



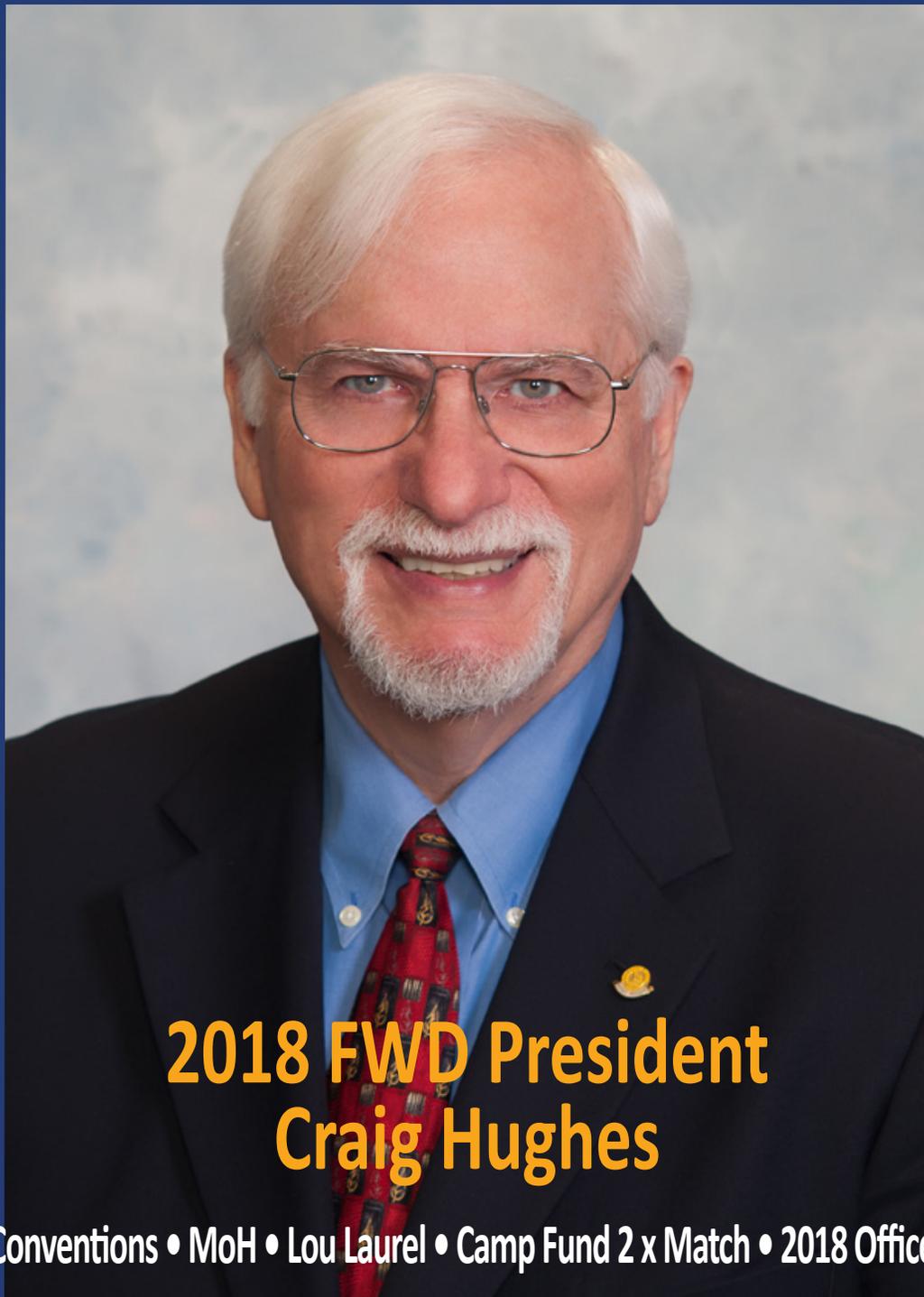
Westunes Vol. 68 No. 1

Spring 2018



WESTUNES

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



2018 FWD President Craig Hughes

INSIDE: Conventions • MoH • Lou Laurel • Camp Fund 2 x Match • 2018 Officer Reports



WESTUNES

Ray S. Rhymer, Editor • Now in his 17th year

EDITORIAL STAFF

Editor in Chief

Ray S. Rhymer

westuneseditor@farwesterndistrict.org

Marketing & Advertising

David Melville

marketing@farwesterndistrict.org

Westags Newsletter

Jerry McElfresh

westags@farwesterndistrict.org

Arizona Division Editor

Bob Shaffer

editor-az@farwesterndistrict.org

Northeast Division Editor

Roger Perkins

editor-ne@farwesterndistrict.org

Northwest Division Editor

Don Shively

editor-nw@farwesterndistrict.org

Southeast Division Editor

Greg Price

editor-se@farwesterndistrict.org

Southwest Division Editor

Justin McQueen

editor-sw@farwesterndistrict.org

Westunes Vol. 68 No. 1

Features

Spring 2018

3

2018 Spring Convention

International Quartet Preliminary Contest, Southeast & Southwest Division Quartet and Chorus Contests, and the FWD High School Quartet Contest.

4

2018 Arizona Division Convention

Celebrating the 75th year of Barbershop in Mesa, AZ with Harmony Platoon, AZ Division Quartet and Chorus & Harmony Inc. Chorus Contests & AFTERGLOW.

5

2018 NE & NW Division Convention

Northeast and Northwest Division Quartet and Chorus Contests in Brentwood, CA, a new location.

6

2017 Int'l Champion Masters of Harmony

A Masters of Harmony update after winning their first gold medal in San Francisco in 1990 and their ninth in Las Vegas in 2017 ...

8

Remembering Lou Laurel

A Past International President and Director of two different International Champion chapters is remembered by Don Richardson.

9

2018 Harmony Camp

Hamony Camp will be held again in Sly Park, CA with Artistic License and Capitol Ring assisting. Tell the young men in your area about it.

10

Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund

A major donor stepped up to "double" match contributions in 2018.

23

Marketing Wisely on a Shoe-String Budget

David Melville brings a different view of marketing - you may rethink your procedures after reading this article.

Departments

13

The President's Page

14

Board of Directors Reports

22

District Management Team Reports

26

Arizona Division Digest

28

Northeast Division Digest

30

Northwest Division Digest

31

Southeast Division Digest

32

Southwest Division Digest

35

Events

35

Member Services Directory

WESTUNES

Westunes is published quarterly by the Far Western District Association of Chapters in the Far Western District, Inc. dba Far Western District, and is distributed electronically at farwesterndistrict.org.

Here are some Advertising Rates (per issue)

Ad Size	1 Issue	2 Issues	4 Issues
Full, Inside Covers	\$60.00	\$48.00	\$36.00
Full Page (8½" x 11")	\$50.00	\$40.00	\$30.00
Half Page (7½" x 5")	\$25.00	\$20.00	\$15.00
Quarter Page (3½" x 5")	\$12.50	\$10.00	\$7.50
Business Card	\$5.00	\$4.00	\$3.00

For complete list of rates and specs visit farwesterndistrict.org

© 2018 Far Western District.



2018

IRVINE

Far Western District

Spring Convention

International Quartet Preliminaries

Southeast Division Contests

Southwest Division Contests

High School Quartet Contest



March 15-18, 2018

Irvine, California

events.farwesterndistrict.org

Arizona Division Convention

75

Years of Barbershop

1943

2018



April 13-14 • Mesa

Harmony Platoon

Arizona Division Quartet Contest

Arizona Division & Harmony Inc. Chorus Contest

Show of Champions

Afterglow

events.farwesterndistrict.org



**2018
BRENTWOOD**

**Northeast & Northwest
Division Convention**

April 14, 2018

Brentwood, California

events.farwesterndistrict.org



2017 International Champion Chorus

Santa Fe Springs Chapter

The Masters of Harmony

Santa Fe Springs Chapter
by Ron Larson

MOH Honors Host City Generosity

A strong spirit of gratitude for generosity extended to the **Masters of Harmony** by the City of Santa Fe Springs was much in evidence this past holiday season. For over 30 years, the host city has provided its excellent rehearsal hall at no cost to the chapter, saving it many thousands of dollars. The MOH repays this generosity in several ways:

- Participates in the city's annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. This program draws hundreds to the Town Center Plaza for an evening of musical entertainment by local youth and adult groups as well as a mini-concert by the MOH.
- Provides quartets for the city's enormously popular Christmas Float Program. The program consists of two floats. The first float features quartets provided by MOH volunteers. This year, under the leadership of **Bill Niemand**, 26 MOH members sang at each of three stops, at one point inviting neighborhood kids up to the stage with them while proud parents snapped pictures. A float carrying Mr. and Mrs. Santa and a group of elves follows the quartet float. Neighborhood kids get free candy canes, then

have their pictures taken with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. MOH singers have been taking part in this unique city event since 1990.

- Collects donations to help the city's less fortunate. This year, along with food donations, a "pass the hat" during one rehearsal quickly netted \$370 to help city residents in need.

Harmony Foundation Support Rewarded

The generosity of MOH members was on display in another way. The Society's Harmony Foundation has a program that returns 30% of member contributions back to the donating chapter to help support its activities. Individual member contributions to the Foundation were such that the MOH received a check for \$12,180.

Masters of Harmony Christmas Shows

The 2017 Annual Christmas Shows were staged on December 16 at the Carpenter Center, Long Beach, and on December 17 at Colony High School, Ontario. The theme was "A Wreath of Carols." Under the guidance of Show Producer **Ron Andreas**, the shows smooth pacing kept the enthusiastic audiences continuously engaged from the opening to the closing curtain two hours later. The shows began with a powerful opener, "Gloria," based on "Angels We Have Heard On High." They closed with an unscheduled encore by soloist **Les Weiser**, "Please Come Home For Christmas." Audiences rewarded Les's

dynamic interpretation interspersed with his sax and harmonica interludes with thunderous applause that said, "Welcome back, Les. We've missed you!"

In between, audiences enjoyed songs by **Masterpiece** (**Brett Littlefield, Rob Menaker, Alan Gordon, Patrick Haedtler**) and **The Newfangled Four** (**Joey Buss, Jackson Niebrugge, Ryan Wisnewski, Jake Tickner**). In one of the most unusual performances ever seen on a MOH

stage, **LeAndra McMullen** provided beautifully stylized sign language known as Interpretive Motion to "What Child Is This" and "Believe." The **Mina Choi Trio** (**Mina Choi, Stephen Dizon, David Lubliner**) entertained arriving guests and provided instrumental accompaniment for several

songs. The shows left many audience members describing what they had experienced as "the best MOH Christmas show ever!"

Annual Awards and Installation of Officers Banquet

On January 3, 2018, members of the Masters family assembled at the Yorba Linda Country Club for the Annual Awards and Installation of Officers Banquet. **Alan Gordon** starred as Masters of Ceremonies, Director **Justin Miller** and President Jackson Niebrugge gave rousing speeches, and **Dr. Chris Peterson** delivered the keynote address. The major awards for 2017 went to the following members: Barbershopper of the Year-**Patrick Haedtler**; President's Award-**Maurice Freleaux** and **Mark Freedkin**; Director's Award-**Craig Ewing**; and Quartet of the Year-**The Newfangled Four**.

The Masters Perform at the Midwinter Convention

On January 20, the Masters performed on the Saturday night Grand Finale to the International Midwinter Convention at the Segerstrom Center for the Arts in Costa Mesa. The stunning beauty of this multi-tiered hall almost takes one's breath away and its incredible sound reproduction rivals that of Disney Hall.

Among the performers gracing the finals stage were: the All-Chapter Chorus directed by Justin Miller; the top four quartets from the 2017 International Contest in Las Vegas-**Main Street** (Champion), **Signature** (2nd),

After Hours (3rd), **Throwback** (4th), plus **Vocal Spectrum** (2006 Quartet Champion) and the **Perfect Gentlemen** of Disneyland's Dapper Dan fame. The Masters received standing ovations for each song in their four-song set. The audience was especially delighted to see "Too Darn Hot," the uptune that won the Gold in Las Vegas. They were then joined on stage by members of **Westminster** and **Harborlites** choruses who had performed earlier, meaning that the risers then held over 200 members of three Gold Medal choruses. The combined choruses sang "Harmony," a beautiful paean to the belief that music can help the better angels of our nature to prevail.

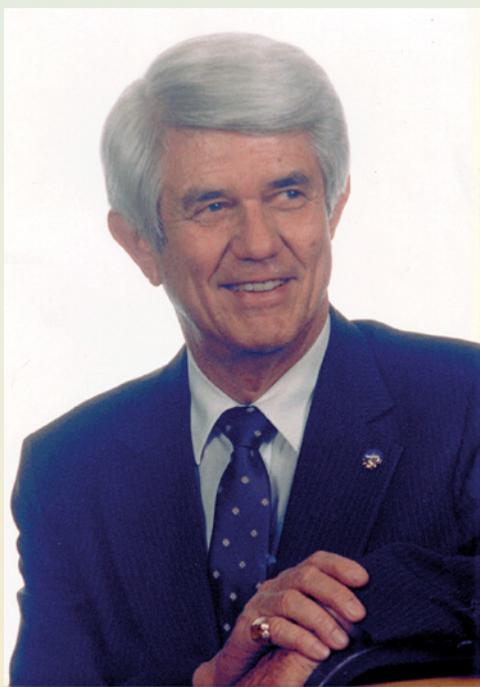
To conclude the finale, over 500 members of the youth choruses who had been taking part in the week's Youth Chorus Festival joined them, filling the four tiers above the main stage as well as the main hall aisles. With the accompaniment of world-renowned organist **Christoph Bull** on one of the world's finest theater pipe organs, the mass of singers sang The Battle Hymn of the Republic with such fervor they almost blew the doors off the concert hall! The Midwinter Finale was a truly unforgettable feast for the eyes and ears for all who experienced it and a fitting way to wrap up a thoroughly successful midwinter convention. Bravo to the event planners . . . and good luck trying to surpass it!



Singing with Lou Laurel

By Don Richardson

Lou Laurel came to Phoenix in 1966. He said his first meeting with the Phoenix Saguro Chapter of barbershoppers and the Phoenicians Barbershop Chorus was attended by only about thirty men. However, by the fall there were enough singers to win the Far Western District chorus contest. This was a continuation of Lou's history as he had previously directed the El Paso, Texas Border Chords chorus to the international championship. Lou had also served as president of the barbershop society.



The Phoenicians under Lou's directing went on to earn 3rd place finishes at the international chorus contests in 1967 and 1968. They were disappointed to come in second in 1970 in Atlantic City. However, on July 8, 1972, the Phoenicians won the international chorus contest by 123 points. Lou was now the only chorus director of two different international champion choruses.

The Phoenicians repeated their international victory in 1976 in San Francisco and 1983 in Seattle.

Over the years from 1966 to 1989 when Lou retired from directing, the Phoenicians won the Far Western

District chorus contest eleven times. Winning the Far Western District chorus contest became something we came to expect, even in 1987 when we won by only one point. We even had barbershoppers commuting from Nevada and California to sing with us.

I joined the Phoenicians in 1971. When I arrived in Phoenix on Wednesday, August 11th, it was too late in the evening to attend the chapter meeting. But on the 18th, I found the Knights of Columbus hall where they rehearsed, and on October 9th in Pasadena sang with the chorus as we won the Far Western District chorus contest, beating San Diego who had just placed 2nd at the international contest. Of course, this was a high point of my barbershop singing, but it was excelled in July in Atlanta when we won the chorus contest. I sang with the chorus again in 1976 and 1983 when we repeated our international victory.

As a member of the Phoenicians, I was proud to stand on the risers. I speak only for myself when I say that I saw Lou as our leader, not only as our director. Lou stood tall, both literally and figuratively, exuding class and *savoir faire*. Lou had that certain something the French call *je ne sais quoi*, an inexpressible quality which is almost impossible to put into words.

Over the years I served numerous barbershop chapter roles from president to music vice president, from historian to show chairman. In all of those roles, Lou was supportive as he had given his heart to singing.

Maybe Jim Miller of the Louisville, Kentucky Thoroughbreds Chorus or Jim Clancy of the Dallas Vocal Majority Chorus were equivalent to Lou, but in my eyes, there was no one who could match Lou. He was truly the greatest.

When I came to Phoenix, various members joked about Lou being able to walk on water. One joke concerned a barbershopper who had died and gone to heaven. As he looked around, he saw someone and asked, "Is that Lou Laurel over there?" The answer was, "No. That's God. He just thinks he's Lou Laurel."

Lou Laurel was truly incomparable. Singing for and with him was a gift.



2018 Youth Harmony Camp

HARMONY CAMP 2018

September 21 – 23

Sly Park Education Center Pollock Pines, CA

With our guest quartet Artistic License, assisted by Capitol Ring, Harmony Camp 2018 features an all-star Northern California lineup.

All high school and junior college young men are welcome and do not need a musical background. Barbershop is “ear singing” therefore the boys are successful quickly. Our experience shows that Harmony Camp changes lives from increased self-confidence to a greater involvement in school activities, including greater success with academics.

Historically our outreach has gone through school choral music programs. Although this has been quite successful, we began last year expanding our outreach to boys whose schools may not have a music program or those who may not participate in the music program at their school. We invite you to assist in this expanded outreach by contacting groups in your specific commu-

nity We have an introductory letter available and are always available to assist you in meeting with groups to discuss Harmony Camp.

Funding is always a challenge and in 2017 we also invited community organizations to join us in supporting Harmony Camp. Again, I am available to meet with organizations in your community to discuss Harmony Camp. Our goal is to increase the funding of Harmony Camps through financial support within our communities and through the growth of the Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund for FWD Harmony Camps.

Additional information is available at farwesterndistrict.org/events/youth-harmony-camp

Richard Lund, Director
Far Western District Harmony Camp
rlund@innercite.com
530-621-1904

Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund for FWD Harmony Camps Double Match Challenge



WHY NOT CONSIDER A CONTRIBUTION TO THE LLOYD STEINKAMP ENDOWMENT FUND FOR HARMONY CAMP

The Double Match Challenge for the Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund for FWD Harmony Camps has been extended into 2018.

With the goal of providing an opportunity for all barbershop members to participate in the funding of Harmony Camps in the FWD in perpetuity, a major donor has agreed to continue the double match challenge in 2018. Your contribution in any amount up to \$400 will be double matched by this generous donor. For example a donation of \$100 will be matched with \$200, effectively yielding a \$300 donation to the Steinkamp Fund. You may make a onetime donation or donate on a monthly basis.

Lloyd Steinkamp was a true giant in the Far Western District and it was Lloyd who created the concept of Harmony Camp. The first camp was in 1996 at Camp Wrightwood near San Bernardino. This was not only the first Harmony Camp in the FWD, but also in the nation.

Today the FWD Harmony Camp remains strong with 92 young men attending the 2017 camp in Pollock Pines, CA. 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. Initially all funds donated to the Endowment will be used to build the capital of the fund toward an initial goal of \$200,000. Once the fund balance reaches this goal, withdrawals may commence to help finance the FWD Harmony Camp, consistent with the policies of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation.

Donations may be made by credit card (<https://ssl.charityweb.net/sacregcf>) and find the "Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment" in the drop down box preceded by the words "please use my donation for:". You may also donate by check payable to Sacramento Region Community Foundation with a note in the memo box "Lloyd Steinkamp" and mailed to 955 University Avenue, Suite A, Sacramento, CA 95825.

As of December 31, 2017 the Lloyd Steinkamp Endowment Fund has a balance of \$64,000. Our goal for 2018 is to increase the Fund by at least \$60,000. I invite you to join me in ensuring that Harmony Camp will exist into the future for the benefit of future barbershoppers.

Richard Lund, Director
Harmony Camp
rlund@innercite.com
530-621-1904



ORLANDO

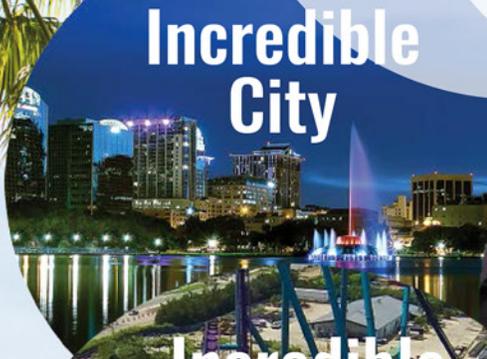
2018 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

July 1 – 8, 2018

"Orlando is the No. 1 family destination in the United States."

VisitOrlando.com,
Spring 2017

Incredible City



Incredible Fun



Incredible Barbershop



Barbershop.org/Orlando

Registration now open.

The Phoenicians Chorus presents ...

75TH ANNIVERSARY SHOW

“Through the Years”



With Special Guests ...

The Newfangled Four

2013 International Youth Quartet Champions & Far Western District Champions



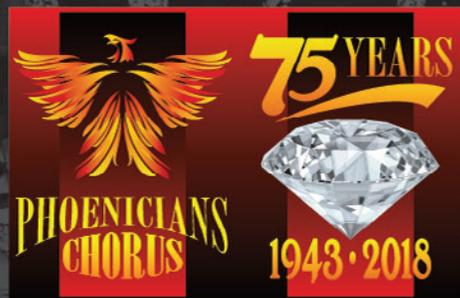
PLUS ... A Cappella Syndicate, Desert Aires Chorus, & East Valley Harmonizers

Saturday, March 10 at 2:00 PM

Madison Park School

1431 E Campbell Avenue, Phoenix

tickets.phoenicians.org • 480-947-7464



The President's Page



Craig Hughes

Far Western District President

president@farwesterndistrict.org



Happy 2018. It is an honor to serve as District President. I am pleased to serve with a tremendous team of volunteers dedicated to deliver the best possible experience for everyone in the Far Western District.

Choral harmony has been a constant in my life. I started singing with my family as soon as I could make a sound. While my three brothers accused me of being tone deaf, my Choir Director (**Allen Keopke**) encouraged my deeper than expected voice. From Church to School Choirs, Allen nurtured me with needed praise. He taught me the value of working to be the best possible – to strive for perfection. I moved on to my college Glee Club and then Barbershop. Allen became a noted conductor and composer. His music is consistently chosen for high school All-State music contests and performed in colleges across the nation.

Life came back full circle at our **Midwinter Convention**. In 1966, I had the thrill of singing the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* at the Iowa All-State Music Festival with the best high school singers and musicians under the direction of **Richard P. Condie**, conductor of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. A few weeks ago (52 years later) I was on stage with the **Masters of Harmony**, the **Westminster Chorus**, the **Harborlites** and 600 youth singers. We sang the same *Battle Hymn* arrangement under the direction of **Justin Miller** accompanied by world renowned Organist, **Christoph Bull**. The Associate Director of the Tabernacle Choir (**Ryan Murphy**) was in attendance.

My 1966 experience in Des Moines was life changing and I could sense that the 2018 experience in Costa Mesa changed more lives while thrilling this 69-year-old Bass. That is the power of our strategy: **Everyone in Harmony**. There will be a ripple effect as those

600 youth singers return home and share. We are changing lives.

Thank you to all who helped make this year's Midwinter Convention in Costa Mesa such an event:

- The members of the **Westminster Chapter** for hosting with the help of many volunteers.
- The Chapters and individual donors (as of 1/29) that helped fund our District's sponsorship of the Youth Festival. *Note: Seven of the nineteen ensembles in the youth festival were from the District.*
 - o **Bakersfield**
 - o **El Cajon**
 - o **Palo Alto-Mountain View**
 - o **Rincon Beach**
 - o **Salt River Valley**
 - o **San Diego**
 - o **Santa Fe Springs**
 - o **Visalia**
- The **Velvet Frogs** and **Renaissance** represented us in the Senior Quartet Contest.
- The many District members and friends who attended and participated in the FWD Senior Chorus, All-Chapter Chorus, and the Harmony Platoon.
- **The Masters of Harmony, Westminster Chorus, Harborlites Chorus, Flightline Quartet, The Newfangled Four** and our friends from the

Perfect Gentlemen that added to the festivities.

- **Justin Miller** directed three choruses, 600 youth & a world class organist.

So . . . the rest of the Society got a chance to see what we enjoy at our District Events.

Speaking of events. The **District House of Delegates Meeting** at our Spring and Fall Conventions are very important and I encourage representation from every Chapter. Your Chapter can be represented by any current member designated by your President. The District is doing well and is looking forward to a very productive and rewarding new year. We need your input and support to continue to deliver the kind of events and successes that we all desire.

One of my goals for 2018 is to improve our communication with the members. Too many don't take advantage of everything the Society and the District have to offer. There is a lot of good information online at <https://farwesterndistrict.org/> to include contact information for the District team and our magazine: **Westunes**. We also push a monthly newsletter: **Westags** to our member's email. Our Division Vice Presidents proactively reach out to their Chapters but many members still don't get the message. *If you are reading this then you are already part of the solution. Thank You! Share your experiences with all your Barbershop friends and encourage their engagement.*

One District challenge is to continue to provide International Class events (Conventions, Academies, and Colleges) given the growing expenses. We have operated with a "build it and they will come" business plan. Unfortunately "they" have not always attended and we have suffered some losses. We are going to continue to build for the best experience while managing our costs. Please encourage attendance at District events whenever possible. They are about much more than competition.

I have been asked, "What we are doing to get the fun back in Barbershop?" Every individual and Chapter is unique with a different idea of what's fun and worth their time and energy. One size doesn't fit all and the FWD team can help tailor the product for each Chapter to ensure success. We are going to look for more opportunities to get together on an informal basis and

enjoy our hobby. This needs to happen on a local basis so let's get back to an afternoon or night out with our friends from across the region. I firmly believe in the concept of "Everyone in Harmony". If there was ever a time to share our joy and harmony it's in 2018.

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

In Harmony,

Craig Hughes, President
president@farwesterndistrict.org

Board of Directors Reports



The beginning of my first year as Executive Vice-President has been fairly busy. I attended the District President's Council and the Society Board Meeting at the Midwinter Convention in Costa Mesa. I also volunteered to help out on the Registration Desk and scanned people in to the theater. Met lots of great folks in both places.

The Bakersfield Chapter asked me to be the installing officer at their Installation Banquet. I used the current documents on the Society website as a guide and a few of Dr. Chris Peterson's handouts from The Master's Banquet. It seems that the things a large Chapter deals with are the same things that a small Chapter needs to look at.

I've been looking at the Organization Chart and found my position has many people reporting to me (District Management Team), as well as many people that I need to keep in the loop. My job as Executive VP will be to stay close to President Hughes and take care of

Board of Directors Reports

his needs and to make sure our District Management Team (DMT) is operating efficiently. To that end, I would love to have a full house of DMT representatives at our Summer Meeting in June. This will be your time to meet and discuss our common goals and decide the best way to accomplish them.

Finally, the next two years will be filled with information gathering from Chapters, members and others regarding recruiting and retention of new members and making sure that information about Harmony Foundation International is being brought to all the members.

Oh and one last thing. Please consider sending a representative to the Spring House of Delegates Meeting. This is your District and Society and you need to be part of the process of making the important decisions that may affect your members. Less than half our Chapters decide issues all too often and that needs to change.

Thanks guys. Please feel free to contact me anytime at (661) 703-9000 with your concerns or comments.



SW Division, home of the International Champion Chorus the **Masters of Harmony**, who further distinguished themselves by performing at the recent Midwinter Convention and also capably hosting the Convention. The **Newfangled Four** Quartet were also spectacular performers at the event and we're looking for big things from this young and fun Quartet in competitions this upcoming year.

I couldn't attend the Midwinter Convention due to the closure of the 101 freeway, linking Santa Barbara

with the rest of Southern CA. The devastating Thomas Fire started on a Monday night in December. As my Santa Barbara carpool mates and I were driving south to our **Pacific Sound Chorus** rehearsal we could see an orange glow way off in the distance towards Santa Paula. And we could also see it was very windy. During our rehearsal several of the guys got calls from their spouses to come home, so we broke up a little early. By the time I drove home we could see the flames in Ventura, fully 10 miles downwind from Santa Paula...it had spread so rapidly.

The next morning we learned that two of our **Rincon Beach** members had lost their homes. Another member lost an outbuilding but his home was spared. Several others were evacuated for days.

And as if that were not enough, the fire spread from Ventura, up the Rincon, to Carpinteria and then to Montecito. Both in Carpinteria and Montecito the fire burned the hills down to the first rows of homes and the heroic firefighters, in hand-to-hand combat with the flames and flying embers, saved hundreds of homes.

But the firefighters couldn't anticipate a 200-year rainstorm just three weeks later, and you've all heard of the resulting mudslides, with boulders the size of SUVs tumbling down the hillsides, tearing homes completely from their foundations, sweeping at least 21 to their death, and filling up the US 101 with mud and debris. Former FWD President, **Bob Lally**, lives in Montecito and his home was spared, but he was evacuated for almost a month and is now back home but with a yard covered in mud.

Despite the losses and the fact that all the Santa Barbara-based Rincon members, including director **Mike McGee**, could not drive to Ventura for three weekly rehearsals, the Chorus is doing well preparing for Singing Valentines, and upcoming competition. There are four new prospects in various stages of membership auditions. Things are well with Rincon.

San Luis Obispo is having some membership problems. They are down to 10 singers but according to Director,

Board of Directors Reports

Logan Miernike, they are still singing well, optimistic and planning to grow again. There are plans again for **SLO** to join **Santa Maria** to compete in Irvine...

If you're a member of a Chapter that isn't currently competing, but that's an activity that you would enjoy, consider becoming a dual member of a Chapter that competes. Most competing Chapters would welcome you, as long as your presence "adds" to the ensemble.

Jim Browne is the Director of the recently merged **Conejo Oaks Channel Islands** Chapter, and he's enjoying sharing about five of his singers with **Rincon Beach**. The additional musical work at Rincon is making better singers and everyone is happy.

Santa Monica Chapter is thriving with new members and great organization. **South Bay** Chapter is always fun, and planning great shows for 2018 and both Chapters will be competing in Irvine.

San Fernando Valley is also healthy, although "aging..." They plan to sing in March. **Crescenta Valley** has had a little resurgence with a couple of energetic guys trying to increase their membership and perform more in their communities. **Santa Clarita** Chapter last year was considering merger possibilities, but last I spoke to their Director **Ray Johnson**, they found cultures were different and that's no longer on the table.

Pasadena Chapter, under the direction of **John Minsker**, is small but active. They invited Southern CA Quartets to come sing for them to not only get experience, but also as an audition for their upcoming show in April.

The **MOH (Santa Fe Springs)** Chapter is very strong, their leadership is young and energetic and they have a lot of very capable folks who seem always willing to help. They also have experienced guys who would be willing to coach other Chapters in the area. Don't hesitate to reach out to them as they are willing to share and encourage.

I e-spoke to **Mark Conching**, Director of the **Aloha Chapter**. They are doing well, performing a lot, gaining new members but also losing a few as they have a

sizable percent of the membership who are military and often move. They try to travel every 2-3 years and their next plans are Japan in 2019. It will probably be a few years before we see them in a Fall FWD Contest again.

I plan to visit them in April. There's just no telling the extent of what I will do to support this Division...



New Chapter Officers

Welcome to all new 2018 Chapter Officers. I had the pleasure of installing the new Board members of the **Hemet, Inland Empire, and Mesa, Arizona Chapter**. I'm sure that all of our Division Chapters had fun-filled evenings to welcome in their new 2018 officers. Congratulations! Now the work begins. I am looking forward to working with all of you! Also, please let me know if you need my help or want to brag about your Chapter activities.

I would like to encourage all of the new Presidents to re-visit your Chapter Mission Statement at your next Board Meeting. Make sure that your Mission Statement gives a short and accurate description of what your Chorus is about. Then, I suggest you take 20 minutes of a Chapter Meeting to have your Chapter read (or re-visit) your Chapter Mission Statement. This will allow your Chapter to go forward in harmony.

Midwinter in Costa Mesa

Congratulations to all of the Southeast Division individuals and Chapters that helped in hosting this year's **Midwinter International Convention/Contests**. You are all to be commended for the Convention being a great success. The venue, (Seegerstrom Hall), was fabulous, the Contests were terrific, and the shows

Board of Directors Reports

were outstanding. Also, many of my out-of-town Barbershop friends commented on many of the great adventures that Orange County had to offer! (Many hit Disneyland, Balboa Island, and The Wedge at Newport Beach!)

I would also like to add my congratulations to the FWD Quartets (Seniors) and Choruses (Youth) that competed at Midwinter.

Senior Quartets:

Renaissance (AZ Division) placed 4th

Velvet Frogs (SE and SW Division) placed 6th

Youth Choruses:

The OC Student Union (Fullerton, Southeast) received an **Outstanding** rating.

Pacific Suns (San Diego, Southeast) received an **Excellent** rating.

Sound of the Sierras (NorCal) received an **Excellent** rating.

Sounds of the Mouth Vocal Collective (Arizona) received a **Superior** rating.

Chandler HS Men's Choir (Arizona) received an **Outstanding** rating

Chandler HS Treblemakers (Arizona) received a **Superior** rating and won the **Plateau AA Award**

By the way, I'd like to thank International for giving me recognition in the program as judging the Contests (which I didn't), and the audience for giving my son, Sam, boisterous recognition for **actually** judging the Contests. It was very funny!

Big News – Inland Empire Chapter on TV

Is your Chapter singing in your community? I would suggest that you "sing-out" at least once every two months! You should not make your Annual Show the

only time your Chorus formally sings for an audience. Singing for people and sharing the joy of four-part harmony is what we do. It is why we all join the Barbershop Harmony Society. And it is why we gain new members. And maybe this will happen to your Chorus:

I announced this news about six months ago, but many of you may have missed it. The Inland Empire Chorus was performing Christmas music at their local mall and a reporter from a local TV station saw them. Here's the scoop from their President:

"Last January, I spoke to you about meeting a producer, who has a number of human interest programs on PBS. During a Christmas sing-out at a Riverside shopping center she saw us singing and told us that she wanted to do a story about Barbershop. So she came to one of our practices to film us and do interviews to tell the story. We have been waiting for quite a while but **the show is finally being broadcast!**"

I recorded it on my TV and I can tell you it was very professional and very good publicity for the Chapter, and Barbershopping in general. So the moral of the story is, sing out, and sing out often! **You never know who will see you performing.** But if you don't get out and sing, no one will see you!

Chapter Shows

By now all of our Chapters are in full rehearsals for their respective Chapter Shows. I know the Directors are working very hard to get you all ready for those big audiences. Make sure that each and every Chapter member is helping with some aspect of the show. Each Chapter member should be part of one of the various committees. This will help them really feel like a part of the show. Good luck, and please let me know how it went by writing me a short email about the show.

Also, if you are being coached, please send me a short evaluation of your experience with that person. I am always being asked if I know a good coach I could recommend.

Board of Directors Reports



Dick Whitten

VP Northwest Division

dvp-northwest@farwesterndistrict.org



Ron Black

VP Northeast Division

dvp-northeast@farwesterndistrict.org

I have been fortunate enough to be elected to serve as the DVP of the Northwest Division for 2018. I look forward to serving you all, and welcome any input you might have about changes for the future. My goals for 2018 are as follows:

1. To visit as many Chapters in this Division as possible through the year.
2. To represent the Division as a spokesman for the Chapters at all District functions and meetings.
3. Help any Chapter to meet their goals for the year when asked.
4. To be a communication link between the District officers and chairmen, and the Chapters of this Division.
5. I will be available for any Chapter when asked to visit or be a part of its functions.

With these goals in mind please feel free to call on me to help in any way you believe would aid your Chapter. I urge all of you to take part in all District and Division functions in 2018 and for years to come.

I look forward to being your District officer and your Barbershop friend.

“CHORD”ially,
Dick Whitten

This is my first Westunes article with my “new hat” on, that of NE Division VP. So I thought I’d share some thoughts about what makes a great Barbershop Chapter work.

#1 – Ring chords

This is the prime directive. There are many great reasons why we are doing this hobby, but what hooked us is the first time you heard chords ring, or even better, when you sang and felt that happen. Anytime we gather to sing, be it Chapter meeting or Quartet rehearsal or convention, ringing chords must happen. My favorite saying is “you’ve got to ring a chord no less often than every 10 minutes!” And there are many tools for a Chorus or Quartet to use to assure that happens more often. One, of course, is to sing a tag (or two). Not a brand new one, but one you know, so there’s no waiting for the reward.

#2 – Smile more

This is strongly correlated to #1 above. Of course ringing chords makes you smile. But any other activity we do in our social gathering that allows smiles to happen is a bonus. In one of my first Quartets two members had a plethora of jokes to tell every time the Quartet met. So I assumed that being in a Barbershop Quartet was 50% singing and 50% laughing. In a previous Chapter, a member who was a prolific joke teller would always have one prepared. So just before the Chorus was going on stage, he would be ready to deliver. How great it was to be laughing before hitting the stage. (Good for support preparation, too.) Any

Board of Directors Reports

of our gatherings, Chapter meeting, Chorus rehearsal, Quartet rehearsal, afterglow, benefits from the uplift that creates a smile.

3 – Sing songs you know

One real good choice that past BHS leaders produced was the Barberpole Cat Songbook. How great it is to be able to have easy songs you really know to be able to sing with three others. But wait, don't forget #1, it's about ringing chords. How many times do we just "sing through" these songs, rather than really focus on the chords. If we sing the first word/chord really well before continuing, many more will follow. When you finish the tag, don't just stop. Go back and sing just the tag again, it will be better this time. The above is true for songs your Chorus or Quartet already know, too. Get the first chord to ring well, then continue. When we sing tags at an afterglow, we always go back and repeat. So why not do this when singing songs?

4 – Get to know your fellow singers

A marvelous byproduct of our singing together is that it bonds us together in a special way that singing creates. We experience this in the group we sing with, either Chorus or Quartet. In many of my Chapters, the meeting night afterglow has been special. We get to know each other better. Share our personal lives. Sing tags. Yup, even tell jokes. The joy that singing creates opens the door for us to get to know each other better. In our Chapter, we all individually answered these questions on a form:

- Why did you join the Barbershop Harmony Society?
- Why did you join this Chapter?
- What are you looking for from the Chapter?
- What makes you special?
- What is your biggest accomplishment in life?

Each week, the President picks one of these to read, not naming the individual until done. And he is received with a great warm applause. It's a super way to get to know each other.



As the new DVP of the Arizona Division, I am honored to begin my service to the Far Western District. I'd like to take a moment to introduce myself.

I have been a fan of the Barbershop style since I was a child when I heard it for the first time, as many people do, in *The Music Man*. Not knowing there was such a thing as the Barbershop Harmony Society until much later in life, at the first opportunity I had, I joined! I now have almost nine years of service, and in that time, I have served my Chapters as Chorus Manager, Treasurer, and currently as the VP of Programming.

I started my Barbershop career in the Mid Atlantic District where I was lucky enough to sing with the Brothers in Harmony-Hamilton Square Chapter under the direction of Jack Pinto. In 2010 I competed in my first International Chorus Competition in Philadelphia. I moved to Arizona for work in the fall of 2011, and by spring of 2014 I joined the East Valley Barbershop Harmonizers-Mesa Chapter under the direction of Russ Young. Shortly thereafter I formed a Quartet, Saucebox, and had my first opportunity to compete in the Arizona Division Contest in 2017. We look forward to competing again this spring!

Arizona Division News

The Arizona Division is celebrating 75 years of Barbershop, and the 2018 Arizona Division Convention promises to be one to remember with the Chorus and Quartet Contests, Harmony Platoon, Chorditorium, Afterglow, and more! The Mesa Chapter will host the 2018 Arizona Division Convention April 13-14, 2018. John Johnson is the Convention Chair with Randy Bingel, AZ Event Coordinator, as support. Contests will be held at Mesa High School with Headquarters

Board of Directors Reports

at the Holiday Inn. Early-bird registration is now open. For more information go to: <https://farwesterndistrict.org/news/district/233-arizona-division-convention> Please take advantage of the early-bird registration - open until March 18, 2018. You will save yourself \$15.00 and make the check-in process much faster! Registration after March 18 will go up to \$60.00 and be open until April 9. After that you will have to register on site at the rate of \$70.00.

There are many great Barbershop shows on the horizon here in Arizona:

- February 25: The Sun Cities Desert Aires Barbershop Chorus Annual Show, *Those Were the Days, My Friend*, featuring our current FWD Champion Quartet, Suit Up
- March 3: The Tucson Sunshine Chapter Annual Show, *On the Road!*, featuring the 2010 BHS International Champions, Storm Front
- March 4: The Mesa Chapter East Valley Barbershop Harmonizers Annual Show, *How the West Was Sung*, featuring FWD Medallist Quartet, Hot Spot, and SAI Region 21 Champion Quartet, One Voice
- March 10: The Phoenicians 75th Anniversary show with guest Quartet, The New-Fangled Four.
- March 24: The Salt River Valley Chapter presents the A Capella Syndicate Annual Show

On a personal note, I look forward to serving as your representative to the FWD Board of Directors, and if there is anything that I can do to help any of the Chapters here in the Arizona Division, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am easy to reach via e-mail a.kaufman@yahoo.com or on my cell: (516) 770-3743.

We know Barbershop is awesome! Let's share it with the world!



It seems as though just yesterday I was writing a Westunes article about retiring as President and going to the Immediate Past President's position on the FWD Board of Directors. Well it was actually December 31, 2017 and now I'm writing to the District because I feel compelled to share our current leaders with you.

It seems as though just yesterday I was writing a Westunes article about retiring as President and going to the Immediate Past President's position on the FWD Board of Directors. Well it was actually December 31, 2017 and now I'm writing to the District because I feel compelled to share our current leaders with you.

As you know, Craig Hughes is now the President and he's highlighting communication as a main focus of his administration. It appears like that mantra is going to be around for some time, because it is the most important issue facing all leaders. Leaders also listen to what you have to say and I'd hope that most of you reading this article are planning on attending the Spring Convention, especially the House of Delegates meeting on Friday, March 16. This is an excellent opportunity for you to participate with your District leaders and to share ideas that benefit all of the FWD.

Bill Rosica, FWD EVP, is very experienced in leadership and has been the general chairman of several Conventions including the International that was hosted by the Masters of Harmony several years ago. He is supporting Craig Hughes in his leadership efforts and all of you should get to know Bill.

Rich Owens, FWD Treasurer, took over last year and has worked on streamlining the treasurer's process and helping the District regain its financial health. He's the President of the Bakersfield Chapter and very involved

Board of Directors Reports

with the Masters of Harmony Chorus. Jim takes over from Max Bates who lives in Utah and is enjoying gardening and singing in his church choir.

Jim Maass, FWD Secretary, is just finishing up a stint as President of the California Delta Chapter and is learning the fine art of communication by asking the FWD leaders to provide articles for the HOD Brochure. Jim sings with the VoCal Chorus in Sacramento. He follows Bob Gray who just finished up as the District Secretary and is now enjoying his time at home in Phoenix.

Craig Ewing, FWD Music and Performance VP, is busy setting up the Leadership Academies and trying to assist Chapters with their musical performance challenges. He recently directed the FWD Senior Chorus at the Midwinter International Convention in Costa Mesa. Craig is also very busy with the Masters of Harmony Chorus and as the Music Director for the Fullerton Orange Empire Chorus.

Brett Littlefield, FWD C&J VP, took over from Ron Black who served eight years in the position. Brett is well known throughout the District and Society for his Quartet gold medals and his work with the Masters of Harmony Chorus.

At another opportunity I'll tell you about the FWD Vice Presidents who handle communication in their five divisions. You can visit these men by going to the FWD website and downloading the District Leaders.



Craig Ewing
VP Music & Performance
musicandperf@farwesterndistrict.org

Congratulations to the 2018 Senior International Chorus Champions ! After a great qualifying score in Bakersfield, the FWD was ready for success at the Midwinter in Costa Mesa. Eighty-eight men said they wanted to participate in Costa Mesa. One by one, the

other Districts had to pull out of the festival. Things were really looking good for FWD Chorus Champions in back-to-back International Conventions !

Once the music was selected we had 55 men confirm (appropriate since you had to be that age or better to compete). Due to fire, flood, flu, and that 4-letter word "work" we dropped day-by-day. A small but mighty group of 16 superstars came prepared and everyone was flexible as several ideas created for a big Chorus had to be modified. In a marvelous group effort, the "Wheezin' Geezers" got some laughs, especially from the youth in the upper balconies. Each received an International Chorus Champion pin that they know they can wear with pride.



The following Chapters (in order of number of men) represented the FWD: Fullerton, Santa Fe Springs, South Orange County, Orange Quartet Chapter, Temecula, Bay Area, BHNZ (New Zealand), Central California, Chico, Greater Phoenix, Marin, and San Diego. Among these were four FWD Board members, two AFWDC Quartet Champs and five Platoon participants.

A special thanks to Gary Bolles (our New Zealand representative and Quartet Champ with Great Western Timbre Company). Feel free to ask me for the details, if you have time to hear all the ways he helped me and the Chorus.

On my soapbox: Get out in public and sing with joy and beautiful tone. Attract new singers and new fans. Use social media to share the fun of Barbershop.

District Management Team Reports



Hello, FWD!

Hope 2018 is off to a fantastic start for you and your Chapter! It was wonderful to see many of you last month at the **BHS Midwinter Convention** and I look forward to our return to Irvine for the **FWD Spring Convention** (March 15 – 18 at the Hilton Irvine/Orange County Airport Hotel).

Directors – In the Winter edition of the Westunes, we reviewed some cornerstone conducting and teaching principles that may assist toward ever-strengthening your Chapter’s musicianship and performance capabilities.

Music Director Development –

Communication – As Music Director, skills should be layered one element at a time. Attempting to teach multiple elements at once results in confused, sluggish, and imprecise singing.

Strive to be **confident, consistent, and clear** with specific instruction, while being as concise as possible to keep most of the rehearsal time **SINGING** time.

Perhaps most important of all, after instruction and the singer’s attempts to deliver said instruction, remember to tell them how they did! What degree of success was apparent in the room? How specific can you be with feedback while also fostering a team approach? Discover ways to encourage participation such as asking the group “How’d we do?” Only then are you allowed to move on to the next teaching point.

Incorporating these elements during rehearsal encourages the very best from each singer. Active-listening involvement and equal-contribution singing principles as well are fun through accountability. All great things! So how might a Director best track singer

development and accountability from week to week?

Managing Accountability –

There should be a gradual transference of accountability from the Director’s stand to the singers – **one element at a time**. Simplify challenging concepts into bite-size chunks.

Develop a process and unfailingly adhere to the principles of your system. For example, utilizing unison singing to solidify pitch consistency and synchronization in a homophonic line.

Rehearsal Preparation –

- **Study the music** – Use detailed care to make as many musical decisions as you can prior to rehearsal. This approach assists to minimize singer mistakes that may develop into poor singing habits. Identify musical challenges and build for specific successes.
- **As Director, you need to know your singers** – Empower Section Leaders to assist with the processes of constructive vocal assessment and development. This can be done through individual coaching, private sessions, recordings, tag singing, etc. If approached in a positive way, your singers will really appreciate that you and the music team are really paying attention to their progress and contributions to the team.
- **Apply music principles into the warm-up** – Identify concepts that will be addressed during rehearsal and incorporate whenever practical into the chorus warm-up/craft session. Give singers a reason to be on time and focused.

Rehearsal Approach –

- **Stay Centered** – Remember to stand in one spot when you conduct. Stand tall and encourage consistent eye contact with all of your singers to let them know you are paying attention to their efforts. Director body language and hand gestures should also reflect desired musical accuracy and infuse singers with confidence.
- **Change the Singing Environment Often** – Quartets, Octets, Riser groups (rows, wedges), as well as Section or combined Sectional work.
- **Enroll Singers in the Processes of Making Music**

District Management Team Reports

– The practical structures of rehearsal, individual singing principles, and how staying accountable to those necessary elements will ultimately result in a truly inspired performance.

letin board at the supermarket, and if your answer is “never”, that is probably not a strategic place.

Newspaper ads will reach a much larger market for less expense the mailing flyers, and are most likely a better approach to attracting new patrons, while reaching many of your die-hard fans at the same time. But keep in mind that readership of the printed media is declining everywhere as more and more people are turning to the Internet to get their news. Look for publications that offer advertising in both printed and on-line format, and consider an ad placement in each. If you happen to live in a larger metropolitan area, you will find that the smaller “neighborhood” papers offer much more reasonable rates than the larger papers, and they also tend to get read more since they carry news and features that are close to home. Whatever you do, BE SURE to ask for their non-profit rates!

There are also some “Life after 50” publications that can be considered, and their non-profit rates are usually quite affordable, but keep in mind that they are usually published monthly or quarterly, so in addition to getting your ad placed well in advance, be sure that the timing of their distribution is within a week or two of your show.

Do you have a local PBS station? Consider running in ad in their monthly program guide. That is one publication that DOES get read!

Some churches may be willing to put a short paragraph in their bulletin for free, but also consider offering to provide them with an insert instead. Typically they are 5.5” x 8.5”, but be sure to ask them for their page dimensions, and how many copies they will need. The same goes for Elks, Moose, Caribou, Antelope, ... you get the idea.

Run an ad in the show program for a nearby BHS/SAI chapter whose show precedes yours. Their audience already enjoys barbershop, so that’s really a no-brainer. And maybe next year they’ll return the favor if your show comes before theirs!

Everything we’ve looked at so far costs money, some much more than others. If what you are spending seems to be paying off, then by all means keep doing it. But always take a close look at some of these other options, because you may find ways to get an even greater return while spending less.

Oh, and speaking of spending less (shameful, gratuitous plug): did you know that you could run a full-page spread in Westunes for only \$50? And quartets can run their business card for just \$12 a year? You’ll find our complete list of ad rates and specifications on the FWD website.

Next time, let’s take a look at my favorite subject: THE FREE STUFF.

To be continued ...



Marketing wisely on a shoe-string budget

This is the first in a series of articles I plan to publish this year in Westunes that are specifically talking to the marketing guys in our chapters. I do not profess to be marketing professional by any means, but my intention is to share with you the things I have learned after doing this for many years, and hopefully some of you will benefit from it.

Many chapters are struggling to get the word out about their shows, simply because the more traditional approaches to marketing keep increasing in cost, and their annual budget for marketing keeps decreasing. Trust me, I share your pain.

In this issue, let’s take a closer look at some of these strategies, and then let’s start to think outside the box to see if we can find some ways to get more bang for the buck.

Many chapters are still using printed flyers, neatly folded, stickered, labeled and mailed to reach their patrons. While I do not dismiss this practice entirely, I will suggest that it’s an expensive and labor-intensive undertaking that may do well for your active followers, but is not very effective to attract new business. For example, I have my recycle bin strategically placed between my mailbox and my house, which is where 90% of those expensive flyers wind up when they are sent to people who are unfamiliar with your group. Additionally, unless you regularly pay a hefty sum for “address correction requested”, your mailing list becomes increasingly out of date, progressively decreasing your return on investment.

If you are hanging flyers around town, put some thought into where they should be displayed so they are not wasted. For example, ask yourself how many times have you stopped to read the handbills that are plastered on the bul-

District Management Team Reports



Quartet singing can be sooooo much fun!

Did your Chapter do Singing Valentines? I bet they did and if you didn't sing in one of the Quartets . . . well you missed a chance for some fun. Next year?

Could your next Chapter performance use one more Quartet that can sing one song? I bet they could. Most Chapters can. Why not find three other guys and learn one song? No long-term commitments, just one song. I'm doing that right now and if we are good enough they will let us be on the Annual Show. And if not, we've learned a song that we can sing for the Chapter some meeting night. Did that last year. I bet you could do the same.

Don't miss a chance to sing with three other guys . . . before Chapter meeting . . . at the break . . . at the end of meeting . . . every week opportunities come along. What to sing? How about a PoleCat, or a tag, or one of the Chorus songs? Give it a try next week. I bet you'll like it.

You may also want to consider attending one of the pre-Convention Harmony Platoons that we have started having in 2012 prior to FWD Conventions in the Spring and Fall. We even have them at some Division Conventions and at International Conventions. Here are the champs from the Midwinter Platoon this year here in Orange County, which included a couple of our FWD guys:



Tenor: Steve Cowan, Sioux Falls, SD (CSD)

Lead: Logan Patrick-Miernicki, SLO/Brea/SF Springs/
Santa Maria CA (FWD)

Bass: Mike Rinehart, Bellevue, WA (EVG)

Bari: Mark Lewis, Temecula, CA (FWD)

Look for announcements of upcoming Platoons on our website: HarmonyPlatoon.org



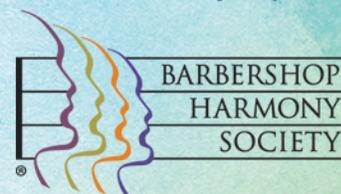
SINGING CHANGES LIVES

The demand to participate in Barbershop Harmony Society singing programs for all ages is great, yet some do not have the means to join us. Through your generous support, we can provide the funding needed to enrich more lives today while ensuring longevity for this cherished art form.

INVEST TODAY IN THE FUTURE OF BARBERSHOP



The Official Fundraising Entity for the



TO GIVE, GO ONLINE AT HARMONYFOUNDATION.ORG OR CALL (866) 706-8021



ARIZONA DIVISION

Bob Shaffer • Division Editor

Greater Phoenix Chapter

By Jerry McElfresh

Jay Bartley was named the Phoenicians' Barbershopper of the Year at the January Installation and Awards banquet. Jay served as Program VP during 2017 and plays key roles on several committees including the 75th anniversary Show Committee. He returns to the Program VP position this year and has also taken on the new position of Executive Vice President.

The Chapter's 2018 Board of Directors was installed in office by **Adam Kaufman**, Arizona Division Vice President. Serving this year are President **Glenn Partridge**, Executive VP **Jay Bartley**, Secretary **Gene Brandwein**, Treasurer **Don Miller**, Music VP **Les Dergan**, Membership VP **John Mertens**, Program VP **Jay Bartley**, Marketing VP **Jerry McElfresh** and at-Large members **Aaron Burleson**, **Richard Muhn** and **John Brock**.

The chapter is looking for former members of **The Phoenicians** and **Spirit of Phoenix** choruses to sing two iconic Chorus songs in the finale of our March 10, 2018 **75th Anniversary Show**. Anyone who would like to join us can call 480-947-7464 or email to 75thanniversary@cox.net to get

sheet music and learning tracks for the songs.

Mesa Chapter

By Ray Aalvik

The East Valley Harmonizers welcome seven new members: **James Souhan**, **Bryan Thompson**, **Russel Kitchner**, **Ray Aalvik**, **Keith Engbrecht**, **Jay Breen**, and **Jim Myers**. The growth in membership and the experienced transfers from other districts has positioned the Chorus for an exciting improvement in sound quality.

Christmas! Our director **Russ Young** and the Music Committee put together a great Christmas set list to spread Christmas cheer with Barbershop harmony at four neighborhood venues plus a street sing-out at a brightly lit neighborhood in Chandler AZ. Chapter Quartets added some fun to our shows. They were **Quadratic Audio** [Tenor **Greg Grace**, Lead **Duncan Scott**, Bari **Bob Pennell**, Bass **Thom Olmstead**]; **Saucebox** [Tenor **Bob Shaffer**, Lead **Adam Kaufman**, Bari **Randy Bingel**, Bass **Don Koehnlein**]. Also lending their voices was the **Singing with Santa Four** [Tenor **Greg Grace**, Bari **Bob** (the Elf) **Szabo**, Lead **James Souhan**, Bass **John Bloomquist**]. There was also a VLQ of Chorus members who

performed for the Blinded Veterans Association at the VA Center in Phoenix. As always, we gave a gratis performance for our practice host church, St. Mark's Episcopal of Mesa. The season was topped off by our annual potluck dinner.

If you find yourself in the metro Phoenix area on a Thursday evening, please drop in and ring some chords with us. We are having a blast with **Russ**, and we always include some quartet time at the end of every meeting before heading off to a well-attended afterglow.

Prescott Chapter

By Sam Stimple

Our 43rd Annual Show was presented at the Ruth Street Theater on November 11. Yes, we knew it was Veterans Day and we honored all women and men who have served in the United States armed forces with a medley of service anthems. Chairman **Dick Patton** and his fantastic show committee, presented a delightfully short skit entitled *Experiencing Technical Difficulties*. The Chorus thrilled the crowd with a variety of six familiar songs from Broadway plays and movies: *There's No Business Like Show Business*, *Bare Necessities*, *Swinging On a Star*, *There'll Be No New Tunes On This Old Piano*, *My*

Wife the Dancer, and *High Hopes*. The icing on the show cake was our guest quartet **The NEWFANGLED 4**.

Gifts, shopping, holiday cookies, music, decorations, radio & TV spots, music, cold weather, Santa hats, many community performances both indoors and outdoors, and more music...the Chorus kept busy in the final quarter of 2017. We scheduled nearly 15 mini-concerts for our annual rest home/care center circuit in Prescott and Prescott Valley, and we participated in the 28th Annual Acker Musical Showcase. Most businesses around the Yavapai County Court House square hosted Prescott's 125+ musical groups. Joy was in the air, and it was easy to put life and politics on hold for an evening of holiday cheer. The Chorus also sang for an enthusiastic audience at Sharlot Hall Museum. The **High Mountain Chordsmen** did their best to honor Prescott as Arizona's Christmas City.

Salt River Valley Chapter

By Eric Bjornsen

When the weather turned a bit cooler, **A Cappella Syndicate's** schedule heated up, as they got busy with performing in the Phoenix Area and beyond.

In October, the **Syndicate** took its stuff to the District convention in Bakersfield, placing third overall, and capped off a great weekend by hosting its first hospitality suite. This afterglow was graced by the performances of many a quartet, along with the presence of a hot dog machine, which was a great hit. The Chorus is grateful to have received regular coaching from HI

Performance Category Director and BHS Performance Candidate **Theresa Weatherbee**.

The **Syndicate** enthusiastically supported Chandler High School's fundraiser *Extravaganza*, performing alongside such talent as 2017 FWD Champion Quartet **Suit Up!**, as well as Sweet Adeline Regional Quartet Champion **C'est La Vie**, and the incredible International Sweet Adelines Chorus Champion **Scottsdale Chorus**. The audience also enjoyed several outstanding choral groups from Chandler H.S., directed by their teacher and Master Director **Lori Lyford**.

The **Syndicate** participated in a local, youth singing event sponsored by the Orpheus Chorus of Phoenix – **Boys to Men**. On the first Saturday in November each year, participating male singers from schools across Arizona join male singers from local male choruses in an afternoon-long rehearsal session with guest clinicians, culminating in a concert consisting of selections by participating schools, performances by the participating local male choruses, and a few songs by all participants – over 300 voices. The **Syndicate** performance did not disappoint and received standing ovations on both songs. Plus, they hosted a pizza party afterward for the kids, extending the fellowship with the teaching and singing of tags. The overarching objective of **Boys to Men** is to help today's youth understand that their singing enjoyment need not end with school but can carry on well into adulthood.

The **A Cappella Syndicate** produced its first CD! The Christmas album was

released just in time for most of their holiday performances - six performances in 16 days. Whew!

Sedona Chapter

By Michael McCaffrey

"There's the North Pole, and the South Pole but the manly explorer seeks always the barber pole- for a REALLY close shave". (CMK redux)

Little did we know the interest in that icon of yesteryear- the barber pole. Singing before a packed house crowd of more than 300 folks, the **Harmony on the Rocks** Chorus presented *The Amazing History and Absolute Significance of the Barber Pole*. The show also featured **Renaissance**, first place Senior Division finisher, and two of our own quartets, **SurroundSound** and **The Temps**.

We only had one holiday performance during the Christmas season. To wrap up our 2017 year our annual board election voted in our first female member. **Lucy Gadreau** will be assuming the role of Member-at-Large.

The **Harmony on the Rocks** Chorus wishes all our fellow harmonizers a joyous and certainly musical new year.

White Mountains Chapter

By Doc Dockendorf

October brought the **High Country Chorus** election of officers for 2018: President **Jerry Schrunk**, IPP **Millard Bolt**, Secretary/Treasurer **Don Murrow**, Membership VP **Duane Krause**, Music VP **Jim Bohart**, Public Relations VP **James Burden**, Board Members-at-Large **Ron Montez**,

Ron Longenbaugh, and Tom Wallis. Jerry is serving as President for the second time, having served in that position on the 2015 Board.

Our 6th Annual Christmas in the Pines school choir fund raising show was held on December first. Our guest choirs this year were the **Show Low Junior High Honors Choir**, the **Show Low High School Show-Biz Choir**, the **Blue Ridge Junior High Choir**, the **Blue Ridge**

High School Harmonies, with dancers from the **Dance Academy**. The show is admission by donation and we raised \$1600 for the choirs, however, the Chapter Board voted to match public donations, so \$3200 was split four ways. Each school choir received \$800. School choirs receive no budget, so this money goes a long way in allowing the school choirs to purchase risers, buy music, attend competitions, or music seminars. To date the HCC

has donated over \$10,000 to our local school choirs.

Jerry Schrunk spent the entire fourth quarter restoring most of our website which was lost due to a power blackout at our website provider. Our website can be viewed at www.wmhcbc.com.



California Delta Chapter By Jim DeChaine

Voices of California performed two holiday shows on December 2, the first at the Harris Center for performing Arts in Folsom and the second at the Methodist Church in Loomis.

New Chapter Officers for 2018 installed at the Annual Installation of Officers and Awards Banquet at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Sacramento were: President **Larry Womac**; Secretary **Tim Jackson**; Treasurer **Scott West**; VP Music/Performance **Larry Halvorson**; VP Chapter Development (Membership) **Rich Hartmann**; VP Marketing **Rich Brunner**; Board members-at-Large – **Richard Kaiser, Derick Sturke**; and Immediate Past President **Jim Maass**. Special awards were:

Barbershopper of the Year - Norm Smith; President's award - **Bill Sandau**; Director's Award - **Charlie Goldman**; Member's Choice - **Duane Smith**; a **Very Special Award** – 70 years in the Society member **Duane "Dee" DeLong**; two "**Above & Beyond**" awards - **Tim Jackson** and **Jason Gallardo**. **Jo Black** received a **Special "Mates" Award**.

Central California Chapter By Miles Sutter

Our November Annual Show featured FWD 2013 champions **The Newfangled Four**. Also headlining our show was the **Turlock High School Madrigal Choir** under the direction of **Zach Stillman**. GVC's own quartet **Common Bond** [**Howard Barber, George Cooper, Roy Anderson, Greg Kramp**] sang for the entertainment of our audience. **Sarah Snyder** performed with the

GVC, singing *Unforgettable*. **Sarah** sang two more songs, accompanied on the piano by **Dan Warschauer**, script writer and MC for our show.

Howard Barber: We simply can't say enough about this wonderful man and all that he has done for Barbershop here in the Central Valley. Let's just say he's our Barbershop Chapter hero! As part of his retirement plan, Howard and his lovely wife Betty are moving away to be closer to their children and grandchildren. Although he might not be singing with the GVC, he will always be a part of who we really are. He will be sorely missed.

November 2018 was the sixth year for the Better Together Benefit Choir Concert in Modesto. Modesto area churches and musical groups joined forces to benefit various food pantries in our community.

Audience members were invited to bring a bag of non-perishable, non-breakable groceries as part of their admission fee. This event normally generates a couple tons of much needed food that is distributed to local food banks the following day. THIS YEAR WE WERE ABLE TO COLLECT 5,053 POUNDS OF FOOD FOR THE NEEDY! The Golden Valley Chorus sang *I'll Fly Away* and *Armed Forced Medley* in honor of Veteran's Day. The finale was the combined 200-voice choirs singing, *Because I Have Been Given Much* and *America the Beautiful*.

In December for the fifth year in a row, we performed our Christmas package at the LDS Chapel in Modesto. Next, the GVC repeated our LDS performance for Turlock's Covenant Village Retirement home. The soloists for this performance were **Ron Russell, Roe Darnell** and **Terrell Chambers**. **Chuck Roots** was our MC. An added attraction was the Turlock High School quartet, **Canal Street**, performing *Little Saint Nick*. We then performed at the Casa De Modesto Retirement Center. With all 19 Chorus members decked out in Christmas colors and attire, it was indeed festive. The evening's performance included the always requested "12 Days of Christmas", together with the participation of our audience and the GVC singing 13 other Christmas songs.

The GVC 21st Annual Installation and Awards Ceremony opened with the welcome by our president, **Roe Darnell**. **Chuck Roots** then followed with the invocation, and **Bruce Sellnow** led us in *The Old Songs*. **Bill Cale** was our installing officer. Awards were as follows:

DIRECTOR'S AWARD, presented by Bruce Sellnow to **Kevin Austin**. ROOKIE OF THE YEAR AWARD, presented by Bruce Sellnow went to **Darrel Bright**. PRESIDENT'S AWARD, presented by Roe Darnell went to **Bob Chapman**. 2017 BOTY, presented by Miles Sutter went to **Mike Viss**.

Folsom Chapter

By Doug Vestal

The **Folsom Harmony Express** lost a longtime member, **Jim Campbell** on November 3, two days before his 83rd birthday. Jim was a 60-year member of the Barbershop Harmony Society and during that time was Chorus Director of three Chapters, **Stockton**, the **Sacramento Capitolaire**s and the **FHX**. He sang both Tenor and Baritone in several quartets through the years. Jim had a stroke 15 years ago, but was able to sing Bari with the FHX up until about a year ago. At the memorial service, the FHX with several other Barbershoppers were able to perform at the service as well as a quartet of men who had sung with him in quartets through the years, **Roger Santiago, Ken Potter, Roger Perkins** and Folsom Chorus Director **Kent Borrowdale**.

The Harmony Express Chorus performed their Annual Recital titled *Songs of the Campfire* to an enthusiastic audience at Redeemer Covenant Church. MC **Bill Randolph** invited the audience, the "townspeople," to clap or cheer as the "Camptown Singers" (Harmony Express Chorus and the **Atria** and **Denny's** quartets) sang for them. **Bill** skillfully guided the audience through the varying repertoire of

old, new and campfire songs for their enjoyment. **Steve Allison** and **Linda Vincent** added their talents after the intermission to enhance a very successful recital.

FHX Chapter sang at the Veterans Day ceremony at the Sylvan Cemetery in Citrus Heights. Our chorus was recognized by the presenter who said "Many of you in the audience come just to hear them sing."

One of our most enjoyable sing-outs each year is the Orangevale Recreation Center's Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. FHX chorus members were also invited to sing with the Nevada-Placer Chorus at the Victorian Christmas in Grass Valley.

Nevada Placer Chapter

By Roger Perkins

The Nevada Placer **Sierranaders** Chorus performed at the Annual Victorian Christmas in Nevada City under the direction of **Roger Perkins**. We included four members from the Folsom Harmony Express, **Kent Borrowdale, Les Cudworth, Gordon Fawkes, and Les Laurenzen**. We have performed annually for about 30 years and always draw an appreciative crowd.

At the Nevada Placer installation dinner, the installing officer was **Richard Lund** accompanied by his hard working wife, **Patsy**. Our new President is **Cliff Johnson**, who will also be our P.R. man. He does a good job getting us in the newspaper and on the local radio station KAH1. VP Music and Performance is **Ken Potter**,

Membership VP is **Caleb Engel**, **Burt Weichenthal** is Secretary and **Steve Mathews** is Treasurer. **Glen Farlee** is the BMAL. IPP is **Roger Perkins** who is continuing as **Chorus Director** after 34 years. A quartet made up of **Tom Klasey**, **Roger Perkins**, **Ken Potter & Elmer Fairbanks** sang *Honey, Little Lize* and most members joined in the singing. It was good to have Elmer in attendance as he is a 73-year Society member. Also in attendance was Ozzie Palos, a 71-year member. Elmer and Ozzie sang together in a quartet that performed all summer at Yosemite National Park in 1950. Our waitress loved it when the

chorus sang "Hello, Mary Lou" since that is her name.

Visalia Chapter

By Bud Case

The **Mighty Oak Chorus** has found Marie Callender's Restaurant/Bakery here in Visalia to be a great supporter. We were again invited to entertain and promote the chapter as well as fundraise from 5-9 pm. They were so generous to donate 20% of the evening's proceeds to our chapter as well as set out a "tip jar". Between the two we raised \$450+ just for singing occasionally and talking with guests to promote the **MOC**.

Each year between Thanksgiving and Christmas we go caroling each rehearsal evening in two or three senior facilities. **Lee Smith** makes the arrangements and we show up to eager faces to add Christmas cheer in song and fellowship. He also arranged a Friday evening for a paid caroling/sing-out in Hanford that was well received.

We've also enjoyed visits and participation from some of the Fresno and Bakersfield members in rehearsals as well as the caroling.



Palo Alto / Mountain View Chapter

By Larry Valencia

The **Peninsulares Chorus** is celebrating its 70th year in The Society. What an exciting time!

We sang Holiday Performances at The Santa Train in Mountain View, The Mountain View Christmas Tree Lighting, and The Palo Alto Farmer's Market, events that have become a staple.

Thank you to **Dave Haedtler**, BHS Board member, and member of **Voices in Harmony** and **Masters of Harmony**, for being the installing officer at our Annual Installation & Awards banquet. 2017 Awards were presented by Chapter President **Jim Sherman** to **Mark Tabry** -

Rookie of the Year, **Larry Valencia** - Board Award, **Dave Kocharhook** - President's Award, and **Jeff Harris** - Barbershopper of the Year (BOTY). Our 2018 Board members are: President **Jim Sherman**. Past President **John Hinkle**, Secretary **Bob Howd**, Treasurer **Dave Morley**, VP Marketing/PR **Jeff Harris**, VP Chapter Development **Mark Tabry**, VP Music/Performance **Dave Kocharhook**, VP Program **John Wanless**, and Members-at-Large **Addison Snell** and **Larry Valencia**.

Thanks to the coaches who helped us during our coaching day: **David Poll** (Lead), **Chris Lewis** (Bass), **Gabe Lotto** (Baritone), and **Jamie Bedford** (Tenor). These gentlemen worked in sectionals and offered more direction for our Chapter's

Section Leaders.

We look forward to getting together with past **Peninsulares**, 34 and counting as we find 'em, for our 70th Anniversary Spring Show in March. Hmm... wouldn't it be great to have them back on the risers with us? Our new risers were ordered - thanks to all who helped us raise the funds.

San Mateo Chapter

By: Rich Alger

The **Fault Line Chorus** recently celebrated with a longtime member **Donnell "Don" Miller** who is currently 94 years young! He's had a remarkable life with includes joining the US Air Force

in January 1943 at the age of 19. He was a radio operator and mechanic gunner in the 861st Bomb Squadron; he took part in the fighting on French territory against the German armies, especially during Normandy invasion. He was shot down on June 14, 1944, he was wounded and made a prisoner of war until May 1945. For his actions, he was awarded, among others, the Purple Heart medal, the Air medal, the Prisoner of War medal and the WWII Victory Medal.

He was nominated "Chevalier" (Knight) of the Legion of Honor by the President of France on August 20, 2015. The Order of *Légion d'Honneur* is the highest decoration that can be awarded in France.



Don is still going strong and looks forward to many more years with the Chorus!

Inland Empire Chapter

By Gaylord Spence

The Inland Empire Chapter is very excited to have the opportunity to be the promoters of our hobby to a great many young men of high school age. With the cancellation of the MOH's Young Men's Harmony Festival as his impetus, we were contacted by **Kirk Young**, the Choral Director at Yucaipa High School with his disappointment at this cancellation and asked us if we might be interested in staging a replacement event for his young men's chorus. With an emphatic, "Yes!" we have proceeded to set up this event for February 10 (at YHS), with the caveat of also having the Chorus Directors of Redland HS

and Beaumont HS also interested. We have approximately 75 young men signed up, as well as another dozen older young men from the University of Redlands. We have provided the learning tools to all of these students and on Feb. 10, at 2:30 PM we will conduct 3-hour by-part sectionals (with a couple of breaks interspersed) to fine-tune four songs for a joint concert on their campus that evening at 7 PM. We're also invited to sing four of our repertoire songs as well as scheduling two of our quartets to participate on the show.

Division Vice President **Nick Papageorge** officiated at our 2018 Officers Installation Banquet, where we honored 2017 Barbershopper of

the Year **Gary Smith**; 5-Year Service Award Winner **Joe Shaw**; Rookie of the Year **Daniel Poston**, and the IEC Quartet of the Year **Biscuits & Gravy** [Lead **Dave Strough**, Bass **Allen Smith**, Tenor **Geoff Mordue**, Baritone **Lance Alloway**].

San Diego Chapter

By Greg Price

Our Christmas started in Balboa Park on Thanksgiving weekend with the Christmas show at the Prado Theater and the lighting of the Christmas tree at the world's largest outdoor organ. One week later, the elf chorus was back at Spreckels Organ to kick off the December Nights celebration. Performances at Paradise Village,

Point Loma Playhouse and the 32nd Street Navy Base followed, capped off on December 21 by a two-hour performance in Terminal 2 at San Diego International Airport.

As of January 1, after five years of hard work and study, **Louis Regas** finally qualified for the position of Immediate Past President. He is succeeded by **Brad Roberts** whose remarks from the lectern at our installation dinner leave no room for doubt that the upcoming year will be another great one for the **Sun Harbor Chorus**. Other officers for this year are Secretary **Bob Dunn**, Treasurer **Tom Fazekas**, Music & Performance **Jeff Buckles**, and Membership **Dave Foti**. Our outgoing longtime Chorus Manager, **Bill Beacom** was the well-deserved recipient of the fur-lined pitch pipe as Barbershopper of the Year.

Las Vegas Chapter

By Peter Feeney

The **Las Vegas Chapter** held its Installation Banquet at Los Prados Country Club in Las Vegas. Immediate Past President **Greg Dreyer** served as Master of Ceremonies and **Linda Kelly**, Director of the **Celebrity City Sweet Adelines Chorus** was the guest installing officer. Congratulations to President **Kenny Rios**, Executive VP **Tim Moulson**, Treasurer **Wes White**, Secretary **Marty Judd**, Music VP **Gordon Lankenau**, Membership VP **Drake Pyatt**, Marketing VP **Fred Green** and Members-at-Large **Ivan Lambert**, **Antwun Puckett** and **Wall Smulson**. **Greg Dreyer** also serves on the board. Congratulations also to the recipients of special awards for 2017. Director **Jim Halvorson** was named Barbershopper of the Year, **George Stamos** was named

Rookie of the Year, **Albert Weiss** received the President's Award and **Gordon Lankenau** received the Director's Award.

The chapter was well represented at holiday performances at local shopping malls, hospitals and the Ethel M Chocolate Factory and Botanical Cactus Gardens, a local favorite spot for holiday cheer. The Chapter also sponsored a holiday potluck dinner and auction during the holiday season. Members earn special Silver Statesmen Bucks during the year as members perform the many and varied tasks to run the Chapter. Members spend them to purchase donated premiums at the auction.

The Chorus is busy preparing for its Spring Show with the **Color Country Chorus** from the St. George Chapter.



Rincon Beach Chapter

By Brent Anderson

The **Pacific Sound Chorus**, now under the direction of **Mike McGee**, Gold Medal Baritone of current International Quartet Champs **Main Street**, continues to thrive and improve and was looking forward to a very busy holiday performance schedule. Their first

performance was November 30, for a dinner at a private club in Santa Barbara, to celebrate the lighting of their Christmas tree. This was followed by an Annual Show at Good Shepherd Lutheran church in Camarillo, which is an annual thank you for the use of their Fellowship Hall every summer for rehearsals. On Monday, Dec 4, during a joint rehearsal with Channelaire SAI chorus, several of the Pacific

Sound men were called to go home because of a menacing fire that was spreading from Santa Paula towards Ventura. We broke rehearsal early and the next morning got the news that two of our members, **Mike Murphy** and **Ed Fuller**, had lost their homes on the first night of the Thomas Fire. All their family are safe but all their possessions, (including Chorus uniforms!) were destroyed. As we all know, that fire

grew to be the largest in CA history and blankets of dense smoke hung over the Ventura and Santa Barbara area for two weeks, causing at least four Pacific Sound performances to be cancelled. However, during a break in the smoke, they did manage a joint performance in Ventura, with **Channelaire** and with the **Conejo Valley Channel Island Chapter**. It was a good concert, well attended under the circumstances, and therapeutic for all.

And as if that were not enough, we've all heard about the terrible mudslide the night of January 9, which killed at least 21 and destroyed 200+ homes in Montecito, a city between Santa Barbara and Ventura where Pacific Sound rehearses every Monday. The 101 freeway was closed so Musical Director Mike McGee and the other 5-6 guys and guests who commute along the 101 to rehearsal, were unable to attend. Assistant Director **Jim Browne** did his usual capable job of rehearsing for the next two weeks. They were even able to continue the plans for Guest Night, and currently have 4-5 new guests who are in various stages of audition and membership.

As things normalized, the installation banquet was held in which President **Bill Winfield** was sworn in for his second term. Joining Bill is Program VP **Joel Levitz**, Membership VP **Bill Chase**, Music VP **Doug Van Boglelen**, Treasurer **Tom Cristiani**, PR and Marketing VP **Bobby Georges**, and Secretary **Phil Allin**. **BMAL** are **Gary Wetzel** and **Brent Anderson**. **Brent Anderson**, wearing his Southwest Division VP hat, was the installing officer.

Ed Fuller was named Rookie of the Year, and **Bobby Georges** was named Barbershopper of the Year.

Plans are currently underway for a robust Singing Valentines effort, the contest in March and a Spring dinner show in May. The big Annual Show in Santa Barbara, featuring **Newfangled Four** is set for Saturday, Sept. 15.

San Fernando Valley Chapter

By Ben Marder

HAPPY NEW YEAR! From the Valley Harmony Singers.

It's hard to believe that it's 2018! This year is our Chapter's 59th Anniversary.

Last September one of our founding members, **Jim Sumner**, passed away. We also lost **Chuck Walton** and **J.R. Rodriquez**. All three of our beloved members sang at International in Hartford, CT in 1987, when the Valleyaires Barbershop Chorus, almost 90 strong, placed 9th in the world.

In 2012 we changed our name to the Valley Harmony Singers, and in 2015 **Tom Raffety** returned as Director of the Chorus. Because the average age of our members is over 70, we have consistently diminished in number in the past few years and now have 25 active members.

My goal as President of the Chapter this year, is to recruit young, talented, good singers who love 4-part harmony. We are determined to grow not only in numbers, but to improve as singers who all love singing 4-part harmony.

Santa Maria Chapter

By Gene Kai

The 2018 slate of officers were installed at our banquet. For entertainment, the Chapter formed two competition choruses and sang "Oh Shine On Me" with two different scenarios to choreograph. It was great fun for the singers as well as the audience. **Lynn Clock** from the former Lompoc **Gents In A Chord** was the installing officer. His theme was on Harmony within the Chapter functions. Gary Reinhart was selected as Barbershopper of The Year.

The Chordsmen had a very successful holiday season of singing in the community. Our Christmas show was well attended, and many positive comments were made.

Currently we're preparing to present Singing Valentines within the community and are in full production with our Annual Show to be held April 21, matinee at 2 pm and 7 pm evening show. The local **Tri-City Sound Sweet Adeline Chorus** will help present the theme "It's All About the Girls".

Santa Monica Chapter

By Marty Mitnick

The Oceanaires were invited to sing the National Anthem at UCLA's Pauley Pavilion for a special basketball game. We presented our annual Christmas program for the residents of the Salvation Army's Silver Crest Retirement Home in Santa Monica. The military veterans living at the Westwood VA center were a very enthusiastic audience for our

annual presentation. Strolling and caroling in Culver City was again followed by a gift exchange and good fun led by **Bruce Schroffel**. Visiting the Pre-Natal department at Cedar Sinai Hospital has become an annual tradition.

Our Annual Installation of Officers luncheon was a complete success thanks to **Dr. Jerry Walker**. MC **Bruce Schroffel** kept us entertained with his magic and fantastic humor. Installing Officer **Ben Lowe** performed his duties masterfully.

2018 Chapter Officers are: President

Dr. Jerry Walker; IPP & Chorus Manager **Ken Scholtz**; Secretary **Wally Mees**; Treasurer & Librarian **John White**; VP Membership & Recruitment **Andrew Lehto**; VP Music & Performance **Jim Leedom**; VP Marketing & Public Relations **Pat Kellogg**; Communications Manager & Sunshine Chair **Marty Mitnick**; Costume Manager **Alan Hanson**; Web Manager **Frank Giffen**; BMAL **Frank DaVanzo**, **Terry Delegeane**, **Bob Griffiths**, **Tom Laskey**, **David Livingston** and **Jim McElwain**.

Oceanaires' members were

recognized.

2017 President's Award: **Frank DaVanzo** - Navigator of the Nashville bureaucracy & the Master of Membership.

2017 President's Award: **Jerry Walker** - The leader by example.

2017 Director's Award: **Andrew Lehto** - Musical excellence and exemplary leadership of the Tenors.

2017 Director's Award: **John White** - indispensable assistance and encouraging our new Director.

2017 Barbershopper of the Year: **Tim Singer**.

A recap of Barbershop early contest history.

Champions of the past

Year/Site	Quartet Champs	Chorus Champs
1939 Tulsa	Bartlesville Barflies	
1940 New York	Flat Foot Four	
1941 St. Louis	Chord Busters	
1942 Grand Rapids	Elastic Four	
1943 Chicago	Four Harmonizers	
1944 Detroit	Harmony Halls	
1945 Detroit	Misfits	
1946 Cleveland	Garden State Quartet	
1947 Milwaukee	Doctors of Harmony	
1948 Oklahoma City	Pittsburghers	
1949 Buffalo	Mid-States Four	
1950 Omaha	Buffalo Bills	
1951 Toledo	Schmitt Brothers	
1952 Kansas City	Four Teens	
1953 Detroit	Vikings	
1954 Washington D.C.	Orphans	Singing Capital Chorus, Washington, D.C.
1955 Miami Beach	Four Hearsemen	Janesville Chorus, Janesville, WI
1956 Minneapolis	Confederates	Ambassadors of Harmony, Michigan City, MI
1957 Los Angeles	Lads of Enchantment	Californians, Berkeley, CA
1958 Columbus	Gaynotes	Dixie Cotton Boll, Memphis, TN
1959 Chicago	Four Pitchikers	Pekins Chorus, Pekin, IL
1960 Dallas	Evans Quartet	Chordsmen, San Antonio, TX
1961 Philadelphia	Suntones	Chorus of the Chesapeake, Dundalk, MD
1962 Kansas City	Gala Lads	Thoroughbreds, Louisville, KY
1963 Toronto	Town and Country Four	Pekin Chorus, Pekin, IL
1964 San Antonio	Sidewinders	Border Chorders, El Paso, TX
1965 Boston	Four Renegades	Miamians, Miami, FL
1966 Chicago	Auto Towners	Thoroughbreds, Louisville, KY
1967 Los Angeles	Four Statesmen	Dapper Dans of Harmony, Livingston, NJ
1968 Cincinnati	Western Continentals	Pekin Chorus, Pekin, IL
1969 St. Louis	Mark IV	Thoroughbreds, Louisville, KY
1970 Atlantic City	Oriole Four	Dapper Dans of Harmony, Livingston, NJ
1971 New Orleans	Gentlemen's Agreement	Chorus of the Chesapeake, Dundalk, MD
1972 Atlanta	Golden Staters	Phoenicians, Phoenix, AZ
1973 Portland	Dealer's Choice	Southern Gateway Chorus, Western Hills, OH
1974 Kansas City	The Regents	Thoroughbreds, Louisville, KY
1975 Indianapolis	Happiness Emporium	Vocal Majority, Dallas Metro, TX
1976 San Francisco	The Insiders	Phoenicians, Phoenix, AZ
1977 Philadelphia	Most Happy Fellows	Dukes of Harmony, Scarborough, Ont.
1978 Cincinnati	Bluegrass Student Union	Thoroughbreds, Louisville, KY
1979 Minneapolis	Grandma's Boys	Vocal Majority, Dallas Metro, TX
1980 Salt Lake City	Boston Common	Dukes of Harmony, Scarborough, Ont.
1981 Detroit	Chicago News	Thoroughbreds, Louisville, KY
1982 Pittsburgh	Classic Collection	Vocal Majority, Dallas Metro, TX
1983 Seattle	Side Street Ramblers	Phoenicians, Phoenix, AZ
1984 St. Louis	The Rapsallions	Thoroughbreds, Louisville, KY
1985 Minneapolis	The New Tradition	Vocal Majority, Dallas Metro, TX
1986 Salt Lake City	Rural Route 4	Alexandria Harmonizers, Alexandria, VA
1987 Hartford	Interstate Rivals	West Towns Chorus, Lombard, IL
1988 San Antonio	Chiefs of Staff	Vocal Majority, Dallas Metro, TX
1989 Kansas City	Second Edition	Alexandria Harmonizers, Alexandria, VA
1990 San Francisco	Acoustix	Masters of Harmony, Foothills Cities, CA
1991 Louisville	The Ritz	Vocal Majority, Dallas Metro, TX
1992 New Orleans	Keepsake	Southern Gateway Chorus, Western Hills, OH
1993 Calgary	The Gas House Gang	Masters of Harmony, Foothills Cities, CA
1994 Pittsburgh	Joker's Wild	Vocal Majority, Dallas Metro, TX

Events

DISTRICT CALENDAR

View the official Far Western District Calendar at farwesterndistrict.org/events/calendar

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

- **March 15-18, 2018** FWD Spring Convention, SE/SW Division and International Prelim Contests
- **April 13-14, 2018** Arizona Division Convention, Mesa, AZ
- **April 14, 2018** Northeast & Northwest Division Convention, Brentwood, CA
- **July 1-8, 2018** BHS International Convention, Orlando, FL
- **October 11-14, 2018** FWD Fall Convention, Fresno, CA

For an extended list of conventions, visit farwesterndistrict.org/events/conventions

EVENTS REGISTRATION

Register for FWD Conventions at events.farwesterndistrict.org

Register for BHS Conventions at www.barbershop.org

Sunshine

To report important life events that occur with our members, please contact your Division Vice President

ARIZONA DIVISION

Adam Kaufman
dvp-arizona@farwesterndistrict.org

NORTHEAST DIVISION

Ron Black
dvp-northeast@farwesterndistrict.org

NORTHWEST DIVISION

Dick Whitten
dvp-northwest@farwesterndistrict.org

SOUTHEAST DIVISION

Nick Papageorge
dvp-southeast@farwesterndistrict.org

SOUTHWEST DIVISION

Brent Anderson
dvp-southwest@farwesterndistrict.org

Member Services Directory

AWARDS

Chuck Hunter, Sr.
awards@farwesterndistrict.org

CHORUS DIRECTOR DEVELOPMENT

Royce Ferguson
cdd@farwesterndistrict.org

ETHICS

Russ Young
ethics@farwesterndistrict.org

EVENTS

Bryan Forbes
events@farwesterndistrict.org

HALL OF FAME

Russ Young
hof@farwesterndistrict.org

HISTORIAN

OPEN
historian@farwesterndistrict.org

LAWS & REGULATIONS

Peter Feeny
lawsandregs@farwesterndistrict.org

MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS

David Melville
marketing@farwesterndistrict.org

MEMBERSHIP

Bill Rosica
membership@farwesterndistrict.org

NOMINATING

Gordon Bergthold
nominating@farwesterndistrict.org

QUARTET ACTIVITIES

Bill Kane
quartetactivities@farwesterndistrict.org

WEBMASTER

David Melville
webmaster@farwesterndistrict.org

WESTAGS NEWSLETTER

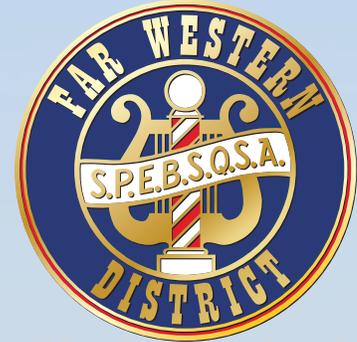
Jerry McElfresh
westags@farwesterndistrict.org

WESTUNES EDITOR

Ray Rhymer
westuneseditor@farwesterndistrict.org

YOUTH IN HARMONY

Bill Rosica (acting)
yih@farwesterndistrict.org



Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Craig Hughes
president@farwesterndistrict.org

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Bill Rosica
evp@farwesterndistrict.org

SECRETARY

Jim Maass
secretary@farwesterndistrict.org

TREASURER

Rich Owen
treasurer@farwesterndistrict.org

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Gordon "Mongo" Bergthold
pastpresident@farwesterndistrict.org

VP ARIZONA DIVISION

Adam Kaufman
dvp-arizona@farwesterndistrict.org

VP NORTHEAST DIVISION

Ron Black
dvp-northeast@farwesterndistrict.org

VP NORTHWEST DIVISION

Dick Whitten
dvp-northwest@farwesterndistrict.org

VP SOUTHEAST DIVISION

Nick Papageorge
dvp-southeast@farwesterndistrict.org

VP SOUTHWEST DIVISION

Brent Anderson
dvp-southwest@farwesterndistrict.org

VP CONTESTS & JUDGING

Brett Littlefield
candj@farwesterndistrict.org

VP MUSIC & PERFORMANCE

Craig Ewing
musicandperf@farwesterndistrict.org