



WESTUNES

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

2015 SoCal Top Novice Quartets



1 Harmonic Heartbreakers



2 Gotta Wear Shades



3 Big And Tall

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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 Activities



2015 SoCal Novice Quartet Contest

by Mark Sheldon, Orange Quartet Chapter PR VP

The 53rd Annual Southern California Novice Quartet Contest was held January 31, 2015, in the Little Theatre of Fullerton Union High School. The Orange Quartet Chapter hosted this year's event, with significant assistance by the Fullerton Chapter to secure and operate the venue.

Many individuals contributed their time and skill to this year's event. The onstage operation of the contest was expertly managed by Don Derler as emcee and Dave Lowerre as Contest Administrator. Quartets were managed backstage by Jimmie Eacret, and other house operations handled by Pete Saputo, Tom Nichols, and Steven Sarandis. Finances were managed by Paul Sandorff, who was assisted at the box office by a team led by Debbi Iniguez. Tim Gedney provided welcome repair and upgrades to the travelling trophy, adding a new level for engraving. Many others added their efforts to make the event a success.

The contest was available to Society members of all levels of accomplishment. A handicap based on prior contest participation and achievement was applied to level the playing field for less experienced singers. Each competing quartet performed two songs and was scored according to standard Society methods. Winners were determined based on the handicapped scores.

A single panel of judges trained in the Society evaluation categories generously made themselves available: John Brockman (Music), Stephen Katz (Performance), and David Tautkus (Singing).

Thirteen quartets competed, representing at least ten SoCal Chapters. Third place went to **Big and Tall** (Santa Monica Chapter), and second place to **Gotta Wear Shades** (Temecula Chapter). The 2015 SoCal Novice Quartet Champion was **Harmonic Heartbreakers**, a quartet from La Habra High School with members of the Fullerton Chapter: Josh Salgado (Tenor), Andrew Hernandez (Lead), Justin Gabriel (Baritone), and Tristen Urban (Bass). The winning song set featured well-timed comedy performances of "I Don't Mind Being All Alone" and a Parody of "M-O-T-H-E-R."

Tom Nichols of Fullerton Chapter deserves special recognition. In addition to coaching and mentoring the Harmonic Heartbreakers through the contest, he succeeded in getting all four fully registered as Society Members in three days so that they could be eligible to compete!

Completing the top five handicapped scores were **Shave the Bear** (Brea) in fourth and **Charles in Charge** (Santa Fe Springs, Riverside, and La Jolla) in fifth. Other competing quartets included **Jin & The Tonics** (South Orange County), **Pacific Coast Highwaymen** (South Bay), **Cookie Monsters** (Orange), **Sound Encounter** (South Orange County), **Sound Choice** (Orange), **Orange Apeel** (Orange), **Close Shave** (Orange), and **Pay Dirt** (Brea).

Following the contest, each judge took the stage to provide group evaluation comments to all interested competitors and audience members, providing a valuable educational element to the evening.



YOUTH HARMONY CAMP - 2015

by Richard Lund

September 18 – 20, 2015 Pollock Pines, CA

I am SO looking forward to this upcoming Camp. After last year's cancellation, I was bummed out for months. This year is looking like a really strong comeback!

Quick: who is currently ranked the number one quartet in the world after the Fall District contests? Yep, it's After Hours and After Hours is our teaching quartet at Harmony Camp in 2015. They will be joined by Brannigan out of the Bay Area.

We are waiting confirmation from our fourth clinician; but will be able to announce that one soon.

We had 101 campers signed up last year and anticipate at least that many campers in 2015. In addition, we had 10 music educators joining us. Sure don't want to have to cancel camp ever again.

We will be announcing our fund raising campaign for our Harmony Camp Endowment Fund at the Spring Prelims this March in Sacramento. Look for us there.

Thank you All for your continued support for Harmony Camp. I have always believed that it is you who "make it happen" for Harmony Camp. It's not too early to start talking with your contacts about Harmony Camp 2015.

2015 Leadership Academy Results



Craig Hughes, FWD Leadership Academy Dean

The Leadership Academy combined with Harmony College West to provide training, singing, and lots of fun January 23rd to 25th, 2015 in Las Vegas. Our goal was to enjoy the economy of one event while bringing fun and excitement to both.

Don Salz and Steve Salmon along with volunteers from the Las Vegas Chapter provided a great environment for music and education.

I want to thank all who made the Leadership Academy sessions a success.

President Class: Allan Webb, FWD President
Don Fuson, Society President

Secretary Class: Bob Gray, FWD Secretary

Treasurer Class: Max Bates, FWD Treasurer

Membership Class: Mike Cating, Chapter President, Walnut Creek

Music & Performance: Nick Papageorge, FWD Music & Performance VP

Marketing Class: Jerry McElfresh, FWD Marketing
David Melville, FWD Webmaster

Effective Collaboration: Don Fuson, Society President

These instructors donated their time and expertise to present a lot of valuable information in a four hour session. Their presentations along with additional documentation are now on the [District Website at Media – Documents and Forms – Leadership Academy](#). All officers should take a look whether they attended or not. Please plan to attend next year. An important part of the experience is the contact with other Chapter officers. The District is rolling out an interactive forum for all officers in the next few months. The Academy is a great way to make personal contact and develop the friendships that make our hobby so rewarding.

Ideas and suggestions are always welcome. This is your event so please help us make it the best.

In Harmony,

Craig Hughes, SE Div VP & Leadership Academy Dean
Chughes2@cox.net

Leadership Articles



**District President
Allan Webb**

Welcome to 2015! I hope everyone had a great holiday season and is ready to take on the coming year with a renewed sense of purpose and vigor.

As of this writing, our Spring Convention and combined NE/NW Division Convention is just around the corner in Sacramento in March. You should already have your registrations for this, but if you still need to get yours, you can do so online from the District web site. In fact, you can order your registrations for all 2015 District events all at the same time and save yourself the trouble later:

<http://events.farwesterndistrict.org/conventions>

Just a few weeks ago, we had a successful combined Harmony College West and Leadership Academy. I'm sure if you talk to anyone who was there, they'd be happy to tell you what a great experience it was, with course content for individual members, directors, and Chapter officers, as well as quartet coaching pods for quartets (who each received seven 50-minute coaching sessions on Friday and Saturday, followed by their performance on the Saturday night show). We will be taking feedback from this year's event and making some decisions for next year, but generally we like the format that we adopted this year and will look to continue using it. The most important factor which would make it better next time is for **you** to be there.

In the Chapter President's course, I was happy to invite the participants to be the first Presidents to start using the District's online threaded discussion forum. We're in the process of getting the 14 Presidents who were there onboarded into the system, after which we'll be inviting the rest of our Chapter Presidents in groups of 15-20 at a time. The forum is a place where Presidents will be able to discuss issues which their Chapters are facing, bounce ideas off of each other, and hopefully come up with solutions to many of our common problems. In addition to Presidents, we also

have private forums for the other Chapter Officer positions and will be onboarding those people once the Presidents are done.

At this year's International Midwinter Convention, I had the pleasure of attending the keynote address by Dr. David Wright on The Future History of Barbershop. If you haven't seen this presentation yet, do yourself a favor and watch the whole thing. It's broken up into several smaller chunks at this URL:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLcwXdNVvSNbg02cbWGe05zSY50SEFowP7>

Looking forward to seeing all of you in Sacramento!



**Executive Vice President
Gordon Berghold**

We recently held the first Leadership Academy/Harmony College West joint meeting in Las Vegas and it was a breakthrough in many ways. We had chapter officers, quartets and many talented instructors and coaches from the Far Western District in attendance and doing "their thing" Friday, Saturday and a half day Sunday. We were fortunate to have Don Fuson, our Society President in attendance the entire time and he made the rounds, visiting classes, quartet coaching and being available for one-on-one discussions with anyone who requested his time.

One of the ongoing topics in our district, and the society as well, is *communication*. This topic is the underlying challenge within the Barbershop Harmony Society leadership and board and the 17 district board leadership teams that meet several times a year to attend to the business that drives our organization. The District President's Council has made good strides in establishing a strong working relationship with the Society leadership and Board and we are now turning our efforts towards improving the communication with our district chapters and members.

It occurs to me, and many others in leadership positions, that communication is the key to success in

maintaining a healthy relationship within our districts. Retention and recruitment tend to be our immediate goals in the FWD and we feel that by putting emphasis on our chapters and the members, retention and recruitment will improve in the future. There are many factors involved in maintaining a healthy chapter and most of those factors begin with good singing and a strong musical team. Again, we have one of the strongest districts in the society and the placement of our quartets and choruses at the International Conventions is proof that we are at the top of our game musically.

Now we have to address the average chapter (which make up a majority of the 75 chapters in the FWD) and its challenges which are also based on musical success and leadership. Many chapters are looking for a director and we are working on that challenge with our Chorus Director Development program. We are also working on developing strong chapter leadership through the Leadership Academy and other programs directed at assisting chapters when they request help.

If you have concerns or questions pertaining to the growth or survival of your chapter give your Division Vice President, or any district officer, a call and he'll get the right people involved to assist you with your challenges. The biggest communication problem is that, we do not listen to understand, we listen to reply. I'm working on the listening skill so that I can communicate more effectively.



***District Vice President 1 SW
Brent Anderson***

I'm new to the job and haven't as yet, had the chance to talk with every chapter in detail about what issues they have, how viable they feel and what the FWD might do to help them to be more successful chapters. I plan to visit as many chapters as I can and I assure each and every chapter in my Division that the FWD leadership is listening and aware of your issues and we'll do all we can to help you and your members become more successful in 2015.

All the chapters I spoke with reported they are hoping to do well in Singing Valentines, which is one of the best publicity as well as money-making campaigns among the entire non-profit world. I sent out some personal hints at making the event a success and several chapters reported they appreciated the tips and were incorporating them into their process. Based on a few reports I received prior to this article, it seems several chapters had great results, at least as good as in the past and several reported new records.

I have some ideas about getting new members... prospecting in different arenas than where we've gone in the past. There's another article in this Westunes that addresses that topic so watch for that. In the meantime, don't ignore current members who miss a night. Assign someone to call that person after they have missed even one night, and let them know they were missed. Did you know that about 40% of new members do not renew for year #2? And 50% are gone after two years. That's not right, and I believe it's because we focus too much on getting new members and not enough on keeping the ones we have. Just because they gave you their money doesn't mean we're giving them everything they need. Stay in touch and be sure you are giving them the fun they are seeking.

Most of the chapters had Installation Banquets of some sort during the quarter and you'll see from digester reports the names of many people who were acknowledged for their contributions of the past year...whether that be as an officer, show chairman, membership person etc. and you'll also see the names of several awards given such as Barbershopper or Rookie of the Year... My chapter, **Rincon Beach**, was fortunate to have famous BHS arranger and performer, **Dave Briner**, as our installing officer, and we also enjoyed a wonderful performance from **Flightline**, our current 2nd Place FWD quartet. I've been to dozens of Installation Banquets over the years, and even had a chance to be the installing officer at several and I'm telling you, you don't need a district politician to do the honors. Take a tip from Rincon and ask a District Hero (often our district politicians are also heroes, but many of our other heroes prefer to lead without a title) to be your installing officer. We

have so many wonderful heroes in our district, the choice is intoxicatingly pleasurable. These leaders and heroes would love to come and share stories about the wonderful experiences this hobby gives to us members as well as to the world in general, and those stories provide the inspiration for incoming officers to do their best to perpetuate the Society as well as make their chapters successful.

The spring show season has started and in February, **South Bay Chapter** had a great show, under the direction of the inventive and talented **Pete Neushul**. You all may know of his mixed quartet, **Ready Willing and Mabel**, but you may not know he's also created a "big band" composed mainly of barbershoppers and a few other professionals to accompany RWM and also **139th Street Quartet**. The band is called the **Rockin' Moroccans**, they wear dinner jackets and sport a fez, and those who have seen the shows say it is totally entertaining and great fun.

I encourage all readers to look at the calendar of events in Westunes and go to other chapter shows. First of all, each chapter goes to great lengths to create a very entertaining show, and chances are you and the friends you bring will have a very pleasant evening of harmony and laughter. Second, you will be exposed to the barbershop world outside of your chapter, and many of you will be pleasantly surprised to realize you share many experiences with many other similarly-talented men. You'll be entertained by champion-quality quartets and by up-and-coming talented quartets. You'll "learn" much from watching other choruses and you'll be "in the know" because you realize how much effort goes into the production of a show...and you'll be more of a resource to your own chapter by virtue of sharing another chapter's experience. Attend the afterglow, and meet some new friends while deepening your relationships with other, old friends.

Upcoming is the **SW/SE Division convention and competition in Santa Monica on May 9**. It's a single day event in which you'll see and hear many quartets of varying talent, all in competition for many purposes. Some may be competing to score high enough to qualify for the FWD quartet finals in Mesa, Arizona, this

October. Others may not have that aspiration but may be competing just for the experience of seeing how far they have come, benchmarking to see how far they need to go, and for the opportunity to receive 45 minutes of coaching from some of the best coaches in the Society. I encourage all my division choruses and every registered quartet to compete just for the fun and the experience, if for nothing else. It's a simple, one-day trip to beautiful Santa Monica, and the warm, welcoming audience will appreciate you and acknowledge your efforts with applause and accolades which you deserve and will have earned. You'll meet other competitors and perhaps share experiences that will be the springboard to many more competitive experiences.

BTW...I have it on official authority that you do NOT have to give up your whole day to go through the many hours of warm up, rehearsal, almost ready room, ready room, green room and last room before you go on stage.... I have been in chorus contests where we have "practiced" all day and didn't get to see and experience any of the contest. There is no "rule" that you have to give up your whole day to rehearsal and other readiness. You only need to be aware enough to get to the ready room in time to go on stage at the required time. Rarely does a chorus learn enough new notes or perfect vowels or dynamic levels sufficiently to improve their contest scores on the morning of the contest. Arrive at the contest dressed and aware of when you need to be backstage, and get there at the appropriate time and go sing! In the meantime, sit in the audience with your spouse and friends and enjoy watching and learning from the contestants you get to see. Contest day is fun, not work. Do the "work" prior to contest in order to present the best performance you can give, but on contest day...that's the fun...that's the "payoff" for all the work. Perform your best, "let the chips fall where they may" and enjoy the experience, the knowledge you gain from the experience, and all the friends you get to see at the convention.

I am available to chat and share with anyone at any time. My cell phone is 805-452-1393. I look forward to seeing you all in Santa Monica on May 9...

experience. Check it out even if you are not a signatory to see all the fun you could have.

I plan to visit all of the NW Chapters some time this year - I can do this because mine (SF Cable Car) is the only one that meets on Wednesdays ;-) and I'm already known to a couple of closer ones based on a visit earlier this year. One nearly forgotten event is inter-chapter visits, and I think we need more of this to share our successes and bring them to others. SF Cable Car has been a recent visitor to San Mateo and joined them in the "Santa Train" event. This has been an energizer for both Chapters.



**District Vice President 4 NE
Richard Lund**

First, a big thank you to Voices of California stepping up to the plate to host the NE / NW and Prelims convention in Sacramento March 19 – 21. This is a no “Walk in the Park” undertaking. McClellan Conference Center is a new venue for the District and VoCal is working hard to ensure that it will be a venue we use in the future also.

NE Division Chapters were busy during the holiday season with community activities and shows. I was able to attend many of these and certainly believe we can be proud of our performances. Chartering activities of the Elko Chapter are ongoing however their director, Josh Royce and his wife were in an automobile accident over the holidays and although Josh was banged up, his wife was seriously injured.

Many of the NE Division attended the “Outstanding In Front” Program in Pleasanton last fall and all were enthusiastic about the day. We also had good representation at HCW / LA in Las Vegas at the end of January. Nick Pagageorge and Craig Hughes put together a most informative and enjoyable weekend. I am heartened by the attendance of the NE Division members at these District activities. The networking with other Barbershoppers is invaluable.

Upcoming events that I would like to note and encourage all to consider participating in are the NE / NW and Prelims convention in Sacramento in March 2015; Harmony University in Nashville July 26 – August 2; and Harmony Brigade in Reno August 21 – 22. Participation in all or any of these activities will certainly enhance your Barbershop experience.

You all know that I have a passion for Harmony Camp; and lately, I have been working with the Sacramento Region Community Foundation to establish an endowment fund for the benefit of Far Western District Youth Harmony Camps. Our goal is to ensure funding into the future for our FWD Harmony Camps. More information will be available in March at the Division / Prelims competition.

Lastly I want to briefly share with you some thoughts that have impacted my thinking, especially with respect to recruiting members for this wonderful hobby of ours. It is a concept called the Golden Circle. The Golden Circle looks just like a target with rings. The outer ring is “What”; the middle ring is “How”; and the inner circle is “Why”. We all typically start with the outer ring.

WHAT

EVERYONE knows what they do. Everyone understands what they do. Everyone understands that we open our mouths and songs come out. It’s fun. It’s rewarding. It makes us feel good. And people around us feel good. It works!!

HOW

EVERYONE knows how to do what they do. Everyone understands how to sing and make beautiful sounds. Not everyone can make sounds as good as Tim Waurick, but that doesn’t really matter in terms of inspiring the folks who hear us and listen to us. People understand in their gut that music inspires; it feels good. They want to listen and hear you sing.

WHY

And then we may talk about why we do what we do – but just a little bit. This is what we all do. We talk

about the **What**; then about the **How**; and maybe a little bit of the **Why** – in that order.

The Golden Circle concept suggests we reverse that order and talk about our **WHY** first. Why do we do what we do? I must admit I was stopped cold when my wife asked me to articulate my Harmony Camp **WHY**.

I submit to you that people respond to our **WHY**. I submit that in order to sell yourself and Barbershop you need to about talk your personal **WHY** first and foremost.

Apple is an example of the **WHY** approach because we are familiar with it, and everyone knows how successful it is.

But Why is Apple such a successful company? What is it about Apple that makes people buy its products, year after year?

What if Apple approached its sales in the following way?

We make great computers. They're beautifully designed, simple to use and user friendly. Wanna buy one? Neeaa. I Don't think so.

That's how most of us communicate. That's how most of us communicate interpersonally. We say What we do, we say How we're different. We say what a great product we have. Wanna buy? Neeaa. Don't think so.

Here's how Apple actually communicates.

“At Apple, Everything we do, we Believe in Challenging the status quo. We Believe in thinking differently.

The way we challenge the status quo is by making our products beautifully designed, simple to use and user friendly. We just happen to make great computers. Wanna buy one?”

This is a totally different message, right? Now, you're ready to buy a computer from Apple. All I did was to reverse the order of the information. People respond

to **WHY** you sing Barbershop, not what you do (sing Barbershop).

It is those who start with their **WHY** that have the ability to inspire those around them, or find others and inspire them.

So I leave you with this question: What is your **WHY**? By articulating your **WHY**, would our membership expand? Has the quality of your life benefited from being a part of this hobby called barbershop? Think about that, and ponder the implications of that question.



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

I often begin my articles with a comment about how proud I am of the Arizona Division. Well, this one will be no different!

What a GREAT TIME to be part of this awesome Division.

This holiday season has seen a real uptick in Chapters doing their Holiday shows to very appreciative audiences. In addition, many of them utilize local talent from high schools in the area. This is a great way to introduce more of our youth and their families to the thrill of barbershop singing.

The Midwinter convention in New Orleans in January brought out a number of outstanding reasons to be proud of the AZ Division. I want to congratulate AZ's own **High Priority** for bringing home the 2nd place Silver Medal in the Senior Quartet contest! From the moment they started singing, it was evident that the audience was in for something special. GREAT JOB GUYS!!

Also included was the highly successful Youth Chorus Festival. Again, Arizona rose to the top! The 43 men of the **Chandler High Men's Choir** took the stage under the direction of Lori Lyford, with confidence and excitement that many of us could feel from the beginning. They entertained and were rewarded with not only an Outstanding Rating, but also were voted

Audience Favorites which earned them the opening spot on the Saturday night Show of Champions! Also from Chandler, also under the direction of Ms. Lyford, were the award-winning **Treblemakers Women's Choir**. The 42 young women also did a great job on the Friday night champions show by opening the evening. Also, they were invited by 3rd place medalists, Main Street, to perform the "Lida Rose/Dream of Now" duet from The Music Man. Now that was magical. I am including a link that most of you have seen in the recent BHS Livewire.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZN-fV1zTkec&feature=youtu.be&utm_source=LiveWire+2015-01-29&utm_campaign=LW_2015-01-29&utm_medium=em

Springtime is also show time for many Chapters! Be sure you get out and support each other and while you are at it enjoy some terrific Barbershop harmony.

Finally, I announced in the last Westunes that Frank Ortega has resigned as AZ Division 5 Westunes Editor. I have sent a request to all of the AZ Div Chapter contact people to check with their membership to see if anyone was willing to step up to fill this important position. Now I know that Frank has pretty big shoes to fill, but I am sure that SOMEONE can do it. Please let either myself or Ray Rhymer know if you have an interested party.

Membership is consistently on the front burner. How many **Man of Note** awards will YOU get for the year? Do it because you love singing and really just want to share the joy with as many men as possible!

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



**District Vice President Mu&Perf
Nick Papageorge**

No article submitted.



**District Vice President C&J
Ron Black**

March 20-22 will combine the Northwest and Northeast Divisions with the International Quartet Preliminaries in Sacramento, CA. The venue is the McClellan Conference Center and Lionsgate Hotel. This contest is held in a converted and updated convention venue from a huge aircraft hanger converted after the McClellan Air Force Base was de-commissioned. It is rather ideal for our contest location. **Deadline for contest entry is February 20.**

April 25 will be the Arizona Division in Phoenix. **Deadline for contest entry is March 23.**

May 9 will combine the Southwest and Southeast Division, the venue is in Santa Monica. **Deadline for contest entry is April 10.**

**Chapter Support & Leadership Training
Steve Salmon**

No article submitted.



**Chorus Director Development
Greg Lyne & Royce Ferguson**



Hello, FWD!

I am thrilled to join Dr. Greg Lyne in support of our Chorus Director Development programs for the Far Western District. We are ready to provide support for director education training in the coming months ahead and are eager to assist.

Directing a chorus, or aspiring to become a director can, at times, feel like an isolated and lonely endeavor filled with many challenges.

In my experience, it is far better to travel this road with others who share the same passion, drive, and enthusiasm for barbershop chorus directing as you do. Along the way, I have been fortunate to have had wonderful teachers. At the core of this list of influences, I count Dr. Greg Lyne's instruction as fundamental to success. He has been an inspiring mentor and friend each step of the way on this amazing journey thus far, and it has made all the difference – both as a quartet singer and chorus director.

I recall a feeling much like a bolt of lightning when I attended my first directing classes with him and I knew nearly instantly that directing was what I wanted to do. What an amazing opportunity to empower others to experience far more from singing barbershop harmony than I previously thought possible. It is also interesting that the more one gives as a director, the more one gets back in return and, as a result, the successes follow.

In my role as a CDWI Instructor, I have noticed a few interesting tips. Here are five that you may find helpful as well.

1] **Stay Centered, with a Lifted Countenance while you direct.** What a difference this can make, when a director doesn't pace or walk around, but rather gives the chorus a solid central focus that reflects a handsomeness and integrity of a vibrant musical delivery.

2] **Team Building Language.** Use inclusive language to enroll active thinking and imagination in your singers. This will ensure everyone comes together with shared responsibility and reward as a team. Utilize terms such as "Let's, Us, We, and phrases that encourage individual exploration such as "Together, might we connect with our audience even more if we were to vigorously lift that intonation and for bonus points, continue that lifted vitality on our faces? ;)".

3] **Break Things Down.** Simplify and build upon small successes. This is a great trick to keep rehearsal interesting and fun with "lots of trys", while cleaning up a song – rapid-fire repetitions of a section with "Let's try clapping that challenging

rhythm at measure 4; Now talk-sing that same rhythm on a 'Dee' while snapping on 2 + 4; Bases, talk-sing that line and everyone else sing 'do'; Leads, let's sing that melodic line and high-five a baritone; Now just the back row singing while everyone else stands in complete amazement" etc.. This changes the environment, keeps guys from being anonymous and best of all, accomplishes a lot while having fun in the process.

4] **Build Upon What is Right.** "Catch people being good". We are often trained as directors to fix problems. Don't forget to more often reward individuals who are really on their game and bringing their best to the party and always point the chorus toward the possibilities of what can be achieved with enthusiasm.

5] **Achieve Ahhh!(s), aHa!(s), and Haha!(s) During each rehearsal.** This was a great point Dr. Lyne made at a Friday night Keynote address during one of our FWD Director's schools: Every rehearsal should have "ahhh(s)" that come from the beauty of singing barbershop music together; every rehearsal should also have "aHa(s)" that come from discovery of something new and rewarding. Finally each rehearsal should have "Haha(s)" that are found when a group has fun and enjoys being together.

Greg and I would like to assist you on your chorus-directing journey and invite you to take full advantage of our many wonderful training programs, which in addition to our HCW weekend include:

Director programs - Chorus Director Workshop Intensive (CDWI), Next Level, Outstanding in Front (OIF), Director Certification courses.

<http://barbershop.org/education/director-education.html>

While you're at it, be sure to download the free PDF that is linked on that page, Directing a Barbershop Chorus –Methods, Techniques, and Philosophies.

We look forward to hearing from you!

All the best, Royce Ferguson

Events Bryan Forbes

No article submitted

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



Marketing & Public Relations Jerry McElfresh

The District Leadership Academy's marketing and public relations class that I conducted with the help of Webmaster David Melville in Las Vegas this January resulted in a lively discussion, a lot of questions and,

happily, some answers

For those who were not able to attend the Leadership Academy and possibly as a refresher for those who did I'm taking this opportunity to provide some highlights from the class.

First we established that **marketing** involves communicating the value of a product or service (in our case, musical performance) to customers for the purpose of selling that product or service.

The aim of **public relations** is to inform the public, prospective members and customers, to provide them with a favorable view about an organization such as ours and its membership, products and role in the community.

Paid advertising is another way to market your chapter if you can afford it. It allows you to pick your audience and get your message out in the time and with the message that you choose.

Marketing efforts of Barbershop chapters mainly are directed at helping the chapter earn money to support itself and to gain members. Marketing usually is responsible for

getting paid performances, show ticket sales, program advertising, seeking donations and grants and the sale of Barbershop merchandise (CDs, T-shirts, etc.)

We also typically work with the chapter membership committee to attract prospective members and help retain current members.

Any promotional campaign may include personal contact; chapter answering machine messages; email messages to patrons, fans and followers; announcements on your chapter Website, Facebook and Twitter and other social media; your chapter bulletin, fliers mailed and e-mailed to active and inactive members, guests and fans; press releases and calendar listings sent to publications and radio and TV stations, and paid advertising.

That all is a pretty tall order and there are several things that chapter marketers need to keep in mind:

- Don't do it alone, get an active committee to help with all of those tasks
- Develop a marketing plan – stick with it but be flexible
- Prioritize the many things you are working on ranked by importance and timeliness
- Determine who your audience is. Does it mostly come from retirement communities or the general population?
- Make use of Marketing and PR tools found under Resources on the BHS Website -- posters, press releases, etc

These points barely cover the four-hour session that included questions from the class and an outstanding PowerPoint presentation on social media by David Melville and one adapted from a society PowerPoint on marketing and PR that I used.

If you want to delve further into chapter M&PR and social media you can find the PowerPoint presentations on the FWD Website under the "New and Improved" tab near the top right of the home page, then clicking on "Documents and Forms." Next click on "Leadership Academy Presentations" and you'll find the presentations listed under VP Marketing and Webmaster tabs. Take a look.

Membership OPEN

Quartet Activities Bill Kane



As you may know, the FWD-inspired Platoon has become a fixture at conventions in FWD since it began in 2012. We have had around 300 men participate and have introduced about 40 songs, primarily from the BHS Music Premiere Series. We have announced Platoons for both the Spring Prelims convention and AZ Division convention and are working with Bill Rosica to make one happen at the SE/SW Divisions convention. Look for registration forms on the FWD website or HarmonyPlatoon.org.

Platoon has also been introduced beyond our district as well. Don Salz has conducted a Platoon at EVG District conventions for two years, will do a Platoon in RMD this spring and completed one at Midwinter in New Orleans. He also did one in Vegas this summer for the International convention, following the one I did in Long Beach for Midwinter. There will be a Platoon at the spring district convention in North Carolina this March and one was done on the Comedy Cruise last fall.

I am now working on ideas to take Platoon further into FWD chapter level activities. As a first step, I have become President/Secretary of the Arizona Quartet Chapter (AZQC), a group who was planning on dropping affiliation with BHS. The dozen or so guys will continue as an informal "club", meeting every other week to sing Polecats, etc. The chapter will now focus on Platoon quartet activities.

The first meeting of the "new" AZQC was held Jan. 3, with 19 men attending (including two cars-loads from Tucson). Besides singing many of the Platoon songs in various quartet combinations, song leader Ray Estes taught a new song and High Priority performed their set for the competition in New Orleans (where they finished a strong #2, congratulations guys). A second meeting was held January 31 with guests from Prescott and Tucson as well as Phoenix, and a future

meeting is planned as a visitation to Casa Grande Chapter to give that small chapter a boost.

We are looking for opportunities to bring the convention Platoon activity to the chapter level in other Divisions as well. The first step was a gathering last fall in Southern California, where nearly 20 guys from at least a dozen different chapters met and sang a couple dozen prior Platoon songs in various quartets for well over three hours. A great time was had by all. Pre-convention gatherings are planned this spring in both Northern and Southern California, enabling guys to experience singing the new songs with other voices before arriving at convention.

Even though we will continue to introduce new songs with additional Platoons, I am working to identify the best set of songs from the current group that can begin to function like a new Polecat group. As awareness of these songs expands it can greatly increase the opportunities for informal quartet singing at conventions with some fun songs everyone knows beyond just the Polecats.

If you have ideas for how Platoon could help you and your chapter, let me know. Maybe a visitation by a "Platoon" quartet? Hmm? We could maybe put some together. One from AZ/CA went to Harmony College West for some coaching I know.

See you in Sacramento for Spring Prelims



Platoon Champs - New Orleans Midwinter Convention

Rigor Mortis

(L-R) Tenor **Vern Dockter** (RMD), Lead **Sean Clark** (FWD), Bass **Tommy Keenan** (FWD), Bari **John Johnston** (DIX).



Youth In Harmony
Jim Halvorson

No article submitted



Feet on the ground
by Jack Peters

I trust your feet are at least floating back to earth after your Valentine's experience, 2015, whatever it was --- or wasn't.

I just heard "As Time Goes By" and as the radio announcer said;"that was by the always *captivating* Billie Holiday"! When I hear her, I always wonder, how in the heck is that possible ??

Her voice wasn't pretty or even pleasant to listen to, but accurate and what inflection! Willie Nelson is another example, even Frank himself, had a little twang in the sound. But these great artists were/are spectacular in conveying the meaning in the songs, which made them classics for all time.

Sooo,--- we don't have to have the best voices, and what are the best voices anyway, Pavarotti, Bennett, Ray, Stevie, Elton, Willie, Billie ?--- all very different, like snow flakes.

If you sang a love song to your honey yesterday, it wasn't you're spectacular voice that brought tears to there eyes, it was the thought and *meaning of the words*.

We touch lives!

Four For Fun, although spectacular in every way, brought tears to the eyes of our Singing Valentine recipients only when we would sing with love at certain tender spots, which got em' every time. Almost like a physical touch of compassion -- One gal needed a towel, and she was just there to record our singing on her cell phone!

Anyway --- *always* remember --- we are so fortunate to have *some* singing ability and this hobby to produce the product with our buddies -- don't underestimate what **you** can do, if you'll just put your *heart* into it, *every time* we sing! The words are already written, we just have to send them with our whole being. You'll enjoy it, it'll sound great and the audience, if there is one, will be ecstatic to hear more.

A Win, win, win!

jj

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626-786-5830	
Graham Pence Tom Moore	scottkidder@netzero.net Joe D'Amore
grahampence@gmail.com	

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



Division 1 SW Chapters
Ken Day, Editor

Aloha Chapter
By Jack Hashimoto

The Aloha Chapter Fall was highlighted by the A Cappella Academy for high school and college students. **Vocal Spectrum** served as guest clinicians. Thanks to **Mark Conching** and **Lars Isaacson** for heading this effort. The University of Hawaii donated the use of their facilities; the American Choral Directors Association of Hawaii hosted a luncheon; **Dr. Miguel Felipe**, Director of Choral Activities at UH led warm-ups; Aloha Chapter President **Jordan Wong** cooked lunch for all one day; and our own **Resonance** quartet served as section leaders for the A Cappella Academy Chorus.

Our annual installation banquet keynote speaker was **Dr. Miguel Felipe**. Installed by **Mark Conching** were: President **Jordan Wong** (2nd consecutive term), VP Music **Tom Hutton**, VP Membership **Rob Hartley**, VP Program **Bryce Irvine**, VP Marketing & PR **Phil Wee**, Secretary **Dan Tom** (umpteenth consecutive), Treasurer **Glenn Crowder** (umpteenth consecutive), Members-at-Large **Thurlow "De" Decrow**, **Mike Darcey**, **Lars Isaacson**, **Kawika Mitchell**. **Jordan Wong** was named BOTY. Thanks to **Dan Tom** who chaired the function, and all others who shared the responsibilities of the evening.

The Christmas holiday season presented many opportunities for us to get out to the community and entertain. Our Christmas gigs included the following:

1. The Royal Hawaiian Shopping Center
2. The Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting
3. Oahu Country Club
4. Unity Church
5. Ala Moana Hotel
6. Honolulu Boy Choir 40th Annual Christmas Concert
7. Honolulu Elks Club Children's Christmas Party
8. Make-a-Wish Foundation Jingle Rock 5k Run

BOTMs were **Lars Isaacson** – Oct, **Richard Matsumoto** – Nov.

Long Beach Chapter
By Joe Nagel

2015 Chapter officers are President **Joe Nagle** and Secretary/Treasurer **Paul Sandorff**.

A chorus consisting of a combination of the Barbershop Singing Club of Seal Beach and our Long Beach Chapter performed for patients of the Seal Beach Health and Rehabilitation Center. The chorus was directed by our very own **Marty Fuchs**. Also representing the chapter were **Tom Lewis** and **Paul Sandorff**.

Rincon Beach Chapter
By Ken Day

We were pleased to finish 8th at the Far Western District Fall Convention and Contest.

We sang at the prestigious Santa Barbara Club for their annual tree lighting and the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. This was

a repayment for their generosity of letting us rehearse there whenever our regular school building is closed for holidays. They advertised our appearance and we had a full crowd. We sang at Samarkand Retirement Village where we have performed for several years, and participated in the annual Unity Shoppe telethon that is broadcast on TV station KEYT in Santa Barbara. Noted actor **Jeff Bridges** was the featured guest and when he saw the chorus going up on stage he asked our director **Kelly Shepard** to sing and did with the chorus. If you are a Facebook member there are a couple of photographs on the Pacific Sound page. We sang for a banquet for Leisure Village, a catered affair and we were very well received. One of our chapter quartets, **Priority Male**, sang at many of our events, as did **Harmony Channel** [has three chapter members] and a mixed group of ten called **Fusion** [has three of our members].

SW Division Vice President Brent Anderson's quartet, **Quartet Du Jour** morphed into the **Mistle-tones** for the holidays. Members were **Bill Chase**, **Kevin Cunningham**, **Doug Van Bogelen**, and **Brent Anderson**. **Priority Male** [**Bill Chase**, **Jim Browne**, **Jim Rodriguez**, **Bill Crome**] participated during the holidays.

San Fernando Valley Chapter
By Bruce Poehlman

The Valley Harmony Singers (VHS) competed at the FWD contest, participated in some great sing-outs and had a great holiday party.

We are preparing for the SW Division contest, Valentine's Day, as well as our Spring show.

Go to www.valleyharmonysingers.com for more information.

Congratulations to the VHS BOTY **Ben Marder!** He has been an active singer, board member, tag singer, and all around great guy for many years.

Our hearts are heavy due to the unexpected loss of **Bill Horst**. He was the Bass section leader, active as a VHS Board member and a quartet district competitor (most recently with **From The Top**).

Santa Barbara Chapter
By Eric Fenrich

Happy New Year from the **Channel City Chorus!** We just finished a successful holiday performance season, serenading shoppers in the downtown Santa Barbara area as well as our slate of concerts throughout the vicinity. The unhappy part of our new year is that our director – **Bob McGee** – has stepped down. His 2+ years with us have been very beneficial as we learned under his tutelage and his ever-present positive attitude. We wish him well in his future endeavors. In the meantime, our section leaders have taken over as "Director-by-committee" while our small chorus evaluates its future options and prepares for Valentine's Day.

Santa Fe Springs Chapter
By Ron Larson

Last November, the **Masters of Harmony** returned to Port Hueneme's Oceanview Pavilion for a Sunday afternoon show that featured a unique mix of current MOH repertoire and holiday favorites. The Armed Forces Medley, always an audience favorite, was especially well received in this historic military

town. Upon hearing the MOH's first public performance of the rollicking Nigerian Christmas song, "Betelehemu," the audience paused very briefly, as if to fully absorb the power and beauty of a truly unique musical experience. Then it responded with thunderous applause. **American Pastime (Graham Pence, Tom Moore, Matt Swann, Joe D'Amore)** entertained the audience with showmanship more than worthy of their status as current Far Western District quartet champion. The Pavilion management responded to what they and the audience had just experienced by immediately booking the Masters for 2015!

In the following weeks, the Masters brought their annual Christmas show to audiences in Long Beach and Riverside. The theme for the 2014 shows was "A World of Christmas Joy" and its centerpieces were two high-energy songs that drew exceptionally loud applause from the audiences – a Ladino Hanukkah song, "Ocho Kandelikas," and "Betelehemu," sung entirely in the Yoruban language of Nigeria. The show's second set featured a gripping re-enactment of the 100-year anniversary of the 1914 World War I Christmas truce, complete with "trench soldiers" in silhouette. As Christmas trees appeared on the risers, soloist **Megan Lyne** stepped down to the stage singing "Stille Nacht" (Silent Night). Masters "soldiers" on each side of "no-man's land" joined her in song before exchanging gifts and hugs, just as the real soldiers did on that never-to-be-forgotten (and never-repeated) night of informal truce. **The Newfangled Four (Joey Buss, Jackson Niebrugge, Jake Tickner, Ryan Wiesnewski)** dazzled the audiences with performances worthy of the International stage.

As the Masters near their 30th Anniversary celebration, they gratefully acknowledge the importance of having an excellent, centrally located rehearsal hall provided gratis by the City of Santa Fe Springs. They repay that generosity in several ways. One way is to provide a free mini-concert at the city's Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony, done each year on the first Saturday in December. On nine nights following that event, quartets made up of Masters singers entertain children and their parents with holiday songs. Some of these songs are performed with children on stage with the Masters singers accompanied by the frequent clicking of cameras held by doting parents. When the float carrying Santa and Mrs. Santa arrives, children are able to have their pictures taken with Santa. According to city officials, this year these quartets performed to 6,000-7,000 children over those nine often-chilly nights. In addition this year, Far Western District Champion Quartet American Pastime did a mini-concert of its own for the Santa Fe Springs City Council. Many heartfelt thanks to our gracious host city, Santa Fe Springs!

In October, the Masters of Harmony received a welcome check from Harmony Foundation, our 30% "Donor's Choice" share for contributions to Harmony Foundation. Along with gifts from our brothers in harmony throughout the world, Harmony Foundation received over \$3 million in contributions for the first time ever. One result of this outpouring of generosity will be a doubling of the Foundation's contribution to our Society this year. That means more potential barbershop singers will learn about, and take part in, Society events around the country!

It is with great sadness that the Masters family learned of the sudden passing of **Glenn Hennessy**. Glenn won five gold medals and one silver with the Masters. His work as Tape/CD Librarian helped numerous singers learn their music on their way to

rehearsal or at home. He received the Director's Award in 2003. Glenn was a warm-hearted man whose love for his Masters brothers was so obvious that many undoubtedly thought of him as one of their best friends.

On January 14, 2015, another MOH father-son team was created when **Rob Briner** received his membership badge from his well-known barbershop father, **Dave Briner**. In turn, Dave received his Man-of-Note pin from Rob.

Santa Maria Chapter

By Gene Kai

Fifteen performances by the chapter, chapter quartet and decadent 10 ensemble were presented during the holidays. One of the highlights each year is being asked to sing at the Santa Maria ELKS lodge memorial service.

2015 annual show planning is near complete and we've secured **Flightline** as our headline quartet.

New and old officers were installed by our former chorus director **Bob McGee**. The chapter board enjoyed "Roasting" Bobby at this event. Our *BOTY* is **Bob Carlton** our current assistant chorus director.

Two new members have joined recently with additional men attending rehearsals.

Santa Monica Chapter

By Marty Mitnick

The Oceanaires performances during the holidays included the Cedars Sinai Hospital Prenatal Department, the Silvercrest Salvation Army Senior Citizens Home in Santa Monica, the Sychemetrics Company annual Christmas Party, and a holiday stroll through Downtown Culver City.

Past President **Jerry Walker** directed the installation of officers luncheon. With "**El Moldo**" **Bruce Schroffel** at the mike as MC, laughter and amazement was the order of the day. Our past director **Dr. Todd Kolberg** eloquently installed the officers for the 2015 year.

The officers are: President **Jack Fry**; Immed. Past President **Wally Mees**; President-Elect **Ken Scholtz**; Secretary **Frank DeVanzo**; Treasurer **John White**; VP Music & Performance **Jim Leedom**; VP Development **Brian Hatfield**; VP Marketing & PR **Pierre Debbaudt**; VP Communications **Chuck Bevitt**; Chorus Director **Ben Lowe**; Chorus Manager **Ken Scholtz**; Webmaster **Chuck Bevitt**; Costumer **Alan Hanson**; Sunshine Chairman **Marty Mitnick**; Board Members-at-Large **Bill Boeck**, **Bob Curran**, **Rob Gordon**, **Don Tsuchiyama** and **Jerry Walker**.

The **Ben Lowe** Director's presentations were: Rookie of the Year: **Scott Wilson**, Special Recognition for videoing every rehearsal: **Don Tsuchiyama**, Special Recognition for Associate Directors: **Vance Heron & Jim Leedom**.

The Wally Mees President's Awards for outstanding effort were Webmaster **Chuck Bevitt**, Treasurer **John White**, coordinator for the Veterans Administration Sawtelle facility and their New Directions Veterans Choir: **Pierre Debbaudt**.

The BOTY was presented to **Frank DeVanzo** for his untiring work and expertise as our Secretary.

We welcome new member **Rick Peiper**.



Division 2 SE Chapters
Dale Vaughn, Editor

Brea Chapter
By Tony Hope

It was another exciting year for the **Brea Gaslight Chorus** that began with a wedding and ended with the flu. Hearty congratulations go out to **Richard and Mallory Otto**, and **Matt and Melissa Ordaz** who both celebrate one-year anniversaries.

March 2014 found us in unfamiliar territory as the chorus hosted our first Division Contest in Ontario, Ca. Not only was it a combined South East/West convention, but it was also an international prelim. Thanks to the stellar leadership of **Bryan Forbes** and a host of committees, wives and girlfriends, the convention was a huge success and definitely set the standard for contests to come.

We had a number of sing outs throughout the year, delighting audiences throughout Orange County. Our annual cabaret style summer show was a huge success. *Summer Spectacular* gave audiences the mirth of old time vaudeville, with a number of great chorus and quartet numbers. We finished off the year with some great Christmas performances, which culminated in our annual Christmas show. *Christmas Is* delighted our audience at the Placentia/Yorba Linda performing arts center, a brand new state of the art 600-seat facility. We introduced a number of new tunes including a great arrangement of *In Summer* from *Frozen* (a crowd favorite), along with classic holiday songs.

January saw an upsurge in guests with 10 new prospective members joining us on the risers. It is wonderful sharing our passion for this art form with men who've never experienced the joy of singing 4-part harmony. The installation of our 2015 board of directors and the presentation of chorus awards was held at the Hacienda Golf Club. No new members this year, but several job switches will help strengthen an already successful group led by our President **Ken Briggs** (who gave an inspiring speech to lead into 2015). Special thanks to our MC **Larry Gassman**, historian **John Gassman**, Director **Phil Ordaz** and installing officer **Bryan Forbes**.

Visit us at: www.gaslightchorus.org

El Cajon Chapter
By Roger Simpson

Our nominating committee wrestled each other in friendly combat and reached a unanimous conclusion. We would recommend a slate to our Board members to be considered for the November election. For the highly sought-after role of President, **Paul Schmidt**, (the biggest man in the room), was nominated. Several Vice-Presidential candidates played "spin the pitch pipe" and finally came up with a tired but willing slate: VP

Music and Performance **Jon Crick** (apparently he reads music); VP Chorus Manager **Jack Evens** (a thankless job); VP Programs **Jeff Freeman** (the smallest man in the room); and finally, scribe and money pincher **Roger Simpson**, (quite accomplished with the crayon and abacus), were all nominated. Immediately, all of the remainder of the chorus membership left the room with heads bowed in submission.

Accordingly, all of the glorious nominees congratulated each other and by their acclamation became the new Board. They drew lots on the location of the installation diner, and the Charcoal House in La Mesa won "hands down". Hand wrestling between several candidates resulted in the Chapter President Elect Paul Schmidt pinning down our District President **Allan Webb**, and with the promise of a free dinner, Webb agreed.

Fullerton Chapter
By Don Derler

The main Art of our December show would be, of course, chapter stalwart **Art Clayton**. He's the guy who (for a whole year!) scripted, procured, arranged, and planned this, our biggest show and fund-raiser of 2014... and it was the 21st time he's done it, with another smash hit!

Clayton always enlists other talented chapter artists to ensure our audience a colorful, exciting event, such as:

Don Derler: Our actual chapter artist; prepares advertising flyers, signs, place mats and his fellow artist/wife to help look after all of our culinary Orange Blossom beauties. Also enjoys weight lifting, (risers, props, tables, luggage... all of the heavy stuff).

Pete Saputo: Artist of "Gittin' 'er done", "Perpetual Pete" does it all. Takes care of storing and transporting, unloading and setting up of all of our equipment and props, including the risers and clothing racks, as well as manning our famous collapsing "plastic tree".

Jeff Young: Artist of persuasion; obtains all of the items for our (money making!) raffle (able to loosen the pockets of individuals and corporations to donate).

Tommy Nichols: Artist of recruitment and organization; recruited and trained some 20 (estimate - moving too fast to count) La Habra high school students to help with serving, preparation, cleanup, etc.

Woody Woodson: Artist of comedy; hilarious as (chipmonk) Alvin and as MC of *12 days of Christmas*.

Craig Ewing: Artist of instruction; not only teaches the chorus how to sing, but even taught our audiences how to pronounce kris..maas! (Also gave 'em tips on cold weather).

Orange Blossoms: Artists of food and friendship; our lovely ladies whipped up and served more than 900 full 3-course dinners over the three-show event. We love 'em!

As always, we had show highlights. Our soloists **Fred Vera**, **Gary Maxwell** and **Mike Evans** were outstanding, as well as **Brian Young** and director **Craig** with their duet on "Silent Night". The rest of us hard-working, helpful, fun-loving, sweet-singing co-artists-to-be chorus members enjoyed the three-show marathon, maybe even as much as our faithful audiences!

The Orange Empire Chorus celebrates the life of Deane Scoville who recently passed at age 93. Deane was a two-time chapter President and of course a huge presence in the Far Western District being a Past-President, Super-Senior Quartet Champ and member of the Hall of Fame among many other accomplishments over his 40-year barbershop career.

Visit us at: www.oechorus.org

Inland Empire Chapter

By Thomas Wallis

This will be the last article by "**The Inland Empire Harmony Carousel Chorus**." In my 30 plus years in Barbershop, I have always been a member of **The Carousel Chorus**, but no longer. We now bid a fond, sad farewell to that name. The good news is that we are merging with what was known here-to-fore as "**The New Gang On The Corner**." We are meeting together every week, starting in January 2015. The sound put out by this new combined chorus is AWESOME! There are still a lot of logistical loose ends to tie up, but our new chorus, as yet to be named, puts new enthusiasm for our hobby in the people attending. And a big "thank you" to all who have worked so hard to make this a reality!

Our final awards dinner was held on January 17. The "Five-Year Service Award" went to a very deserving **George Jenkins**. Our BOTY award went to **Robert Shelton**. Our final award was very special to all who were privileged to sing under the direction of **DENNIS SHEARER**. Stepping aside now after many years, Dennis was an inspiration to us all. His hard work, friendly yet firm demeanor and love of our craft greatly endeared him to us. He was presented with a special gift from the chapter as thanks for all he has given to the chapter. Thankfully, Dennis will still be on the risers, time permitting.

Visit us at: www.welovetosong.com

La Jolla Chapter

By Dale Vaughn

December brings many performances for **Pacific Coast Harmony**. Many of us braved the Annual *December Nights* (tens of thousands of locals in San Diego's famous Balboa Park), singing our favorite Yule-time tunes for the crowds walking the Prado. Then we were off to La Jolla for the Annual La Jolla Christmas Parade. Next, we held our Annual Holiday Show at Torrey Pines Christian Church in La Jolla. Several chapter quartets joined us to provide a fun-filled afternoon of song and treats to an appreciative audience. Just before Christmas, we sang at the memorial for our long-time friend, #1 fan and chorus benefactor **Jane Keller**.

Our Annual Installation and Awards Dinner was held with PCH member Immediate Past President and International Judge Emeritus **Lou Benedict** as our Installing Officer. The following men were installed to serve on the PCH Chapter Board for the 2015 term: President **Jerry Kent**; VP Music & Performance **John Rhodes**; VP Membership **Brad Roberts**; VP Marketing **Craig Monsell**; Treasurer **Jim Schumacher**; Secretary **Dale Vaughn**; Members-at-Large **Tom Fazekas**, **Dave Foti**, **Pete Hensley**. Award winners included BOTY **Craig Monsell**; **Jim Schumacher** – President's Award; **John Rhodes** – Director's Award; **Dave Pfizenmeier** – Dave Miller Award for Barbershop Excellence; **Tom Fazekas** – Rookie of the Year.

Four of our young guys [**Daniel Leonhart**, **Tyler Mitchell**, **Chris Moreno**, **Tyler Turner**] traveled to New Orleans to sing with **The Pacific Suns** at the BHS Midwinter Youth Festival.

PCH performed for St. Mark's United Methodist Church for their Annual Music Series. The chorus was joined by two chapter quartets, **Added Attraction** and **Pacific Experience**.

We welcome new member Bass **Sam Nicolas**.

Visit us at: www.pacificcoastharmony.org

Orange Quartet Chapter

By Mark Sheldon

The Lowerre family hosted barbershop parties with the Summer Sing in August and a Holiday Party in December.

We welcome new chapter member **Aaron Peralta** (a dual member with **Fullerton**).

The Installation and Awards Dinner was organized by **Art and Debbi Iniguez**. Entertainment was provided by Chapter Quartets **Cookie Monsters**, **Close Shave**, **Wavemakers**, **Orange Peel**, as well as Special Guest Quartet **Sugar Daddies**.

Officers were sworn in by **Dave Lowerre** with an oath set to music provided by **Sugar Daddies**. 2015 Officers are: President **David Switzer**, IPP and Program VP **Michael Werner**, Sec **Rich Spencer**, Treas **Paul Sandorff**, Music VP **Richard Martinez**, Chapter Development and YIH VP **Don Levering**, PR VP **Mark Sheldon**, At-Large **Art Iniguez** and **Don Thomas**.

2014 President **Mike Werner** announced the honorees: **Aaron Peralta** (Rookie of the Year), **Orange Peel** (Quartet of the Year), **Gerald Fleischmann** (Rupert Hall Award), **David Lowerre** (Hospitality Award), **Don Levering** (Comeback Kid Award), **Mark Sheldon** (President's Award), and BOTY **Rich Martinez**.

The Chapter hosted the 53rd Annual SoCal Novice Quartet Contest. Congratulations to competing quartets with Orange Chapter members: **Cookie Monsters**, **Sound Choice**, **Orange Peel**, and **Close Shave**, with special performance recognition to **Mike Werner** who sang in three of these quartets, and **Stan Tinkle** who sang in all four!

Visit us at: www.harmonize.com/orange

Palomar Pacific Chapter

By Keith Bogost

The Veteran's Day show had all branches of the armed forces represented and honored during the show.

The chorus received a standing ovation from the La Costa Glen audience. This upscale seniors-only audience really appreciates the fact that our Chapter, mainly men in their own age group, can still entertain.

Our Christmas season performances were at the Oceanside Senior Center, another at the same location (especially for volunteers), and the last at the Fallbrook Library. The latter show was co-hosted by the **Temecula Chapter** which was beneficial for both chapters.

Installation Committee Chairman **Roger Hufferd** came up with a good lineup of 2015 officers: President **Jack Story**; Secretary **Al Leuthe**; Treasurer **Chuck Youde**; VP Chapter Development **Bill Olzanicky**; VP Music and Performance **Bill Colburn**; VP Program **Roger Hufferd**; At-Large Members **Rich Kellem**, **Mark Mace** and **Woody Cady**; Past President **Bill Scofield**. Installation Officer was **Bo Josephson**, past President of the Temecula Chapter. The Director's Award, per **Jeff Lehman**, was given to **Al Leuthe**. The President's Award, per **Bill Scofield**, was given to **Keith Bogost** and the coveted BOTY award was given to **Keith Bogost** by last year's BOTY, **Charlie Wendt**.
Visit us at: www.musicmenchorus.org

Riverside Chapter
By Gaylord Spence

The **Riverside Chapter** is officially announcing that we are in the midst of merging with the **Inland Empire Chapter** and hope to have this merger approved by all persons and entities required by the first of March. That process being initialized, you will not be seeing the Riverside Chapter (as you have known us) competing at any Division or District Contests in the future, but rest assure that we will be there as part of much larger and robust group in future contests. **Carl Buntin**, our very young but talented director, will be taking over the reins of our combined group and we should have a new name for the merged chorus very soon. We will still be keeping the charter of the Inland Empire Chapter (D019) alive, and, WOW, is it ever alive! We currently have 51 combined members and over 40 men on the risers! Stay tuned, and watch us grow!

Visit us at: www.newgangchorus.org

San Diego Chapter
By Craig Hughes

The **San Diego Chapter** enjoyed a great holiday season with great fellowship and singing under the direction of **Kathleen Hansen**.

Our 37th Annual Christmas Show *Around the World on Christmas Eve!* and *December Nights* in Balboa Park delivered Barbershop Christmas music to thousands. Oh . . . and we were in elf suits! A *Live Nativity* in Imperial Beach and a festive get-together at **Larry Good's** with neighborhood caroling closed out the year.

Paul Schmidt and his daughters provided an outstanding venue and meal for our *Installation and Awards Banquet* in January. **Louis Regas** was presented *Barbershopper of the Year*, **Larry Good** received the *Joe White Scholarship* to Harmony University, **Neal Palmer** is our *Buck Jones Fellowship Award* winner and **Dave Barsky** was named *Rookie of the Year*. *President's Awards* were given to **Bill Beacom**, **Dave Garstang**, and **Craig Hughes**. **Royce Ferguson**, our 1995 *Barbershopper of the Year* and mult- Gold Medalist, shared his experiences with us and installed our officers: President **Louis Regas**; Secretary **Bob Dunn**; Treasurer **Neal Palmer**; VP Membership **Larry Good**; VP Music & Performance **Dave Garstang**; VP Marketing **Craig Hughes**; Chorus Manager **Bill Beacom**; Uniform Chairman **Bill White**; Members-at-Large **Frank Artzer**; Immediate Past President **Kerm Taylor**.

We were happy to greet four visitors to our first rehearsal of 2015 and they have been singing with us and learning about

Barbershop. *Singing Valentines* was our next major event to spread the Harmony of Love around the county.

San Diego is a mecca for visitors. Please visit if you are in town on a Tuesday.

Visit us at: www.sunharbor.org

South Orange County Chapter
By Rich Jensen

Our Christmas show *Ring Out the Bells* had the auditorium filled to capacity with over 400 people in attendance. Our sponsors and critics shared that our chorus is performing with much more professionalism and confidence than we ever have before. One challenge we must solve before our Spring concert is to find a venue big enough to handle over 500 people, with a properly equipped show stage to produce another superior presentation.

Giving our members awards for their contributions to the Chapter is very important for our success. Over 17 awards were presented at our very well- attended annual awards banquet.

"I HEAR THAT YOU SING", will be the first words out of our mouths when we meet some new guy in the neighborhood or wherever. This is the year that South County Sound will increase its membership. Say What? Director **Martin Fredstrom** challenged us to increase our membership to over 50 Members. When a new man shows up at our rehearsal, we need to stop him from leaving and saying "This is not for me, I'm out of here". Our strategy will be to (1) meet him with our welcoming committee when he walks through the door, (2) tag with him in another room and determine his singing abilities, (3) bring him out to sing with us on the risers, and (4) make him feel that all the men in our group really want him to succeed as a member in the **South County Sound Chorus**.

Visit us at: www.scsound.org



Division 3 NW Chapters
John Heather, Editor

Marin County
By R C Robinson

The Marin Chapter (**Golden Gate Chorus**) celebrated its 60th anniversary this past year. Some highlights of the year included: presenting a program of songs at Marin County Fair on 4th of July, singing the national anthem at several of San Rafael Pacifics baseball games and doing a profitable singout in Oakland for ASK.com. To commemorate the 60th year milestone we made this the theme of our annual show in November and featured songs of the 50s. The show headlined the internationally ranked quartet **Artistic License** along with the local **Mayflower Chorus**, several chapter quartets and the Golden Gate Chorus under the direction of **Phil DeBar**.

We held our annual inauguration banquet where we enjoyed an evening of good food, fellowship, singing and the initiation of our new officers. The Marin Chapter unveiled its *Hall of Fame* plaque that night and welcomed our previous Director **Chuck Northup** as the latest inductee. Previously-selected HOF

members include long-time chapter stalwarts **Bob Engan** and **Stan Elkjer**.

During the Christmas season the chorus sang carols at shopping centers and a local convalescent hospital. To kick start the year we held a retreat to discuss plans for increasing our membership, strengthening member involvement and setting goals for the coming year. In the coming months we are putting our energy into singing Valentines in February and competing in FWD contest at Sacramento in March. In the summer we hope to continue our appearances at San Rafael Pacifics baseball games and Marin County Fair. The Marin Chapter looks forward to continuing its growth, making more performances at events in the community and building toward greater recognition in 2015.

Visit us at www.marinbarbershopchorus.org

Monterey Peninsula
By Sam Kier

The rehearsal room light still burns on Tuesday evenings in Monterey. **The Cypressaires**, singing without a director, delivered three performances to an appreciative crowd of shoppers at Del Monte Center during the Christmas holidays. They planned a pared-down (two-quartet) Singing Valentines campaign. The chorus has also been booked for the Pacific Grove Good Old Days in April. Their new four-man Board has resumed its director search. A canvassing of music educators in the Monterey Bay area has yielded a number of leads, primarily names and contact data for graduate students and retired music teachers.

Visit us at www.cypressaires.org

Palo Alto/Mountain View
By David Weatherford

The fall Cabaret show *As Time Goes By* featured six quartets from the **Peninsulaire**s, the 2014 NorCal Division Novice Champions **Brannigan** and the chorus, singing in two performances. With ice cream in the afternoon and lasagna in the evening, there was much good food, good music, and enjoyment for all.

Once again, the chorus was joined by a few friends in a Holiday Chorus, which performed at the Mountain View Tree Lighting celebration, the CalTrain Holiday Train, and the Palo Alto farmer's market, singing traditional Christmas carols, Hanukkah songs, and other holiday favorites.

The new officers for 2015 took the oath of office at our annual Installation Dinner. Returning as President is **Dave Kocharhook**. Other officers are Secretary **Bill Faught**; Treasurer **Dave Morley**; VP Marketing **Jeff Harris**; VP Chapter Development **Andy Maurer**; VP Program **Bert Laurence**; VP Music **Terry Moore**; Board Members-at-Large **John Hinkle**, **Nigel Endersby**, and **Paul Eastman**; and Past President **Jim Sherman**.

Visit us at www.barbershop-harmony.org

San Francisco
By Charles Feltman

The **Cable Car Chorus** has one new member and a returning young guest whom we expect to join soon. One local ex-barbershopper regularly visits while his son goes to a local class, but says he is only visiting.

The **Cable Car Chorus** was invited to join the **San Mateo Chapter** on the *Santa Train* run in December. Despite having no bookings (paid or pro bono) the Chorus elected to review music suitable for December. We made a collective "Visitation" one Tuesday to San Mateo in lieu of our usual Wednesday meeting. Several members individually repeated this visit to review music which was unfamiliar to them.

We participated in Singing Valentines. We promised two songs but delivered three per booking. We are still searching for an appropriate new Show venue since our last show was about 18 months ago.

BTW - I personally missed the *Santa Train* to add my Tenor voice to a **Fremont-Hayward** Show that afternoon.

Visit us at www.sfcablecarchorus.org

San Mateo
By Thomas Addison

The Holiday Train from San Francisco to San Jose provided audiences far in excess of any that our two chapters had ever experienced! We were very pleased to be joined by the **San Francisco Cable Car Chorus** for this event, that allowed us to present our holiday songs to well over 3000 people along the route! Starting at 4th and Townsend in the brilliant sunshine and finishing in Sunnyvale on a moonlit night, we sang to enthusiastic crowds along the way, all of which cheered and sang along with our familiar winter songs, as they were entertained by Santa, Rudolf, Frosty and other celebrities who accompanied us along the way.

As a kick off to a busy holiday season, this proved to be the biggest exposure for our group in years. We went on to perform at six additional holiday venues finishing with our traditional performance at Peninsula Hospital in Burlingame.

Our group is now hard at work on our Fall show.

Visit us at www.goldenchordsmen.org

Santa Rosa
By Ray Crowder

2014 BOTY **Neal Rogers**, hosted the 2015 Installation Dinner and Awards Banquet, and the following awards were noted:

Espirit De Corps
Most Improved Singer
Rookie of the Year
Unsung Hero

Ray Crowder Community Service
and Youth Outreach Award
Redwood Chordsmen Hall of Fame
President's Award

Clark Smith
Koty Hall
Chase Ferrante
Everett Neil

Miles Brown
Wayne Hovdesven
Dan Exelby

Our Barbershopper of the Year award went to **Jonathan Friedman**, Santa Rosa's Assistant Director, and Presentation Coach. **Dick Whitten** did an outstanding job as Installation Officer. Our 2015 officers are:

President
Music VP

Allan Jones
James Morgan

Membership VP **Ray Crowder**
 Secretary **Keith Brandt**
 Treasurer **Wayne Hovdesven**
 Youth Outreach **Adam Ehrenpfort**
 Chorus Manager **Miles Brown**
 Board Members-at-Large **Dan Schell, John Millious**

It's great to have **Dick Whitten** back home again as a **Redwood Chordsman** after living in Sparks, NV, for several years and singing with the **Reno Silver Dollar Chorus**. In addition to being our Installation Officer, he and **Dan Exelby** are the co-chairmen for our upcoming 50th anniversary show scheduled for this summer. It promises to be "extra" special.

We regret the passing of our 93-year-old friend, and longtime baritone, **Bill Fulwider**. The chorus performed for his memorial service.

Welcome back to our friend, and great bass, **Larry Resnikoff**, who was absent for a few months, and welcome to our most recent guests, **David McCormick, Maxwell Coughlin, Alan Young, David Hubbard, and Alan Shotkin**.

Visit us at www.chordsmen.groupanizer.com

SF Bay Cities Quartet
 By Jordan Makower

This month we celebrated **Bob Bird's** 76th, and **Bill Beck's** 64th year as members of the Society. **Bill** was presented his certificate by **Steve Gummersall**. **Four Gents In Accord (Steve Gummersall, David Laubscher, Marv Bertelson, Mike Irvin)** serenaded the Harmony For Lunch Bunch with "Her Bathing Suit Never Got Wet", a 1946 song made popular by the **Andrews Sisters!** "**The Gents**" had performed the same number, and several more, the previous day at the Cedar Crest Retirement Facility in Sunnyvale. Staff joined the residents to watch the show. Present at Harry's Hofbrau in San Jose for this gathering, besides the members listed above were: **Mark and Carol Hildebrand, Sieg and Ruth Yoder, Lois Bertelson, Dave Tuttleman, and Jordan Makower**. Our chapter meets for lunch at Harry's on the first Wednesday of each month, and for dinner on the second and fourth Wednesdays. We welcome quartets, singers and listeners to share in the fun.

Visit us at www.sfbayquartets.org

Walnut Creek
 By Dwight Lang

The Devil Mountain Chorus put on shows for three different groups, the largest audience was almost 300 people. These Christmas-centered shows went very well, the audience participated and enjoyed each of them. We held the dinner and installation of officers. We sang a number of Singing Valentines. Preparations also are underway for hosting the **2015 NorCal Novice Quartet Contest on Saturday, March 7th 2015 in Walnut Creek, CA**. The contest will commence at 3 PM and will be followed by an afterglow at a local pizzeria. The contest is open to up to 20 quartets and will include three divisions: Men's, Mixed Voice, and High School. To register a quartet, purchase tickets to attend the event, or just learn more about the event, go to www.gvc.org/novice

Visit us at www.devilmountainchorus.org



Division 4 NE Chapters
 Roger Perkins, Editor

Central California Chapter
 By Miles Sutter

Respect for people willing to defend the nation, from 90-something veterans of World War II to recruits who might someday be veterans of other conflicts was demonstrated by honor guards, musicians, classic cars and other entrants in the Modesto 11/11 parade. The GVC had the honor of concluding the celebration at the State Theater with the singing of *God Bless America*.

Our show featured 2013 Gold Medalist **Masterpiece** as our headliners. Also performing were our own **Fatherly Bond** and **Four for the Road**. Other quartets were **Top Cats, Ripon High School guys** plus **Johansen Girls High School Viking Choir**. The last GVC chorus song was *America the Beautiful* with **Masterpiece** singing the overlay. **Bruce Sellnow** was Show Producer and Chorus Director; **Stratt Riggs** Show & Ticket Chairman; **Dan Warshauer** MC and script writer; **Marc Jantzen** ad sales; **Grady Williams** marketing and program; and **Donna Darnell** front of house coordinator. Set-up and clean-up leaders were **Roe Darnell, Terrell Chambers, Howard Barbers, Scott Hutchinson and Mike Viss**. **Dave Wallace** acquired the use of his church's activity room for our afterglow.

We had the pleasure of performing our Christmas package at the LDS Church Modesto and then carpooling to perform that evening at the Merced LDS church. Soloists for the event were **Chuck Roots, Terrell Chambers, Roe Darnell, Bob Clark and Bruce Sellnow**. **Chuck Roots** was the narrator for these performances.

Other performances included Christmas songs at the Bethany Home in Ripon, Modesto's Model A Club Christmas Party and Installation Dinner, the Casa De Modesto Retirement Center. The auditorium was at capacity and **Bruce Sellnow** led the 'merry men'. **Chuck Roots** was the MC for the evening, providing the lead-in narrative to each of our songs. For this performance we added *12 Days of Christmas*, with **Howard Barber** on piano. The audience sang along with *Silent Night*.

Perhaps our best and most rewarding was at the *Congregation Beth Shalom Church* in Modesto. We shared the stage with Modesto's SAI **River Lights Chorus**. **Velocity** quartet joined us in singing the overlay for *America the Beautiful*. MC was **Dan Warschauer**.

Davis-Vacaville Chapter
 By Tom Powers

The **Davis-Vacaville Chapter** held our 26th Annual *Harmony in Our Lives* show with the proceeds going to the Davis School Arts Foundation. This year we raised \$4,000 to help finance choral music programs in the Davis public schools. In two separate shows on a Sunday afternoon, we had ten different elementary, junior high, and high school choruses perform. We "old guys" opened each show with a few barbershop songs. We honored **Maquette Kuper**, director of a local children's flute ensemble, with the annual award for her long term contribution to the musical enrichment of the Davis community.

We had two Christmas performances in Davis and Vacaville. Our director, **Ollie Brillhante**, required us to perform the entire show of religious and seasonal songs without sheet music. We all agreed that it made a far more effective show not having our noses buried in song books.

Our officers for 2015 are: President **Rich Hartmann**, VP Music **Bob Hansen**, Co-VPs Recruitment & Retention **Phil Harris** & **Alan Velliquette**, VP Marketing & Public Relations **Dave Roy**, VP Programs **Bob Benson**, Secretary **Wit Ashbrook**, Treasurer **Dale Adams**, Member-at-Large **Darrell Chappell**, and Past President **Steve Rollins**. Incoming President **Hartmann** presented his goals for the chapter in 2015 during the installation ceremony.

Folsom Chapter By Dennis Stohl

The **Folsom Harmony Express** installation installing officer was **Roger Perkins**. Two of the incoming officers were out of town, but we had 26 members and wives in attendance. Our outgoing president (of 8 years) **Doug Vestal** is now our Music and Program VP. Taking the presidential reins is enthusiastic four-year member **Les Lorenzen**. **Kevin Petrick** is Membership and Chapter Development; **Dennis Stohl**, Secretary; **Burt Weichenthal**, treasurer; and **Gordo Fawkes**, Member-At-Large. **Les Cudworth** will continue as Sunshine Chairman for both the chapter and the FWD. Unable to attend, he was at the Midwinter Convention in New Orleans and probably singing with the **Musical Island Boys**. **Kent Borrowdale** will continue as Chorus Director. Roger installed the officers with his "I Have A Dream" speech telling us how each officer has a dream for the FHX. He swore them in to the tune of "My Wild Irish Rose".

Nevada Placer Chapter By Roger Perkins

The **Sierranaders** held their annual show titled *On With the Show*. The chorus and quartets sang several songs from Broadway shows with *There's No Business Like Show Business* as the opener. Chapter quartets included **Harmonic Convergence** and **Pacific Standard Time**. There were other acts such as the **Harmonicats**, and magicians **Foo Ling Yu (Roger Perkins)** and **Les, the Magnificent (Les Cudworth)**. In the second half we featured the **BBLT** quartet (**Roger Santiago, Kent Borrowdale, Ken Potter, Stan Trumbull**) performing their Music Man routine with soprano **Jan Vecchio**, singing the Marian the Librarian role. She also performed a fun solo with her beautiful voice on *Kiss of Fire*. **First Strike** (6th place FWD) was our headliner quartet. They did a great job, but we were sad to learn that this was their last show.

The **Sierranaders** performed at the annual Nevada City Victorian Christmas on December Wednesday evenings. One event began well and we completed our first half hour Christmas song fest with no problem. However it began to pour down rain before the second performance and was a real "gully-washer". The street vendors had to pack up and go home as the customers were already gone. After three songs we decided to do the same as we were getting soaked. We have been performing at this fun event for 28 years. It was exactly 25 years ago when we were featured on a TV show in San Francisco on KPIX. Reporter Mike Hegedus had an "On the Road" show and he came up to Auburn and Nevada City and filmed our performance. The show

was called *Christmas At the Crossroads* and we shared billing with his report on **Rosemary Clooney**.

Richard Lund (NE Division VP), accompanied by his wife, **Patsy**, was again our installing officer. **Burt Weichenthal** (dual member with the Folsom Chapter) will continue on as Chapter President. Richard performed an inspirational presentation and afterwards the **Sierranaders Chorus** sang followed by **Pacific Standard Time**. 2014 BOTY **Trent Bass** presented the 2014 BOTY award to **Ron Zandona**. Ron is a dedicated member and did an excellent job selling advertising for our show program. Ron is a faithful member who sings lead and actually works on learning his music at home.

Reno Chapter By Steve Shurtliff

Our Christmas show was both fun and successful. We picked a larger venue this year, and did one show only. We had a nearly packed house, a wonderful audience, and raised nearly twice the money we did last year.

University of Nevada is having us sing at a few of their basketball games again this year. People tell us we do the best version of the National Anthem they hear all year, and it is always fun to go and sing there – and get some tix to the game as well.

Once again we mixed business with pleasure as we combined our Christmas party with our 2015 board induction. There were some new faces and many returns. **Richard Ketring** took home BOTY honors. He has done the scripts for our shows for as long as I've been here, handles other duties in the chorus (not to mention Secretary for 2015), and is a front-row lead. Congratulations to him for a well-deserved honor.

We welcome new members **Dennis Doty** and **Matthew Reger**.

Sacramento Chapter By Joe Samora

Dan Warschauer is the new co-director of the **Capitolaires**. He has been a barbershopper since 1972 and has directed several barbershop and Sweet Adeline choruses in Wisconsin and Iowa. He is a dual-member with the Voices of California.

A dozen Capitolaires under the direction of **Ray Rhymer** sang the National Anthem during a Sacramento Kings Basketball Game. In honor of Veteran's Day the chorus sang *God Bless America*, while a few young men and women from the military were awarded challenge coins.

For the fourth year, Capitolaires quartets were hired to sing during the Polar Express at the State Railroad Museum in Old Sacramento. The quartets sang for ten days, four times a day, as train-loads of children made their annual pilgrimage to see Santa. The event was coordinated by **Steve Allison**.

Two dozen Capitolaires sang in the State Capitol Rotunda for the annual holiday choral program under the direction of **Ray Rhymer**. The Capitol Online Press interviewed a couple of our officers.

VoCal President **Stan Trumbull** installed the officers at the Annual Awards & Installation Banquet. **Steve Allison**, who was

re-elected as President, chaired the event. **Les Cudworth** was named BOTY! The President's Award was presented to **Robert DuPlantier** for forming the **CAPS** (a chapter rotating quartet). Robert also received the Director's Award from **Ray Rhymer** for his contributions to the music program. Attendance Awards were presented by Membership VP **Dan Swink** to **Steve Cudworth**, **Ray Rhymer**, and **Larry Womac**. Marketing VP **Robert DuPlantier** presented Dome Awards to the 18 men who sang in the CAPS quartet this year.

Stockton Chapter
By Raphael Pazo, Jr.

The **Stockton Portsmen** chapter is very pleased to report on the fabulous Holiday Season action that our chorus and quartets had. We had the opportunity to participate in over 25 activities, ranging from Holiday singing, presentations and engagements by our chapter's quartets, and most prominently (and fun!) Christmas Caroling with a Barbershop twist!

The Installing Officer was **Bill Cale** for the installation dinner. Outgoing Chapter President, **Al Wolter**, opened the program with an award ceremony recognizing those members, associates and even non-members who had gone beyond the call of duty for the betterment of our chapter. We all rejoice in the accomplishments of all recognized for their extraordinary efforts. During the award, two of our chapter quartets, **All In A-Chord** and **Fat City Four** delighted all with the best of their repertoire. To see more information, pictures and comments about the installation dinner, please visit our Facebook link found at the bottom of our chapter's website www.stocktonportsmen.org or visiting the following link:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/194542747456/>

We had our first chorus meeting of the year with **Mr. William Litz** serving as Chorus Director and "freshly minted" Chapter President. Immediate Past President **Al Wolter** passed the baton and presented Mr. Litz with his Chapter President's lapel pin. We had a fantastic rehearsal that night, full of energy and enthusiasm by all present. After going over previous repertoire, reviewing and preparing for "Singing Valentines", we began working on new music.

Division 5 AZ Chapters
Editor [OPEN]

Mesa Chapter
by Rich Carey

The Board voted to change the name of the chorus from The Mesa Lamplighters to the **East Valley Barbershop Harmonizers**. This change will tell people who we are and what we do, hopefully attracting new members young and old alike. New members are **Bill Kaiser** (new), **David Huffman** (new), **Norman Wolfe** (dual), **David Lyman** (transfer), **Dave Harris** (reinstatement), **Mark Stephan** (reinstatement) and **R. Lee Jackson** (dual).

The Harmonizers sang a Christmas program at three locations in the East Valley: 1) Tumbleweed Christmas Tree in Chandler; 2) Mercy Hospital Lobby in Gilbert; and 3) a night event on Upland Drive in Chandler. The Board adopted its first Policies &

Procedures Manual for the chorus and appointed **Ken Brannon** as the new Sunshine Chairman. Our membership is steadily increasing, leading us to actively search for a new rehearsal location.

New president **Bill Johnson** attended the Harmony University West / Leadership Academy in Henderson, Nevada. **Rich Carey** has streamlined our *Outstanding Vocal Musician Scholarship* program by developing an online application for local graduating high school seniors to investigate and apply.

Webmaster **Bob Shaffer** is developing our new website with the help of *Groupanizer.com* to more efficiently handle chorus music and organization, ticket sales and Singing Valentines.

Prescott Chapter
by Sam Stimple

High Mountain Chordsmen helped transform Prescott and surrounding communities into a virtual 'winter wonderland' with 18 chorus performances in the first two weeks of December. Venues included care centers, holiday neighborhood parties, Arizona Pioneers' Home, Senior Adult Center, and the 25th annual Acker Musical Showcase.

Chapter officers for 2015 were elected in early October. **Dick Patton** has agreed to serve again as president. Brand new board officers include members-at-large **Gordon Ralph** and **Larry Gotfredson**, and VP Membership/Chapter Development **Larry Lancaster**. The remainder of the board carries over from 2014.

A very successful show *You Ain't Heard Nothin' Yet!* was enjoyed by an audience of more than 500 friends and family in the beautiful state-of-the-art Yavapai College Performing Arts Center in Prescott. Show headliners **Newfangled Four** had been crowned Far Western District Quartet Champs a few weeks earlier. We also thank the champs for conducting a **Real Men Sing** workshop for high school and college boys the morning of the show. Another unique feature was the on-stage afterglow for the cast and audience. Thank you to Show chair **Rich Ludwigson**, **Silver Sounds**, **Antique Parts**, **Newfangled Four**, **Real Men Sing**, and **High Mountain Chordsmen** directed by our own **Joan Piechocki**.

Show Low Chapter
By James Burden

High Country Barbershop Chorus
Selects New Director

Darbi Jo Zuccato, of Show Low, has accepted the position of director for the High Country Barbershop Chorus. She will take over that position in January 2015. Ms. Zuccato succeeds **'Doc' Dockendorf**, Director Emeritus for the chorus. He is the chorus' founder and longtime director of 14 years.

Darbi is a member of the second ward of the Church of Latter Day Saints here, where she sings in the choir, sings solos, and plays the piano. When asked why she decided to take on this additional task to direct the chorus, she said, "First of all, I love music, and the excitement of entering into a new field of a capella style music. The chorus members have shown that they are talented and capable and have it together. I just want to keep that energy going in this 14-year-old chorus."

Notices

2015 Conventions, Contests & LA/HCW

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, 2015 International and FWD Convention/Contest, and LA/HCW dates are:

Mar 19 - 21, 2015 FWD Spring Convention
Sacramento, CA

Contests include International Preliminary Quartet, NE & NW Division Quartet & Chorus including Senior and Super Senior Quartets

May 9, 2015 SE & SW Combined Division Contests
Santa Monica, CA

AZ Division Contest TBD

Jun 28 - July 5, 2015 International Convention
Pittsburgh, PA

Oct 15 - 18, 2015 FWD Fall Convention
Mesa, AZ
Contests include FWD Fall Final Quartet, FWD Fall Final Chorus, FWD Fall Final Senior Quartet

Calendar

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

Tucson Sunshine Chapter, Tucson
The Tucson Sunshine Chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society is looking for an experienced, year-round, frontline director. Applicants of either gender

are invited to apply. Being a barbershopper is preferred, but not required.

Ability to work in a bottom-up environment as a crucial member of the chapter's Music Leadership Team is a must, as is the ability to plan ahead in both the short and long terms.

Benefits include paid membership in the Barbershop Harmony Society as a member or associate member and opportunities for paid education through the Society

If you're interested, please contact [Jim Rapp](mailto:Jim.Rapp@tucsonshinesunshine.org), Tucson Sunshine Chapter President

To Email Your District Officers & Chairmen

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2015 MidWinter Official Scoring Summary

Congratulations to 2nd Place **High Priority** and 6th Place **Velvet Frogs**

OFFICIAL SCORING SUMMARY, BHS, International Midwinter Convention

International, Quartet Finals, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 10, 2015

Contest Legend: 1=International Seniors Quartet, 2=International Srs Qt - Oldest Singer, 3=International Srs Qt - Oldest Qt Cumulative Yrs

Finals	Song	MUS	PRS	SNG	Subt	Prev	Total	Avg
1 Saturday Evening Post	<i>Tin Roof Blues</i>	241	247	239			1458	81.0
(1) [RMD]	<i>That's A Plenty</i>	243	250	238				
2 High Priority	<i>Forgive Me</i>	229	223	225			1357	75.4
(1) [FWD]	<i>You Brought A New Kind Of Love To Me</i>	230	222	228				
3 Spotlight	<i>For All We Know</i>	220	232	227			1349	74.9
(1) [JAD]	<i>Just In Time</i>	220	223	227				
4 Replay!	<i>Basin Street Blues</i>	225	221	222			1331	73.9
(1) [SWD]	<i>The Way You Look Tonight</i>	222	220	221				
5 St. Croix Crossing	<i>Tennessee Waltz</i>	221	222	214			1321	73.4
(1) [LOL]	<i>We'll Have To Pass the Apples/Little Bit of Bad Me</i>	223	223	218				
6 Velvet Frogs	<i>Sam, You Made The Pants Too Long</i>	216	219	213			1297	72.1
(1) [FWD]	<i>Sam, The Old Accordion Man</i>	215	219	215				
7 Take Note	<i>Mood Indigo</i>	214	213	214			1284	71.3
(1) [ILL]	<i>Let Me Call You Sweetheart</i>	215	211	217				
8 Geezer Q	<i>Peg O' My Heart</i>	213	213	219			1280	71.1
(1) [SLD]	<i>Give My Regards To Broadway</i>	209	212	214				
9 Bustin' Loose	<i>Give My Regards To Broadway</i>	221	207	207			1277	70.9
(1) [JAD]	<i>The End Of The Road</i>	221	210	211				
10 Gulf Coasters	<i>I Don't Know Why (I Just Do)</i>	218	219	209			1276	70.9
(1) [SUN]	<i>Ain't Misbehavin'</i>	215	212	203				
11 Social Insecurity	<i>Bright Was The Night</i>	210	223	203			1267	70.4
(1) [EVG]	<i>The Barbershop Strut</i>	208	227	196				
12 Stacked Deck	<i>Do You Know What It Means To Miss New Orleans</i>	217	210	209			1265	70.3
(1) [DIX]	<i>Basin Street Blues</i>	217	205	207				
12 Rolls Voyce	<i>Honey/Little 'Lize (Medley)</i>	217	209	206			1265	70.3
(1) [PIO]	<i>Being With You</i>	221	205	207				
14 Nostalgia Express	<i>You're Nobody 'Til Somebody Loves You</i>	207	208	213			1255	69.7
(1) [ONT]	<i>Taking A Chance On Love</i>	206	209	212				
15 Armchair Chorderbacks	<i>Cinderella</i>	210	210	208			1248	69.3
(1) [CSD]	<i>Wait Till The Sun Shines, Nellie</i>	205	210	205				
16 Late Edition	<i>I'm Gonna Sit Right Down And Write Myself A Lett</i>	211	205	207			1247	69.3
(1) [JAD]	<i>Don't Blame Me</i>	211	206	207				
17 Trade Secret	<i>On A Slow Boat To China</i>	208	209	209			1242	69.0
(1) [NED]	<i>You Keep Coming Back Like A Song</i>	204	207	205				
18 Seasoned Citizens	<i>Nevertheless (I'm In Love With You)</i>	204	206	205			1226	68.1
(1) [SUN]	<i>Peg O' My Heart</i>	202	207	202				
19 Horizon	<i>Chattanooga Choo Choo</i>	201	205	202			1218	67.7
(1) [JAD]	<i>On The Atchison, Topeka And The Santa Fe</i>	202	206	202				
20 Basses Unlimited	<i>If I Only Had A Brain</i>	197	208	205			1215	67.5
(1) [ONT]	<i>You Made Me Love You</i>	198	203	204				
21 Youth Reclamation Project	<i>They'll Never Believe Me</i>	200	198	204			1210	67.2
(1) [MAD]	<i>Nice Work, If You Can Get It</i>	204	201	203				
22 ON Q!	<i>For Sale, One Broken Heart</i>	204	201	203			1203	66.8
(1) [ONT]	<i>The One I Love (Belongs To Somebody Else)</i>	201	196	198				
23 Figaro	<i>It's Only A Paper Moon</i>	194	203	204			1199	66.6
(1) [BABS]	<i>Beautiful Dreamer</i>	194	200	204				
24 Final Countdown	<i>How D'Ya Like Your Eggs In The Morning</i>	203	198	197			1195	66.4
(1) [SNOBS]	<i>Georgia On My Mind</i>	200	199	198				
25 Port City Sound	<i>Sentimental Gentleman From Georgia</i>	197	193	197			1184	65.8
(1) [NED]	<i>(I'm Afraid) The Masquerade Is Over</i>	201	201	195				
26 Once Upon A Time	<i>Once Upon A Time</i>	195	191	197			1155	64.2
(1) [CAR]	<i>Lazy River</i>	191	190	191				

Saturday Evening Post is the International Seniors Quartet Champion.

Gulf Coasters has the most cumulative years for a quartet - 289.06 years

Bart Plescia (Gulf Coasters) is the oldest competitor - 84.78 years

Panel: Administrator(s)

Randy Rensi - SWD
Chris Buechler - MAD

Music

Kevin Keller - CSD
Rick Spencer - DIX
Paul Wigley - LOL

Presentation

David Leeder - SWD
Marty Lovick - EVG
David McEachern - ONT

Singing

Craig Ewing - FWD
Rik Johnson - CSD
David Mills - SUN

2015 Spring Convention Registration



FAR WESTERN DISTRICT 2015 SPRING CONVENTION



Contests and Show

International Quartet Preliminaries
NE and NW Division Choruses
NE and NW Division Quartets
District High School Quartets
Show of Champions

HOSTED BY THE

CALIFORNIA DELTA CHAPTER

Voices of California

MARCH 19-21, 2015

McClellan Conference Center • 5411 Luce Ave
North Highlands, California

Meetings and Events

District Board Meeting
House of Delegates Meeting
Past District Presidents Meeting
AH-SOW
Harmony Platoon

REGISTRATION PRICES				SINGLE EVENT TICKETS	HOTEL INFORMATION
ALL-EVENTS REGISTRATIONS					
AGE GROUP	EARLY-BIRD Postmarked by Feb 19	REGULAR Feb 20-Mar 16	ON SITE	ON SITE	
Adult	\$50.00	\$65.00	\$70.00	\$25.00	Lions Gate Hotel and Conference Center 3410 Westover Street McClellan, CA 95652 (916) 643-6222 Rate: \$95+ per night, bkfst incl. Promo Code "Barbershopper" Must Reserve by February 19
Young Adult (under 26)	\$25.00	\$32.50	\$35.00	\$12.50	
Non-Member Child (under 13)	Free	Free	Free	Free	

You may order your All-Events Registrations online. Go to events.farwesterndistrict.org



FAR WESTERN DISTRICT 2015 SPRING CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM			Contestant	Non-Member	Tenor	Lead	Baritone	Bass	Young Adult	Non-Member Child	VIP Seating *	Amount Due
First Name	Last Name	"Badge" Name (BIG)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Please make your check payable to: Voices of California			Total Enclosed:									
Address:			* Members eligible for VIP Seating include District/Society Officers (past & present), Hall of Fame, Judges, Chapter Delegates (HOD), AFWDC/AIC Members and their guests.									
City:		State: Zip:										
Email:		Phone"										
Competing with:												

Check here if you have a disability that may require accommodation in order for you to fully participate in the convention.

Mail one form for your party (up to ten names per sheet), and a check covering *all* registrations to:
Blair Reynolds, 4305 Winding Woods Way, Fair Oaks, CA 95628-6408
Credit Card Orders: Please register online at events.farwesterndistrict.org
 Questions? Call **(916) 572-1686** or e-mail springconvention2015@farwesterndistrict.org

2015 Arizona Division Registration



2015 ARIZONA DIVISION CONVENTION



Contests and Show

Division Quartet Contest
Division Senior Quartet Contest
Division Novice Quartet Contest
Division Chorus Contest
Show of Champions

HOSTED BY THE

TUCSON SUNSHINE CHAPTER

Tucson Barbershop Experience

APRIL 24-25, 2015

Skyline High School • 845 South Crismon Road
Mesa, Arizona

Meetings and Events

Presidents/Leadership Meeting
Afterglow
Hospitality Rooms

REGISTRATION PRICES				SINGLE EVENT TICKETS	HOTEL INFORMATION
ALL CONTESTANTS MUST BUY AN ALL-EVENTS REGISTRATION FOR THE APPLICABLE AGE GROUP					
ALL-EVENTS REGISTRATIONS					
AGE GROUP	EARLY-BIRD Postmarked by March 24	REGULAR Mar 25-April 20	ON SITE	ON SITE	
Adult	\$45.00	\$60.00	\$65.00	\$25.00	Country Inn & Suites 6650 E Superstition Springs Blvd Mesa, Arizona 85206 (480) 641-8000 Rate: \$94 per night plus tax Buffet Breakfast included! Promo Code "BARBER"
Young Adult (under 26)	\$22.50	\$30.00	\$32.50	\$12.50	
Non-Member Child (under 13)	Free	Free	Free	Free	

You may order your All-Events Registrations online. Go to events.farwesterndistrict.org

2015 ARIZONA DIVISION CONVENTION REGISTRATION FORM			Contestant	Non-Member	Tenor	Lead	Baritone	Bass	Young Adult	Non-Member Child	VIP Seating *	Amount Due
First Name	Last Name	"Badge" Name (BIG)										
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Please make your check payable to: Arizona Division Convention			Total Enclosed:									
Address:			* Members eligible for VIP Seating include District/Society Officers (past & present), Hall of Fame, Judges, Chapter Delegates (HOD), AFWDC/AIC Members and their guests.									
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____												
Email: _____ Phone: _____												
Competing with:												

Check here if you have a disability that may require accommodation in order for you to fully participate in the convention.

Mail one form for your party (up to ten names per sheet), and a check covering *all* registrations to:

Arizona Division Convention, Roy Ireland, 802 S Loyola Ave, Tucson, AZ 85710-4611

Credit Card Orders: Please register online at events.farwesterndistrict.org

Questions? Call **520-750-0384** or e-mail azconvention2015@farwesterndistrict.org

SE/SW Division Registration ON LINE ONLY