Baritone), and **Bruce Schroffel** (Lead) performed as a quartet for the Pico Art Walk and Car Show in Santa Monica.

SANTA FE SPRINGS

RON LARSON

Ambassadors of Harmony Director Jim Henry once said 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. The truth of Jim's inspirational statement was never more obvious than at the memorial service for **Rich Hasty**, whose untimely passing shook the Masters family to its core not long after we returned from Nashville. Those in attendance at the Anaheim First Christian Church on Sunday, July 20, filled every available seat and standing area. They heard groups Rich had directed: the **California Promise Chorus**, the **Mission Viejo Sweet Adelines Chorus**, **Gold Medalist Realtime** (a quartet that eagerly awaited arrangements he crafted for them), **Chords**

Gone Wild (his last quartet), and the **Masters of Harmony** (the chorus he helped establish twenty years earlier). The legacy of this multi-talented man with a truly unique sense of humor will live on as groups touched by him in turn share the ministry of music with those Jim Henry had in mind, those in need of the healing and uplifting power of our music.

Rich, along with **Mark Hale**, **Alan Gordon**, **Chris Peterson**, and **Phil Ordaz** served our barbershop community as certified judges. Hoping to add their names to this list are nine Masters members who recently met the requirements for advancement to the status of judging candidates. They include **John Brockman**, **Ken Potter**, **Justin Miller** (Music), **Sean Devine**, **Sam Papageorge**, **Gary Steinkamp** (Presentation), **Jeff Baker**, **Craig Ewing** and **Brett Littlefield** (Singing). Congratulations to these nine men...and good luck as the hard work now begins!

On September 20, the Masters were in a Citrus College sound studio for an all-day recording session. Songs recorded there will be part of a new Masters CD to be released at the Anaheim International Convention next July.

One week after the recording session, the Masters made their first concert appearance in Northern California in over a decade when they opened the 2008-2009 Sacramento Community Concert Series. For 40 years, this series has showcased a variety of musical artists and styles, but never before a group featuring barbershop music. The concert was well received and its success may open the doors to other barbershop choruses and quartets on future concert billings.

From October 10-12, the Masters had the privilege of hosting the Far Western District Fall Convention and Contests in Bakersfield. The Masters hosts were skillfully organized and led by Masters member and Bakersfield resident, **Bill Rosica**. The hosting experience gained will be put to good use in Anaheim next July when the Masters family hosts the entire barbershop harmony family at its annual convention. Congratulations to Dr. Greg Lyne's **Voices in Harmony**, winners of the chorus contest, and to quartet champion **Masterpiece**.

SOUTH BAY

MIKE MARTIN

Thanks to the team of **Bob Griffiths**, **Mike Martin**, **Ron Sipes**, **Pete Neushul** and other chapter members for arranging and helping with the 61st chapter anniversary event and making it the success that it was. Many southland men and women barbershop choruses and quartets took to center stage on the SS Lane Victory throughout the day and into the evening.

Hey Hey Herald **Jim Labor** retired and the chapter now seeks a replacement. Many thanks to Jim for a difficult job so well performed. The Chapter recently performed for a retreat house in Palos Verdes. **Bernard Priceman** visited the chapter and talked about FWD and what it doing for chapters in the district. Members of the **Coastliner** chorus joined with the **Santa Monica Oceanaires** singing the National Anthem at the

Galaxy's soccer stadium Fourth of July game.

Thanks to long time South Bay alum Miles Middough, the "original" Disneyland hand chimes [referred to as the "Deagan Chimes"] are back at South Bay where the first Dapper Dans with **Bub Thomas** began back in the mid 1950's. They underwent a restoration process and the current **Deagan Boyz Quartet** consisting of **Don Barton, John Upp, Damian Curran** and **Mike Martin** are diligently working up a repertoire using the chimes. What fun we do have here at South Bay.

The South Bay Chorus as well as members from the **Santa Monica Chapter, Santa Clarita Chapter** and **Santa Fe Springs Chapter** performed at the memorial services of **Jacqui Martin** [wife of **Mike Martin**] at Holy Cross Cemetery. **Fr Larry Shelton**, a South Bay chapter member, officiated at the Rosary and mass. Your editor was truly humbled at the large turnout of membership. It brought home what a great family of friends barbershoppers are.

WHITTIER

PATRICK BOYLE

The Chapter has a "sing-out" objective leading to the goal of increased membership. VP of Programming **Jerry Fuca** took on this task and arranged performances at various community venues. We sang [**Ray Cooley** directing] at the Whittier Street Fair. The **Choralaires** then sang with the **The New Century Singers** womens chorus in their Fall Show.

The Whittier Chapter had a 58th birthday dinner celebration (Chapter started Sept. 7, 1950) where a number of "old timers" came to enjoy dinner, sing a few songs, and share stories of the old days in this historic Chapter. It will forever be known as Earl Moon's Chorus for his twenty-five years as Music Director. Further pursuing the pleasure of singing with and to others this year, President **Bill Niemand** and **Steve Peacock** arranged for Pasadena and Whittier, along with some members of the Long Beach Chapter, to perform two Christmas shows



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APPLE VALLEY

JIM DUGDALE

Serving the Apple Valley Chapter in 2009 will be the following members that were elected by acclamation:

Pres **Frank Bescos**, Sec **Dave Genung**, Treas **Robert Neely**, Music and Performance VP **Buford Strange**, Chapter Development VP **Earl Christopherson**, Publicity and Marketing VP **Wayne Bell**, Member At Large, **Jim Dugdale**, and Chorus Director, **Kristen Taylor**

Apple Valley Chorus director **Kristen Taylor** is completing her master's degree in music conducting at the University of Redlands. Some videotaping has already taken place and the Hi-Country Harmonaires chorus is being considered for possibly working with her for this project.

COACHELLA VALLEY

TERRY MANN

Nearly a dozen members of the **Sandblasters** attended a Membership Workshop conducted by District Secretary **Dick Girvin** in Palm Desert. The open-forum discussion included handouts of the many membership inducing documents and a lively discussion on how to best put them to use was heard. **Dick Reed, Milt Rhea, Terry Mann** and a number of others attended the event spark plugged by Chapter Membership VP **Blaine Mack**.

EL CAJON

MIKE DORMAN

The members of the Music Masters Chorus have been busy celebrating the pre-holiday season by performing all around the county--having fun and entertaining the listeners with holiday musical sounds!

The chorus, under the close attention of director **Tom Anderson**, "is getting closer and closer to delivering the 'ideal Barbershop sound'". President **Gary Mathews** sums up the appreciation shown by the audiences this way: "*How do you describe the feeling you get when singing to an audience, and looking into the enjoyment showing on their faces?*" Answer: Priceless!

FULLERTON

DICK COTE

Headline news of the Fullerton Barbershop Clippin's is the fact that their **Ray Ashcroft** scored the third consecutive PR Officer of the Year award from the international PR and Bulletin Editor organization, PROBE. The award was officially made at the recent FWD House of Delegates meeting in Bakersfield.

The now famous "Cote Pool Party" was happily conducted in August with over 90 attendees with Editor Dick and bride Kay officiating. A raft of pictures by Fullerton's **Joan Golding** sparked the Clippin's centerfold

Fullerton's 23rd Harmony Under the Stars at Pearson Park, an annual "happening," was again well attended with talent and patrons. The former included the **Westminster Chorus, Brea's Gaslight Chorus**, and **Fullerton's Orange Empire Chorus**. Quartets included: **Gaslight Review, Preferred Blend, California Crossroads, Masterpiece** and **High Fidelity**. How could a lineup like that fail to please? Mover and shaker **Dave Baker** is to be congratulated.

HEMET

BRUCE SMITH

"Singing once a week doesn't cut it!" says **Dave Kelley**, President of the Hemet Chapter. "Singing is the stuff that keeps us full of life for a long time..." His admonition to the chapter stems from the input from **Jim DeBusman** of the BHS who states that it is imperative that we practice proper breathing every day...

Hemet scribe. Bruce Smith, recommends that the chapter take advantages of the several barbershop experiences scheduled for the coming year: the Midwinter Convention in Pasadena, a Cruise to the Mexican Riviera and the International Convention in Anaheim in July followed by an Alaska Cruise.

The chapter is mourning the untimely loss of previous member **Dale Covey** who passed away recently.

IRVINE

STEVE YOUNG

The California Promise Chapter proudly announced the selection of **Justin Miller** as their new director! Justin, age 21, was with California Promise for several years and was Associate Director, Bass Section Leader and also was in the Lead section before his promotion. **Dr. Chris Peterson** visited the chapter to help mentor both Justin and the chapter in the art of Barbershop.

The chapter was active in the community with performances at 9/11 Veteran's day events as well as at local clubs. Visitors are welcome at any of their Tuesday night rehearsals.

LA JOLLA

PETE HENSLEY

Pacific Coat Harmony (PCH) had another sellout Cabaret Show, featuring a full meal plus great entertainment, and all for \$25. The entertainment featured quartets **California Crossroads** and **Affinity** (with PCH director **Kim Hulbert** on bass).

PCH traveled to the Borrego Springs Resort for their annual retreat, bringing in talented coach **Darin Drown** from Colorado. As an opportunity for additional member improvement, Kim, a talented singer, judge, coach and voice teacher, offered three singing lessons for each member of the chorus at sessions preceding Tuesday rehearsals. This effort appears to have worked as the chorus finished a solid third at the District contest, behind, Bay Area's Voices in Harmony and Greater Phoenix, and, with only 23 men on stage.

Chapter quartet **California Crossroads**, the 2007-08 FWD Senior Champs (Hensley and Thorpe from PCH, Weiser from MOH and Yarnell from Brea) was very busy this year with five chapter shows in Southern California, the Orange County Pearson Park fund raiser, and headlining the first half of the Saturday night show at Harmony College West.

ORANGE QUARTET CHAPTER MARK SHELDON

Once again **Phil** and **Phyllis Roth** graciously opened their home in September to host the End-Of-Summer Sing, with a potluck dinner and nonstop quartetting.

Sean Devine's move to Nashville qualifies him as the Orange Chapter's longest distance member, trumping **Jack Jungroth** in Oklahoma City! Sean came by in October to explain his work with Harmony Foundation and their programs. The **WaveMakers** presented him with a donation for Youth in Harmony provided by the Anaheim Ebell Club, for whom they had performed in September. Easy Street also performed at the meeting - in uniform!

The **WaveMakers** sang for an Orange County Education program. **Shenanigans** visited and performed for the **South Bay Chapter**. **The Orange Chapter** also enjoyed many individual and quartet visitors, including Expedia who dropped in on the eve of their Fall District competition.

The entire current Chapter Board was re-elected for 2009: Pres **Steve Moore**, Music VP and IPP **Michael Werner**, Music VP and IPP, Sec **Rich Spencer**, Treas **David Lowerre**, Prog VP **Ken Tillmanns**, Membership VP **Paul Sandorff**, PR VP & Bulletin Editor **Mark Sheldon**, YIH Chair **Robert Calderwood**, and BMAL **Virgil Pletcher**.

PALOMAR PACIFIC

STEVE HINKLE

Of special note -- Pal Pac was most pleased and very proud to present to member **Dick Stern** his '50 Year Pin'. The presentation ceremony was MC'd by Dick's long-time Quartet buddy and a 54 year member of Pal Pac **Jack Story**.

The Chapter moved their rehearsal location to San Marcos -- followed by a Music Men Ensemble performance to a standing-room-only crowd at Cypress Court, Escondido.

The Music Men learned that Chapter Member **Bob Hornstein** was successful in forming Mexico's first Barbershop Chorus. **The Lakeside Harmonizers**, comprised of approximately 20 American and Canadian retirees now living permanently in Mexico, is reportedly moving very quickly through the early stages of becoming an official Barbershop organization.

The Music Men held their Annual Autumn Show in San Marcos. Also appearing were FWD Senior Champs **California Crossroads** and a local perennial favorite **The Harmonettes**.

The Music Men began October with their Annual Novice Contest and then they closed out the month with a special Holiday Television Taping.

RIVERSIDE

BILL SHOVA

Riverside's slate of officers of 2009 was a re-run of the past year. All but one were incumbent with **Ken Clark** coming on board as a new Board Member t Large

Director **Kevin Price** handed in his resignation to a reluctant chapter but agreed to stay at the helm until the end of the year. A Director Search Committee is being formed.

The chapter is planning a gala Anniversary Party for their 7th birthday on March 23, 2009, featuring old and new members, old and new quartets and old and new surprises.

SAN DIEGO

DON RENZ

November finds the San Diego Chapter again preparing for an early production of its annual Christmas Show. Due to scheduling changes at the Casa del Prado Theater in Balboa Park, they have been pushed to a date just two days after Thanksgiving with performances at 1PM and 4 PM on Saturday, Nov. 21.

The election season found the Nominating Committee working overtime to recruit the needed volunteers to form the '09 Leadership Team. Maybe the presidential campaign circus has worn us out on electoral activity. Nevertheless, the chapter is fortunate to have Prez **Craig Hughes** willing and able to serve a fourth term in this most important leadership spot.

With their Christmas Show out of the way, the chapter will be seeking more performance opportunities in the Holiday Season.

At the head of the list is the annual appearance at the Tree Lighting celebration at the Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park followed by participation in the Park's "Holiday Nights" event.



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ALOHA

JACK Y HASHIMOTO

The Sounds of Aloha performed at the Perry & Price 25th Anniversary Show at the Coral Ballroom in Waikiki. Michael W. Perry and Larry Price are icons in the local radio world and have held the title of most listened to station in the weekday morning hours for the last 25 years, or so. We sang a stirring "God Bless America" and a parodied "Happy Birthday". Thanks to Chorus Manager **Ken Nelson** for coordination of this event.

Phillip Wee was named BSOM for June 2008. He was cited for his outstanding contributions to the chorus as assistant director, warmer upper, creator of flyers, chorus logos, business cards, and ads in the society's publications and local promotions.

The chorus was at Camp Erdman on Oahu's north shore for our annual retreat. Singing, bonding, eating, fun and games were the

feature attractions. Director **Mark Conching** helped us hone our singing skills in preparation for the Pan Pacific Convention and Contest, which happens in November. There was a group of servicemen and their families there that weekend also, and we sang to them at campfire to honor their service to our country. Thanks to chairman **Mark Brandle** and coordinator **Ed Reid**.

Our next rehearsal was held at OLELO studios, the local TV station which helps to produce promotional informational programming for non-profit groups. We were taped singing several of our highlight songs for future showings on OLELO. Thanks to Coordinator **Dr. John Char**, event chairman **Scot Izuka** and those who volunteered for production training on 2 previous nights to help other non-profits produce a similar taping.

We sang the national and state anthems for the University of Hawaii v. New Mexico State University Women's Volleyball game at the Stan Sheriff Arena on the Manoa campus of UH.

EUREKA

MAC GARDNER

When Redwood Country people hear "*Beer-and-Peanuts Shows*," they expect double fun.....and always get it! Our two B&P productions were in Fortuna and Arcata. For the umpteenth year, the **Humboldt Harmonaires** let their hair down and enjoyed SONG and beer-peanuts-soda pop--popcorn with the finest fans in the West. **Jon Majors** again directed our able crew, with **The Outstanding Bills** and **Mirth First Quartets** adding their quality tones. **The Coastal Chords Singers**, a new women's group led by Sweet Adelines director **Maureen Hansen**, made their "world debut" and were enthusiastically accepted. A Guest Night, chaired by **Bill Chandler-Klein**, was a follow-up to both performances.

We welcome two new singers to our membership. Baritone **Don Jordan** has had a varied background, and is now semi-retired from the Eureka City Schools. He has sung in church groups--choirs, quartets, trios and solos. His sponsor and "Man of Note" is **Don Bachman**. Lead **Royce Brunette** was raised in Colorado and is now a Chiropractor. Royce has sung in church chorus and duets. "Our barbershop singing brightens my life," he says. **Mac Gardner** is his "Man of Note."

FREMONT/HAYWARD

RAY SPINOSA

The New Dimension Chorus again participated in the annual Fremont Festival of the Arts. Members spent time talking to passerby about the chapter, playing barbershop music and trying to attract potential members. Presently, the chapter is offering the "Men's Holiday Chorus". All men are invited to come learn holiday songs and sing with the chorus at various holiday performances, with no obligation to join the chorus.

The chapter proudly welcomes its newest quartet – "**Sblended Tonics**" composed of Tenor **Ed Graff**, Lead **Bob Horwitz**, Bass **Kevin Smith**, and Baritone **Kurt Hornbacher**.

PALO ALTO/MOUNTAIN VIEW

DEAN JAMES

The Palo Alto – Mt. View Chapter produced a wonderfully

successful Cabaret Show on a Sunday. Annually, this two-show affair serves our guests an ice cream social in the afternoon and a lasagna dinner in the evening with festive table decorations, roving quartets, the Chapter jug band, and a gifts raffle handled by our director's wife **Teri Sammonds**. Our audiences enthusiastically enjoyed the performance of the **Peninsulaires**, interlaced with songs from six Chapter quartets. However, we were upstaged by four charming young girls, the **Love Notes** (formerly Underage). This very accomplished Sweet Adelines quartet was the highlight of both shows. Our audience loved them. It was a long, tiring day for all the Chapter members, but a very rewarding experience, both musically and fiscally.

SAN FRANCISCO DON KINGTON

The 2009 administrative leaders for the Cable Car Chorus will be Pres **Newt Harband**, VP for Development **Fred Merrick**, Sec **Greg Goyhenetche**, Treas **Charles Haletky**, and Board Member at Large and Webmaster **Jerry Lester**. **Charles Feltman** will continue as Chorus music director.

SANTA CRUZ LAWRENCE STERN

The sixth annual SING FOR YOUR LIFE, youth outreach concert of the **Gold Standard Chorus**, featured the choirs of seven of Santa Cruz County's high schools: Aptos, Georgiana Bruce Kirby Prep, Monterey Bay Academy, Monte Vista Christian School, Pacific Collegiate, Santa Cruz, and Soquel. Two quartets were guest headliners, **Corner Table** and **JAG**, the perpetual (since 1994) high school quartet at Liberty High School in Brentwood, CA. Music teacher **Sue Stuart** keeps the quartet going by replacing graduating seniors each year. Two performances were held as the inaugural event at the Performing Arts Theatre (a \$25,000,000 facility) at Aptos High School.

Jordan Johnson has replaced **Duane King** as director.

SANTA ROSA RAY CROWDER

Redwood Rhapsody entertained a happy crowd at Simi Winery in Healdsburg at a special event for **Jim** and **Delain Dechaine**, who renewed their wedding vows on their 25th anniversary. Of course, Jim, was the happy tenor of the quartet.

The Redwood Chordsmen performed at the Cotati Farmers Market Festival in September, and the appreciative crowd showed their approval with constant applause.

Dan and Nancy Schell, and **Jim and Delain Dechaine** hosted seasonal chapter socials again, and the Santa Rosa chapter has grown very fond of these family oriented events.

The Chordsmen performed for Santa Rosa's first annual Railroad Handcar Festival in historic Railroad Square. More than 3,000 spectators watched people race home built handcars down the abandoned Western Pacific railroad track. The handcars were downright hilarious.

Everybody is happy to welcome back old member **Gabor Toth** who has contributed so much to the chapter over the years.

SF BAY CITIES QUARTET CASEY PARKER

President Steve and Program VP Roman reviewed the **Palo Alto-Mountain View** (AKA Peninsula) show. The show was a rousing success, both in the afternoon ice cream social and the evening dinner performances.

Secretary Casey announced the renewal of **El Wirt**, veteran barbershopper with over 60 years membership. **Bob Bird** sent greetings with the plan to return to our meetings when his daughter **Pam Watson** recovers from a recent illness.

The Disqualified Four varied slightly from their standard performance repertoire singing Hello Mary Lou. Woodshed Chairman **Dennis Baker** led us through **Paul Engel's** arrangement of *That Old Gal of Mine* and introduced us to his latest Rose selection from the woodshed, *Dear Old Rose*.

WALNUT CREEK DICK JOHNSTON

The Devil Mountain Chorus staged its fourth annual cabaret dinner show at the Shadelands Art Center in Walnut Creek.

The show was a hilarious satire of a political convention held by the Grand Old Happy Days Party, intent on nominating a couple of characters named Harry Chest and Mary White-House (played by **Geotty Chapple** and **Julie Scharlach**) for president and vice-president of the United States. In the course of the program these unlikely nominees carried their campaign to several places not usually favored with visits by presidential candidates, including Fargo, North Dakota and Sing Sing Prison in New York. At intervals throughout this gripping tale the chorus sang some seven songs, all of which involved colors of various hues (e.g. Yellow Bird and Orange-Colored Sky).

The Perfect Gentlemen appeared as the featured guest quartet, and the **Beauty Shop Double Quartet** from Monte Vista High School also sang. Our own **Creeksiders Quartet** once again had the audience laughing, heartily.



FWD DVP for Division 4 NCENN

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All your officers will have returned to their respective chapters after attending the Leadership Academy in Stockton on November 15. They should all be revved up, enthusiastic, and ready to lead your chapters on to bigger and better things.

Did you attend the District Convention in Bakersfield? What a great time was had by all! (well, the hotel situation turned out to be a bit of a challenge). But in the true spirit of barbershop we dealt with the situation and made the best of it. Sacramento promises no such challenges for their District Convention next October. Hope to see you all there.

Fresno will be hosting the NorCalEast/NorNev convention on May 15 and 16 in 2009. At the time of this writing, there is a possibility that NorCalWest/HI will be joining us. The more the merrier! Something special will be happening on the Friday night the 15th. We will be sponsoring a High School Quartet Contest. This contest will be open to both boys and girls quartets. If you would like more information, please feel free to contact me.

Also be thinking of some creative names for our NorCalEast/NorNev division. There will be a contest to see who comes up with the winning name. Some have already been suggested, but more are welcome.

For the choruses who haven't competed for a while, there is something special planned for the Spring Preliminary Contest in March. The convention will be held in Las Vegas. This contest is open just to choruses who usually don't compete. This should level the playing field for the smaller choruses who are reluctant to go against the larger choruses. Come join in the fun!



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CARSON CITY

RALPH QUOSIG

Congratulations to our new Board elect: President **Dave Ramer** will have his new Board: VP Programs **Norm LeBlanc**, VP Music and Performance **Bert Lackenbauer**, Members-at-large **Tom Cheney** and **Don Hunter**, and Treasurer **Ted Nagel**. **Paul Muller** will continue as Secretary and **Dave Smith** as VP Membership. Soon to be our Past-President, **Rook Wetzel**, is completing an outstanding year of accomplishment including sponsoring two quartets to Youth Harmony Camp and formation of the Carson High School Barbershop Chorus under the most able direction of **Cory Hunt (OC Times)** and **Mike Stewart (Late Show)**.

This year we expanded our annual show...delighting our audiences on both nights. Our featured quartet **Let It Ride** from the collegiate circuit, thrilled our audiences and again at the complementary after-glow (with free pizza and soft drinks). They sang first for the adult audience and again for the youth room with about 75 members of the Carson High School Concert Choir that sang on our show. The CHS choir also provided two quartets, an octet, and a 12 member ensemble. **Wild Cards** once again regaled the audiences and after-glow.

Wild Cards (Dave Ramer L, Dan Love Bs, Jim Crowley T, and Ralph Quosig Ba) were the featured entertainment at Bridgeport (CA) days. The quartet also performed on the Virginia City narrow gauge train to the delight of all passengers.

The Chorus of the Comstock anticipates continued growth and, although we've had a banner year with youth, we look forward to even greater participation in youth development. Audiences at our retirement home gigs always enjoy our chorus...almost as much as we enjoy singing for them.

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA

MILES SUTTER

The Golden Valley Chorus turned back the clock and presented *Vaudeville Daze*, a show to benefit the Merced Theatre Restoration Project. Besides several selections from the chorus, there were **EPIC**, a collegiate quartet fresh from competition in Nashville; **Perfect Name**, a very young ladies ensemble from Modesto; GVC's **Fortune Hunters** and **Central Valley Harmony Co-op**, and our headliner, **Brewhouse**, the current Division Champion Barbershop Quartet. Thanks to **Ray Baker**, our MC for this evening, and those who volunteered for speaking parts; **Herb Andrew, Derick Sturke, Dain Goad, Howard Barber & Bob Clark. Grady Williams**, thank you for all you do regarding radio advertising, posters, tickets, etc. A very special thank you to **Roy Anderson**, our show chairman. Kudos to **Howard** and **Betty Barber** for acquiring DeAngelo's Restaurant for the magnificent 'lunner'.

We of the proud and valiant GVC, having scored eleventh (one chorus having been disqualified). We have every reason to stand tall and hold our heads high, notwithstanding our having slipped some in the judges' ratings as compared with our performance at the Division competition.

DAVIS-VACAVILLE

ROY BELLHORN

Chapter quartets were very busy this Fall. Veteran's groups were serenaded by **Berryessa Gold**. Vacaville's Fall Harvest Festival had both **Berryessa Gold** and **The WannaBees** entertaining the crowds. A free ice cream cone from Felton's Ice Cream Emporium was a reward welcomed by all singers.

FRESNO

DAVID REITZEL

The Gold Note Chorus held its annual retreat at ECCO campground and convention center near Oakhurst. Coach **Rob Campbell** and Director **Dede Nibler** labored mightily to root out the choreographic stumps among us and to help in the discovery of harmony, a pleasing tempo, and appropriate animation.

A week later 15 members of **Visalia's Mighty Oaks** favored the GNC with a visit, joining us on the risers for Dede's warm-ups and an exchange of chorus and quartet numbers.

Near Halloween, the talented **Voices Unlimited**, Dede's women's group, joined the GNC in a "Batastic" cabaret performance. A crowd of ghouls, goblins, creatures with tails, and assorted other persona reveled in good food, fun and games, and lots of music. Seven quartets joined VU and GNC: **Great Dames** and **Dolce** on the ladies' side, and for the men, **Up roar, Route 99, Brewhouse, Silver & Gold** ("Watching All the Ghouls Go By"), and **A Tonic Explosion**.

The cabaret was the farewell performance for **A Tonic Explosion**, which for 31 years has delighted thousands of fans with their comedic renditions. Tenor **Lowell Reynolds**, Lead **Wes Jackson**, Bass **George Western**, and Baritone **Hugh Shaffer** once again brought down the house, exiting to a standing ovation.

NEVADA PLACER

ROGER PERKINS

The Sierranaders' annual performance at the Nevada County Fair was held on August 10 to an appreciative audience. Featured with the chorus were chapter quartets Pacific Standard Time and the Chord Miners, who also won the annual quartet contest featured at the fair.

Our annual Cabaret Shows were held both in Auburn and Grass Valley. A lasagna dinner was served followed by a show which featured the **Sierranaders Chorus** plus quartets **The 4T9r4**, **New Edition**, **Pacific Standard Time**, **Chord Miners**, **Foothill Express**, and **The Town Square Harmonizers (Bob Eger, Dave Rail, Pete Sparaco, and Gordon Keeney)** from San Jose. Since this was an Olympic year our show was a parody called: Barbershop Olympics. The M.C. was **Elmer "Howard Cosell" Fairbanks**. ment.

NORTH VALLEY

DENNY STRUB

With our Harmony University "newly inspired" director **Dave Burdine** at the helm, the **Sound of the Foothills Chorus** keeps on a growin'. We are fortunate to have **Jim Haas**, **Bruce Hagen**, and **Caleb Smith** all return from the past. Moreover, **Bill Spencer** (father of Jordan) is our newest baritone.

Overshadowing this growth was the very shocking untimely death of 10-year member **Ted Ferguson**. The chorus was asked to sing Ted's favorite, "Irish Blessing" at his memorial service.

College freshman **Jordan Spencer** became the first recipient of the Denny and Marianne Strub Barbershop Scholarship.

The Sound of the Foothills joined with the **Bidwell Generals Chorus**, the **Chico Sweet Adelines Chorus**, **GESUNDHEIT!** and **Sparklin' Harmony** quartets for a first-ever-local "open house" singing get-together.

PLACERVILLE

BILL PECK

The College Quartet **EPIC** representing CSUS and the Placerville Chapter with our own **Jason Dyer** singing bass came in 14th in the 2008 International College Quartet Contest which took place in Nashville. **And Then There Was Harmony** with **Krissy Sleigh** singing bass came home from San Antonio wearing a bronze 4th place medal which they won in the Sweet Adeline Int'l. Rising Star contest. We are mighty proud of both of the above quartets.

OC Times won the International Quartet Championship gold medal in Nashville this summer. Tenor **Shawn York** sang with us for the summer a few years back at the suggestion of his high school music teacher.

Preservation II was pleased to sing for Oak Ridge HS and Ponderosa HS to promote the FWD Youth Harmony Camp at Sly Park. They also promoted the 2nd Annual Youth Chorus Festival to be held at the BHS Mid Winter Convention in Pasadena Jan. 27 – Feb 1, 2009.

Ron Murray reports another outstanding Youth Harmony Camp. There were 65 high school men in attendance. The instruction, singing and shenanigans started on Friday, Sept. 26, and ended on Sunday. **Late Show** was the featured quartet with **EPIC** in a supporting role. There was a support staff of 20 guys from all over NorCal including our own **Bill Faulkner**, **Bill Pearson**, **Jim Harris**, **Gary Saich**, **Jason Dyer** and **Ray Rhymer**. **Richard Lund** is the Camp Director. **Gary Bolles** served as Camp Music Director.

VISALIA

BUD CASE

Some Assembly Required quartet performed the Star Spangled Banner for the opening of the July 4th celebration and fireworks display in Visalia.

Visalia Mighty Oak Chorus devoted the regular meeting to a strategic planning meeting to assess where we were and where we wanted to be in the future. The consensus was that we wanted to become better singers so that we would be more entertaining and have more fun doing it. Music VP **Bob Peden** ably led the discussion.

The M O C had their annual summer picnic at the home of **Jerry** and **Jeanette Mitchell**. The food was plentiful and delicious, Ted's "washer toss game" was fun and there were lots of "instant" quartets that entertained.

An afterglow is held after Tuesday night chapter meetings at Pizza Hut at the corner of Akers and Noble Ave. Dawn, the waitress, appreciates our patronage so much that she has put up pictures and a collage of the chorus and the two chapter quartets **Sound Projection** and **Some Assembly Required**. A week seldom goes by that someone who has never heard barbershop harmony gets exposed to our hobby.

On Thursday, Sept. 11 we paid a visit to the Fresno Chapter and on Tuesday, Sept. 23 made a visit to Bakersfield.



FWD DVP for Division 5 ASNSU

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Well, the FWD Fall Contest is history and our Division 5 choruses and quartets did very well with Greater Phoenix in second place and Tucson in seventh. The Spirit of Phoenix Chorus has received a wildcard invitation to the International Convention in Anaheim.

In the quartet contest four Phoenix quartets made the top ten; Sound Agreement 10th, Equinox 8th, Oasis 5th and Audacity 4th. The Senior's FWD Champion was Audacity. Stardust from Las Vegas finished 3rd. The evening show was quite an affair with the International Chorus Champs, Masters of Harmony and International Quartet Champs, OC Times headlining the evening along with Bay Area's Voices FWD Chorus Champs and Masterpiece the FWD Quartet Champs filling out a very entertaining event.

On October 18th the Prescott High Mountain Chordsmen put on their annual show, "The Wild and Wooly West". I was the MC for the two shows and the guest quartet was Sonoran Sound from Tucson. Prescott is still looking for a director and the Chapter's email address is BarbershopSounds@aol.com should you be interested.

In case you haven't heard, the two Las Vegas chapters and St. George, Utah have been added to the So Cal East Division to expedite travel and encourage more participation at division events. There is a "name the division" contest being initiated and your division vice-presidents will be sending you information pertaining to the rules etc.

Paradise Valley is also looking for a director and if interested please notify Carl Eckhardt, President at carl.eckhardt@cox.net. In summary, the Arizona COTS is scheduled for November 15, 2008 in Mesa, hosted by the Mesa Chapter. We are looking forward to another successful event with participation by most of the Division 5 chapters along with any outside chapters who wish to attend. This is a great opportunity to provide your chapter leadership with some education and tips for operating a successful chapter.

Keep on singing and remember this about attending a chapter rehearsal;

Every now and then go away...for when you come back to your work your judgment will be surer!



Division 5 ASNSU Editor

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GREATER PHOENIX

JERRY MCELFRISH

The **Spirit of Phoenix** chorus hosted the annual **Fred Koch** Memorial Summer Barbershop Bash in August. The two-day event featured a dozen quartets on Friday night, and four or five "Luck of the Draw" quartets, four novice contest foursomes and four VLQs on Saturday that entertained several hundred barbershoppers, their families and friends.

PHX, a new Phoenix quartet (thus the name), won the novice contest. **Basses Loaded**, consisting of eight basses from SOP singing all four parts, won the VLQ contest. **Blaze** and **Shangri La**, also from SOP, took second and third, respectively, in the novice contest.

The election of officers of the Greater Phoenix Chapter for 2009 saw **Bob Upham**, current board member-at-large and annual show chairman, elected president. **Bob Sampson**, current president, fills the post of immediate past president for next year., Board member-at-large **Curt McLees** will be music vice president; **Corbin Beu**, program vice president; and **Nate Crawford**, chapter secretary. Re-elected were **Collin McKinney**, membership vice president; **Mark Spriggs**, vice president for marketing and public relations; and **Bill Johnson**, treasurer. Remaining as directors-at-large are **Jack Mauney**, chorus manager, and **Eric Bjornsen**. Newly elected directors-at-large are **Randy Harrison** and **Jerry McElfresh**.

The **Spirit of Phoenix's** annual show received a welcome financial boost from the City of Phoenix Office of Arts and Culture with the recent award of a \$3,000 grant to be used exclusively to pay talent expenses and production costs for our 2009 show. Chapter member **Bob Robinson** was the driving force behind winning the grant.

There's a new, emerging chorus in town, and that's a good thing. **Spirit of Phoenix** members **Danny Ryan Jr.**, **Kevin Meyer** and **Sam Wambold** and Danny's dad, Dan Sr., have been meeting with young men interested in four-part harmony since August, with keen interest among the group. Danny, who directs the chorus, says they are looking for guys in their teens and 20s. He says members will be encouraged to join the Society and participate with the **Spirit of Phoenix** if they want more barbershopping fun.

LAS VEGAS

LARRY LITCHFIELD

J.D. Massa is President-Elect, a 41-year barbershopping veteran.. J.D. is a retired Air Force major and sings bass in our chorus and its venerable quartet **Broadcast**. He's been in the **Gamble-Aires** since 1976 and a life Society member since 1974. He'll replace current President **Bill Lusk**, a professional race car driver.

We welcome the return to our ranks of long-time Society baritone and former **Gamble-Aire Dave Floyd**. We recently welcomed **Anthony Risolio**, an affable 17-year-old with a versatile voice who's adept at handling all parts. He plans to join in 2009. Anthony reflects the talent of many high-school age prospects who gravitate to our chapter to sing in our unique harmony style.

ASome 50 or so Gamble-Aires choristers, their families and friends frolicked at the home of **Roger** and **Lana Buehrerto** select the chapter's "top chili chefs." (It can be a fun event for any FWD chapter, by the way.) Our own **Broadcast** and **Older 'n' Dirt** quartets offered some selections. **Rumble Seat Daze**, a stellar quartet from our sister Sweet Adelines chorus Las

Vegas Metro's City of Lights - dropped in to offer some outstanding arrangements. Eight deliciously spicy and aromatic "crock pot" offerings were ID'd by anonymous numbers only. Judges were the attendees. Announced chili winners honored with certificates, rousing ovations and flashing cameras were: **Rick Ives**, hottest (like a blowtorch!); **Flip Sonneman**, most unusual; and **Albert and Michelle Weiss**, overall best.

We recently hosted a guest night attended by three prospects. One was Dave Floyd (see above), but the two others have not yet signed up. An opportunity arose where we were able to "interview" one of the non-joiners, who willingly offered reactions to his introduction to barbershopping. The critique was an eye-opener. We learned much from his first impressions and used his comments and suggestions to refine our guest night format. Try it sometime! It might enhance your prospect conversions.

LAS VEGAS METRO

JOHN C. THOMPSON

The City Of Lights Chorus held an Open House in conjunction with our weekly rehearsal and drew about 30 guests – the largest we can remember in quite awhile. We are pleased to welcome three new members in the third quarter: **Dave Dannemiller**, **Tom Sauer**, and **Eric Skugstad**. In addition, **Skyler Jewell** returned from a year-long working stint in China.

Three performances were held of our annual show "Senior Moments", a hilarious musical comedy featuring the chorus as residents of Harmony Hills Retirement Home, struggling with the difficulty of "remembering." Four chapter quartets performed on the show: **Good Times**, **Ready Or Not**, **Rumble Seat Daze**, and **Vegas Lights**. Sweet Adelines quartet **Wildfire** was also a featured performer. Evening performances were held at the Sun City Anthem Theater and the Starbright Theater in Sun City Summerlin, and a matinee at the Winchester Cultural Center of the Las Vegas Parks & Recreation Dept.

On October 9, the chapter celebrated its 10th anniversary by attending and performing at the FWD Fall Convention and Competition in Bakersfield. We're proud to be among the Top 10 district choruses. Two of our quartets, **Stardust** and **Ready Or Not**, competed and finished third and sixth, respectively. What a great showing for our growing chapter! We had a great time, singing everywhere and anywhere all weekend long. Congratulations to the first-place chorus **Voices In Harmony**, and the top quartet, **Masterpiece!**

MESA

JERRY FOX

Congrats to **Austin Larsen**, Skyline High School graduate and recipient of our Outstanding Vocal Musician scholarship. We presented him with a check as the culmination of a great "Guest Night". Thanks to the division's help in adding a significant amount to the total award. Thanks also to so many Greater Phoenix Chapter members and quartets that sang and entertained: **Oasis**, **Music Box**, **Equinox**, and **PHX**. The Sweet Adelines Fiesta Chorus sent 15 ladies to sing and promote upcoming shows. First-time guests even performed in VLQs after learning a song or two.

The guest night segued into the district chorus competition. We qualified to perform, but brought fewer members than expected.

With apologies to Julius Caesar, "We came, we sang, but got disqualified" due to having one singer short of the minimum required. The audience was receptive and the judges offered many kind words of encouragement.

This year's annual show "*What a Country!*" featured Chandler High School's chorus of singing ladies, **The Treblemakers**, and chapter quartets. As always, a portion of proceeds was used to support Youth in Harmony.

We would like to challenge other choruses to include youth on their shows, donate some proceeds to YIH, seek out outstanding vocal musicians, and attend local high school choir concerts. We do, and the choir directors return our phone calls.

PARADISE VALLEY

LEN LEVINE

The Paradise Valley Chapter is looking for new members to continue the legacy of the **Cactus Chordsmen**. In addition, our director **Dan Ryan** announced that he will be stepping down in order to concentrate on his studies towards receiving a Master's degree. In addition to membership, we are actively seeking a new director. Anyone interested in either joining the chorus as a singer or director, contact President **Carl Eckhardt** (carl.eckhardt@cox.net). The chorus meets Monday evenings at 7:30pm at the Church of the Valley on Shea between 40th Street and Tatum.

PRESCOTT

SAM STIMPLE

A mild, comfortable summer encouraged several guests to attend chapter meetings during July, August and September. That's because Prescott is a place people vacation to, instead of from. One evening in mid-July the **High Mountain Chordsmen** caravanned to Sedona to be with our barbershop brothers for an interchapter visitation. Combining the two choruses in song made for a bigger, fuller sound than either chorus director had heard before.

The third Monday of each month, the **Mountain Sound** mesmerizes guests at Prescott Adult Day Care Center who enjoy hearing and singing the old songs with the quartet. Quartet MC **Joe La Barge** always has interesting comments to share about the music we sing. The quartet also entertained at a luncheon of NACOG (Northern Arizona Council of Governments) representatives at the Prescott Resort in mid-September. Later in the month the HMC chorus and chapter quartets performed in several locations at the Yavapai County Fair. Chapter members hosted a booth on the fairway to hand out brochures and encourage passers-by to enter a free drawing for a \$50 gasoline gift card.

Keith Kelly and **Sam & Carol Stimple** represented the chapter at the Arizona Division's annual Summer Bash in Phoenix.

SIERRA VISTA

ED RAYMOND

The Cochise Chordsmen continue to make periodic appearances locally, both as chapter presentations and gigs by

Watering Hole #3 (Paul Godwin, Dave Germain, Bernie Martis, and Fred Whitley). The chorus performed at Our Lady of the Mountains School in a celebration of the principal's birthday and delighted a large group of young students who begged for encores. We sowed the seeds of barbershopping that day! In September, we set up a booth and sang at a benefit for Habitat for Humanity.

The United Methodist Church of Sierra Vista recently presented a program to introduce their new chorus, and WH#3 was selected to open the evening festivities.

Our weekly rehearsals are now being attended by pre-teen and fine tenor **Chase Chomsky** and **Nick Germain** (son of our acting co-director), who will sing any of the four parts at the drop of a hat.

SUN CITIES

BOB MCGOWAN

The summer season for the **DesertAires** saw some of our current members develop health problems that kept them from singing with us regularly. Sadly, we lost long-time member **James (Jim) Dale** passed to Chapter Eternal after a long battle with cancer. He did an outstanding job of handling our annual show advertising for over five years and will be greatly missed.

Our new director **Jerry Roland** has moved the chapter into renewing interest in quartetting and brought a fresh perspective to our singing. This has resulted in an expanded approach to recruiting, and led by **Jack McGill**, we arranging for a VLQ to appear in October at the quarterly newcomers meeting in Sun City West. The VLQ will feature **Ron Sonnenleiter** and **Dave Tague** (tenors); **Campbell Titchener** and **Jack McGill** (leads); **Ed O'Connor** and **John Vincent** (baritones); and **Herb Bunke** and **Hank Nahass** (basses). These visits will afford the chapter an opportunity to hand out brochures and Society materials to those who are new to the community. Jack is also expanding our presence in newspapers through his contacts with the local editors. We expect a series of promotional articles to be an effective tool in recruiting new members from the ever-growing senior community here in the Sun Cities area.

The chapter's **Slo Motion** quartet sang for the Disabled American Veterans for two hours at the local Golden Corral Restaurant. The restaurant owner offered free meals for the DAV on that day, in appreciation for their service in the military.

Our singers continue to appear at a local McDonald's to serenade the customers after our Tuesday chapter meeting. An appreciative audience of seniors comes just to hear the music dear to their hearts. The restaurant manager has been a strong supporter of the chapter for several years.

TUCSON SUNSHINE

RON HAYES

The 3rd Annual Southern Arizona Youth in Harmony Festival on September 6 was a huge success with over 260 high school vocal

students from 15 schools. Choral students participated in a day-long workshop climaxing in an evening concert to a packed house of friends and family. Separate articles submitted to Westunes and The Harmonizer tell of the event [see pages 18-19].

The Sunshine Chapter held its Annual Green Valley Picnic the week following the festival for a chance to relax with families and friends, with plenty of good food, including bratwurst and woodshedding. This has been a chapter tradition for decades.

The Tucson Barbershop Experience Chorus is excited and proud of the Plateau A Championship Award we earned at the Far Western District chorus competition in Bakersfield on October 11. Thanks to our skillful and talented director, **Jeff Dolan**, we have continued to improve.

We held a Chapter Guest and Prospective Member Night with one dozen enthusiastic guests attending. Music Vice President **David Updegraff** and Director **Jeff Dolan** spoke of the history of the Barbershop Society and four-part a cappella harmony since its beginnings in classical music. Guests and chorus members alike learned two new songs and performed them on the risers.

WHITE MOUNTAINS

DOC DOCKENDORF

The High Country Chorus held a very successful annual show "*A Salute to Disney's Favorite Songs*" which featured guest quartet **NeXus**, had record attendance, and produced several new members. The chorus's entire music team and one additional member (six in all) attended Harmony University, and we are again planning to provide financial support to a number of attendees in the 2009. On Labor Day, the chorus entertained residents of the Juniper Ridge RV Park with our entire Disney package. Our performance was well-received and, for the first time in chorus history, we sang an encore. The following Friday, we repeated the show for the Latter Day Saints Singles Club and, as an encore, sang "Love At Home," a very popular number with the LDS community. We held our semiannual road cleanup, part of our community service initiative, followed that evening by a chapter party at our director's house.

October brought our election of officers with the following results: President **Ron LaMar**, Vice President Membership **Dan Lewis**, Secretary **Jim Dye**, Treasurer **John Welker**, IPP **Bob Koons**, Vice President Music **Denny Shankland**, and Members-at-large **Jerry Schrunk**, **Joe Stone** and **Ron Monette**.

We approved six new members **Roy Cain**, **Cory Spencer**, **Bill Stephens**, **Ben Tatum**, **Steve Volker**, and **Keith Thorson** and welcomed the return of **Dan Lewis**. Cory is a high school student, and we welcome the reduction in average chorus age.

We were saddened by the news in late October that one of our basses and chapter stalwart **Bill Hartzell** passed away suddenly as a result of out-patient surgery.



2008 FWD Fall Convention Dedicated to Jim Holder

By Deane Scoville (with a huge assist from Jim)

The Far Western District Board of Directors and the District membership are proud to dedicate the 2008 Fall Convention to Jim Holder. Read on to find out why the Awards Committee selected this gentleman.

In 1963 a fellow member of Jim's church choir asked him if he thought he would like to do some barber-shop singing. The question did little to instill any emotions in Jim. He explained to his friend that he really did not know what he was talking about, but he was willing to go to a meeting with him. That evening led to a subsequent meeting where Jim became exposed to the "SIDEWINDERS" singing over in a corner of the room. When one of the Sidewinders asked Jim if he cared to join in the singing, he was surprised and cautious, but he accepted the invitation. And so another young man was "HOOKED" for life right then and there. (Both Jim and Jerry Fairchild have verified this incident, but neither of them can recall which member of the SIDEWINDERS asked Jim to join them).

First and foremost, Jim is a family man. He and Marian have been married 55 years; they have four children (three boys and one girl), six grand children, and one great-grand child. In view of the fact that Jim has been in the society for 45 years, you know that Marian has supported him in his "career" as a barbershopper and that is a real plus.

Jim has been a member of several chapters during the past 45 years. They are Pomona Valley (1963/70), West Covina (1971/72), Arcadia (1973/1979), Pomona Valley again (1980/84) and Masters of Harmony, aka Santa Fe Springs (1985 to the current time). Jim won a gold medal with MOH in 1990. He has held office in each chapter where he was a member except that of treasurer. Jim has also qualified for and received the FWD Bachelor of Harmony Award. In addition, he has been the Barbershopper of the Year in three different chapters.

I call him "Mr. Volunteer," because he is almost always the first man to raise his hand when a volunteer is needed. His volunteer work started in about 1965 and it continues today. He has either greeted men or registered them at SoCal COTS for over forty years. Imagine that! When he is volunteering Jim always has a smile on his face. (I wonder if he smiles when he sleeps). He told me sometimes he is also a "gopher" and we all know what that means. In addition, Jim has assisted in various ways for several years at Harmony College West.

Jim has been an Area Counselor (later called Chapter Coach and then Chapter Counselor). Currently he is the FWD Sunshine Chairman, a fitting position for a guy with a happy smile.

Don't we all wish that we had more men like Jim in our chapter? The Far Western District is fortunate to have him among its members and it is our pleasure to honor Jim Holder at the 2008 Fall Convention in Bakersfield!

CONVENTIONS, SHOWS, EVENTS

2008

December

- 6 Pasadena Show
- 7 Fremont-Hayward Show
- 7 Fresno Show
- 7 Greater Phoenix Show
- 7 Sacramento Show
- 12-13 Fullerton Shows
- 13 Brea Show
- 13 Greater Phoenix Show
- 13 Las Vegas Show
- 13 Santa Fe Springs Show
- 13-14 Hemet Shows

2009

January

25-2/1 Int'l MldWinter, Pasadena

February

- 7 Davis-Vacaville Shows
- 15 Sun Cities Shows
- 21 Greater Phoenix Shows
- 21 Santa Fe Springs Show
- 28 Coachella Balley Show
- 28 NCal Novice *Host: Central California*

March

- 7 Casa Grande Show
- 7 Coachella Valley Show
- 14 Inland Empire Show
- 14 Tucson Show
- 19-22 FWD Spring Convention**
Las Vegas *Host: City of Lights*
- 26-29 SAI Region 11 Conv, Bakersfield

April

- 2-5 SAI Region 12 Conv, Sacramento
- 4 Fullerton Shows
- 18 *NCWH Divisional (TBA)*
- 25 *ARIZ Divisional (TBA)*
- 25 Palomar Pacific Show

May

- 2 *SCW Divisional (TBA)*
- 3 Palo Alto-Mt View Show

9 *SCE Divisional (TBA)*

16 *NCENN Divisional (TBA)*

16 Pasadena Show

30 Santa Fe Springs Show

June

6-7 South Bay Shows

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 **Leadership Academy 1 Day**

21 **Leadership Academy 1 Day**

2010

January

9 **Leadership Academy 1 Day**

15 **Leadership Academy 1 Day**

March

6 Tucson Show

18-21 FWD Spring Convention

Open for bid

April

10 *NCWH Divisional (TBA)*

17 *ARIZ Divisional (TBA)*

May

8 *SCW Divisional (TBA)*

15 *SCE Divisional (TBA)*

22 *NCENN Divisional (TBA)*

June

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

November

13 **Leadership Academy 1 Day**

20 **Leadership Academy 1 Day**

2011

March

5 Tucson Show

July

7/3-10 INT'L CONV Kansas City, MO

11/18-22 SAI Int'l Conv, Houston, TX

2012

March

3 Tucson Show

July

7/1-8 INT'L CONV Portland, OR

10/30-11-3 SAI Int'l Conv, Denver, CO

2013

June

6/30-7/7 INT'L CONV Toronto, ON

11/5-9 SAI Int'l Conv, Honolulu, HI

2014

June

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

2015

June

6/28-7/5 **INT'L CONV Pittsburgh, PA**

2016

June

7/3-10 **INT'L CONV Nashville, TN**

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

WESTUNES

Magazine

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