



Fall 2016 Volume 66 Number 3



# WESTUNES

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

## 2016 International Quartet Contestants



9th

Artistic License 86.7



11th

The Newfangled Four 85.0



46th

American Pastime 77.6

## 2016 International Chorus Contestant



3rd

Masters Of Harmony 94.0

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Notice: If you wish to submit an article for publication, the deadlines are: Feb 1, May 1, Aug 1, Nov 1

### 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

## FWD Sunshine Chairman Les Cudworth

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**FWD Sunshine Chairman**

## ***2105 International Chorus Champion Westminster***

by Ryan Collins

Nashville 2016 -

It's hard to believe that it has already been a year since winning the International Chorus Contest in Pittsburgh 2015. This year has been a fun-filled year and a year of many growths as a chapter. As outgoing champions we had the privilege to observe and take part in many events at the International Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, July 2016. The convention consisted of hosting a master class, singing on The World Harmony Jamboree show, seeing friends from around the world, cheering on our Far Western District representatives, watching quartets and choruses from around the world, visiting every competing chorus, singing for (and with) other chapters, and so much more.

We were also fortunate enough to have four quartets with representatives from our chapter, including two full quartets (Flightline and The Newfangled Four). Congratulations to American Pastime for their strong set in the quarter finals, Flightline for winning a silver medal in the youth quartet contest, and The Newfangled Four for their mic-test set for the top 10. We are so proud of our chapter quartets.

During the chorus contest we watched in awe of The Masters of Harmony as they captivated the audience and brought home their 11<sup>th</sup> chorus medal. Finally, the week, and our international championship year, culminated with one final performance, our swan song set.

For our swan song set we sang three outstanding original charts.

- ∞ My Soul's Been Anchored in The Lord - arranged by Aaron Dale.
- ∞ A Red, Red Rose - arranged by David Wright
- ∞ Astonishing - arranged by Robert Rund

It's bitter sweet for it to all be over, but we congratulate our new champions. Pratt Street Power (Youth Quartet Champions), The Ambassadors of Harmony (Chorus Champions), and Forefront (International Quartet Champions)!

We would like to thank The Far Western District for the continued support. We look forward to seeing everyone at The District Convention in October!

## **2015 FWD Champion Chorus The MOH**

### **Santa Fe Springs Chapter**

by Ron Larson

Many barbershop singers are unapologetic romantics who will break into song about love and romance at just about any opportunity. A great way to share this passion is with Singing Valentines. This involves delivering a single red rose and a personalized Valentine's Day card to a usually surprised but very delighted recipient, followed by the singing of "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" and "Heart of My Heart." In 2002, Andy Edwards pioneered a successful Singing Valentines program for the Masters of Harmony that ran for another four years with varying degrees of success. In 2013, Phil Wolf led a revival of the program. Six quartets used Uber, a new ride-hailing company, to deliver over 100 Singing Valentines. In February 2016, he coordinated the MOH program with the Fullerton Orange Empire Chorus, known for its very successful Singing Valentines program. In the three days of Valentine's Day weekend, four Masters of Harmony quartets delivered 25 Singing Valentines. Recipients included women at work, men and women at home, the Cal State Fullerton women's basketball team, a woman on the eve of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and several couples in retirement homes. Special thanks go to the three who skillfully coordinated the complex delivery schedules - Sheila Lowerre, Tom Nichols, and Jay Campbell.

For the past 16 years, the Masters of Harmony and the Southern California Vocal Association, a professional organization of choral music teachers, have co-sponsored an Annual Young Men's Harmony Festival that is now a model for similar events all over the country. In February, thanks to long months of preparation by festival guru Mark Freedkin, the 2016 event at Orange Coast College was again a rousing success. This year, 206 students from 32 Southern California schools attended and more than 80% were first-timers. After warm-ups led by Dr. Chris Peterson and Dave Tautkus, the young men received choral training from The Newfangled Four (Joey Buss, Jackson Niebrugge, Ryan Wisniewski, Jake Tickner), a foursome whose ages, vocal and teaching skills helped them relate well to participants not much younger than themselves. In one of the highlights of the afternoon sessions, Masterpiece (Rob Menaker, Patrick Haedtler, Alan Gordon, Brett Littlefield) held a "Sing With the Champs" session that made the day extra special for seven young men who took turns singing with them. The evening show featured the youth chorus as well as solo, quartet and small ensemble performances. The Masters of Harmony and The Newfangled Four took turns captivating the audience of family members and music teachers. For the show finale, 280 singers filled the risers to overflowing and sang "Fun In Just One Lifetime" and "America The Beautiful" to wildly enthusiastic applause. This year's event brought the 16-year attendance total to well over 3,400 students. Thank you, Mark, and your team of skilled, dedicated assistants, for showing these young men how much fun four-part a cappella harmony can be!

The Far Western District's Spring Convention was held at the Alexis Park Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada, and the MOH was well represented throughout the competition. Nearly half the choruses competing represented MOH in some way and three MOH members served on the judging panel (Rob Campbell, Justin Miller, and Dave Tautkus). The Newfangled Four and American Pastime (Graham Pence, Tom Moore, Steve Pence, Joe D'Amore) qualified for the Nashville International Convention this July. Current Far Western District Quartet Champion Flightline (Oscar Sotelo, Cody Littlefield, Daniel Huitt, Kyle Williamson) qualified as the Far Western District representative to the Youth Barbershop Quartet Contest, also in Nashville.

In recent months, the MOH's web appearance has been restructured so as to enhance the chorus's online presence. This site reworking was made possible thanks to MOH Grants Manager Rich Owen who helped

secure a two-year grant from the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. The Masters gratefully acknowledge this support with an attribution in their show flyers and programs: “The Masters of Harmony is supported, in part, by the Los Angeles Board of Supervisors through the Los Angeles County Arts Commission.”

If you are planning to visit a Masters Wednesday night rehearsal, please note that the rehearsal location has been moved to the Pio Pico Room of the Gus Velasco Neighborhood Center, 9255 S. Pioneer Blvd., Santa Fe Springs, from April 13 to September 28, 2016.

It is with sadness that the Masters announced the passing of two members whose work was instrumental in the early success of the chorus – Jim Holder and Marlin Niesley.

Since the last issue of *Westunes*, the MOH welcomed John Rhodes into membership.

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### ***Harmony Camp 2016***

#### **FLASH UPDATE: 2016 INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION QUARTET FOREFRONT**

is coming to Camp along with **The Newfangled Four!!!!**

This will be one of the truly epic Camps, at least in my 15 years of running Camp and having this much fun!

The last couple years with the King fire and the Butte fire threat have put a real damper on the momentum that we had generated for Camp; and this is the year that we break out!!

We have perhaps one of the best combinations of quartets along with the best clinician staff in the country, no wait, in the world for Camps like this. No other Camp in the world can match what we are doing to absolutely immerse young men in barbershop harmony and culture.

You can play a huge role in this camp by simply urging your chapter to step up and support Harmony Camp when your chapter president brings it up.

You can play an even bigger role in this camp by reaching out to that young high school age man down the street and simply tell him about Camp and let him know what a wonderful opportunity lies in his future, just by signing up for this year's Harmony Camp.

Harmony Camp 2016 dates are September 16-18 and the location is the Sly Park Educational Center, 5600 Sly Park Road, Pollock Pines, CA.

The entire Camp weekend, from Friday evening to Sunday noon is just \$95, food and lodging included.

For questions, please contact Richard Lund 530-621-1904 or [rlund@innercite.com](mailto:rlund@innercite.com) <http://yih.farwesterndistrict.org/youth-harmony-camp>

Richard Lund  
Camp Director

**Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund  
for FWD Harmony Camps**

**FLASH ANNOUNCEMENT: DOUBLE MATCH CHALLENGE**

A major donor has stepped up to “double” match contributions of \$300 or less through November, 2016. Sometimes we have a cause we believe in but feel that our small contribution will not make much of a difference. Today, you have the opportunity to change that and really make a difference with your donation. Your contribution of \$50 will be matched with \$100 so that you are “causing” \$150 to be donated to the Fund! Our major donor’s cap is \$25,000.



The purpose of the Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund is to provide, in perpetuity, supplemental financial support for weekend long Harmony Camps within the Far Western District of the Barbershop Harmony Society.

Endowment Fund donations may be sent to: Sacramento Region Community Foundation; 955 University Ave, Suite A; Sacramento, CA 95825; reference Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund in the bottom line of the check. You will receive acknowledgement of your donation from the Sacramento Region Community Foundation.

Contact Richard Lund at 530-621-1904 or [rwlund92@gmail.com](mailto:rwlund92@gmail.com) if you have additional questions.

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**Did you know 2015 FWD Quartet Champion Flightline has a Facebook page?  
[facebook.com/FlightlineQuartet](https://www.facebook.com/FlightlineQuartet)**

## Leadership Articles



**District President  
Gordon Berghold**

Summer has almost passed and now it's time to think about the fall meetings and other challenges that face a chapter. As a reminder, please get your nominations completed and the new chapter officers elected so that you can send them to the Leadership Academy in your division. We encourage you to send your officers and leaders to the academy whether or not they have ever attended. The format is not faculty driven, but involves student participation with the facilitator guiding the discussions. There is always something that can be learned from the LA, especially communication amongst the various chapter leaders.

The summer Board meeting was planning for the remainder of 2016 and the 2017 yet before us. The Youth in Harmony Chair was filled by Ryan Collins of the Westminster Chorus. He is enthusiastic and young and has good plans to coordinate with our district youth leaders already in place.

Craig Ewing has stepped into the Music & Performance Chair and he is working on the curriculum for the Harmony College West events that will be held with the Leadership Academy in the three locations that have been announced.

Your District Vice Presidents in each division are still inventorying the chapters to determine missions and goals in order to make the district leadership more in tune with the chapters' reason for existence. Should they fail to contact you on this task please notify them and help them along the way. Communication is a two-way skill and we need improvement in this discipline.

I attended the 2016 International Convention in Nashville and witnessed some of the greatest quartet and chorus competition in my 52 years in the society.

Our quartets acquitted themselves in a most positive manner representing the FWD. New Fangled Four set a new standard for the Saturday night finals as Mic-testers putting on a performance that extended into a mini-show package that should bring them some show bids in the coming year. And, Artistic License, in their smooth, easy going style was at their very best in placing ninth in the finals. The Masters of Harmony finished third in one of the tightest chorus contests ever held.

The President's Council met for a full day with the emphasis on communication with our district chapters. The communication methods discussed ranged from leadership academies to personal visits with each chapter at least every six months. It was emphasized that the chapters are the life blood of the society and communication up from the chapters to the district leadership, then to the society level is the way to improve the entire organization. This is a mission of your district leadership.

I had the opportunity to speak a few minutes at the Society Board Meeting and I emphasized Communication as many had before me, but I emphasized that LISTENING was more than 95% of communication and talking was less important. WE ARE LISTENING AS FWD LEADERS!!!

*Let's not hear, "we've always done it that way", but try doing something different in your chapter and don't be afraid to fail. In fact, be afraid not to try.*



**Executive Vice President  
Craig Hughes**

As we move into the second half of 2016 I reflect on all the positive experiences our hobby has given me. I am honored to serve as your District Executive Vice President and to work with the men of the Far Western District. We have the best team and the best singers in the Society. Competition aside, the respect and appreciation our District gets from the rest of the Barbershop World is a direct reflection on our

members, Chapters, and District Management and for the outstanding standards they have set over the years.

We are celebrating our 70<sup>th</sup> year as a District with big plans for our [Fall Convention](#) (October 13-15) in Riverside, CA. The venue is outstanding so please make the trip and enjoy. This is much more than a completion. It is an event for all. A once-in-70-years experience!

- Thursday:
  - o [FWD Harmony Platoon](#) . A wonderful quarteting experience for all conceived and developed in the District.
- Friday:
  - o **House of Delegates**. This is the opportunity for Chapter Delegates to express their views and participate in the running of the District. This HOD will offer a special opportunity to provide input to the Society Board of Directors. They are always interested in our views and are holding “Town Hall” meetings in all 17 Districts to develop important strategies. Our Society Representative, John Donehower, will make a presentation and conduct the “Town Hall” after the HOD adjourns. We would love to have **all** of our Chapters represented.
  - o Quartet Semi-Finals.
- Saturday:
  - o Chorus Contest: Our 2016 District Chorus Champion will be crowned.
  - o Quartet Finals: Our 2016 District Quartet Champion will be crowned.
  - o Show of Champions. This will be one to remember as we celebrate our 70<sup>th</sup> year. In addition to all our 2016 Champions, the 2015 International Champion **Westminster Chorus** will perform and be joined by the 2016 third place **Masters of Harmony** for an incredible finale.
  - o Afterglow into Sunday.

We have a very talented and hardworking District Management Team. **David Melville** continues to improve and enhance our District Website:

[farwesterndistrict.org](http://farwesterndistrict.org). One very important task is to facilitate events. Bryan Forbes, Events Chairman, and David have been working hard over the past year to keep the long term calendar updated and accurate. We now have most events scheduled for the next three years and listed on our online [calendar](#). Here are some important dates.

- October 13-16 [Fall FWD District Convention](#)
- November 5 [SoCal Leadership Academy](#)
- November 19 [NorCal Leadership Academy](#)
- January 14 [Arizona Leadership Academy](#)
- January 17-22 [BHS Midwinter Convention – San Antonio](#)
- March 9-12 [FWD Spring Convention & NE/NW Division Contest](#)
- April 21-22 [AZ Division Contest](#)
- May 12-13 [SE/SW Division Contest](#)
- July 2-8 [BHS International Convention – Las Vegas](#)
- July 23-30 [Harmony University - Nashville](#)

Note: link not active as of 1 August

2016 International in Nashville was a transformative experience for me. Representing the District at the leadership events, competing in the Chorus Competition and seeing so many friends was like a fantasy camp. To contradict an old idiom: “*Barbershop supplies new tricks to dogs of all ages*”. You are never too young or too old to experience a new harmony and to serve our hobby in new ways. Look around and find your next Barbershop adventure. There is plenty to see and do.

Thank you for everything you do for your Chapter and the District.

In Harmony,



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

I'm just recently back from Nashville where I saw so many FWD friends among the 7000 or so people who attended the International Convention and Contest and who all had a terrific time. I never

forget the purpose of *convention* is to get a large group of people with the same "likes" together to mutually enjoy their shared common interest. I enjoy seeing the, literally, hundreds of people I have come to know over the 40 years I have been attending conventions.

The bonus of conventions is *contest*, and in Nashville we saw the best of the best. The competitions were very exciting and amazing performances were turned in by so many excellent competitors. My congrats to the incredible **Masters of Harmony** with a fantastic score of 94 points per judge and a third place bronze medal in a very tight contest. **Artistic License** broke into the top 10 and really gave the audience a sample of the new "Performance" judging category. Their contest sets were more like watching a Broadway play...very involved actors on stage... If this is what we're looking for in a visual performance, I'm going to enjoy this new category.

The **Newfangled Four** moved up to 11th in the quartet contest, and their mic-testing set was brilliant. They demonstrated their personality as well as excellent singing talent and not only did they develop 7000 new fans, but I'm sure they will get show bids... **Flightline** was second in the Young Men's Quartet contest and **American Pastime** was solid in the quartet semi-finals.

Although a new quartet champion was crowned, the "buzz" of the convention was the 2012 quartet champs, **Ringmasters**, from Sweden. As past champs, they sang at many functions including the AIC shows and universally, everyone agreed they are singing better today than even when they ran away with the quartet competition in 2012. I'm very excited to report that **Ringmasters** will be the featured quartet on **Sept 10 in Fresno**, and on **Sept 17 in Santa Barbara**. Yes, they are coming all the way from Sweden and every reader of this article should make it a point to come see them perform live. In Santa Barbara we're going to have a very special afterglow at a brand-new pizza parlor by the beach, and they'll be staying open until 2 AM for us... No security guys telling us to stop singing because of the other hotel

guests, and no paying jacked-up prices for hotel beer. Bring your quartets to perform at the Afterglow...

Details on tickets are elsewhere in this Westunes, or use the FWD directory to contact the Fresno and Rincon Beach chapters to get tickets...

The BHS did something unique at the convention. They invited residents of Middle Tennessee to come to the Saturday evening show of champions and then to stay for the quartet finals...for free! It was a brilliant move and although I don't have solid numbers, the arena was exceptionally full. They also invited **Deke Sharon**, vocal jazz star, honorary lifetime member of the Society and the father of the modern a cappella movement, to speak to the crowd and entertain a bit. He said to all the non-singers in the audience, that they should sing... He didn't promise they would be great at it to start but he made the analogy that no one can shoot a basket well at the start, either. There are muscles that need to be trained but if you get started, you'll get better and he's convinced that virtually everyone can sing. He wants to get all of America singing again, and has launched a national campaign. Just sing...join a community choir, or a church choir, certainly a barbershop group or a Gospel group, a Doo Wop group... Take voice lessons...just get singing, and he believes the world will be a better place.

Speaking for **Rincon Beach** chapter, we're going to start promoting that at all our shows. We're going to do community singing, and we're going to publish a list of all the community choirs and places to sing in our area. We're also going to publish a list of all the local voice teachers to make it easy for people to sing. I think it's a great idea. You can learn more about this "movement" from the BHS website.

I know, I know, it seems the year's barely started, but it's already time for chapters to be thinking about a slate of officers to run the chapter for 2017. The election of new officers is to be in October and in SW/SE Divisions we're going to have our Leadership Academy (combined with Harmony College West) in Anaheim on November 5. Look elsewhere in this

Westunes for more details, and your chapter leaders will be getting more info from the Division VPs, but every chapter should be sending their officers to get up-to-date training. Even if they've already done this job in the past, there are new success guidelines and fresh excitement to be delivered.

In our SW Division the **Ventura Channel Island Clippers** and **Conejo Valley Oaks** chapters have been rehearsing together and contemplating the idea of merging, probably under the direction of **Jim Browne**. Also **Mike McGee** is moving back to CA from FL and will be attempting to start a new chorus in Santa Barbara. He's a very energetic and talented director and we FWD leaders are very excited at this prospect.

I hope to see every one of you at the 70th Annual FWD Fall Convention and Contest in Riverside. **Rincon Beach, South Bay, Santa Monica, and Bakersfield** will be representing our Division in the chorus contest. October will be a beautiful time to be in Riverside, the theater is fantastic, and the convention hotels are nice and reasonably priced. Come see your friends and have a good time. We're so fortunate to have singing as our hobby.

If there are any issues you'd like to discuss or anything I can do to help you or your chapter, please don't hesitate to get in touch. My cell phone is 805-452-1393.



**District Vice President 2 SE**  
**Nick Papageorge**

What an exciting and outstanding Division we are! There have been so many activities happening over the summer, and many more are coming up in the next four months. I will be getting the information on these SouthEast shows, visitations, and schools to each Chapter through your Presidents.

This year's Leadership Academy will take place at Connelly High School in Anaheim on Saturday November 5. Each chapter needs to send their officers to the school so that they can learn what their job entails. *Also*, those in attendance will benefit from

roundtable discussions with other chapters' officers who share their job! It is an invaluable event for all chapter officers even if they have previously attended. If you can learn one new thing to help your chapter, it is worth the effort to attend!

As an added incentive, we are going to offer Harmony College West classes at the same event, so that chapter members can attend with their officers. The HCWest classes (to be determined and announced by DVP Music and Performance Craig Ewing) will be held concurrently with the leadership classes. (members can only enroll in Leadership Academy or HCWest).

Congratulations to **The Westminster Chorus**, and their director **Justin Miller** for their brilliant performance at International as outgoing Champions! They certainly let everyone know who won the contest – again! Look on the Society website to catch their performance.

Additional congratulations go out to all of our **International Competitors**, including **Artistic License** (9<sup>th</sup> Place), **New Fangled Four** (11<sup>th</sup> Place – I've been there twice in a row), and **American Pastime**. Also, in the Youth Quartet Contest, congratulations to **Flightline** for being awarded the Silver Medal, **Electones** (7<sup>th</sup> Place), and **Valliant!** And of course, congratulations go to our friends from the SouthWest Division, the **Masters of Harmony** (3<sup>rd</sup> place Bronze Medalists).

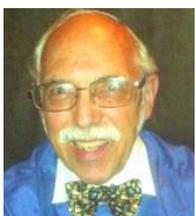
A great big thanks goes to the **Inland Sound Chorus** for helping the **Apple Valley Chorus** put on a show in August. The special guest quartet was **American Pastime**, fresh off of the International stage. If you attended, you know what a great time was had by each chorus!

Back in June it was my distinct pleasure to accompany the **Brea Chapter** for a visit to the **South County Chapter**. This was the second time these two chapters have had a visitation night. The combined choruses learned two new songs during a combined rehearsal with both directors (**Phil Ordaz**, Brea) and (**Dawn Castiglione**, South County). After the rehearsals, each chorus performed for the other and

culminated their riser performances with a combined performance on the two new songs! Chapter quartets also got into the action after the break. And of course, we ended up at South County's afterglow spot. It was a great time for both chapters. I hope that more of our SE Chapters participate in Chapter Visitation Nights. I remember when I directed the South Bay Chapter, we used to have *surprise* Chapter Visitation Nights! We arrived at the chapter meeting and got on a big bus. No one knew where we were going except for the two program VPs. They were always fun and successful. Furthermore, a visitation helps all chapter members get ready for the fun of a District or Division Contest – just like the one being held in a few weeks in **Riverside!!**)

I cannot express enough the importance of all SouthEast chapters supporting our upcoming District Contest and Convention. It is in our own backyard! The Brea Chapter has been working relentlessly to make this convention one of the best! It is, in fact, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the FWD Convention! Brea is coming up with some exciting events for us to make the experience more than just a contest! (P.S. make sure you get a 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary shirt) And be there to cheer on our SouthEast competitors. The SouthEast competing quartets are: **North of the Border, Go Fish, Four Fifteen, Behind the Barn, and Freemont Street Experience.** The choruses who are representing us are: **La Jolla, Las Vegas, Inland Empire, St. George, San Diego, and Fullerton.** Again, let's cheer them on in Riverside!

And absolutely the last thing. Congratulations to The 139<sup>th</sup> Street Quartet for celebrating its 40-year anniversary. They won the district in the fall of 1976. At that time they were representatives of our Division (when SouthEast and SouthWest were one division!) Unfortunately, we lost Jim Meehan. But congratulations to Doug Anderson, Pete Neushul, and Jimmy Kline!



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

No submittal.



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

Singing is Fun!  
Singing well is more Fun!!

Likely you have heard that phrase, probably more times than you can recall. Of course it is true, over the top true, and conveys more wisdom than just the recounting the words by themselves.

For example, does it look like the guys in Westminster are having fun? I don't know about you, but to me, those guys are "living the dream" and having the time of their lives. Singing well is Way More Fun!!

By the same token, I would like to introduce a new way of looking at that phrase, or stated more clearly, a new way of modifying that phrase:

Participating is fun! Participating in more District events is More fun!!

So many of us just want to sing. We go to chapter meetings for the joy of singing.

That's ok, of course. But are you "missing" anything? You bet you are!! There are more District events and things to do beyond a chapter rehearsal than you could possibly imagine.

We've all done our own chapter shows. They are a lot of work, and a lot of fun at the same time. But have you ever gone to a show put on by the chapter down the highway? Yes, I know, they don't sing all that well. We are all Very proud and protective of the fact that our chapter sings pretty darn well, and we're not very interested in going down the highway to watch and hear those "other guys" sing. But wait; they've got a great quartet on their show that I haven't seen in a while. That would be fun to see and hear. They've even got a great a capella group coming in as well that I've never seen or heard. Maybe I could go down the highway and take in one of their shows.

Hey! That was Fun! I even saw a couple of my buddies afterward and sang a couple of tags with them and their (director / new guys / old guys / etc). That sure was a great evening. I had a blast. I even told them and urged them to come over to our place and take in our next show, and you know what: they said they would!! Hey! I just sold a couple more tickets!! Wow!!

And that's just taking in a show or two down the highway. How about taking in Harmony College West next time around? It's going to be close by (Nov 19, in Sacramento), and not a plane ride away. Maybe I will do that. I just might learn something. I hear they are also going to combine Leadership Academy and Harmony College West at the same time. I Really might learn something; and I hear that guys also talk incessantly about their new friends!! Isn't that what they call networking?

Oh yea! The International Convention is going to be in Las Vegas next year (July, 2017). Hey, I just might make that a part of my plans for 2017. It sure has been a while since I've been to an International. Who are the quartets /choruses that are competing for top spot? Hey, I could check that out on the BHS website, couldn't I.

I think you get the point. "Participating" is not only Fun, it expands your barbershop horizons. It even makes singing in the chapter every Tuesday night more fun as well.

Now I sure seem to know a lot more of what is going on around the Society than most of the other guys. I even know about as much as our director. He's always going to events like those I mentioned. Why, he even went to that big week-long thing back in Nashville called Harmony University. You should have seen how fired up he was when he came back! That must have really been fun and worthwhile.

Maybe, just maybe, I will check out Harmony University myself. I hear it was really spectacular this year with Instant Classic doing all kinds of singing and teaching and just hanging out with the guys. And

wow! the number of young people was absolutely amazing! The Next Gen chorus just knocked the socks off of all the other choruses! And the other choruses, Men's Honors Chorus and Women's Honors Chorus were Really good as well. That was the tenth anniversary of the Men's Honors Chorus; and the very first year for the Women's Honors Chorus. And I hear that all the guys were just raving about the level of teaching.

Y'know, I think I just might add Harmony University to my plans for next summer as well. That just sounds like too much fun and enrichment to miss out on.

See you this fall in Riverside (District Convention)/ and even Harmony College West/Leadership Academy/and then next year at International in Las Vegas/and even Harmony University!!! WOW!!



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

Now that the Division Contest and Quartet Prelims cycles have finished, it's time to recognize the remarkable job that the men of the Arizona Division have done.

This year the FWD was again represented well at the BHD International Convention and Contest. Congrats to Artistic License for their top 10 performance. Also, The Newfangled Four was spectacular as the finals contest Mic Testers and American Pastime for their memorable performance. I think the Youth Quartet Contest, Flightline did a fine job garnering a Silver Medal. In the Chorus contest, The Masters of Harmony did a wonderful job finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in a very competitive contest and they were joined on the risers by AZ Div members R.J. Esquivias, Jeromy McMahon, and Justin Klemballa. Congrats on your commitment and making memories for life. The Westminster Chorus was also spectacular in their outgoing champ's performance. Congratulations to all!

As we move forward to Fall and the FWD Convention and Contests, please ensure that each chapter is represented at the House Of Delegates meeting on Friday.

The **AZ Fred Koch Memorial BASH** is coming Aug 19-20 to be held at a new location. It is time to make this event the kickoff to Fall and we invite everyone to come to AZ and enjoy the brotherhood of barbershop!

The season for Chapter elections of officers is fast approaching. Now is the time to get your nominating committee in place. We will be having our Leadership Academy on Jan 14 in Mesa, more info to follow. Please have all of your officers attend this important learning event, as there is always something new to learn.

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! Simply ask, “where do you do your singing”? You will be surprised.

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



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

I've just returned from a **great** Harmony University week! It just gets better and better. Everything about the event at our now 3-year-old “digs” (Belmont University in Nashville) continues to be top notch. Read more about it in the Live Wire and upcoming Harmonizer. (You should really try to go next year!)

The Fall Convention in Riverside is just around the corner. Register on the FWD website for your tickets. Hurry up, the deadline for early bird pricing is coming up soon. Go for the convention, the competition, the Platoon, the classes, the singing in the lobby, and watch the best in our District sing for us.

Here is the draw for the Fall Chorus and Quartet contests. See the FWD website for the contest flow times.

**Quartets**

- 01 - Four Fifteen
- 02 - Front Line
- 03 - Intonation
- 04 - Batteries Not Included
- 05 - Fat City Four
- 06 - Fremont Street Experience
- 07 - Miles Ahead
- 08 - Heatwave
- 09 - West Coast Ringers
- 10 - Artful Codgers
- 11 - Some Friends Of Mine
- 12 - West Coast Sound
- 13 - Quadratic Audio
- 14 - Suit Up
- 15 - Go Fish
- 16 - Antique Parts
- 17 - Dynamix
- 18 - Mountain Sound
- 19 - Game On
- 20 - The Velvet Frogs
- 21 - Seaside
- 22 - 19th Avenue (Aloha)
- 23 - H. I. C. K. S.
- 24 - North Of The Border
- 25 - Spellbound
- 26 - Behind The Barn
- 27 - Just 4 Kix
- 28 - Don't Tell Mom
- 29 - Whoop Em Up
- 30 - Hot Spot

**Choruses**

- 01 - South Bay
- 02 - Marin
- 03 - Placerville
- 04 - Palo Alto Mountain View
- 05 - San Diego
- 06 - Bakersfield
- 07 - Aloha
- 08 - St George
- 09 - Rincon Beach
- 10 - Fullerton
- 11 - Inland Empire
- 12 - Whittier / San Francisco
- 13 - Santa Monica
- 14 - Salt River Valley
- 15 - Las Vegas
- 16 - Greater Phoenix
- 17 - La Jolla
- 18 - Bay Area
- 19 - California Delta
- 20 - Santa Fe Springs

See you there!



***District Vice President Mu&Perf  
Craig Ewing***

I am excited to say that we will have three 1-day Harmony College West events. Still combining with the Leadership Academy, we will have one in NorCal, one in SoCal and one in AZ.

I'm sure your division VPs have shared dates and locations in their articles. I am hoping to have designated “TAG ZONES” at our HCW events with a tagmaster on hand to teach tags as an additional fun activity.

I would appreciate input on what HCW courses would attract you. Vocal training, quartet coaching, and directing courses have been popular in the past. Is there a topic that you would love to participate in? How about a class learning about how to judge and

getting to practice score the way the experts do ? Would you like to learn more about creating an audience-pleasing performance by your quartet or chorus. Are you wanting to know the difference between the “old” Presentation (PRS) category and the “new” Performance (PER) category ? What would motivate you to spend a day (and a few bucks) to learn more about the wonders of barbershopping ?

From the performance part of my job: Are you preserving, encouraging, and participating? May I suggest your chorus either visit or invite another chapter to visit you. These are always a re-energizer for both chorus and quartet singers.

Also, chapter night is always enhanced by a guest quartet. If you are in a quartet, make the offer to a local chapter. Choruses, call quartet contacts and invite them – if you don’t ask, you don’t get. I have been blessed to sing with entertaining quartets in my 40+ years in the hobby – I have gotten more requests to sing at installation banquets than at regular chapter meeting nights. There are a gaggle of quartets out there that want a performance opportunity that would entertain your chapter !

As always, feel free to contact me at [CEsing10r@gmail.com](mailto:CEsing10r@gmail.com) or at 714-356-8501 if you have questions about the FWD and BHS programs waiting to assist you. Get out and perform – share our music.

Thanks – Craig



**Chapter Support & Leadership  
Training  
Steve Salmon**

No article submitted



**Chorus Director Development  
Royce Ferguson**

Hello again, FWD!

I look forward to seeing you all very soon as we celebrate our beloved Far Western District’s 70th Anniversary this coming October 13 – 16! Our convention will be ably hosted by the Brea Chapter with show events to be held at the beautiful and historic Fox Performing Arts Center in Riverside, CA. This popular Fall event will certainly be one of our very best. Be sure to check out our fabulous new FWD website for all the convention and registration details: <http://farwesternndistrict.org>. See you there and let’s ring some harmonies!

We have much to celebrate this year as we continue to strengthen and enliven musical, educational, and social activities within our FWD chapters. Educational goals for the coming months include enhanced regional outreach and we’re ready to assist as your chapter leadership strives to develop the best possible experience for you, visiting guests, and your valued patrons. Stay tuned and remember to sign up early for these exciting educational offerings so we can continue to provide the very best training events.

Speaking of training, some music directors might not be aware of the excellent learning materials that our Society offers for **FREE** to explore, view, and download:

***Check out the Director Education section of the Society’s website:***

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

Be sure to download one of my favorite directing resources: ***Directing a Barbershop Chorus – Methods, Techniques, and Philosophies***. This PDF document includes fabulous information from ***Dr. Greg Lyne, Bill Ashleigh***, and others, that can be utilized on a weekly basis to improve and refine chapter communication, directing leadership, and musicianship.

On the website, you can also find video links with Pole Cat directing examples from **Adam Scott, James Estes, Mike O’Neil, and Rick Spencer**. There is also information on directing patterns as well as links to the **BHS YouTube channel** where you can view physical/vocal warm-ups from current and past Harmony University sessions. I’d start with the **2016 HU General Session Series** playlist – informative and fun techniques you can use *this week* with *your chapter*!

In previous Westunes articles, we’ve addressed proven leadership principles that are essential for effective rehearsals and performances. These core principles include:

- 1) **Stay Centered, with a Lifted Countenance while you direct.** (*Calm, central focus*)
- 2) **Utilize Team Building Language.** (*Shared responsibility for musical excellence*)
- 3) **Break Things Down.** (*Simplify and build upon small successes*)
- 4) **Build Upon What is Right.** (*Catch singers being good with earned and specific rewards*)
- 5) **Achieve Ahhh!(s), aHa!(s), and Haha!(s) for every event.** (*Beauty, discovery, and fun*)

Beyond these principles, we’ve also discussed how important it is to continually **simplify and focus** Director – Chorus communication; how to avoid the traps of past **group successes/failures**; and approaches to align your singers with an exciting **vision of the future** while also enjoying the journey.

“Remember, during the learning process, all of us are best at thinking of **one** concise concept at a time.”

If you’ve come this far, perhaps you’ll continue reading along with me a little more...

**Robert Shaw** – This past April, in celebration of the legendary Robert Shaw’s 100th Anniversary, the **Carnegie Hall YouTube channel** released a series of video clips of **Preparing a Masterpiece** – the Robert Shaw Choral Workshops. (*See if you can spot former Society staffer Bill Rashleigh in Vol.1 – Part 1: Brahms “A German Requiem”*).

*With over 12+ hours of in-depth video of warm-ups, rehearsals, and performances, these sessions offer an incredible glimpse into Robert Shaw’s self-made genius. (I’ve already made **pages** of notes from these sessions. Phenomenal rehearsal and performance principles!)*

So what made Robert Shaw such a masterful technician in his choir preparation?

In 1938, shortly after his graduation from Pomona College, **Robert Shaw** was hired by **Fred Waring**, the bandleader and radio-television personality known as, “America’s Singing Master”. Many of you may recall Fred Waring’s “**Tone Syllables**” handbook – a wonderful system of techniques for clarity of word enunciation. Shaw also shared and refined this notion of utilizing component elements in order to develop clarity of tone, rhythm, and intonation, prior to introducing the challenges of textual nuance and broader dynamics.

***During these Robert Shaw choral workshop sessions one may immediately notice the process of segmentation of skills into distinct component parts.***

“The choir singer, shouldn’t be asked to handle all of music’s facets at once – all of their responsibilities or all of their devices – that is to say we try to take out all matters of textual management/discipline, and also all disciplinary factors of dynamics, so that one is singing substantially within a piano to double-piano range. One is sort of counting the notes or singing them with nonsense syllables rather than singing with text. ***I find that if we can use these sorts of musical disciplines rather than textual disciplines from the beginning, we can get a cleaner product and one which is more refined musically.***”

What a wonderful way to build success in our chapters! How might one simplify and isolate core principles for our choruses/quartets? What kind of exercises might one be able to invent to encourage more fun and success in your chapter’s singing? Give it a try, and remember, lots of tries help us harmonize!

**Focus Principles – Simplify Delivery – Enjoy the Success!**



**Events**  
**Bryan Forbes**

No article submitted

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

- Northeast - open
- Northwest - open
- Southeast - Paul Sandorf
- Southwest - open
- Arizona - Randy Bingle



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

You won't want to miss the fun, fellowship and great harmony in the **70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** Far Western District Convention and Contest on Oct. 13-16 in Riverside, CA.

The contest will include 25 qualifying and wildcard quartets, a Seniors Contest with 5 qualifiers, and 25 qualifying and wild-card choruses competing for District honors and, for choruses, the right to go on to next summer's International contest in Las Vegas.

The exciting program will include the District Quartet Contest, Chorus Contest, the Show of Champions, the annual AFWDC Late Show, Harmony Platoon, AHSOW, Ladies Hospitality, Past President's Meeting, Hall of Fame Lunch, House of Delegates meeting, Board of Directors meeting, Afterglow and AFWDC Breakfast. See the full schedule on the District Website.

Get the best available seating in the Fox Performing Arts Center and the best price for the convention and contest by registering on the website by Sept.13 to get the Early Bird Rate of \$50 for adults and \$25 for students (under 26). From Sept.14-Oct. 10 when on-line registration closes, the rate will be \$65 and \$32.50. On-site registration during Oct. 13-16 will be \$70 and \$35. All **contestants must buy an All-Events Registration for the applicable age group.**

We now have the ability to select seating as we register for the convention and the center-section, up-front seating is going fast. After registering be sure to **save the Voucher** that you will receive and bring it to the convention registration table to retrieve a convention badge. The Voucher alone will not provide access to the theater.

If you have registered but have not received an e-mail containing your voucher(s) go to the registration page on the website and click on Help and then on Where Are My Vouchers.

**Single-event tickets** for non-competitors will be available on site at \$30 for adults and \$15 for students. Non-member children (under 13) will be admitted free to all events.

For information on hotels, the Riverside Fox Theater contest venue and other important details on the convention see the Far Western District website.

For those who can't attend the contest, a **Webcast** will be available with live streaming and it will be repeated during the following week. The replay will be useful for contestants who want to see themselves and other competitors after they return home. Watch for the monthly FWD Westags publication for more information.



**Membership**  
**Bill Rosica**

After many years of seeing Membership Programs come and go, I decided to take a closer look using my years on the District Board and my experiences with my SW Division Chapters. It seems that the Programs coming out of Kenosha and later Nashville required many steps, reports and effort to make them produce. This in itself, isn't bad, but for small chapters who are struggling, it is very frustrating. It seems that the required program elements were geared more for larger chapters with plenty of men to help. Smaller chapters don't have that luxury.

So as I planned last year's Membership class in Las Vegas, I decided to ask the attending chapter members to help out by designing a new program that would be easy to run yet effective. I asked them to keep it simple with the idea of each man in the chapter having a key role.

We came up with "Each One Bring One" as our motto. This could be used by chapters small and large with each man being challenged to bring in one new member during the next year. Chapters could roll out the program anytime during the year. Prizes or incentives could be added for additional motivation. One suggestion was for the Chapter to buy the member with the most new recruits a registration to the Spring or Fall Convention.

At the wrap-up meeting in Las Vegas, the Tucson Chapter had a change for our motto which was gladly incorporated. Our motto became, "Each One, Bring One, WE WON".

Bringing in new members is certainly a lofty goal, but once they have their certificates we must make sure our retention program is well oiled. So many times new members are overwhelmed with information. Contests alone can be very confusing. We tend to figure once they're in, they're in, but that's the time when we really need to work on our membership skills. I make it a priority to stay close to new members in my chapter by making time for them each week at break. I try to find out what they like and dislike about being a new member and how I can help them find their way through the maze of activities we seem to have. I assume they know nothing about the Society, District and Chapter activities. Believe me, it really helps to tear yourself away from singing tags or talking to your friends to keep the new member connected.

I was scheduled to bring a lot of this information to the Leadership Forum in Nashville last week, but Southwest Airlines had a computer glitch which canceled my flight and ultimately my trip. So maybe next year we'll try again. In the meantime, if you are interested in knowing more, please feel free to call me at (661) 703-9000, and let's discuss your Chapter needs.



### **Quartet Activities Bill Kane**

Have you sung in a quartet since we last talked?

I sure do hope so, cause if not you are missing a lot of the fun that barbershop has to offer.

Sure, your chapter meeting may spend most of its time as a chorus rehearsal, as many do. But most chapters have a break and most guys arrive at least a little before the meeting and stay at least a little after. . .and many go to an afterglow. You could sing a tag, or a PoleCat song, with three other guys. You'll be glad you did.

Want to get a little more into it?

Your chorus director would love to hear of your interest in quarteting. The more quartet singers in a chorus, the better the chorus. He would love to help you get started. If you try and get no results, contact me and we'll "make it happen".

There are Novice Quartet Contests every year in all areas of FWD. You could put together a combo and enter.

Need more experience before doing that? We have a Harmony Platoon at each Spring and Fall FWD Convention where you will get hours and hours of quartet singing. It is too late to sign up for the Platoon this Fall, but let me know of your interest and we'll make sure you get signed up for next Spring. Or maybe you'd like to attend the one at Midwinter Convention in San Antonio next January. Registration for that will be available very soon.

You might wind up in the championship quartet at a future Platoon, just like these guys did this summer in Nashville at the International Convention.



***2016 Nashville International  
Harmony Platoon Champions***

**2016 Nashville International Harmony Platoon Champion, Dubiosity, who sang I've Got the World on a String. Tenor Russ Pascoe (Sunrise, FL, THX), bass Rich Tassone (Dallas, Vocal Majority), lead Doug Hutson, baritone Mike Hatch (both from Bellevue, WA, Northwest Sound).**

Sooooooo, don't just wait and wish, get started singing in a quartet. You deserve it.

***Youth In Harmony***



***District Historian  
Joe Samora***

***“Keep America Singing”***

Willis A. Diekema (1892-1988) wrote the words and the music for “Keep America Singing” a year after the Far

Western District was officially organized. He was serving his second year on the International Board of Song Arrangements Committee. Diekema had been President of DePree Chemical Company when he formed the Holland (Michigan) Windmill Chapter in 1945.



The society theme song was introduced during the Milwaukee convention. It was sung in the quartet finals on June 14, 1947.

Frank Thorne and Willis Diekema, simultaneously composed “Keep America Singing” which were different songs bearing the same name. Years later, “it was discovered at our international headquarters that three other arrangements with the same name were in the archives by other composers”.

The song title was changed to “Keep the Whole World Singing” in 1991. Barbershop singing was done at vaudeville performances between 1870-1930 in the United States. Today, Barbershop singing is performed in Australia, China, Finland, Great Britain, Ireland, Japan, Netherlands, Germany, New Zealand, Russia, Spain, South Africa, and Sweden.

According to the Holland Sentinel, Diekema was inducted into the Barbershop Hall of Fame in 2010 for encouraging barbershop singing nationally in the 1940s and 1950s.

*(Sources: [www.Hollandwindmillchorus.org/about/history](http://www.Hollandwindmillchorus.org/about/history), [www.pioneerdistrict.org/history](http://www.pioneerdistrict.org/history), [www.hollandsentinel.com/article](http://www.hollandsentinel.com/article), The Harmonizer 1947*



**Division 1 SW Chapters**  
**Justin McQueen, Editor**

**Conejo Valley Harmony Oaks Chapter**  
by Juan Bowen

The Conejo Valley Harmony Oaks Chorus, based in Newbury Park, recently celebrated our 50th year as a Barbershop Society Chapter. Our chorus is committed to continue our history of community performances and support. Due to the loss of our director, we began combining rehearsals with the members of the Channel Island Clippers, under the able direction of **Jim Browne**.

Our combined choruses are looking forward to the following events: 1) A short program at the Camarillo Community Center in August 2) A variety show to benefit the choral music program at Sequoia Middle School in Newbury Park 3) A full program at the Camarillo Library on September 25.

We are thrilled with the sound our combined choruses create and love experiencing how great it is to be a barbershopper!

**Central Coast Chordsmen of Santa Maria, CA.**

We are sad to report the passing of member **Mike Bebee**. His humor, stories, singing and dedication will be missed. We also want to report the passing of a long-time former member, **Paul VanAlstine**. Paul had moved to Nevada and had been an avid quarteter and served as the Chorus director for several years.

Welcome to returning former members **Carl Zink** and **Rod Pope**. Welcome to **Margaret Nelson** as our new Assistant Director. Welcome back former director **Bob McGee**.

The chapter is preparing to perform their Sweets and Old Songs Show, Sept 11. Check our website for details - [centralcoastchordsmen.org](http://centralcoastchordsmen.org)

**Rincon Beach Chapter**  
by Justin McQueen

The **Rincon Beach Chapter** performed for the good people at Leisure Village in Camarillo with **Priority Male**, and at the Pacific View Mall to promote our upcoming show.

We have been planning and preparing for our upcoming Seaside Rendezvous Barbershop Show of Champions Extravaganza on Sept 17 at the Marjorie Luke Theatre in Santa Barbara. The show will be headlined by the **Ringmasters** and will also include **Cest La Vie** and the **Carpe Diem Ladies Chorus** with an appearance from **Cachet!**

After the performances are done, we go into full contest mode for the FWD Fall Chorus Final Contest in Riverside under the direction of **Kelly Shepard** and choreo by **Steve Katz**.

**Santa Monica Oceanaires**  
by Marty Mitnick

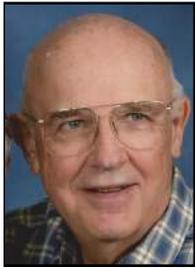
We are fortunate to have **William “Ben” Lowe** as our Director. Ben received his Masters Degree in Music/Opera from UCLA in June and is currently attending The Music Academy of the West in Santa Barbara. While Ben is away, the **Oceanaires** are being directed by **Laura Pallas**.

A long-time member, **Vance Heron** has been coaching Barbershopper students at Palisades High School. This led to Palisades High student **Andrew Lehto** to become an **Oceanaire**. Andrew is extremely talented as a singer but is also a music director.

For the fourth year in a row, the **Oceanaires** were invited by The Stubhub Center in Carson, home of the Galaxy Soccer Team, to sing our National Anthem. It is very exciting to sing before a crowd of 40,000+ soccer fans.

**Overland Avenue** [**Bob Curran, Jack Walton, Frank Giffen, John White**] was invited to perform at

the “90-year celebration”, sponsored by **Stanley Brosman**, M.D.



**Division 2 SE Chapters**  
**Greg Price, Editor**

**Inland Empire Chapter**  
By Gaylord Spence

The **Inland Empire Chapter** sent our Chorus Director, **Carl Buntin**, to Harmony University in Nashville. With the funds available from the FWD, he was given a scholarship for the week’s attendance fees as well as help with a major portion of his airfare. We will be grateful recipients of Carl's growth in his already capable directing communication skills.

We expanded our summertime concert/show schedule. In keeping with our commitment to music outreach within the communities that we serve. We assisted the Apple Valley Chapter with their August show, as well as hosting a free concert for the residents of the Hillcrest Retirement Community in La Verne.

**Orange Quartet Chapter**  
By Mark Sheldon

The Chapter welcomes members **Irv Engel** (dual member with South Orange County) and **Marshall Goldman** (dual member with South Orange County and Laguna Hills).

On July 25 the Orange Chapter hosted a Quartet Comedy Presentation Workshop, led by **Steve Katz** who has graciously served as Presentation Judge for recent SoCal Comedy (and Novice) Quartet Contests.

**San Diego Chapter**  
By Greg Price

This quarter has been one of learning and polishing new music for the **Sun Harbor Chorus** thanks in great part to the skill and encouragement of our director, **Kathleen Hansen**. By the time this is

published, we will have held our reunion on August 13, celebrating the chapter's 70th anniversary. Led by district EVP **Craig Hughes**, a lot of work has gone into locating former members and we are looking forward to renewing old acquaintances. September brings our mid-year show and in October the chorus will be competing at the district contest in Riverside.

Chapter President **Louis Regas** shared his experiences at this year's Harmony University in Nashville.



**Division 3 NW Chapters**  
**Charles Feltman, Editor**

No submittal.



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

**California Delta Chapter**  
By Jim DeChaine

**Artistic License** represented the Far Western District well at the BHS International Convention in July by placing 9<sup>th</sup> with a score of 86.7 (their highest score ever).

**VoCal** had three more guest nights in June, with a total of 44 guest visitors, and expect 9 to become chapter members

Our newest member **Dwayne Smith** brings an extensive musical background in vocal and instrument music. He resides in Antelope and works for the Placer County Sheriff’s Department. He is skilled at audio and video recording/editing, and sound reinforcement.

Our two-performance Spring show featured **Realtime (2005 International Champs)** and **Flightline (2015 Far Western District Champs)**.

Our annual retreat special guest was **Joe Cerutti**, Musical Director of the **Alexandria Harmonizers**.

One of his favorite motivating messages was “Suck it up Princess.”

VoCal participated again this year with the May 3 National “**Big Day of Giving**” program. It was a huge money-raising program that benefited numerous performance arts programs in the greater Sacramento Area, and VoCal benefited greatly from donations by generous donors on that date.

Our chapter participated again in the annual Sac Sings Festival in downtown Sacramento in April.

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

### **Central California Chapter** by Miles Sutter

Thanks to chairman **Mark Jantzen** for putting this event together! The festivities started off with a male quartet from Valley Charter School, followed in the afternoon by two quartets [one male, one female] from Oakdale High School and Milpitas High School. **Howard Barber** led a sing-along; **Steve Leipelt** entertained with three banjo selections; and **Howard** and **Betty Barber** entertained the audience. Under the direction of **Bruce Sellnow**, the **GVC** sang three sets. Between sets, quartets performed. **Alexie, Scott Hutchinson, Greg DeMers,** and **Pete Sust** assisted with the serving of ice cream. **Betty Barber** and **Linda Sust** greeted people and handled ticket sales.

Thirty Model A Clubs were represented at the Double Tree Hotel on Memorial Day weekend. Together with the Modesto-based color guard United States Naval Sea Cadet Corps presenting our flag, the **GVC** sang the National Anthem. Besides the National Anthem we sang *This is My Country*, with voice over by **Chuck Roots**, and Armed Forces Medley, with the usual audience participation.

The **Diablo Vista Chorus** celebrated their 60th anniversary in Walnut Creek with their annual ice cream social to raise funds for their youth programs. The **DVC** started the program with a few selections, followed by **Voices In Harmony**. **Ladies First Girls**

**Choir** was as spectacular as usual. Then two quartets performed, one from **VIH** and one was **Velocity**, with our director **Bruce Sellnow**. The **GVC** concluded with two songs.

The **GVC** performed for the residents of Samaritan Village. A **GVC** quartet [**DAVE WALLACE, BRUCE SELLNOW, MIKE VISS, CHUCK ROOTS**] sang “Let Me Call You Sweetheart”, and each one demonstrated their individual part. **HOWARD BARBER** led a sing-along, and our MC was **CHUCK ROOTS**.

### **Folsom Chapter** by Dennis Stohl

The **Folsom Harmony Express** once again performed at the Sylvan Cemetery in Citrus Heights on May 30, Memorial Day. We sang our patriotic repertoire, which was greatly appreciated by the attending veterans and others in the audience. We had 16 members in attendance.

### **Nevada Placer Chapter** by Roger Perkins

Our 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Somewhat Serious Quartet Contest and Bean Feed took place on June 14. We had to change venues and rented the Mt. Vernon Grange Hall in North Auburn, which worked out quite well. We had the best attendance [96] in several years. **Tony Prowense** was the event chairman. We once again served beans and hot dogs with a variety of drinks (hard and soft). Twenty-two quartets signed up for the contest and the judges were members of **BBLT** quartet (**Roger Perkins, Kent Borrowdale, Ken Potter, Stan Trumbull**). The quartet that took home the gold medals was **FLOSS!** (**James Richie, Robert Lenoil, Ron Black, Derick Sturke**). In second place was **Resurgence** (**Tim Martin, Nick Nero, Chris McCuddy, Richard Lund**). Third place was taken by **A Little Knight Music** (**Keith Slater, Corley Phillips, Steve Taylor, Larry Womac**).

**Reno Chapter**  
by Steve Shurtliff

*Take me out to the ball game,  
take me out to the crowd.....*

We very much enjoy our relationship with the Reno Aces, the AAA ball club that was formed here a few years ago as the AAA farm club for the Arizona Diamondbacks. For the last couple of months, once a month they have sold us a block of tickets at a discount, which we then sell or pass on to family and friends. We sing the National Anthem (and no one does it better), then join our family and friends for an evening at the ball game. It's a win-win situation for everyone.

We heartily welcome long-time Barbershopper and Brigader **Scott Olson** to our Chorus!



**Division 5 AZ Chapters**  
**Bob Shaffer, Editor**

**Central Arizona (Quartet) Chapter**  
by Bill Kane

After a summer vacation hiatus, the **Platoon Chorus** will begin meeting in the fall for the purpose of rehearsing Harmony Platoon songs. New on their list will be those for the fall FWD convention Platoon in Riverside: *Alexanders Ragtime Band*, *Red Rose Rag*, *Hey Good Lookin'* and *I Told Them All About You Medley*. These same songs may also be done at the 2017 AZ Division Platoon next April. Dozens of other Platoon songs are also sung at the meetings, from past conventions that members have attended.

Since members come from as far away as Tucson and Flagstaff, the chapter meets on Saturdays and varies meetings between Scottsdale and Casa Grande. Contact President **Bill Kane** for date and location of the next meeting:  
[billkanevip@msn.com](mailto:billkanevip@msn.com) or [480-518-6474](tel:480-518-6474).

**Mesa Chapter**  
by Collin McKinney

The Harmonizers made their return to the contest stage in April at the AZ Division Convention. Although they sang for evaluation only, the chorus was informed that it could have qualified to go to the FWD Chorus Contest in the Fall.

The chapter welcomes new members Ty Tirone and Ed Alc. Also transferring into the chapter are Bruce Klein, Gene Burns, and Dick Stein.

Quadratic Audio, the current AZ Division Novice Quartet champs, made an appearance on Mesa Morning Live, the local cable show for the Mesa Chamber of Commerce. You can view the show here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JefzksFhPE4> (the quartet first appears at the 1:30 mark).

The Harmonizers VLQ performed for a group of public transportation professionals. Thanks to Roy Murray for using his connections with Valley Metro.

John Bloomquist was in Nashville for the International Convention, and competed with his chorus from back home, The Great Lakes Chorus of Grand Rapids, MI.

**Prescott Chapter**  
by Sam Stimple

Prescott's quartets, Mountain Sound and Antique Parts, earned invites to compete in the fall FWD Seniors quartet contest in October. This is the first time Prescott quartets have qualified, and they plan to sing in Riverside! The High Mountain Chordsmen chorus decided to sit out because we have a new director, Ed Roush.

Antique Parts quartet was awarded the 2016 Arizona Division Seniors Quartet Championship and was named FWD Super Seniors Champions. The quartet shared barbershop harmony with Prescott's two middle school choir classes, complete with teaching tags, telling jokes, and singing a variety of songs.

The chorus sings out at least monthly. Recent venues include Northridge Mobile Home Park, United Methodist Church, and a patriotic cameo appearance for honoring, remembering, and recognizing armed service men and women of Yavapai County who gave their lives so we can enjoy living freely in the United States of America.

### **Salt River Valley Chapter**

by Eric Bjornsen



The A Cappella Syndicate was officially chartered as the *Salt River Valley* Chapter and celebrated their first anniversary as an organization in May. The initial group of 12 owners has swelled to 20, and 2-3 prospective owners are on the horizon. The group strives for musical and personal development, and gratefully acknowledges coaches Theresa Weatherbee and Debra Lynn.

In its first competition in April 2016, the Syndicate won the Arizona Division Contest and is ranked fourth going into the Fall District competition. Two Syndicate quartets, Whoop ‘em Up and Heat Wave, qualified for the District contest.

The Syndicate appeared in a 60-minute film (*PLAY – The Documentary*) on the importance of music in our schools; the film debuted in theaters in May 2016.

Syndicate musical leadership continues to be in demand by the Society; Artistic Directors Gary Steinkamp and Brent Graham recently recertified as

BHS judges, and Gary was again on staff at the BHS Harmony University in Nashville, TN.

### **Sedona Chapter**

by Michael McCaffrey

*“Take a music bath once or twice a week for a few seasons. You will find it is to the soul what a water bath is to the body.” ~Oliver Wendell Holmes*

Besides our weekly practice musical baths we also served up the following specialized concerts:

- ¥ Cottonwood Village Assisted Living Facility, where we received high praise from one of the residents- “I was a professor of music at New York University for 35 years, studied under some great musicians, and this concert was the ‘most musical concert’ I’ve heard since I moved to Arizona”
- ¥ Mountain View Preparatory - A wonderful performance for ~100 students, a very well behaved student body
- ¥ Sedona Methodist Church, United Methodist Women Luncheon
- ¥ Our monthly mini concert attracted an audience of 30 family and friends. These free concerts are presented as a way to promote our presence in the community.

We welcome back former chorus member, Craig Hartley, and thank him for singing tenor.

We invite anyone visiting the Sedona area to stop by our weekly practice for a little woodshedding and camaraderie: Wednesdays, 6:00-8:00, Church of the Red Rocks, 54 Bowstring Dr., Sedona.

### **Sun Cities Chapter**

by Bill Shaw

The DesertAires competed in the Arizona Division Contest in April and were very proud to win 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Plateau A. In June we performed at the Montecito Independent Living Facility and for the Sun City West Homeowners Annual Meeting.



As a retirement chorus in Arizona, we lose half of our members in the summer. We stay in touch with our snowbirds through our chapter website and know that they will be up to speed on new music when they return. We are also working toward our second Annual Holiday Show with the Westwind Harmony Sweet Adeline Chorus.

The DesertAires wish good luck to all of the Far Western District competitors in Riverside.

### **White Mountains Chapter**

by Don Murrow

The High Country Barbershop Chorus had our very successful Annual Summer Show. Special guest performers were High Priority, International Senior Quartet champions from Phoenix.

## Notices

### Calendar

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

### Conventions / Contests

## HEAR YE - HEAR YE - HEAR YE

ALL MEMBERS  
NOW REGISTER ELECTRONICALLY  
IN ADVANCE FOR  
ALL FWD CONTESTS and CONVENTIONS

You can pay at the door, but there is a steep price increase - not suggested.

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

For your planning purposes, remaining **2016** dates are:

- October 13-16 [Fall FWD District Convention](#)  
Location: Riverside, CA
- November 5 [SoCal Leadership Academy](#)  
Location: Connelly High School,  
2323 West Broadway, Anaheim, CA
- November 19 [NorCal Leadership Academy](#)  
Location: St. Marks United Methodist Church,  
2391 St. Marks Way, Sacramento, CA

**2017** dates are:

- January 14 [Arizona Leadership Academy](#)  
Location: St. Mark's Episcopal Church  
322 N Horne Ave, Mesa, AZ
- January 17-22 [BHS Midwinter Convention – San Antonio](#)
- March 9-12 [FWD Spring Convention & NE/NW Division Contest](#)  
Location: McClellan Conference Center  
McClellan Park, Sacramento, CA  
Same locations as 2014

- April 21-22 [AZ Division Contest](#)
- May 12-13 [SE/SW Division Contest](#)
- July 2-8 [BHS International Convention – Las Vegas](#)
- July 23-30 [Harmony University - Nashville](#)  
Note: link not active as of 1 August
- October 19-22, Fall Convention  
Location: Bakersfield, CA

### To Email Your District Officers & Chairmen

[president@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:president@farwesterndistrict.org)  
[pastpresident@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:pastpresident@farwesterndistrict.org)  
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[webmaster@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:webmaster@farwesterndistrict.org)  
[westuneseditor@farwesterndistrict.org](mailto:westuneseditor@farwesterndistrict.org)

**A PATRIOTIC APPEAL**

All profit from this show will help send our Greatest Heroes, the surviving veterans of WWII, to the Washington DC Memorial, where they can experience first-hand the gratitude of nations. The Fresno chapter asks you to help support the Central Valley Honor Flight. Better still, buy tickets for your favorite veterans so they can enjoy this show in their honor!

GNC A CAPPELLA PRESENTS ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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