



Summer 2015 Volume 65 Number 2



# WESTUNES

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

## FWD Quartet Qualifiers for International in Pittsburgh



**The Crush 85.8**



**Artistic License 84.7**



**McPhly 81.1**



**Newfangled Four 79.7**



**American Pastime 78.1**



**Flightline 76.7**

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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 Northern California Novice Quartet Contest Results



**1st Place Belle Voci**



**2nd Place In Flux**



**3rd Place Upside Sounds**

The Walnut Creek Chapter was pleased to once again host the Northern California Novice Quartet Contest on March 3, 2015 in Walnut Creek. Ten Quartets competed and 2 of 3 High School Quartets participated for contest experience prior to the FWD HSQC at the Spring Convention in Sacramento.

## FWD Hall of Fame Induction, March 21, 2015 *(Notes used during induction ceremony)*

I am Peter Feeney, the FWD Hall of Fame Chairman, and I am here today to induct the newest member into the FWD Hall of Fame.

First, let's have a Moment of Silence for FWD Hall of Fame members Deane Scoville and Doug Maddox who passed away this past year.



**2014 FWD Hall of Fame  
Richard Lund**

Our newest member of the FWD Hall of Fame has been a barbershopper for 16 years. He is currently a member of four chapters, and attends two regularly for a number of years.

The FWD has honored him for his achievements throughout his career. He was Barbershopper of the Year in 2002 and 2003.

He received the FWD President's Award in 2005, and was the FWD Fall Convention Honoree in 2009. He resurrected the FWD Youth Harmony Camp in 2003, and said "The kids need this camp - we can't let it die", and continues to be the YHC Director, presently in his 13<sup>th</sup> year. He is a member of the Youth in Harmony committee. He served on several Division Convention Committees, and both the 2013 and 2014 Spring Convention Committees. He is a member of the FWD Board of Directors.

I am pleased to announce Richard Lund as the FWD Hall of Fame inductee for 2014.

## **ANNOUNCING THE LLOYD STEINKAMP ENDOWMENT FUND FOR FAR WESTERN DISTRICT HARMONY CAMPS**

The Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund for Far Western District Harmony Camps has been established at the Sacramento Region Community Foundation to provide support for FWD Harmony Camps. The Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment fund, honoring Lloyd's vision and creativity in introducing young men to barbershop harmony, is designed to create an earnings stream that will sustain the harmony camp program in future generations. Our initial goal over the next three years is to raise \$200,000.

This is a unique opportunity to participate in "Making a Difference" in the lives of young men in your community. The magic of music is mystical in its power to impact a life. Your support of harmony camps through a donation to the Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund will impact the lives of young men in perpetuity.

You may make a tax-deductible donation to the Endowment through one of the following methods:

- **Check** - Make payable to Sacramento Region Community Foundation and note "LSEF" in the memo line
- **Credit card** - Go to [www.sacregcf.org](http://www.sacregcf.org) and click on Donate Now
- **Appreciated securities** - Contact the Sacramento Region Community Foundation for transfer instructions
- **Planned gift or bequest in your will** - Contact the Sacramento Region Community Foundation for information

### **WE GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR GENEROSITY!**

Since its founding in 1983, the Sacramento Region Community Foundation has been dedicated to connecting people who care with causes that matter. Our mission is to transform our community through focused leadership and advocacy that inspire partnerships and expand giving. The Sacramento Region Community Foundation serves as the fiduciary agent for all of its component funds and is fully committed to carrying out the purpose this fund supports. The Foundation is a public charity and contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent possible.



SACRAMENTO REGION  
COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATION

955 University Avenue, Suite A • Sacramento, CA 95825  
916.921.7723/fax 916.921.7725/website: [www.sacregcf.org](http://www.sacregcf.org)

For additional information or to discuss your interest in greater detail contact  
Richard Lund, Director  
Far Western District Youth Harmony Camp  
[Rwlund92@gmail.com](mailto:Rwlund92@gmail.com)  
530-621-1904



## Representing the FWD at the 2015 International Contests in Pittsburgh

Quartets		
Rank	Name	Avg
8	The Crush	85.8
11	Artistic License	84.7
14	McPhly	81.1
22	The Newfangled Four	79.7
29	American Pastime	78.1
48	Flightline	76.7
<b>College Quartets qualified by score.</b>		
3	Flightline	76.7

Choruses				
Rank	Chapter	Name		Avg
1	Westminster	Westminster Chorus		94.5
10	Bay Area	Voices in Harmony		82.7

## Contestants for the 2015 Far Western District Fall Contests in Mesa

Quartets				
Rank	Name	Type	Div	Avg
<b>The quartets below have qualified by score.</b>				
1	Suit Up!		AZ	78.3
2	Harmony Lane		SE	77.2
3	High Priority		AZ	76.8
4	Flightline	CQ	NW	76.7
5	Whoop 'Em Up		AZ	76.2
6	North of the Border		SE	75.9
7	Conchordance		AZ	74.7
8	Brannigan	CQ	NW	72.5
9	The Front Line		NE	71.8
10	Blood, Sweat, and Years	SR	SW	71.0
11	Left Coasters		NW	70.8
12	Don't Tell Mom		NW	69.9
13	The Natural Selection		NW	69.9
14	Behind the Barn		SE	69.6
15	Dynamix		NE	69.2
16	FourTune Seekers		SW	68.6
17	Heatwave		AZ	68.5
18	Lordsburg Brothers		SE	68.2
<b>The quartets below are invited as wildcard contestants.</b>				
19	Four Fifteen	SR	SE	67.7
20	Batteries Not Included		AZ	67.4
21	Spellbound		NE	66.5
22	Echo		SW	66.4
23	Carefree Highway	SR	AZ	66.2
24	Intonation		AZ	65.6
25	Gotta Wear Shades		SE	65.6
<b>The quartets below have qualified for the Senior Quartet Contest.</b>				
26	The Other Guys	SR	AZ	61.9
27	Jackpot!	SR	SE	60.8
<b>The quartets below could be invited if any of the above contestants drop.</b>				
	CONSTELLATION		NW	65.3
	Miles Ahead		NW	64.8
	Shave the Bear		SE	64.8
	Charles in Charge		SE	64.4
	Some Friends of Mine		NW	64.3
	Quadratic Audio		AZ	63.3
	Pacific Ring		NE	62.9
	Gentlemen's Chorderly		SW	62.1

Choruses				
Rank	Chapter	Name	Div	Avg
<b>The choruses below have qualified by score.</b>				
1	Santa Fe Springs	Masters of Harmony	SW	90.9
2	Bay Area	Voices in Harmony	NW	83.3
3	California Delta	Voices of California	NE	81.4
4	Greater Phoenix	Spirit of Phoenix	AZ	80.5
5	La Jolla	Pacific Coast Harmony	SE	77.7
6	Brea	Gaslight Chorus	SE	74.0
7	Rincon Beach	Pacific Sound	SW	72.7
8	Reno	Silver Dollar Chorus	NE	71.0
9	Inland Empire	Inland Sound	SE	70.8
10	Palo Alto - Mt. View	Penninsulaires	NW	70.3
11	Las Vegas	Silver Statesmen	SE	69.9
12	Santa Monica	Oceanaires	SW	68.2
13	Fresno	GNC A Cappella	NE	67.4
14	South Orange County	South County Sound	SE	67.1
15	Santa Rosa	Redwood Chordsmen	NW	66.8
16	Fullerton	Orange Empire Chorus	SE	66.6
17	Tucson	Tucson Barbershop Experience	AZ	66.3
18	South Bay	Coastliners	SW	66.3
19	Placerville	Gold Rush Chorus	NE	65.5
20	Central California	Golden Valley Chorus	NE	64.3
21	Pasadena	Crown City Chorus	SW	64.1
22	Walnut Creek	Devil Mountain Chorus	NW	63.4
23	San Fernando Valley	Valley Harmony Singers	SW	62.5
<b>The choruses below are invited as wildcard contestants.</b>				
24	San Diego	Sun Harbor	SE	61.8
25	Temecula	Temecula Wine Valley Harmonizers	SE	59.0

The choruses below could be invited if any of the above contestants drop.				
declined	Davis-Vacaville	West Valley Chorus	NE	59.4



### Quartet International Preliminary & NW/NE Division Contests

Row Quartet [Left to Right] and Ranking by Contest

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 North of the Border, Int Prelim 5th<br>Left Coasters, Int Prelim 6th, NW Division 1st<br>The Front Line, Int Prelim 7th, NE Division 1st | 3 Miles Ahead, Int Prelim 11th, NW Division 4th<br>Pacific Ring, Int Prelim 12th, NE Division 4th<br>The Artful Codgers, Int Prelim 13th, NE Division 6th |
| 2 Dynamix, Int Prelim 8th, NE Division 2nd<br>Spellbound, Int Prelim 9th<br>Constellation, Int Prelim 10th, NW Division 3rd                | 4 Don't Tell Mom, NW Division 2nd<br>Some Friends of Mine, NW Division 5th<br>Fact City Four, NE Division 5th   |





### NorthWest Division Chorus Contest Results

Row	Chorus	Rank		
1	Bay Area	1		
2	Palo Alto-Mountain View	2	Santa Rosa	3
3	Walnut Creek	4	Davis-Vacaville	5
4	Marin	6	San Francisco	7



**NorthEast Division Chorus Contestants**



### NorthEast Division Chorus Contest Results

Row	Chorus	Rank		
1	California Delta	1		
2	Reno	2	Fresno	3
3	Placerville	4	Central California	5
4	Sacramento	6	Folsom	7
5	Nevada-Placer	8	<i>[Pictures on page 8]</i>	



### Arizona Division Chorus Contest Results

Row	Chorus	Rank		
1	Greater Phoenix	1		
2	Tucson	2	Prescott	3
3	Mesa	Performance Only	Mike Testers	



### Arizona Division Quartet Contest Results

Row	Quartet	Rank					
1	Suit Up	1	High Priority	2	Whoop Em Up	3	
2	ConChordance	4	Heatwave	5	Batteries Not Included	6	
3	Carefree Highway	7	Intonation	8	Quadratic Audio	9	
4	The Other Guys	10	Backspin	11	Four Score and More	12	
5	Silversounds	13	Brannigan	[Out of Division]			



## **Our Brotherhood is truly remarkable**

*(from South Orange County chapter)*

One of our active singing brothers, Gary Heald, suffered a mild stroke 4 weeks ago which landed him in the hospital for almost a week. After being released to his home and ready for rehab, his wife had to get back to work; but was told by the doctors he was not to be left alone. She contacted our Communications VP, Bob Cossentine, to see if he could get a team of “stroke sitters” to be with Gary two, four- hour watch duties per day for 5 days a week and for two weeks. The call went out to the chorus and almost immediately the schedule was filled with “sitters” and a surplus for all 20 time slots to sit with Gary.

We’re very glad to report Gary is recovering nicely and has even attended two chorus meetings and a BOD meeting at a limited pace. He finds his association with the South County Sound fella’s one of the best decisions he’s ever made and just can’t say enough how he appreciates all these fine friends, especially in an hour of need.

We are more than just a place to sing with others: it’s a family of true friends!

*[Submitted by Jack Peters]*



**FWD Youth Harmony Camp— September 18-20,2015**  
**Sly Park Educational Center, Pollock Pines, CA**  
**Quartets: After Hours and Brannigan**  
**Contact Richard Lund [rlund@innercite.com](mailto:rlund@innercite.com) or 530-621-1904**  
**<http://yih.farwesterndistrict.org/youth-harmony-camp>**



## ***American Pastime***

### 2014 Far Western District Quartet Champions

Hello, Far Western District!!!!!!

We hate to start our first communication with an apology, but we feel we owe it to you. We are so sorry for the delay in saying hello to you as 2014 Far Western District Quartet Champions. It has been another rough and tumble time for us since we won in Fresno last year. We want to thank you for your support and encouragement. A special shout out to our coaches (Brett Littlefield, Sam Papageorge, Chris Peterson, and Royce Ferguson) for helping us rise to the occasion.

To explain our delay, many of you know our Baritone, Matt Swann, decided to leave the quartet before the end of 2014. That knocked **Tom, Graham**, and me (**Joe**) for a loop as we really had planned to be the quartet champions you expect us to be and deserve. After we processed the news we began a search and started auditioning for a new Baritone. The effort was painstaking but worth the time and our patience. At the end of February, we welcomed **Steve Pence** to the baritone role in **American Pastime**. And, I'll tell 'ya...what a great choice we made!

With 5 rehearsals under our belts we entered the FWD International Preliminary Contest in March and qualified to compete in Pittsburgh this July! We were so pleased to share the stage with so many fine quartets and we're really looking forward to representing the FWD at International this year. We are now preparing for that contest as well as some shows and our Swan Song set at FWD in Mesa, AZ this October. It's going to be a busy and fun year for us.



Most of you know who we are and what we've accomplished in our lives as barbershoppers. And, many of you do not, so we wanted to kick off this series of Westunes articles with a little trivia about each of us. We hope you enjoy.



**Tom Moore** – Lead – has performed in many quartets since he joined the Society in 1993 including the 2005 Far Western District Champions Hi-Fidelity and the 2009 District Champion quartet The Edge. He also sings Lead with the 8 time international Champion chorus Masters of Harmony.

When he's not singing he works in the field of computers at Quad/Graphics in Riverside, CA. Tom is married to Dee Dee Gregory.

**Graham Pence** – Tenor – is a 3rd generation barbershopper and a 7-time International Chorus champion with the Masters of Harmony and the Westminster Chorus. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from Cal State Fullerton. He's well established in the rubber industry as the Service Manager at Aurora Rubber and Distribution in Huntington Beach.

**Steve Pence** – Baritone – is a 2nd generation barbershopper and a 5-time International Chorus champion with the Masters of Harmony. He has performed with several quartets since joining the society in 1973 and won the District Quartet Championship in the Johnny Appleseed District in 1976 with the quartet The Matinee Idols. Steve moved to California in 1979, directed the Redlands Chapter for a few years and joined the Masters of Harmony in 1991. Steve is married to Kristin, resides in Fontana, California and is a District Sales Manager with The Toro Company. Steve says he is thrilled to sing with American Pastime and more importantly, to sing with his son again!

**Joe D'Amore** – Bass – joined the Barbershop Society in 1979. He soon became a musical director and sang in his first of many quartets. Joe is a three time FWD quartet champion and a four time International quartet medalist with Standing Room Only. He is also a 3 time International Chorus champion with the Masters of Harmony. Joe is married to his best friend, Marcia. They live in Glendora and have three wonderful children – Michael, Heather and Matthew. Joe is a project manager for Pearson Learning Solutions.

Thanks again for caring about us and for your well-wishes. We are having so much fun together – quarteting and chillin' – and we look forward to seeing you and singing for you sometime soon. We'll write to you again for the next edition of Westunes.

Love,



2014 Far Western District Quartet Champions

Contact:

Graham Pence

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# Leadership Articles



***District President  
Allan Webb***

At the time of this writing (early May), we are almost done with the Spring Convention season. I'd like to thank everyone who has worked so diligently on the combined Spring/NE/NW Division, the AZ Division, and the combined SE/SW Division events. There is an amazing amount of work by a lot of people that goes on behind the scenes in order to make these events happen.

One of the major topics at our June BOD meeting will be the District Events space. We constantly have to engage in a balancing act between available venues, available hotels, available dates, cost, projected attendance, and, most importantly, if there has been a host Chapter who has stepped forward to spearhead the operation for a given event. In a perfect world, we have a host chapter identified and through the bid process more than a year in advance, and we generally meet that bar for the Fall District convention.

The Division conventions (usually combined with the Spring Convention in the North or South in alternating years) is another story. We consistently have issues finding Chapters to host these events within a timeframe which allows us to secure a venue, sign contracts, and set a date more than a year in advance. I would ask that any Chapters who have even a slight interest in hosting, contact Events Chairman Bryan Forbes, so we can come up with a broader list of potential hosts and venues around the District.

We are still in a transition phase in moving from six separate Spring events to only three, a situation which was necessitated by lack of attendance at enough of them requiring us to combine events in order to stay financially solvent. It was not so long ago that we absolutely had to have six separate events because all the Chapters in every Division participated in their Division event. While it is a goal of mine to return to

that level of participation, for now we have to accept that combined events is the new normal.

Given the challenges we have in this space, I would ask that everybody try to remain as flexible as possible. At the moment, we still have five separate Division event dates, plus Spring Prelims, on the calendar for next year, but in all likelihood we will end up with a combined Prelims/SE/SW on the Prelims date in March, a combined NE/NW on one of their two dates, and AZ on its date. The sooner we have host Chapters lined up for all of these, the quicker we can communicate the final dates.

There are already other Districts who are internally discussing more drastic measures when it comes to dealing with Division contests. One of them completely canceled a Division event, so everybody in that Division had quite a long way to go if they wanted to participate to qualify for their District event. Others have discussed even doing away with their Division qualifiers entirely (because they're losing a lot of money), and going to video submissions for a qualifying score (which would require a major change to C&J rules to execute). All options are on the table in some places.

The Far Western District is, fortunately, not in a position to require such drastic measures at this point. But our members need to be aware that those kinds of decisions may have to be made by future administrations.

Regards, Allan



***Executive Vice President  
Gordon Berghold***

Spring has come and gone and summer is upon us. That means division contests are over and summer events will dominate the calendars until the fall brings us the district conventions, and preparation for future events that seem to engage us more than we realize. I know for a fact that barbershop events dominate my calendar and my wife reminds me periodically that we haven't done anything together except for barbershop. I try to mitigate that discussion



by offering her a choice of events each time I attend a society or district function. In other words, maintaining a balance of activities seems to work well in our family. I've been doing this hobby since 1965; 50 years of wonderful singing and collaboration with friends from all walks of life and locations throughout the world has helped shape my life.

I mention this one way of handling this delicate issue because we are losing members due to many factors. Age, many other options of entertainment and over-committing tend to be some of the reasons barbershoppers leave the society. We're all busy and although singing is healthy, stress reducing and entertaining to others, we're still losing members. One way to maintain membership in a chapter is to have a good musical program that attracts good singers and then offer a weekly program that retains those singers. That mission requires good leadership.

Most chapters that find it challenging to maintain membership are suffering from the "aging out" concept. This is going on in many organizations like churches, service clubs and other groups that rely on volunteers to handle the day-to-day activities. The 80-20 rule usually applies where 20% do 80% of the work and eventually those 20% say, "enough is enough", let someone else step up. But others don't step up and the organization starts a downward spiral until there are no leaders left to handle the necessary responsibilities that keep a chapter or group together

I believe that good leadership is the key to the success of any organization and it's not a top-down impulse but rather a bottom-up impact. The greatest leaders in history have not been dictators but rather directors – leadership maestros who used their gifts of vision, values and purpose to orchestrate actions that served a cause greater than themselves. Giving *orders* is not leadership, giving *hope* is. Leaders who serve the interests of those they lead earn far more than the obedience of their followers, they earn their *respect*.

Are you an inspired leader? It is good to reflect on how well we are living up to our own leadership challenges. How well are you serving your team and

your organization? When was the last time you asked the people you lead how well you are meeting their needs? When was the last time that you took a few minutes to sit with each of your team members and asked them what you can do better to help them be more effective or more satisfied in their hobby? Have you ever asked your colleagues how you can inspire them to excel? Go ahead, ask the questions and do not fear the answers. Inspired leadership is not about weak and strong; it's about right and wrong. It's about doing things the right way, for the right reasons and using your position of power, trust and influence to serve. Serve as a facilitator to get things done. Serve as a mentor to grow your chapter members.

Ultimately, the most inspired leaders serve as an example to others. They recognize that ***the pinnacle of leadership is reached when, standing atop the summit, you care more about others than you do about your own view and your own ego.***



**District Vice President 1 SW  
Brent Anderson**

Our FWD conventions have really become fun events for several reasons. For financial efficiency, Divisional contests have often been combined in recent years and hence, they are larger, you see more friends and watch more performers. We started this last quarter with the combined NE and NW Division chorus and quartet contest and also folded the FWD International Prelims quartet contest into that mega-event, which was held in Sacramento. I was fortunate to emcee that chorus contest which featured 15 choruses. The quartet contest also had 15 quartets and in the Prelims, from our SWD we watched **American Pastime** and **Flightline** both qualify for the International Convention in Pittsburgh this July. In addition, **Flightline**, (**Oscar Sotelo, Daniel Huitt, Cody Littlefield, Kyle Williamson**) whose members belong to both Masters of Harmony and Westminster, will also represent our district in the Collegiate Quartet Contest. **American Pastime** is the current FWD champion, and in this performance, we saw **Steve Pence** debut as baritone, joining his son **Graham Pence, Tom Moore** and **Joe D'Amore**.

Several of our chapters have, or are looking for, new musical directors. Up in **San Luis Obispo**, **Logan Patrick-Miernicke** has taken over the reins. He's a musical legacy in SLO, as his grandfather, Don, was one of the stalwarts in that chapter and his mom, Kim, and grandmother, Gail, are important leaders in the SLO Sweet Adeline world. Both **Santa Maria** and **Santa Barbara** are without a permanent musical director. Veterans **Gene Kai** and **Bob Carlton** are sharing duties in Santa Maria, as are several of the musical leaders in Santa Barbara. **Bonnie McKibben** has returned to Southern CA from Hawaii and now the **Aloha Chapter** is also looking for a new director. That chapter is so much fun and the location so special that I'm sure they will soon have new leadership in place. **Bakersfield Chapter** has the veteran **Tank Waldrum**, doing the interim arm-waving but he's looking for a permanent replacement. So, if any of you readers have a desire to direct a chapter, there are opportunities out there and much encouragement, support and education is available from the FWD leadership.

**Rincon Beach Chapter (Pacific Sound Chorus)** did something fun in March that might be a good idea for other chapters. They were singing the National Anthem on a Saturday for a 3PM UCSB basketball game, and since they were finished early, they looked for something to do after the game. Unable to find a paying gig, they rented a hall and staged an **A Cappella Festival** and invited all the a cappella groups they could find to come and perform. **Carpe Diem**, a great-singing, newly-chartered Sweet Adeline chapter in Santa Barbara was having their charter show the next day, so some of their show quartets were able to come to the Festival, including **Cheers**, **Craze**, and the hilarious, **MsCellaneous**. Out of the woodwork, several other groups showed and sang, including some a cappella groups from UCSB as well as other non-barbershop singing groups. Surprisingly, there were numerous other a cappella groups from San Luis Obispo to Los Angeles who found out about the Festival (we put the word out in the Contemporary A cappella Singers Assn) but since it was rather short notice, couldn't come. However, it was so much fun,

so successful, that Rincon plans to do it again next year and get the word out earlier.

You might think about doing the same in your neighborhood? Rincon didn't charge anything and rented the hall, out of a "rainy day fund" they have. They told everyone it was BYOB, they ordered in pizza and sub sandwiches and put out a kitty with a suggested \$10 donation, and it all worked out. Groups performed and then hung out and just vocally "jammed." We call that tag singing! Please call me if you'd like more info so you can do the same in your community.

In May we had the SE and SW Division combined chorus and quartet contest and convention, capably hosted by the **Masters of Harmony**, and presented at Santa Monica High School. Just prior to that was another very successful **Platoon Quartet** event, organized by **Sean Clark**, with over 40 men participating. **Jim Browne**, who is the musical director of Ventura Chapter's **Channel Island Clipper Chorus** and also assistant director at **Rincon Beach**, directed the Platoon Chorus and unofficially, their score would have qualified them to attend the District Contest in October. If you've never done a Platoon quartet event, you should consider it, and there is another Platoon event coming up for the Fall Convention. The music and quarteting is such fun and the camaraderie is palpable.

In the combined chorus and quartet contest the SWD represented well. In the chorus contest **Santa Fe Springs Chapter Masters of Harmony**, were "Masterful" under the direction of **Justin Miller** and with a score of 90.9 easily won the chorus contest, **Rincon Beach's Pacific Sound Chorus** under the direction of **Kelly Shepard**, placed 2nd, followed by the Most Improved Chorus, the **Santa Monica Oceanaires (Ben Lowe)**, **South Bay Coastliners (Pete Neushul)**, **Pasadena Crown City Chorus (John Minsker)**, and **San Fernando Valley**, newly named the **Valley Harmony Singers (Laura Pallas and Tom Raffety)**. Sadly, more choruses from our division did not compete but happily, all who competed qualified for the FWD finals in Mesa, AZ this October. Others of our division chapters told me

they were planning to compete next year so we'll look forward to that.

As a bonus, all of **Rincon Beach** and **Santa Monica** volunteered to sing under **Ron Black** for the **Joe Barbershopper Chorus**. They were joined by many other "Joes," sang quite a few songs and got to experience the contest stage which was helpful, in addition to having great fun singing in a 60-man+ chorus.

In the SWD quartet contest, two quartets qualified to move on to the District finals. **Blood Sweat and Years** (**Paul Engle, Les Weiser, Bob Cathaway** and **Bill Myers**) is the SW Division Champion Quartet and also Division Senior Champs, followed closely by a new quartet, **FourTune Seekers**, (**Kevin Cunningham, Garth Ratliff, Tobias Brown-Heft**, and yours truly, **Brent Anderson**) who were named Novice Quartet Champions.

By the time you read this, **Pasadena** will have had a successful show on May 23, and the **Masters of Harmony** will have performed in their 30th Anniversary show. Coming up on August 22, **Rincon Beach (Pacific Sound Chorus)** is having two great shows in Santa Barbara, at a wonderful, intimate, new, 290-seat theater. Joining them will be **Ready Willing and Mabel**, supported by the 20-piece big band, **The Rockin' Moroccans**, and also featuring the new SAI Regional Champion chorus, **Carpe Diem**. Contact me if you'd like to inquire about tickets for this unique show and ideas for spending a fun day in Santa Barbara.

Upcoming, I hope to see many of you in Pittsburgh at the international Convention in July and then hope to see most of you this October at the FWD Convention in Mesa AZ. It's already time to register for that one, and also to secure your hotel room. Info is found in this issue of Westunes.

This hobby provides us such special opportunities for personal fun and so many enhancements to our lifestyle. Many FWD members will be present at Harmony U in Nashville this summer. If you've never been to Harmony U, you are missing out on one of the best barbershop experiences you could ever have. I'm

so glad to be a barbershopper. Feel free to contact me if I can be of any help to you or your chapter.



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

Due to publication requirements I am writing this a week before our Division Contest in Santa Monica. **You** already know the Division Quartet and Chorus Champions and those qualified to compete at [District in Mesa Arizona – October 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>](#). District will be another great event and I encourage all members' attendance to bask in the glow and afterglow with your brothers in Harmony. Please try to attend the House of Delegates Meeting on Friday. Your Chapter has one voting delegate so make sure your President fills out the credentials for the man representing your Chapter. It could be you.

About our Division contest in Santa Monica on May 9. Prior to my joining the District Board of Directors, I thought that well-planned and -organized contest events just happened. I didn't think about the effort and (sometimes) frantic activity before and during the contest by a few hardworking volunteers. The time and effort spent by the Host Chapter and District Officers is mind boggling. This year they were adding competitors and judges right up to the last week. The schedule was adjusted and readjusted to accommodate those changes. The day was overfull to allow time for meaningful evaluations for the competitors. *NOTE: We are looking for ways to tighten up the schedule. We know midnight is too late for some.*

If you get a chance please thank the **Masters of Harmony** (Host Chapter), **Bill Rosica & Doug Price** (Event Co-Chairmen), **Ron Black** (VP Contest & Judging), and **Russ Young & Nick Papageorge** (Backstage Magicians). Those are the ones that come to mind. I am sure there are many others.

How about our judges? Here's some of what they had to do for the opportunity to travel to Santa Monica and



spend a 16-hour Saturday judging and giving feedback. They (at their own expense):

- Provided letters of reference from two certified judges and five people who knew their skills.
- Passed General Knowledge Test.
- Attended and passed Candidate School.
- Practice-Judged contests over two years.
- Attended and passed Category School.
- THEN they became Certified Judges.

Please thank the judges for all they do to help us improve and grow with our hobby. This is another reason why “hobby” doesn’t quite describe Barbershop Singing.

Have a great summer and, for those going to International in Pittsburg, please give the [Westminster Chorus](#) and our qualifying Quartets (the list isn’t final as of 4/28) your best support as they compete for Medals and . . . .

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

In Harmony, Craig



***District Vice President 3 NW  
Charles Feltman***

No article submitted



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

Spring 2015 brought Far Western District Prelims and NW/NE contests back to Northern California and we rose to the challenge. Foremost, a huge thanks to Voices of California for hosting Prelims 2015 at McClellan Conference Center in Sacramento. This was a new venue for the Far Western District and in addition to many positive aspects presented challenges also. However, VoCal

rose to the challenge and on behalf of the Far Western District I want to thank them for a job well done.

Voices In Harmony, along with many of the other choruses, sang their hearts out and won the hearts of many of us. What a wonderful set they sang! Chris has taken hold of that chorus and brought them back to some very spectacular singing! We will be cheering for you as you compete in Pittsburgh in July.

Oh, and how about those quartets! There certainly were a bunch of different contests all within the running quartet contest flow. It was a little hard to sort them all out, but here goes: Northwest Novice winner [Belle Voci](#), Northeast Novice winner [Pacific Ring](#), Northeast Seniors Division winner [Artful Codgers](#), Northwest Division winner [Left Coasters](#), Northeast Division winner [The Front Line](#), Collegiate winner [Flightline](#), and International Prelims winner [Artistic License](#)! I personally thought that the performance by Artistic License was the best that I have ever seen at a District contest.

Most importantly, I want to Thank Each of the choruses and the men who make up those choruses for Being There! It is just wonderful to have so many good and great choruses and all of their men join together in song at Convention. It is so heartening to have all these choruses together:

Voices In Harmony  
Silver Dollar Chorus  
Redwood Chordsmen  
Gold Rush Chorus  
West Valley Chorus  
Capitolaires

Cable Car Chorus  
Sierranaders

Voices Of California  
Penninsulaires  
GNC A Cappella  
Devil Mountain Chorus  
Golden Valley Chorus  
Marin Golden Gate  
Barbershop Chorus  
Folsom Harmony Express

Which brings me to the other “idea” that I wanted to talk about.

One of my “other” hobbies that I used to partake in many years ago and still get pleasure from reading about is canoe camping in the Boundary Waters of northern Minnesota. There is a quote from the Spring 2015 issue of The Boundary Waters Journal that I want to focus on.

“So what is the big deal about canoe tripping at the highest level? Why should you care? The simplest answer is because, like most everything else, the more you invest into the wilderness canoe tripping, the more you’ll get out of it in return. Making that commitment to surpass the ordinary means investing more of yourself mentally, physically, and emotionally. Every elite wilderness paddler can attest to spilling plenty of blood, sweat, and tears, throughout this lifelong endeavor. Canoe tripping at the highest level is all about developing the skills and savvy to engage with nature at the deepest possible level. When you can travel through canoe country, packing the wherewithal and quiet confidence to handle anything it can throw at you, then you are operating at the highest level. The payoff for pouring your heart and soul into wilderness canoe tripping is a personal and spiritual fulfillment that the masses will never know.” Wow! That is exactly what singing barbershop at the highest level is all about as well!! I was blown away by the exact comparison!

So “participation” with your chorus at Convention is just a first step in the process of taking your chorus to the next level. And Commitment is what it’s ALL about. The message is simple and timeless: The more you put in to your hobby, your life, your marriage, your church, your anything, the MORE you get out of it.

Guys, this is so simple; and yet so profound in terms of the impact on Your life.

I look forward to seeing all of you in Mesa.



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

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

The summer is in full swing, even though the rest of the country is celebrating Spring!!

The AZ Div will again host the B.Q.P.A (Barbershop Quartet Preservation Association) in April with their semi-annual conference here in Tempe AZ. This

event brings barbershoppers from around the country together for a fun weekend of woodshedding and quartet activity. Thanks for making the AZ Div a regular stop!

Also in April, the AZ Division Contest and Convention was held. Thanks to the efforts of AZ Div events chair Randy Bingle and the Tucson Chapter, headed by convention chair Dave Tompkins, the convention was another great weekend of singing and fellowship. Congratulations to quartets for qualifying for the Far Western District contest here in Mesa:

Five quartets have qualified to compete at the Far Western District Quartet Contest in Mesa this coming October from the AZ Div.:

1. Suit Up!
2. High Priority
3. Whoop 'Em Up
4. Conchordance
5. Heat Wave

In addition, Brannigan achieved a qualifying score out of Division, Carefree Highway won the Senior Championship and Batteries Not Included was the Novice Champion.

In the Chorus contest, Greater Phoenix and Tucson Sunshine Chapters advanced to the District contest.

Congratulations to all of the competitors and best of luck in October.

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.

As always, 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 C&J  
Ron Black**

Last weekend's SW/SE Division Convention completes the contest season for the Spring of 2015. So we now know the results from all the Divisions. (The results are found elsewhere in this issue, and also on the FWD web site.)

<http://farwesterndistrict.org/news-events/district-news/288-2015-spring-division-contest-results-overall>

The list above includes:

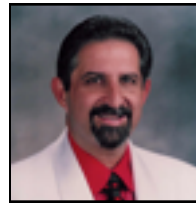
- All quartets who have qualified for the Fall District contest (scored higher than 68%)
- All choruses who have qualified for the Fall District contest (scored higher than 62%)
- Any quartets and choruses added as wildcards.
- Any quartets or choruses that are next in line if any current qualifier chooses not to attend.
- The top five Senior Quartets who can enter the Fall contest
- The FWD 2011 Super Senior Quartet Champion, who will receive their traveling trophy this Fall.
- Collegiate quartets who have qualified for the International College Quartet Contest in Pittsburgh.
- All quartets who will be performing at the International Contest in Pittsburgh.
- All choruses who will be performing at the International Contest in Pittsburgh.

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

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

[rlblack1@gmail.com](mailto:rlblack1@gmail.com)

Will I see you in Pittsburgh this summer? Ron



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

Congratulations! The last Far Western District Spring Convention & Contest finished promptly at midnight last Saturday (May 9). I was fortunate enough to have judged the entire contest, as well as the Arizona Division Contest. Also, Russ Young, Ron Black and I were in charge of running the Nor Cal Division and International Prelims. Having been at all of the Spring Contests, I can tell you that I am very proud to be the Music and Performance Vice President of this great District. We had so many competitors. And those competitors gave us so much great music that it has been overwhelming. Again, CONGRATULATIONS to all who participated, as performers.

Here's a question: **WHY COMPETE?**

There is an innate urge in we humans for competition; competition in all forms. But, why do we compete as musicians and barbershop brothers? I know that many of you think it is a waste of a Chapter's time; that concentrating on two songs for half a year is tedious and boring. That is probably true, IF your chapter chooses to spend that amount of time on two songs. But here is why I believe we *should* compete.

Competition in all things makes us be the best we can be at any given moment. Athletes learn how to run, block, shoot, or whatever their sport entails. They learn and perfect the best techniques so that they can succeed in their competition. The same is true for us.

Rehearsing songs for competition is a process. We learn the greatest singing and performing techniques during this process in order to put forth the greatest product we can give at that given time – contest time (that elusive 4–6 minutes)! And when that given time is over, if we forget the techniques we have learned in that “contest process,” then it *is* a waste of Chapter time to work that hard on two songs. Also, our



contest evaluation process provides experts (the judges) to give us knowledge about singing and performing, at no cost! A free coaching session!

Your Chapter music team should make sure that the techniques learned for “contest” continue throughout the entire musical year. Your Holiday Songs should use the same techniques you learned for the contest songs. Your Singing Valentine songs should use the same techniques you learned for the contest songs. Your Show Repertoire should use the same...I think you know where I’m going with this, right?

So, **why compete?** I believe that we compete in order to refine our product. If used correctly, contests will make a chapter stronger musically and visually. The chapter will learn singing and performing techniques that are essential for any *a cappella* ensemble. And when a Chapter sings better, and performs better, the members feel a large sense of reward, which results in having more fun! And more fun could lead to .... more members! Hooray!



**Chapter Support & Leadership Training**  
**Steve Salmon**

### **The 3 M’s of every Barbershop Chapter**

In my position as District CSLT (Chapter support, Leadership Training) I get to focus on the inner workings of the chapter team. A barbershop Chapter can basically be broken down into three different areas of focus. By discussing and analyzing each of these areas we can be proactive and creative as we develop relevant and exciting chapters for our members and communities.

They say if you want better answers, you need to ask better questions. Here are a few that came to my mind, I’m sure you can come up with some that are even better for your group.

## **Membership**

How do we show appreciation to our current members that come and support each week?

How do we encourage and welcome a visitor or a new guest at our chapter meeting?

How do we reach out to past members, who have chosen to no longer join us?

Monthly we should discuss each of the three areas of membership and how we are meeting our member’s needs. Every chapter member needs to have a friend, a responsibility, and weekly improvement in his barbershop craft.

## **Music (Program)**

Does our music match our Identity as a chorus?

Does our music leadership approach the chapter in a positive and creative way?

Do we focus on being a legitimate musical organization in our community?

Do we have a balance of education, inspiration, and perspiration in our chapter rehearsals?

Music and performing is at the heart of our chapter meetings. There are a lot of documents to help us have compelling chapters, and rewarding music programs. It is said each chapter meeting should have Ah-Ha moments, Aww moments and Ha-Ha moments.

## **Marketing/PR**

How do we market our chapter vision and goals to our members?

How do we market our chapter to the community?

Each member needs to know two things. 1-He can do this. 2-He is a better person because of it. Your

community needs to know what great men you are, and that they can do this too.

Chapter leaders as you meet monthly remember your board meeting is for reports, and assignments, but it is also for inspiration and counseling with one another. Everyone having an equal voice, and together asking the very best questions that will move your chapter forward.



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

No article submitted.

## **Events** **Bryan Forbes**

Greetings, my fellow barbershoppers! Allow me to introduce myself as the newest member of the FWD leadership team as your Event Chairman. I'm honored for the opportunity to fill the very large shoes of outgoing Chairman, Ted Sayle. Please join me in thanking Ted by sending him a note to let him know how much you appreciated his work during his tenure as FWD Event Chairman. Although I have not sought his permission to openly publish his email address, I'm sure with diligence and a small amount of creativity you'll be able to deliver a message to Ted expressing your thanks and gratitude.

I've been a member of BHS since 1996, first with the Whittier Chapter and then as a founding member of the Brea Gaslight Chorus. I've held numerous Board positions with Brea, including its President, and competed with Whittier and Brea since 1996 along with my Quartet, Four Fifteen. In 2014, Brea hosted the Spring SE/SW Division & International Prelims and I managed this convention as the host chapter Event Chairman.

The theme of my first message to the members of the Far Western District is volunteerism. The range of activities we're involved with as barbershoppers during any given year ranges from very simple to extremely complex. Whether setting up risers at a Chapter meeting or hosting District-sponsored

Conventions, volunteers are needed to successfully accomplish these missions. The same is true for your Chapter, Division and District board positions. It's easy to take these guys for granted so the next time you pass by them give them a pat on the back and thank them for their service.

On that note (like the way I worked music into my message!), many thanks to Bill Rosica and his team at the Masters of Harmony for hosting the SE/SW Division Contest. Competitors experienced a new venue this year in Santa Monica and I'm sure enjoyed the liveliness of the stage and the great sound system that this theater delivered. Thanks to you, Mr. Rosica, your team and to The Masters of Harmony.

We're all looking forward to the Fall Convention in Mesa Arizona, which is scheduled for October 15, 2015 through October 18, 2015 at the Mesa Arts Center's Ikeda Theater. The Greater Phoenix Chapter is our host for the fall convention and you may find all of the details on the FWD website for this event (<http://events.farwesterndistrict.org/conventions>). The FWD Board meets this summer and I would like to finalize plans for the 2016 Spring Convention & Contest and present these plans to the Board of Directors. I will be following up with chapters who have expressed an interest in hosting this event and look forward to moving them forward towards a successful convention and contest.

Looking to the future, I have set out to streamline and improve the FWD Convention Manual and processes that chapters face when hosting a convention and contest. My experience as Event Chairman for Brea for the 2014 Spring Convention led to many process improvement recommendations, all of which will be submitted and presented to the FWD Board of Directors at its regularly scheduled June Board meeting. The over-arching goals are to simplify the processes, consolidate the timeline of deliverables to a single document, and to make the FWD Convention process the model for the Society.

Your feedback is welcome and I look forward to hearing from you ([bryan.forbes@primusconsultants.com](mailto:bryan.forbes@primusconsultants.com)).

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 Bingle



### **Marketing & Public Relations Jerry McElfresh**

If you are a Chapter Marketing and PR officer who saw this column in the last edition of Westunes you saw references to tips that could make your job easier and more effective.

They included getting an active committee to help with the job, developing a marketing plan, prioritizing the many things you are working on ranked by importance and timeliness, and making use of marketing and PR tools found under Resources on the BHS Website.

That last one is probably the easiest to do and can have big results for less effort on your part. People who know more about marketing and PR than most of us do have developed these tools and they can be very useful in selling your shows, singing Valentines and other money-making chapter programs.

They're easy to find. Just go on the BHS Web site ([barbershop.org](http://barbershop.org)) and click on the Resources tab at the top of the page. Next click on the second item, Documents Center, where you'll find a wealth of materials including a section on Marketing.

That category will lead you to three files. The first contains recordings of 27 Public Service Announcements for radio on topics ranging from holidays to show promotion to singing Valentines.

The next file has 22 free and downloadable marketing and public relations materials such as show flyers, membership flyers and informational trifold that you can adapt to your own use. It also has suggestions on how to approach the

media, a marketing ideas manual, marketing strategies and how to market barbershop performances.

You'll also find membership posters, a sample press release, information on social media for barbershop quartets and choruses and a wealth of other material that can help get you up to speed on ways to make your chorus or quartet famous.

BHS has gone to a lot of effort to make these materials available to us. Rather than reinventing the wheel or paying a professional to market your chorus or quartet, start with these helpful tools.

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I've had a few requests from chapter M&PR officers, particularly those new to the job, for some specific localized help with promoting a chapter show, a membership guest night or some other events that might be of interest to the public.

With 75 or more chapters in the District, there's little time to assist chapters individually but I am working on a program suggested to me by International President Don Fuson, who stopped by the M&PR class that I conducted at this year's Leadership Academy in Las Vegas. Don travels throughout the Society and the suggestion may be one that came to him during his many meetings with Barbershoppers around the world.

His idea was to come up with templates for various marketing and PR press releases or material that chapters can adapt for use in their communities. There is no one-size-fits-all matrix because our chapters range from a dozen or so men up to 100 or more and their needs vary greatly but I'm working on fill-in-the-blanks templates that should work for most of our chapters.

I'll let you know when they are available. In the meantime, if the person listed on the BHS Web site as your M&PR man is no longer in that job please update the information on the Web site and send it to me at [marketing@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:marketing@farwesterndistrict.org) so that the materials go directly to him.



## **Membership OPEN**

### **How to Find Young Men to Join Your Chapter...**

*By Brent Anderson, Southwest Division VP*

I think this might work. We all want new members and younger members are very important to the chapter for many reasons. At Rincon Beach chapter (Pacific Sound Chorus) we recently got lucky and have about nine new members, all under the age of 35... Here's how it happened.

In 2013 I had put a quartet together to entertain the attendees of a Senior Expo in Santa Barbara. This Expo was where numerous vendors would buy space to hawk their wares, products and services which were all geared to the senior market. So a barbershop quartet strolling around entertaining is a welcome sight. Some young guys had been hired by one vendor to man their booth and they were very appreciative of our singing. We sang them a song and I gave one of them a chorus business card, and that was that.

About 18 months later, amazingly, this young man from that Senior Expo shows up at our rehearsal with a buddy of his in tow and they want to sing! Turns out they are good singers, they are over-the-top excited about our music, love all the guys, can't believe how fun it is to sing a tag, and the next week they come back with two more guys. They've brought over a dozen of their friends to sing with us, many have joined, others are auditioning right now, and there appears to be no end to their fun, their recruitment efforts and enthusiasm for our product. Having them in our chorus at performances has attracted other younger men to want to come sing with us. Another "old guy" and I just roped two of them into a quartet, competed in the recent Southwest Division contest and won the Novice Quartet award, qualified for District, and placed second in our Division. This is GREAT!

So what? Good for Rincon you say? Here's why I think this might be of interest to you... They are all

PhD grad students in Chemical Engineering and Materials Science at UCSB. They are all brainiacs, loveable Geeks, and all have an interest in music. They like math and as you probably already know, many people who love math, are musical. Some of the guys that have come to us have had choral experience but many have not....but almost all are musical - they play piano, and other musical instruments, and they readily take up singing. One of them told me that singing makes him attractive to women. They are so incredibly busy in their studies and research they don't have time to chase women and in general, are a little lacking in their social skills. This hobby is a perfect creative outlet for them...

Think about the older members in our choruses. Many of them probably have similar backgrounds. I know in the glory days of Santa Barbara Chapter, most of our members came from the defense plants in town...Hughes, Raytheon, Delco. Engineers and their ilk. Hmmm...Maybe we're onto something here?

In the past we've thought of targeting students for recruiting but we've gone to the high schools or college music departments and come away with only mixed results. High school boys, in general, are flighty and unreliable. Most college music majors, in general, are caught up in their own version of the art form and don't give ours the time of day. These engineering majors are grad students. Compared to undergrads, these guys are "mature." They average 25 years of age, and they do research or teach, so they have jobs and hence, the money to pay dues and even to pay for their own pizza at Afterglows (which they love...!). They are old enough to drink beer. These are our kind of guys!

So here's the opportunity: How do we get exposure to grad students in the fields of engineering and for that matter, what about other similar fields of study such as math, technology and science? How about computer science...? Is there a college or university near you and do they have grad students? Offer to sing for some Engineering Department function. Send a good quartet. What about in your city? Is there a Tech or Information Technology professional association or

club? Offer to provide entertainment for their next meeting. Send your best and sing for free...

I welcome discussion of this. We stumbled upon this by accident and yet I think this might be a way to appeal to a broad segment of young male society: people who would be inclined to like our music and the fun we have with singing. Let's start a dialogue. Please send me your thoughts and tell me stories of how successful this idea is for you. Share with all via your Westunes Digester, or just send it to me and I'll share via my communication abilities with membership VP's.



(L to R) Joel Levitz, Tobias Brown-Heft, Jeff Hindman, Chris Freeze, Max Frisch, Mike Gaultois, Kevin Cunningham



### ***Quartet Activities Bill Kane***

#### **Do You Want To Sing In A Quartet?**

So far in 2015, hundreds of men in FWD have done just that. If you have not, and want to, then what are you waiting for?

You could have done Singing Valentines. You could have sung a tag at a break during chapter meeting. You could have joined one of the Platoons at FWD conventions in Sacramento, Santa Monica or Mesa,

AZ. You could have formed a quartet for Novice contests in Northern or Southern California. You could have entered the quartet contest at any of the five Division conventions.

Are there any more opportunities left in 2015?

Well for one thing, you could register for the Platoon at the fall FWD convention in Mesa October 15 – 18. You can find the registration form on our website: [www.HarmonyPlatoon.org](http://www.HarmonyPlatoon.org)

Besides the fun of several informal quartet competitions during the Platoon event, the guys who participate sometimes find a quartet combination they want to keep, and wind up as a registered quartet. Others find some great songs they can take back home for their existing quartet. Either way, when you talk to someone who has done Platoon they will tell you “If you Platoon you will have more fun than you’ve ever had at a convention”.

Here are eight of the guys that had that Platoon fun in Sacramento. We had a tie for first place in our Finals contest and so declared these two quartets our Co-Champs:



(L to R) Bari Chris Phoenix (Bay Area), Bass Tom Keenan (Prescott), Lead Corley Phillips (CA Delta), Tenor David Weatherford (Palo Alto-Mt View)



(L to R) Tenor Shel Givens (Frank Thorne), Lead David Queen (Reno), Bass Norm Pincock (Palomar Pacific), Bari Don Salz (CA Delta)

How about getting in the picture for the FWD convention Platoon in Mesa?



**Youth In Harmony**  
**Jim Halvorson**

No article submitted

## American Pastime Card 2014 FWD Champions



## FWD Sunshine Card







## Division 1 SW Chapters

**Ken Day, ditor**

### Aloha Chapter

By Jack Hashimoto

We will be saying "Aloha" to our beloved director **Bonnie McKibben** effective May 1. She has been at the helm for two years now and we really hate to see her go, but she has decided that she must be closer to her family. She has raised our singing IQ considerably, and we are so grateful to her for her patience. She also directed the Sweet Adelines Honolulu Blend Show Chorus. We all sent her off with an Aloha Oe party at the First Hawaiian Bank party lanai in Honolulu, which was her employer. All three choruses, including the Sweet Ads chorus Na Leo Lani were there to say that we will miss her very much.

Our gigs and activities for the quarter included:

1. University of Hawaii Wahine Volleyball game.
2. Ward Warehouse demonstration rehearsal/recruitment
3. Honolulu Festival at Ala Moana Center.
4. Windward Mall Farmers' Market.
5. Honolulu Chorale 15th Annual Community Chorus Festival.
6. Pohai Nani Retirement Center.

BSOM named in the quarter included: December - **Kawika Mitchell**, January - **Dan Tom**, February - **Hank Drayton**, and March - **Mike Darcey**.

### Long Beach Chapter

By Joe Nagel

The **Long Beach Chapter** is pleased to welcome **Ray Crutcher** as the newest of the oldest chapter in the Far Western District. Ray brings to us 13 years of barbershop harmony experience, and not only makes a terrific addition to our bass section, but his quirky sense of humor already adds a lot to our chapter meetings!

### Rincon Beach Chapter

By Brent Anderson

Our **Pacific Sound Chorus** sang the national anthem for the last home basketball game of the season at UCSB. The UCSB Gauchos have the Cal colors of Blue and Gold and our chorus purchased gold ties specifically to go with our electric blue coats so we looked like members of the Pep Squad. It was a televised game against a close rival, so the house was full with nearly 6000 fans. The anthem came to a surprise ending... When we got to the lyric, "and the home of the brave..." at the last word, 2000 students shouted out, "Gauchos."

Home of the Gauchos...I get it...not very patriotic but part of the college athletic experience.

It was a 3 PM game on a Saturday afternoon in Santa Barbara and we were done with our game by 5 PM, our PR team looked to see if there was some "gig" we could schedule to entertain some folks. There was none to be found so instead, we decided to stage a free A Cappella Festival and invite every a cappella group we could find to just come and party with us.

We rented a big Event Center and we just invited all the a cappella singers we could find. There were college a cappella groups, other barbershoppers, vocal jazz singers and the local Sweet Adelines (Carpe Diem). They were having a show the next day so they came and several of the quartets who were to be on their show came up a day early so they could attend the festival.

The event was a BYOB event. We "ordered in" pizza and sub sandwiches, asked for a \$10 donation to cover the food, and it was a HUGE success! Everyone sang for everyone else and then broke into smaller groups to sing tags and socialize. We stayed as long as people wanted to stay. Everyone wants to do it again next year and many groups who couldn't make it this year are already asking what date we've chosen for 2016.

### San Luis Obispo Chapter

by Pete Bennett

New President **Richard Burch** and Chapter officers **Pete Bennett** and **Chuck Mills** accompanied director **Logan Patrick-Miernicki** to Leadership Academy and HCW in Las Vegas in January and the chapter is benefiting from the renewed commitment of all its officers and members. An immediate benefit was the regrowth of the Singing Valentines program, with most of the chapter participating.

The chapter found a successful way to make things more convenient for our North SLO County fans to enjoy our show while keeping our San Luis City & South County regulars happy. We recently produced a Friday evening show in Paso Robles and a Saturday afternoon show in Arroyo Grande, and the new format proved both popular and profitable.

### Santa Barbara Chapter

By Eric Fenrich

The new year has brought some interesting challenges for the CCC. Our director stepped down at the end of last year to take a well-deserved hiatus from being a wavy-arms guy for not just our chorus, but Santa Maria's chorus as well. We've also lost a few members this year to various reasons. With our shrinking numbers, it is been difficult for us to find a director so our section leaders have been directing by committee. In addition, we have been employing different techniques including more quarteting, rehearsing in a circle rather than on the risers, and having open sessions where any of the members can feel free to speak up regarding the song that we are rehearsing. So far, so good and, as this year progresses, we hope to grow in strength and create a better, more polished chorus.

### Santa Fe Springs Chapter

By Ron Larson

The 2015 Awards Banquet and Installation of Officers was held at Khoury's Restaurant in Long Beach. President **Ron Andreas** and Keynote Speaker, MOH Charter Member and Hall of Fame Member **Joe D'Amore**, described how the **Masters of Harmony** developed from a handful of men determined to achieve musical excellence to become a world-class men's chorus. Although the remarkable streak of eight consecutive chorus championships was broken in Las Vegas last July, despite the MOH's stellar performance, Ron and Joe asserted their firm belief that the

chorus still has the talent, work ethic and leadership skills to continue being a world-class organization. Director **Justin Miller** called on the chorus to pursue innovations in both style and substance. All three further asserted that by doing what it now takes to achieve gold-medal-level performances in Nashville next year and beyond, "We have what it takes!" **Terry Blumenthal**, first chapter president, then installed the new board of directors: President Ron Andreas; Immediate Past President **Bill Rosica**; Secretary **Maurice Freleaux**; Treasurer **Ed Churchill**; VP-Music & Performance Joe D'Amore; VP-Chapter Development **Don Sevesind**; VP-Marketing **John Loftus**; VP-Operations **Tom Christman**; VP-Public Relations **Tim Truesdell**; Board Members-at-Large **Charles Carothers**, **Jim Ernsberger**, **Rich Owen**, **Ernie Reyes**, **Ed Schackman** and **Phil Wolf**. Top chapter awards were as follows: Barbershopper of the Year – **Gary Stone** and Quartet of the Year–**American Pastime** (**Graham Pence**, **Tom Moore**, **Matt Swann**, Joe D'Amore).

In February, the Masters of Harmony and the Southern California Vocal Association co-sponsored the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Young Men's Harmony Festival at Orange Coast College. Once again, **Mark Freedkin**'s superb planning helped make the event a huge success. Members of **The Newfangled Four** (**Joey Buss**, **Jackson Niebrugge**, **Ryan Wiesnewski**, **Jake Tickner**), **Matt Swann** and **Dave Tautkus** coached the young participants in the barbershop style throughout the day. More than 150 registrants from 27 high schools attended this year's event with about 80% being first-time attendees. Justin Miller gave the attending choral music teachers ideas on how to use barbershop harmony to attract young men to their music programs.

Also in February, chorus member Dr. **Dickson Chen** surprised his brothers and his sweetheart and fellow optometrist, Dr. **Jungmi Kim**, when he brought her out of the audience and joined **Craig Ewing**, **Mark Matonic** and **Scott Hansen** to sing "Spend My Life With You," a beautiful song sung by **Instant Classic** at the 2015 International Quartet Contest in Las Vegas. Then, he asked Jungmi to marry him . . . and she said, "Yes!" Since Dickson's proposal appeared on YouTube, it has been viewed over 23,000 times! Congratulations, Dickson and Jungmi, and thanks for sharing this special moment first with your Masters family and then with the world!

For a long time, Masters singers have needed new, quiet risers. **Marlin Fors** put out a request for donations from chapter members and supporters. In just a few days, over \$20,000 was raised! Under the guidance of Tom Christman, new Wenger risers were delivered and assembled by MOH members at **Ed Tolman**'s shop in Pomona.

Another notable March event was a "Tag Challenge" issued by the Tampa Bay **Heralds of Harmony** to **The Vocal Majority** and from the VM to the Masters and other barbershop groups. The challenge was to sing, videotape and post a tag of choice and match or exceed a contribution of \$50 to Harmony Foundation. The Masters went on to solidify their reputation as one of the Barbershop Harmony Society's most generous choruses when they raised over \$1200 for Harmony Foundation's coffers.

In mid-March, the FWD Spring Convention in Sacramento saw strong performances from Masters of Harmony groups. In the International Preliminary Quartet contest, MOH singers made up three of the four qualifying quartets: The Newfangled Four

placed second, American Pastime took third, and **Flightline** (**Oscar Sotelo**, **Daniel Huitt**, **Cody Littlefield**, **Kyle Williamson**) finished in fourth place.

Since the last edition of **Westunes**, the Masters approved **Jesse Davidson** and **Michael Van Schoonhoven** for membership.

### Santa Maria Chapter

By Gene Kai

The **Central Coast Chordsmen** of Santa Maria hosted a fund raiser, all-you-can-eat breakfast at Applebee's Restaurant and also performed their annual spring show *If I Could Write a Song* with the **Flightline** quartet as special guests.

The Chorus hosted its fifth annual YIH festival under the leadership of Robert Maurer. Sixty boy and girl students representing local area high schools participated in learning two barbershop songs. **Tri City Sound** Sweet Adelines taught the girls and **Hi-Fidelity** taught the boys. Other events included singing Valentines and local fraternal organizational performances.

The Central Coast Chordsmen are now under the co-direction of **Gene Kai** and **Bob Carlton**. Former director **Bobby McGee** has taken a well-deserved sabbatical and we extend our heartfelt thanks for his dedication and superb direction these last 10 years.

### Santa Monica Chapter

By Marty Mitnick

Our annual Spring Show *Radio Days Goes West!* was held at Paul Revere Middle School under the direction of **Ben Lowe**. Our special guest performers were the **Paul Revere Middle School Madrigal Singers** and the **Palisades High School Barbershop Club**.

**Jim Leedom** was at the **KSMO** microphone as announcer, with the assistance of **Pierre Debbaudt** as stage manager.

The show was written and produced by our very own **Bruce Schroffel**, and **Jerry Walker** was show chairman. Chorus Manager **Ken Scholtz** and **Pierre Debbaudt** were in charge of the ticket sales. Sound engineer was **Larry Boone**. Great appreciation goes to **Laura Gordon** and the **SOS** (Supporting Our Singers) ladies who provided the refreshments, raffle and support.



### Division 2 SE Chapters

Dale Vaughn, Editor

### Coachella Valley Chapter

By Stan Gile

Our Annual Show featured the immediate Past International Champion quartet, **Masterpiece**, along with our chapter quartets **Sound Investment**, **The Hummbugs**, **Faultline**, and the entire **Sandblaster Chorus**. Our audience rewarded us with rousing applause and Standing Ovations.

Membership continues to increase with the addition of **Fred Montemarano**, **Marsh Hankin**, **Rio Score Sr.** (father of **Rio Score**), **Allen Ringer**, and dual members **Don Dixon** and **Ray Steckler**.

**Dick Reed** is retiring as our Director after a combined 33 years of leading the Sandblaster. The good news is he is continuing with the chapter and the Faultline quartet. We are pleased to announce that **Mark Austin** will be our new Director. He has directed many Choral groups, including Barbershop, over many years in many parts of the country. We are very happy to have a man of his experience to replace the irreplaceable Dick Reed.

Our Snowbirds are all gone so we will be a little thin for the coming summer. We look forward to their return in the Fall for start of another great season.

Visit us at: <http://www.cvbarbershop.com>

#### **El Cajon Chapter** By Roger Simpson

**Musicmasters** of El Cajon is planning a busy summer. Although small in number due to death and illness, we are an ensemble that packs a powerful singing punch. We are undertaking a membership drive to replenish our Chorus. Musical Director **Tom Anderson** is conducting a vigorous teaching marathon to improve our harmony and Barbershop sound. One clue that he keeps reminding us, listen, listen, listen; after all, our name is harmony!

#### **Fullerton Chapter** By Don Derler

Our Installation & Awards banquet is history. **Jay Campbell** really deserves a big "at-a-boy" from us for all of his efforts. He even wrote a terrific article for the *Clippins*'. Congratulations to all who received an award, and many thanks to all who helped make it a night to remember.

Our Singing Valentines program was a terrific success. There are too many people who made this event a success to mention here.

This year we will be trying a new format for the Annual Show; a Mystery Dinner Theater. It's a slight twist on our hugely successful Christmas Cabaret format. The show committee is very busy making sure the event will be an enjoyable experience. The next issue of *The Clippins*' will be full of articles about how successful we were.

Visit us at: [www.oechoorus.org](http://www.oechoorus.org)

#### **Inland Empire Chapter** By Gaylord Spence

The **Inland Empire Chapter** announces that our merger with the previous **Riverside Chapter** is finalized with the Society and the new name for our chorus is **Inland Sound**. The excitement is high as a great many of our combined membership now wish to compete on a regular basis. We will have competed in the SE/SW Division Contest on May 9th by the time you read this, and you will be able to judge for yourselves on the success we are having. We know this will be a growth and expansion year for us.

Visit us at: [www.newgangchorus.org](http://www.newgangchorus.org)

#### **La Jolla Chapter** By Dale Vaughn

Our first chorus Polecat Contest gave our men the opportunity to work on and learn different polecat songs or learn songs in different parts. It was a great success and will be held again in

the future. A new program was started that introduces us more personally to one of our guys each week. The brainchild of our longest serving BHS member, **Pete Hensley** (58 years), we have asked each member to submit a detailed bio to our Membership VP so that they can be reintroduced to the chapter.

PCH men volunteered once again to serve as ushers at the Annual San Diego Honor Choir Concert. This event features the top-notch choirs from elementary, middle and high schools from within the San Diego Unified School District.

We performed in the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual **Choral Consortium** of the San Diego *SAN DIEGO SINGS!* Festival along with 19 other of San Diego County's finest choral groups. Each group performed their own unique brand of choral music for an appreciative crowd with the highlight of the afternoon culminating in a combined 1,000-plus-voice choir singing *How Can I Keep From Singing?* along with the audience members. What a great experience for all in attendance!

PCH performed for the La Jolla Presbyterian Church for their Annual Music Series. Joining the chorus was **The Pacific Suns**, our Youth-in-Harmony-sponsored chorus directed by **Royce Ferguson**.

We brought the **Youth A Cappella Ensemble Showcase** to San Diego along with the help of the **Sun Harbor Chorus** and the **San Diego Sweet Adelines Chorus**. The featured guests performers **The Newfangled Four** and **SoCal Vocals** along with local youth talent including **Marshall Middle School**, **UCSD Frequency**, **SDSU SoundWave**, **Pacific Suns** and **North of the Border**, gave an outstanding performance!

Chapter quartet **Easily Distracted** entertained the participants at the MS walk. The quartet members commented that it was great singing for nothing but standing ovations, although the crowd always walked away as soon as they were done singing!

Our Director Search Committee interviewed numerous qualified candidates for our chorus director position, and the process continues.

Visit us at: [www.pacificcoastharmony.org](http://www.pacificcoastharmony.org)

#### **Las Vegas Chapter** By Martin Judd

For the past several years, this column was written by **Larry Litchfield** who is taking a well-deserved breather. I will be filling in until we find a replacement.

We welcome two new members: **Carl Melcher** and **Peter I Avila**.

An old tradition was started anew within the **Silver Statesmen Chorus** with the first meeting of the **Harmony for Lunch Bunch** with **Roger Buehrer** in charge. They meet on the second Wednesday of each month at the Four Sevens Sports Bar & Lounge on West Sahara @ 1130AM.

The **Silver Statesmen Chorus** annual banquet held at the **Three Square Banquet Room** allowed our chapter to support a well-known Las Vegas charity. **John Mininger** was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award by outgoing president **Steve Salmon**. Other awards presented at this event were: President's Award – **Fred Green**; Director's Award – **Dick Morrison**; Rookie of the Year – **Larry Paterson**; 2014 BOTY – **Martin Judd**.



**Roger Anderson** performed a very entertaining installation of officers. Guest speaker for the evening was **John Kinde**.

The Las Vegas Chapter was presented the FWD 2014 Chapter of the Year Award at FWD Spring Convention. The successful merger of our two Las Vegas Chapters and the hosting of the 2014 BHS International Convention required a lot of help from everyone involved.

In a first for the Las Vegas Valley, three of the top men's choral groups in the valley: the **Las Vegas Men's Chorus**, the **UNLV Varsity Men's Glee Club** and our own **Silver Statesmen** combined to put on a joint concert for the Las Vegas public. Each of the groups put on a mini concert consisting of five or six songs and then all three groups took the stage together singing one song from each of our repertoires. Our director, **Jim Halvorson**, led the combined group in *There Is Love Wherever There Is Song*. There were over 100 men who participated in this concert which attracted a full house.

Visit us at: [www.silverstatesmen.com](http://www.silverstatesmen.com)

#### **Palomar Pacific Chapter** By Keith Bogost

The *Learn to Sing* program headed by Dr. **Jim Shepard**, Professor Emeritus and former head of the vocal music department at Mira Costa College was a huge success. The clinic, offered to men and women who live in North San Diego County communities, was part of the Museum's 2015 Special Exhibition - What Music Means to Me. Our coordinator, **Chuck Youde**, did such a good job setting this up that 40 men/women from this area signed up almost immediately, filling the classes to capacity. Some of our own members were left out. There are plans to repeat this in the near future. **Chuck Youde** was presented the BOTM award for his efforts in setting this up.

Memorials were held for two long-time members who passed away – one for **Bob Sweringen** and one for **Woody Cady**.

The Chapter entertained the Senior Center in Vista and Redwood Terrace in Escondido.

**Bill Olszanicky**, **Bill Colburn**, and **Jeff Lehman** attended Joint Harmony College West and Leadership Academy in Henderson, NV.

Several quartets delivered Singing Valentines with flowers and songs. Participating in this program were **Bill Olszanicky**, **Charlie Wendt**, **Ray Story**, **Jerry Mills**, **Rich Kellam**, **Norm Pincock**, **Tal Klaus**, **Chuck Youde**, **Bill Scofield**, **Roger Hufferd**, **Mike Cowan**, **Bob Cowan** and **John Rhodes**.

**Mark Mace** accepted the Marketing VP position for our Chapter. He encouraged all to get acquainted with the latest BHS video, encouraging new members to join our society.

**Tom Redler** was approved as a new member.  
Visit us at: [www.musicmenchorus.org](http://www.musicmenchorus.org)

#### **San Diego Chapter** By Craig Hughes

The **Sun Harbor Chorus** and our Quartets have entertained Clubs, Community, and Corporate Events. The San Diego County Fair is hiring one of our Quartets for opening day!

We were thrilled to be a featured performer on the **Choral Consortium of San Diego's** first annual **San Diego Sings! Festival** in Balboa Park. We joined 19 other community choral groups in a full day of singing Barbershop to Bach.

**Sun Harbor** is a named sponsor of our young men's honor chorus – **The Pacific Suns**. They are members of **Youth Harmony San Diego** – a collaboration between local BHS and Sweet Adelines Chapters. Two key events this spring were a Youth Harmony Day Workshop featuring **Flightline** and the first annual **A Cappella Festival**: an a cappella ensemble showcase that featured **SoCal Vocals** and **The New Fangled Four**.

We welcome two new members - **Steve Holcomb** and **Mike Mullert**. Mike is new to Barbershop while Steve moved down from Vacaville and the **West Valley Chorus**.

San Diego is a mecca for visitors. Stop by if you are in town on a Tuesday.

Visit us at: [www.sunharbor.org](http://www.sunharbor.org)

#### **South Orange County Chapter** By Rich Jensen

#### **A Family of True Friends**

One of our active singing brothers, Gary Heald, suffered a mild stroke four weeks ago which landed him in the hospital for almost a week. After being released to his home and ready for rehab, his wife had to get back to work but was told by the doctors he was not to be left alone. She contacted our Communications VP, Bob Cossentine, to see if he would get a team of "stroke sitters" to be with Gary for two, four-hour watch duties per day for 5 days a week and for two weeks. The call went out to the chorus and almost immediately the schedule was filled with "sitters" and a surplus for all 20 time slots to sit with Gary.

We're very glad to report Gary is recovering nicely and has even attended two chorus meetings and a BOD meeting at a limited pace. He finds his association with the South County Sound fellas one of the best decisions he's ever made. He just can't say enough how he appreciates all these fine friends, especially in an hour of need. We are more than just a place to sing with others: it's a family of true friends!

On May 9, 2015 Sound County Sound achieved the Southeast Division Plateau AA Champion and will be participating in the Far Western District Fall Convention in Mesa, Az.

Visit us at: [www.scsound.org](http://www.scsound.org)



#### **Division 3 NW Chapters** **John Heather, Editor**

#### **Marin County** By Newt Harband

The Marin Chapter **Golden Gate Chorus** celebrated its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary this past year. Some highlights of the year included: presenting a program of songs at the Marin County Fair on the 4<sup>th</sup> 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 60<sup>th</sup> 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**.

The Marin Chapter unveiled its Hall of Fame plaque during the installation dinner and inducted our previous Director **Chuck Northup**. Previously selected HOF members include long-time chapter stalwarts **Bob Engan** and **Stan Elkjer**.

The chorus sang carols at shopping centers and a local convalescent hospital during the holiday season. We put energy into Singing Valentines in February and competed in the FWD contest at Sacramento in March.

Visit us at [www.marinbarbershopchorus.org](http://www.marinbarbershopchorus.org)

### Monterey Peninsula

By Sam Kier

It's business as usual with the **Monterey Cypressaires** despite the lack of a chorus director. The chapter completed a successful Singing Valentines campaign in February, provided entertainment for a Lions Club fund-raiser on St. Patrick's Day, and performed for an hour at the Pacific Grove Good Old Days Celebration. A reporter from the Monterey Herald covered that event and wrote a front page article about the chapter's 60 years of harmonizing in Monterey County. Hopefully the publicity will help us as we look forward to recruiting new members and finding a director.

Visit us at [www.cypressaires.org](http://www.cypressaires.org)

### Palo Alto/Mountain View

By David Weatherford

The Spring Convention in Sacramento was the scene as the **Peninsulaire**s sang their hearts out and received the highest scores awarded to the chorus in recent years. Singing well is its own reward, but recognition from the judges is always appreciated.

Valentine's Day was very busy again this year, with six quartets delivering over 50 singing valentines and seven mini concerts.

**The Perfect Gentlemen** wowed the audience at the annual Spring Show. Their *Salute to the 20th Century* had everyone laughing and crying at the same time. *This Crazy Thing Called Love* was the theme of the show, a humorous look at love lost and found.

Our annual Singer's Vocal Clinic started May 21 at the First United Methodist Church, 535 Old San Francisco Road, Sunnyvale, and will run six weeks - four weeks to go as of this publication. This free course will help you improve your singing voice no matter whether you sing solo or with a group, or only in the shower. You can find more information at [www.freevoicelessons.net](http://www.freevoicelessons.net).

Visit us at [www.barbershop-harmony.org](http://www.barbershop-harmony.org)

### San Francisco

By Charles Feltman

The **San Francisco Cable Car Chorus** continues to add members. Two prior members just returned to sing with us and

we added a new one. We phoned dropouts to bring back performance costumes but some came to sing instead!

We are a regularly scheduled presenter at the **Presidio Memorial Day** celebration. *America The Beautiful* is being added to *God Bless America* in our presentation.

We finally found a new, more appropriate show venue. The show will be a matinee since many of our attendees prefer not driving at night.

Visit us at [www.sfcablecarchorus.org](http://www.sfcablecarchorus.org)

### San Mateo

By Thomas Addison

A glorious night of barbershopping magically happened when BHS CEO **Marty Monson** made a surprise visit to the **Faultline Acappella Chorus** during a chapter meeting in early March. Marty was in the area on vacation and wanted to visit a smaller chapter that hadn't recently participated in competition and we apparently fit the bill. Our director **Cort Bender** was not able to attend the meeting, but the chorus leadership with Music VP **Ed Sterbenc** leading the way, ran through a rehearsal of our new repertoire and finished off the night with most members participating in quartet singing! Marty provided a review of what is happening in the society, participated in all the activities, and provided us with a lot of encouragement for our small but enthusiastic chapter.

On the fifth Tuesday of March, members of the **San Francisco Cable Car Chorus** joined our chapter for a night of quartet singing. Thirty-eight different quartets rang chords and enjoyed the fellowship of harmony. We have encouraged fifth Tuesday quartet events since the founding of the Chapter over 40 years ago.

Visit us at [www.goldenchordsmen.org](http://www.goldenchordsmen.org)

### Santa Rosa

By Ray Crowder

**Phil Debar** resigned as director of the **Redwood Chordsmen**, but will continue as the director of the **Marin Golden Gate** chorus. We appreciate his many years of service with our chorus.

We made our annual appearance at the prestigious Barclay Concert which features choral groups from five different Santa Rosa high schools. Kudos to all of our assistant directors, **Jonathan Friedman**, **Neal Rogers**, **James Morgan**, and **Wayne Hovdesven**, for the fine job they're doing in advancing the musicality of our chorus.

This year marks the golden anniversary of the **Redwood Chordsmen**, and show director **Dick Whitten** is pulling out all the stops to make our 50th anniversary show a rousing success. We're inviting back all of our previous active directors including **Melany Huston**, **Bill Borah**, **Jan Lappin**, **Phil Debar**. We will offer a special nod to the late **Dr. Val Hicks**, who was our director all through the 1980's. We're also inviting back ex-chorus members who have stood on the risers with us over the decades.

It's great to have **Randy Lerner** back with us after his recent open heart surgery. We welcome new member **Glen Draughon**.

Visit us at [www.chordsmen.groupanizer.com](http://www.chordsmen.groupanizer.com)

**SF Bay Cities Quartet**  
By Jordan Makower

Former **SPEBSQSA** member **Dr. Lee Nicholas**, now 95, attended one of our lunchtime meetings this month. We now meet for lunch at Harry's Hobrau on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of the month to avoid the increasing road traffic during the afternoon commute. "Doc" is in fairly good shape, still has great breath control, and a strong voice. He joined with our regulars, **Bill Beck, Steve Gummarsall, Roman Avila, Marv Bertelson, Mark Hildebrand, Dave Laubscher, Dave Tuttelman, Sieg Yoder, Mike Irvin, and Jordan Makower** in forming quartets to sing some old barbershop favorites. We welcome members from other groups to practice their repertoire at Harry's, as well as wives and significant others to join us in song. For further information, go to **John Heather's** website.

Visit us at [www.sfbayquartets.org](http://www.sfbayquartets.org)

**Walnut Creek**  
By Dwight Lang

The first four months of 2015 were exciting for the **Devil Mountain Chorus** (DMC) of Walnut Creek. Our *Learn To Sing* program had nine new guests attending in addition to the regular chorus members. We performed Singing Valentines from Emeryville to Fremont and Oakland to Pittsburg, delivering 44 serenades with a rose and chocolates. We hosted the NorCal Far West District Novice Quartet competition in Walnut Creek, with 10 quartets competing, along with two high school quartets. The **Devil Mountain Chorus** was well represented by two quartets, **Upside Sounds** and **Resuscitation**. The DMC traveled to Sacramento to participate in the Far Western District Spring Convention, and compete with eight choruses from the Northeast Division and seven from the Northwest Division. We had the highest scores in a while, and we were named the 2015 FWD Northwest Division Plateau A Champions. We joined the **Diablo Vista Sweet Adeline Chorus** for their friends and family night where we presented two songs.

Visit us at [www.devilmountainchorus.org](http://www.devilmountainchorus.org)



**Division 4 NE Chapters**  
**Roger Perkins, Editor**

**California Delta Chapter**  
By Jim DeChaine

The **Voices of California** were delighted to play host at the McClellan Center to the combined FWD Spring Convention with quartet prelims for International and Northeast/Northwest Division Contest. The former McClellan Air Force base proved to be an excellent conference facility, with numerous rooms for choruses and quartets to practice. Most importantly, the acoustics in the auditorium were outstanding. This should prove to be a location that will be used many more times in the future.

We had six quartets in the Joint Division Competition that had one or more members from **VoCal** participating, including our international competitor **Artistic License, Pacific Ring, Dynamix, Fat City Four, Classic Edition, and The Artful Codgers**, who captured the Senior Quartet Championship for the Northeast Division.

**VoCal** was pleased to be selected again as the number one performing chorus this year in the Northeast Division and is also thrilled to be selected as one of the four choruses from throughout the United States to participate in the second Harmony University coaching experience in Nashville this year. We have at least 50 members fully committed to attend this great coaching opportunity. To date we also have the largest number of members from any chorus who have been selected to participate in the Honors Chorus, under the tutelage of Aaron Dale.

Two of the items we recently embarked upon with our marketing efforts include magnetic images for our car doors and bumper stickers to promote our chapter and membership development.

**Central California Chapter**  
By Miles Sutter

Our installation and awards ceremony began with the singing of *The Old Songs* directed by **Bruce Sellnow**. The awards were:

**PRESIDENT'S AWARD**, presented by **Roe Darnell** to **Greg De Mers**.

**DIRECTOR'S AWARD**, presented by **Bruce Sellnow** to **Chuck Roots**.

**Stratt Riggs**, last year's recipient, announced that the 2014 **BOTY** is **Marc Jantzen**.

It's been said that you need a well-oiled machine to run a successful business. Our "machine" consists of 10 very important parts, as was pointed out by our Installing Officer FWD DVP **Richard Lund**.

**Herb Andrew** presented the new 'contract' to **Howard Barber**, our Assistant Director, explaining his duties as such, and what is to be expected from him in the future. The ceremony ended with the singing of *What A Wonderful World*.

Eighteen chorus members of the GVC sang our National Anthem at the home opener of the Modesto Nuts, our local professional baseball team. What made the Anthem even more tremendous was the explosion of fireworks going off during "rockets red glare"! Many favorable comments regarding our performance were conveyed by the crowd as we left the field. This year, the baseball club asked us to sing *Take Me Out To The Ball Game* at the 7th inning stretch. The applause after both our performances was enthusiastic.

**Davis-Vacaville Chapter**  
By Tom Powers

After a rigorous set of Holiday Season performances, we turned our efforts back to learning music for the Northeast Division Contest in Sacramento and for our annual Spring Show.

We have two new board members. **Roy Mattice** is now Program Chairman and **Steve Rollins** is Member-at-Large (in addition to being immediate Past President.)

**Folsom Chapter**  
By Dennis Stohl

The **Folsom Harmony Express** officers for 2015 include new chapter President **Leslie Lorenzen**, Secretary **Dennis Stohl**,



Treasurer **Burt Weichenthal**, Music VP **Doug Vestal**, Sunshine Chair **Les Cudworth**, and Board member **Gordon Fawkes**. Outgoing President **Doug Vestal** was recognized for his dedicated service to the chapter. Installing officer once again was **Roger Perkins**.

The 2014 **BOTY** is **Dennis Stohl**. Dennis sings bass and is a faithful member of the chapter for five years.

Weekly rehearsals in February were designed to help chapter members prepare for participating in the Far West District Convention and Contest in March. Our preparation paid dividends as we improved our scores over past contests.

The FHX performed for the residents at Mercy McMahon Terrace Retirement home in downtown Sacramento. The performance featured our quartet **B-BLT (Roger Santiago, Kent Borrowdale, Ken Potter, Stan Trumbull)**. Stan was also MC for the performance. Kent sang a solo on the second verse of *My Old Kentucky Home* as Roger Perkins took over directing for the song.

#### **Nevada Placer Chapter** By Roger Perkins

All of the members of the **Sierranaders Chorus** were pleased to have been named **Most Improved Chorus** of the NE Division at the convention held at McClellan AFB. The host chapter was the California Delta Chapter, the Voices of California. This was a first for them and also for the location. Looking forward to next year the Sierranaders want to be "Even More Most Improved".

Our newest member is **Geoff Alder**, who transferred from the Grants Pass, OR chapter. Geoff is a good lead and we are glad to see him sitting in the front row.

#### **Reno Chapter** By Steve Shurtliff

We are back from Division contest and we placed 3<sup>rd</sup> out of 15 NE/NW choruses and 1<sup>st</sup> in the NE AA plateau, as well as improving a couple of points in score. We enjoyed watching several of the other groups perform. The coaching sessions just keep getting better. They have become one of the things I look forward to when going to Contest.

We heartily welcome **Nicholas Hamon, David Clark, John Shearin** and **Vic Yen** (a dual with us and VoCal) to our chorus.

#### **Sacramento Chapter** By Joe Samora

The **Capitolaires** raised a couple thousand dollars delivering 40 **Singing Valentines**. Four quartets delivered silk red roses, candy, personalized greeting cards and sang to patrons in the Greater Sacramento area. Quartets sang on television and Singing Valentines were promoted in newspapers and on the radio. Thanks to Chair **Dan Swink** for another successful program. February Barbershopper of the Month is Dan Swink. Kudos to webmaster **Steve Cudworth** for promoting the Singing Valentines online.

Several new ideas are the result of the collaboration of our Marketing Team: **Robert DuPlantier, Joe Samora** and **Dan**

**Swink**. The Board approved the Sponsorship Program which involved designing chapter brochures and will be used for recruitment and fundraising. A post office box was rented to receive chapter mail. The officer and member business cards are being updated. The *Swipes & Tags* newsletter was revived to begin recording events and activities before the Capitolaire celebrate their 70<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary in 2016. **Joe Samora** is the editor. Distributed to the membership quarterly, the newsletter serves to keep everyone informed and to recognize member accomplishments. The first issue included January through March news.

Twenty-one men sang under the direction of **Ray Rhymer** at the Open House for R.F. Biodics situated in Natomas. New member, **Steve Kennedy**, hired the chorus to sing for the administration and employees in their office.

Capitolaire quartet "**Les' More**" [**Les Cudworth, Steve Allison, Larry Womac, Steve Kennedy**] competed in the Novice Quartet Contest hosted by the Walnut Creek Chapter. They placed 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Capitolaire competed in the Northeast Division Chorus Contest. Twenty-four men participated and were directed by **Ray Rhymer** and **Dan Warschauer**. The Capitolaire placed 6<sup>th</sup> in their category. **Larry Womac** (VoCal & Capitolaire member) was the convention chair.

#### **Visalia Chapter** By Bud Case

At the **Mighty Oak Chorus** 2015 Awards Night and Officer Installation, President **Fred Speckman** began with Section Leader Awards for Bass to **Dee Baughman**, Bari to **Ed Grant**, Tenor to **Landes Dung** and Lead to **Ken McNutt**. They just coincidentally make up **Some Assembly Required Quartet** so they sang *Sentimental Journey*. They have sustained their quartet for almost 15 years and demonstrate consistent section leadership in great attendance/participation, learning their parts and helping others.

Then President Fred presented more well-deserved awards. The "Welcome Back Award" to **Steve Williams**, long time member that recently came back and re-upped! The "Best Smile"/"Rookie of the Year" went to **Michael Ocampo**, a young man with little music background that joined this year and has become an exemplary member with gusto and enthusiasm. Our "Volunteer of the Year" went to **Andy Waits** who jumps in to help in any way he is asked (or doesn't wait to be asked) as well as accepting a director seat on the Board for 2015. Another young new member **Bob Coleman** received the "Most Improved"/"Pole Cat" Award. He has truly become a great tenor in a very short time. **Adam Kitt** presented **Greg Huber** with the "Director's Award" for his consistent help during practice plunking out notes on the keyboard he lugs in and out every Tuesday evening. President Fred then gave the "President's Award" to **Jacob Barber** for his overall enthusiasm and "can-do" attitude.

Before Adam Kitt officially installed the 2015 officers, **Front Line Quartet**, the 2015 **Northeast Division** champs entertained all present.

The 2014 BOTY is **Landes Dung**, a versatile MOC mainstay for more than 10 years, assistant director, tenor in Some Assembly Required and bass in Sound Projection quartets.

**Division 5 AZ Chapters**  
**Editor [OPEN]**

**Greater Phoenix Chapter**

The chapter's Barbershopper of the Year award for 2014 went to **Mark Spriggs**, a man who wears many hats. Mark is the chapter's Music Vice President, Webmaster and chapter Groupanizer administrator. He sings tenor with the chorus and is tenor section leader.

Chapter offices for 2015 were installed by Arizona Division VP **John Bloomquist** at the annual dinner. Taking the oath of office were **Bob Upham**, President; **Terry Aramian**, Immediate Past President; **John M "Bo" Larson**, Secretary; **Roy Gross**, Treasurer; **Bob Sampson**, VP Marketing & Public Relations; **Ryan Malikowski**, VP Membership; **Mark Spriggs**, VP Music & Performance; **Don Koehnlein**, VP Program; **Ray Estes**, Chorus Manager; and **Bob Gray**, **Greg Dodge** and **Bob Szabo**, Board Members-At-Large.

**Mike Moyer** once more headed up our successful Singing Valentines program with more than 40 delivered to grateful recipients. Mike also arranged for a busload of fans from Tucson to attend our Spring Show. Mike makes the weekly trip from Tucson to Phoenix himself to be in rehearsal with us. All this and he's only able to spend half the year with us because he is a winter visitor. Truly an inspiration for all of us.

Our Spring show in two performances was our second one held at the impressive Mesa Arts Center, where the Phoenix Chapter will be hosting the Far Western District Convention and Contest in October. The show, "Defying Gravity," featured **Vocal Spectrum**, the 2006 International BHS Championship Quartet. Also performing were **Audacity**, 2009 International Barbershop Senior Quartet champions; **High Priority**, 2015 2nd Place International Barbershop Senior Quartet Champions and several other top-level Spirit of Phoenix quartets.

**Mesa Chapter**  
by Rich Carey

January brought the **East Valley Barbershop Harmonizers** their 2015 Chapter Officers: President **Bill Johnson**; Past President **Bob Shaffer**; Treasurer **Bernie Esberner**; Secretary **Rich Carey**; Marketing VP **Roy Murray**; Membership VP **Tom Haynes**; Music VP **Dick Moore**; and three Members-At-Large **Vic Bowen**, **Ray Stasko**, and **Bill Kaiser**. President Bill Johnson instituted an ongoing Chapter Awards program. 2014 BOTYs were **Bob Shaffer** and **Rich Carey**; The Man of Note was **Thom Olmstead**; and Rookie of the Year was **Greg Grace**. The **East Valley Barbershop Harmonizers** presented a concert outside at the Gold Canyon Arts Festival in Gold Canyon, AZ.

The Chapter's fourth quartet formed, **Tooney Loons (Dick Naas, Jim Brown, Dale Weatherford, Rich Carey)**. Chapter quartets delivered 52 Singing Valentines to patrons throughout the Valley this year. February also brought four members to the Chapter: **Caryl Carstensen** – transfer; **Fred Grace** – new; **John Soper** – new; and **Gerald Formsma** – dual. Our membership continues to grow with an online member joining in March, **Murray Hiatt** – new.

Our April Annual Show coupled with the **Southwest Vocal Project Women's Sweet Adelines** sold over 500 tickets. Three of our four Chapter quartets performed: **Backspin (Bob Shaffer, Jerry Fox, Dale Weatherford, Andy Harry)**; **The Other Guys (Charlie Nardin, Ray Kahler, Bernie Esberner, Rich Carey)**; and **Quadratic Audio (Duncan Scott, Bob Pennell, Thom Olmstead, Greg Grace)**.

This is the first time in a long time that the Mesa Chapter entered THREE quartets in the AZ Division Contest. **Quadratic Audio**, **The Other Guys**, and **Backspin** placed ninth, tenth and eleventh, respectively, in the contest of 14 quartets. The **East Valley Barbershop Harmonizers** did a performance set at the conclusion of the Chorus Contest. April also brought two more members to the Chapter: **Adam Kaufman** – new and **Ed Malone** – reinstated.

## **Notices**

### **2015 Conventions, Contests**

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

For your planning purposes, 2015 International and FWD Convention/Contest, and LA/HCW dates are:

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

**Oct 15 - 18, 2015 FWD Fall Convention**  
Mesa, AZ

**NOTICE: CONVENTION REGISTRATION  
WILL BE ON-LINE ONLY.**

**NO MAIL IN FORMS VIA USPS.**

[If you need assistance to do that, ask for help from  
your chapter Secretary, or a friend, or ...]

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](mailto: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](#), Tucson Sunshine Chapter President

### Monterey Cypressaires, Monterey, CA

Go to [www.cypressaires.org](http://www.cypressaires.org) to express interest.

## To Email Your District Officers & Chairmen

[president@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:president@farwesterndistrict.org)

[pastpresident@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:pastpresident@farwesterndistrict.org)

[evp@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:evp@farwesterndistrict.org)

[secretary@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:secretary@farwesterndistrict.org)

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[westuneseditor@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:westuneseditor@farwesterndistrict.org)

## Sarasota, Florida Chapter looking for Director

### Music Director sought

The Sarasota Chorus of the Keys is accepting applications for the position of Music Director. This individual must display the talent and ability to work with an exceptional Chorus Leadership Team to carry out the Chorus mission; to continue its measurable improvement in singing quality and performance.

The individual must have directing experience or education, a love of Barbershop singing, great communication skills, and demonstrate an understanding of the Chorus goals; as well as an idea of how to assist the Chorus Leadership Team to achieve these goals.

### **A GENEROUS COMPENSATION PACKAGE IS BEING OFFERED**

Interested individuals should contact Patrick Kilbane, Search Committee Chair, by email [patrick.t.kilbane@ms.com](mailto:patrick.t.kilbane@ms.com) to request an application or to learn more.



# BARBERSHOP COMEDY



**By Popular Demand...**

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

## Comedy Quartet Contest!

**Saturday, July 25, 2015 at 7:00 pm**

**Fullerton Union High School Theatre**

201 East Chapman Avenue, Fullerton, CA 92832

**Quartet Entry Fee \$25 Early bird \$15 through June 30!**

**Tickets: Adults \$15, Kids 11 & under half price**

**For more info: [Orange.harmonize.com](http://Orange.harmonize.com)**

**or call (714) 442-8500 (message line)**

