



Spring 2013 Volume 63 Number 1

WESTUNES



WESTUNES, established in 1961, is the official publication of the
Far Western District Association of Chapters in the Barbershop Harmony Society

From the Editor [Ray Rhymer]

Welcome to the new e-Westunes, which is a result of the FWD Board of Directors making the decision to cease printing Westunes and go electronic only. The main reasons were:

- 1- The world is going electronic, whether we like it or not. Being the home of Silicon Valley, it was felt that the FWD should develop electronic delivery of Westunes for this new world.
- 2- Using electronic only delivery helps the FWD budget in tight economic times by the elimination of significant printing and mailing costs.

There are some advantages to going electronic only, namely:

- An electronic version is not page limited, which means
 - All graphics are color, provided the source is color
 - More articles can be included
 - More pictures can be included [even slideshows]
 - Chapter Digests are full length, not severely edited
 - The calendar is much more extensive
- Save considerable cost to the FWD

It is BHS & FWD policy not to reveal personal contact information to the public without permission. THEREFORE, if you want to contact FWD officers or chairmen, please go to the BHS website - members only - and log in to find the contact information of interest. You are free to contact me at:

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That said, almost 40% of our FWD members are 70+. It is recognized and acknowledged that not all are "computer literate" - also many prefer reading printed pages rather than looking at a computer screen and clicking around for extended periods of time. That is what this PDF is about. While not identical to the website version, e.g., there are over 100 pictures in the "gallery" which would mean printing an unreasonable number of pages, all of the printed information with many pictures is contained herein. This can be read on-line on your screen, or downloaded to be read or printed. It is read serially - pages are not side-by-side. Check the number of pages before printing to make sure you want to print that many.

For those who are "computer literate", it is requested you offer your help to your friends who are in need. Perhaps they need help downloading, perhaps they will want it printed, or perhaps they don't even have a computer. Isn't that what Barbershop friends are for?

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Sunshine Chairman Card

FWD Sunshine Chairman Les Cudworth

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Featured Articles

FWD Chorus Directors Seminar

By Keith Eckhardt

General Assistant, Go-fer, and videographer

Under the leadership of Dr. Greg Lyne, FWD Chorus Director Development Chairman, Saturday, February 9th, was a pretty exciting day in Northern California. Dare we call the event the first ever Directors College West? The name fits because the day was all about training directors with three levels of classes in operation for 23 Chorus Directors, Assistant Directors, and Section Leaders.

The **Outstanding In Front** class led by Certified Trainer Charlie Metzger from EVG, assisted by our own Ollie Brillhante, was for section leaders and beginning directors. One of the students reported “It was ‘only’ a one day class; but it was the most profitable day I’ve spent in a decade of learning the craft of barbershop.”

The **Intermediate Directing Class** by Master Director Ron Black, our FWD Contest and Judging District Representative was similarly appreciated. One of Ron’s students said “It was FANTASTIC beyond words -- I am **grateful** and looking forward to our next rehearsal!”.

The **Chorus Director Workshop Intensive** class led by Certified Trainers David Leeder of the SWD and Royce Ferguson of the FWD lived up to its promise. One student after just an hour of class said “I had no idea it would be THIS intensive”. And that was good. Another student was quoted at the end of the day with “I’ve been waiting years for this class. Now I can continue on to become a Certified Director.”

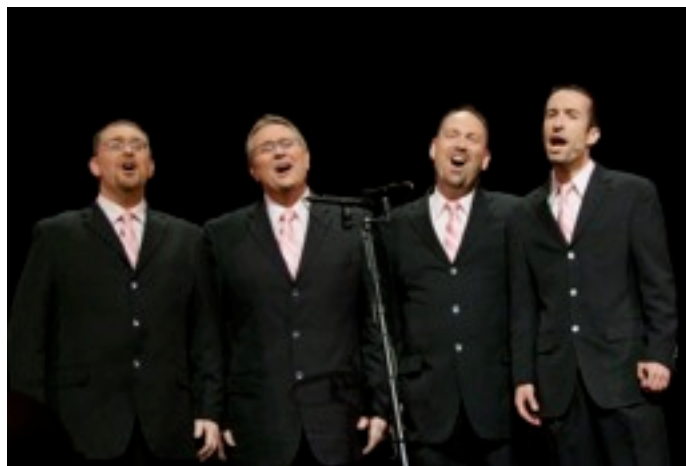
The Devil Mountain Chorus from the Walnut Creek chapter and their Director Kristen Taylor seemed to enjoy the day as the supporting chorus. The cookies and sodas at break time seemed pretty enjoyable too. They finished the day with some coaching by Dr. Lyne and Royce Ferguson.

We’ve already had requests to repeat this event in SoCal and Arizona. What it takes is a local chorus willing to commit to three things: help find a facility with three classrooms and two small side rooms,

commit to transporting some instructors to and from an airport, and being willing to spend a Saturday afternoon on the risers as the CDWI students are coached and video recorded.



Photo: CDWI student Demaster Survine IV directing the Devil Mountain Chorus as CDWI Certified Trainer David Leeder closely watches. Devil Mountain Chorus Director Kristen Taylor is quietly monitoring her chorus from the sidelines.



**2012 FWD Quartet Champions
95 North**

A New Year—A Look Back and Moving Forward

Mike Stewart, Bass, 95 North

As we embark on a new year, it marks a good time to reflect on 2012 and look forward to 2013. First, 2012—what can we say? That night in Mesa, Arizona, last October was the culmination of three years of hard (yet fun) work. What an incredible and memorable moment! Many of you have been so

supportive of us over the years either with **95 North** or in our previous quartets. You certainly (as have I) been watching Jim and Larry gunning for the district championship for several years, and I can say with confidence that Nick and I are thrilled to have paired up with the Halvorson brothers to be a part of this district championship. It is definitely a dream come true for all of us! Of course, we didn't do this alone; we had help along the way. Since our first rehearsal three years ago this month, we have had great coaching sessions and evaluations with the likes of Mark Hale, Alan Gordon, Cindy Hansen, Brett Littlefield, Gabe Caretto, and Chris Vaughn. Our families, too, have been integral to our success. The support of our wives, significant others, and children has been tremendous! Maintaining a long-distance quartet is a challenge. Without family support, this would be impossible and we thank our families from the bottom of our hearts!

Last year also marked a period of creative growth for 95 North and a renewed dedication to our performances. Our initial approach to music selection and learning new tunes was to find songs that fit our voices, enhance our strengths, and diminish our weaknesses. While this, on the surface, is a solid approach, we were soon convinced that performing original arrangements specifically tailored to our voices, while at the same time, offering uniqueness, character, and emotional strength would take our performances to a new level. Fortunately, our tenor, Jim, is a great "in-house" arranger and he put pen to paper and arranged two of the four tunes we sang at the district contest. Requests for his arrangement of **Anne Murray's** "You Needed Me" filled the weekend! His arrangement of **Frank Sinatra's** "500 Guys" was also well-received. We are thrilled to be debuting more original arrangements this spring and in the near future, including two new Sinatra tunes and a fresh spin on an arrangement previously sung by **Stardust**.

Speaking of the future, 2013 is shaping up to be a great year! We still have plenty of space on the calendar to sing on your show. 95 North has filled a

few show dates and are looking forward to others. This spring you can see us at the Spring Convention in Lodi on March 22 and 23 (we are judging the high school quartet contest with our friends, **Artistic License**) and on the Palo Alto/Mountain View Chapter Show at the Mission City Center for Performing Arts in Santa Clara on May 18. We are also looking forward to another appearance at the Go for the Gold Show in Fullerton on June 15 and then on to Toronto, Canada, for the International convention. We would love to dust off our repertoire of Christmas tunes, too! Please send us a note on Facebook (search 95 North quartet) or drop us a line at 95northquartet@gmail.com for a show booking (pardon the shameless plug!).

Once again, thank you all for your wonderful support! We look forward to seeing you and singing with you in 2013 and humbly giving back to the wonderful Far Western District. Happy New Year!

50th Annual SoCal Novice Quartet Contest

by Mark Sheldon, Orange Chapter PR VP

The 51st Annual Southern California Novice Quartet Contest was held January 26, 2013, in the Little Theatre of Orange High School. The Orange Quartet Chapter hosted this year's event, carrying on the long-standing tradition of the Westminster Chapter to promote the formation and development of quartets.

Many Chapter members contributed their time and skill to this year's event. Once again the effort was coordinated, and many hats worn by, Bob Calderwood. Dave Lowerre also contributed multiple duties including serving as Contest Administrator, and his wife Sheila helped with the box office and concessions. Tom Nichols stepped in on short notice to ably handle the emcee duties. Many others contributed their efforts to make the event a success.

Each competing quartet performed two songs and was scored according to standard Society methods. Three Society Judges generously made themselves available: Craig Ewing (Singing), Martin Fredstrom (Presentation), and Ken Potter (Music). Winners

were determined using a handicapping system based on past experience in competition was used.

Fourteen quartets with membership from several Southern California chapters participated. The Quartet personnel represented a wide range of experience from first-time competitors to an International Quartet Medalist.

When the handicapped scores were finalized the top three finishers were announced and awarded trophies. Third place went to Jeepers, second place to Crown City Four. The 2013 SoCal Novice Quartet Champion was Revolving Door, whose members include Jim Hilgenberg (Tenor), Timothy Gedney (Lead), Carl Marsh (Baritone), and Mark Lewis (Bass), all with the Temecula Chapter. Revolving Door's winning song set was "Hi, Neighbor" and "Hello, Mary Lou."

1 Revolving Door



2 Crown City Four



3 Jeepers



Completing the top five handicapped scores were These Guys (fourth), and from La Habra High School, Harmonic Heartbreakers. Other competing quartets included Sound Choice, Time's Up, Wavemakers, Dudes of Four Tune, Affordable Harmony Care, The Artistic Four, The Newfangled Four, Improv2+2, and Sing 4 Fun.

In addition, a quartet with members from last year's Novice Quartet Champion, Quantum Mass, served as mic testers. The participation of members of that quartet in this year's competition is consistent with the Novice contest standard of including singers and quartets regardless of experience.

The Orange Chapter is proud to continue to provide this contest so that all participants, whatever their level of ability, can take the opportunity it provides to advance their own growth.

2013 Northern CA Novice Quartet Contest

For the fifth year, the Central California Chapter (D-057) hosted the Northern California Novice Quartet Contest. Twenty-one quartets crossed the stage, Along with 17 Novice level groups, three High School and one Mixed Voice quartet performed for and were adjudicated by a panel of three certified judges.

The contest was run according to Society C & J Standards. Our Contest Administrators were Chuck Hunter and Chuck Leavitt. Mike Louque. Ron Black and Paul Engel completed the panel.

Taking top honors in the contest was Sherlock Tones: Deran Conkling (14Hs) on lead, Rhett Roberts and Yu Hon Roh (ARC/Voices of California) and Gordon Allen (UC Davis) coming in with a 63.0.

1 Sherlock Tones



Coming up in second was The Redwood Four, representing the Santa Cruz Gold Standard Chorus. In third was Davis/Vacaville West Valley Chorus's Goosebumps.

2 The Redwood Four



3 Goosebumps



Special recognition goes to Santa Rosa's Redwood Chordsmen, who sent eight quartets to the competition, but only sent 13 of their members! In what resembled a quartet scramble, Redwood Chordsmen showed up in many configurations throughout the day. Turns out Director Phil DeBar and barbershop veteran Shelly Albaum went around the chapter asking "Who are you going to sing with at Novice?" Phil and Shelly brought several Chordsmen to the stage who had never competed in a quartet contest, giving them some valuable performance experience!

Many thanks to the Central California Chapter's Golden Valley Chorus for hosting the event. A lot of great pre planning and hard work went in to the contest. Each quartet competing was given the respect any competitor deserves, including great facilities, a smooth flow, ample photography and audio recording as well as first class "contest hardware"

Said Bruce Sellnow, GVC Director and Event Co-Chair (with Howard Barber) "The GVC is overwhelmingly enthusiastic about the success and increasing attendance at the NorCal Novice Contest. It's great to see so many friends and fans who come out to encourage and support the quartets who step up onto that stage. But more importantly, it's fantastic that so many men opt to participate in this contest. We're so glad to be able to host this event and provide such an opportunity."



**District President
Russ Young**

A new year is underway and your FWD leadership is working hard to see that you have only the very best experiences available to you as a barbershopper. Whether you are a chapter leader, quartet member, front line or aspiring director, or you simply want to enjoy the benefits of singing with your chapter, our goal is to see that the opportunities and benefits available to you are the best in the Society. Since our last Westunes, we have had very successful Leadership Academies in Poco Rivera, California and Mesa, Arizona. I'd like to encourage ALL chapters to make the effort to send their leaders to this annual event.

Our Spring conventions are just around the corner and the teams for each are working hard to finalize plans. The combined NE/NW/International Prelim contest in Lodi is part of the District Spring Convention that will feature the best of the best as quartets vie to earn the right to represent the FWD at the 75th Anniversary International Convention in Toronto. Division choruses and quartets will also compete to earn the right to go to our own Fall District convention this October in Bakersfield. Wouldn't it be great to have a full house to cheer our competitors on? If you haven't already done so, it's not too late to make your arrangements to attend.

In keeping with my belief that "it's all about the music", we continue offering programs to members/chapters so they can take advantage of the outstanding musical leaders found here within our own District. A recent weekend for directors was a tremendous success. Under the leadership of Dr. Greg Lyne (FWD Chorus Director Development Chair), classes were offered in Pleasanton to include CDWI (Chorus Directors Workshop Intensive), Intermediate Chorus Directing, and OiF (Outstanding in Front). These classes were taught by an outstanding faculty and attendees left with a renewed enthusiasm for being even better musical leaders. In



case you missed this one, we will be offering more of these types of classes in the future.

Without going into too much detail (look elsewhere in this edition of Westunes for more information), I'm proud to announce that plans are already underway for what I believe will be the best Harmony College West ever. I will say that with four gold medal chorus directors and the strongest faculty ever assembled, this can't be anything less than outstanding.

Finally, a note of thanks to all of the chapters who donated to the Youth Chorus Festival this past fall. We met our goal of sending \$10k to Harmony Foundation on behalf of the FWD, allowing us to be recognized at the sponsor level. I hope we can continue this each year and that those who were unable to participate will jump on board later this year. You continue to be a class act, FWD!

I look forward to seeing you at the upcoming conventions. Until then,

Together We Can Change The World...One Song At A Time!



**Executive Vice President
Allan Webb**

"We shall do everything in our power to perpetuate the Society."

Look familiar? It's the Society's Code of Ethics #1, which you'll find on the back of your membership card. While there are a number of others on there, too, this one is listed first. Why is that, I wonder?

For me, that sentence is in the #1 position to remind us that what we do and how we do it always has to be measured against whether it results in men wanting to join the Society or not. All of us who participate in this hobby, including those who may be singing barbershop but not maintaining a Society

membership, are taking advantage of an ecosystem which was built and paid for(ward) by the men who came before us. Without the Society providing a 501c3 organizational structure and associated services like the curation of Old Songs Library, arrangement clearance assistance, umbrella insurance and ASCAP relationship, etc., we would find it very difficult to do what we do on a weekly basis at the Chapter level. All the famous arrangers whose music we love to sing likely wouldn't have written those arrangements (or necessarily even have been barbershoppers at all), in the absence of an International Barbershop Harmony Society. We have an obligation to ensure that the Society exists so that the generations who come after us have a barbershop ecosystem to play in, too.

So what does that mean at the Chapter and individual levels? Whether you sing in a group that performs in public a lot, or a group who sings primarily for themselves, at some point you will be in the presence of men who will make a personal decision about the barbershop hobby value proposition. They may be listening to you from the audience at a show, be eating dinner at the restaurant where you hold your afterglow, be the sender/recipient of a singing valentine, or they may simply show up at a chapter meeting out of the blue. But they will hear you and interact with you in some way, and based on that interaction will make a decision as to whether singing barbershop is worth their time.

Code of Ethics #1 demands that we always be mindful of that fact, and practice our art and our fraternity at a level that compels men to want to join us. Not through the hard sell, but through the music and the brotherhood.



**District Vice President 1 SW
Bill Rosica**

So here we are preparing to celebrate our 75th Birthday. How could our founders ever have imagined that what they began in 1938 would have turned into what it is today? Seems like yesterday

when I was driving across Arizona on my way to San Antonio to celebrate the 50th year. Time does fly, as they say; whoever “THEY” are.

So what is your chapter doing to make sure we have a 100th Birthday? I know some chapters will be having a cake and maybe some news folks in, but I suggest that we all do something a little more beneficial for our chapters and our Society. Justin Miller, the new Director of the Masters of Harmony borrowed a quote from Robert F. Kennedy in his address to the chapter last month and I’d like to use it here for discussion purposes.

There are those who look at things the way they are, and ask why ... I dream of things that never were, and ask why not? Robert F. Kennedy

What is holding your chapter back? Why don’t you have more men on the risers? Why hasn’t your chapter been to a contest in a while? Why hasn’t your chapter put on a successful show in the past few years? These may be “Things that never were” in your chapter and you should ask, “Why not”? Yes, it takes work to grow and prosper as a chapter, just like it takes work to learn a new song. But when you’re done, don’t you feel great?

As I was looking at our membership numbers, I thought about what challenges I could give out. After thinking about it a while, I came up with the following: In recognition of the 75th Anniversary of the Society, what if we all decided to recruit 75% of our current membership. For some chapters who have 20 members, that would mean 15 new recruits. For my chapter which has 190 men on the books, that would mean 142 new recruits. But if you break it down by months it doesn’t look so bad. And if you break it down by men, it means that 75% of your membership needs to recruit one man this year. Now that seems realistic.

How about substituting the word “Guest” for New Recruit? Guests can quickly become members if you play your cards right. There are plenty of “Programs” out there to help you along. Give Jack Peters a call. I

believe that some sort of Recruiting Program should be on the agenda of every Board Meeting for next month.

Again, these are goals. Maybe if your chapter is a large one, you could recruit 75 new men and if you were a smaller chapter, maybe 7.5 (That's 7 leads and a Bari) new men would fit your needs. The point is to do something to make your chapter better in 2013 than you were in 2012. I look forward to serving your needs in 2013 and hope to see everyone in Lodi this spring.



***District Vice President 2 SE
Craig Hughes***

Happy 75th Anniversary Year for our Society and the South East Division. We closed out 2012 and opened 2013 with high energy, joy and commitment to make the new year even better.

I enjoyed Chapter Leadership Training and the Holiday Season with many of you. Leadership Training is a key to Chapter success and a commitment of time and energy for those who attend. With great instructors and lots of shared ideas between students the classes were excellent. I attended the Marketing Class and learned a bunch. Please consider sending your entire leadership team to the 2013 sessions. Your Chapter leadership team is the foundation for a sound and growing Chapter. Taking care of the administrative details so the music can get the focus it deserves is an art that is honed at the Academy.

I attended several Holiday Shows and was thrilled to perform on a couple. What a heartwarming gift for our communities. You could feel the glow from the audience. It is one of the many special things we are able to do. The light in the kids' eyes after the performance was especially rewarding. As we continue to provide quality entertainment for our audiences we will grow and prosper.

I was honored to install the Chapter Officers for Coachella, El Cajon, and Riverside. I was also

honored to be installed as Marking VP for San Diego by Lou Benedict. While certainly different, all four Chapters share the enthusiasm, love of music and fellowship we are all seeking. The awards given were richly deserved and demonstrate the immense commitment we all have to this unique "hobby". We are truly a "Chorus of Brothers."

Membership numbers sagged a little last year. Society membership - down 7.8%. District membership - down 4.5%. Division membership - down 2.1%. I guess that means the South East is doing least poorly. Special kudos to Westminster - up 25.5%, Brea - up 24.3%, and Coachella - up 13.9%. Let's all turn the corner in 2013.

Quick reminder. SE/SW Division Contest will be held in Ontario on May 11. The Riverside Chapter is hosting the event and has posted information on the District Web Site as well as in this edition of Westunes. Please consider attending. It will be a fun contest.

Thank you for your support of the Division. We are the best of the best. I look forward to meeting you over the next year.



***District Vice President 3 NW
Chuck Leavitt***

The last few months have been a time of significant changes for my home chapter - the Voices in Harmony - due to the resignation of our iconic director, Dr. Greg Lyne. Interim director Chris Hebert and the music team have done a wonderful job keeping the focus on singing and performing well. At this writing, the chapter is in the final audition phase of an extensive and thoughtful director search. We won't know until mid-February who the new director will be, but it is clear the chorus will stay true to its quest for excellence.

The first NorCal director school in quite a few years was February 9th in Pleasanton with three levels of instruction: 1) The Chorus Director Workshop

Intensive (CDWI) for experienced front line directors - a prerequisite to become a Certified Director; 2) Intermediate Chorus Directing for Assistant Directors or newer Front line directors who want to improve their skills; and 3) Outstanding in Front (OiF) an introductory class to gain an understanding of what it takes to be a leader in front of your chorus. The school was the initial activity of Dr. Greg Lyne who was named the FWD Chorus Director Development Chairman by President Russ Young last fall.

We may have a new NW chapter in the near future. The first meeting of the Livermore Valley group was held on January 27. They believe they have sufficient potential members and have begun the charter process. The director is John Hazen from Voices in Harmony. The group will meet Sundays at 6 PM in the Livermore Chamber of Commerce conference room located at 3575 Pacific Ave next to City Hall. Their primary goal is to have fun, sing well and perform as often as possible. Competition is a secondary goal. Email jkdurden2008@yahoo.com for more info.

I hope to see all of you at the FWD International Prelims and NE/NW Division Contests in Lodi on Mar 21-23. It is hosted by the Voices of California Chorus and will be an outstanding convention. Be sure your chapter is represented at the House of Delegates meeting on Friday, Mar 22 at 1:30 PM.

In our Society's 75th year, do your part to pass our legacy forward. Have fun and support Harmony Foundation.



***District Vice President 4 NE
Richard Lund***

With the advent of year 75 here in the Barbershop Harmony Society, we are in a conundrum of witnessing a resurgence of enthusiasm for barbershop singing in our youngest singers simultaneously with a continuation of membership loss. Not a new thing to talk about, but we may be at that turning “area” of confusion and consolidation (as

folks in the stock market call a slow “turn”). The youth movement has grown into a major part of the demographics of the BHS, and more and more of our effort and resources are being focused on that area. The emphasis on the Youth Chorus Festival at Midwinter has resulted in BHS news reports all but ignoring the Senior Quartet contest results. And How Bout Those “Recruits!!” For those who don’t know what I’m talking about, the top youth chorus is the Recruits from St. Louis; and you really should pull up a UTube video and see / hear them in action. Sure sounds a lot like another youth chorus of just a few years ago. Note that our own Dan Rohovit, from Manteca showed up in the second row along with Eric Dalby, lead of Vocal Spectrum. Dan is going to college in Iowa and is commuting many hours each week to make rehearsals.

Speaking of youth and youth programs, I just spent an incredible evening with one of the leading youth-minded choruses, my old friends, the Placerville Gold Rush Chorus, for their 30th anniversary celebration. What an evening of song, tags and catching up with truly valued old friends who came back to share in this special evening.

I’m undoubtedly going to miss a few, but I feel it important to mention at least a few names of guys who attended: Neal Sisson, Gary Saich, Bob Roberts, Scott Rice, Bill Easley, Robert Lenoil and family, Stanley Price and wife. My sincere apologies for missing anyone. It was So good to see the guys and share some harmony! Thank You, Gold Rush Chorus for a great event.

I also had the privilege of doing a number of installations with various chapters. With the Society celebrating our 75th Anniversary, it was somewhat astonishing to have OC Cash show up, in all his glory, and help out with these installations. My brand new quartet, Sound Decision, even got in on the act with the Nevada-Placer guys. Barbershop evenings are Always the absolute best! Thank you once more, Roger Perkins for such a wonderful script.

It is also heartening that so many newer members are stepping up to be officers. It is truly amazing to see all

these new guys taking on the jobs and really making something happen - Pres Roe Darnell of GVC, Pres Jim Dyer of Placerville, Treas Larry Womac of Sacramento, and Treas Steve Calapp of Davis-Vacaville. Congratulations and Go Get Em, guys!

And a Very Special thanks to the Visalia Chapter for stepping up to chair the District Convention in Bakersfield! What an awesome challenge to take on for a small chorus. However, knowing these guys, there isn't anything they cannot handle. We were So impressed with their hosting of a very successful Youth Festival back in October. I was privileged to be on site and witness a rough group (singing wise) of young men and women morph into an incredible youth chorus performance!



***District Vice President 5 AZ
John Bloomquist***

The ARIZONA DIVISION was again very active since the FWD District Contest in October.

As previously reported, the Division stepped up big for the Harmony Foundation by having over 15 members commit to the Presidents Council and an additional number pledging as Ambassadors of Harmony. Additionally, the Division accepted the responsibility charged by our BOD to our Chapters to participate in the Youth Chorus Festival sponsorship. As a Division, we raised almost \$3500 towards that pledge. It is GREAT to be part of this awesome Division. Thanks to all.

After having to postpone our Leadership Academy scheduled for September, the LA was held on January 26th in Mesa. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Mesa Chapter for stepping up as hosts, and particularly to Bob Shafer for accepting the important role as Registrar. Thanks Bob and Thanks to the Mesa Chapter for hosting this most important event. Gordon Berghold and Lou Benedict brought their expertise and leadership to make this a success. But MOST of all, thanks to those Chapter Leaders for attending.

Springtime means Division conventions and contests, and in the AZ Div that is true again. The Tucson Chapter will be hosting this event in April and it will be held in Phoenix. Thanks to Tucson for lending your expertise once again to what is sure to be a most successful event. Speaking of stepping up, a big thanks to Ted Sayle for accepting the District Events Chair position and also to Randy Bingel for taking on the AZ Division Events Chair as well. What awesome people we are fortunate to be associated with!

As I said before, it is GREAT to be part of this awesome Division!!!

Velvet Frogs Card



CSLT Gordon Berghold

It's been a very busy quarter for the CSLT Chair and I now know why leadership support is so meaningful and important to the society. On November 9th and 10th, 2012, I attended the BHS Leadership Forum in Las Vegas with several other FWD Board members and management team members. There I met with the other CSLT leaders from all over the society and we talked about ways to improve communication and effectiveness for two days. Although I haven't heard from any one of the

CSLT leaders in attendance since, I've implemented some plans and have had some outstanding results.

The following weekend I was a facilitator during the SoCal Leadership Academy and had the opportunity to lead the Marketing and Public Relations session. The men in attendance talked about their experience and contributions to their respective chapters for one full day ending up in a joint meeting with the membership class. I didn't teach anything; but I did get the men communicating like they'd never done before ... at least that's what they said. What was accomplished is that they realized that they had a lot to offer others and that they really hadn't shared their hidden talents with their own chapters in a meaningful manner.

On January 17, 2012, I traveled to Hawaii to do a mini-leadership academy with the Hawaii Chapter. I was invited to install their officers on January 20th, and that I did. But on January 19th twenty-four men showed up for a four-hour meeting that was scheduled as a leadership academy ... however, it turned out to be an opportunity for them to express themselves with topics like "who I am and what do I have to offer the chapter" and "where are we as a chapter/chorus and where do we want to go?" I learned a lot about the chapter members and their resources and left impressed that they want to improve their singing and once again become one of the premier singing groups on the island and in the FWD. The Sounds of Aloha Chorus is entertaining the idea of coming to Bakersfield for the next FWD Convention in October. A few emails of encouragement may help them in their decision.

January 26th was the Mesa, Arizona Leadership Academy and I was the joint facilitator for Membership, Marketing and PR with our FWD Marketing and Public Relations Chair, Jerry McElfresh. That evening was the Phoenix Installation banquet where Mr. McElfresh was named Barbershopper of the Year for the Greater Phoenix Chapter.

On January 31st I installed the new board for the Prescott Chapter. No, I've not had much down time

but the experiences have helped me grow and to understand that we have a great district and so many diversified chapters that continue to entertain in their communities and attract new singers into this wonderful hobby or, as Jim Henry says, time spent in barbershop is a ministry. And to many of us, and to our audiences, it is truly a ministry.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, *"One of the greatest compensations in life is that no person can help another without helping themselves."* How true it is! So, let's Keep the Whole World Singing!

CDD Greg Lyne



The Barbershop Harmony Society has long provided outstanding educational opportunities for its members. I always find that barbershoppers are eager to learn and to develop their skills.

We recently completed a most successful event for our FWD chorus directors. Held in Pleasanton, CA on February 9, the Chorus Directors Workshop featured the following classes:

1. CDWI (Chorus Directors Workshop Intensive) - This class is designed for front line directors. Directors receive philosophical insights about directing and teaching and receive one-on-one coaching on their teaching and conducting skills.
2. Intermediate Chorus Directing - This class is focused on the assistant director and provides rehearsal and conducting techniques.
3. Outstanding in Front (OiF) - This class is geared toward encouraging those who wish to learn about directing and have interest in refining their abilities leading vocal warm-ups, teaching tags, etc. for their respective chapter/chorus.

We had an outstanding faculty teaching and inspiring our students. These faculty members came from both our Far Western District and from outside our

District. These talented instructors were Royce Ferguson, David Leeder, Ron Black, Charles Metzger and Ollie Brillhante (assistant). A special thank you to each of these fine gentlemen. A big thank you also to Mike Cating and the Walnut Creek Chapter for assisting in hosting this event and serving as demonstration chorus for the CDWI class. Finally, a huge thank you to Keith Eckhardt for his incredible efforts in making this all come together!

Next, directors, do put the dates of August 16-18 in your calendars. That will be the date of our Far Western District Harmony College. It will be held in Hayward, CA. I know Nick Papageorge is working diligently to make this event the best ever. It appears that the directing/conducting faculty for that event may well contain four gold medal directors. You won't want to miss this one!

Finally, to all of the directors in FWD, do know your excellent efforts make a huge difference in the lives of your singers. Enjoy, have fun and bring all your enthusiasm and musical efforts to each and every rehearsal!



DRCJ Ron Black

We have 3 conventions this spring:

1 - The International Quartet Preliminaries is combined with the Northeast and Northwest Division contests on March 22-23. The venue for all activities is the Hutchins Street Square Performing Arts Center, 125 S. Hutchins St, Lodi, CA. The hotel is the Holiday Inn Express, 1337 E. Kettleman Lane, Lodi.

2 - The Arizona Division contest is April 20. The contest venue is at Moon Valley High School, 3625 Cactus Rd., Phoenix, AZ. The hotel is the Holiday Inn, 12027 N 28th Dr, Phoenix, AZ.

3 - The Southwest and Southeast Division contests are on May 11. The contest venue is at Colony High School, 3850 E Riverside Dr., Ontario, CA. The

hotel is the Sheraton Ontario Airport Hotel, 429 N. Vineyard Ave., Ontario, CA

Please plan to attend your Division Convention. There are new events and classes being offered. Check out the registration pages elsewhere in this issue. And please note, if you plan to compete, here's the four "must do's":

1. You must be a member of the Society
2. You must be a member of your FWD quartet or chorus
3. Your quartet or chorus must be registered at the ebiz.barbershop.org site to compete*
4. You must register for the convention

And you can go to the FWD Website Conventions page (<http://www.fwdconventions.org/>) to find out everything you need to know.

*The contest entry form (CJ-20) is filled-in by you on the Society website. It is available for you to enter now. Go to here:

<https://ebiz.barbershop.org>

Log in and go to Contest Entry. Compete! DO IT! You won't regret it.



E John Jones

Welcome to 2013!

Our 2013 International Convention returns to Toronto, Canada in July and our 2013 Fall District Convention returns to Bakersfield, CA in Oct. On March 21-24 we congregate in Lodi, CA to determine the District Quartets to represent us in Toronto and the Northeast and Northwest Divisions determine which choruses will be heading to compete in Bakersfield. At the Spring Convention you will have a chance to again dive into the Platoon experience where plans are in place to continue this new quarteting platform. Check the information in this issue of Westunes. The Hutchins Street Square Performing Arts Center provides a beautiful theater with ample additional rooms and spaces throughout the Center. Our

Northeast and Northwest Division choruses will be delighted to find they have had the opportunity to perform at their best before a great audience, followed by a working coaching session provided by some of our best barbershop minds. Look for registration forms and additional information both here in Westunes and on our District website.

We continue the “return to” theme with the dual Southeast and Southwest Division Convention hosted by the Riverside Chapter. The Colony High School Performing Arts Theater, which we enjoyed last spring, will again be our venue on May 11, 2013. Not to be left out, AZ under the guidance of the Tucson Chapter, has arranged for our return to the Moon Valley High School Theater in Phoenix on April 20, 2013. Look for Platoon activities at all these conventions.

2013 does bring change also. Ted Sayle of Phoenix, AZ has accepted, at the invitation of President Russ Young and the Board, the role of District Event Chairman. Ted brings many years of experience at all levels of the barbershop experience to serve the district.

I have enjoyed my time of working with many enthusiastic barbershoppers, all dedicated to providing a contest environment that permits contestants to perform at their best and to receive the quality review to develop their skills, and dedicated to providing a convention environment that encourages singing and develops friendships.

March 21/24, 2013 – Prelims, Northeast/Northwest Divisions, Lodi, CA, California Delta Chapter
April 20, 2013 – Arizona Division, Phoenix, AZ, Tucson Chapter
May 11, 2013 – Southeast/Southwest Divisions, Ontario, CA, Riverside Chapter
Oct 10/13, 2013 – FWD Fall Convention, Bakersfield, CA, Visalia Chapter

Here are your Division Event Planners.

Northeast – Sam Barger nevadasam1@sbcglobal.net
Northwest – Larry Wiess ltweiss@comcast.net

Southeast – Paul Sandorf patosand@yahoo.com

Southwest – Jim Serdahely sirdaly@aol.com

Arizona – Ivan Jensen ivanbbs@thejensens.com



M&PR Jerry McElfresh

**BHS 75th anniversary is
an opportunity to let
our communities know
who we are.**

The Barbershop Harmony Society's 75th Anniversary celebration can be a marketing and public relations bonanza for all of us. It falls on April 11 and doing something special to recognize it during the week of April 7-13 would be a great way to let the public know more about our chapters, choruses, quartets, District and the Society. A guest night stressing our history, a performance, a party or other public program (how about a singing flash mob?), can serve to get the word out about who we are and what we do.

When founders O.C. Cash and Rupert Hall invited men to their first Barbershop meeting in 1938 they probably had more takers than they expected and the singing at their rooftop party stopped traffic in downtown Tulsa (maybe the first recorded flash mob?) Let's all “stop traffic” with our music and let the world know who we are and what we do.

A highlight of the anniversary celebration will be publication of a special edition of *The Harmonizer*. It will be a thick, high-gloss edition with lots of color and lots of information about BHS and its history, and should be a keeper.

Look for the Far Western District full-page ad in the special edition. It congratulates the Society on its 75th anniversary and expresses our pride in being part of the great singing organization. The ad also displays FWD pride in being the home of choruses and quartets that have won 26 International Gold Medals over the years and notes that we will be the host district for the 2014 International Convention and Contest.

Another big event this spring will be the combined Northeast, Northwest Divisional and International Quartet Prelims Competition / Convention in Lodi on March 21-23. See the FWD Website for details or click on the “Notices” tab on the Westunes home page for the convention registration form and information on hotel reservations.

Other major events to put on your calendar are the Arizona Division Convention, March 18-20 in Phoenix; Southwest/Southeast Division Convention, May 11, Riverside; International Convention, June 30-July 7, Toronto, Ontario; Harmony College West, Aug. 16-18, Cal State Hayward; and the FWD Fall Convention, Oct. 10-13, Bakersfield.

One final thought on marketing and public relations in the District: We all have similar goals and similar problems, so let’s help each other. If you have a marketing or public relations idea that has boosted your chapter, send it to me at marketing@spebsqsafwd.org and I’ll share it for the benefit of all of our chapters.



Mem Serv Jack Peters

Seventy-five years ago our Society founders looked back to the time when men gathered at the local barbershop “to hang out” and harmonize for entertainment. This would have been the era prior to radios that began doing the entertaining for everyone around the 1920s and the precursor to our TVs, tablets and smart phones. I think the human race may now soon evolve with our heads hung downward and not able to look up or even speak to others. We’ll just text what we want to say.

What we still do however is, “Bring Back Those Good Old Days”, like the song my chorus sings, and we do it the old fashioned way, with men creating live music by harmonizing 4-part a cappella chords together.

What does this have to do with membership, you ask? Just about everything, I say!

With Valentine gigs just behind us, some of you made a lot of new friends and contacts over that week. I will go out on a limb and say, you all had a great time harmonizing and entertaining, and the people you sang to had a great time too. Now it’s time to get back with them and invite them to come *harmonize* with you. The time is right because you’ll soon be putting on a spring show. Invite them to learn a couple of songs to do on stage with your chorus. They don’t even need to be a member to participate (unless your particular chorus has other rules). The newbies get their feet wet and it really “sets the hook” if it hasn’t already been set.

To participate on a *contest* stage, they would need to be a member, of course. Speaking of contests, Divisions are coming up, and *more* performers on stage make it much easier on all in the chorus. More voices usually also produce a fuller sound that is more pleasing, *especially for the judges*. So, with more members, we will all sing better now, but it could also save the world of impending neck issues!

Below are a few ideas to help your chorus succeed, if you’re not already doing them.

I recently heard from **Shelly Albaum**, info@redwoodchordsmen.org, with the **Redwood Chordsmen in Santa Rosa**, regarding what they’re doing to keep their mojo cookin’ as our great district’s third highest % producer of new members for 2012, chapter.

- Just after their weekly meeting they publish the Program for the following week so the members know which songs to work on. This program also has the evenings’ minute by minute schedule, which keeps everyone accountable for their precious time together. (As Program VP for my chorus, I produce and send out a weekly *recap* of our meeting. This helps those who couldn’t be there to keep up, get in step for the next week and also refreshes those who

were there. Now, I've also added a schedule for the following week's meeting.)

- The Chordsmen have instituted an online poll for the members to post what they like or where improvements could be made. They use www.aytm.com for this service.
- They've upgraded all their learning tracks to Tim Tracks. They have found that the high quality tracks are much more fun to sing along with. The singers are more energized and eager to listen to the tracks over and over again, subconsciously learning the song quicker and better.
- At their planned guest night for April 3rd, every member has to bring a guest, even if it's "only their mom", they say. (For my money I'd say, to better serve the concept of a guest night, bring mom any other meeting night. I'm sure she'll be given more personal attention then and free up the member to entertain a potential chorus singer.)

E. Bond Francisco of the Marin Golden Gate BBS Chorus tells us they welcomed seven new members last year, which is the second highest percentage of new dudes in the NW Division. Reach him at: ebondfrancisco@gmail.com if you want to know more about what they're doing.

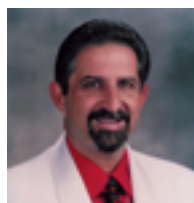
Tucson is talking about doing a Flash Mob at their local mall. **Tony Spar, Membership VP**, musicmantonyspar@gmail.com intends to produce the first barbershop flash mob on YouTube so ya better get a move-on Tony, I just let the cat out o' the bag.

- **Our FWD chapters with the highest % of new members in 2012.**
#1 is the **Brea Chapter** with a whopping **41%**. #2 was **San Francisco (D-024)** with **36%**; #3 was **Santa Rosa** with **34%**, 4th goes to **Conejo Valley** at **26%** and 5th place, **Marin** with a very nice **24%**. The world will be a better place because of these outstanding efforts and results.

- **Summer is coming** and plans are being formulated right now, for outdoor activities by cities, counties, organizations, etc. If you would like to participate in your local area activities, even if it's to sing one song, our National Anthem, get involved. Make a difference, make some phone calls and see what you can drum up. That will help keep 4-part a cappella harmonizing alive, well exposed, and open to newcomers and you'll have a good time singing out with your brothers in harmony. Presidents' Day, Flag Day, Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, July 4th (If you're not at International), and Veterans Day are all patriotic opportunities.

- Ask your chapter Secretary about **E-Z dues** for automatic monthly debits that make paying your dues as easy as ---- well, Staples has it right. This eliminates a big annual payment each year and all of a sudden, you're automatically renewed. No bill, no forgetting to mail it in, no fuss, no muss, Gus!

- We *all* signed on to be **ambassadors of song**, so let's *all* bring just one new fellow into the fold this quarter. It just means letting people know you'd rather harmonize than bury your head in your smart phone, and maybe they would too. Although, the smart phone *will* sound a pitch for you and give you directions to your next gig, so all isn't lost if you have one, just be careful of your neck!



Mu&P Nick Papageorge

**FWD (CHAPTER) HARMONY
COLLEGE WEST
AUGUST 16 – 18, 2013
Hayward, CA**

You may be wondering why I have renamed Harmony College West. Well wonder no more!

Dr. Greg Lyne and I have collaborated on a new vision for Harmony College West. For those of you who don't yet know, Greg has been named Far

Western District's Chairman of Chorus Director Development. (Greg has already produced a very successful Chorus Director's one-day seminar in Northern California just this past February.)

Greg and I are very proud to announce that this year's Harmony College West will feature all four of our own Far Western District Gold Medalist Chorus Directors teaching Seminars for our FWD Chorus Directors!!!

This year's Harmony College West will feature:
ROYCE FERGUSON, MARK HALE, JUSTIN MILLER
and, oh yes,
DR. GREG LYNE

Where else will you find four Gold Medal Chorus Directors in one place, teaching our chorus directors all of their secrets? We will also offer our usual HCWest classes (as well as any other class that you may want offered – just ask me!) and Quartet Coaching. All of this at one college!

BIG NEWS: Remember that our Chorus Directors are nothing if they don't have well educated chorus members; so when a Chorus Director from any chorus in our district brings *four* other of his chapter members with them to The University of California, East Bay for Harmony College West, *the tuition for all 5 members of the chorus will only be \$750.* That's a \$125 discount for the 5 of you!

PLAN NOW to

ATTEND HARMONY COLLEGE WEST

Remember that there will still be eight hours of quartet coaching in the usual pod coaching arrangement. And there will be classes in vocal production, arranging, beginning directing, theory, coaching, and chapter leadership. Plus, lots and lots of singing! (If you don't find what you like, let me know and we'll see if we can find five other students who also want to take a class with you.)

Even if you can't attend with your chorus director, you don't want to miss the excitement and learning that happens every year at Harmony College West. You and your Chorus will only thrive by your attendance!

Look for the registration forms in the next Westunes, and/or at any of the Spring Divisional Contests.

We will also be continuing our "Small Chorus Coaching." This is a "class" that has a small chorus being coached for four hours, and then its members take classes for the remaining four hours.

ATTEND HARMONY COLLEGE WEST!

Keep Singing,



QA Bill Kane

Harmony Platoon Impacts FWD Quartet Activity

By the end of the spring conventions in FWD this year, nearly 200 men will have participated in at least one

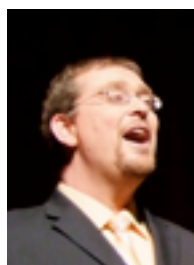
Harmony Platoon. Many have been at more than one, and a few have gone to nearly every one of the six that have been held, starting in spring of 2012.

This means that these guys have enjoyed hours and hours of quartet singing. It means they have learned up to 20 new songs they can sing besides Polecats with fellows from other chapters throughout the District. There are only a handful of chapters who haven't had someone at Platoon, and it is just a bit far to travel from the Aloha Chapter, so we understand. A number of guys have also formed quartets with contacts made at Platoon, and/or entered Novice and Division contests with newly-learned Platoon songs.

Have you missed out on all that fun ... so far?

It may not be too late. Watch for announcement of Platoon activity at the fall FWD convention in Bakersfield.

Drop me an email with any questions you may have about Harmony Platoon.



YIH Jim Halvorson

Hey there mighty FWD members.

Winter is almost over and spring is in the air! In the barbershop world, that

means spring convention time. If you have a local high school that has a quartet, you should do whatever you can to help get them to the FWD HS quartet contest this March in Lodi, CA. The contest is held the same weekend as prelims, so quartets will get a great weekend of exposure and participation in the barbershop style. There is no cost to the quartet, but they are responsible for food, lodging and travel. I can't think of a better way to give back to our future than to sponsor a group, get them a room and help get them to an event they will remember for years. Heck, they may even win a few bucks for their school music program.

The contest will run the Saturday of prelims. Quartets are to sing two barbershop style songs in good taste. They will get judged and receive an evaluation from the judges: Artistic License (2011 FWD quartet champs) and 95 North (2012 FWD quartet champs). In addition, the groups will have a special hospitality room and party that caters to their new found addiction, BARBERSHOP HARMONY!

If you are interested, please follow this link <http://www.bhsfwd.org/ymih/hsqc.html> to get all the info and register your group online today. I can think of no greater pride than being able to host our future on a great weekend of harmony and brotherhood.

With springtime coming around, another thing to think about at your local schools is district and state music festivals. Teachers are working feverishly with their groups to prepare them for festival and this could be a great time to start interaction with them. They may be busy, so a helping hand may be just what is needed right now. Maybe help with setting up a fundraiser or performance. Now might also be a good time to invite the local choir to try out their festival pieces on a ready and willing audience. Can't think of a more enthusiastic group of fans than barbershoppers. Once those kids feel the warmth and appreciation you have for good vocal music, you will have just opened the door to a wealth of future opportunities.

You should also start thinking about a summer music program in your chapter to capitalize on these students with great voices and nowhere to use them

over the summer. Set up a sing for the summer program and get these guys interested in a short commitment. I think any teacher would love to know that their young men were going to be singing and IMPROVING all summer long.

Get out there guys! The boys are waiting for something to do. Your chorus could be the perfect way to enjoy the summer in harmony.

95 North Card



Tune Struck Card





Division 1 SW Chapters Ken Day, Editor

Aloha Chapter By Jack Hashimoto

The Aloha Chapter used most of the last quarter of the year preparing for our annual Christmas Shows, held this year on December 9 at the Paliku Theatre in Kaneohe and on December 15 at the new Kroc Center in Kapolei. We geared this year's shows especially for the children, and priced it favorably for the children. The show, themed "Believe in Santa" is the story about a boy who was getting to the point where he was beginning to doubt that Santa really existed; and how he was brought back to face the facts that Santa really does exist. The cast featured new member **Ian deClive-Lowe** and his sons **Liam** and **Oliver**, playing the lead parts. Also featured were the talents of **Kim Mantler** and **Charles Blumer**, our own Funny Bones and Resonance quartets, the 8zero8 (YMIH) chorus, and Aloha Spirit, the talented SAI quartet. Many thanks to Show Chair **Bill Joor**, Show Director **Theresa "Res" Martin**, Music Director **Rob Hartley** and the men of the Sounds of Aloha Chorus.

We just installed our 2013 officers at our annual installation banquet at Tree Tops Restaurant in beautiful Manoa on January 20th. **Gordon "Mongo" Bergthold** the Chapter Support and Leadership Chair for FWD did the honors, installing our new officers. He also sang with us at a Hawaii basketball game and conducted a mini Leadership Academy conference for the chapter leadership corps and all interested members. Thanks go to **Bill** and **Sandy Joor** for hosting him at their home. Mongo installed the following 2013 officers and directors: President - **Rick Klemm**, IPP - **Jack Hashimoto**, M&P VP - **Mike Darcey**, Program VP - **Ed Reid**, Membership VP - **Larry Paterson**, Marketing & PR VP - **Hank Drayton**, Secretary - **Dan Tom**, Treasurer - **Glenn Crowder**, Directors at Large - **Tom Hutton**, **Bill Joor**, **Kawika Mitchell** and **Ken Nelson**. Honors went to the following: BOTY **Ken Foreman**, President's Award **Lars Isaacson** and **Mark Conching**, Work Horse of the Year **Dan Tom**, Curmudgeon of the Year (one who grumbles and fusses a lot but does more than his share of the work) **Bill Joor**. Thanks to **Dan Tom** for chairing the banquet. Others involved included: **Ed Reid** (program), **DeeDee Joor** (games), **Mike Johnson** (chapter history pictorial display), **Glenn Crowder** (MC), **Pauline** and **Kawika Mitchell** (greeting table), **Hank Drayton** (invocation) and **Larry Paterson** (decorations). Special guest was **Res Martin**, who directed the Spring Show and Christmas Shows for us in 2012, and will be leaving Hawaii for Carson City, Nevada.

Other activities during the quarter included our annual gig at Kahala Nui, the retirement center; singing at the University of Hawaii Wahine (women's) Volleyball game; the Aloha Unity Church Christmas show; and the Hawaii Senior Life Enrichment Association's Christmas dinner at the Hale Koa Hotel.

Our BOTM honorees for the quarter are: **Tim Hopkins** - October, **Ken Foreman** - November.

Long Beach By Joe Nagle

It is with a heavy heart that we report the passing of 36-year member, **Paul Ivanick**. In addition to being the regular reporter for the Long Beach chapter in this publication, PFI (as he often called himself) was our Chapter President, and his lovely wife **Juanita** created our uniform vests by hand. The Great Heavenly Chorus has just gained a dandy member, but his animated character will surely be missed from our risers.

Officers elected for 2013 include: **Paul Sandorff**, Secretary; **Ken Kline**, Vice President; **Phil Roth**, Treasurer; and **Joe Nagle**, Member at Large. (There will be a special election to fill the vacant office of Chapter President, created by the untimely passing of **Paul Ivanick**).

On a lighter note, under the direction of **Marty Fuchs**, our sponsorship of the Barbershop Singing Club at the Leisure World facility in Seal Beach continues successfully, and we are pleased to welcome former member **Sid Nicoll** back into our fold. Sid will be a terrific asset to our Lead section.

Pasadena by Bill Cauley

2013 Chapter Officers: **Dan Madsen**, President; **José Ochoa**, Secretary; **Leonard Jensen**, Treasurer & V.P. Operations; **Steve Swinney**, V.P. Marketing & Public Relations; **Jonathan Hinckley**, V.P. Music & Performance; **Larry Oberlander**, V.P. Membership; **Michael Alexander**, Show Chairman; and Board Members At Large, **Steve Peacock** and **Michael Alexander**.

Our annual installation dinner was a tremendous success, thanks to the work provided by the team of **Steve Peacock**, **Bill Cauley**, and **José Ochoa**. The food prepared by the Monrovia Restaurant was plentiful, varied, and delicious. Entertainment was provided by JOLT (**Leonard Jensen**, **Steve Peacock**, **Phil Stray**, and **Bill Niemand**). Chapter Officers for 2013 were installed by **Ron Andreas**, President of the Santa Fe Springs Chapter (Masters of Harmony). His inspiring words charged the chapter to continually seek new members, and to have an actual plan for the future.

Our Barbershopper of the Year is **Jonathan Hinckley**, whose dynamism is making the chapter's music more energetic and technically proficient. Thank you Jonathan, and congratulations. **Steve Peacock** received the Director's Award for his contributions to the chapter and support of the music director. The Alice Blue Gown award was presented to **Jeanette Chasworth**, and **Roxanne Wilson**. **Sue Peacock** received the Sweetheart's Award for chapter support, helping to produce the year's excellent shows, and to express condolences to the family of **John H. Lyons**, a long time chapter member and officer who passed in May of last year.

Rincon Beach Chapter By Ken Day

The Rincon Chapter has been pretty busy during the holidays. On November 24th the chorus sang at the prestigious Santa Barbara Club as a kickoff for their members' holidays.

On December 10th the chorus sang up and down State Street in Santa Barbara “with” a friend of one of our members, **Brent Anderson**. The gentleman is suffering from advanced stage melanoma and Brent asked him what he could do for him. The man said that he wanted to sing Christmas Carols so an event was off and running. We sang inside three restaurants and on the sidewalk in front of many others. Afterwards, our new friend treated everyone to snacks and drinks at a local Irish pub.

On December 13th, a quartet made up of **Lu Hintz** (T), **Monty Clark** (L), **Mike Murphy** (B), and **Jim Serdahely** (Bs), sang at the Saticoy Country Club for the Oxnard Women’s Club.

The next day, on December 14th, a quartet made up of **Jay Pryor** (T), **Monty Clark** (L), **Doug Van Bogelen** (B), and **Jim Serdahely** (Bs), sang again at the Saticoy Country Club but this time for the Saticoy Country Club’s Women’s League.

On December 17th, the chorus sang at Samarkand, an upscale retirement village in Santa Barbara and went to Harry’s Bar and Grill for a fun afterglow.

On December 20th, a VLQ made up of **Lu Hintz** and **Walt Rugh** (T), **Monty Clark** and **Bernie Sentianin** (L), **Mike Murphy** (B), and **Jim Serdahely** and **Ken Day** (Bs) sang at the Westminster Presbyterian Church for a “Prime Timers” luncheon.

On December 29th, a VLQ made up of **Jay Pryor** and **Walt Rugh** (T), **Bernie Sentianin**, **Bob Schilken** and **Garth Ratliff** (L), **Mike Murphy** and **Doug Van Bogelen** (B), and **Jim Serdahely** and **Ken Day** (Bs) sang at the California Veteran’s Home in Saticoy.

San Fernando Valley Chapter By Bruce Poehlman

The Valleyaires are heading in a new direction with a new name of the **Valley Harmony Singers**. After nearly four decades of rehearsing in Van Nuys, the new Valley Harmony Singers are moving to Encino, CA, where their new home will be the First Presbyterian Church of Encino. In a study performed after the FWD Fall Convention, the Board determined that changes to radically transform the chorus were needed. Nothing was left on the table in deciding what to do. The move brings the chapter closer to the community as they create outreach programs and develop new relationships. We look forward to a prosperous future as the Valley Harmony Singers.

Congratulations to **Bill Horst**, who won the Barbershopper of the Year award for 2012! Also recognized in our annual awards and installation banquet were **Ed Schackman** who won the Rang Hansen Award; **David Livingston** who won the Owen Edwards Award; **Tim Salaver** who won the Roger Dixon Award; and **Debbie Wolf** who won the Lady of the Valleyaires award!

San Luis Obispo Chapter by Pete Bennett

On December 2nd the **Gold Coast Chorus** performed our first joint Christmas concert with our sisters in harmony, the **Central Coast Celebration Chorus**. The show featured our Chorus members as wise men, shepherds, elves and, of course, Santa. Quartets from both choruses sang, including our ever-popular **Outta Bounds**.

On a more somber note, the SLO Chapter recently lost two well-known members:

John Staley, who in the ‘70s & ‘80s was a prominent member of the San Jose Chapter (and maintained dual membership, medaling with VIH in 2008) before retiring to Arroyo Grande, was currently serving as our chapter president. “Big John”, who served on submarines in the Navy and worked afterward in the nuclear power industry, was a talented musician and a dedicated quartet man. He was long-time bass section leader, 2002 BOTY, and was bass of the 2005 Super Senior Quartet Champs **Still Kids At Heart**.

Ken Taylor was familiar to many as SPEBSQSA Contest Administrator for years. He was tenor of countless chapter quartets, and was a SLO native whose time in college (Cal Poly) and career (Cal Trans engineer) was all spent here. The only significant interruption of his time in San Luis was when he was in the Air Corps during WWII. Although not a charter member of the chapter, he had been a member longer than most of us, and was BOTY in 1975.

John and Ken - and their numerous contributions to the SLO Chapter - are sorely missed.

At our January installation dinner we welcomed new president **Ray Johnson** and his board of directors. SW DVP and longtime friend of the chapter **Bill Rosica** did the honors, installing the new board with flair and humor. New to the board this year are M&PVP **Don Poole**, Chapter Development VP **Tom Zirk**, Secretary **Arnie Ruiz**, and MATL **Dane Howalt**. IPP **Jeffrey Guss** stepped into the void left by the passing of President John Staley, and served as both MC and awards presenter. Inducted into the Don Miernicki Hall of Fame was our able chorus manager, **Bill Helfrich**. And the ever-energetic **Chuck Mills** was honored as this year’s BOTY.

Santa Barbara By Eric Fenrich

On January 26, the Channel City Chorus held its annual Awards Banquet. **John Andrews** received the President's Award for his assistance in organizing our music files. **Patrick Echemann** was recognized as our Rookie of the Year. From the moment he joined our chorus, he has been an active participant, not just in singing, but also in volunteering his time to help the chorus with its non-musical needs, including the laying of floor tile.

We have named **Philip Cook**, who recently stepped down from the director's podium and back into the baritone section, our Barbershopper of the Year for his dedication to the chorus. He is the recipient of the **Ed Morin** Barbershopper of the Year Trophy, named in memory of a long-time member and multiple BOTY award winner.

We are gearing up for this year's Singing Valentines and a return to chorus competitions, beginning with the Southwest Division contest in May. It has been many years since we stood on the competitive stage and we are looking forward to this challenge.

Santa Fe Springs Chapter

by Ron Larson

The 2012 holiday season marked **Justin Miller's** debut as director of the **Masters of Harmony**. It quickly became apparent that the baton had been passed to someone of uncommon musical leadership qualities. When the curtain opened at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center in Long Beach for a show titled "The Most Wonderful Time of the Year," it was as if Justin had been out front for years! Show Producer **Gary Stone** and his team created nonstop, high-energy entertainment that kept afternoon and evening audiences enthralled from start to finish. Featured guest soloist **Megan Lyne** sang a beautiful rendition of "Merry Christmas, Darling." She also sang "Santa Baby" so flirtingly to Santa, played by **Les Weiser**, that he told the audience "I hope Mrs. Claus isn't watching!" One week later, the Masters took this performance package to the Fox Theater in Riverside for their third annual holiday performance at the Fox. The guest performers included a mixed quartet named **Ready, Willing & Mabel** and, once again, soloist Megan Lyne. Some of the biggest rounds of applause came for songs performed by Les Weiser and his band. Approximately 200 members of the packed house were first-timers to a Masters of Harmony performance.

In early December, the chorus gave something back to the City of Santa Fe Springs for its generosity in making its Town Center Hall available for weekly rehearsals. The Masters sang holiday repertoire at the annual Christmas Tree Lighting, an event that also features local musical talent. Then, over the next two weeks, Masters quartets took part in Santa Fe Springs Christmas Float program, a unique activity that brings Christmas cheer to adults and children throughout the city. Each night's quartet sang well-known holiday season songs on a float that precedes the Santa Claus float. At one point, children from the audience come up on the float stage and sang with the quartet while doting parents snapped pictures of, who knows, possible future talent show participants! Over the nine nights of the Float program, 30 different singers took part, some on multiple nights, and some on multiple parts. Chapter quartet **Songworks (Kirt Thiesmeyer, Les Weiser, Dan Barling, Cory Brendel)** spent an evening entertaining the Santa Fe Springs City Council with Christmas classics.

In January, the Masters family assembled at Khoury's Restaurant in Long Beach for the annual Awards Banquet and Installation of Officers. **Les Weiser** served as Master of Ceremonies and his quartet, **Songworks**, provided entertainment. Outgoing President **Bill Rosica** handed the gavel of chapter leadership to **Ron Andreas**, who reminded attendees that our purpose as a musical organization is to change people's lives through our musical excellence. **Joe D'Amore** was named Barbershopper of the Year and **Masterpiece** received the chapter's Quartet of the Year award. Featured speaker **Sharon Miller**, Justin's mom and board member of Harmony Foundation International, spoke about the great work this organization is doing to raise the funds that help support music

education and the growing number of youth choruses and quartets being developed around the country. Sharon does more than just talk about the need to raise funds to take our beloved but aging hobby to the youth of America. At the Portland International Convention last summer, Sharon, along with her husband **John Miller** (Justin's dad), helped raise over \$200,000 for Harmony Foundation supporting activities. Thank you for your great work, Sharon and John!

After her inspirational call to action on behalf of our art form, Sharon proceeded to install the officers who will lead the Masters of Harmony for the next year. They are as follows: President - **Ron Andreas**; Secretary - **Maurice Freleaux**; Treasurer - **Jussi Ratsula**; VP Chapter Development - **Ray Johnson**; VP Marketing - **Bill Power**; VP Music & Performance - **Joe D'Amore**; VP Operations - **Tom Christman**; VP Public Relations - **Gary Stone**; and Board Members-at-Large **Amnon Avidor, Jim Ernsberger, Rich Owen, and Phil Wolf**.

Since the last edition of Westunes, **Brent Schultz** (bass) and **Ryan Wisniewski** (bari) were welcomed into membership.

SANTA MONICA

by MARTY MITNICK

Spreading holiday cheer got off to an early start this year. The chorus was again invited to perform at the West Los Angeles Veterans Residential Campus. A program was presented to the residents of the Silvercrest Community, which is a senior citizen living facility sponsored by the Salvation Army. Other entertainment sites were the Venice Japanese Community Center; the Pacific Palisades Fest sponsored by the local Chamber of Commerce; our annual performance at Santa Monica Place where the busy shoppers all stopped to be entertained in front of Santa's house; and the annual Lighting of the Christmas Lights in Altadena.

With our very own extremely talented, energetic, funny prestidigitator **Bruce Schroffel** as Master of Ceremonies, our annual installation of officers was held at the Sheraton Four Points Hotel in Culver City. The officers were installed by FWD IPP **Bernard Priceman**. The officers are: President, **Wally Mees**; Secretary, **Amnon Avidor**; Treasurer, **John White**; Immediate Past President, **Jerry Walker**; V/P Chapter Development, **Bob Curran**; V/P Music & Performance, **Jim Leedom**; V/P Public Relations, **Amnon Avidor** and **Marty Mitnick**; Chorus Manager, **Ken Scholtz**; Chorus Assistant, **Jack Fry**; V/P Programming, **Aaron Mood**. Our named Members-At-Large are: **Bill Boeck, Frank DeVanzo, David Erickson, Mathias Narducci, Greg Christofaro**; Costumer, **Alan Hanson**; Librarian, **Adam Marangakis**; Singing Valentines Chairman, **Bob Wilson**; Spring Show Chairmen, **Vance Heron** and **Jack Walton**; Stage Crew, **Jeff Leahy, Greg Christofaro** and **Terry O'Shaughnessy**.

Continuing the tradition, director **Ben Lowe** made his "Director's Awards" to two rookies of the year just past: **Greg Christofaro** and **Adam Marangakis**. The President's Awards this year were made to two Oceanaires who had given many hours of their time and energy for the benefit of the chorus: **Alan Hanson**, who has provided the talented eye and knowhow of a costumer in making the Oceanaires look really smashing;

and **Sammy Lei**, our outgoing treasurer, for his never-ending diligence in getting the work done even when he could not participate in the singing.

Our esteemed director, **Todd Kolberg**, was recognized for his outstanding teaching and directing techniques that have brought the Oceanaires to its current highest level of performance ever reached. Thank you Todd.

We were especially happy to see a number of previously active members joining in the festivities:

Dan Barling, Dick Pruden, Carl Rodgers, Dick Scudder and Harry Stasney.

SOUTH BAY CHAPTER

by Joe Nagle

The Coastliners performed at several events over the holidays, including return engagements at the Peninsula Center Santa's Arrival on December 1, the El Segundo Christmas Parade on December 9, and the ever-popular Caroling at Del Amo Mall & Pizza Extravaganza on December 19th. Notably missing from our ranks were longtime members **Chuck Crawford** (lead), **O.J. Rand** (bass), and **Paul Ivanick** (tenor), who have all joined that ever-growing Heavenly Chorus. Joining their audience is **Ada McCabe**, wife of **John McCabe**, and **Sally Briner**, wife of Coastliner **Dave Briner**. Sally is probably on the risers singing with the chorus, and Ada is serving up some heavenly cookies.

We welcome the addition of our newest brothers in harmony: **Nick Nichols** (bass); **Frank Olivadoti** (bass); **Barry "the bari" Waite**; **Tim Bixler** (bari); and **Sid Nicoll** (lead). Sid is now a dual member with the South Bay and Long Beach chapters.

Officers elected for this year were: **Steve Bunker**, President; **Michael Borrett**, Secretary; **Michael Levi**, Treasurer; **John Saffery**, Program V.P.; **Don Duperon**, V.P. Chapter Development; **Barden Smith**, Music V.P.; **Jack Newman**, PR V.P.; **Joe Nagle**, Immediate Past President; **Denny Lawrence**, Show Chairman; and **Joe Corter**, Chorus Manager.

VENTURA CHAPTER

By Jan Tavares

The following Chapter Board Members were elected by unanimous vocal affirmation:

Larry Deering – at-large Board Member (Singing Vals. Coordinator)

Ron Lindsay – at-large Board Member (Librarian)

Verne Arnold - V.P. of Publicity and Marketing

Bill Winfield - V.P. of Chapter Development

Jay Shapiro - Treasurer

Fred Engle - Secretary

Jim Sumstine - Chapter V.P. and V.P. of Music Production (also Assist. Director)

Jan Tavares - President (Young Men In Harmony Chair)

We welcomed new member applicant Bass **David Palmer** who we were able to recruit at the Ventura Street Fair on the 4th of July.

At the end of October we sang for Ventura's Bonaventure Senior Home. Including our patriotic songs, we noticed a lot of ladies with tears in their eyes and many of the folks were singing along with us.

We did several Christmas gigs at the end of November and the first 2 weeks in December. Thursday, was the first of two at the Camarillo's heritage Adolfo Camarillo Mansion. Sporting our new, burgundy long sleeve Chapter shirts, C.I.C. sang Christmas Carols Barbershop style to a very appreciative audience. The Riptides Quartet of lead **Ron Lindsay**, bass **Bill Winfield**, bari **Fred Engle**, and tenor **Lu Hintz** sang a nice rendition of the classic "Lo, A Rose Er Blooming". Then on to the Olivas Adobe Open House the following Sunday night, again in our new long sleeve Burgundy chapter shirts, to a most enthusiastic and appreciative crowd. We serenaded them in the tour waiting room and many came back after the tour to hear us again. Special thanks to Conejo Oaks Chapter Bass **Nick Larsen** who is the bass in the new quartet: "The Sound 4 Mation" who helped us out in the Channel Island bass section along with singing with that new quartet: **Verne Arnold** – Lead, **Nick Larsen** – bass, **Jay Shapiro** at bari and tenor **Jan Tavares**. The Channel Island Clippers returned last on the 16th to the Adolfo Camarillo Open House with Santa to joyfully celebrate the Christmas season again with Caroling Barbershop style to all the visitors and people who came to see Santa! We had the cutest little guy in one of our audiences who was a tiny two or three year old who moved, danced, jumped and rocked IN PERFECT TIME to all our happy songs like "Jingle Bells", or "Rudolph The Red Nosed Reindeer", or "Jingle Bell Rock". No doubt we witnessed the public debut of a future great musician, singer, dancer, or better yet ... BARBERSHOPPER! Santa then came to thank us at the end saying how much we had enhanced the two evenings. Our hosts, the docents, were most appreciative with special cookies made just for us, and our audiences were most appreciative. Our Final Christmas Event was at Oxnard's Heritage Homes Christmas Tree Lane. Once there, we strolled and sang Christmas Carols to large and small gatherings -- in the chill of the night -- as it went down to 39 degrees that night. Special thanks go to our great Director **Jim Browne** for another wonderful Christmas season.

Whittier Chapter

By Paul Feinzimer

Our elections for 2013 officers/Board members were held on October 9, 2012. Here are the results:

President--**Paul Feinzimer**, Secretary--**Bill Nassen**, Treasurer--**John LeFever**, Vice President of Membership--**Ron Leutbecher**, Vice President of Music--**Bill Thompson**, Vice President of Operations--**Henry Nassen**, Vice President of Programs--**Paul Feinzimer**, Board Member-At-Large--**Ed Schoemann**, and Delegate to the Far Western District House of Delegates--**Paul Feinzimer**. **Dick Manis** was also elected as Board Member-at-Large, but unfortunately he felt that he had to decline the position due to health problems.

Our chapter was without a professional Music Director for the entire year of 2012. **Steve Peacock**, our good and faithful friend from the Pasadena and Santa Fe Springs Chapters, graciously acted as our knowledgeable and skillful volunteer Music Director for 2012. In early November, our attention was drawn to **Judy Kertes**, currently the Music Director of the New Century Singers women's chorus of Whittier, CA. We approached her about the position and she was interested. We felt that Mrs. Kertes was a good match for our chorus and she felt that we offered the right opportunity for her to help us improve our skills and to provide us with the needed musical direction. At the beginning of this year, we contracted with Mrs. Kertes to be our new Music Director for 2013. After just three weeks, we are impressed by Mrs. Kertes' skills and talents and we are progressing musically under her directorship.

Judy Kertes is highly qualified for her new position with our chorus. Judy has had voice and acting training at the Patricia Coleman Studios, San Pedro, and voice training at Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, Illinois, and California State University, Long Beach. She has been the Music Director of the New Century Singers Whittier since 2002. She was the Music and Choir Director at the East Whittier United Methodist Church for five years, beginning in 2003. Judy has been a Soloist for Rose Hills Memorial Park since 1990 and was the Soloist and Interim Choir Director for the Florence Avenue Foursquare Church in Santa Fe Springs. She was a Junior High School music teacher and piano/vocal teacher at Santa Fe Springs Christian School. In addition, Judy was the soloist at the Downey Mayor's Prayer Breakfast for several years, and was in the cast of 'Happy Holidays' and 'The King and I.' And last, but not least, Judy does private teaching of voice and piano for both children and adults.

The Installation of 2013 officers/Board members and giving of awards for 2012 were held Saturday, January 26, 2013. Every Whittier Chorallaires member and past members, their families, and friends were invited to attend this dinner; installation; awarding of trophies and plaques; singing by the Whittier Chorallaires; the introduction of special guests and Judy Kertes, our new Music Director; and Silent and White Elephant Auctions.



Division 2 SE Chapters
Dale Vaughn, Editor

Apple Valley Chapter
By Alan Morier

Our members donned the red hat with the snowball several times this past Christmas season, as we brought lots of singing fun to local convalescent homes and shut-ins. The

Harmonaires' efforts to sing out to even the smallest groups of people gave wonderful Christmas cheer to so many highlighted by our presentation to the Victorville United Methodist Church whose many children joined us in a special Christmas concert. Members **Dave Genung** and **Gordon Basham** coordinated the event which proved to be one of the most fun evenings and impromptu "afterglows" in recent memory...

We have been going to a couple of local restaurants and singing as part of a weekly meeting time in order to share our singing

and do some recruiting. Members **Dave Genung**, **Gordon Basham**, **Merlyn Kimbell** and **Alan Morier** all attended the leadership training session held in Pico Rivera in November, and came away with several new ideas that we are employing to help market our group and grow new membership. One of the best parts of the day was the unofficial half-hour sing-along held just before the meetings started.

Long time member **Keith Murphy** is convalescing after having fallen in early January. Members of one of our quartets, "**The Mojave Range Rovers**," **Gary White**, **Merlyn Kimbell**, **Doug Waas** and **Frank Bescos** serenaded our beloved baritone, bedside, and one of the nurses came in to see which radio station the lovely music was on!

Officers for 2013 are: **Merlyn Kimbell**, President; **Gordon Basham**, Vice President of Recruitment; **Doug Waas**, Member at Large; **Dave Genung**, Secretary; **Harry Putnam**, Treasurer; **Buford Strange** Director of Programming; **Gary White**, Vice President of Music; **Mike Smith**, Director; **Alan Morier**, Director of Publicity.

Visit us at: www.hicountryharmonaires.com

Brea Chapter By Mark Stokes

The **Gaslight Chorus** ended its 2012 membership drive of 12 new members by bringing in 16. Our expansive growth continues into 2013 as we have two more guests preparing for auditions and membership. Our new members enjoyed ending their first year with the chorus by joining us for two sold out performances at our annual Christmas Show at the Curtis Theater in Brea.

The fourth quarter of the year proved to be a busy one for the Gaslight Chorus as it also included performances at Disneyland's California Adventure theme park, Christ Lutheran Church in Brea, the Brea Mall, the Muckenthaler Cultural Center in Fullerton, an 80th birthday party in Long Beach for one of our long time patrons and at the City of Brea's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony.

After a well-deserved break through the holiday season, we're now focused on our preparations for the SE Division contest and continuing with our fun-filled weekly rehearsals and chapter meetings.

Visit us at: www.gaslightchorus.org

Coachella Valley Chapter By Stan Gile

The **Sandblaster Chorus** has been welcoming back our many snowbirds over the last few months. We are now at nearly full strength with 25 to 30 men on the risers, with new member **Len Hedland** (Bass) and a large number of guests joining in.

December was a busy month for us with an afternoon performance at the Palm Desert Library and two performances at the Living Desert Wildlights program. These performances included the full Chorus led by Director **Dick Reed** and both of our Quartets -- the **Hummbugs** (yes, that's with 3 Ms) and

Faultline. Radio personality and Chorus Bass **Corbett Brattin** did a great job as our MC.

We held an Installation Luncheon on January 6 for our 2013 officers. Following a fine meal, outgoing President **Alan Harrell** got things started with his remarks and then introduced **Craig Hughes**, SE Division VP. Craig first honored a great Chapter member, **Jack Bartlett**, with his 50 year pin. Craig then installed the new Board, and incoming President **Blaine Mack** thanked the Chorus for the opportunity to lead us into the New Year. Blaine also announced the BOTY awards to **Michael Gennett** for 2011 and **Stan Gile** for 2012. Following these presentations, the crowd was treated to great singing by several quartets. Thanks to **Bob Hurlbert** for organizing the event.

The new Board consists of President **Blaine Mack**, Secretary **Dave Hawks**, Treasurer **Art Hazlett**, VP Chapter Development **Stan Gile**, VP Music/Performance **Vic Guder**, VP Marketing **Michael Gennett**, VP Programs **Bob Hurlbert**, VP Quartets **Milt Rhea** and Member-at-Large **Corbett Brattin**.

Long time member and outgoing VP Chapter Development **Terry Mann**, who has written these articles for quite some time, will be moving to Oregon in the near future. We thank him for his service to the chapter and wish him well.

Visit us at: www.cvbarbershop.org

El Cajon Chapter

By Roger Simpson for Bill Soukup

Mr. **Tom Anderson**, by our 2012 Board action, was selected again as our 2013 continuing arm waving teaching and music director. Tom is celebrating 10 years as our excellent director and songster educator. Our Board nomination process was held in October, and elections for our 2013 Board of Directors were completed in November. Finally after much wrangling and head bashing, our new Board was heralded and elected by acclamation. Board members for 2013 are: Mr. **Ed Herron** as President, Mr. **Joe Perry** as immediate past president, Mr. **Roger Simpson** as Sec/Treas, Mr. **Greg Price** as VP Music/performance, Mr. **Bob Harshberger** as VP programs, Mr. **Paul Schmidt** as VP membership/development, Mr. **Jack Evans** as Member-at-Large. In addition, positions of Chapter leadership were designated by the Board with Mr. **Bill Soukup** as *Westunes* editor, Mr. **Maury Rapkin** as Harmony Foundation Chair, and Mr. **Jack Evans** as Chorus manager.

Through Jack Evans' leadership, the **Music Master Chorus** had several successful singouts this last year. Our most notable were in the Month of December with four engagements at our local retirement communities. The smiles, resident movements keeping time with eyes "all aglow" was certainly rewarding to us as we sang our Christmas specials. This was a very special time of year with our singouts.

Visit us at: www.ecmusicmasters.com

Fullerton Chapter

By Dick Cote

This year our annual Pearson Park production of "Harmony Under the Stars" was another fantastic show . . . if you could get to it. The amphitheater in the park is a wonderful venue for a summer evening performance; however, the park is also a great place for public picnicking and escaping the heat of the day by relaxing under the numerous tall trees therein . . . which apparently a large portion of the city of Anaheim did.

So-o-o, since there's no transportation service by streetcar, steamboat, or helicopter, we all (performers, peers, and patrons) arrived by automobile only to discover that the park (and all of the parking spaces) had been previously occupied. In years past, we stopped the show to enjoy the nightly Disneyland firework display, but this year we understand that some of our patrons were PARKED near Disneyland, and were able to hear our show from there BEFORE the fireworks

Those able to hike to our show were well rewarded as they listened to the offerings of our finest assembly of vocal talents thus far. Show chairman **Gary Maxwell** and his committee lined up two of our district's finest, most entertaining male quartets, **The Velvet Frogs** and **Tenacious Q**. Beyond that, we had **Charmony**, (a new GIRL'S barbershop quartet from La Habra high), a mixed modern jazz group named **Down for the Count**, and the recently formed **South County Sound** chorus from Lake Forest and environs.

Then add in the Fabulous Fellas From Fullerton chorus and exciting M.C. **Don Derler** directing the proceedings (and even anchoring a ukulele band-backed audience sing along!), and you have an evening to be relished and remembered. We all had fun; school music programs will receive some money, and most of us were able to find our cars afterwards!

The annual Far Western District convention is always a really big deal ('specially for us winners) and of course we won the smiles and applause of our audience in our role as number FUN, leaving some 20 other FWD choruses to wonder why the (impartial?) judges hadn't selected them for the gold as our champion singers.

We sang 13th in the contest, so after viewing the 12 prior groups, the curtain opened and our audience was pretty much electrified to view 34 Superheroes in amazing authentic, colorful, costumes, all chatting about their heroic deeds of the day. Then we sang our hearts out while demonstrating our own particular superhero special powers, as the (impartial?) judges sharpened their pencils and awarded us our prestigious position of number 13 in the contest. They were probably confused with our STARTING slot.

As expected, our **Westminster** lads won the championship handily (and foot-ily, and bodi-ly) with their well-rehearsed choreography and super singing; and also, as expected, **Phoenix**, **Bay Area**, **California Delta**, and **La Jolla** battled it out for a respectable 2nd place, with our host chapter Phoenix taking home (all the way from Mesa) the silver.

The quartet portion of the contests, by many solicited opinions, was probably our most talented EVER, and those selected to represent us at international will certainly harvest a lot of precious metal! Our new champs **95 NORTH** startled us all with their perfect blend, sensational dynamics, and

interpretation, as they were duly awarded 1st place by an amazing 226 points!

On Sept. 27, the quartet **Just Four Fun** (**Eli Peralta, Mark Logan, Thomas Lowerre** and **Mac McDougall**) performed for the 3,300 participants at the Walk to End Alzheimers at Anaheim Stadium starting at 7:00 a.m. and intermittently 'til about 10:30 a.m. The event raised more than \$110,000.00 for the Alzheimers Association to support research. We were able to share 300 plus OEC postcards with attendees and possible OEC recruits. The brain exercise benefits we get from learning music and lyrics were appropriately shared with the crowd.

On Saturday, October 27, we will be performing again at Knott's Berry Farm, with Mark, Mac, **Dave Lowerre** and **Mike Evans** for the early morning Walk to End Alzheimers event there, before Knott's opens for the day.

Many of the supporter/walkers have lost loved ones to Alzheimers and may potentially be predisposed to inheriting the disease. Others include students from local schools, businesses and Health Care Providers. We were touched by the stories shared, and entertained by Dennis, the emcee with whom we shared the stage at Anaheim Stadium. The walkers went on a two or four mile stroll around the playing field and stadium at Anaheim. Those participating at Knott's will walk around the place for similar distances. OEC guys and friends are welcome as Tag Out singers with us at Knott's.

Yes, after 16 years of publishing the *Clippin's*, this is my last issue, and I will now gain the title of "Editor Emeritus," whatever that means. So now, "The End is Here." It's been a time of quite a few triumphs on the chapter, district, and Society stage, and a lot of sleepless nights and extra busy days spent with my ever patient wife and fellow laborer, **Kay**. On reflection I have to say that it's been worth it, but both Kay and I have become a bit weary, and we're getting out at the right time.

Still, the good memories are there. Those include memories going back to before I ever joined the Society. My earliest memories were of two fine couples Kay and I met on a cruise, **George and Ruthe Helmer**, and **Leon and Pattie Williamson**. It was a turning point in my life, for it was through the efforts of these wonderful people that I looked at and finally joined the **Fullerton Chapter**. Sadly, George, Leon and Pattie have all passed on, but their memories will always be with me.

Perhaps the most important element that has influenced the continuing success of the *Clippin's* has been the quality of the membership of the chapter. We in Fullerton have always been blessed with a very diverse group of people. We come from many walks of life, and we're all keenly interested in singing, and perhaps more, in people. I like to think that singers generally are really nice people, and that shows in Fullerton where we not only sing and entertain well, but we genuinely like each other, regardless of our varied convictions. And I know from all these years that we have a very literate group of writers who really like to express themselves, for some, issue after issue. It's a classy outfit, to be sure. Further, your contributions to each issue have made the *Clippin's* the envy of the Society.

Now I'd like to convey my thanks to some of you who have written so much and have been so instrumental in keeping the quality of the Clippin's up over the years. So, here's the gallery to whom I want to express my thanks, in no particular order:

Stan French who was responsible for so many of the things that made Fullerton so vibrant, and who for many years personally drove to my home for each issue to deliver the Harmony for Lunch Bunch notes.

Fred Robirds who never missed a chance to deliver reports as Roving Reporter on the "doings" of the chapter, quickly, concisely, and with really good, humorous releases.

Al Bell who reported in such an elegant and insightful way on his takes on the chorus, even from afar as a foreign correspondent, and never missed an issue. A true friend and a sympathetic listener.

Art Clayton who continues as the greatest chapter mover and shaker, and money raiser, and who has reported faithfully on quartet activities. But mostly for being my faithful friend for more than 56 years, a treasure that I'll never forget.

Stanley Tinkle who wrote for each issue, sometimes about the chorus, and other times about trends and history in music, but never missed a beat (or a tempo).

Sam Glorioso who cracked us up in almost every issue by some frequently "off the wall" observations about us and himself, and whose "Lighter Side" has become a favorite for many.

Ray Ashcroft, who as our multi-award-winning PR man kept us in the limelight with his articles and observations about the chorus and his quartets.

Lloyd Jones who contributed frequently and with unerring accuracy about adventures of his quartets and of the chorus.

Deane Scoville who regularly contributed news of the district and Society, and sometimes some pretty amusing stories of life.

Gene Renck who always exhibited such quiet demeanor but always was ready with assistance, including mailing labels, at the drop of a hat, in addition to all the other things he always does as our hard-working Chorus Manager.

Pete Saputo who has been a more sporadic contributor than I would have liked, but whose work and reporting in the youth arena have always been on point and important.

Steve Hansen and **Mac McDougall** who as relative newcomers have become welcome contributors with their quartet stories and observations concerning the tie-ins between music and the good life.

Craig Ewing who as Chorus Musical Director has taken us to new levels of singing and entertainment capabilities. Even though I couldn't get him to contribute to the Clippin's as often as I would have liked, his work with us more than made up for that. And our wordplay was always good for a giggle.

Don Derler who has volunteered to take over this task as Publisher/Editor of our beloved Clippin's. May he enjoy the cooperation and success that Kay and I have had.

So, with that, Kay and I bid a fond, and a bit sad, farewell to this avocation that has kept us busy for so many years. It's been a grand run. We thank you all for all you've done for us. -30-

Visit us at: www.oechorus.org

La Jolla Chapter
By Dale Vaughn

Pacific Coast Harmony performed at the annual All-Staff GLEE Concert on November 3. This is a fundraiser for the Visual and Performing Arts Department of the San Diego Unified School District. According to the department head, "The student groups were amazing, Pacific Coast Harmony was the best ever, the dancers were adorable and well rehearsed, Connect Four stole the show, and the **Glee Singers** (district employees) rocked the house." PCH is proud to help raise money to support the arts in our schools. **Connect Four**, a barbershop quartet, also sang "When I'm 64" during a presentation to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors and were instrumental in securing a grant from them.

The first weekend in December saw **Pacific Coast Harmony** performing at December Nights in San Diego's famous Balboa Park. This popular event welcomes thousands of attendees annually into the park for a variety of musical entertainment, international food, fun & games and community fellowship. A couple PCH members even volunteered to work in the San Diego Chorus Sweet Adelines booth over the weekend event.

The following Saturday we held our Annual Holiday Show with two fine shows, a matinee and an evening performance. We welcomed great crowds to Hashinger Hall at Torrey Pines Christian Church in La Jolla while the Chorus, chapter quartets and guest vocal group **The Menschtone**s delighted our audience with holiday favorites. Under the direction of Marshall Middle School teacher, **Katherine Girvin**, **Unaccompanied Minors** – an a cappella chamber ensemble of 13 to 16-year-old students from Marshall as well as Scripps Ranch High School – also joined us on our evening show. They have performed at Carnegie Hall and have been invited to sing at St. Peter's Basilica in the summer of 2013. PCH is proud to count some members of Unaccompanied Minors as part of our Youth In Harmony program. Among their number is Connect Four, a barbershop quartet which won Gold at an adjudicated school festival.

After a much-deserved break for the Holidays, our Annual Installation Dinner welcomed-in the New Year and the new PCH Board with the following being installed to serve for the 2013 term: Immediate Past President – **Jerry Kent**; President – **Lou Benedict**; VP Chapter Development – **Dale Vaughn**; VP Marketing & PR – **Randy Clemens**; VP Membership – **Bryan Thompson**; VP Music & Performance – **Mark Whelan**; Secretary – **Ken Baker**; Treasurer – **Jim Schumacher**; Board Member-At-Large – **Paul Girard**, **Mike French**, **Jim Watt**. We also honored the following with awards for 2012: Barbershopper of the Year - **Jerry Kent**; Dave Miller Award for Barbershop Excellence - **Pete Hensley**; President's Award - **Jim Schumacher**; Director's Award - **Carl Buntin**; Rookie of the Year - **Randy Clemens**; Mr. Dependable - **Jim Watt**; Mr. Everything – **Dave Pfizenmeier**; Mr. Broadway - **Steve Fitzgerald**; Harmony Sweetheart - **Kathy Whelan**.

Chorus rehearsals in January began another Ready, Set, Sing free voice lesson program given by our world-famous and multi-talented Director, **Kim Vaughn**. Over the first four weeks, we have welcomed many talented singers onto the risers and this five-week series promises to bring us some new members into the ranks of PCH. Guests are always welcome ... come on down!

Visit us at: www.pacificcoastharmony.org

Las Vegas Chapter

By Larry Litchfield

The newly expanded **Las Vegas Chapter** is bustin' at the seams with enthusiasm and members! And the singing on the risers is pretty nifty too!

We're now the largest men's barbershop chorus in Nevada* with the Jan. 1, 2013 official merger of the Las Vegas and Las Vegas Metro Chapters and the combining of our two choruses under the new **Silver Statesmen** banner! (*per BHS/FWD website data)

The union was formally approved in October by the FWD's House of Delegates.

Our star-studded legacy is validated by two venerable parent choruses – Las Vegas' 52-year-old **Gamble-Aires** and Metro's 14-year-old **City of Lights**. Both choruses are fondly remembered by past and present local barbershoppers and thousands of Las Vegas valley fans who, for decades, loyally supported both Chapters and member quartets.

The debut rehearsal of the new Silver Statesmen on Thursday night, Jan. 3, at our new site (Christ The King Catholic Community Church) attracted 74 gentlemen seeking fun and quality barbershopping. None of us knew what to expect!

The sounds on "opening night" and at the following three rehearsals surprised skeptics and awed believers with music that raised goose bumps and confirmed expectations. Attendees (members, past members and guests) were not disappointed!

Chapter President **Steve Salmon** welcomed enthusiastic first-night members. Music & Performance VP/Acting Director **Albert Weiss**, worked the chorus in preparation for our upcoming Spring Show (date and location to be determined). He introduced Celebrate Harmony, **Joe Liles'** upbeat centerpiece tune for the Society's suggested 75th Anniversary show package, which the Silver Statesmen will be performing.

A near-overflow afterglow at a nearby Irish pub (in the shadow of the off-Strip Orleans hotel/casino) was incredible as soaring spirits sparked swirling overtones and nurtured new camaraderie.

According to new Membership/Chapter Development VP **Dennis Johnson**, Chapter members, as of Jan. 28, totaled 81...a significant jump from the combined 73 members at the end of 2012.

Eight new Chapter members, all veteran barbershoppers, have completed applications now pending required Society approval. They are the **Halvorson** brothers: lead/tenor **Jim** and lead **Larry**, and Larry's son **Dallas**; also bass **Billy Hill**; bari **Ernie Krausman**; lead **Paul Kreider**; lead **Dale Robertson** and tenor **Philip Spinks**. Four others have accepted applications to begin the process: tenor **Skyler Jewell**; lead **H.K. Poon**; bass **Jerry Thomas**; and lead **Mark Nelson**.

Ever-optimistic Dennis is committed to gaining 30 new members by year-end and hosting at least three guest nights during the year. He guardedly predicts a Chapter roster of more than 100 by summer! We're supporting you 137.5%, Dennis!

A search for a new director is underway. Preliminary groundwork has been laid by the new music team. Invitations have been extended to potential directors and candidate interviews will be scheduled ASAP. We also are exploring coaching options for the new chorus. The search team is comprised of **Steve Salmon**, **Albert Weiss**, **Gil Cuevas**, **Dean Hunt** and **John Waugh**.

The Chapter's 2013 Music Leadership Team, led by Music & Performance VP **Albert Weiss**, Tenor Section Leader, consists of **Steve Salmon**, Lead Section Leader; **Dean Hunt**, Bari Section Leader; **Billy Hill**, Bass Section Leader; **Stan Ackers**, Librarian; **Larry Pechart**, Program Manager; **Ross Marty**, Chorus Manager; and **Greg Dreyer**, Show Chairman. Others may be added as the year progresses.

Installation Banquet — The 2013 annual events were jointly held on Saturday, Jan. 5 by both "pre-merger" Chapters. Honored by the Las Vegas Chapter were: Director's Award, **Randy Preston**; President's Awards, **David Larson** and **Dave Kennedy**; BOTY Award, **Ross Marty**; and a first-time Family Support Award presented to Ann Marty.

Recognitions by the Las Vegas Metro Chapter were: Barbershopper of the Quarter, **Dick Morrison**; President's Award, **Fred Green**; Directors Award, **Mike Conner**; and BOTY Award: **Fred Green**.

2014 International Convention update — Led by Las Vegas Metro's IPP **Martin Judd**, General Chairman of the June 29-July 6 gala event, more than 20 members of both Chapters met on Thursday, Nov 8 for the first time at the MGM Grand host convention hotel/casino with the "boys from Nashville". They were **Dusty Schleier** (BHS convention manager), **Rick Spencer** (director of operations) and **Marty Monson** (the Society's new executive director). Martin described the facility as "very impressive" and expressed his pleasure with "the excitement and energy that our Chapter's committeemen displayed." Stay tuned...

Also on Nov. 8, the then Gamble-Aires rehearsal was honored with a surprise visit by BHS President **Alan Lamson**, who was in town for a different meeting. He and accompanying Society leaders sang some quartet tags and later joined the afterglow. He followed up his visit with a note thanking us for the hospitality, adding "We all had a great time. It is always exhilarating and interesting for me to visit other chapters across this great Society."

Chorus Name Change — Well-deserved kudos go to Board Member-at-Large/tenor **Randy Preston** for his yeoman work managing the chorus name-change/logo effort.

A new Las Vegas Chapter website is under construction at www.silverstatesmen.com; and we also have a preliminary Facebook presence at www.facebook.com/lvbarbershop. Check us out!

The Silver Statesmen Chorus meets at 7 p.m. on Thursday nights at the new church site (4925 S. Torrey Pines Dr. at the southwest corner of Tropicana.) Drop by when you're in the neighborhood and check us out!

Visit us at: www.silverstatesmen.com

Orange Quartet Chapter

By Mark Sheldon

At least six members from **Orange** attended the SoCal Leadership Academy in November, though many of them were training as officers in other chapters. Orange has a lot of dual members and many are officers in more than one chapter!

Nineteen Chapter members went Caroling the Monday before Christmas, singing at Chapman Medical Center under direction of **Mike Werner**. Selected nurses' stations were serenaded by the chorus. Yuletide Favorites were enhanced with a couple of solo verses: **Gerald Fleischmann** on Silent Night and **Pat Oswald** on the Latin Adeste Fideles (O Come All Ye Faithful). **Finishing Touch** then sang in rooms with patient/family permission.

The post-Caroling afterglow featured another type of performance as a pickup quartet with **Richard Martinez** (Tn), **Gerald Fleischmann** (Ld), **Stan Tinkle** (Br), and **Mike Werner** (Bs) recorded Auld Lang Syne for a New Year's Video produced by the regional Toastmasters, of which Gerald and Mike are members.

The Installation and Awards Dinner was held at the first Chapter meeting of 2013, with a Mexican dinner prepared by **Debbi** and **Art Iniguez** and friends. Entertainment was provided by Chapter Quartets: **Finishing Touch**, **Wavemakers**, **Artistic Four**, **Hawaii Four-O**, **Orange Plaza Gang**, and **Shenanigans**. Officers were sworn in by 2012 President **Dave Lowerre**. Honorees were **Art Iniguez** (Shooting Star Award), **Phil Roth** (Rupert Hall Award), **Mark Sheldon** (President's Award), **David Switzer** (Rookie of the Year), and **Bob Calderwood** (Barbershopper of the Year).

On January 21 the Bachelor of Harmony was awarded to both **Bob Calderwood** and **Don Thomas**.

On January 26 the Chapter hosted the 51st Annual SoCal Novice Quartet Contest. Congratulations to competing quartets with Orange Chapter members: **Sound Choice**, **Wavemakers**, **Affordable Harmony Care**, **Artistic Four**, **Impromptu 2+2**, and **Sing 4 Fun**. Thanks to all who helped to make the contest a success.

Visit us at: www.harmonize.com/orange

Palomar Pacific Chapter

By Keith Bogost & Patrick Fairchild

On Nov. 9, the chorus sang at the San Marcos Senior Center in a special Veteran's Day program, featuring a singout of the songs representing the U. S. Army, the U. S. Navy, the U. S. Air Force, the U. S. Marine Corps and even the U. S. Coast Guard. Attendees were encouraged to wear all or part of their respective uniforms and to stand and be recognized when their particular song was being sung. This was well received, with

many women joining the men in their branch of the armed forces.

The chorus and quartets sang at La Costa Glen, an upscale senior retirement community, on November 17, prior to the start of the holiday season. We were greatly appreciated by these kind folks.

Then, with Christmas looming, we sang at the City of Oceanside Tree Lighting Ceremony November 29, for Combat Veterans at the San Marcos Civic Center Dec. 7, at the San Marcos Senior Center on December 8, at the Fallbrook Library December 20 and at the Oceanside Senior Center Dec. 22. In addition, on December 19, we took time to entertain patients at the Palomar Heights Skilled Nursing Facility and Life Care Center.

Our quartets were busy at all of these singouts. These include **Sound Design** (**Jim Winningham**, **Joe Quince**, **Joe Pascucci** and **Bob Landes**), **Coast To Coast** (**Bob Cowen**, **Dick LeBeau** and his seasonal replacement, **John Rhodes**, **Mike Cowen** (yes, the Cowens are brothers) and **Roger Hufferd**), **Song And A Smile** (**Jerry Mills**, **Al Leuthe** (his recently renewed membership was for 35 years), **Bill Scofield** and **Norm Pincock**), and **The Keynotes** (**Paul Bloom**, **Patrick Fairchild**, **Don Naegele** and **Dick Schulze**).

The really big show, the annual installation banquet, was held on January 5. The installation officer was **Gene Clements** and all who attended had a great time. Banquet Chairman **Norm Shute** and the Old Spaghetti Factory did a great job. Our new officers are: Pres. - **Norm Shute**, IPP. - **Joe Quince**, Sec. - **Al Leuthe**, Treasurer - **Chuck Youde**, VP Chapter Development/Membership - **Hector Sanchez**, VP Music/Performance - **Bob Weaver**, YIH - **Paul Bloom**, VP Publicity - **Al Paolini**, VP Program Director- **Roger Hufferd**, Members-at-Large - **Woody Cady**, **Bob Swearingen**, and **Jim Winningham**. Rookie of the Year was **John Rhodes** (a unanimous winner!) and Barbershopper of the Year **Rich Kellam** (he has designed our website to be user-friendly and second to none). **Al Leuthe** received the President's Award and **Norm Schute** the Director's Award.

Big time membership renewals - **Tal Klaus**, 43 and **Ken Koch**, 42.

A former member, **Randy Conner**, recently deceased, was also honored.

Visit us at: www.musicmenchorus.org

Riverside Chapter
By Gaylord Spence

The **Riverside Chapter** wishes to extend a hearty "Welcome" to all of the chapters and quartets within both the **Southeast** and **Southwest Divisions** of the FWD. As hosts for the upcoming Combined SE/SW Division Contest in Ontario, California on May 11th, we are very excited about accepting the challenge of creating a great contest for all participants! We are also doubly excited about being able to secure Colony High School as the site of our contest venue for the second year in a row! This venue is exceptionally qualified with an outstanding

auditorium with amazing sound capabilities. It also boasts ample space and large rooms for creating a relaxed atmosphere in the warm-up process prior to hitting the stage so that everyone has an opportunity to perform at their highest level. We are also in the process of securing first-rate hotel accommodations worthy of the backing of our district, should you need the rest before or after the contest. If you are a member of either of these two divisions, please set aside the date of Saturday, May 11, 2013, and Ontario, CA as the location for a district contest you will not want to miss!

Visit us at: www.newgangchorus.org

San Diego Chapter
By Ducrot Pepys

Happy New Year from the **San Diego Chapter**.

The holidays are a magical time for the **Sun Harbor Chorus**. We transform into Santa and his elf chorus and entertain the region. **Bill Beacom** produced our "best ever" 36th Annual Christmas Show, "Top of the World Talent", in the historic Casa del Prado Theater. We then skipped (that's what elves do) into San Diego's December Nights as the opening act for 3,000 revelers. The mayor called us a "San Diego treasure". A few other appearances rounded out the season.

Frank Artzer joined the Chorus just in time to learn 20 Christmas songs before tackling our other 20+ tunes. Enthusiasm and good learning tracks coupled with the best director, **Kathleen Hansen**, keep us all improving weekly.

Paul Schmidt's wonderful family coordinated our Installation and Awards Banquet. **Louis Regas** was "crowned" our 69th President by the Installing Officer, **Lou Benedict**, our 27th and 28th President as well as an International Board Member and the current president of **Pacific Coast Harmony**.

Bob Dunn was the 59th Barbershopper of the Year Award recipient.

We are back rehearsing with a new energy and spirit. We are especially pleased to welcome **Dave Garstang**, tenor of two District Champion Quartets (**Grand Tradition** and **Western Union**). Dave brings his wonderful Tenor/Baritone along with some much needed computer skills.

Guests are always welcome so please visit if you are in town.

Visit us at: www.sunharbor.org

South Orange County Chapter
By Irv Engel

South County Sound had a wonderful singout at a community Christmas event at the Mission San Juan Capistrano. It was gratifying to see that when we started singing, the crowd stopped and listened. We feel that the more public exposure, the better. We also did a Christmas show for the people at the retirement community where we rehearse. It was a full house with a very appreciative audience. Our annual Christmas show was also a success, so we feel very good about our recent activities. We recently got another member and are slowly

growing our chorus. We all look forward to another amazing year.

Visit us at: www.scsound.org



Division 3 NW Chapters
John Heather, Editor

Division 3 Editor's Note
John Heather

If you have looked at the Far Western District's website, there are five pages for the five Divisions, up until now there was no page for Division 3, this is no longer the case, here is the URL to the new page, <http://spebsqsafwd.org/div3/index.html>.

The page is arranged by county with a page for each chapter, this page is for the individual chapters to advertise their upcoming events, if you would like to place an entry on your page send your input to me at jtheather2@yahoo.com.

EUREKA
Mac Gardner

Capacity crowds packed the house at both of our Beer-and-Peanuts Shows. One was held at the historic Eureka Inn and the other at the Riverview Lodge in Fortuna. We sang, the fans sang, all three quartets entertained. Plenty of popcorn, peanuts, beer and soda pop were consumed. The high frosting was the handsome waiters in our sparkly blue vests serving each fan's needs. FUN and smiles were contagious.

Our traditional Stale Hot Dog Roast (crazy tradition!) was held again, this time at the estate of **Harvey and Ann Raider** in Arcata. Fancy potluck food satisfied hungry tastes, and fine-tuned songs dominated all activities. This was the first time in 25 years that **Don and Nancy Setterlund** didn't play host. Thanks to them for services rendered, but they have moved to town.

For the 15th year in a row, the **Humboldt Harmonaires** performed at Humboldt County's biggest Veterans Day program. Our chorus arrangements of the "Star-Spangled Banner" and "God Bless America" were loudly appreciated. Having many military veterans in our own chorus made our singing more meaningful to each of us.

Both the chorus and our quartets stayed busy in Christmas season. We sang in downtown Eureka, Fortuna Riverview Lodge, churches and in some senior care centers. Quartets performed wherever requested. Some fans did express disappointment that we didn't sing "All I Want for Christmas Is My Two Front Teeth."

Fremont-Hayward
Kevin P. Smith

The Fremont-Hayward Chapter had a productive and busy Holiday Season. Coming off a successful "Learn to Sing" program from late Summer, several new singers remained with us and participated in our Annual Holiday Show! The result has been several new members added in the fourth quarter!

Our Holiday Show featured several new songs for the Chorus. As tradition has it, the **Harmony Fusion** (Sweet Adeline's), and The **Mount Eden HS Choral** group excelled in their performances!

We enter the New Year with excitement. Our riser numbers have seen growth, we are preparing new songs for the Division stage, and we look forward to a great show. It looks like a great year is coming our way!

Monterey Peninsula
Sam Kier

Following the departure, in October, of long-time chorus director, **Kristen Thompson**, the Monterey Peninsula **Cypresses** have been working with an interim director, **Duane King**, of Salinas. **Duane**, who has been preparing the chorus members for the Singing Valentines Campaign in February, has also introduced five new songs for the chapter show in October. Like many North American choruses, the **Cypresses** plan to build their show around the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

The Monterey Peninsula Chapter held its awards luncheon, on January 26, at **Kula Ranch**, a Hawaiian-style steak house in Marina. Following lunch, the 2013 chapter officers were installed. Chorus Manager **Richard Gregson** received the Barbershopper of the Year Award. The **Cypresses** have benefitted greatly from **Richard's** rich background in stage production.

Palo Alto Mountain View
David Weatherford

"**The Smilin' Joe Variety Show**" was the theme of this year's Cabaret on November 10th. And what a variety of talents were on display! Along with The **Peninsulaires** (of course), there were quartets (of course!), a mixed quintet, a ladies sextet (plus piano accompaniment), and a lute player. Complete with (non-electronic) sound effects, "APPLAUSE" lights, and an "ON THE AIR" sign, the show recreated a 1940's radio show with host "Smilin' Joe" Smith on station "K-O-R-D". Special guest Doris Williams played the lute and sang Celtic and Renaissance songs about love and life; the World Chorus Games 2012 Gold Medalists, **Canzonet**, thrilled the audience with their tight Barbershop harmonies; while The **Chocolatiers** extolled the virtues of that sweet treat. The **Peppertones** sang (in 5-part harmony) the "San Francisco Blues," and the chorus and chapter quartets **Boomerang**, the **Metro Gnomes**, and **Never Too Old Four** regaled the audience with some good old love songs. Two shows, an afternoon ice cream social and an evening dinner show, were both standing room only.

The Holiday Chorus was a rousing success again this year, with performances at **Filoli Gardens**, the **Los Altos "Festival of Lights"** parade, the **Mountain View tree-lighting** ceremony, **Vallco Shopping Mall**, and **Palo Alto Farmer's Market**.

The annual Awards and Installation Dinner was held at **Harry's Hofbrau** this year, with Northwest Division VP **Chuck Leavitt** administering the oath. **Mark Torrance** was installed into the

Hall of Fame, **Nigel Endersby** was named Barbershopper of the Year, **Joshua Sweetkind-Singer** was named Rookie of the Year, and **Bessie Heather** received the Board Award for her many years of unselfish service in providing cookies for rehearsal times. Thanks, again, **Bessie!**

Santa Rosa
Ray Crowder

Santa Rosa is proud of being touted by the Barbershop Harmony Society as one of the top ten chapters in the country for the Chapter Achievement Program. Thanks to our active Membership and Music teams, headed by **Shelly Albaum**, and **Neal Rogers**, the Redwood Chordsmen are hoping to add to our honors in 2013.

We're sorry to see **Jan Lappin** step down as Associate Director. Since the merger of her former Rohnert Park chapter with Santa Rosa in 2011, **Jan** has greatly contributed to our growth and success, and she'll be sorely missed by all. It's expected that **Phil Debar** will continue his excellent work as our primary director along with our Assistant Directors, **Wayne Hovdesven**, and **Neal Rogers**.

We'll also miss our stalwart tagmaster, and four-part singer, **James Morgan**, who is now in Boston attending the prestigious Berklee School of Music. We envision a great musical career for this fine young man. We must also say goodbye to **Milt Danoff**, and **Norm Nance**, who have stepped down due to health issues.

Our December Christmas show was a financial and artistic success with large audiences for our matinee and evening performances. Our co-show chairmen, **Scott Douglas**, and **Shelly Albaum**, did an excellent job, and we had outstanding performances from **Song Of Sonoma** Sweet Adelines, and the entertaining **Omni Handbell Choir**. Four of our chapter quartets performed to the crowd's delight.

One of our outstanding members, **Chris Bailey**, was recently honored by his employer, DuPuy Orthopedics, as "Humanitarian of the Year". The honor included a large monetary contribution which **Chris** had to donate back to charitable and nonprofit causes. With great pride he has donated \$2,500 to the Redwood Chordsmen, and we are deeply grateful for his kind gesture.

We want to welcome **Lynn "Brit" Britain** back to the Board of Directors as a Member-at-Large. Upcoming events in February include our annual performance at the Barclay Concert to be held at the new Green Music Center on the campus of Sonoma State University, and our yearly performance at the Presbyterian Church of the Roses. Our choreography team, **Dave Key**, **Jeremy Donley**, **Jeff Brant**, and **Caden Hare**, are preparing us for the division contest in Lodi.

San Francisco
Don Kington

Members, significant others and friends of the men of the Cable Car Chorus gathered at the beautiful Basque Cultural Center in

South San Francisco Sunday, January 17, to install the Chapter officers for 2013.

The author of these paragraphs had the honor of delivering the Oath of Office to the following stalwarts: **Greg Goyhenetche**, President; **Tom Carter**, Secretary; **Charles Haletky**, Treasurer; **James Campbell**, Assistant Treasurer; **Fred Merrick**, VP for Membership Development; **Jason Poyner**, VP for Music/Performance; **Leon Sorhondo**, Member-at-Large; **Charles Feltman**, Chorus Director.

President **Greg** and Board Member **Leon**, both members of the Basque Center, arranged for the venue, and the delicious and artistic meal.

San Mateo County
Tom Addison

The Chapter is busily preparing for our Spring Show, Gospel and Blues Barbershop Style, to be held in April. **Cort Bender**, and several members of the leadership team attended the CDW Intensive in Pleasanton in February.

The new Chapter officers for 2013 are: **Tom Addison**, President; **Ed Sterbenc**, VP Music and Performance; **Pete Wanger**, Treasurer; **Paul Buchanan**, Secretary; **Rick Cram**, VP Chapter Development; **Tom Dickerman**, Publicity; and **Dean Stocker** and **Dave McCann**, board members-at-large. Past President is **Fred Moraga**.

We continue to maintain the tradition of an evening of quarteting on the fifth Tuesday of any month with five Tuesdays, a tradition that goes back to the founding of the chapter in 1967. Guests are always welcome.

Santa Cruz
Allen Takahashi

Gold Standard Chorus has been very active in the community. This was brought home at our Annual Officer Installation event in mid-January where there were two poster boards on display full of local newspaper clippings chronicling our activities this last year – thanks to the persistent efforts of **Lawrence Stern**, our publicity person. The articles chronicled our two shows, singouts at the local state park and local senior centers, and Christmas Caroling. There was an article titled "The Little Chorus that Could" – briefly covering the 23 year history of our chorus, and how our small chorus of 20 singers has managed to raise funds every year for the last decade for music programs in Santa Cruz County schools through our Sing For Your Life show – this last November raising over \$12,000 for the schools in addition to providing two \$500 scholarships this year for graduating seniors enrolling in college music programs (one of which was awarded to our immediate past Chapter President **Nick Roberto**) via our **Ken Brosius** Memorial Scholarship fund. Money was also provided to music teachers for projects not covered in their schools budgets via the **Caralyn Steinberg** fund.

Our quartets have also been active - **Long and Short of It** sang for a Foster Grandparents program. **Mixed Bag** sang at a New Brighton Beach public program. **Coastal Blend** and **Constellation** sang at a community event to commemorate

public ownership of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. **Constellation** sang at a Yelp Appreciation Party, A Cancer Prostrate Awareness event, Wilder Ranch State Park; and competed at the Mesa Convention.

We had two new members step up to the plate to become chapter officers for 2013 – **Jack Gordon** as President, and **Glenn Davis** as Music VP. And one of our oldest members, **Gerry Stone**, has stepped into the important Membership VP slot. GSC is looking forward to forming more quartets and growing in 2013!

San Francisco Bay Cities Quartets

Jordan Makower

Geoffrey Chaucer wrote “The Canterbury Tales” around 1387. It was a collection of stories told by people on a pilgrimage. There are a number of people who make the trip to Harry’s Hofbrau for lunch on the first Monday of the month, and dinner on the second and fourth Wednesdays, but not for religious reasons. One is a former Vietnam War pilot, another is a retired Hardware store owner. Additionally, there is a practicing lawyer, a landlord, a 93-year old Dentist, a founder of a Shoe store chain, a former Navy mechanic, an Electrician, two Teachers, and an Accountant. There are several others, not mentioned here. Their wives/significant others accompany them. They all come for the friendly companionship associated with learning to improve singing in a quartet, without the pressure of preparation for contests and shows. Some of them are members of other, performing, quartets. Between songs, if you listen carefully, you can learn the lessons of life, share some humor, and relax. Perhaps this is an almost ‘religious’ experience? Come and join us. For details, go to www.sfbayquartets.org.



Division 4 NE Chapters

Roger Perkins, Editor

California Delta Chapter

By Rich Brunner

It’s been a busy time of year for the **California Delta Chapter**. We produced our community holiday shows at the state-of-the-art Three Stages Theater in Folsom. It was our first time at this beautiful venue and we can’t wait to return. Both shows were well attended and we shared the stage with three other local community performing groups as well as our own **Artistic License**. This kind of multi-group approach to our holiday show has become a tradition for us and we love sharing what we do with the audiences of these other fine groups as well as getting a chance to appreciate the fine music they perform in other genres.

We put on another very interesting holiday show at a mega-church in the area. Members of the congregation had been hard at work since mid-summer building a complete small town downtown neighborhood as it would have been in the 1940s. It was intended as a place for people in the nearby community to come hang out and appreciate a safe, unique atmosphere with good music and entertainment. We sang right in between the local bakery and the radio station. It was a great atmosphere and a big crowd.

The turn of the year brought with it even more news of note, as the chorus voted to change our name from the “**American River Chorus**” to the “**Voices of California**”. There’s a huge college in town named American River College and we seemed to be continuously bumping into them in our community marketing efforts. This new name is also more indicative of the geographic diversity of our chorus membership, as we have guys that travel down from Chico, up from Merced, and in from Palo Alto and Santa Rosa.

Our annual installation dinner was held at the fancy Timber Cove Ballroom and was well attended and well received. The proceedings were presided over by none other than our Society founder, **Mr. Owen Clifton (O.C.) Cash**, who regaled us all with the lighter side of the 75-year history of our great singing society. It’s amazing how much O.C. looked like the **Great Perko** (aka **Roger Perkins**). Thanks Roger! **Rich Brunner** is beginning his third year as chapter president. The BOTY award went to **Winston Char** for all the work he does for the chapter.

Central California Chapter

By Miles Sutter

GVC sang nine songs ... final selection, America the beautiful overlay, was performed with **Artistic License**, **River Lights Chorus**, and all high school harmony camp students. Beautiful production! In the first half of the show we dressed in blue vests and ties, black pants and shoes; second half we dressed in gold vests and ties, white trousers and shoes. True GVC colors! **River Lights Chorus**, under the direction of **Shirley Kout**, sang five songs and **Artistic License** sang seven. Magnificent is the only way to describe our 2011 FWD Champs! As part of our Youth in Harmony program, Merced, Ripon and Manteca high school students also performed. A special treat was the appearance of Mr. Harold Hill (aka **Howard Barber**), direct from River City, Iowa, singing their Music Man numbers. As if that wasn’t enough we had a special presentation: a Veterans Day Salute with Honor Guard. Truly an emotional event!

In order to put on a production of this magnitude it requires a lot of help from many individuals: **Ron Russell**, show chairman; **Melany Huston**, Stage Manager; **Derick Sturke**, curtain; **Stratt Riggs**, Subway sandwiches for the entire group; Tickets, **Terrell Chambers**; Marketing and Program, **Grady Williams**; Ad Sales, **Marc Jantzen**; clean-up crew, all GVC members; and our fantastic MC, **Herb Andrew**. And last, but not least, is our director, **Bruce Sellnow**, who worked on this production 24/7. Thank you, Bruce, for your outstanding commitment.

What a fantastic way to share the Christmas spirit with so many wonderful and enthusiastic senior citizens, family and guests at the Casa De Modesto Retirement Center on December 13th. It made the season truly bright! With the 17 chorus members decked out in Christmas colors and attire, it was indeed festive! The auditorium again was at capacity, with 175-200 guests, some SRO, all very obviously looking forward to our performance. **Bruce Sellnow** led the ‘merry men’, providing everyone with a marvelous holiday evening. **Herb Andrew** was the MC for this evening’s performance, providing the lead-in narrative to many of our 15 Christmas songs. **Dr. Bob Clark** and **Terrell Chambers** were soloists for two of our songs.

Greg, Mike, Bruce and Howard quarteted the intro to "White Christmas". The evening's performance included the always-requested "12 Days of Christmas". **Bob Chapman** provided the instrumental part of this performance playing the piano, with the participation of our audience led by 12 members of the GVC. Always a crowd pleaser!

The Golden Valley Chorus officially began 2013 with our 16th annual installation and awards banquet on January 12th at Covenant Village. This was our second time there for this occasion, and from the overall consensus it won't be our last. There was ample seating for all, and the catered cuisine was excellent, serving 40 members and guests. This year's event was spearheaded by **Herb Andrew** who gave the blessing and was our MC for the evening. Our installing officer was **Dan Warschauer**. The usual awards ceremony followed immediately after dinner, and they were as follows:

Rookie of the Year Award, presented by **Bruce Sellnow**, went to **Stratt Riggs**.

President's Award, presented by **Terrell Chambers** went to **Ron Russell**.

Director's Award was presented to **Marc Jantzen**.

Bruce Sellnow announced that Barbershopper of the Year for 2012 is **Ted Meyer**.

Dick Compton conducted the **Dain Goad Memorial Quartet Jamboree and Quartet Awards** contest. The contest was won by quartet "**Juan Plus Three**" [**Juan Quijano**, **Ted Meyer**, **Bruce Sellnow**, **Bob Clark**].

The new Central Valley Youth Chorus met for the first time on January 13th, in Ripon. The turnout for our first rehearsal was 11 young men. It was really more like "11 fantastic" guys; all of whom were under the direction of **Josh Landin**. The sound produced was phenomenal.

Thanks also to the GVC members who came and helped out with the music. Anyone interested in joining our Youth Chorus please call **Marc Jantzen** at (209) 401-7545. The Chorus is designed for Young Men through the age of 30. It meets on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of every month from 3:00 to 5:30 pm in Ripon.

Davis-Vacaville Chapter

By Tom Powers

The **West Valley Chorus** performed two holiday shows in partnership with churches in Vacaville and Woodland. The proceeds were donated to local charities. The churches provided the venues, publicity, and staging help. All of the songs were performed without sheet music. Through announcements in many different church bulletins and other publicity sources, we invited men from the general public to sing three songs with us. We offered three practice sessions and tips on how to improve their singing skills. Our shows were well received and we plan to do them again next year. We hope we can attract new members as well as stimulate public interest in our future shows.

On January 12th, we held our annual installation banquet at Cattlemen's Steakhouse in Dixon. As always, it was a coat-and-tie affair. **Richard Lund** served as our installing officer. **Steve Rollins** was elected to a second term as President.

Supporting him for 2013 will be **Bob Hansen** (VP Music), **Ward Matal** (VP Membership), **Bob Benson** (VP Program), **Bill Manson** (VP Marketing and PR), **Gary Plaskett** (Secretary), **Steve Calapp** (Treasurer), **Rich Tosti** (Show Chairman), and **Tom Powers** (Member-at-Large).

One of the highlights of the annual dinner is the awarding of the Barbershopper of the Year perpetual trophy. This hefty, handcrafted masterpiece was made by our hobbyist blacksmith, **Phil Harris**. The honoree has his name engraved on the trophy, joining all of the previous winners, and gets to display the trophy in his home for the coming year. This year's recipient was **Bill Manson**. The Joe Barbershopper Award went to **Harry Baertschi**, our 89 years young wonder tenor whose attendance at practices and performances has been exemplary. **Ollie Brilhante** presented the Director's Award to **John Minkler** for his outstanding logistical support for chapter performances.

Folsom Chapter

By Dennis Stohl

Folsom Harmony Express Chorus members spent the month of October preparing for their Fall Recital held on November 2nd. The theme was "Get Happy". Increasing attendance was a major goal for this event this year. Our efforts paid off as we tripled last year's attendance. **Marion Gribskov** was the MC for the evening and did a great job. Door prizes were presented to the lucky winners in the audience. The guest quartet was **Artifacts** [**Ollie Brilhante**, FHX Director **Kent Borrowdale**, **Lou Dahlstrom**, **Don Kidder**]. The other quartets who sang were, **Now And Then**, **Two By Two**, **Above C Level** and **Zero Gravity**.

The Chorus sang patriotic songs during the Veterans Day Celebration at the Sylvan Cemetery. Our singing is a long-time tradition at this event.

On November 29, we enjoyed a Fifth Thursday Holiday Quartet Night event in lieu of a regular rehearsal. Events included Line Tag Quarteting, Christmas Carol Match Game, Polecat Scramble Quartet Sing, and Chorus Lottery Sing.

Once again, the FHX chorus provided the music at the Orangevale Christmas tree lighting ceremony that introduced Santa and the lighting of the city's Christmas tree.

Chorus members held a Christmas party and potluck dinner on the rehearsal night December 20th at **Les Cudworth's** home. We capped off the evening by caroling to Les' neighbors.

The Installation and Awards banquet was held January 10 at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Roseville. **Doug Vestal** is beginning his fifth year as president and was Emcee for the evening. Installing officer was **Roger Perkins** who did his **O.C. Cash** impersonation as this year is the Society 75th anniversary. The same program worked well at the California Delta Chapter installation, but there was so much noise in the Spaghetti Factory that it drowned out most of the presentation. I think this will be the last installation dinner at this location. The **BOTY** award went to **Les Lorenzen** who joined the chapter a year ago. He is a hard worker and has taken on two jobs for 2013 - Music and Performance VP and Membership V.P.

Fresno Chapter **By David Reitzel**

In October, some members of **GNC a Cappella (Gold Note Chorus)** and Director **Adam Kitt** joined Visalia's **Mighty Oaks Chorus** in their annual mixed youth bash, learning session, and evening performance with **Crush**, the featured quartet. Soon after, GNC had its annual Halloween Cabaret.

Christmas singouts included appearances at Riverpark near the San Joaquin River and at North West Church; a performance for F.O.R.C.E. (a group of retired county employees); and a strolling concert at Simonian Farms, all with the aid of the quartet **Silver & Gold**. A highlight was the December 16 Christmas program with **Voices United** at Fresno's Newman Center, directed by **DeeDee Nibler** and **Adam Kitt**. GNC soloists **Wes Jackson**, **Adam Kitt**, and **Bob Bergstrom**, and a quartet consisting of **Ken Wenger**, **Adam Kitt**, **Dave Douglass**, and **Ron Whisenant** performed admirably. We joined the ladies in a rousing finale, the Hallelujah Chorus.

With the New Year came our annual installation of officers, **David Reitzel** presiding. **Dee Baughman**, of Visalia's Mighty Oaks Chorus, installed the officers: President, **Terry Starr**; Immediate Past President, **Bill Holden**; Secretary, **Bill Golden**; Treasurer, **Mike Smith**; VP Music & Performance, **Wes Jackson**; VP Chapter Membership & Development, **Stanley Dilbeck**; VP Marketing & Publicity, **Jim Irvine**; Program VP, **David Reitzel**; Chorus Manager, **Doug Yarrow**; and Board Members-at-Large, **Alan Dorfmeier**, **Harold Fast**, and **Richard Wayne**. Director **Adam Kitt** presented Director's Appreciation Awards to **Stanley Dilbeck** and Associate Director **David Douglass**, leads, and to **Ken Wenger**, baritone-tenor. **Bill Holden** is our Administrator of the Year; **Harold Fast**, our Unsung Hero; **Terry Starr** and **Doug Yarrow**, the Workhorses of the Year; and **Stan Dilbeck**, Rookie of the Year. The President's Appreciation Award went to **Wes Jackson**. **Adam Kitt** is our 2012 Barbershopper of the Year.

In Memoriam: Bass Jim Rathbun (2012). Tenor Jim Warner (2012).

Nevada Placer Chapter **By Roger Perkins**

November 24 was **Ernie Kleven's** 80th birthday. Ernie was one of the founders of our chapter in 1983. His granddaughter asked if we could have a few chapter members attend and sing his favorite song, **What A Wonderful World**. Being so close after Thanksgiving we were only able to put together a sextet, but we had all four parts and it worked quite well. After singing three songs we got Ernie up and he sang bari in a couple of songs, much to the delight of his family and friends. Thanks to **Tom Klasey**, **Burt Weichenthal**, **Roger Perkins**, **Dave Bishop**, **Jack McPhillips** and **Tony Prowense** for doing a good job at the party. **Bill Peck** from the Placerville Chapter also showed up and helped us out.

Sierranaders Chorus performed at the annual **Victorian Christmas** in Nevada City on the first two Wednesday evenings in December. We have been doing this for 25 years and the Chamber of Commerce tells us that it wouldn't be the

same without us. A little drizzle the first night didn't stop us from drawing a crowd. The second night was clear and quite cold. As usual our uniform for the event was "warm" with a Santa hat.

The **Sierranaders** Installation and Awards Banquet took place once again in Auburn at the Power's Mansion ballroom. The owner, **Alfred Lee**, gives us a special price for the dinner as well as rooms in the B & B if anybody wants to spend the night. Our outgoing president, **Verne Bagby**, was the MC and gave out awards. Our BOTY of 2011, **Tony Prowense**, presented the award to **Steve Mathews**, who took over the job of Treasurer over a year ago from long-time treasurer, **Bill Beck**, who moved back to San Jose about a year and a half ago. Steve has been a Society member for 42 years and is a much-needed tenor. He also has sung tenor in the **4T9r4** quartet for several years. Our installing officer was **O.C. Cash** as played by **Richard Lund** with his wife, **Patsy** from Placerville. Richard is our NE Division Vice President. He and Patsy are hard workers and also run the NorCal Youth Harmony Camp in September.

Reno Chapter **By Steve Shurtliff**

The Holiday season is behind us, and a great season it was! December found our chorus performing several times. Our annual Christmas show featured two high school vocal groups, our chorus, as well as a fine soloist and a great duet by our director **Bill Weiser** and the church music director **Cindy Sabattini**. The highlight, though, was the appearance of **O C Times**, who did a beautiful performance at each show. Both shows were packed and received standing ovations. It was a wonderful day and night. Also, seeing the high school girls watching **O C Times** was a definite indication that our style of music has a very good future indeed.

We combined business with pleasure by doing the installation at our own Christmas party which came the week after the show. I am happy to say that the board will continue almost intact, with **Tony Kruk** holding the reins as President, **Dave Gaunt** as Secretary, and **Fred Watson** as Treasurer. I can think of no better Membership Committee chairman than **Jeff Healion**, so we are certainly happy to have him there another year. We also have an excellent Marketing VP in **Jay Ciccotti**, and **Bill Kuene** as music VP. Both are doing fine jobs and our chorus can only benefit from their continuation. Members-at-large **Dick Whitten**, **Donnie Miller** and yours truly (**Steve Shurtliff**) round out the board. We are all looking towards a great year for our chorus and for the Society as a whole.

We heartily welcome **John Hill** to our chorus.

Sacramento Chapter **By Joe Samora**

The Capitolaire quartets sang during the State Railroad Museum's "**Polar Express**" event held between November 25 and December 16, 2012 in Old Sacramento. **Steve Allison** coordinated the event.

About twenty men led by Director **Ron Black** sang for the Loomis Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony in the Loomis Railroad Station on Saturday, December 1.

The Capitolaire's chorus sang holiday songs in the **State Capitol rotunda** in Sacramento on December 5.

On December 7, about two dozen men sang in the Hyatt Hotel, Sacramento for the annual Sacramento Business Journal Awards Banquet.

The **Capitolaire's Awards Banquet** was held at the Old Spaghetti Factory in Roseville on January 8. Past President **Steve Allison** served as Master of Ceremonies. President **Clark Abrahamson** introduced his officers. **Bill Borah** announced that **Dan Swink**, Vice President Membership, is the 2012 Barbershopper of the Year for his dedicated service and continued chapter support.

Stockton Chapter

By Al Wolter

The **Stockton Portsmen** had a busy December. The chorus sang at the Micke Grove Festival of Trees, a couple of private parties, several retirement homes and Lincoln Center. **Tune Struck Quartet** and **Fat City Four** also performed out in the community, including two performances at the Stockton Civic Theater.

In January, we were honored by a special appearance by **OC Cash (Richard Lund)** at our annual officers' installation dinner. Our new elected board consists of **Al Wolter** as President, **Harry Williams** as VP Chapter Development, **Craig Vincent** as VP Music & Performance, VP PR & Marketing and Past President, **John Eilers** as Treasurer, **Bill McCarty** as Secretary, **Bill Litz** and **Marshall Woodward** as Board Members-at-Large and **Sandy Mosley** and **Nancy Hennefer** as Associate Liasons. **Bill Litz** was honored with the Barbershopper of The Year, **Joan Ray** was awarded Associate of The Year and **Bill Legg** received a Special Achievement Award for 59 years of service to the Stockton Chapter.

Visalia Chapter

By Bud Case

This year as usual, **Lee Smith**, VP PR, arranged for the chorus to sing Christmas Carols at 11 senior facilities as a way to give back to the community and spread Christmas cheer. We did these on our regular rehearsal night, usually returning to rehearse for our upcoming Annual Show. He also arranged for two paid sing-outs on other evenings.

Our Christmas Party highlighted the last evening of caroling when 30+ members/families shared in Christmas fun. We took the occasion to award the 2012 Barbershopper of the Year to Music Librarian, **Norman Bryan**. He has taken on the monumental job this year to clean out and organize several file cabinet drawers of music, make sure we are using legal arrangements and provide current guest packets every rehearsal evening. He has been very active in the Chapter since joining in 2006.

The MOC has accepted the challenge to host the 2013 FWD Convention in Bakersfield in October and we are committed to the hard work necessary for success. We appreciate the District's confidence in us to carry it out. We also appreciate members of the **Bakersfield Golden Empire** and **Fresno A Cappella Chorus** willing to lend their experience, guidance and manpower to "get 'er done".

We appreciate the men that step up to the plate as our Board of Directors to insure the proper maintenance, progress and direction of the Chapter. The lineup for 2013 is **Dee Baughman**, President; **Lee Smith**, VP of PR; **Rod Robinson**, VP Membership; **Fred Speckman**, VP Music & Performance; **Pat Harrison**, Treasurer; **Bud Case**, Secretary; and Board Members, **Evert Christoffels**, **Ted Petersdorf**, **Paul Simon** and **Norman Bryan**. While many of us have served multiple years we appreciate **Rod Robinson's** willingness to come on board this year. Thank you to all our members as we each wear many hats to make for success. Our director **Adam Kitt** has taken us up a few notches in his first 12 months. He is a consummate barbershopper, highly prepared/organized musician and is committed to leading us to better sound, better performance and greater enjoyment of our hobby. We're glad he's on board for 2013 too.



Division 5 AZ Chapters

Frank Ortega, Editor

Greater Phoenix Chapter

By Bob Szabo

The **Spirit of Phoenix** was honored to host the Far Western District Fall Convention at the Mesa Art Center in Mesa, Arizona.

Kudos were received from conventioners on the facilities and handling of the event. **Bob Samson**, SOP Chairman for the event, received Barbershopper of the Month honors for his leadership and convention successes.

The SOP finished second in the chorus contest and was elated to win the "Most Improved Chorus" award. Five quartets represented the Greater Phoenix Chapter and placed as follows: **Vocal Edition** took 4th place, **Audacity** was 5th, **Whoop 'Em Up** came in 8th, **Game On** finished 12th, and **4** wound up in 13th place.

The "Harmony Platoon" contest was also held during the District weekend. Organized by **Bill Kane**, FWD Quartet Activities Chairman, the "Platoon" consisted of 60 members from 30 chapters who all learned several pieces of music in order to participate. Due to its success, the "Harmony Platoon" will continue to be a District event.

In November, the SOP again participated in the "Boys-to-Men" annual concert. This event encourages men's and high school choruses from the Phoenix area to attend and participate in this program. Interested choruses and singers are provided with three songs that are sung in an "en masse" finale. Participating choruses entertain the attendees by singing several songs from their own repertoire. This year's participants included the ASU Men's Chorus, Phoenix Metropolitan Men's Chorus, Phoenix Chorale, Orpheus Male Chorus of Phoenix, Phoenix Boy's

Chorus, the Spirit of Phoenix, and several local high school chorus members.

In December, the SOP brought in the Holiday Season by holding three Christmas shows – two on the east side of Phoenix and one on the west side. The shows on the east side included performances by the hosting Skyline High School's **Supernaturals**, a vocal ensemble that brought both youth and variety to the shows.

Since Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve fell on Tuesdays, the SOP enjoyed a two-week hiatus before gearing up for 2013 activities.

Mesa Chapter By Bob Shaffer

The **Lamplighters** participated in the Fred Koch Memorial Summer Bash, an annual event that gives Arizona barbershoppers a weekend of great singing and golf (with no meetings!) The quartet of **Andy Harry, Dale Weatherford, Bob Shaffer, and Roy Murray** won the Novice Quartet Contest. A VLQ of Lamplighters sang well, but was unable to defend its title in the VLQ Contest. Ten chapter members participated in the "Luck of the Draw" Quartet Contest. Monies taken in at the weekend festivities will be used to support the Arizona Division's Youth in Harmony Fund.

The Far Western District's Fall Convention, hosted admirably by Arizona's own **Spirit of Phoenix** chorus, was held in our backyard last October. A good number of our guys assisted our Phoenix brothers with backstage and registration duties.

In November, the Mesa Chapter moved its rehearsals to the First Baptist Church in northeast Mesa. The new, spacious, well-lit facilities will be instrumental in the continued growth of the chorus.

The Lamplighters spread Christmas cheer throughout the community three times in December. First up, we sang at downtown Chandler's Santa Claus House and Tumbleweed Christmas Tree Lighting. Next up were two performances at the downtown Mesa Arts Festival. Last, but not least, we made our annual appearance at the Chandler "Christmas Street" block party. We concluded the season's festivities with a gathering in our rehearsal hall attended by family and friends, including the Sweet Adeline's **Fiesta Chorus** and many other local barbershoppers.

The Mesa Chapter elected the following officers for 2013: **Dale Weatherford**, President (second term); **Jim Brown**, VP-Music; **Jerry Fox**, VP-Program; **Bill Johnson**, VP-Membership; **Roy Murray**, VP-Marketing; **Bob Shaffer**, Secretary-Treasurer; and Board Members-at-Large **Rich Carey, Dick Moore** and **Ray Stasko**.

Since the last report, we welcomed new member **Thom Olmstead** and transfers **Rich Carey** and **Bernie Esberner**. **John Johnson**, who sang as a young man with the **Phabulous Phoenicians** back in the 1980s with his father Bill, also joined the chapter.

Prescott Chapter By Sam Stimple

In mid-October, the Prescott Chapter held its annual two-night show called "Let's Celebrate...With Friends" at the Prescott Center for the Arts. Master of Ceremonies **Danny Anderson** kept the program moving and introduced the performers including special guests **Snappy Tappers** (classy lady tap dancers) and **Radio Flyer** (the chapter's very own folk group). The **High Mountain Chordsmen** and two of our chapter's quartets, **Antique Parts** and **Silver Sounds**, mesmerized the audience with chords that could be heard all over town.

The members re-elected President **Ed Massa** and entrusted new officers **Ed Kenney, Jim Skinner, Bob Pearson, and Richard Ludwigson** to serve on the 2013 Board of Directors.

It is heartbreaking to report the passing of **Joseph La Barge**, a 39-year Society member, popular past president and VP of Music & Performance of the Prescott Chapter, as well as an officer of the Lewisburg, Pennsylvania Chapter. HMC sang at Joe's memorial service, which was followed by a reception catered by the HMC Belles (our sweetheart auxiliary) and friends.

In December, the chorus and quartets delivered twenty-one holiday performances for our community and local care center residents. Our musical family also participated in Prescott's Acker Musical Showcase for the 25th consecutive year.

Ed Wolfe, faithful secretary and bass section leader, was named 2012 Barbershopper of the Year at our annual Installation of Officers and Awards Dinner in January.

Prescott's theme for the New Year is UP, UP AND AWAY! Stay tuned.

Sedona Chapter By Lee Shoptaugh

All those who attended the Sedona **Harmony on the Rocks** Chorus Concert in November were treated to a rollicking, irreverent show of barbershop harmony served up with a generous portion of comedy, celebrating Arizona's centennial year – 2012. The show, entitled "Three Cheers for Arizona," was scripted and narrated by **Tom Fox**. Featured, and back again by popular demand, was **Audacity**, the 2009 International Seniors Quartet Champion. Local Sedona quartet **Beauty and the Beasts** also appeared. In keeping with the main theme, the song presentations included "Home On The Range," "Tumbling Tumbleweeds," "Bury Me Out On The Lone Prairie," "Don't Fence Me In," and "Cool Water."

In December, Harmony on the Rocks joined the ladies of the **Red RockAppella Chorus** for their Holiday Concert entitled "Music, Music, Music." We also kept busy performing at various venues throughout the greater Verde Valley during the Christmas holiday.

The officers for 2013 are as follows: President **Wally Reule**, Treasurer **Jack Edwards**, Secretary **Lee Shoptaugh**, Chorus Director **John McDougald**, Assistant Chorus Director **Tom Doeller**, VP Marketing/PR **Tom Fox**, VP Membership **Michael**

Steele, VP Music & Performance **Ross Hawkins**, District Delegate **Jack Edwards**, BMALs **Don Tautkus** and **Michael McCaffrey**, and Immediate Past President **David Lombardi**.

Sun Cities Chapter By Campbell Titchener

The **Desert Aires** sang-in the New Year with **Bill Shaw**, president; **Ed O'Connor**, immediate past president; **Dave Moses**, vice president, music and performance; **Joe Salz**, vice president, program; **Jack McGill**, vice president, marketing and public relations; **Dave Starcevich**, secretary; **Dave Tague**, treasurer; and members-at-large **Bud Hesterman**, **Bob Geinosky** and **Bob Caskey**. Vice presidents for membership and chapter development have yet to be named. Ed O'Connor, who has taken over as computer guru and program designer, was named Barbershopper of the Year.

Gary Steinkamp, director of the **Spirit of Phoenix** chorus, has turned out to be one of the best friends the Desert Aires have. Several years ago, he sang tenor with his quartet **Finale**, a headliner at our annual show. Two years ago, again at our annual show when the bass of the prize-winning quartet **Audacity** fell ill, Gary stepped in and sang bass. In January, he presided as installing officer for the Desert Aires. Then, in a truly *deja vu* moment, he sang at our installation banquet and will be filling in at tenor with the Phoenix Chapter's **Vocal Edition**, featured guest at our upcoming annual show.

Chapter quartet **Rainbow** (**Grant Fox**, tenor; **Ken Corns**, lead; **Bud Hesterman**, baritone; and **Doug Campbell**, bass) had a job worth mentioning. The Golden Corral Restaurant offered a free meal to any veteran, and the quartet was asked to provide the entertainment. Singing for almost three solid hours, the foursome had a constantly changing audience as more than 1,000 people moved through the line.

The Desert Aires family was saddened by the passing of Director **Jerry Roland**'s wife, **Sally**, who lost her battle with cancer.

Tucson Sunshine Chapter By Jack Statler

Tucson Barbershop eXperience opened the Fall Concert Season with its Annual Green Valley Concert, sharing the stage with the **Green Valleyaires** and chapter quartets **Joint Venture** and **Touch of Grey**, performing for a loyal and appreciative audience.

TBX performed a Veterans Day Concert at Pantano Baptist Church including patriotic and gospel numbers honoring our veterans, also featuring Joint Venture, Touch of Grey, **Tucson Desert Harmony Ensemble** and guest quartet **Footnotes**.

TBX Ensemble appeared at the local VA Hospital and later in the week sang for the Disabled Veterans Dinner held in the spacious dining room of the Pantano Elks Club honoring the vets and their spouses.

TBX Ensemble was invited to appear at the Festival of the Arts held at the Oro Valley Marketplace. Performing in front of the stage area for an appreciative audience, the Ensemble,

festooned in colorful Santa hats and scarves, then moved to several locations throughout the dozens of well-attended arts, crafts and food booths, delighting the patrons with Christmas holiday selections.

TSC held its Annual Christmas Holiday Awards Banquet in the tastefully appointed Comanche Wells Clubhouse (thanks, **Ron Hayes**!), enjoying a combo of catered and potluck culinary delights wrangled by **Wes & Sue Krause**. Thanks! We saluted chapter officers and board members and presented Barbershopper of the Year and Rookie of the Year awards to **Dave Tompkins** and **Larry Castriotta**, respectively. Congratulations!

We held our Annual Christmas Show, "Need A Little Christmas," under the direction of **Dayle Ann Cook** and assistants **Rich Kates** and **Ken Sylvia**, in the spacious, well-appointed Sahuaro High School Theatre. The show featured Joint Venture and Touch of Grey, as well as the recently formed madrigal quartet **What The Dickens** in full, colorful 17th century costume. What turned out to be the showstopper was TBX's version of the humorous parody "The 12 'Pains' of Christmas."

Last year, TSC utilized the historic and prestigious Tucson Scottish Rite Cathedral for a dinner during the Midwinter Convention and for a Christmas show. They were so impressed that TBX returned to perform at their annual formal Tucson Scottish Rite Holiday Celebration under the direction of **Rich Kates** and **Ken Sylvia**. Also featured were Joint Venture and Touch of Grey.

TBX Ensemble performed at the annual "Twelve Days of Christmas" event at the Lowe's Ventana Canyon Resort. Hotel guests and families from nearby communities gathered in the lobby in front of a fireplace each night to be treated to holiday music presented by 12 different musical groups in Tucson. TBX performed on the second night of the series under the direction of **Rich Kates** and **Ken Sylvia**. Also featured were Joint Venture and Touch of Grey.

Marketing VP **Dave Updegraf**, Events Chairman **Wes Krause**, and Chorus Manager **Mike Elbert** put together the Traveling Holiday Concerts at six senior's residences on a Saturday in mid-December. TBX caravanned to each location on a pre-arranged schedule and performed a mini-concert for enthusiastic audiences starting at 8:00 AM and concluding at 6:00 PM. A hat was passed for voluntary donations—proceeds were shared with the Community Food Bank. At the end of the day, everyone was tired but also enriched by the experience that should become an annual tradition.

White Mountain Chapter By Rich Hall

The **High Country Chorus** was very active during the Christmas season, performing at holiday events throughout the community including Christmas tree lightings, a Lion's Club camp supporting special needs kids, and a luncheon at a local senior center. Our chapter quartets were busy, too. **Crook's Trail** sang at a local church service, the arrival of Santa Claus at a shopping mall; and provided entertainment at two birthday events. The **4 Wheel Drive** quartet performed at Solterra

Senior Living, a local retirement home, and sang Christmas carols on a local radio station.

Our well-attended Christmas show in December featured a broad array of guest talent including the Blue Ridge High School **Harmonies**, the White Mountain **Big Band Singers**, and our quartets **Broken Record** (notably all under 20 years old), **Four Wheel Drive**, and **Crook's Trail**.

Director Emeritus **Doc Dockendorf** led the proceedings at our Installation Dinner in January. A quartet from Mesa called **Twilight Time (Jim Bohart, Tom Chase, Ron Young, Doc Dockendorf)** provided the entertainment. **Four Wheel Drive** and **Crook's Trail** also performed. The officers for 2013 are **Ron LaMar**, President; **Rich Hall**, VP Membership; **Dan Lewis**, VP Marketing; **Don Murrow**, VP Music; **Jim Dye**, Secretary; **John Welker**, Treasurer; **Alan Beste**, Interim Director; and Board Members-at-Large **James H. Burden**, **James M. Burden**, and **Steve Pansulla**.

Notices [at end, printing optional]

BQPA/Pioneers Spring Festival Tempe, AZ - April 10 - 14, 2013

This is to let you know that the next festival organized by the Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association / Pioneers is scheduled for April 10th through the 14th, in Tempe, Arizona.

Why should you be interested? Because our get-togethers are nothing more or less than three or four days of do-it-yerself quartet, in the old style. While we do have a "luck-of-the-draw" quartet contest on the Friday evening, almost all of the remaining time is occupied by informal quartet. Find three other parts and belt one! (Or finesse one, if you prefer ballads.) Find three other singers and teach 'em a tag! Or get together with someone who'll teach a tag to you! Woodshedders are welcome, but that's not all we do; we sing old songs, tags, familiar arrangements from the 40s through the 90s - you name it. In quartets, that form and melt away, and re-form, on and on. From morning 'til the wee hours.

Oh, yeah: there's golf on Thursday and Friday mornings. Sing a song on every tee. But ya gotta sign-up ahead of time, to be sure we've got enough tee times...

You can find details on the BQPA/Pioneers website: www.bqpa.com. Check out the "Events" page.

Specifically, we'll be at the Embassy Suites, 4400 South Rural Road, Tempe, AZ 85282. Their phone number is 480-897-7444, and their website address is

www.embassysuitestempe.com.

(If you're reserving a room, make sure you tell 'em you're with the barbershoppers, or that you'll be attending the BQPA gathering, so you get the festival room rate - VERY attractive.)

Hope to see you there! Look me up, and sing a tag or a song with me!

Barily yours,

Tom Noble, President
BQPA/Pioneers



ARIZONA DIVISION CONVENTION & CONTEST

Phoenix, AZ April 19-21, 2013



CONTEST LOCATION

Moon Valley High School
3625 West Cactus Road
Phoenix, AZ 85029



HEADQUARTERS HOTEL

Holiday Inn – North Phoenix
12027 N 28th Drive, Phoenix
Tel: (602) 548-6000

To Do List:

✓Register your chorus or quartet for contest by March 24th.

✓Register everyone for convention – for early bird postmark by April 1st.

✓Make early room reservations @ Holiday Inn Phoenix North (602-548-6000): 30 room block held until April 5th.

✓Come to Friday night's Quartet Platoon contest and ring some chords.

✓Sign up for the Afterglow at the Registration Desk.

✓Sign up for Sunday's group tour of the famous Musical Instrument Museum at the Registration Desk.

✓Have fun!!!!

Convention Schedule:

Friday, April 19th

8:30AM – 6:00PM	Quartet Platoon Activities	Hqs Hotel
6:00PM – 7:30PM	Dinner Break	Hotel/Area
7:30PM – 9:00PM	Evening Show	Hqs Hotel

Saturday, April 20th

9:00AM – 7:00PM	Registration	Moon Valley HS
9:30AM – 11:00AM	Set-Up for Contest	MVHS Auditorium
11:00AM	Doors Open	"
11:50AM	Mic Tester Quartet	"
12:00AM – 3:00PM	Quartet Contest	"
3:00PM	Quartet Evaluations	Hqs Hotel
5:00PM – 6:30PM	Dinner Break	Hotel/Local Area
6:30PM	Doors Open	MVHS Auditorium
7:20PM	Mic Tester Chorus	"
7:30PM	Chorus Contest	"
9:00PM	Show of Champions	"
9:30PM	Chorus Evaluations	"
10:00PM	Afterglow & Quartets	Hqs Hotel

Sunday, April 21st

11:00AM – 12:00	Group Guided Tour	Musical Instrument Museum
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MUSICAL INSTRUMENT MUSEUM, Phoenix
4725 E Mayo Blvd, www.MIM.com
\$18 Adults, \$14 teens, \$10 children (4-12)



SE/SW Division Contests Registration

FAR WESTERN DISTRICT
Barbershop



SOUTH WEST/EAST DIVISIONS
Harmony Society

2013 CONVENTION/CONTESTS

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2013

COLONY HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM

3850 E. RIVERSIDE DRIVE, ONTARIO, CA 91761

Hosted by the Riverside Chapter



HEADQUARTERS – SHERATON ONTARIO AIRPORT HOTEL
429 N. VINEYARD AVE. ONTARIO, CA 91764
ALL ROOMS COST \$89 PER NIGHT, INCLUDES BREAKFAST
CALL 1-800-741-5072 - OR USE DIRECT LINK ON THE FWD WEB PAGE
Say you're a 'BARBERSHOPPER' to get our Rate

FWD BARBERSHOP HARMONY SOCIETY

SOUTH WEST/EAST DIVISIONS CONVENTION/CONTESTS MAY 11, 2013

REGISTRATION FORM (one form for each person)

Please type or print clearly.

NO RESERVED SEATING AVAILABLE AT DIVISIONALS

Name _____

Competition Status (check one)

Address _____

? Chorus Contestant ? Quartet Contestant
? Non-Competitive Member ? Guest

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Quartet Name _____

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

Chapter / Chorus _____

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

Singing Part: ? Lead ? Tenor ? Bari ? Bass

Full Early Bird Registration Type (Check One)	Full Late/On Site Registration Type (Check One)	Single Events Registration Type (Check One)	
† Full.....\$35.00 † Youth/Student.....\$20.00 (12 to 26) EARLY BIRD CUT OFF April 11, 2013	† Full.....\$45.00 † Youth/Student.....\$22.50 (12 to 26) All Competitors Must have FULL Reg.	? † Sat Chorus Contests.....\$20.00 † Sat. Quartet Finals/Show.....\$20.00? (SOLD ON SITE ONLY)	Date Recd. _____ Check # _____ Badge Code _____ Cash \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$_____ Please make check payable to: NG-SWE-13 (Fees are non-refundable)

Return form(s) with payment to: Fritz Grunenwald, 26151 Kitt Ansett Dr. Menifee, CA 92586-2781

Questions or Group Reg. Forms - Phone:(951) 679-7254 - Email: SWSE2013DIV@aol.com

(Optional) Your Email Address: _____ Confirmation only my Email

Harmony College West & Chorus Director's Guild Seminar

FWD's own 4 GOLD MEDALIST CHORUS DIRECTORS

together for the first time to teach the art of chorus directing

Dr. Greg Lyne, Royce Ferguson, Mark Hale, Justin Miller

Chorus Directors *will learn from the FWD's Gold Medalist Chorus Directors*

Individual students *Follow a course of study designed to make for better singers and better chapter members. Or pursue a new area of our hobby (such as chorus directing)*

*Classes in: Vocal Techniques, Barbershop Potpourri, Directing
Arranging, Chapter Leadership, Small Chorus Coaching*

Quartets *Receive a full weekend of coaching from our Society's top coaches*

All students *Participate in activities to build and grow our singing fraternity. Woodshed, tag-sing, and have a great time with other great barbershoppers in our District.*

Small Choruses *up to 4 small choruses can be coached for 4 hours**

Saturday Night Show

**Featuring FWD's Great Student Quartets,
and Guest Quartets**

*Spend a weekend of work, harmony and fellowship at the beautiful
California State University East Bay campus*

**August 16 - 18, 2013
California State University EAST BAY
Hayward, California**

**Quartet Registration \$800.00 (early bird: \$785 prior to June 4th)
Individual Registration \$175.00 (early bird: \$165 prior to June 4th)**

**Chorus members will register as Individuals for Harmony College West, but will enroll in "chorus coaching" with their chorus for one 4-hour class period-leaving 4 hours for individual class time*