



Summer 2014 Volume 64 Number 2



WESTUNES

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

7 FWD Quartets Competing in Las Vegas

The Crush 86.4
Artistic License 84.1
Newfangled Four 82.3
McPhly 81.4
95 North 80.5
Vocal Edition 77.1
American Pastime 76.6

4 FWD Choruses Competing in Las Vegas

Masters Of Harmony 91.4
Voices In Harmony 82.1
Spirit of Phoenix 80.8
Voices of California 80.7

FWD Quartets That Qualified for the 2014 International Quartet Contest in Las Vegas, NV



[above]

**The Crush
The Newfangled Four
95 North**



[above]

**Artistic License
McPhly
Vocal Edition**

[left]

American Pastime

FWD Choruses That Qualified for the 2014 International Quartet Contest in Las Vegas, NV



Masters Of Harmony, Voices In Harmony, Spirit of Phoenix, Voices of California [Top to Bottom]

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Acronyms	
BOTM	Barbershopper of the Month
BOTY	Barbershopper of the Year
DP	District President
DRCJ	District Representative Contest & Judging
DVP	District Vice President
CSLT	Chapter Support & Leadership Training
CDD	Chorus Director Development
C&J	Contest & Judging
E	Events
EVP	Executive Vice President
M&PR	Marketing & Public Relations
Mem Ser	Member Services
Mu&P	Music & Performance
QA	Quartet Activit

Quartets and Choruses that Qualified for the FWD Fall Final Contest in Fresno

Quartets	Div	Avg
McPhly	SE	81.1
American Pastime	SW	76.9
Vocal Edition	AZ	76.9
West 7 Four	SE	74.4
Flightily	SE	73.7
Left Coasters	SW	72.9
Brannigan	NW	72.9
Suit Up!	AZ	71.8
The Lineup	NE	71.7
First Strike	NW	70.8
Frequency	SW	70.7
The Front Line	NE	70.6
Speakeasy	AZ	70.2
TopCats	NE	69.5
Blood, Sweat, and Years	SW	69.4
4 Octaves	SW	69.3
Pipes	NE	69.3
High Priority	AZ	67.8
Behind The Barn	SE	67.5
Heatwave	AZ	67.3
Four Fifteen	SE	67.2
Crossfire!	NW	66.0
Joint Venture	AZ	65.8
Spellbound	SW	65.6
Happy-Go-Lucky-F&C Co	NE	65.2

(Could be invited if any of the above drop out)

Four on the Floor	NE	65.0
Carefree Highway	AZ	64.9
Singularity	NW	64.9
Delta Dons	NW	64.3
Fat City Four	NE	63.8

And the Senior Quartets competing for the FWD

Senior Quartet Championshiop are:

Blood, Sweat, and Years
High Priority
Four Fifteen
Carefree Highway
Arizona Chord Company
Classic Edition

Past FWD Senior Quartet Champions competing for
score are:

Velvet Frogs
Silver Knights

Choruses	Div	Avg
Westminster - Westminster Chorus	SE	93.3
Bay Area - Voices In Harmony	NW	82.7
Greater Phoenix - Spirit Of Phoenix	AZ	82.0
California Delta - Voices Of California	NE	79.4
La Jolla - Pacific Coast Harmony	SE	77.5
Brea - Gaslight Chorus	SE	76.1
Las Vegas - Silver Statesmen	SE	74.3
Rincon Beach - Pacific Sound	SW	72.6
Reno - Silver Dollar Chorus	NE	71.2
Tucson - Tucson Barbershop Experience	AZ	70.0
South Orange County - South County Sound	SE	68.8
Santa Monica - Oceanaires	SW	66.9
Riverside - New Gang On The Corner	SE	66.2
Palo Alto - Mountain View - Peninsulaires	NW	65.7
Santa Rosa - Redwood Chordsmen	NW	65.4
San Fernando Valley - Valley Harmony Singers	SW	65.3
Fullerton - Orange Empire Chorus	SE	64.6
San Diego - Sun Harbor	SE	63.8
Pasadena - Crown City Chorus	SW	62.8
Walnut Creek - Devils Mountain Chorus	NW	62.3
Central California - Golden Valley Chorus	NE	61.2
South Bay - Coastliners	SW	60.4
Placerville - Gold Rush Chorus	NE	60.0
Sacramento - Capitolaires	NE	59.6
Palomar Pacific - The Music Men	SE	58.6

(Could be invited if any of the above drop out)

Coachella Valley - Sandblasters	SE	58.2
San Francisco - Cable Car Chorus	NW	57.6
Santa Maria - Central Coast Chordsmen	SW	57.0
Sun Cities - Desert Aires	AZ	55.2
Folsom - Folsom Harmony Express	NE	55.2

CONVENTION CHATTER!

By Martin A. Judd,

Convention General Chairman

Are you going to the International Convention in Las Vegas this summer? If so, great!

We look forward to seeing you. If not, WHY not?

For over a year we have been telling you about all the neat things that will be happening at this year's convention. There's barely going to be enough time to do the things available at the convention much less do all the things offered in and around Las Vegas.

Rooms are available at an extremely low rate for a major hotel in the Las Vegas area and they are throwing in free parking! We would have loved to have had that in Toronto. You can find all price ranges for food -- from very expensive to free and everything in between. There are shows up and down the Strip.

There are youth activities right across the street as well as up and down the Strip. If you don't like the gambling side of Vegas, you don't have to be involved in it. YOU have choices! YOU have control!

A couple of **Westunes** ago I challenged you to attend the convention for two reasons: (1) it's happening in your own district and (2) we have several district quartets and choruses that need your support. I guess this didn't make much of an impression on many of you because registration numbers still aren't coming anywhere near hoped-for levels.

What is it going to take to get you to attend the BHS International Convention? It normally only comes to or near our district every four or five years so this is your chance to attend without a lot of travel involved. Hotel costs are as cheap as they have been in years. The BHS continues to add events and HarmonyU classes to spice up the pot but they can't add much more in the way of these new events or

classes because there are just not enough time slots left in the week to place them.

This year the entire convention is in one hotel! You never have to leave the building unless you want to. There are no buses to mess with between events...and no going outside to contend with the 'warm' summer Las Vegas weather.

After last year's convention was held out of the country, resulting in much higher costs for many of us, one would have expected that this year should have been one of the best attended conventions in recent years due to the really good rates that the society negotiated. Good prices, convenience, and all the trimmings and still we are not seeing Toronto's numbers as of this writing. Why?

Sure the registration fee has gone up over the years (but not this year!). It pretty much had to go up. The BHS has been adding events and classes to try and boost convention attendance. These things cost additional money. If you don't attend the convention, this cost gets passed on to those who do in the form of higher registration fees. If these fees get too high, people who have been attending the convention for years may be priced out of attending future conventions thus continuing this cycle of rising registration costs.

At some point there simply won't be an International Convention to attend. Why should the BHS and a host chapter go through all the work and expense of putting on a convention if no one is going to attend? How about we just hold the contests in an empty theater with a canned applause track and send them out via the webcast?

Meetings could be held on computers using one of the many software packages currently available. This way you save all that money you would have spent on travel, food and registration fees and the Society will save all that money they currently spend on bringing you the best International Convention possible. I just painted a picture of something that most of us hope to never see. But, it could happen!

You can help support the society, its programs and their International Convention by your attendance; and even more, by volunteering some of your time while at the convention to help make it run smoothly. This convention doesn't run without volunteer help. If the society had to hire people to fill all the positions that the volunteers currently fill, registration fees would be more like a \$1,000 per person. If you are interested in volunteering some of your time, please go to the Convention web page on the BHS website and click on the volunteer button. It will take you to our local convention site where you'll find the place to volunteer.

We're planning a *great* convention and offering so many fun things to do that you will probably wonder where all your time went. But, no matter how much we provide for you, it doesn't mean a thing if you don't attend and partake of all these offerings.

We have enough room in the Grand Garden Arena to seat well over 10,000 people. Let's not waste all that great space. There isn't a bad seat in the house, so let's fill 'er up! Please register for and attend the 2014 BHS International Convention this summer in Las Vegas.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE!

2014 Youth Harmony Camp

HARMONY CAMP 2014

September 19th – 21st

Pollock Pines, CA

As members of your chapter you are aware of the positive impact Harmony Camp has on boys and indirectly our communities. Over the past 11 years, 825 young men have attended Youth Harmony Camp in Pollock Pines. Many of these young men are now active members of barbershop chapters and / or participating in college or community choral programs.

This year, at the request of music educators who have attended camp in the past, we will provide a woodshedding class with additional time for tag singing which the boys love.

Our target attendance for 2014 is 100 boys and we can use your assistance. Harmony Foundation (HF) has funded camps like ours around the country using a formula of roughly \$50 per camper which is approximately 24% of our funding. This year HF has changed their method of supporting Camps with a shift to an emphasis on "new camps" and "growth of camps". We are not new, and we are growing, but not rapidly. The projected dollar amount per camper from HF will be lower in 2014 than in the past.

The FWD Harmony Camp is a very successful Camp. The historical roots of the FWD Camp go back to the actual creation of the camp concept by none other than Lloyd Steinkamp. All the other camps around the country followed the lead of the FWD camp and most of them are run as an arm of the Society. Those are the camps called Harmony Explosion Camps. The FWD Harmony Camp and a few others around the country are independent of the Society. We set our own rules, and receive no direct assistance from the Society.

Long term we are planning on launching a far reaching campaign to raise money for an endowment fund for Harmony Camp. This is an idea that has been percolating for some time and has received strong support from our BHS CEO, Marty Monson.

In fact, I met with Marty one on one at Harmony University last summer and he challenged me to undertake this project, and I am excited to do so!

More on this later; but I wanted you to be aware of this coming soon.

Dates for this year's Camp are September 19-21, 2014, and we have Lunch Break as our headliner quartet. We have Gabe Caretto, Music Dean, Jim Halvorson, Ron Black and Joe Cerutti (director of Alexandria Harmonizers and recently a member of the Society staff as YIH and Chorus Director Development).

Camp information and application forms are available on the FWD website <http://farwesterndistrict.org/youth-harmony-camp>. We

depend on you to assist us in recruiting boys or provide contact leads for us to contact them (choral directors or individuals).

Should you have questions or wish to provide information on Music Educators or individuals to whom we can send Camp information, don't hesitate to call or email me. Music Educators are welcome and encouraged to join us at camp for all or part of the weekend at our expense.

Richard Lund, Director

FWD Youth Harmony Camp

rlund@innercite.com

[530-621-1904](tel:530-621-1904)

Make check out to: FWD Youth Harmony Camp

Send to: Richard Lund

6164 Windlestraw Road

Placerville, CA 95667

Ps: Donations are tax deductible under our Society's 501(c)3 status.

Gene Clements - Convention Honoree
2104 Spring Convention in Riverside

"Just the facts, in the words of Gene Clements: (ed.)"

1967: Charter member of a new Mid-Atlantic District (MAD) chapter in Frederick, MD. Chorus: CATOCTONES...this was the start of my love of barbershop. Subsequently, I became Assistant Musical Director, the Director for 5 years. Served on the Board of Directors (BOD) as Vice President, then President and received the Barbershopper of the Year award (BOTY) for that. Held various other responsibilities such as Show Chairman. The 1976 Bi-centennial show was my "pride."

1970: Became interim director for a newly chartered Sweet Adelines International (ASI) chapter in Frederick. Chorus: Heart of Maryland. Served as "interim" director for 10 years, Region 14, I believe, and won the small chorus championship. In November 1980 I moved back to

Mission Viejo, California. Joined the then Santa Ana GOLDEN CITY CHORUS and became its Musical Director for 5 years in 1981, succeeding Bill Harper. Proud that Brett Littlefield joined the chapter / chorus while I was directing and "taught hem everything he knows" (grin). NOTE: The Santa Ana Chapter folded in the early nineties and was relocated and renamed the WESTMINSTER CHAPTER / CHORUS, a very small group that was later latched onto by a bunch of young guys who ultimately brought it International recognition.

Circa 1983, I became the Musical Director of the SAI Garden Grove chapter, "Cities of Harmony" for 3 years or so and placed 6th in Region 21, circa 1985. Proud that Pam Pieson, Lead of PANACHE / Director of HARBORLITES, joined while I was directing. It was also in 1983 that my wife and soul mate, Wanda, was singing with the Mission Viejo SAI chapter and won an International third place chorus medal in Phoenix; our family's first chorus medal.

In November 1987, desperately wanting a more broad and more meaningful singing experience, I attended the first rehearsal / gathering of the then Foothills Cities Chapter under the direction of DR. GREG LYNE. I joined the MASTERS OF HARMONY (MOH) in December 1987 and we won the FWD chorus competition in October 1988. (In 1971, at the New Orleans International, I vowed to my family that I would one day sing on the International stage and I knew it would now happen.) The MOH went to its first International in Kansas City in 1989 and placed 4th. A medal! Wow! Now, I proudly own eight (8) International Chorus gold medals. Who wudda ever thought!

I've been with MOH for 25 wonderful years. In that span, I've served the chapter in various capacities such as Employment Manager, Business Agent, mentor to new men, awards committee member, nomination committee member and Instructor in vocal techniques for Masters University. Though asked to serve on the MOH BOD several times, I declined. I just wanted to sing. I didn't want to be

“tied up” in chapter administrative activities. However, during those years, I did serve as Musical Director and coach for the then Saddleback chapter, California Promise Chorus, during a reorganization period and had also coached choruses and quartets.

Circa 1994, I was asked, and accepted, to become an Area Counselor and was awarded Area Counselor of the Year in 1996. I became more active in the Chapter Support and Leadership Training program and was again honored by the FWD as Chapter Counselor of the Year in 2003.

Several years ago, I was contacted by both Lloyd Steinkamp and John Krizek to become a FWD BOD member. I declined, as I just wanted to sing and not be “tied up” in FWD administrative activities.

They contacted me again the following year and being “pressured in a friendly way” by Unka Lloyd, I agreed to serve my district as a Division Vice President for (now) the Southeast Division. I served in that capacity for four years, declining to serve my fifth year for family reasons. I also served on the FWD’s Nomination Committee. During my Vice-Presidency, and after, I had the pleasure of installing officers for many, many chapters and providing guidance on sensitive chapter and membership challenges when asked or deemed necessary.

I’ve truly had a wonderful barbershopping life.

Gene

Peter Feeney – 2013 FWD Hall of Fame

Induction by Nick Papageorge, March 2014

(Moment of Silence for Jerry Orloff, 1981, and recently Jerry Fairchild, 2008)

I am pleased to announce that our District does have a Hall of Fame Inductee this year!

Let’s see if you can figure out who it is as I give only a few of his great Barbershop accomplishments and how he went above and beyond for our great district. This man is a 21 plus year member of the Society, joining in 1993.

He has been a Chapter President, among other offices.

Over the years, this great man has been an advocate for his chapter and his division.

As a result, he became a recipient of the Bachelor of Harmony Award which is assessed on personal involvement at the quartet, chapter, district and International levels.

He is a Barbershopper of the Year.

Ok if you still can’t guess it will now get virtually impossible not to figure it out.

He has been Far Western District Vice President of Membership.

He is a Past Far Western District President.

This man served on our Society’s International Board of Directors.

He is currently CHAIRMAN of the BOARD of Harmony Foundation.

And if you still don’t know who it is, this self-less man came back to serve on the Far Western District’s Board as Secretary when our beloved Dick Girvin passed away.

Ladies and Gentlemen, your newest inductee to the Far Western District’s Hall of Fame.....Peter Feeney.

Unfortunately, Peter is not in attendance this weekend because his wife Kathleen is ill.....so I’ll call him right now and see if he’ll answer his phone! Be ready to make a lot of noise!

Leadership Articles



***District President
Allan Webb***

Summer is upon us, and we are only a month away from the International Convention in Las Vegas, NV! If you have not made your plans to be there, now is the time to do it. Given the close proximity to the major population centers of the second largest District in the Society, the Far Western District should be there in force. We have ~2600 FWD members; let's *all* go! It's going to be 24/7 singing and afterglowing in one of the few American cities built from the ground up to accommodate that. What do you say?

We continue to make progress on the implementation of more advanced communication tools to help the District BOD, DMT, and Chapter leaders communicate and collaborate with each other. In addition to the mass email functionality already in place, David Melville has installed a threaded discussion board system on the District web site. We're currently rolling out to the BOD and DMT, and will then invite the various Chapter officer positions to participate in discussions with their counterparts in other Chapters. This will help everybody more quickly find solutions to problems and help establish best practices. All that discussion will be captured for posterity, so that future District and Chapter boards will be able to gain the benefit of the historical data.

Speaking of communications: please make sure you log into the Society's ebiz site and make sure that you have a current email address listed in ebiz. This is where we get our data from to populate our mass email system, and if we don't have an email address for you, you will likely miss important information. Currently, only about 2300 of our 2600 members have email addresses in the system.

In the DMT arena, we are in need of a volunteer to fill the position of Membership Chair. The current Chair, Shelly Albaum, has had a change in his work

circumstances that has forced his resignation. If you are interested, please read the position description in the District SOP, which can be found in the Documents section of the District website.



***Executive Vice President
Gordon Berghold***

It's hard to believe that we're nearly into the second half of year 2014. I just got started and Ray Rhymer notified us that it's time for the summer edition of Westunes and that our articles are requested by May 1st. Ray Rhymer is a task master but he puts out information in a timely manner that is very beneficial to all the members of the Far Western District and beyond. Take time to read the articles in Westunes and become more acquainted with your fellow barbershoppers in the district. The Harmonizer also offers great teaching tools for our hobby as well as very interesting articles and photos written and submitted by your friends in the society.

I'm learning the ropes of the Executive Vice President thanks to Past President Russ Young, current President Allan Webb and many of the past presidents who are always willing to help with any questions that I may have. Do you realize how much expertise we have available to the chapters and members of the FWD? The only thing you have to do is to ask and we'll get answers to your questions, or we'll send someone to your chapter to deal with the challenges face to face. We're all in this together and it's not a new organization. The Barbershop Harmony Society is over 75 years of age; in fact I'll be over 75 years of age when you read this article. There's a lot of stored knowledge locked up in the 75 years of history in the society; all we have to do is access that knowledge and great things happen.

Seems like I've talked a lot about the expertise available to the members and chapters of the FWD over the past five or six years that I've been involved with the district leadership, but it bears repeating because I'm often amazed at some of the comments relating to lack of information shared with, or available to, the chapters of the FWD. We have lots of help available

and much of it is shared through the various social media outlets, the Westunes publication and through general conversations amongst the members of the district. Please, just ask and we'll deliver!

One other small item of importance, well it's not really small; our international convention will be in Las Vegas the last part of June and first week of July. Please make every effort to attend this great event. It won't be much closer to our district for another few years and this is an opportunity to see your friends and the greatest quartet and chorus singing available in the entire world. See you there!



District Vice President 1 SW
Bob Lally

As you all know, the man you elected to fill the office of Vice President Southwest was Neil Pennywitt. Unfortunately, early in the year Neil suffered some setbacks in his health and feeling that he might be hampered in giving his all to the job, he tendered his resignation. Since I held this office several years back, President Allan Webb asked if I would step in and fill the position until the next election to be held in the fall. I want to take a moment to wish Neil the best of luck with his health issues, and at the same time let all in the Division know that I will be talking with each of your Chapter Presidents soon regarding the health of your own chapter. In the meantime, my office hours are open, and I invite you contact me by phone or email with any concerns or problems you may have in your barbershop life. Email info is elsewhere in this bulletin, and I'm listed in the book in Santa Barbara.

At the moment I'd like to talk a bit about the brotherhood and fraternal aspect of our hobby, especially as it relates to inter-chapter relationships and activities. There are 19 chapters in our division, and they range from very small, hobby-oriented chapters to the Masters of Harmony, our favorite perennial Gold Medalists. With most of us our month to month lives consist of our weekly chapter meeting night and our various performance opportunities

throughout the year. In addition, some of us participate in contests and conventions. But, when is the last time you visited or talked to anyone in a neighboring chapter. You'd be amazed to find it's a group of guys very much like you, meeting in song, wishing they had more singers, trying to figure out how to get more involved with their community, and on and on. Some of them might be in serious need of help or support and could use some outside encouragement. Others might be able to offer you some ideas.

So, here's my thought... how about restoring the wonderfully fun practice of the chapter visitation. There are several ways to accomplish this, and the easiest is to have one of your chapter leaders call the President of the other chapter and cooperate in setting a night where both chapters can join together to celebrate in song. You might visit them, they might visit you, or you might meet somewhere in between. The important thing is to have a shared experience where all can have a good time. By the way it's a great opportunity to invite guests to demonstrate the fraternal aspect of our hobby.

Another thought, check the condition and status of nearby chapters. Are they healthy and thriving, or could they use a little brotherly support. Perhaps a joint board meeting would be appropriate where you could have discussions on common goals or problems and discuss possible solutions.

The bottom line here is that there are many ways to improve your chapter life and have more fun. Why not take advantage of this one today. Who knows, it might even get the rest of your members more excited about getting together and bringing others along to share the fun. Sounds like a win/win to me.

Whatever you do, keep on singing!



District Vice President 2 SE
Craig Hughes

What a fine time we have been having in the Southeast Division!

The Midwinter Convention/ International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival was in Long Beach along with a wonderful *Harmony Platoon* (Quartet) experience. Special kudos to **Bill Kane** and his Quarteting team to include SE's own **Jim Hilgenberg** – the “registrar” and “detail guy”. If you haven't attended a Platoon or Brigade you are missing something special!

Our Division was well represented at the *International Youth Barbershop Chorus Festival*. This must-see event included **The OC Student Union** – directed by **Nick Papageorge**, **The Boom Town Chorus** – directed by **Joey Buss & Jake Tickner**, **The Pacific Suns** – directed by **Kathleen Hansen**, and **The Cal. State Fullerton Titan Men's Choir** – directed by **Dr. Chris Peterson**.

The **Brea Chapter** with an exceptional team lead by **Bryan Forbes** hosted one of the best *Division/ International Prelim Conventions* in memory. Held at the historical Fox Theater in Riverside, the event was an amazing time for the Southeast and Southwest Divisions and our guests. We enjoyed competing with the best in the Society, cherished the opportunity to reunite and sing with old and new friends, enjoyed some new tags, and learned a few things along the way.

Ten Southeast Choruses competed. **Westminster** won the Southeast Division and Plateau AAA Championship, **Las Vegas** won the Plateau AA Championship and most improved and **San Diego** won the Plateau A Championship.

Thirteen Southeast Quartets competed. **McPhly** won the Southeast Division Championship, **Four Fifteen** won the SE Seniors Championship, **Flightline** won the SE Novice Championship and qualified for the *Harmony Foundation Collegiate Quartet Contest* in July, and **4 Men, 4 Octaves** from Scripps Ranch High School in San Diego won the Far Western District High School Quartet Contest. **McPhly** and our last two Division Champions (**Newfangled Four** and **95N**) have qualified for International in July in Las Vegas.

June 29 - July 6, 2014 brings another event in a year of Southern California extravaganzas, the *Las Vegas International Convention* hosted by our own **Silver Statesmen**. The Las Vegas Chapter has prepared a “not to be missed” event.

A quick note about our membership numbers; they are stable but we need to do a better job of renewing our members and recruiting new ones. With all this activity in the District, this is the perfect time to tell everybody about your “hobby”. Barbershop changes lives and we need to share it with everyone we know. I had the pleasure of singing for a family at Christmas. Our Quartet (**Cloud 9**) joined the family bedside for their patriarch. Arland had lived a long life and liked to reminisce about his quartet days. He seldom talked but lit up when we walked into the room and sang along with us. The family was thrilled and said it was his best time in recent memory. We had the privilege of singing at his Memorial several months later. It was a celebration and his daughter said that his last words were in song. “*Let Me Call You Sweetheart*”. What a wonderful hobby we have! Where else can you receive as much as you give and have a great time doing it? Barbershop is a full contact sport!

Thank you for your support of the Division. We are the best of the best.



District Vice President 3 NW
Chuck Leavitt

The last few months have been very busy in Barbershop land. Valentine's Day followed right after the Westunes spring deadline. I had a great time with good friends delivering Singing Valentines all around our area. I love the joy and warmth in the faces of our unsuspecting victims when they hear that first chord. It's a pretty good chapter fund raiser too.

The NorCal Novice and Mixed Quartet contest on Feb 22 was very successful. The NorCal Novice champ was **Brannigan** and the Mixed Quartet champ was **The Cat's Meow**. **The Golden Valley Chorus** has hosted this contest in Ripon for the past several years under the leadership of Bruce Sellnow and Howard

Barber. There is a strong rumor that the **Devil Mountain Chorus** in Walnut Creek will host the contest next year with the two chapters alternating in future years. Walnut Creek hosted this novice competition for many years – I remember singing in the contest in 1985.

The FWD Spring Convention on Mar 20-23 in Riverside was the next big item on my agenda. The **Gas Light Chorus** did a terrific job hosting and the renovated Fox Theater in Downtown Riverside was a wonderful venue for the quartet and chorus contests. You can read the detail elsewhere, but FWD is sending five quartets to the Intl contest from Riverside and two others have qualified out of district for a total of seven! This may be a record.

My chapter is competing in the 2014 NE/NW Division Contests at the Hutchins Street Square in Lodi on May 17, 2014 with the Stockton Chapter hosting. The contest will be all over by the time you read this but I'm sure it was terrific. Both **Voices in Harmony** and **Voices of California** will perform the contest set that they plan to use at the International Convention in Las Vegas. You are going to be in Vegas aren't you? Our seven FWD Quartets and four FWD Choruses can use all the local support they can get.

I wrote last time that one of our FWD goals this year is to revitalize our Chapter Coaching Program including musical coaching. In addition to the existing coach partial travel reimbursement budget, the FWD BOD is considering a plan to fund coaching for up to five chapters. Eligible chapters would be those that have scored between 50 and 59.9 at their last contest appearance since 2009. The chapters would be offered four free coaching sessions before May 2015. In return for this coaching, the chapters would commit to competing in their respective 2015 Division Chorus Contests, and if they score high enough to qualify for District, the 2015 District Chorus Contest as well. Our analysis shows that chapters that sing in the 60s at contest attract more singers and have more successful shows and sing-outs than those that do not. There appears to be a real sweet spot at that threshold. The purpose of this program is to get more chapters singing in the 60s. Stay tuned for details.

Harmony Foundation deserves the support of every member at whatever level they can manage. Large corporate donors look at how well a charity is supported by its members and they do not commit until the percentage gets above 50% or so. It is not the dollars given by members they look at – we do pretty well that way – it is the number of members that give. Although the trend is moving up, we are below 20% of our members participating. Please help.

I hope your spring chapter shows were successful! I also hope that you are looking for ways to support your local school music programs. I will see you in Las Vegas in July and at the FWD District Convention in Fresno this coming October.



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

In reading the March / April issue of the *Harmonizer* my thinking turned to taking stock of the community service activities provided by each of the chapters in the Northeast Division. As stated so clearly in the article, all too often we sing for our own pleasure (nothing wrong with that) but all too often we don't share our gift of music with communities at large. When we think of community service, supporting school music programs comes to mind. However, there are other places: service clubs, community events, and yes, commercial events at which we could perform.

What are the community service activities in which your chapter engages? This is not an easy question and one that I believe we don't focus enough energy on most of the time. Are we making a difference in the world if we don't share our music with our communities? And will a focus on singing as a community service activity have an impact on the community (and on our membership)?

It is my belief that being active as a chapter in our communities will not only have an impact on our membership but will also improve our singing skills. Like our shows, we all want to improve with each show we present. And as we improve, we enhance

our ability to attract new members. Singing for each other may be fun and comfortable, but it simply does not attract new members.

Speaking of shows, I think you all know how much I enjoy attending your shows, how much fun it is to see other barbershop members at the shows. Although we enjoy talking to each other at the shows, let me challenge you to not only attend other chapter shows, but also to strike up a conversation with attendees who are not barbershop members. Yes, I know we always ask “and where do you do your singing” and “did you enjoy the show”. However, may I suggest you lead the conversation in a direction that will encourage the attendee to talk about their passions, and the community activities in which they participate. Would they have an interest in having a barbershop group perform for them? In other words, what can we do for them? Don’t worry that this may not be your local community. Share the information with the local chapter.

In closing I challenge each chapter to take stock of your community service activities. What are your current community service activities? Share your activities and ideas with other chapters. In addition I strongly encourage you to read the recent articles in the 2014 Harmonizer. The articles have certainly energized me and my approach to membership, better singing, and making a difference in the world, one song at a time.



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

Arizona Division continues to be a center of attention! The Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association (BQPA) met in Tempe AZ this April and many of the AZ Div quartets took advantage of singing on their Saturday night show! Thanks, BQPA for supporting our members and quartets each year. We love attending your event and many of us are members.

The AZ Division Convention and Contest was held May 2-3 in Mesa AZ. Thanks to Div Events Chair Randy Bingel and his team for locating a new contest

venue and HQ Hotel for this year’s event. Convention Chair Bob Shaffer and his team from the Mesa Chapter did a fine job hosting the convention. The AZ Div contest has three new champions. **Vocal Edition** is the Quartet Champion, **High Priority** is the new Senior Quartet Champion, and **Spirit of Phoenix** is the Chorus Champion. Also, **Intonation** is our newest Novice Champion. The Division will be sending four quartets to the FWD District Contest. In addition to Vocal Edition, **AUDACITY**, **Suit Up!** and **Speakeasy** will be representing AZ Div at the Fall FWD District Contest. In addition to the Spirit of Phoenix, the **Tucson Barbershop Experience**, who was also the Most Improved Chorus, will represent the AZ Div at the FWD District Contest. Congratulations to all!

This year, as Div VP, I invited all of the Chapter Presidents and other Chapter leadership to attend a Presidents and Leadership Meeting on Friday night. This was supported and attended by FWD IPP Russ Young, FWD Music-Performance Chairman Nick Pappageorge and FWD Secretary Bob Gray. The meeting was also open to Chapter members who might be interested in taking on a leadership role as well. The session provided spirited conversation on such topics as Membership, Chapter Coaching Supplemental Program, and IRS filing deadlines as well as Youth In Harmony, community involvement, and general Chapter management.

As we approach summer, the excitement will be building towards the Las Vegas Convention right here in the FWD (Las Vegas used to be part of the AZ Div!) I encourage everyone to attend the International Convention and Contest. Many of us seem to think that we only need to go if we are competing, when that is far from the fact. Going and just watching the contests and attending the many classes offered is a great way to enjoy this hobby. What a great time to make this your FIRST one! The quartet and the chorus contests will be certain barn-burners.

Speaking of Las Vegas, the AZ Div is excited to be home to our SAI sisters in harmony, The Scottsdale Chorus. On June 29, they will be hosting a “once in a lifetime” show, “Triple Crown of Barbershop”. This show features 4-time International Champion, The Scottsdale Chorus, Spirit of Phoenix Chorus and the

Kentucky Vocal Union Chorus. Both SOP and KVV will be performing their International Chorus Contest set and this show is sure to be a sellout. Get your tickets soon! For more information:

www.scottsdalechorus.org.

As we head towards the summer months, we look forward to the Fred Koch Memorial BASH! This annual event is scheduled for the weekend of August 15-17 and will feature a golf outing on Friday. The Parade of Quartets will be Friday evening and on Saturday, the Luck Of The Draw quartet drawing and contest. This is a great weekend of harmony and fellowship. The BASH raises money for the Division Youth In Harmony fund. There will be additional information to come regarding hotel and event registration as we get closer to August.

I hope everyone takes advantage of Executive Director Monson's initiative to help to increase our Society membership by taking the survey if it comes your way. Get out and promote Barbershop singing to your local music educators at every opportunity.

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



CSLT Don Salz

No article, out of the country.



CDD Greg Lyne

Dear chorus directors,

A noted choral director, Dr. Howard Swan was once asked, "what one piece of advice would you give to choral conductors?" He responded with a listing of some attributes he felt a conductor should possess but concluded by saying that "a choral conductor should always be enthusiastic!" What an important message this sends!

Our very own FWD leader, Nick Papageorge, was a student of Howard Swan while in classes at Occidental College. So, I asked Nick to share how he felt Dr. Swan transmitted enthusiasm to him and other students. Here is Nick's response:

He WAS enthusiastic. But it wasn't a rah-rah enthusiastic. He was enthusiastic about music and life! He wanted every singer to feel the importance of every note, every chord, and to feel the emotion of the music. Everything about Howard was his psychological "life lessons." Howard targeted tone quality, ensemble singing through story telling and imagery.

I now try to give to my students some of the same lessons I learned through observing Dr. Swan. I tell them stories, stress the importance of emotion just as Howard taught me. I remember everything about Howard. He influenced me profoundly.

What a testament to a great teacher Nick provides us here. So, here's the question..

Are you/we taking into our rehearsals our best enthusiasm about life and the importance of music-making? If so, congratulations! Shall we all guess this lesson from Dr. Swan and Nick might be key to even higher levels of rehearsal/performance for your chorus, and, perhaps, an even greater level of personal satisfaction for you as a director?

As Dr. Swan said, "be enthusiastic!"

All best wishes to each of you. Your enthusiasm may just make a difference.



DRCJ Ron Black

Yesterday's NE/NW Division Convention completes the contest season for the Spring of 2014. So we now know the results from all the Divisions. (The results are found elsewhere in this issue, and also on the FWD web site.)

<http://farwesterndistrict.org/news-events/convention-news>

The list above includes:

- All quartets who have qualified for the Fall District contest (scored higher than 68%)
- All choruses who have qualified for the Fall District contest (scored higher than 62%)
- Any quartets and choruses added as wildcards
- Any quartets or choruses that are next in line if any current qualifier chooses not to attend
- The top five Senior Quartets who can enter the Fall contest
- The FWD 2011 Super Senior Quartet Champion, who can sing on the Fall Show
- Collegiate quartets who have qualified for the International College Quartet Contest in Las Vegas

If your quartet or chorus has qualified for the Fall contest, you will already have been contacted by me to enter your CJ-20 Contest Entry Form on <http://ebiz.barbershop.org>. **If you have qualified but have not entered the contest yet, please do prior to June 5.** Please enter the form even if you don't have your songs selected yet, so that we know you plan to participate!

Write if you have questions. I receive LOTS of e-mail this time of year with these questions, and some are forwarded to me by others. Please utilize my help with anything relating to contests. And go to the convention, whether you are in the contest or not! It's fun!

rlblack1@gmail.com

I'll see many of you in Las Vegas this summer, right?



E Ted Sayle

No Article Submitted This Quarter

Division Event Planners are [use <https://ebiz.barbershop.org/ebusiness/> to find their contact information]:

Northeast = Sam Barger

Northwest = Larry Weiss

Southeast = Paul Sandorf

Southwest = Jim Serhahely

Arizona = Randy Bing



M&PR Jerry McElfresh

In the last issue of Westunes this column dealt with marketing and PR suggestions for chapter M&PR officers, particularly those new to the job. (If you missed it, you can find the Westunes link on the FWD Website home page. Go there, then click on PDF at the upper right and it will take you to back issues of Westunes.)

That column suggested that getting help with the large and important job of chapter marketing and PR is Rule Number 1, and Rule Number 2 is to never forget Rule Number 1.

That brings us to Rule Number 3, which is to not reinvent the wheel unless you are a very creative and inventive guy. There is a lot of useful information and great ideas available, so take a look at those before you struggle with a plan of your own to market and publicize your chapter, chorus and quartets.

Start by going to the BHS Website (barbershop.org/home/html). At the top, click on Resources, then Document Center and scroll down to Marketing. There you'll find categories for Audio PSAs, Marketing and Public Relations and Marketing Matters, each with a number of articles or recordings to help your marketing and public relations.

The Audio folder, for instance, contains 27 short public service announcement recordings that you can use to publicize an upcoming show, patriotic holiday performance and other events. The recordings are generic, so you'll need to add specific information for the program that you want to publicize. Radio stations, particularly in smaller communities, may be willing to help you with localizing the recordings and will play them on their station as PSAs.

The Marketing and PR link contains some very helpful information such as a Chapter Marketing Ideas Manual, how to Get Free Publicity, Marketing Barbershop Performances, News Release Basics and

Social Media for Barbershop Quartets and Choruses, among other useful topics.

Marketing Matters includes quarterly reports discussing specific marketing ideas, some of which are included in the Marketing and PR link listed above. They were sent out in 2011 and 2012 so they may be a little outdated but still worth taking a look at to see if they get marketing/PR ideas flowing for you and your team.

Summarizing the last column and this one: Don't do it alone and get great ideas on how to do it from BHS.



YIH Jim Halvorson

No Article Submitted This Quarter

Sunshine Chairman Card

FWD Sunshine Chairman Les Cudworth

**3227 Root Ave
Carmichael, CA 95608-3415
916-489-3910
lesimpact@netzero.net**

To Email Your District Officers & Chairmen

president@farwesterndistrict.org

pastpresident@farwesterndistrict.org

evp@farwesterndistrict.org

secretary@farwesterndistrict.org

treasurer@farwesterndistrict.org

vpdiv1@farwesterndistrict.org

vpdiv2@farwesterndistrict.org

vpdiv3@farwesterndistrict.org

vpdiv4@farwesterndistrict.org

vpdiv5@farwesterndistrict.org

candj@farwesterndistrict.org

cdd@farwesterndistrict.org

cslt@farwesterndistrict.org

events@farwesterndistrict.org

marketing@farwesterndistrict.org

membership@farwesterndistrict.org

musicanperf@farwesterndistrict.org

quartetactivities@farwesterndistrict.org

yih@farwesterndistrict.org

webmaster@farwesterndistrict.org

westuneseditor@farwesterndistrict.org



Mem Serv Shelly Albaum

Shelly had to resign this position due to business demands. If you are interested in volunteering to take on this responsibility, contact EVP Gordon Bergthold.



Mu&P Nick Papageorge

No Article Submitted This Quarter

American Pastime Card

www.apquartet.com



626-786-5830

**Graham Pence
Tom Moore**

grahampence@gmail.com

**Scott Kidder
Joe D'Amore**



QA Bill Kane

No Article Submitted This Quarter



**2013 FWD Quartet Champions
The Newfangled Four**

Joey, Jackson, Jake, Ryan

THE LONG AND WINDING ROAD

It's a little hard to believe that we are already six months into our reign as Far Western District Quartet Champions, meaning we've already reached our halfway mark! In about six more months, we'll be handing the trophy away to another quartet in Fresno, yet it certainly hasn't felt even close to the end of the Newfangled Four's journey. It just doesn't let up, we tell you!

Last time, I mentioned that we were getting ready to travel to Minnesota to sing with the Great Northern Union, and what a great time that was! We spent four days with an amazing homestay, who fed us and kept us out of the negative degree weather. We had the pleasure of singing for three different high schools in the Apple Valley area, promoting the chorus and the show we were performing on, as well as spreading the barbershop gospel. The friends we made within the chorus were so good to us and took us wherever we wanted to go, which included many local restaurants and the Mall of America! We were very honored to have had the time to participate, and it was quite the experience for four native California boys to be out in the bitter cold. Luckily for us, we had the opportunity to warm ourselves up the very next weekend by performing on the Sandblaster Chorus's 37th Annual Show in Palm Desert! I can never mention this enough, but the people we meet through these ventures are definitely the best parts about the gig, and the people of Coachella Valley were no different!

Thanks to them, we were able to run through the motions one more time in preparation for our Preliminary contest the following weekend.

And without missing a beat, we found ourselves in Reston, VA, trying to qualify for the International Quartet Contest! Our lead Jackson had a school commitment the weekend of FWD Prelims, so we took a chance to fly out to MAD and try our luck! Sure as luck would have it, the weekend turned out to be very successful, with the quartet netting our highest score ever and securing a spot within the Top 20! If that wasn't enough, we found our new friends and family within the Mid-Atlantic District to be the highlights of the trip, and we are thrilled to be vicariously representing them all as well as our beloved FWD in July! Despite not being able to participate as a quartet in Riverside, however, that didn't stop Joey, Jake, and I from singing with our brothers in Westminster the very next weekend. It was one of the only weekends the quartet wasn't committed to doing something, so I found the added free time to be quite relaxing. It was certainly a pleasure getting to catch up with so many old friends we haven't seen since District, as well!

As soon as April rolled around, we found ourselves traveling on behalf of the Society to Pittsburgh, PA, tasked with promoting the International Convention in 2015; I must say, this was definitely my favorite quartet trip so far! As part of the job, we went around to four different schools in the area singing for their choral programs, with one school in particular singing for us! Their director has strong barbershop roots and ended up taking his choir to sing at the JAD Prelims. We were glad we got to be in front of all these kids and hope that we made some sort of impression on them as musicians, singers, and potential barbershoppers. Besides singing for all the patrons at the annual tourism planning meeting for the city (which entailed singing for at least 500 people and getting a free meal), we had most of the time to explore around the city, something we don't get to do often while traveling. Between all the local cuisine and baseball games, Pittsburgh is such an amazing and beautiful city, and we're here to tell you to look forward to 2015! But just like that, the very next weekend we found ourselves flying to Omaha, NE, only to take a rental car and drive through Iowa into Centerville, SD, where we had our latest show with the Tri-Valley Chorus! For being such a small town (somewhere around 900 people), we had quite the audience; about half the town showed up! The chorus and audience members were quite spectacular, and we also got to share the stage with Salty Dog, a quartet from CSD. Another successful show weekend, but the four of us were sure ready to get back home and relax with nothing on the calendar for the rest of April!

Our quartet commitments are now a bit lighter since then, but for the rest of this quarter, school will be ending soon enough, which will open up our availabilities so we can actually start preparing for our debut at International! We're also actively preparing with our brothers in the Masters of Harmony towards the run for a ninth gold medal! I believe the next time you'll hear from the quartet won't be until after International, so we hope to bring good news from both groups in the next article! This journey as Champions has definitely been rewarding as well as tiring, but we can't wait for what lies ahead for the Newfangled Four, and we can't wait to do this all some more!

Till next time,

Ryan Wisniewski
Baritone - The Newfangled Four
2013 International Collegiate Barbershop Quartet Champions
2013 Far Western District Quartet Champions



2013 FWD Chorus Champions Masters of Harmony

by Ron Larson

The Barbershop Harmony Society's Midwinter Convention is a showcase of barbershop harmony talent and the 2014 Midwinter, which was no exception, featured some of the best groups ever assembled for the event. On stage were the current International Quartet Champion, **Masterpiece**, as well as other 2013 International medalist quartets, Seniors quartet competitors, and 20 youth choruses from around the country. The **Masters of Harmony** were especially honored to close the Friday night events with a four-song set that brought the late evening but still enthusiastic audience to its feet with thunderous applause. Other performers with an MOH connection included: **The Velvet Frogs** (Les Dergan, David Livingston, and C.J. Sams); **Zachary Green** and **Ernie Reyes** in the 3rd **Street Sound** youth chorus led by **Carol Stephenson**; **Boom Town Chorus** with **Joey Buss** and **Jake Tickner**; and the Cal State Fullerton's Men's Choir directed by Dr. **Chris Peterson**. In 1990, the Masters parlayed a successful performance at the Tucson Midwinter to International gold later that year in San Francisco. Current members hope for a similar springboard effect this summer in Las Vegas!

On February 15, **Mark Freedkin**'s passion for introducing young men from throughout Southern California to harmony singing in the barbershop style resulted in another highly successful Young Men's Harmony Festival at Orange Coast College. This year, 148 young men from 20 Southern California high schools attended the daylong events. More than 75% were first-timers and several new schools were added to the mix. After warm-ups led by Dr. Chris Peterson, the young men received choral training from coaches with impressive performance credentials such as **OC Times**, **Masterpiece** and **The Newfangled Four**. Dr. Peterson told the choral music teachers in attendance how they could use barbershop harmony to attract more young men to their programs. The evening show featured performances from the youth chorus, several smaller ensembles, **OC Times**, **The Newfangled Four**, **Masterpiece**, and the **Masters of Harmony**. The finale featured over 320 singers filling the risers to overflowing for numbers that wowed the audience of nearly 250 parents, families, teachers and friends. Those attending this year's event brought the 14-year event total to over 3,000 students who have participated in one or more of the festivals. This eagerly awaited festival is a unique opportunity to enhance the limited music education most of the young men receive. It can create a life-long desire to join groups with other like-minded singers – maybe in a barbershop chorus near you! After all, look what ringing chords did for a quarrelsome set of school board members who found both musical and personal harmony when they sang about ice cream (Meredith Willson's *The Music Man*, 1957)!

President **Ron Andreas**'s innovative badging ceremony continues to enhance the spirit of MOH brotherhood. Family members and friends are invited to witness the presentation of the member's nametag in front of the chorus. Immediate family members and other guests witnessed badge ceremonies held for **Robert Shelton and Brandon McNabb**. **James Halvorson**'s mother and father came in from Las Vegas to be with him for his special evening. James literally carries barbershop genes wherever he goes. His dad sings with the 2012 FWD Quartet Champion **95 North**. As Ron noted, "Each new member we welcome into our family puts the breath of life into the sails of our chorus."

The Far Western District's Spring Convention, held at Riverside's Fox Performing Arts Center, featured six different contests. Masters of Harmony singers performed in nine of the 27 quartets and eight of the 16 choruses. The FWD will be sending six quartets to Las Vegas this summer and two are MOH quartets – **The Crush (Matt Gray, John Brockman, Paul Tabone)** and Southeast Division Quartet Champion **American Pastime (Graham Pence, Tom Moore, Matt Swann, Joe D'Amore)**. The following MOH quartets qualified for the FWD District Quartet Contest in Fresno this fall: Southwest Division Seniors Quartet Champion **Blood, Sweat and Years (Les Weiser, Bob Cathaway)**, **West 7 Four (Justin Miller, Jason Remley, Patrick Claypool)**, Southeast Division Novice Quartet Champion **Flightline (Cody Littlefield, Kyle Williamson)**. More than 50 percent of the judges were MOH members. **The Westminster Chorus**, with several dozen MOH dual members, followed up its stunning performance at the Western Division of the American Choral Directors Association convention with another world-class performance to win the chorus competition en route to another try for gold in 2015.

In March, **Erin Howden** worked with the Masters over a two-day period to create a stunning, high-energy package for the Las Vegas uptune. New members quickly discovered why the word *genius* is not a misnomer when applied to Erin's ability to create appropriate dynamic moves that blend sight and sound in ways that enthrall audiences. A highlight of the second evening with Erin was the badge ceremony for **Aaron Jaramillo**. Since Aaron's parents were in Denver and his girlfriend had an important presentation to make elsewhere, it looked like Aaron would be the first to stand by himself for his special night. Well, Erin was not the only one who acted creatively that night. Members Ernie Reyes, **Ryan Collins** and Ron Andreas used FaceTime to create a video hookup with Aaron's mother and she not only witnessed the ceremony in absentia but was able to witness the chorus's run-through of Erin's work!

Special congratulations go to Director **Justin Miller** who announced his engagement to **Andrea Christensen**. The couple plans a June wedding. The Masters family knows exactly the kind of gold that would make a great wedding gift!

Since the last report, we welcomed **James Halvorson, Aaron Jaramillo, Brandon McNabb, Edgar Sandoval** and **Robert Shelton** into membership and reinstated **David Camp, Larry Johnson** and **Colby Stroud**.

FWD CONVENTION HONOREES

Since 1992 Far Western District Conventions have been dedicated to worthy men of the district for their past accomplishments. It is the duty and honor of the FWD Awards Committee to select the honoree, which must be approved by the District Board of Administration.

Listed below are the past Convention Honorees and the year in which they were honored.

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SPRING</u>	<u>FALL</u>
1992	Reedie Wright	Joe Trousdale
1993	Dave Stevens	Jack Hines
1994	Andy Dill	None
1995	Wes Meier	Lou Laurel
1996	Emmett Bossing	Earl Moon
1997	Bob Wilke	Dick Girvin
1998	Neal Sisson	Lloyd Steinkamp
1999	Chuck Hunter	Eliot "El" Wirt
2000	Barrie Best	The Gala-Lads
2001	"Blackie" Blackwell	The Sidewinders
2002	Val Hicks	Sam Aramian
2003	Howard Mesecher	Bill Joor
2004	Stan French	Gene Hartzler
2005	Doug Maddox	Pete Neushul
2006	Roger Perkins	None
2007	Bill Legg	Terry Aramian
2008	Nick Papageorge	Jim Holder
2009	Keith Eckhardt	Richard Lund
2010	Sam Barger	Fritz Grunenwald
2011	Jim Sherman	Jim Warner
2012	Joe Palmquist	Mark Freedkin
2013	Bruce Sellnow	Ron Hayes
2014	Gene Clements	



In Recognition of

**OUTSTANDING
ACCOMPLISHMENT**

Presented To

GENE CLEMENTS

For his exemplary involvement in
leadership roles in the FWD.

From chapter officer to district officer,
MCing at divisional and district levels,
Serving as chorus director and coach,
And performing as both Area and
Chapter Counselor to many,
Gene made Barbershopping better for us all.
And he still found time to sing.

**FAR WESTERN DISTRICT
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA
MARCH 2014**



President's Award 2013

The Association of Far Western District Chapters
of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of
Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America
Hereby confers on

Masterpiece Quartet

With appreciation for their unselfish devotion to the Far Western District,
the Society and barbershop worldwide. Their accomplishments as a
Quartet Gold Medal Champion has never tarnished their efforts
to be outstanding representatives of the Far Western District.

*Presented in appreciation by
Russ Young, Far Western District President*

March 2014 - Riverside, California



Chapter of the Year
2013

California Delta Voices of California

In Memory of Owen Edwards

*For their ever-growing pursuit of
musical excellence,
reaching out as an ambassador
of barbershop harmony and
encouragement to its members...
present and future*

Presented by the Family of Owen Edwards
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA
MARCH 2014

Fresno Hotel Rate Sheet



**2014
Far Western District
Barbershop Harmony Society
Fall Convention
October 9-12, 2014**



Hotel Rate Sheet

<i>Hotel</i>	<i>Address/Phone Number</i>	<i>Rate</i>	<i>Distance to Contest Site</i>
<i>Fresno Hotel & Conference Center Headquarters Hotel</i>	<i>2233 Ventura Street Fresno, CA 93721 559-268-1000</i>	<i>\$109.00</i>	<i>Adjacent to HQ Hotel</i>
<i>Americas Best Value Inn - Downtown</i>	<i>2425 Merced Street Fresno, CA 93721 559-233-4896</i>	<i>\$59.00 King \$69.00 Double</i>	<i>0.6 miles</i>
<i>Holiday Inn - Downtown</i>	<i>1055 Van Ness Avenue Fresno, CA 93721 559-233-6650</i>	<i>\$97.00</i>	<i>0.4 miles</i>
<i>La Quinta Inn & Suites - Fresno</i>	<i>2926 Tulare Street Fresno, CA 93721 559-442-1110</i>	<i>\$62.00/\$72.00</i>	<i>0.7 miles</i>
<i>Super 8 Downtown</i>	<i>2127 Inyo Street Fresno, CA 93721 559-268-0621</i>	<i>\$85.00</i>	<i>0.1 miles</i>

Toll Free: 800.788.0836
Main: 559.981.5500
Fax: 559.445.0122

Fresno/Clovis
Convention & Visitors Bureau

1550 E Shaw #101
Fresno, CA 93710
www.playfresno.org

BARBERSHOP COMEDY



The Orange Quartet Chapter of
The Barbershop Harmony Society
presents the Southern California

Comedy Quartet Contest!

7:00pm, Saturday, July 26, 2014

**Orange High School
525 N. Shaffer Street
Orange, CA**

**Entry Fee
\$25.00
per quartet
CHEAP!**

**Audience Tickets
\$15
Kids Half Price!**

**Mail entry forms
and ticket requests to:
Orange Quartet Chapter, SPEBSQSA
PO Box 2418
Orange, CA 92659**



More info: (714) 442-8500 • orangequartet@gmail.com • orange.harmonize.com



Division 1 SW Chapters

Ken Day, Editor

Aloha Chapter

by Jack Hashimoto

Sixty *Singing Valentines* were joyfully delivered by our quartets in February. Twenty-two members formed seven quartets, delivering love messages to loved ones all over the island of Oahu. Thanks to **Hank Drayton** and **Dan Tom** for co-chairing this event.

Our annual Spring Show theme this year was *Jazz and Barbershop*, featuring popular local jazz singer **Jimmy Borges** and local jazz trumpeter **DeShannon Higa** and his 16 piece band. They wowed the audience with jazz favorites, both vocal and instrumental. The chorus, led by Director **Bonnie McKibben** performed songs from *Grandpa's Attic*, the show theme, and joined the band in *I'm Gonna Live 'Til I Die* for the show's finale. Credits go to Show Chairman **Bill Joor**, Stage Director **Shannon Wilpenny**, and many others in the chorus who contributed to a successful Spring Show.

BOTMs included **Dan Tom** and **Bob Hu** for January and **Hank Drayton** for February.

Pasadena Chapter

by Bill Cauley

We're working to get out there and spread the word about barbershopping! Next month we will be performing at a *Salute to Veterans* show. Our June 21st spring show is *Simply Barbershop* with guest quartet **American Pastime**.

Our plans for membership recruitment have now taken form. We plan an even stronger effort in marketing and public relations, as we continue to interface with chambers of commerce, schools, and religious entities.

Preparation for the next district contest is ongoing. Everybody enjoyed the trip to Riverside, though we did our warm-ups in the chilly parking garage. It's great to see and hear other quartets and choruses!

Rincon Beach Chapter

by Ken Day

Three quartets participated in *Singing Valentines* with several other chorus members available to fill in. In Santa Barbara, **Brent Anderson** assembled the infamous **Quartet Du Jour** (which is any three men who will sing with Brent). **Walt Rugh**, **Garth Ratliff**, **Craig Schmitt**, and **Brent Anderson** sang from 9am to 9pm. In the Ventura area, we had **Harmony Channel** [**Duane Ashby**, **Bernie Sentainin** (subbing for **Bruce Hunter** who was ill), **Doug Van Bogelen**, **Brent Burningham**]. In the Camarillo, Moorpark, Thousand Oaks, and clear to Encino area, we had **Priority Male** [**Bill Chase**, **Jim Browne**, **Jim Rodriguez**, **Bill Crome**].

Thirty-six valentines were sung. **Quartet Du Jour** reported that by having flyers available, several people that heard them sing hired them for other valentines. As a result of hearing the *Singing*

Valentines, several UCBS graduate students visited our rehearsals. Two joined the Society and several more are interested.

We are very pleased that **Pacific Sound** finished first at the SW Division Contest with an improved score.

San Luis Obispo Chapter

By Pete Bennett

We sent four quartets into SLO County to deliver *Singing Valentines*, and we delivered a lot of smiles and some tears along the way with our songs and flowers. The highlight of the day for one quartet was the last stop in the evening – a party for 20 single ladies age 19-95 – a MOST appreciative audience.

The Gold Coast Chorus welcomes new member (and tenor!) **Malcolm McEwen**.

Chapter super senior quartet **Treble Makers** is going to Lodi in May to compete.

Our annual show "*Puttin' on the Ritz!*" is coming up on Saturday, June 28. We're sharing the stage this year with our SAI sisters, the **Central Coast Celebration Chorus**.

A reminder for any barbershoppers vacationing on the Central Coast on a Monday night this summer; you're welcome to visit us at the **United Church of Christ** at 11245 Los Osos Valley Road, adjacent to the Laguna Lake Golf Course.

Santa Barbara Chapter

by Eric Fenrich

The Channel City Chorus is trying something new this year – an ice cream social! Borrowing/stealing the idea from the **Central Coast Chordsmen** (our neighbors to the north with whom we share our director), we will present Sweets and Old Songs beginning at 2 pm on Saturday, June 14.

It has been several years since the CCC has put together a formal show and we look forward to this endeavor with eager voices in the hope of broadening our public awareness. Stop by and sing a few chords with us if you are in the Santa Barbara area!

SANTA MONICA

By Marty Mitnick

Under the management of **Ken Scholtz** with the assistance of **Frank Davanzo** and **Pierre Debbaudt** our Valentine's Day Quartets brought love and joy to over 65 happy recipients.

The OCEANAIRES came home from the SE/SW Chorus convention in Riverside with the highest score ever reached by us and also were awarded the Most Improved Chorus award. Under the superb direction of **Ben Lowe** this accomplishment was due to a total commitment of our members who attended extra rehearsals and had a desire to excel.

Thank you to **Chuck Bevitt** for spear-heading the pre-rehearsal meetings each Monday, and also to **Don Tsuchiyama** who is videoing each rehearsal and posting the results for all members to view.

Recent special guests visiting **The OCEANAIREs** were members of the **New Directions Veterans Choir** who entertained us with their award-winning a cappella singing. The choir is comprised primarily of men and women who have served proudly in the United States Military.

In September 1987 **Patrick Kellogg** was a member of the Papal Choir that sang at Pope John Paul II's Masses at Dodger Stadium and the Los Angeles Coliseum. Patrick, and his wife Elizabeth, were recently interviewed on CBS Television News regarding a trip to the Vatican to witness the dual canonization of Pope John Paul II and Pope John XXIII.

Bruce Schroffel just completed 22 sold-out performances at the Westchester Playhouse of *Fiddler on The Roof* as the character Modcha, the inn-keeper.

We welcome our newest member **Terry Delegeane**.

Whittier Chapter
By Paul Feinzimer

Our Director **Judy Kertes** was unable to be with us at our regular practice, April 15. Judy was the Choir Director for the Passion play called *The Choice* to be staged at her church, the Rock, six times during Easter week. Therefore, we visited the Fullerton Chapter's **Orange Empire Chorus (OEC)**.

Music Director **Craig Ewing**, Chapter Development VP **Mac McDougall** and Past President and Youth in Harmony VP **Pete Saputo**, and all-around great guys **Don Derler**, **Mike Werner** and **Larry Ray** personally and warmly greeted each of us and loaned us guest music books, name tags and had us sign in individually. We had a wonderful time and all of our chapter members who attended the visitation extend our heartfelt gratitude to OEC for an extremely enjoyable night.

Division 2 SE Chapters
Dale Vaughn, Editor



Brea Chapter
Visit us at: www.gaslightchorus.org

Coachella Valley Chapter
Visit us at: www.cvbarbershop.org

Fullerton Chapter
By Don Derler

At our annual installation, we had four of our chapter quartets - *Sugar Daddies*, *Preferred Mix*, *Brothers and Others* and *Tri-Glycerides + 1* - sing for us. Awards were: **Steve Mahrley** - *Rookie of the Year*; **Art Iniguez** - *Shooting Star*; **Ferdi Roades** and **Lloyd Jones** - *Rupert Hall Award*; **Don Derler**, **David Lowerre**, **Tom Nichols** and **Mike Evans** aka *The Sugar Daddies* - *2013 Quartet of the Year*; **Joan Golding** - *Directors Award*; our director **Craig Ewing** - *Presidents Award*; **Ken Klein** - *2013 Barbershopper of the Year*.

Pete Saputo and our 2013 board of directors all returned for 2014. **Buddy Yarnell** was added as VP of Community Relations. **Art Clayton** led the regular Friday "Lunch Bunch

Chorus" who now number about half of the active chorus. **Joan Golding** also received an award for chapter publicity and photos.

Schools in the **Fullerton Joint Union High School District (FJUHS)** sent 78 students to *Diva Day* and the *Young Men's Harmony Festival*. *Diva Day* is a one-day barbershop harmony camp for girls organized each year by the *Harborlites* and held this year on February 8 at Orange Coast College. The Young Men's Harmony Festival is a very similar event for boys organized by the *Masters of Harmony*. As part of our mission to develop the next generation of singers, the Orange Empire Chorus paid student registration fees for FJUHS students for the two events.

This year a new *Singing Valentine* record was established by chapter quartets delivering more than 200. Valentine's Day became "Valentine's Week" as we delivered our serenades from Sunday, the 9th thru Sunday, the 16th. And thanks to the **Orange Quartet Chapter** for lending some of their super singers to us to help out. Our appreciative thanks also go out to brave souls **Dave and Sheila Lowerre**, **Jay Campbell**, **Tom Nichols** and **Joan Golding** for helping with logistics.

Visit us at: www.oechoorus.org

Inland Empire Chapter
Visit us at: www.welovetosinging.com

La Jolla Chapter
By Dale Vaughn

A few good men of **Pacific Coast Harmony** served as ushers to a standing-room-only crowd at the Annual California Music Educators Association San Diego Schools Honor Choir Concert. The **Pacific Suns**, our *San Diego County Youth in Harmony Chorus* opened the concert to a rousing ovation.

PCH is pleased with our overall 2nd place finish behind the men of the **Westminster Chorus**, two-time International Champion, at the SE/SW Division Contest. We also share a quartet with our brothers in the **Sun Harbor Chorus**, *Behind the Barn*, who did our chapters proud in the quartet competition.

In April, we had another visit from our super coach **Cindy Hansen-Ellis** to help put some moves into our regular repertoire songs.

VP Music & Performance **Mark Whelan** found it necessary to step aside. **John Rhodes** is willing to step into that role.

Congratulations to our Director, **Kim Vaughn**, whose **San Diego Chorus** of SAI finished 2nd place at the Region 21 competition in Mesa, AZ behind the current Sweet Adelines 2nd place International Medalist Chorus, the **Scottsdale Chorus**. They scored a whopping 708 points and we understand that is the highest second place score ever at the Regional level.

We welcome returning member Tenor **Dave Foti** and new member Lead **Brad Roberts**.

Visit us at: www.pacificcoastharmony.org

Las Vegas Chapter
By Larry Litchfield

**The Las Vegas Chapter is hosting the
2014 International BHS Convention
June 29-July 6 all at one site:
the MGM Grand Hotel on the Fabulous Strip!
REGISTER! VOLUNTEER! ATTEND!**

NEW BOARD MEMBER: **Larry Halvorson** was appointed by President **Steve Salmon** to replace **Dennis (Gunny) Johnson**, who resigned due to ill health. Larry presented a detailed, innovative plan aimed at gaining new members and recognizing exceptional contributions to the Chapter by existing members. Details, which should interest every FWD chapter, appear on our Chapter website at <http://www.silverstatesmenbarbershopchorus.com/>.

NEW MEMBERS: **Kyle Cooper**, bass; **Victor Onufrieff** and **Joseph Pascucci**, leads. Welcome aboard, gents!

RIVERSIDE DIVISION & UPCOMING FRESNO DISTRICT CONTESTS: 44 members of the Silver Statesmen Chorus competed in the SE Division Contest in Riverside, CA, placed 4th, received the coveted *Most Improved Chorus* honor and were designated the SE Division Double AA Champion. It is the first elevation into the AA category and highest scores ever for the new chorus.

CHAPTER QUARTET NEWS: **95 North** competed out of district and qualified for the International Quartet Contest. The four songs in the contest were arranged by our tenor and Silver Statesmen Chorus Director **Jim Halvorson**.

Broadcast [Roger Buehrer, Rick Ives, John Waugh, Bob Amblad] appeared on the BQPA (Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association) Spring show in Tempe, AZ.

Visit us at: www.silverstatesmenbarbershopchorus.com

Orange Quartet Chapter
By Mark Sheldon

Our chapter report has been absent from Westunes for the past 3 issues, so this is our update.

We were honored to have **Masterpiece** drop by our chapter to perform prior to their victorious International Contest.

The Orange Chapter continued as host of the Comedy Quartet Contest in late July, and the Novice Quartet Contest this year.

In 2013 the Chapter was honored to receive the Harmony Foundation Bronze.

The Orange Chapter welcomes dual members **Gary Maxwell** and **Frank Fliszar** to our chapter.

Our annual Installation and Awards Dinner was again organized and catered by **Art** and **Debi Iniguez**. Awards for 2013 included: *Provider of the Year* to **Debi Iniguez**, *Shooting Star* to **David Switzer**, *Rookie of the Year* to **Frank Fliszar**, *President's Award* to the **Lowerre** Family, *Rupert Hall Award* to **Bob Calderwood**, *Comeback Kid* to **Virgil Pletcher**, *Quartet of the Year* to **Finishing Touch** [**Don Thomas, Phil Roth, Stan Tinkle, Paul Sandorff**], and *BOTY* to **Gerald Fleischmann**

The 2014 chapter board is President **Michael Werner**, IPP **David Lowerre**, Membership VP **Paul Sandorff**, Secretary

Rich Spencer, Treasurer **Bob Calderwood**, Music VP and Program VP **Ken Tillmanns**, PR VP **Mark Sheldon**, YIH VP **Don Levering**, BMAL **Don Thomas** and **David Switzer**.

The chapter hosted a Quartet Chapter Night on the first night of the 2014 Long Beach Midwinter. We coordinated this activity as a complement to the Harmony Platoon.

Orange once again collaborated with Fullerton to provide Singing Valentines in 2014, coordinated by **Dave Lowerre**.

The Chapter was saddened by the passing of **Dick Nuttleman**, one of the founding members of the chapter, in June 2013, and the loss of **Robert Calderwood** in March 2014, just days after he sang in the 2nd place Wavemakers at the Novice Quartet Contest.

Due to chapter losses, replacement board members are Treasurer **Paul Sandorff**, Music VP **Richard Martinez**, Program VP **David Switzer**, and BMAL Art **Iniguez**.

Visit us at: www.harmonize.com/orange

Palomar Pacific Chapter
By Keith Bogost

The **Palomar Pacific Chapter** had a successful *Singing Valentines* program. The quartets were as follows: **Sound Design** [**Joe Quince, Don Naegele, Jim Wunningham, Bob Landis**], **A Song and a Smile** - [**Jerry Mills, Charlie Wendt, Bill Scofield, Norm Pincock**], **Coast to Coast** [**Steve Cowan, John Rhodes, Mike Cowan, Roger Hufferd**], and **The Unknowns** [**Paul Bloom, Bill Olszanicky and Milos Koutsky, Tal Klaus, Keith Bogost**].

At the SE Division Contest in Riverside, we initiated our new director, **Jeff Lehman**, into full barbershop contest mode.

We hosted an open house for alumni and new members. Those attending were guests **Bruce St. Gean, Steve Eaton, Owen Morse, Dan Marshall, David Henke, Bill Colburn, Mark Mace** and alumni **Ron Grace, Tom Spears, Jake Salazar, Mel Rotner, Bob Swearingen, Harris Kehrmann** and **Bill Peaker**. Several widows of past members also attended.

Two new members are **Cory Hall**, a student (yay!), and **Bill Coburn**, a baritone.

Visit us at: www.musicmenchorus.org

Riverside Chapter
By Gaylord Spence

The **Riverside Chapter** quartets **C-4** and **Special Attraction** made the *Singing Valentines* commitment and fulfilled every request, which made for our most successful event of this type in our history. The Lead of "C-4", **Cole Dawson**, signed our chapter up on singingvalentines.com, which proved to be an amazing resource for recruitment.

We welcome **John Ernsberger** as a new member. John has a long history in our Society, having sung with the Inland Empire and Santa Fe Springs Chapters and being a Barbershopper for over 45 years.

The **New Gang on the Corner** Chorus is also pleased to announce that we will be hosting our Summer Show in the Main Clubhouse of Sun Lakes Country Club in Banning.

Visit us at: www.newgangchorus.org

San Diego Chapter
By Craig Hughes

Please join us in celebrating our 66th Birthday. The San Diego Chapter received its Charter on June 14, 1946 with thirty-six men under the direction of **Bob Farnham**. Fifteen directors and thousands of men later, we are having fun and singing well.

Kathleen Hansen and the Music Team kicked off a very active performance schedule with multiple local performances, *Singing Valentines*, and Division Contest. We proudly received Southeast Division Plateau A First Place Honors and qualified for District Contest in October. Three new members participated: Lead **Larry Good**, Bass **Derek Neumann** and Tenor **James Watkins**. Next up is taping for a TV performance as the featured artist on a local variety show.

We were excited to support the **San Diego Youth Harmony Day** on February 8th. We joined the men of **Pacific Coast Harmony** and the ladies of **The San Diego Chorus** to present a day of coaching and performance for the young men and women of San Diego. The featured quartet was **Love Notes**, the 2014 SAI Queens of Harmony Champion Quartet. This was an incredible opportunity for the youth and for all of us.

www.sunharbor.org

South Orange County Chapter
By Irv Engel

The Barbershop Harmony Society has in place a terrific program at the high school level to get kids involved in four-part harmony. **South County Sound** is building on that momentum by having high school quartets sing in both our annual Spring and Winter shows.

Nothing quite matches the enthusiasm of the parents and friends of these youthful quartets in our audience. We love them as does our audience - it sure makes it easy to sell tickets to our shows to their parents and grandparents.

It lifts the spirits of our men just being around the youth and vitality of these young people. Our hobby is far from dying out and it looks like it's going to be around for another good long while.

Visit us at: www.scsound.org



Division 3 NW Chapters
John Heather, Editor

Eureka
By Mac Gardner

Valentine's Day was not just an enjoyable day for wives and sweethearts in Redwood Country. Three quartets—**Four Chords of Redwood**, **Mirth First** and **The Banana Bunch**-- performed early and late. Plenty of smiles (and tears) made for a fine day for all. Good publicity helped spread the "Good Word." **Harvey Raider** again led the campaign.

Chasing Your Dreams was the theme for our annual Spring Show. Guest quartet **First Strike** wowed the fans with their wonderful balance and youthful charm. "Bring 'em back" was the cheer. Director **Jon Maiors** capably led our crew for the second year. **Doy Antognazzi** came through with his first printed program, and **Steve Morris** led ad sales. The 184 sponsors greatly helped our budget.

We again sang on **Memorial Day** at Oceanview Cemetery as part of an annual patriotic program. And we also appeared at the opening game of the **Humboldt Crabs Baseball Team**.

Visit us at www.humboldtharmonaires.com

Marin County
By Ken Petron

We ended 2013 in the black. The chorus performed several sing-outs for local establishments. We also have a very active core group of quartets, and they've been out singing and donating to the chorus! Our *Singing Valentines* efforts were well-rewarded, thanks in part to our President's "incentive" ploy, that if we reached 20 gigs he'd shave his head. They did, and so did he! Google "barbershop crooner", and you'll see the results!

We'd like to keep our NorCal Plateau A championship plaque. To that end, we spent this past Saturday under the coaching expertise of **Gabe Caretto**, from **Voices of California**. Singing more "sweetly" with connectedness and unity, that's the goal. Our director **Phil DeBar** has been drumming that into us, and we're beginning to see the light. We're now getting 20+ crooners on Monday nights.

Visit us at www.marinbarbershopchorus.org

Monterey Peninsula
By Sam Kier

The Monterey Chapter, led by new interim director **Kelly Pohl**, helped entertain more than 40,000 folks attending the annual Pacific Grove Good Old Days Celebration. Kelly is living on the Monterey Peninsula while his wife attends the Defense Language Institute. He received a BA in Music from CSU Stanislaus in 2004 and has twelve years experience as a teacher of choral and instrumental music. Plans for a summer get-together with the **Santa Cruz Chorus** and a chapter show are in the works.

Visit us at www.cypressaires.org

Palo Alto/Mountain View

By David Weatherford

Valentine's Day was a highlight of the year, with five chapter quartets delivering over 60 singing valentines all around the Bay Area.

As the Barber Pole Turns (a musical soap opera) featured **The Peninsulaires Chorus** and musical guests **Vocal Rush** and **Artistic License**. The chorus told the (fictional) story of a lying, cheating, girl-stealing, no-good fellow named **Henry**. The exciting young group **Vocal Rush** from Oakland School for the Arts lit up the theater with their high-energy a cappella numbers, and 2011 FWD champion quartet **Artistic License** thrilled the audience with their smooth vocal stylings.

The Palo Alto/Mountain View Chapter welcomed **Paul Eastman** back to active duty as vocal coach for the chorus and instructor for our upcoming Singer's Clinic.

It is with great appreciation and heartfelt gratitude that the men of **The Peninsulaires Barbershop Chorus** wish to acknowledge 25 years of service from **Steve Sammonds** as our Music Director and Inspirational Leader.

Visit us at www.barbershop-harmony.org

San Francisco

By Charles Feltman

We performed at the NW Division competition in Lodi. In addition, we prepared for our yearly sing on stage at the Presidio Memorial Day celebration.

A pickup quartet sang at a SF public school fundraiser, led by a member **Dad**.

Two new members have graced our risers this year, the latest one, **Fred Heuser**, joined last week. Our earlier recruit, **David Korts**, is now performance ready and will be joining us in Lodi.

Visit us at www.sfcablecarchorus.org

San Mateo

By Thomas Addison

The **Faultline Acappella Chorus** will be the new name for the **San Mateo Chapter** as we try to appeal to younger singers who might have more initial interest in singing if we emphasize our Acappella roots. The marketing committee headed by **Jeff Cleary** came up with the name after considering about 100 suggestions from chorus members in what was both a humorous and a heated exercise.

Our Spring Show had a full house for *Beach, Be Bop, and Barbershop* featuring songs of the '50s and '60s. Our guest group **Solstice** thrilled the audience with their international offerings, and provided a lovely contrast to our Beach Hawaiian Shirts theme.

The Music Committee led by **Ed Sterbenc** is working hard to find suitable songs for our 2015 show featuring songs around the

calendar. Director **Cort Bender** and the music committee are working hard to find bass singers.

Visit us at www.goldenchordsmen.org

Santa Cruz

By Allen Takahashi

The Santa Cruz Chorus is preparing for our annual Cabaret show in June which features whole tables of desserts!

Quartets **Constellation** [**Jordan Johnson, Allen Takahashi, Bill McCain** (Frank Thorne), **Mark Torrence** (VIH)], and a chorus quartet [**Trudy Mock, Bob Folker, Nancie Barker, Jordan Johnson**] sang on a show celebrating song writer **Tom Lehrer**. **Constellation** also sang on the **Peninsulaires** show.

Visit us at www.s sbarbershop.org

Santa Rosa

By Ray Crowder

Our chapter's only surviving charter member, 90-year-old **Ed Thompson**, a member of Santa Rosa High School's class of 1942, recently performed for the school's 150th anniversary celebration. He brought the audience to its feet with his rendition of the George Burns classic, "Old Bones", backed up in harmony by 13 **Redwood Chordsmen** buddies. This song is **Ed's** favorite, and has become one of the most requested by local folks.

Chase Ferrante, a new young member, was one of the stars in the Montgomery High School production of *How To Succeed In Business Without Really Trying*. This young man is a terrific bass, and captured the audience with his fine singing and acting.

We performed at the Barclay Concert along with choral ensembles from four different Santa Rosa High Schools. Several young men who attended last year's Youth Harmony Camp joined us onstage to perform a song with us, a highlight of the evening for the capacity crowd. We performed at the popular Redwood Empire Choral Festival, which featured eight different choral groups from throughout Sonoma County.

Chapter quartet **Rare Form** was quite active lately. They enjoyed performances at the Vintage Seniors Apartments, Flavor Restaurant in Old Courthouse Square, and for the Varena community at Fountaingrove.

Welcome to our newest member, **Mike Young**, and to our most recent guests, **Will James, Brian Keefer, Tom Bertoli, Tony & Bonnie Kruk, Enzo Gabriele**, and former member and spouse, now with the **Reno Chapter, Dick & Sandy Whitten**.

Visit us at chordsmen.groupanizer.com

SF Bay Cities Quartet

By Jordan Makower

It was a surprise in April to find 19 of us at Harry's Hofbrau for lunch. **Bruce Bunting** was back from his Australia vacation, **Mark & Carol Hildebrand** joined us, as well as **Mike & Diane Irvin, Sieg & Ruth Yoder, Paul Freudenthal, Paul Goldstein,**

Roman Avila, Bill Gates, and Chuck Mollett. Regulars **Dave Tuttelman, Steve & Sarah Gummersall, and Jordan Makower** attended. We gave thanks, in absentia, to **Bill & Cecile Beck**, for helping us reach our goals with BHS this year, and to **Dave Laubscher & Jan Petrinovich**, for their assistance with our yearly membership records.

We are grateful to webmaster **John Heather** for putting these monthly reports in the online version of Westunes as well as our website: www.sfbayquartets.org.

Walnut Creek
Mike Cating

The **Devil Mountain Chorus** has been working hard and having fun in our preparation for Lodi. In addition to a fantastic coaching session by **Dr. Greg Lyne**, we're excited to welcome at least six new members to their first-ever convention performance! For us, convention is more about the joy of sharing our art form with our brothers and improving through the evaluations than it is about a number on a piece of paper. So look for us in the lobby and be sure to say hello and sing a tag!

We're in the last stages of our "Spring School Cycle," finishing with performances on the Acalanes and Berean High School Choir Concerts. Our youth outreach theme of celebrating the students with no strings attached has met with incredible approval from teachers, students and parents. In just the last four months, quartets have visited and sung with at least ten high school choirs, and we're already booking visits for our fall schedule. After singing a tag with a quartet, one senior said, "This is the highlight of the year!" (This young man is also in a quartet, and we're already looking into a Harmony U scholarship for him!)

For the latest happenings, photos and videos, like us on Facebook at <http://www.devilmountainchorus.org>. Please help us reach our goal of 200 likes (only 5 more required)!



Division 4 NE Chapters
Roger Perkins, Editor

California Delta Chapter
By Stan Trumbull

The chorus has been extremely focused this quarter on one big picture item and two very specific upcoming events. The higher level item is some introspection and strategic planning. As the chorus embarks on our fifth year in existence, leadership engaged in some soul searching and listening and had a facilitated weekend off-site session to discuss how we can make our chorus experience even more fulfilling for each member while trying to take our chorus to the next level. Elements of these sessions have already found their way into our weekly meetings and it's amazing that, even for a chapter that's already been to international, there are clearly many, many improvements that we can incorporate into what we do. The net result: We're improving faster and everyone's having even more fun at rehearsal! Our new president, Stan Trumbull, has everyone on his leadership team with both oars in the water and all rowing at the same time (and even the same direction!).

We had a coaching session with **Patrick Claypool** to help with Visual Plans for a few of our key show tunes. What a high energy guy!

The other big thing we've been working on is our contest set for International in Vegas. Two new tunes have been assembled and the guys have been diligently grinding through their learning tracks. **Cindy Hansen** came in for a few days and worked with the full chorus, and then with small ensembles and the front row. She is truly a difference maker.

Central California Chapter
By Miles Sutter

We held our second Valentine's dinner for our wives - Great GVC turnout with marvelous food! Fantastic way to celebrate Valentine's Day with our wives and 'family'.

Seventy-three scheduled "Valengrams" were delivered. Credit for the success of this day goes to **Roe Darnell, Howard Barber** and **Erick Calders** who handled the phone calls and arranged all the time slots. Erick designed a new digital ordering process that made it easier to schedule the quartets. All materials were handled by **Erick, Donna, Stratt, Greg DeMers** and Roe. A major reason for this successful event was the advertising made available. **Grady Williams** and **Juan Qhijano** supplied us with the displays, posters, and handouts.

The GVC again had the pleasure of sponsoring the FWD Novice Quartet Contest for the 7th year. We listened to eight hopeful contestants. Among them were two mixed voice quartets and six men's quartets. The attendance was around 60. The mixed voices quartet winner was, **THE CAT'S MEOW**, Bay Area Chapter. The third place men's quartet winner was, **RESONANT EVIL**, Walnut Creek and Bay Area Chapters. Second place winner was, **THE NO VICES FOUR**, Central California Chapter. The Novice Quartet Champion was, **BRANNIGAN** from the Bay Area Chapter. The winner's plaques were presented to them by last year's winners, **CROSSFIRE**.

The GVC had the opportunity to sing the National Anthem at the home opener of our local professional baseball team, the **Modesto Nuts**. Many gathered around, smiles on their faces, listening to us sing. We also sang to a couple celebrating their 25th anniversary. The following is a thank you note from the Modesto Nuts to **Stratt Riggs** for acquiring this opportunity for the GVC:

Hi Stratt,

"Thank you very much for coming out and participating in our Opening Night festivities. It sounded great and everyone raved about the Anthem performance. We would love to have you back this season a couple times. Hope you enjoyed yourselves and talk to you soon. Thanks so much again."

Davis-Vacaville Chapter
By Tom Powers

We presented our annual show in both Woodland and Vacaville. In Woodland we featured a chorus from Pioneer High School and

performed in their school's auditorium. The chorus sang mostly songs our members suggested that they remembered from their high school days. In Vacaville we invited the Vacaville High School Chorus to appear. Four club quartets filled out the balance of the shows.

Wayne Knight hosted a barbeque party in his backyard for members and their guests. We were particularly pleased to have a former member, **Mark Shreve** and his wife **Charlene** in attendance. The Shreves were visiting from Louisiana.

Folsom Chapter

By Doug Vestal

The **Folsom Harmony Express** hosted a Fifth Thursday Open Mic Quartet Night where we invited registered and non-registered quartets (and individual members) from surrounding chapters to join us for a fun night of quartet singing. Attendees were encouraged to form impromptu quartets and perform one song. **Dar Haag** (Sweet Adelines member) joined us in the fun. A total of 12 quartets were formed.

On Valentine's Day, our Chapter quartet **B-BLT [Kent Borrowdale, Ken Potter, Roger Santiago, Stan Trumbull]** entertained 12 unsuspecting Valentine honorees with two love songs, a personalized greeting card, and a live long-stem red rose. **Doug Vestal** temporarily substituted for Stan during an unplanned time out.

Nevada Placer Chapter

By Roger Perkins

Fewer *Singing Valentines* were sung this year. The Auburn quartet **[Tom Klasey, Burt Weichenthal, Roger Perkins, Al Drouin]** performed nine. As a barbershop quartet we got to actually sing in Michael's Barbershop for the boyfriend of a lady barber. It brought tears to his eyes. The **Wildwood Quartet [Cap Wallington, Roger Fox, Elmer Fairbanks, Cliff Johnson]** performed four Singing Valentines in the Marysville-Yuba City area and the **4T9r4 [Steve Mathews, Verne Bagby, Tony Prowense, Ernie Kleven]** did five.

Visit our website: www.sierranaders.org

Reno Chapter

By Steve Shurtliff

UNR continued to have us sing at several of their basketball games, both men's and women's. We are often told we do the best version of the National Anthem they hear.

2013 *BOTY* is **Joe Young**. He maintained our website for a couple of years and made many improvements to it. He is now on the Board serving as Treasurer. His knowledge of current technology, forward-thinking ideas and a very large desire to see this Chorus take the next step are making him invaluable, and we are quite fortunate to have him with us.

We welcome new members **Woodie Ross, Tim Cole, Charles Teachout** and **Brian Wrightsman**.

Sacramento Chapter

By Joe Samora

The **Capitolaire**s raised a couple thousand dollars selling and delivering forty-seven *Singing Valentines*. Three quartets delivered silk roses, candy, personalized greeting cards and sang to patrons in the Greater Sacramento area. Kudos to Chair **Dan Swink** for another successful program.

Ray Rhymer directed 15 men who sang to residents of the Sierra Sunrise Senior Apartments. The audience enjoyed hearing the "Old Songs" and some that were new.

Stockton Chapter

By Al Wolter

All in A-Chord competed in the 'Mixed Voice' category at the **NorCal Novice Quartet Contest** in Ripon. They made a good showing.

Fat City Four had the honor of singing for the Opening Day Ceremonies for the **Stockton Ports** at Banner Island Field.

The Chapter is busy working on the Spring Division 3 and 4 Conventions at Hutchins Street Square, Lodi, as a part of our 60th Anniversary Celebration. We are looking forward to seeing our Northern California and Northern Nevada friends!

Visalia Chapter

By Bud Case

This Christmas Season as usual, **Lee Smith** arranged for the chorus to go Caroling in 2-3 venues per week.

At our 2014 Installation Ceremony **Fred Speckman** stepped up to preside allowing **Dee Baughman** to actually enjoy being the Immediate Past President after 7+ years of service. He also serves as the Music VP with Membership VP **Rod Robinson**, PR VP **Lee Smith**, Secretary **Bud Case**, Treasurer **Pat Harrison**, and Board Members at Large **Norm Bryan, Greg Huber, Gerald Mitchell, Ted Petersdorf** and **Paul Simon**.

BOTY **Ken McNutt** was an original charter member as a teen when the chorus was organized 33+ years ago under the auspices of the Visalia Adult School. He currently sings in the **Some Assembly Required Quartet** and over the years has sung in several other outstanding quartets. He works as a customer service representative in Visalia. He has been a mainstay in the lead section and the whole chorus. Besides singing, he and Freda help with table arrangements at our festive events like installations, spaghetti feeds and chorus parties.

This year **Some Assembly Required [Ken McNutt, Dee Baughman, Landes Dung, Ed Grant]**, **Sound Projection [Bob Peden, Bob Browne, Rod Robinson, Landes Dung]** and a pick-up quartet **[Pat Harrison, Lee Smith, Lance Jepson, Rich Crain]** participated in *Singing Valentines*.

This year the **MOC** joined forces with the **GNC A Cappella** and performed *Harmony on Broadway* for their annual shows in Fresno and Visalia. We truly proved that "we are better together"!

Visit us at <http://www.visaliamightyoakchorus.org>.



Division 5 AZ Chapters Frank Ortega, Editor

Greater Phoenix Chapter By Bob Szabo

The following nine members of the Greater Phoenix Chapter currently hold leadership positions in the Far Western District:

Gordon Bergthold, Executive Vice President; **Bob Gray**, Secretary; **John Bloomquist**, Vice President of the Arizona Division; **Jerry McElfresh**, Marketing & Public Relations Chairman; **Ted Sayle**, Events Chairman; **Bill Kane**, Quartet Activities Chairman; **David Melville**, Webmaster; **Dan Wilson**, Song Writer's Guild Chairman; **Terry Aramian**, Laws & Regulations Chairman; and **Russ Young**, Immediate Past President.

Chapter Secretary **Bob Gray** is 2013 *BOTY*.

Congratulations go to **Mike Moyer** for heading up our *Singing Valentines* program that included eight pickup quartets from within the membership. Registered quartets **Vocal Edition** and **HeatWave** also helped support this worthwhile effort.

The **Spirit of Phoenix** was lucky to have **Brent Graham**, noted arranger and judge, spend a weekend in February coaching the chorus and providing new singing techniques.

Our annual show *Viva Las Vegas* featured SOP quartets **HeatWave**, **Speakeasy**, **Frequency**, **Audacity** and **Vocal Edition**. Guest artists, Chandler High School's male chorus, their quartet **Affinity**, and best of all, 2013 International Quartet Champion, **Masterpiece**, provided additional entertainment.

Prescott Chapter By Dave Tompkins

At the annual officer installation and awards dinner, we reflected upon a fantastic 2013 which included our great show *Up, Up, Up and Away!* plus many public performances, a successful *Singing Valentines* program, and the monthly Harmony For Lunch Bunch.

In February the **High Mountain Chordsmen** loaded up the risers and drove 30 miles to the community of Yarnell to present the gift of a one-hour chorus and quartet program. Yarnell still is recovering from the devastating wildfire that burned more than half the city's homes and took the lives of 19 firefighters.

Past FWD President **Russ Young** was the popular guest clinician at our annual one-day retreat. Besides helping improve the chorus's unit sound, Russ suggested a way the chorus can connect better with our audience, i.e., by telling the story of the song.

We must sadly report that long-time singers **Dave Samuels** and **Joe McGuire** are now members of the heavenly barbershop chorus.

Sedona Chapter By Michael McCaffrey

Our Guest Night generated six potential members. The chorus performed for the new folks then handed out songbooks and invited them to join us in singing *Cool Water*, *Breaking Up Is*

Hard To Do, *Shenandoah*, and *Home On The Range*. **Jeff Styer** from the **Sound of the Rockies** dropped by for a visit. His comments and anecdotes were well received by both members and guests.

The chorus performed for students at the Verde Valley Montessori School. An appearance at the Clarkdale-Jerome School (300+ in attendance) was remarkable not only because of the attention and interest the students showed, but by the astute questions they asked about the barbershop style.

We now have over 30 members and guests receiving weekly emails. Our director has always maintained that something magical happens to four-part harmony when a chorus reaches 30 singers.

Tucson Chapter By Dave Tompkins

Highlighted by *Singing Valentines* activity and the annual show, the first quarter of each year is often the most exciting and financially rewarding time for the Tucson Sunshine Chapter. A performance at the Tucson Mall organized by **Frank Hartline** and a show at Picacho Peak with transportation by **Dick Mueser** in his motor home helped build anticipation for these events.

On Valentine's Day, **Rich** and **Martha Kates** coordinated the delivery of special greetings, a rose and a personal song to 38 recipients throughout Tucson and Green Valley. Anchored by **Joint Venture**, the quartets **Touch of Gray**, **Matinee Idles**, **Love Notes** and **Gentlemen Songsters** sang their hearts out.

Guests were dancing in the aisles during our *Doo-Woppin' Barbershoppin'* annual show. The **Tucson Barbershop eXperience Chorus** was led by Director **Dayle Ann Cook** and Assistant Directors **Rich Kates** and **Ken Sylvia**. Show Chairman **Larry Castriotta** was supported by a fine committee of **Mike Elbert** (House), **Frank Hartline** (Marketing), **Dick Mueser** and **Wes Krause** (Ads/Program) and **Doug Rhoads** (Tickets). 2013 Far Western District Seniors Quartet Champion **Joint Venture** and 2013 Region 21 Sweet Adelines Quartet Champion **ConTempo** were the featured guests.

TBX reached out to the community by singing the national anthem at a University of Arizona baseball game and entertaining the many visitors at the Tucson Festival of Books.

We welcome new members **Gary Baker**, **Norm Dennis**, **Sam Hoogendoorn** and **Connar Kenning**.

White Mountain Chapter By Rich Hall

The **High Country Chorus** is diligently preparing for our summer show on July 12 at the Show Low High School Auditorium. We are excited to host **Masterpiece**, the current international quartet champion, for this show and hope folks from the rest of AZ can make it. We will also feature our local quartets **The Pine Tones**, **Broken Record**, and **Crook's Trail**. The program will be filled with a selection of old favorites, so the audience should have a great time with the music. Director Emeritus **Doc Dockendorf** will lead us through the show and its preparation. We are seeking a new director to follow in his footsteps.

Notices

2014 Conventions and Contests

Go to the FWD website for event notifications and registration forms, which will be added as they become available to Webmaster David Melville
<http://farwesterndistrict.org>

For your planning purposes, 2014 International and FWD Convention/Contest dates are:

Jun 29 - July 6, 2014 International Convention, Las Vegas, NV

Oct 9 - 12, 2014 FWD Fall Convention, Fresno, CA
- contests include FWD Fall Final Quartet, FWD Fall Final Chorus, FWD Fall Final Senior Quartet
Host is Fresno Chapter

Calendar

The FWD Website now contains the official FWD calendar - go to <http://barbershopfwd.org>

Chapters Looking For Directors

Sun Cities Chapter, Sun Cities, AZ

Apply to David Moses, 12510 Rampart, Sun City West, AZ 85375, 623-537-9804, mosesintx@yahoo.com

White Mountain Chapter, Show Low, AZ

Contact Dan Lewis at (928) 919-0092